

MEETING:	South Area Council
DATE:	Friday, 18 December 2015
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room, Wombwell Library

MINUTES

Present Councillors Stowe (Chair), Andrews BEM, Coates, Franklin, Frost, Lamb, Markham, Morgan, Saunders, Shepherd and R. Wraith.

28 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillors Franklin, Lamb and Shepherd declared non-pecuniary interests in Minute no 32 in respect of their positions as directors of Forge Community Partnership.

29 Minutes of the Meeting of South Area Council held on 23.10.2015 (Sac.18.12.2015/2)

The meeting considered the minutes of South Area Council held on 23rd October, 2015.

Arising out of the discussion, Councillor R Wraith apologised for comments made at the previous meeting and for any offence caused.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the South Area Council held on 23rd October, 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

30 Notes of the following Ward Alliances (Sac.18.12.2015/3)

The meeting received the notes from the following Ward Alliances Hoyland Milton and Rockingham held on 19th October, 2015; Darfield held on 12th November, 2015; and Wombwell held on 10th November, 2015.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

31 National Citizen Service Presentation

Hannah Philips and Jo Thornton from Barnsley Football Club were welcomed to the meeting and Hannah gave a presentation on the National Citizen Service, a programme for Y11 and Y 12 students (or equivalent age) provided via the Football League Trust and funded by the Government.

The Barnsley Football Club had started delivery in 2011 with a pilot and Nationally, over 200,000 students had taken part to date with 4,500 participating in the Yorkshire and Humber region over the past year.

Hannah explained the aims of this four week programme. Week one provided a week of activities designed to build confidence and develop teamwork skills, decision making and leadership. Week two provided an opportunity for students to start to find their own independence though learning to budget, cook and look after

themselves. Weeks three and four enabled all these skills to be put into practice as a team by developing a social action project within the community involving 30 hours planning and 30 hours delivery.

Within Barnsley all Secondary Schools had participated to a greater or lesser extent and the aim was to build on this success by encouraging others to participate in the programme. The Area Council could assist in this by each Ward providing a social action project per summer, by influencing lower performing schools to participate, by encouraging students to sign up, by spreading the word to local organisations and by identifying a database of potential projects.

The benefits to the area were that there was no additional workload or financial cost associated with the programme as it was fully funded and delivered by a network of fully trained, qualified and vetted professionals. It would put the Area Council firmly 'on the map' as students would engage with the local community and provide positive public relations opportunities by shining a light on all the great things currently undertaken. In addition, the opportunities were ongoing as the project continued throughout the year so there was potentially always a flow through of students available to help on projects.

Past schemes had included projects for Barnsley Hospice, Local Schools, Age UK, Barnsley Foodbank, Sexual Health and various Community Centres.

The Area Council very much welcomed this programme and members discussed ways of promoting it further together with potential projects for development. It was suggested that Councillor Cheetham, in his capacity as Cabinet Spokesperson for People (Achieving Potential) could raise the profile within schools. The potential for members to support their Ward Alliances to develop projects supported by NCS was also discussed.

The funding arrangements were highlighted and discussed. It was noted that the programme cost approximately £1,600 and that pupils were expected to contribute £50 towards this and raise additional funding towards the individual project. Half of the funding raised was used towards the project with half being set aside to assist in funding other programmes. Pupil Premium pupils might be eligible to receive contributory funding towards this from that allocation.

It was noted that the programme was fully inclusive and there was a discussion of linking with the Summer Internship Programme. The Area Council Manager could provide appropriate details of the contacts together with contact details for other potential organisations with links to young people - 'Connexions', Guides, Community Groups, and Army Cadets etc.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the presentation be received and the contents thereof be noted; and
- (ii) that Hannah Philips and Jo Thornton be thanked for attending the meeting and for answering members questions.

32 Report on the Use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds (Sac.18.12.2015/5)

Members received the report which provided details of the latest expenditure from the Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds.

The meeting was reminded that that the Ward Alliance Fund was underspent and that project development should be accelerated where possible to utilise finance.

Arising out of the discussion reference was made to the following:

- There was a need to look at planning and development to ensure that volunteer hours were taken into account appropriately and 'matched' to the equivalent monetary value. One such scheme referred to was one at the rear of Washington Avenue, Wombwell. Volunteer hours also needed to be addressed on various schemes within Darfield
- One group had recently been established within Middlecliffe which was would need gardening equipment and other associated equipment. It was suggested that appropriate links be forged with the Tidy Team and this group
- The work of the Tidy Team was referred to. It was important to ensure that all staff and volunteers were appropriately trained particularly in Health and Safety and this was in hand. Reference was also made to the need to undertake work in the vicinity of the Bromhill car park and to the need for more volunteers in this area

RESOLVED that the report on the use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds be received.

33 South Area Council Performance Report (Sac.18.12.2015/6)

This item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, who drew attention to

- The Area Council priorities and the current position with regard to Providers who had been appointed to deliver a series of services to address those priorities and deliver the outcomes and social value objectives of the Area Council. It also detailed the current position with regard to contract value and length, the contract start date and re-commissioning date (if applicable). The Area Council Manager also gave an oral update of the current position with regard to re-commissioning.
- Part A – the overview of performance
- Part B, featuring more in depth information on the performance of each contract

With regard to the work of the Environmental Enforcement Team, it was noted that the number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued for littering was 805 compared to 626 reported previously. In addition, it was noted that 20 notices had been issued in the previous week. Visits had been made to ASOS and meetings were to be held with that company to explore working with staff to try to keep the grounds and surrounding public areas clear of litter which was currently an issue for those living near the site. ASOS were keen to promote this and resolve the problem. They had recently installed 30 litter bins on their land. An investigation would be undertaken to ensure that multi lingual 'anti-littering' signs were displayed. A 'promotional campaign' was being considered.

The number of Parking PCN Notices was now 174 compared to 150 previously reported. The number of young people referred to restorative justice provision had risen to 10 compared to 5 previously reported. The income received from enforcement activity was now £41,394 compared to the previously reported figure of £29,844.

Reference was made to the Case Studies provided by BMBC Welfare Rights and Barnsley Citizen's Advice Bureau for the One Stop Shop contract which were appended to the report many of which made sombre reading and these very much highlighted the need to continue addressing the social value objectives of the Area Council. In this context reference was made to the One Stop Shop which had seen over a 50% increase in clients since the previous quarter for both Welfare Rights and Citizens Advice sessions. Arising out of this discussion, reference was made to the benefits gained as a result of advice received which amounted to nearly £1m. It was also noted that unmanageable debt was continuing to increase with a number of clients using pay day loan companies although it was pleasing to note that the number of clients choosing to use such companies appeared to be reducing.

Arising out of the above, reference was made to the difficulties associated with the increasing use of Zero Hours contracts, particularly in with retail sector, and to peoples working hours being restricted which was then impacting on benefits claimed.

It was noted that the number of clients referred for specialist help was continuing to rise with 427 cases referred compared to 314 previously reported.

Reference was made to the increasing use of FoodBanks and it was suggested that leaflets promoting the other services available be included within food parcels. It was noted that a FoodBank had now started in Hoyland via the Salvation Army who were now looking for referrals as well as volunteers.

Work was continuing in trying to increase the number of adult volunteers engaged as well as the number of young people engaged in volunteering. An article had been included within the Community Magazine but it was thought that word of mouth worked better.

Referring to the changing relationship between the Council and the Community it was noted that the number of businesses encouraged to maintain their own environment by the Tidy Team had continued to increase.

With regard to opportunities for young people, it was noted that currently 88% of students taking part in the Summer Internship Programme provided by C+K Careers were reporting increased confidence about future plans and consideration was being given to how the remaining 12% could be satisfactorily addressed. It was reported that a full evaluation report would be available late December and would be submitted to the Area Council as part of the Performance Management report for consideration at the February meeting. It was noted that C+K Careers staff would now stay in touch with the young people right through Y11 and until they were settled into their first positive destination post 16.

There was a discussion centring on need to better understand the social return on investment provided by the Area Council commissioned projects. The Area Council Manager reported that external consultants had been brought in to help to develop this understanding and, in addition to training staff in social return methodologies, would also be doing an in-depth analysis on one project per Area Council. The One Stop Shop had been chosen for the South Area, but following training from consultants, it was hoped that the Area Teams would also be able to assess the other Area Council projects.

The positive messages arising from the publication and distribution of the Community Magazine were highlighted although it was noted that not all areas had received a copy. The Area Council Manager would take this matter up to ensure that, as far as possible, there was a full area distribution. Arising out of this, reference was made to the need to ensure that wherever possible, positive messages about the type of work being undertaken and the initiatives of the Area Council were given out, this could be at meetings or via press opportunities. Members were encouraged to highlight issues at the full Council meeting which, it was noted, was also webcast. To this end, the Chair also commented that it was his intention to attend Ward Alliance meetings on a quarterly basis starting in February, to bring Ward Alliance members up to date on the progress of Area Council projects in their area, and to identify potential ways for Alliances to actively support and promote them.

Arising out of the above, reference was made to the extremely good recycling rates for the area which it was suggested should be highlighted via the media. The Service Director Organisation and Workforce Improvement would ensure that this was picked up as part of the quarterly media report.

RESOLVED that the report on the performance of contracted services be received.

34 South Area Council update on future commissions for 2015/16 and 2016/17 (Sac.18.12.2015/7)

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, which followed on from discussions at previous meetings.

Members were referred to section 4.2 of the report which presented details and costs of the projects under development together with progress to date. It was noted that a number of amendments as suggested at previous meetings had been incorporated into the projects submitted for approval.

One project originally identified for approval, the funding of a Veteran Support Pack and Launch Conference, was not likely to be needed at this stage as, following further investigation, the Area Council Manager had identified that a number of other organisations had already produced good quality information and that help was mainly needed with better promotion and distribution to which there was unlikely to be a significant cost. In addition, the newly developed Veteran Awareness Training one day course run by the University of York had similar content to the planned conference outline and access to these courses through South and West Yorkshire Foundation Health Trust was currently being negotiated by the Area Council Manager.

RESOLVED that approval be given to commission for 2016/17, the projects outlined within Section 4.2 of the report now submitted in accordance with the costings detailed:

- (a) Provision of 100 x A3 signs 'this is an area maintained by volunteers' for clean up sites at a cost of £375;
- (b) Youth Asset Mapping Events (1 in each Ward) to be delivered by the Forge Community Partnership and Digital Media Club at a cost of £5,000
- (c) Delivery of Health Asset Mapping Conference at a cost of £1,000
- (d) Provision of a Fire Cadet Scheme for young people at a cost of £12,157.81 for 16 Cadets meeting 39 times per year
- (e) Provision of 1 Week Achieving Respect and Confidence (ARC) course for 14 young people at risk of offending at a cost of £5,000

35 South Area Council update on Recommissioning of Existing Commissioned Projects during 2016/17 (Sac.18.12.2015/8)

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, which followed on from discussion at the previous meeting.

Members were referred to Section 4 of the report which outlined the progress made towards the recommissioning of the existing projects referred to in Section 3.2 of the report with specific reference to the One Stop Shop Advice Sessions; the Tidy Team and Tidy Team Apprentices; the Summer Internship Programme and the Environmental Enforcement Contract.

Members discussed the funding arrangements currently in place and the Area Manager made specific reference to waivers obtained to enable contracts to be extended, where appropriate. As Area Council funding was currently only confirmed until March 2017, certain contracts due to be recommissioned mid-year could not go out to tender for less than twelve months. For the One Stop Shop advice sessions contract, which currently ran to June 2016, a waiver had been granted to March 2017 which would then allow a recommissioning of the service from 2017 if Area Council funds were confirmed. The Tidy Team contract currently ran to August 2016 and it was possible that a waiver to March 2017 may be granted nearer to the time for the same reason, if future Area Council funding was still unclear.

Particular reference was also made to the Summer Internship Programme which was currently being recommissioned for the 2016 summer cohort. Shortlisting for this had already been completed and interviews with the top 3 applicants would be completed in January, to give the appointed provider adequate time to access schools and to source placements for work experience.

RESOLVED that the progress towards the recommissioning of existing commissioned projects as outlined within Section 4 of the report be noted.

Chair