

MEETING:	Dearne Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 13 May 2019
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room, Goldthorpe Library

MINUTES

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

47 Election of a Chair

As Councillor Noble was due to be late for the meeting, a Chair for the meeting was duly appointed.

RESOLVED that Councillor Gardiner act as Chair for the meeting.

48 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

49 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 25th March, 2019 (Dac.13.05.2019/2)

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 25th March, 2019 be approved as a true and correct record.

50 Performance Report (Dac.13.05.2019/3)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item, referring to the report circulated, which covered the period January to March, 2019. Members heard how performance was generally good; however there were a small number of outstanding issues.

With regards to the contract held by Twiggs Grounds Maintenance, it was noted that the target for community groups supported had not been met. However, Members heard how this was not an area of concern as many established groups did now not need support following previous assistance. In addition targets had been exceeded in every other area of the contract.

549 volunteers had been engaged by Twiggs over the year against a target of 180. A number of local businesses had been engaged to help maintain the area around their premises and 43 litter picks had been undertaken, leading to 153 bags of rubbish being collected.

Members also noted that the number of referrals to B:Friend was still rather low, and some received were inappropriate. However, it was noted that the social groups were thriving, and more were in the process of being established.

Within quarter 4, there had been 14 requests for service, and 10 pairings had been brokered. Volunteers had given 384 hours, with six new volunteers engaged and 28 enquiries from potential volunteers. Members discussed how the team worked in partnership with a variety of partners and council departments.

It was recognised that the contract with Kingdom Security had come to an end on 31st March, 2019. The number of patrolling hours was delivered as per the contract, but there had been a significant drop in Fixed Penalty Notices issued, and therefore further discussion was taking place around evidencing the patrolling hours.

The meeting heard that the outgoing Housing and Migration Officer had started a new post in March, and a recruitment exercise was underway to fill this post. It was acknowledged that this post was often filled on secondment as it was a short term service level agreement, it was suggested that this arrangement may wish to be reviewed in the future.

Within the quarter the Housing and Migration Officer had exceeded all targets, working proactively to deal with issues such as housing disrepair, waste on premises and fly tipping. 21 cases of fly tipping had been referred to the relevant Council department, and a significant number of contaminated bins had been dealt with.

With reference to those projects funded through the Dearne Development Fund, eight projects received funding in 2018/19 and the progress of these was discussed.

Members noted that CAB had been extremely busy with 128 clients seen in the previous two quarters. Between January to March DIAL had delivered 24 sessions to 91 residents, and often the service had been oversubscribed. Members noted the case study within the report and the impact of the service on the lives of those living in the Dearne.

Goldthorpe Development Group continued to have high numbers attending their social groups, with 239 attendances over the quarter and a high number of volunteers assisting at each event. The choir from Dearne Astrea Academy had attended one of the sessions, and both residents and students had enjoyed this.

With regards to Reds In The Community Members heard that 12 sessions had been delivered, with nine remaining. It was noted that there were a number of females attending, which was commended.

TADS had worked with 8 young people from primary schools in the area and 4 from the secondary school. Whilst it was recognised that numbers quite low, it was recognised that this was due to the in depth work undertaken with many of the young people.

Members heard how the project delivered by DECV had worked with 58 individuals, and recently there had been a surge in people with those requiring support with their housing and paying their council tax online. Many of those engaged were long term unemployed with health needs, and were suffering financial hardship. Often these people were in their 50s/60s and no longer feel they have anything to offer the job market. Support was given to each individual on a one-to-one basis.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

51 Humankind (Dac.13.05.2019/4)

Sam Higgins from Humankind was welcomed to the meeting. Members were made aware that from the statistics relating to those engaged across Barnsley, around a third of the 293 caseload was from the Dearne area. However, it was recognised that some residents used town centre services.

Following some restructuring, additional recovery navigator posts had been created which would provide additional capacity in the area for one-to-one key working. Four clinics were also run, alongside a number of support groups. Members noted the success of the group run to assist people to prepare for Christmas, noting this was a difficult time for many, often with additional pressures.

The meeting heard of the recent CQC inspection, which had been positive and a good rating was received. Only a small minor number of areas of improvement had been suggested.

Members heard of the work to increase the uptake of those accessing treatment for Hepatitis C and noted the significant success of this due to the synchronisation of appointments.

Those present heard that COPD had recently emerged as a priority, with training planned to raise awareness in the hope that this would be built into care plans. Members were reminded of the integrated care work being undertaken in the area, and that COPD had been highlighted as a priority.

It was noted that last year there were 225 new treatment starts from the Dearne area with 212 exits. It was noted that exits were not always successful, but the success rate was over 50%.

Members noted that Humankind had been successful in gaining a contract to deliver support for those with low level mental health. This was felt positive, as often issues with mental health and substance misuse were linked.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and thanks be given for attendance, and the positive work undertaken by Humankind in the area.

52 Dearne Area Council Financial Update (Dac.13.05.2019/5)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item, noting that with finance carried forward from 2017/18 led to a starting balance of £208,467.96 for the Area Council for the year 2018/19.

It was noted that the Area Council had funded an Environmental Enforcement Service, Private Sector Housing Officer Post, an Environment, Education and Volunteering Service, and had also allocated £65,000 to the Dearne Development Fund. Members had also chosen to allocate £4,000 match funding to fund a Social Isolation Project. When income from Fixed Penalty Notices was taken into account, this amounted to £15,770.20 to be carried forward into 2019/20.

From an opening balance of £215,770.20, Members noted that £212,597.76 had already been allocated, leaving £3,172.44 to allocate on Dearne Area Priorities. Members noted that this could slightly increase due to potential underspends on the Community Newsletter and Housing and Migration Officer post.

The attention of Members was drawn to the Dearne Development Fund. From the finance allocated £9,572.10 had been carried forward to the 2019/20 financial year. In addition, £19,018.78 had been received from healthier communities, which led to an opening balance for 2019/20 of £88,590.88.

In the 2019/20 financial year a single project, TADS, had been approved and therefore £73,646.15 remained within the budget.

Members commented on the hard work of the team in ensuring a wide range of delivery to respond to the priorities of the area, and the value for money of the Dearne Development Fund was stressed.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

53 Community Newsletter (Dac.13.05.2019/6)

Members were reminded of discussions on the subject, including the dissatisfaction with the previous supplier. At the previous meeting Members had requested that the Area Council Manager consider costs for the production of a community newsletter in house, and the subsequent distribution. In addition the views of the community were also asked to be sought.

A smart survey had been undertaken, to which 41 people replied. 20 of these had responded that they had not received the previous edition, an issue which the Area Team was aware of. Of those that had received the previous edition feedback was positive, with suggestions made that there ought to be more information regarding the services in the Area, including their location.

The Area Council Manager made Members aware that the production of a 12 page newsletter, without advertisements, would cost £1,542 to produce and £638 to deliver using a local company. It was noted that the latter could be reduced if it was able to be combined with another delivery.

It was noted that just over £3,000 had been allocated to this previously and the proposal would cost £2,180 altogether.

It was noted that funds allocated would only enable the production of one, rather than two, issues for the year, but the corresponding reduction of workload for the staff putting the publication together was also acknowledged.

Members discussed the timing of the production and distribution and it was suggested that the newsletter be finalised in late spring/early summer, but feature information on events into the distant future, where possible.

RESOLVED:- That finance previously allocated for the external production and distribution of a community newsletter be used for a production in-house and the associated local distribution.

**54 Notes from the Dearne Approach Steering Group held on 18th March, 2019
(Dac.13.05.2019/7)**

Members considered the notes from the meeting held on 18th March, 2019.

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

**55 Notes from the Dearne Ward Alliance held on 7th March, 2019
(Dac.13.05.2019/8)**

The meeting received the notes from the Dearne Ward Alliance, held on 7th March, 2019. Attention was drawn to the self-assessment being undertaken and the recent funding of a Sloppy Slippers project in the area to reduce falls and corresponding hospital admissions.

RESOLVED that notes be received.

56 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Dac.13.05.2019/9)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager who provided figures for the end of the financial year.

From an opening balance of £9,506.69 Dearne North Ward had funded 19 projects, leaving a balance of £1,784.29 to be carried forward to the 2019/20 financial year.

Dearne South started the year with a balance of £11,021.36 and funded 16 projects, with £3,027.02 to be carried forward and added to the opening balance for 2019/20.

RESOLVED: - that the report be received.

Chair