

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:
19th March 2018

Agenda Item: 3

Report of North Area Council
Manager

Preventing Excess Winter Deaths and Reducing Loneliness and Isolation Pilot for The North Area

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides the Area Council with confirmation that Barnsley Council have bid for the Warm Homes Fund Round Two.
- 1.2 Serves to make the Area Council Members aware that 1.1 provides the North Area with an opportunity to develop a reducing social isolation project with a housing and energy focus piloted in the North Area.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. **Following The Area Council's in principle decision to proceed with a collaborative pilot project for the North Area that would focus on Reducing Loneliness and Social Isolation and Preventing Winter Deaths, it is recommended that members of the Health and Wellbeing Priority Group meet for a workshop with Housing and Energy and Public Health colleagues to define the project.**

3. Background

- 3.0 In autumn 2017 representatives from BMBC Housing and Energy Team approached the North Area Manager to provide a briefing on the planned Energy Efficiency Works and other affordable warmth initiatives. The team also provided an update on recent excess winter death and fuel poverty statistics.
- 3.1 It became clear that the Darton East Ward has a higher than average excess winter death index for the borough.
- 3.2 The trend in excess winter deaths for both Darton East Ward and Darton West Ward has increased steadily since 2006.
- 3.3 The Housing and Energy Team identified that Woolley Colliery Village would benefit from the installation of first time central heating systems available for private homes made feasible by the monies secured from round one of the National Grid Warm Homes Fund.

- 3.4 The proposal suggested in this report would be complementary to the Energy Efficiency Works in Woolley Colliery Village. The North Area Council in principle agreed to fund low cost added value works for Woolley Colliery Village properties at the November 2017 meeting. Housing and Energy colleagues will also be bidding for round three which will be for vulnerable and low income tenants which would again benefit some Woolley Colliery residents.
- 3.5 Following the update that an Older Peoples Participation Worker for older people would not align with existing BMBC service provision at the November 2017 meeting. The Area Council requested a workshop to explore an Older People's Reducing Social Isolation and Preventing Winter Deaths project.
- 3.6 The Area Chair and Area Manager attended a meeting on the 29th November 2017 with colleagues from Housing and Energy and Public Health to explore the opportunity of a strategic piece of work that would splice with the work we are considering for the North Area with the preventing excess winter deaths work. It was a very positive meeting with the opportunity to do some joined up delivery and pilot a new approach in the North Area.
- 3.7 Shortly after meeting mentioned in point 3.6, the Group Leader for Housing and Energy provided an update that the National Grid and Affordable Warmth Solutions have opened their second bidding window for the Warm Homes Fund and that the Council proposes to bid for category two funding which is to enable 'specific energy efficient / health related solutions – bringing together relevant organisations and charities'. Housing and Energy Colleagues have teamed with Public Health officers to develop a core offer with borough wide partners and linked closely to the Independent Living Review. This would complement the community based provision that the North Area are considering funding to reduce loneliness and isolation which would service the North Area only. It is proposed that this service would include home assessments as part of the service.
- 3.8 An email update regarding points 3.6 and 3.7 was circulated to the North Area Council Members on the 20th December 2017.
- 3.9 BMBC were successful in the Warm Homes Fund Expressions of Interest stage of the bidding and were invited to submit a formal bid. This is completed in time for the 9th February deadline, led by Housing and Energy colleagues.
- 3.10 At the Area Council meeting held on the 22nd January it was agreed in principle to fund a Loneliness and Isolation project for the North Area with a housing and energy focus. The project would cost at least £75,000 per annum. An investment of 3 years is recommended. This would fund two social inclusion officers who would have to receive specialist training to offer home energy assessments and advice.
- 3.11 The Area Manager recommends that this work should include building a network of trained volunteers with knowledge of how to identify and address fuel poverty. This will ensure that there is active community capacity building within the community that will lead to increased resilience and leave a positive legacy once the project concludes.

3.12 On the 19th March 2018 the outcomes of the Warm Homes Fund bid will be announced and that information will help to shape the North Area's commission.

4. Next Steps

4.1. The Area Manager recommends holding a workshop with the Health and Wellbeing Priority Working Group to define the commission and take advice from Housing and Energy and Public Health Colleagues.

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