

MEETING:	South Area Council
DATE:	Friday, 12 April 2019
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room - The Hoyland Centre

MINUTES

Present Councillors Stowe (Chair), Andrews BEM, Coates, Franklin, Frost, Lamb, Saunders and Shepherd

42 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillors Franklin, Lamb and Shepherd each declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 47 due to their positions as directors of Forge Community Partnership.

43 Minutes of the Meeting of South Area Council held on 28th February, 2019 (Sac.12.04.2019/2)

The meeting considered the minutes of South Area Council held on 12th April, 2019.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the South Area Council held on 12th April, 2019 be approved as a true and correct record.

44 Notes from the Ward Alliances (Sac.12.04.2019/3)

The meeting received the notes from the following Ward Alliances:- Hoyland Milton and Rockingham held on 6th March, 2019; Darfield held on 21st March, 2019; and Wombwell Ward Alliance held on 11th February, and 25th March, 2019.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

45 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Sac.12.04.2019/4)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager. Members were made aware of the end of year balances to be carried forward.

Darfield Ward Alliance had £1,377 to carry forward, Hoyland Milton and Rockingham had £131, and Wombwell had £4,650. It was noted that Wombwell Ward Alliance had met since the publication of the report and recommended a number of applications for approval. Therefore this figure would be correspondingly reduced.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

46 Advice Services update - CAB (Sac.12.04.2019/5)

David Andy from Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) was welcomed to the meeting.

Members were reminded that the Area Council had commissioned an advice service twice, and that the second contract had been delivered by CAB from 1st July, 2017 to

date. Weekly drop-in sessions were held at various venues throughout the area, and two sessions per month were also held where appointments could be pre-booked.

Members heard how the commission had assisted 840 clients to date, with 1,110 client contacts. 508 of these clients were considered to be vulnerable. As a result of the commission just under £1.7m of additional benefit had been gained, and £283,000 of debt had been managed.

Members noted that 42% of clients were aged 55+ when compared to 29% seen through CAB centrally in Barnsley. 64% of clients identified as having a long term health condition or disability, which compared with 34% centrally.

A Social Return On Investment calculation suggested that for every £1 spent on the projects, there was £31 of benefit.

Those present praised the service and the impact on the lives of residents was acknowledged.

Members noted that the service was at capacity despite not being widely promoted. Members asked for a copy of the presentation, detailing the wide ranging statistics to show the impact of the project and suggestions were made for future information to include figures on the numbers of homelessness cases prevented and the other services to which clients were referred.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the presentation and the hard work of officers delivering the service.

47 Procurement and Financial Update (Sac.12.04.2019/6)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the report, referring Members to previous discussions which had taken place at the workshop on 28th February, 2019.

Here it had been proposed that a South Health and Wellbeing Fund be established, which would have an allocation of £35,000 comprised of £25,000 from Public Health and £10,000 from the Area Council. A number of appendices had been circulated which provided guidance and application forms for the grant, which would provide from £2,500 to £5,000 to promote health and wellbeing. Reassurance was given that coverage across the South Area would be ensured in the approval of grants. It was suggested that the fund, if approved, be launched in May, with an assessment panel being convened in June, and any further panels only being convened if funds remained unallocated.

Members discussed the proposal, including the composition of the assessment panel. A suggestion was made that the Chair attends on behalf of the Area Council. With reference to the guidance and application form, Members requested that these be kept as simple and as transparent as possible to encourage applications.

The workshop had also considered the issue of holiday hunger and how to address this in the South Area. A suggestion had been made to make £10,000 of funding available (£2,500 per ward) with this being distributed through existing Ward Alliance Fund mechanisms, with any underspend returned to the Area Council. It was noted that this could be utilised in any School Holidays.

Members were reminded of previous discussions related to reducing social isolation and the suggestion of commissioning a service to address this issue. It was noted that discussions were taking place at a strategic level between the Clinical Commissioning Group and the Council regarding this issue, but these were likely to take some time to conclude. Taking account of this, Members were minded to commission a service initially for a year, with the option to extend the service further, or to give notice should there be a similar service commissioned centrally.

Members discussed the use of income from Fixed Penalty Notices. Previously the Area Council had discussed providing finance for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in the Wombwell Ward, but this had been deferred pending further information. Members discussed the provision of TROs, noting the impact of austerity on their provision, with a system of 'worst first'; used to prioritise their provision. Noted were the delays in the implementation of TROs that had previously been funded. It was suggested that further information be sought on the timescales for implementation. Members received confirmation that if finance was allocated, work would only be paid for on their completion.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That approval be given to establish a 'South Health and Wellbeing Fund' using £10,000 from South Area Council Budget and £25,000 from Public Health;
- (ii) That the documentation related to the process, guidance and evaluation criteria associated with the 'South Health and Wellbeing Fund', as appended to the report circulated, be approved, subject to these being simplified wherever possible;
- (iii) That the Chair act as South Area Council representative on the 'South Health and Wellbeing Fund' evaluation panel;
- (iv) That the Executive Director, Communities be authorised to approve South Health and Wellbeing Funds, in line with guidance and following consultation with the evaluation panel, ensuring coverage across the area;
- (v) That £2,500 per ward be devolved to each Ward Alliance Fund for South Healthy Holidays, to be approved through existing mechanisms and in line with guidance appended to the report;
- (vi) That £60,000 per annum be approved to commission a service to reduce Social Isolation in the South Area, for an initial period of one year with the potential to extend for a further year subject to continued need, performance and funding being available;
- (vii) That the Executive Director, Communities be authorised to approve relevant tender documentation for the service to reduce Social Isolation, following consultation with Members of South Area Council;
- (viii) That up to £6,500 of income from the Environmental Enforcement contract be approved to commission work to revise the existing Traffic Regulation Order at Blythe Street, Wombwell, and that discussions take place with relevant officers regarding timescales associated with the delivery of this and other Traffic Regulation Orders within the area.

48 Appreciation

The Chair wished to place on record his thanks on the retirement of Councillor R. Wraith. His continued hard work and commitment to the Area Council, and to

Council committees such as Overview and Scrutiny and Planning Regulatory Board, was noted, as was his dedication in representing the Council on outside bodies such as South Yorkshire Pensions Authority. In addition his dedication to the residents of his Ward was recognised and was praised. These sentiments were echoed by all Members of the Area Council.

Chair