

MEETING:	Dearne Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 1 October 2018
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room, Goldthorpe Library

MINUTES

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

10 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

11 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 3rd July, 2018 (Dac.01.10.2018/2)

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 3rd July, 2018 be approved as a true and correct record.

12 Recruiting Foster Carers - Jackie Cumberbatch (Dac.01.10.2018/3)

Jackie Cumberbatch, Fostering Champion for the Dearne area was welcomed to the meeting.

Members heard about the campaign to recruit foster carers, with each of the Area Councils being assigned a lead social worker and fostering champion for the area. Those present heard of the low numbers of foster carers in the Dearne Area, and the need to increase this. The campaign aimed at increasing awareness and dispelling myths around fostering.

Posters were being displayed in prominent places, and there were posts on social media.

Fostering Champions aimed to provide a local face so that interested parties could have a discussion with someone already involved in fostering in an informal setting, as formal events such as at the Town Hall were often daunting to members of the public.

It was noted that children in foster care ranged from new born to age 18 with 'stay put' meaning often children stayed with foster carers until they were aged 21.

It was noted that posters tailored to the local area would soon be available and that these would be circulated to Members and the Area Team to circulate. It was also suggested that a local taster event be held to stimulate interest.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That thanks be given for the presentation;
- (ii) That the work of the fostering champions be supported; and

(iii) That the organisation of a local taster event be supported.

13 Smoke Free Schools - Kaye Mann (Dac.01.10.2018/4)

Kaye Mann – Public Health Senior Practitioner, was welcomed to the meeting. The Smoke Free campaign in Barnsley was a voluntary campaign to de-normalising smoking, and had been implemented in play parks, town centre zones and in markets.

The approach was now being rolled out to schools, and provided a whole school approach involving staff, young people, and parents. A toolkit and resources was provided to schools, which included signage. The initiative was voluntary, with positive messages, and without any enforcement. The aim was to make smoking invisible so that children never start.

Those present heard of the other benefits that may be seen, with decreased litter and the reduction in second hand smoke. Smoke free areas also provided support for those wishing to quit smoking.

The process was made as simple as possible for the schools to adopt, with all schools in the area now in receipt of the resources, with many already having agreed to support the campaign.

Members heard how smoking prevalence was reducing, and a smoke free generation was expected in 2025.

Members were asked to support the campaign, and encourage adoption in local schools.

Issues with staff at schools smoking in the vicinity were discussed, and it was noted that addressing this was part of the campaign.

Those present also discussed the issue of parents keeping their engines idling when parked near school, and the impact on air quality. It was noted that a pilot was underway to discourage this, and if successful would be rolled out more widely.

Smoke free parks were discussed, and it was noted that 24 key parks had adopted the scheme. Consultations were taking place regarding widening this from around the children's play equipment to cover the whole park in certain communities.

Members commented on the damaged signage in Thurnscoe Park and it was agreed that this would be replaced as soon as possible.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That thanks be given for the presentation; and
- (ii) That the Smoke Free Schools campaign be supported.

14 b:friend (social isolation project) (Dac.01.10.2018/5)

Mark and Jenny from b:friend were welcomed to the meeting. Members heard how b:friend is a charity established to reduce social isolation in older people through befriending for those who may have no family close by, or may have mobility issues.

The charity had been working in Doncaster over the past 18 months, but had been operating in the Dearne area more recently. Members heard how the service in the Dearne would include one-to-one support as well as engagement through social clubs, with the latter being arranged around the five ways to wellbeing.

To date 20 individuals had expressed an interest in volunteering to befriend and relevant checks were now being undertaken. Interested parties were asked to complete an online application, which would be followed by a meeting to chat with the prospective volunteer, and to gain any necessary identification to undertake DBS checks.

Referral to the service could be made through social prescribing, from council officers and also by self-referring.

Posters and flyers had been distributed throughout the area, including in GPs, chemists, cafés, and supermarkets. It was hoped that word of mouth would also promote the service.

It was noted that the service was aimed at those aged over 65, and that the service was not qualified to support those with dementia, but if identified would refer relevant individuals on to more specialist services. Often those younger than age 65 expressed an interest in becoming involved in the social clubs and where possible these requests were accommodated, encouraging them to volunteer.

Members acknowledged that the initiative was in its infancy in the area, and Jenny's role would be to help it become established, helping to run clubs, match volunteers to those wishing to be visited and undertake DBS checks.

Those present heard how links had been made with relevant organisations in the area such as Berneslai Homes and Keepmoat Homes, and the positive partnership working ethos of the team was stressed.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That thanks be given to officers for the presentation given;
- (ii) That leaflets be provided to Members to distribute through their networks.

15 Dearne Area Council Future Commissions and Finance (Dac.01.10.2018/6)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item, referring to previous discussions at workshops held in order to consider issues with current services, and options for delivery in the area from March 2019 onwards.

Members noted that the service provided by Twiggs Grounds Maintenance was due to end on 31st March, 2019. Members were generally happy with the service. The impact seen in the area, and the progress now starting to be made in schools were recognised. After considering the options available Members were in support of a similar commission post March 2019 with revised scheduling of jobs. A focus on a single locality within the area for three days of each week, followed by a different locality the following week was felt important to concentrate efforts to lead to visible results, with two days per week for social action or reactive work.

Those present acknowledged that there would be changes in Neighbourhood Services and the need to ensure a new Education, Volunteering and Environment Service worked alongside and complemented this was stressed.

An indicative timescale for procurement was noted, and Members were in support of proposals.

The current Environmental Enforcement Service was then discussed, it was noted that the service was visible, but that little impact on littering in the area had been seen, with many Fixed Penalty Notices being issued for cigarette ends.

Following a discussion of options consensus was that the Area Council did not commission an enforcement service from April, 2019 onwards. It was suggested that further work be undertaken to explore alternative options to improve the littering problem, including through increased education.

Members went on to discuss the current service level agreement (SLA) with the Safer Neighbourhood Service to provide support in relation to private sector housing. It was noted that performance was positive with no issues, and Members agreed that the service provided a vital role in the area. After discussing potential options, extending the SLA for a further year was supported by Members.

The Area Council Manager provided an update with regards to the financial position of the Area Council. From an opening balance of £208,996.76 Members noted that £208,996.76 had been allocated. However, taking into account income from Fixed Penalty Notices £2,081.20 remained to allocate.

A brief update was provided in relation to the Dearne Development Fund. From £65,000 earmarked £32,425.10 remained. This followed allocations of £14,800 to Dearne Electronic Community Village, £6,300 to DIAL and £8,069 to Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Those present discussed a number of potential applications that may be forthcoming to the Dearne Development Fund, and acknowledged the importance of the fund in helping to increase the skills within local groups to apply for funds and successfully provide monitoring information.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the current financial position and the impact on future budgets from potential future commissions be noted;
- (ii) That the service specification and associated documentation be approved, and an Education, Volunteering and Environmental Service be procured at a cost of up to £75,000 per annum, initially for a period of two years with an option to extend for two further periods of a year;
- (iii) That no further commissioning on Environmental Enforcement take place, with alternative ways of reducing littering and dog fouling to be considered;
- (iv) That a Service Level Agreement with the Safer Neighbour Service be entered into to provide a Housing and Migration service for a year at a cost of £30,523.

**16 Notes from the Dearne Approach Steering Group held on 23rd July, 2018
(Dac.01.10.2018/7)**

Members considered the notes from the meeting held on 23rd July, 2018. Feedback from the meeting was extremely positive with those in attendance finding it useful to share information and network.

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

**17 Notes from the Dearne Ward Alliance held on 6th September, 2018
(Dac.01.10.2018/8)**

The meeting received the notes from the Dearne Ward Alliance held on 6th September, 2018. The meeting had discussed an evaluation of the summer fun initiative which had received positive feedback from throughout the community, and which was deemed a huge success.

RESOLVED that the noted from the Ward Alliance be received.

18 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Dac.01.10.2018/9)

The meeting considered the report detailing the expenditure from each of the Ward Alliance Funds in the Area.

From an opening balance of £9,506.69 Dearne North had £4,887.57 remaining. Dearne South had £7,237.26 remaining to allocate from an opening balance of £11,021.36.

Members discussed possible projects for the use of finance, and it was suggested that the taster event to promote fostering could be supported, as could an initiative building on the success of the summer fun project, which could be held in the February half term.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Chair