

MEETING:	Dearne Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 20 November 2017
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room, Goldthorpe Library

MINUTES

Present Councillors Noble (Chair), Gardiner, Gollick, C. Johnson, Phillips and Sixsmith MBE

15 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests.

16 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 18th September, 2017 (Dac.20.11.2017/2)

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Dearne Area Council meeting held on 18th September, be approved as a true and correct record.

17 Developing Initiatives Supporting Communities (DISC) (Dac.20.11.2017/3)

Donna Moss from DISC was welcomed to the meeting and provided an update of the performance of the service provided by DISC, which had gone live on 1st April 2017. Ms Moss explained that performance thus far had been somewhat disappointing, particularly in relation to the relatively small number of short-term clients in the service and the small number of clients in the service with shared care with GPs. In order to help to address this, a group work and activity volunteer had been recruited. In addition, hosting community aid groups (such as Narcotics Anonymous) was being explored.

The meeting expressed concern that the number of referrals which DISC received from GPs had dropped and discussed what could be done to promote GPs to make more referrals. Ms Moss explained that GPs typically provided contact details for DISC to patients, but formal referrals were more labour intensive for GPs and with the resource challenges facing GPs they were sometimes hesitant to proceed down this route.

The meeting suggested that, if patients agreed to it, GPs could provide DISC with the patient's contact details to allow DISC to make first contact, which may lead to more people accessing the service. The meeting also suggested that it would be beneficial to provide information regarding DISC's services in leaflets in local community areas, including pubs.

It was noted that the Area Council Team, Public Health Directorate and the Safe Neighbourhoods Team all had strong links with GPs and it would therefore be beneficial for the Area Manager to facilitate a meeting between the various parties to understand the issues and seek improvements in this area.

Ms Moss also reported that room rentals had reduced at the premises at The Factory. The meeting was informed that income from room rentals was a key part of DISC's budget for the service. Therefore, Members were requested, where appropriate, to promote The Factory as a potential meeting venue for community groups.

The meeting thanked Ms Moss for her presentation, agreed that this was a useful update and requested that a further update be provided to Area Council in six months.

RESOLVED:- That:

- a) The Area Manager facilitate a meeting between DISC, the Area Management Team, Public Health Directorate, Safe Neighbourhoods Team and local GP surgeries to explore ways to increase the number of people accessing DISC's services;
- b) A further update be provided to the Area Council in six months.

18 South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau (Dac.20.11.2017/4)

Karen Walke of South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau (SYFAB) attended the meeting to provide a presentation on the work of SYFAB, which provided advice to Community and Voluntary Sector organisations on funding opportunities. SYFAB provided groups with free access to a database of 200+ organisations providing funding to CVS organisations in South Yorkshire, with the majority of those funders being locally-focused organisations. In addition to this service, SYFAB provided advice and feedback on funding applications and provided training opportunities to CVS organisations.

Ms Walke explained that her role was to build capacity for CVS organisations to successfully apply for funding. This role was currently funded for one year, from August 2017, and the targets for this were monitored by the Stronger Communities team.

The meeting noted that while the cost of the training programmes may not appear to be high, even small costs such as these could be too high for new, small organisations. Ms Walke explained that SYFAB needed to charge for these sessions in order to add to its grant-based income, and while there were charges for the formal training programmes, access to the database and personalised sessions to provide advice on funding applications were free. Ms Walke explained that those services were of more use to new or small organisations, while the formal training sessions were targeted more towards larger, more established organisations.

The meeting agreed that the funding database provided by SYFAB was extremely helpful for all CVS organisations in Barnsley and all organisations should be encouraged to sign up to the database.

RESOLVED:- That the Area Council thanks Ms Walke for her attendance.

19 Community Safety In The Dearne (Dac.20.11.2017/5)

No Community Safety update was provided to the Area Council.

Members commented that it was vital that they received an update at each meeting, as it was a vital issue for the area.

RESOLVED:- That a Community Safety update be provided to every meeting, with an officer present to answer Members' questions.

20 Performance Report (Dac.20.11.2017/6)

The meeting considered a report of the Area Council Manager which provided members with an update on the delivery of the Dearne Area Councils commissions and services paid for through the Dearne Development Fund.

The Area Council Manager explained that she had met with Kingdom to ensure that they focused on preventing littering and dog fouling in the area, rather than their current focus on illegal parking. The Area Council agreed that littering and dog fouling were the main issues for the area and it was appropriate that Kingdom focused on these issues. The Area Council Manager explained that she received monthly performance reports from Kingdom and would monitor these to ensure that performance changed as had been requested.

In addition to the work done by Kingdom, the meeting noted that all shops were responsible for keeping the vicinity of their shops clean and noted that Asda could do a better job of complying with this.

In relation to private sector housing, the Area Council Manager reported that good progress had been made in developing relationships with letting agents and landlords. There would be a change in the staff member undertaking this role in January 2018 but significant work would be undertaken to ensure that the relationships were maintained with the new staff member.

The Area Council Manager also noted that the letting agents and landlords had concerns about the proposals in relation to Selective Licencing, but accepted that this was not a decision for the Area Council. Elected Members had been working with letting agents and landlords over the previous 12 months to monitor their performance against agreed standards with a view to their potentially being excluded from the Selective Licensing requirements.

Twiggs had achieved the majority of their targets over the previous quarter and had added an apprentice post in addition to those paid for by the Area Council, which had led to an improvement in performance.

The meeting noted that there the take-up of offers of anti-littering education programmes for schools had been low, but efforts should continue to be made to be made to push this.

The meeting noted that the Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB) had matched the funding from the Dearne Development Fund for a member of staff in the library (allowing two staff members to be present). However, the meeting also noted that the sessions run by Dial tended to be far busier than those run by CAB. Members suggested that, while Dial and CAB had different specialisations, it may be beneficial for residents if Dial was able to refer appropriate cases to CAB. The meeting also suggested that it would be beneficial for Dial and CAB to ask residents at these sessions why they

chose to come to each provider specifically, to determine the root cause of the differences in demand.

The meeting discussed the Dearne Development Group, which over 250 people had attended. The meeting was informed that the Communities Directorate would seek to increase the links between the Re-ablement Team and the Assistive Living Service, along with other related services, as there were significant benefits which could be realised from this.

In relation to the ICT Project for Employability, the Area Council Manager reported that a working party had been created to ensure employability services continued to be provided following the closure of the Job Centre in January 2018. Members noted that, once the Job Centre had closed, sanctioning of jobseekers in the Dearne may become a significant issue, as the nearest job centre was in Mexborough. Regular reports on this issue would be collated to ensure that it was monitored.

The meeting agreed that it would be helpful if local employment figures, which were collected for the whole of Barnsley at corporate level, were provided to the Area Councils.

It was reported that the Area Council had contributed £66k through the Dearne Development Fund and £73k of match funding had been received as a result of this.

RESOLVED:- That

- a) The meeting notes the progress of the two Dearne Area Council commissions and service level agreement with BMBC as set out in appendix one.
- b) The meeting notes the progress of the Dearne Development Fund applicants as set out in part C of appendix one to the report.

21 Dearne Area Council Financial Position and Progress of Projects (Dac.20.11.2017/7)

The meeting considered a report of the Area Council Manager provided an updated financial position for all Dearne Area Council spend, outlined the unallocated amount remaining for the 2017/18 financial year and provided an update in relation to projects that had previously been agreed at the Dearne Area Council.

£66k had been spent by the Area Council out of a total budget of £81k. A Panel Meeting would be arranged for January 2018 to discuss the use of the remaining funding which was available.

In relation to the Embankment Project, the meeting was informed that final costings were currently being awaited.

RESOLVED:- That the meeting

- a) notes the updated financial position for all Dearne Area Council spend and the unallocated amounts remaining for 2017/18; and
- b) notes the progress of previously agreed projects that have been committed out of Area Council finances.

22 Dearne Area Council Commissioning (Dac.20.11.2017/8)

The Area Council Manager presented a report which updated Members with regard to Area Council commissions and sought agreement to the continuation of Twiggs Grounds Maintenance until the end of March 2019.

The meeting noted that all current Area Council contracts were due to end in March 2019. A Working Party would be established from January 2018 to begin to discuss proposals for contracts from March 2019 onwards.

The Director of Communities explained that the Business Improvement and Performance Team was currently undertaking a project to improve the Council's intelligence profiles in relation to local areas and she suggested that it may be possible to undertake this project for the Dearne area first, to allow this information to be used in the discussion of post-March 2019 contracts.

RESOLVED:- That the meeting:

- a) approves the continuation of the contract with Twiggs Grounds Maintenance until the end of March 2019 at a cost of £75,000.
- b) notes the change in staffing with regards the private sector housing officer role, as discussed earlier in the meeting.

23 Notes from the Dearne Approach Steering Group held on 18th September, 2017 (Dac.20.11.2017/9)

Members considered the notes from the meeting held on 18th September, 2017.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Dearne Approach Steering Group be received.

24 Notes from the Ward Alliance (Dac.20.11.2017/10)

The meeting received the notes from the Dearne Ward Alliance, held on 19th October, 2017.

In relation to the Sloppy Slippers project to reduce falls, it was reported that 400 pairs of slippers had been received from Windsors. An open day would be arranged to launch this project, in addition to attendance at all sheltered housing groups.

RESOLVED that notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

25 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Dac.20.11.2017/11)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item, noting the levels of expenditure contained within the report.

The Dearne North Ward Alliance Fund had £4,893.43 remaining for allocation from an opening balance of £11,050.53.

Dearne South Ward Alliance had £5,877.50 remaining for allocation from an opening balance of £11,724.90.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Chair