

MEETING:	Central Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 9 March 2020
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Reception Room, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors W. Johnson (Chair), D. Birkinshaw, P. Birkinshaw, Bruff, Carr, Clarke, Fielding, Gillis, Lodge, Mitchell, Williams and Wright.

35. Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Carr declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute numbers 38 and 39 due to her position as a trustee of DIAL.

36. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Central Area Council held on 13th January, 2020 (Cen.09.03.2020/2)

Members received the minutes from the previous meeting of Central Area Council held on 13th January, 2020.

Members heard how the DIAL Service was now being advertising widely, including within the Central Ward.

A number of concerns were raised in relation to the contract with District Enforcement, and Members were encouraged to give details about these to the Central Area Council Manager for further investigation.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Central Area Council meeting held on 13th January, 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

37. Hope House Presentation (Cen.09.03.2020/3)

Rachel Taylor from Hope House was welcomed to the meeting to provide an overview of the Hope House Connects project, financed through the Wellbeing Fund.

Members noted how the project sought to meet the Area Council priorities of family support and reducing isolation, and also delivered against two of the five ways to wellbeing.

The project built on the success of a long established group, led by a volunteer who was unable to continue. This was further developed with increased resources and focused on early social skills, fine motor, and literacy skills.

The other area of focus was on families with children under the age of one, with the group known as Little Chimps. The target of number of families to engage with had been exceeded, with the number attending Little Chimps doubling. The success of this was attributed to social media and word of mouth. Although families attended from each ward in the Central Area, the majority were from the Central Ward.

Members were provided with case studies about the direct impact of the project, reducing the social isolation experienced by new parents, which in turn allowed them to build networks, access further help, and build resilience.

A number of indirect impacts had also been seen with connections being made by volunteers and others involved in the project delivery, resulting in them providing mutual support.

Members praised the project and its impact. Discussion took place around the differences between this and a normal 'mother and toddler' group, and it was noted that age appropriate resources were provided, but that support was also provided for adults to engage, in order to address their issues.

With regards to attendance, it was suggested that the project could be promoted more widely. It was agreed that promotional resources be provided to the Area Council Manager in order to make these aware for Members to distribute through their networks.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That thanks be given for the presentation and the positive work undertaken;
- (ii) That materials be provided to Members in order to allow more widespread promotion of the service.

38. Performance Management Report Q3 (Cen.09.03.2020/4)

The Area Council Manager reminded Members that the report covered the period October to December, 2019. Whilst performance was generally positive, two of the contracts and two of the projects funded by the Wellbeing Fund had a number of 'Amber' ratings.

Members noted the cumulative impact of Central Area interventions since April 2017, and the Area Council Manager gave more in depth information about each of the areas of investment.

In relation to the service delivered by Royal Voluntary Service there were a number of areas rated as 'Amber'. The number of referrals was 40 against a target of 75. Members were reminded that the project would cease at the end of March 2020, but that careful consideration was being given to the support required by each client and referrals were being made as necessary.

The contract with YMCA continued to be delivered effectively. 116 Sessions had been delivered with 70 new young people participating. During the period there had been 1,417 attendances.

Members heard that 148 Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued within the quarter by District Enforcement. It was noted that this represented a slight decrease on previous quarters, as a light touch approach had been taken over the Christmas period. A number of areas had been targeted as a result of intelligence submitted, resulting in 28 of the notices being issued for dog fouling.

Members questioned the visibility of officers, acknowledging that a visible presence was a deterrent. It was noted that the contract only provided the equivalent of 1.5 full time officers, and that this was shared over 5 wards. The Area Council Manager responded by saying that they would discuss the possibility of providing 'heat maps' showing where officers had been patrolling with District Enforcement. Members also discussed the deterrent effect for children, with them being able to undertake a litter pick in lieu of the payment of a fine. It was suggested that this may act as a greater deterrent for adults than a fine.

Members considered the performance against the contract with Twiggs Grounds Maintenance. 15 social action interventions had been led by Twiggs, 42 adult volunteers engaged, and 68 pieces of added value work undertaken. Members gave thanks for the positive work undertaken.

Performance against the Service Level Agreement to support the reduction in the flytipping of household waste had been positive, with 220 incidents reported, 81 of which were going forward for further investigation by the officer in question. Noted was the work undertaken informally, with conversations taking place with residents in areas where hoarding or neglect was seen.

Members praised the work of the officer, and it was suggested that it may be useful for them to go on Berneslai Homes Walkabouts with Members and officers where there were issues with homes in both public and private ownership.

Members heard how the officer responsible for supporting new tenants in the private rented sector had made direct contact with 42 households. 21 had been supported with issues related to waste and 17 required informal engagement with the landlord. The case studies provided served to highlight the issues being addressed and it was acknowledged that the majority of issues were resolved informally.

Those present went on to consider the performance of the service being delivered by Family Lives. In the quarter 22 referrals had been received, compared to a target of 45. Since then a further 11 referrals had been received. It was acknowledged that efforts had been made to further promote the service through such as social media groups. However, the impact on those accessing the service had been considerable, and the numbers of volunteers engaged was also positive.

Members questioned what further could be done to stimulate referrals; including ensuring relevant health professionals were aware of the scheme. Members also acknowledged proposals for a 'Community Parent' scheme within the Council's budget. Noting Central Area Council's innovative work, it was agreed that the service would need to be reconsidered when any core service was established.

The Area Council Manager then gave an overview of the projects funded through the Wellbeing Fund.

The results for DIAL were acknowledged with the service being well used by residents throughout the area. It was noted that figures for Kingstone were lower than elsewhere, but this was as a result of a later start.

ELSH continued to deliver 5 sessions per week. 34 new adults had been engaged, with many of these from ethnic minorities, including economic migrants and asylum seekers.

Exodus had delivered 53 sessions within the quarter, with five very active clubs being maintained.

Members were reminded of the previous presentation on Hope House Connects, with 7 new families engaged over a sustained period. Members noted the human impact of the service as highlighted in the case studies.

TADS continued to deliver one-to-one services at primary schools and also provide drop-in sessions, but had underachieved against targets set for young people receiving support. It was noted that the time spent supporting young people was more than predicted, as young people accessing the service had more serious issues than first envisaged. Questions were raised around the referral mechanisms, with some inappropriate referrals for young people requiring more intensive support, and this would be further considered.

Street Smart continued to undertake innovative street based work in Kendray, and Members heard that a dance group had been formed, with a performance scheduled at the Central Area Council Celebration event.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

39. Procurement and Financial Update (Cen.09.03.2020/5)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item providing an update on the current situation in relation to each of the priority areas previously agreed. With regards to the 'Addressing Loneliness and Social Isolation in Adults and Older People' priority, Members heard how research was currently underway in order to inform future commissions. In mid January 'Just Works' had been appointed and to date a literature review had been undertaken, 28 community conversations conducted and an online survey launched. A report featuring the results of the research would be completed to feed into a workshop to discuss this in more detail on 31st March, 2020. The outcome of the workshop was scheduled to be discussed at the Area Council meeting in April.

An overview of all current contracts and associated timescales was then provided. It was noted that the current Service Level Agreements (SLAs) concentrating on supporting new tenants in private sector rented accommodation, and that to assist the reduction in the flytipping of household waste were due to come to an end in November. They would therefore be discussed by the Area Council in April or June.

Members noted that each of the projects funded through the Wellbeing Fund was likely to end in June or July. The report circulated provided a brief overview of each, and suggested a course of action for each to consider moving forward.

Members discussed Creative Recovery and noted that the project had been delayed, and that the second part of the project had yet to be delivered. Members expressed concerns at the delays and lower than expected performance, and reassurances were given that performance had been monitored regularly by the Area Council

Manager. Members also noted that projects were paid in arrears for delivery, providing a safeguard should delivery not be forthcoming.

Exodus, TADS and The Youth Association would be invited to apply to the Youth Work Fund. It was noted that opportunities for ELSH may be forthcoming from the research into social exclusion.

A suggestion was made that the DIAL service be delivered for 12 months at a cost of £30,000 with 1 session per week in each ward, and that the Hope House Connects project be supported from June 2020 to the end of July 2021 at a cost of £14,000.

Members noted the Youth Work Fund had been launched, which would allocate £60,000 of previously ring-fenced Area Council Finance. The attention of Members was drawn to the application pack which had been circulated as an appendix to the report. The closing date for applications was 27th March, and an evaluation panel was set to meet on 23rd April, with the outcome being able to be reported into the next Area Council meeting.

Members were reminded of the second element of support for young people 13+, which involved the establishment of a package of training and development assistance for volunteers. Information sessions had been organised and the feedback from interested parties would be taken into account in the next stage of developing the proposal. It was likely that the Area Council would receive details of this at their next meeting.

The Area Council Manager went on to provide an overview of the financial situation of the Area Council, and noted that to date £22,800 in income had been provided from Fixed Penalty Notices

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the overview of Central Area Council's current priorities and overview of all current contracts, contract extensions, Service Level Agreements, and Wellbeing Fund projects and associated timescales be noted;
- (ii) That feedback about the development of the agreed priority areas from 1st April, 2020, including the piece of research to be undertaken in relation to social isolation across the adult lifecourse, be noted;
- (iii) That approval be given for an advice service to be delivered by DIAL for the period 1st June, 2020 – 31st May, 2021, with one session each week delivered in each Ward of the Central Area, at a cost of £30,000;
- (iv) That approval be given for the Hope House Connects service to be delivered for the period 1st June, 2020-31st July, 2021 at a cost of £14,000;
- (v) That the updates on work to take forward services to support young people aged 13+ be noted;
- (vi) That the financial position for 2019/20 and projected expenditure to 2022/23 be noted.

40. Notes of the Ward Alliances (Cen.09.03.2020/6)

The meeting received the notes of the following meetings of the Ward Alliances within the Central Area:-

Central Ward Alliance on 22nd January, and 19th February, 2020;
Dodworth Ward Alliance on 14th January, 2020;
Kingstone Ward Alliance on 8th January, and 12th February, 2020;
Worsbrough Ward Alliance on 6th February, 2020.

RESOLVED that the notes and feedback from the Ward Alliances be received.

41. Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Cen.09.03.2020/7)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item referring to finance remaining in each of the Ward Alliance Funds.

Central Ward Alliance Fund had £10,405.34 remaining, and Dodworth Ward Alliance Fund had £15,554.14 remaining at the time the report had been published, but a number of applications had subsequently been approved leaving around £10,000 remaining.

Kingstone Ward Alliance Fund had £4,538.91 remaining; Stairfoot Ward Alliance £10,026.99 remaining and Worsbrough Ward Alliance £18,161.66 left to allocate.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Chair