

<b>MEETING:</b>	South Area Council
<b>DATE:</b>	Friday, 23 April 2021
<b>TIME:</b>	10.00 am
<b>VENUE:</b>	Held Virtually

## AGENDA

- 1 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

### Minutes and Notes

- 2 Minutes of the Meeting of South Area Council held on 12th February, 2021 (Sac.23.04.2021/2) (Pages 3 - 8)
- 3 Notes of the Ward Alliances (Sac.23.04.2021/3) (Pages 9 - 20)  
Hoyland Milton and Rockingham – held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2021  
Darfield – held on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2021  
Wombwell – held on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2021

### Items for Discussion

- 4 City Fibre - Natalie Ward (Sac.23.04.2021/4)
- 5 Public Health Update - Diane Lee (Sac.23.04.2021/5)
- 6 Covid-19 Update - Cath Bedford and Kay Tinkler (Sac.23.04.2021/6)

### Performance

- 7 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Sac.23.04.2021/7) (Pages 21 - 26)
- 8 Performance Report (Sac.23.04.2021/8) (Pages 27 - 44)

### Items for Decision

- 9 Procurement and Financial Update (Sac.23.04.2021/9) (Pages 45 - 52)

To: Chair and Members of South Area Council:-

Councillors Markham (Chair), Andrews BEM, Eastwood, Franklin, Frost, Daniel Griffin, Lamb, Saunders, Shepherd, Smith, Stowe and Sumner

Area Council Support Officers:

Diane Lee, South Area Council Senior Management Link Officer  
Lisa Lyon, South Area Council Manager  
Rachel Payling, Head of Service, Stronger Communities  
Peter Mirfin, Council Governance Officer

Please contact Peter Mirfin on email [governance@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:governance@barnsley.gov.uk)

Thursday, 15 April 2021



<b>MEETING:</b>	South Area Council
<b>DATE:</b>	Friday, 12 February 2021
<b>TIME:</b>	10.00 am
<b>VENUE:</b>	Held Virtually

## MINUTES

**Present** Councillors Markham (Chair), Andrews BEM, Eastwood, Franklin, Frost, Lamb, Saunders, Shepherd, Smith, Stowe and Sumner

### 12 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillors Shepherd and Franklin each declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute number 20 in so far as discussion related to their positions as directors of Forge Community Partnership.

Councillors Frost and Markham both declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute number 20 in relation to their positions as trustees of Age UK Barnsley.

### 13 Minutes of the Meeting of South Area Council held on 18th December, 2020 (Sac.12.02.2021/2)

The meeting considered the minutes of South Area Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2020.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the South Area Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

### 14 Notes of the Ward Alliances (Sac.12.02.2021/3)

Members received the notes from the following Ward Alliances:- Hoyland Milton and Rockingham held on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2021; Wombwell held on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2021; and Darfield Ward Alliance held on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2021.

Councillor Shepherd provided a brief update in relation to the work of the Hoyland Milton and Rockingham Ward Alliance. Communications had been circulated regarding the ability for people to sponsor hanging baskets. Finance had been ringfenced in order to address the issue of nuisance off-road biking in Jump Valley and discussions had taken place regarding recommencing work.

Councillor Frost spoke about the Wombwell Ward Alliance, noting that discussion had taken place around the success of the healthy holidays programme. The Ward Alliance had previously financed hanging baskets, but had more recently sought sponsorship, with all now being funded by sponsors. The Ward Alliance had also discussed Post Office provision in the area. A temporary facility was in place at Wombwell library, but a site for a more permanent fixture was being sought.

Councillor Smith updated Members on the work of the Ward Alliance in Darfield. The Ward Alliance had also been considering the sponsorship of hanging baskets. It was noted that the CCTV requested had been granted funding by the Principal Towns

Programme. The Ward Alliance had discussed the issues of quad biking, and different measures to restrict access and resolve the issue. It was suggested that the partnership work being undertaken by Hoyland Milton and Rockingham could be shared.

The Alliance had also discussed the issues of potholes in the area, and thanks were given for the efforts of highways, noting that dangerous and severe potholes were normally filled within 24 hours.

**RESOLVED** that the notes and updates from the Ward Alliances be received.

**15 CityFibre Deployment - Natalie Ward (Sac.12.02.2021/4)**

Unfortunately Natalie Ward was unable to attend and therefore the item was deferred for consideration at a future meeting if appropriate.

**16 SFSY & BMBC Digital Activity Update - Julie Tattershall (Sac.12.02.2021/5)**

Julie Tattershall, Projects and Contracts Manager, was welcomed to the meeting to provide an update on Superfast South Yorkshire (SFSY) and Accelerating Digital Barnsley.

Members heard how SFSY was a partnership between the four South Yorkshire local authorities, Building Digital UK, Openreach and the Local Enterprise Partnership. So far SFSY had increased availability of superfast broadband from 80% to over 90% bringing nearly 120,000 new connections. In addition support had been provided to SMEs on how to gain the benefits of connectivity and advice relating to infrastructure had also been provided to developers and to planning departments.

Members noted the current activity being undertaken, including working with Openreach to provide fibre to the premises for 8,000 homes, inputting into digital strategies in Barnsley and the City Region and also being consulted on digital connectivity as part of the planning process.

Noted was the work undertaken in the South Area with a total of 2,948 properties now having improved connectivity.

Those present heard of the work of Accelerate Digital Barnsley which included efforts to increase gigabit-capable broadband infrastructure from commercial providers such as City Fibre, to stimulate demand through voucher schemes, and to ensure all new residential and commercial sites were future proofed with gigabit capable infrastructure.

Members also were made aware of Internet of Things (IoT) work to utilise technology in smart ways, collecting data to be used for strategic decision making. An example of temperature sensors being used to help decide when to deploy gritters was given.

It was noted that officers worked with network providers to plan the installation of 5G provision over the next two years. It was noted that liaison included supporting the planning process to ensure smooth roll out.

Members acknowledged the strategic linkages being made and social value opportunities created, and noted the example given of utilising technology to allow video calling in care homes. The work to address digital exclusion was also acknowledged.

Members discussed the impact of the pandemic and reliance on data for work and schooling, noting the effect on those digitally excluded. The expense of connections, and the complexity of contracts used were also discussed. Work to ensure children and young people had access to laptops and affordable connections was acknowledged.

Noted was the work in the area by Openreach and other providers such as Virgin Media, which would contribute to the Government target of all properties being able to gigabit enabled by 2033.

**RESOLVED** that thanks be given for the presentation, and that its content be noted.

## **17 Public Health Update - Diane Lee (Sac.12.02.2021/6)**

Diane Lee, Head of Public Health, introduced the item by making Members aware of the Older People and Alcohol Toolkit developed by the Barnsley Alcohol Alliance.

It was noted that historically alcohol consumption declined with age, and the numbers of non-drinkers increased. However, the current older generation are more likely to drink, with those aged over 55 more likely to exceed guidelines for consumption. A number of factors were thought to contribute, including retirement, bereavement and loneliness. In addition, drinking had increased during lockdown.

Those present heard of the three types of older drinkers:- Early Onset (survivors), Late-onset (reactors); and Intermittent (binge drinkers). It was noted that hospital admissions due to alcohol consumption had increased due to such as cardiovascular diseases; cancer; liver disease; and slips, trips and falls.

The difficulty in discussing drinking was acknowledged and guidance on this was provided. Members were made aware of Drink Coach support, including the app, which helped track units and calories consumed, and online coaching sessions. It was noted that hard copies of the Older People and Alcohol Toolkit would be made available for distribution in the area, as would plastic glasses which served to highlight the size of measures and the alcohol content.

Members discussed the issue and the reasons behind increased consumption, which included more generous measures being poured when drinking at home and that alcohol is cheap, readily available and socially acceptable.

It was suggested that conversations could be started with residents through Sloppy Slippers events and through the Age UK provision in the area.

Questions were asked whether there would be a public health media campaign on this issue, and it was noted that one was being planned with the view to reducing the stigma associated with accessing support.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That thanks be given for the presentation;
- (ii) That Members agree to support conversations on the issue and promote the Older People and Alcohol Toolkit and Drink Coach resources.

## **18 Covid 19 Update - Cath Bedford and Kay Tinkler (Sac.12.02.2021/7)**

Cath Bedford, Public Health Principal, and Kay Tinkler, Neighbourhood Engagement Officer, were welcomed to the meeting.

Members heard that there were signs of a decline in cases both in Barnsley, and nationally, but that there was still a need to remain vigilant and follow the guidance.

It was noted that case rates were most prevalent in working age adults, and that case rates were similar in all neighbourhoods, with all stable or declining.

Members noted the Covid Marshals and Neighbourhood Engagements Officers in place for advice and support. It was noted that issues of non-compliance had been identified in shops with both staff and customers not wearing face coverings, and support had been given to address this issue. Work to provide community insights had recently concluded and analysis was being undertaken to understand why some residents did not comply with regulations.

It was noted that work had been undertaken to support vulnerable communities and which included disseminating information. Members heard how there was a weekly meeting to discuss outbreaks across Barnsley including in schools, care homes and workplaces.

Noted was the work to support asymptomatic community testing at the Metrodome, and to encourage those with symptoms to get tested at the various testing sites throughout the borough.

The NHS was leading vaccination efforts, but feedback had been positive with most aged 70+ now vaccinated and those aged over 65 being called to make appointments. Members discussed issues with queueing at vaccination venues, and it was noted that efforts were being made to overcome these, including encouraging those attending not to come early.

Members heard about the work of Neighbourhood Engagement Officers (NEOs) working as part of a team to support individuals, community groups and businesses.

Community groups had been supported with advice regarding safe working. Businesses had also been supported with Covid safety information and signposted to financial support through Enterprising Barnsley. It was noted NEOs had also supported the Covid Responder service, Covid Support Service and worked alongside Covid Marshals.

NEOs had gathered intelligence on high streets and parks and monitored adherence to guidance. It was noted that residents largely adhered to guidelines but encouraged Members to feed in intelligence.

Members heard how the numbers requesting support from Community Responders had declined. Those requesting befriending support had been referred to Age UK

Barnsley, and those requiring support with shopping had been supported to order direct, which was suggested more sustainable in the longer term.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

#### **19 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Sac.12.02.2021/8)**

The Area Council Manager spoke to the item referring to the finance remaining in each Ward Alliance Fund, as contained within the report. An array of projects to support Covid recovery had been funded in each area, but finance still remained for allocation to worthy causes.

It was noted that an end of year report would be provided at the next meeting of the Area Council in April.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

#### **20 Procurement and Financial Update (Sac.12.02.2021/9)**

The Area Council Manager spoke to the item, referring to the service to reduce social isolation and loneliness. It was noted that the current service provided by Age UK had been funded for two years and would come to an end on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.

Members noted that the service was initially commissioned with the first year designed to gain a greater insight into those socially isolated in the area. The second year was set to establish sustainable infrastructure to support the needs identified.

Members noted that the pandemic had impacted on the service, which had changed its delivery but had still worked to meet the needs of those isolated and lonely, with increasing numbers being referred to the service.

It was suggested that a workshop be arranged for Members to consider the service in detail, including its operation so far, with a view to making recommendations for any future service to the Area Council at the meeting in April, 2021.

**RESOLVED** that a workshop be held to consider the Social Isolation contract and discuss commissioning intentions going forward, with a report on the outcome to be presented to the next meeting of the Area Council.

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Chair

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## Notes for Hoyland Milton and Rockingham Joint Ward Alliance

Held on Wednesday 3 March 2021

Via Microsoft Teams

Present

Cllr Nicola Sumner (Chair)	Rockingham Ward
Cllr Jim Andrews	Rockingham Ward
Cllr Chris Lamb	Rockingham Ward
Cllr Tim Shepherd	Hoyland Milton Ward
Cllr Mick Stowe	Hoyland Milton Ward
Cllr Robin Franklin	Hoyland Milton Ward
Allan Wood	Chair Owd Martha's Yard
Janet Cartwright	Treasurer Friends of Elsecar Park
Joy Hart	
Peter Latham	
Leanne Cook	Berneslai Homes
Julie Phillips	Birdwell Residents Alliance (The Wombles)
Kay Tinkler	Neighbourhood Engagement Officer (BMBC)
Dawn Grayton	BMBC South Area Team

Apologies

Ian Warhirst	Chair Hemingfield Action Group
Anne Sanderson	Neighbourhood Watch
Kerry Thompson	Age UK
Stephen Chapman	Vicar Holy Trinity Church Elsecar
Joan Whittaker	

### Welcomes and introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Julie to the rest of the alliance.

### Kay Tinkler – Neighbourhood Engagement Officer

Kay introduced herself and discussed her role in general, she shared key messages such as hands, face, space.

Kay visits small shops and businesses to check the owners understand the guidance and are adhering to social distancing measures.

As restrictions begin to ease Kay will be visiting Community Centres to ensure that venues are Covid safe as well as offering advice and support to re-open.

It was suggested that Kay may visit Elsecar Park as there have been some horrendous problems over the last few weekends with lots of people gathering.

Schools return on Monday, so steps are been taken to ensure that children and parents go directly from home to school and return home, no gathering at school gates. Kay is working with covid

marshalls to ensure guidance is observed. Kirk Balk have started covid testing twice weekly, she confirmed it is the lateral flow testing.

Community Groups who are still working are encouraged to attend the Metrodome for lateral flow testing, this will move towards home testing.

The alliance requested Kay's contact details should they need further support. Email Kay at [KayTinkler@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:KayTinkler@barnsley.gov.uk)

The Chair thanked Kay for her contribution, and she left the meeting at this point.

### **Notes from Ward Alliance Meeting held on 13 January 2021**

The notes from 13 January 2021 was accepted as a true record of the meeting.

### **Update on Employability help**

Dawn gave an update of the conversation she had previously with Anne Marie and Beverley Ellis from the Adult Learning and Employment Team. The Team have funding to be able to offer community-based job support. They prefer to offer drop in sessions but are concerned that these sessions are poorly attended. An undertaken was given that if the alliance decides to go ahead with this project it will be marketed in advance, a small budget can be used for this purpose. It is envisaged jobseekers from the two wards can attend 3 times during which they will be helped to create and format a CV, familiarise themselves with how to look for work online and have their basic skills assessed. The jobseeker will then be signposted on to the next stages, after they have completed these actions, they can return for another three sessions. The Team can link clients into basic level 2 training, maths, English and digital skills are currently offered free of charge. They also offer a wellbeing course which looks at confidence issues and interview skills. The alliance agreed to pursue this offer. A start date will be determined by current Government guidelines.

### **Update on Ward Alliance Budget**

The current budget was discussed.

### **New Projects:**

Hanging baskets - agreed

### **Suggestions for new projects**

A Birdwell resident has recently approached the South Area Team and local Councillors to ask for a memorial to those that have died in the area due to Covid, her husband has recently died of Covid. Alliance members came up with a variety of suggestions such as a series of benches, a memorial garden on derelict ground tree planting with community involvement.

The Parks Team have already been contacted Birdwell and have suggested a tree and a plaque, but the resident doesn't appear to like that suggestion.

Having a smaller replica of the memorial in town was also suggested.

The group considered it important to have a memorial in both electoral wards.

The alliance is also in favour of a Winter Warmer event with a slipper exchange, something like the marketplace event we hosted last time which included information stalls. To consider using the market, although the library worked well.

**Any Other Business**

A question was asked about opening the parks for events, it was confirmed that the date for this was not known but we were not to encourage groups hosting large summer events.

Tidy Team. A discussion was had about the new contract with the new company.

**Date of next meeting 5 May 2021**

Due to the local election this meeting will be rescheduled to 19 May 2021 5pm. Venue to be confirmed.

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**Darfield Ward Alliance**  
**Minutes of meeting held Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Microsoft Teams**

**Present:** John Davies, Cllr Caroline Saunders, Cllr Pauline Markham, Cllr Trevor Smith and Mike Fenna.

**In attendance:** Tanya Dickinson, Community Development Officer. Kay Tinker, Neighbourhood Engagement Officer. Matthew Smith (for discussion around WAF application, Enhancing the Local High Street only).

**Apologies:** Colin Ward

**Apologies with matters discussed by phone:** Apologies recorded for Brian Moore and Margaret Barlow who are unable to access Microsoft Teams. Members have been consulted via the telephone prior to the meeting to allow them to have an input and to meet quoracy for decision making.

### **1. Welcomes and Introductions**

Cllr Markham welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Kay Tinkler.

Members of the Ward Alliance were informed at this point that sadly Barbara Tindle has chosen to resign from her role as Secretary and member of the Ward Alliance. Barbara has carried out her role as Secretary to a very high standard and will be sorely missed. A letter of thanks to be arranged.

**Action: Tanya.**

### **2. Kay Tinker, Neighbourhood Engagement Officer**

Kay is part of the South Area Team and her role is to reinforce Covid messages within the community. Kay can offer advice and guidance to businesses, residents, community groups and organisations to ensure that they are all Covid safe and operating within current regulations. Key pieces of work Kay is currently help to support are:

- Risk Assessment Information packs for community groups and centres
- Offering guidance and support to local businesses and groups to help them re-open once restrictions allow
- Helping to build local intelligence which can be fed back to the Council's Covid Marshalls allowing them to target resources where Covid regulations are being breached.
- Reinforcing Public Health's key messages around 'Hands, Face and Space' and Covid testing.

If anyone has any Covid related enquiries, Kay can be contacted on 07385417424 or KayTinkler@barnsley.gov.uk

### **3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising**

The previous minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

#### Matters Arising:

- **Principal Towns** – Confirmation is still awaited over the installation of CCTV cameras in the area. Once this has been received, the Principal Towns team will prepare some publicity to share the outcome of the public consultation carried out towards the end of last year. Steps

are being taken to hand the responsibility of upkeep of Darfield Ring back to Highways. Updates will be provided as and when progress has been made.

### 3. Ward Alliance Funding

The current balance of Ward Alliance funding stands at £7,046

#### Funding Applications:

- **Hungry Caterpillars - £1080.** Due to Covid the group is asking for funding to help restart their Parent and Toddler group once restrictions allow. Discussion took place around charges made by the group to families and their ability to become self-sustaining moving forward. It was agreed to support this application in full. The Alliance asked that any future applications clarify how much families are charged.
- **DWA Enhancing the local high street - £2,830.** This project will invite sponsorship for hanging baskets to be placed where there are clusters of businesses with public footfall. Ward Alliance funding is requested to cover the cost of the brackets and sponsorship plaques only. This is a start-up project with a view that sponsorship covers the full costs associated with the hanging baskets moving forward. It was agreed to support this application in full.

The following decisions were ratified:

- **Friends of Thornhill House - £500.** It was agreed to fund this application by email / telephone ahead of this meeting. Agreement was reached to support the application in full.
- **DWA Community Defibrillator - £2,000 (maximum amount).** A decision was made at the January meeting to allow a maximum of £2000 towards installation costs of a community defib. The funding application has since been circulated to the Ward Alliance to receive formal approval. Unfortunately, the defib can no longer be accommodated at Darfield Library and so work is taking place to secure an alternative suitable location.

### 4. Ward Alliance Projects

**Healthy Holidays** – No provision was offered as part of this programme for the February half term however, for Easter, 34 Family Support Packs have gone out via local schools to families who are known to be struggling financially. These packs included a range of activities for the children, information on help available as well as a shopping voucher for food essentials.

A discussion took place around moving the focus of this work onto family budgeting and providing advice and resources to help families financially plan. There was also discussion around perhaps ring fencing some Ward Alliance funding to allow community groups to apply for funds to deliver activities under the banner of healthy holidays to support local families moving forward but also to help promote their group and increase their membership contributing towards the sustainability of the group.

Cllr Saunders raised the point that we need to know what is happening with regards to free school meals during the summer holidays before moving the focus of this work. It may be that we need to stick to our original remit.

This discussion to be picked up again once we know the offer for the summer holidays and as part of the Alliance's future planning discussions.

**Covid-19 Community Group Packs** – Tanya alongside Kay Tinkler has started to distribute these support packs to local groups. The packs have been well received so far and have allowed for Kay and her role to be introduced. The remainder of the packs will be distributed over the coming weeks. Packs include a supply of hand sanitiser, face masks, posters, floor stickers as well as a booklet containing information about the support available to groups moving forward. These will be followed up by the risk assessment information packs Kay is in the process of developing to support the groups to restart their activities in a Covid safe way.

## **5. Any other business**

Tanya updated the Alliance that a new service provider has been commissioned to deliver the South Area Clean, Green and Tidy Service. Following a tendering process, Twiggs Ground Maintenance has secured the contract from the 1<sup>st</sup> April. Twiggs are to be invited to the May meeting to introduce themselves. The Alliance asked for their thanks to be passed on to the existing Tidy Team who have provided invaluable support to the work of the Alliance and Darfield. **Action: Tanya.**

Cllr Smith pointed out that there has been a large surge in people coming forward to carry out litter picks which is great. This is resulting in lots of filled bags being left on street corners / by waste bins. The collection of these is something which we need to keep on top of.

Membership renewal letters are due out in the next month or so. These will invite Ward Alliance members to recommit to their role as a member for the next 12 months.

WA Future Planning – Normally this time of year would be when the Alliance considers potential projects however due to the current situation it was suggested that this be done slightly later (hopefully in May) when restrictions have eased allowing the Alliance to come together in person.

Cllr Saunders wanted to pass on her thanks to the community representatives for their time and commitment to the work of the Ward Alliance. Caroline will be stepping down as Councillor in May and so this is her last Alliance meeting.

## **6. Date and time of next meeting**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 4pm via Microsoft Teams / Telephone**

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## Ward Alliance meeting notes

1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

**Present:** Cllr Frost, Cllr Eastwood, Carmel Seston, Keith Seston, Karen Whiting, Sabeena Chavan, Chelsey Rigby. Leanne Cook Berneslai Homes, Amanda Bradshaw (BMBC)

Guest Kay Tinkler (BMBC Neighbourhood Engagement Officer)

**Apologies:** Steve Whittingham, Margaret Morgan

Notes last meeting: Accepted as a true record CS

Matters arising Cllr Frost informed the meeting that a few local businesses had made enquiries to the Post Office. Closing date for applications 21<sup>st</sup> June.

Cllr Frost informed the meeting that the Tidy Team had lost the contract and that Twiggs will be taking over the South Area Council Environment contract as from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. Thanks, were noted for the Tidy Team and members agreed that they had done a tremendous job over the past 7 years.

**Kay Tinkler Neighbourhood Engagement Officer.** Kay updated the meeting on current COVID situation across Barnsley. Still spreading the message of hands, face, space and staying safe. There had been no specific spikes in Wombwell, the High St was quite but there had been some incidents of individuals not wearing masks. Kay informed the meeting of the testing programme to which will be introduced in the High schools once they open and the people who are asystematic can get tested at the Metrodome.

Kay informed the group of planned reopening of community centres from the 12<sup>th</sup> April and her team were currently in process of pulling together a package of resources to ensure the centres operate safely. The group were asked to forward onto her any requests for resources. The packs should be ready to hand out by the end of March. The Alliance members suggested funding items out of WA funds if need be, hand sanitising stations were mentioned. - Action AB to liaise with Kay regarding this

Question raised about groups gathering in Wombwell park. Kay informed the group to pass on any intelligence of any such gatherings and the COVID Marshalls can offer support and it can also be passed onto SYP if it is an issue of anti-social behaviour.

Question raised re outside seating area for licenced venues this issue again needs to be passed onto Kay for investigating. Action AB to share Kay's contact details

Budget Update £9758.29 WA funds remaining. The application from Lundhill Community Group has been withdrawn.

**Healthy Holidays Activities** - £2754 remaining in the HH budget.

Easter holiday activities 150 activity bags (containing craft activities and a planting activity). These will be openly distributed via Friends of Wombwell Park and Via Wombwell Cemetery Community Hub. Wombwell TARA have been supporting families on the estate over the past month and 50 bags will be given to this group for distribution.

The WA again stressed the need to support families who are still on furlough and /or struggling as a result of the restrictions. AB had been in discussion with parent support advisors in the 3 primary schools re the support they are offering families in crisis which is often a bag of store cupboard items. This incident of crisis can come at any time. AB shared the idea of providing the local schools with Potters meat vouchers and Smith Fruit vouchers for the parent support advisors to issue to families at times of crisis. The group supported this initiative as a way of supporting those families as well as supporting local businesses in Wombwell. Action AB to purchase vouchers out of HH budget and work with parent support advisors to monitor the initiative ensuring that additional information (debt advice, fuel poverty advice and BMBC Covid support) is provided alongside this offer.

AB informed the group of the offer of support for children on free school meals in Barnsley during the school holidays. This will run for 6 weeks across the rest of the school year (1-week Easter, 3 weeks summer holidays, October break and 1 week at Christmas. The offer will include a good food lunch box and opportunity for the youngsters to engage in free activities. Letters are to be sent out to all eligible children for the Easter holidays. Activities for Easter will not be face to face due to current restrictions.

**Project updates-** Age Uk Men in Sheds project. The pandemic and problem with finding a suitable venue have affected this project. AB and Age Uk project workers have had a meeting to discuss progression once groups are able to meet up again. It was agreed that the South Area Team would purchase a large gazebo so that the project can temporarily operate from the Park Pavilion. Age Uk are very happy with this temporary solution and fingers crossed the project should be back up and running very soon.

Carmel from FOWP updated the meeting with a project they are working on with Horticultural society. This connecting communities project is in its early stages, but key areas of development are improving the planting at the entrance on Wrights crescent. There is going to be a community consultation to engage residents and children and young people in the decision making and hopefully implementation of the project.

**South Area Council update** – District Enforcement contract is to be extended for 1 year from April 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be extended patrols beyond the end of Wombwell High St. Dog fouling there is 4 hours per week across the whole of the South Area. Residents/WA members need to pass on intelligence to enable the team to catch culprits. The CAB contract finishes on the 30<sup>th</sup> June. It will be going out to tender for a 3yr contract. In addition to face to face meetings the spec will include increased telephone and digital support. The spec will also include the need to increase take up for support from BME communities. AGE UK contract finishes end of September. Currently in discussion to re-continue the funding for the social isolation project. The Tidy Team contract will go to

Twiggs from the 1<sup>st</sup> April. It will be a similar contract “doing with more than doing for”. There will be 30% of reactive work.

A.O.B Principal towns proposals will be going to White cabinet next week.

AB informed the group that the defib on the High St had already been used twice in an emergency.

Date of next meeting

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 6pm via Microsoft teams.

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## 2020/21 WARD FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

For 2020/21 each Ward will have an allocation of £10,000 Ward Alliance Fund.

50% of the funding requires a match-funding element of volunteer time that directly relates to the project in question, or other match funding resources (such as free room hire or donations of goods and equipment). This reflects the fact that the fund is intended to support volunteering and social action in our communities.

50% can be used for initiatives that have no volunteer element – such as the purchase and installation of benches, hanging baskets or other street furniture.

Area Councils have the option to allocate up to £20,000 from the Area Council budget to each of their Ward Alliances. This is discretionary to each Area Council, and Area Council's may also choose not to allocate any funding to ward level.

The carry-forward of any remaining balances of the 2019/20 Ward Alliance Fund will be combined and added to the 2020/21 Allocation, to be managed as a single budget with the above conditions.

All decisions on the use of this funding need to be approved through the Ward Alliance.

## DARFIELD WARD ALLIANCE

For the 2020/21 financial year the Ward Alliance have the following available budget.

£10,000	base allocation
£9,484.84	carried forward from 2019/20
£5,209.19	unspent grants
<b>£24,694.03</b>	<b>total available funding</b>

<b>Project</b>	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Match funding element of allocation</b>	<b>Non Match funding allocation remaining</b> <b>£12,347</b>	<b>Allocation Remaining</b> <b>£24,694.03</b>
Billingley Village History group	£240	£756	£12,347	£24,454.03
Darfield Summer Gala	£1315	£1334	£12,347	£23,139.03
Healthy holidays Covid 19	£1625	£324	£12,347	£21,514.03
Barbara Tindle Q2 & Q3	250.00	£0	£12,097	£21,264.03
Low Valley Flood Group	2,500.00	£0	£9,597	£18,764.03
Barnsley Leaders Basketball Club	350.00	£6,484.80	£9,597	£18,414.03
Greenspaces group - equipment	323.90	£1,513.12	£9,597	£18,090.13
Darfield Cricket Club	1,000.00	£6,160.56	£9,597	£17,090.13
Healthy Holidays Post Covid	5,000.00	£567.42	£9,597	£12,090.13
Covid Support Packs	642.95	£216.16	£9,597	£11,447.18
Winter Welbeing Packs	615.00	£4,431.28	£9,597	£10,832.18
Friends of Darfield Church	£860	£1080	£9,597	£9,,972.18

Community Defib	£2,000	£324	£9,597	£7,972.18
Friends of Thornhill	£500	£0	£9,097	£7,472.18

### HOYLAND MILTON/ROCKINGHAM WARD ALLIANCE

For the 2020/21 financial year the Ward Alliance have the following available budget.

£20,000	base allocation
£9,785.30	carried forward from 2019/20
£4,630.96	Returned Grants
<b>£34,416.26</b>	<b>total available funding</b>

Project	Allocation	Match funding element of allocation	Non Match funding allocation remaining <b>£17,208</b>	Allocation Remaining <b>£34,416.26</b>
Autumn Planting	1,100.00	£81.06	£17,208	£33,316.26
Rockingham band Equipment	1,500.00	£9,186.80	£17,208	£31,816.26
Christmas in Birdwell	874.00	£486.36	£17,208	£30,942.26
Chirstmas in Hoyland	1,271.90	£0	£15,936	£29,670.36
Elsecar Train Station Art Project	£500	£0	£15,436	£29,170.36
Hanging Baskets	£2800	£1,513	£15,436	£26,370.36
Christmas Lunch	£100	£81	£15,436	£26,270.36

## WOMBWELL WARD ALLIANCE

For the 2020/21 financial year the Ward Alliance have the following available budget.

£10,000	base allocation
£12,058.29	carried forward from 2019/20
£3,680.81	Income/ Returned Grants
<b>£25,739.10</b>	<b>total available funding</b>



<b>Project</b>	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Match funding element of allocation</b>	<b>Non Match funding allocation remaining</b> <b>£12,869.55</b>	<b>Allocation Remaining</b> <b>£25,739.10</b>
Childrens Activity Packs – Covid 19	£750	£0	£12,119.55	£24,989.10
Healthy Holidays Covid 19 Recovery	£2,000	£743	£12,119.55	£22,989.10
Healthy Holidays 20/21	£2500	£2296	£12,119.55	£20,489.10
Defib	£700.00	£40.53	£12,119.55	£19,789.10
Christmas Tree	£360.00	£189.14	£12,119.55	£19,429.10
Barnsley Leaders Junior Basketball Club	£350.00	£6,079.50	£12,119.55	£19,079.10
Wombwell Community Lunch Club	£640.00	£540.40	£12,119.55	£18,439.10
Covid Healthy Holidays	£7,000.00	£135.10	£12,119.55	£11,439.10
Community Station Garden Project	£1000	£2,161	£12,119.55	£10,439.10
Unicorn Gardens	£673.94	£729	£12,119.55	£9,765.16
Friends of Wombwell Garden	£244	£2,431	£12,119.55	£9,521.16
Hanging Baskets	£1,000	£81	£12,119.55	£8,521.16

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April 2020  
– March  
2021

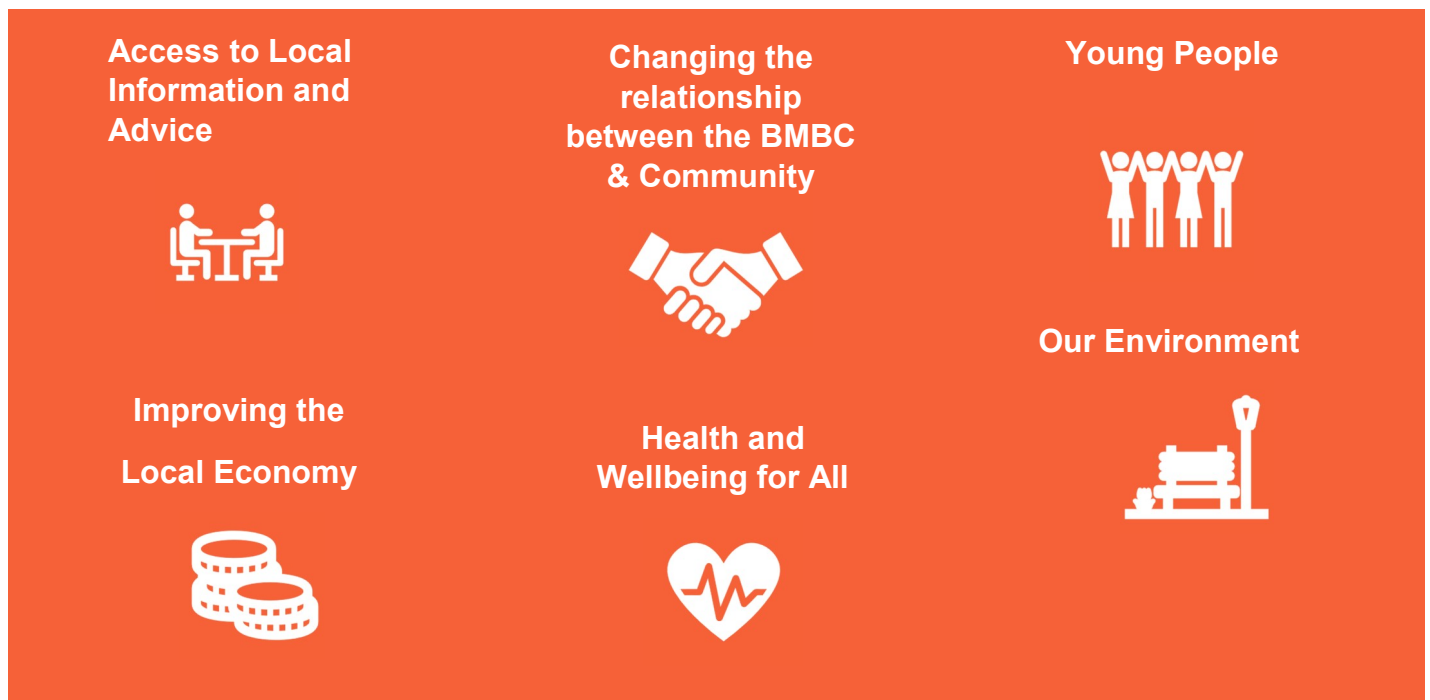
# South Area Council

Darfield, Hoyland Milton, Rockingham, Wombwell






# South Area Council Performance Report




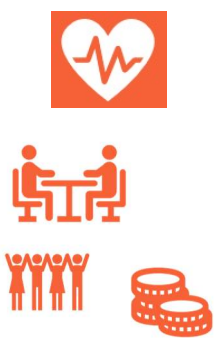



# South Area Council Priorities



These providers listed below have been appointed to deliver a series of services that address the priorities and deliver the outcomes and social value objectives for the South Area Council during 2020/21

Provider	Service	Contract Value/length	Contract end date	Priority
Anvil – Tidy Team	Environmental, volunteering and education service	£181,721 per annum	Funded until end of March 2021. A new Provider Twiggs will commence on 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021	  
Age UK	Social Isolation	£59,935 per annum	Funded until September 2021	 

District Enforcement	Environmental Enforcement	£18,220	Funded until March 2022	
BMBC	Environmental Enforcement	£5,000	Ongoing	
BMBC	Private Sector Housing Enforcement	£33,528 per annum	Funded September 2021	
CAB	Advice Services Contract	£79,572 per annum	Funded until June 2021	
BMBC	Healthy Holidays	£10,000	Funded until March 2021	

The information which follows is a summary of the information provided to the South Area Council Manager at quarterly contract management review meetings. This includes both quantitative figures appended in the tables below and more qualitative information which is outlined in the short narrative report included for each project.

# Commissioned Services



## Improving our Local Environment

The Tidy Team service was maintained during the fluctuating restrictions and rules, flexing where needed to support and add value to core services. The local environment has been improved, volunteers supported and engaged and community work continued. Emphasis has been placed on maintaining the enthusiasm of volunteers, new and existing and supporting local assets that have been used throughout the Pandemic. The service has played an important part to not only keep improving the environment, but the increased social interaction can improve physical and mental health, helping to address public health priorities. Also keeping people motivated has helped reduced the amount of rebuilding needed after restrictions end.

## Tidy Team



- 277 – Events/ projects supported
- 75 - Community groups supported
- 2737 - Volunteer Hours
- 175 - New adult volunteers
- 95% - spend achieved locally
- 345 – Litter picks completed
- 8235 - Rubbish Bags collected

## Tidy Team Case Study

<b>Title</b>	Tidy Team Volunteer Army
<b>Brief description of the project/initiative</b>	An initiative to arm volunteers to litter pick independently with our support
<b>What was the project/initiative designed to achieve? What problems or issues did it intend to tackle &amp; why?</b>	The initiative was intended to achieve a higher input of volunteer time. The decision was reached by closely studying how volunteers were now operating during Covid restrictions – particularly as working WITH the team directly wasn't an option from the beginning of the year.
<b>Who took part? What did they do, when, how and why?</b>	<p>The initiative was first thought of in March/April 2020 when it was first realised we would need to change the way in which we interact with volunteers because of the pandemic brought about by Covid 19.</p> <p>An initial Facebook posting around this time had only a very minor impact – we felt only people of a certain age were interested at this time, maybe the ambiguity of the lockdown, the length of time we were to be in the situation and in some instances caring responsibilities changed for certain age groups as they were looking after children whose parents continued to work.</p> <p>We thought the initiative was worthy of further persuasion particularly as interest seemed to be building with more people litter picking and requesting our support. We posted again through Facebook on 26 January 2021 and the response was phenomenal – we were inundated with requests.</p> <p>We delivered 70 packs, during February, to all age groups, across the 4 Wards of the South Area.</p>
<b>What did the project/initiative achieve? What did it have?</b>	<p>The whole intention of this initiative was to continue the momentum of more people becoming involved in litter picking in their local area. The lockdown periods have brought about more individuals walking for exercise because their usual forms of exercise have been restricted in gyms/classes and many were willing to litter pick whilst out with our support.</p> <p>The target figures will show a definite increase for this time of year and of course all the Wards will also be distinctively cleaner.</p>
<b>What feedback have you had about the project/initiative?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank you for dropping my litter picking kit off, I really appreciate it.</li> <li>• Oh my goodness! That's so kind</li> <li>• Thank you so much for the delivery of the litter picking pack that you brought to my house last week</li> <li>• I have been out today litter picking in the community and have really enjoyed it!</li> <li>• I do feel saddened that I didn't get to spend more time with you. Thank you so much for the equipment I promise to make it count. I plan to continue trying to tidy up Blacker Hill permanently. Take care, stay safe and the best of luck for the future</li> <li>• Looking forward to receiving my litter pick pack so I can get busy.</li> </ul>
<b>What learning points came out of the project/initiative?</b>	Volunteers will benefit in the longer term which will ultimately ensure that the legacy will be with the South Area for what we hope will be years to come.





# Supporting socially isolated and lonely people

## Access to Local Information and Advice



### South Area Council

Darfield, Hoyland Milton, Rockingham, Wombwell



**BARNSELY**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

### Better Together Service

Darfield, Hoyland Milton  
Rockingham & Wombwell



The Age UK Barnsley is commissioned to deliver a social isolation and loneliness contract called the 'Better Together service' across the South Area.

The service was commissioned to tackle loneliness and isolation and increasing independence and health and wellbeing. The service actively supports people who may be vulnerable through loss of income, mobility and employment or partner bereavement. The service has played a key role in supporting people through the pandemic through befriending, one to one support and signposting.

# Age UK



135 - Encouraged to take part in new physical activities

42 – People support with fuel poverty, help and advice

295 – Supported to access other services

168 – One to one support

449 – Accessing local community groups and activities

71 – New volunteers

132 – Support Volunteers in the delivery of activities and projects with over 1000 volunteer hours

12 – Intergenerational projects delivered

36 – Community car journeys facilitated

43 – Good Neighbour relationships developed

23 – Groups supported

## Case studies:

### Intergenerational Work

December saw the Social Inclusion Workers and the Community Development Officers working together to provide essential “Winter Warm Packs” to residents in the South. Part of the plan was to encourage “knitters” in the area to take part by knitting hats and scarves which would then be placed in the bags. We had **47** take part including **7** men. **529** hats and scarves were knitted. **209** winter warm bags were distributed.

Two new groups were formed as a result of this activity, one in Hoyland Milton and Rockingham with **18** members named “**The Woolies**” and the other a Facebook group “**Natty Knitters & Crocheters**” with **38** members reaching across Hemingfield to Middlecliffe. The idea behind both groups originated from providing handmade items to be placed in the Winter Warm bags that were to be distributed by the South Area Council and Age UK Barnsley.

**Feedback includes**– “I have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in this activity. It has given me something to take my mind off Covid and it has kept me active. I didn’t want this to end so I am pleased that we are going to continue this as a new group”.



**Social Inclusion Worker** has been working with Wombwell Main Football Club to develop Walking Football for the over 50’s.

The idea of introducing an over 50’s walking football team was embraced and welcomed into their already diverse and friendly community club. The football club provided all the equipment and support needed free of charge. This allowed players to turn up without worry over kit, just turn up, lace up and play.

Some players dusting off old boots that haven’t seen the light of day for many a year while others have excitedly gone and bought new boots, but each player willing to give it their very best.

There are players in their 50’s, 60’s & 70’s of all abilities who have become one team. People are getting fitter, friendships are being made and games are played in the right spirit but never the less, there is always the natural competitive edge of players wanting to do well and succeed.

Games of 20 minutes are played and there have been occasions when there have been enough attendees to form 3 teams.



One player said **“I haven’t played football for 35 years and last night I was so excited I didn’t sleep”**.

# Parking & Environmental Enforcement

## Our Environment



THE CAR PARKING SPECIALISTS



**BARNSELY**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

**South Area Council**

Darfield, Hoyland Milton, Rockingham, Wombwell

Parking enforcement has focused on Wombwell and Hoyland Town centres and Darfield Local centre. The South Team has a dedicated part time officer working 18.5 Hours per week tackling parking and littering on the High streets and Local centres. In addition, Members approved funding for an additional 4 hours per week specifically to address issues of dog fouling in hot spot areas. The aim of contract is to encourage behavioural changes and keep traffic flowing safely.

The provider is proactive with officers that take an educational approach with no targets set for ticket issuing.

Throughout lockdown District enforcement have flexed their contract and provided support patrolling locally including parks and open spaces and have helped support BMBC's 5 Point recovery plan priorities

“To ensure that the boroughs’ communities and businesses positively move on from COVID-19. To bring back public and investor confidence in our local economy” and “To safely reinstate infrastructure and transport networks as soon as practicable”.

## Environmental Enforcement



£2,150 - FPN's Revenue Raised

1085 – Hours Patrolling

4 - No of targeted Parking operations

78 - No of tasking targeting Parking/Dog fouling/Litter

92.81% - % of contract spent patrolling

## Case Study South: Oct – Dec 2020.

### Dog Fouling Hoyland

The South Area council allocated more funds and resources into tackling the problem within the South Area. Various parts of the Hoyland area were therefore brought to the attention of the service by Local Councillors and complaints locally as well as being noted by our District Enforcement officers for the amount of dog fouling witnessed left in various parts of the area.



During the quarter 6 FPN's for Dog Fouling were issued, but by carrying out their patrols on foot, it has also acted as a visible deterrent to other's walking their dogs in the area who may not have picked up after their dogs.



# Private Sector Housing Officer

## Changing the Relationship between BMBC and the Community

### Access to Local Information and Advice



**BARNSLEY**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

**South Area Council**

Darfield, Hoyland Milton, Rockingham, Wombwell

Work with families and individuals continued, getting to know the community and individuals that previously have not had the benefit of any kind of support. Problems and issues were identified and effective risk assessments were used to decide on the most appropriate responses. A whole range of issues such as Anti-Social Behaviour, Environmental, Private Sector Housing, Fly tipping and Littering have been dealt with. If the Enforcement Officer is unable to deal with a situation directly this is sign posted to the relevant agencies that are best suited to deal with the issues.

The contract focusses on tackling poor quality private rented housing stock, property inspections and support for landlords and tenants. They also have the powers to issue formal notices.

## Housing Enforcement



60 – Vulnerable households identified

243 – Initial Contacts made

12 - properties improved

3 people helped into positive changes

3 - fly tipping reported

14 – Internal property inspections

72 – Supported with waste disposal

68 Interventions in Hoyland Milton, 68 in Darfield, 2 in Rockingham, 81 in Wombwell

## **CASE STUDY:**

Private Sector Housing officer:

In November I was carrying out a proactive walk around Wombwell, this was and still is a regular activity I do in order to identify any possible concerns across the area and identify issues that have not been or being reported. On this particular day my attention was drawn to a full grey waste bin, whilst not always an issue sometimes this can suggest someone is struggling. It was collection day so I knew that they had just been emptied and couldn't understand why it was full. I knocked on the door and spoke with the tenant. She was abrupt, defensive and looked uncomfortable as well as noticing that the property was in need of repair.

Nine months later I have finally completed working on this case. After going into the property that day and speaking to the tenant it became clear that she needed help. The property had not been maintained by either tenant or the landlord and due to rent being collected by an insolvency company for over 7 years the tenant had no means of contacting the landlord and no knowledge of where to go for support or where to start with sorting issues out.

As a result of living in the property for around 8 years with no heating, no hot water, cramped conditions with animals, the toll on her mental health and her child's meant that they had accepted the circumstances they were living in with no hope of ever improving the situation. The tenant's child was at a point where she never left the property. Over time and with careful encouragement I have referred them to services including mental health, citizens advice and debt agencies.

I have spent a great deal of time building the trust of both the tenant and her child and supported them in applying for council properties. As COVID-19 and lockdown occurred we were just at the point of moving them both into a Yorkshire Housing Property. This didn't happen and during the lockdown delay they both decided to move into separate properties which meant starting the process again. Whilst this may have been short term set back both tenant and her child moved a couple of weeks ago, I helped on moving day, the stress on both was clear to see and I know that they both felt that this day would never happen.

Three weeks later both are now settling into their new homes, they have running hot water, showers and central heating for the coming winter months. They have been very appreciative of the work I did and support I provided and to see them both in their new homes makes it all worthwhile. The improvement in their mental health is unmeasurable yet very visible. The tenants had not been known to any agencies and had not known where to turn. This is why it is important not just to rely on people reporting issues but also needing a pro active approach and locality working on the ground with people that know the area.

# Citizens Advice Barnsley

## Access to Local Information and Advice



### South Area Council

Darfield, Hoyland Milton, Rockingham, Wombwell



**BARNLSLEY**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

The advice service has supported clients with a variety of different issues, but as in previous years, the most common are Benefits and Tax Credits, Debt, and Universal Credit. As well as improved financial outcomes the support provided by the advice service also helps to improve health and wellbeing, reduces client stress, and improve resilience by increasing the client's ability to cope through self-help. All advice has been transferred to Adviceline and email services due to the ongoing pandemic.

Over 500 specialist referrals were required to help with the issues presented by local people, including solicitors, homeless organisations, housing providers, a range of benefit agencies and referrals to South Area Council commissioned services. People who may not have required support before Covid have found themselves needing support and many require this as we remain in recovery stages.

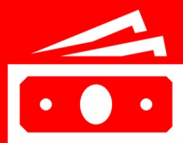
# Citizens Advice Barnsley

1234 people supported, 715 were new to the service

10 Individuals where homelessness have been averted

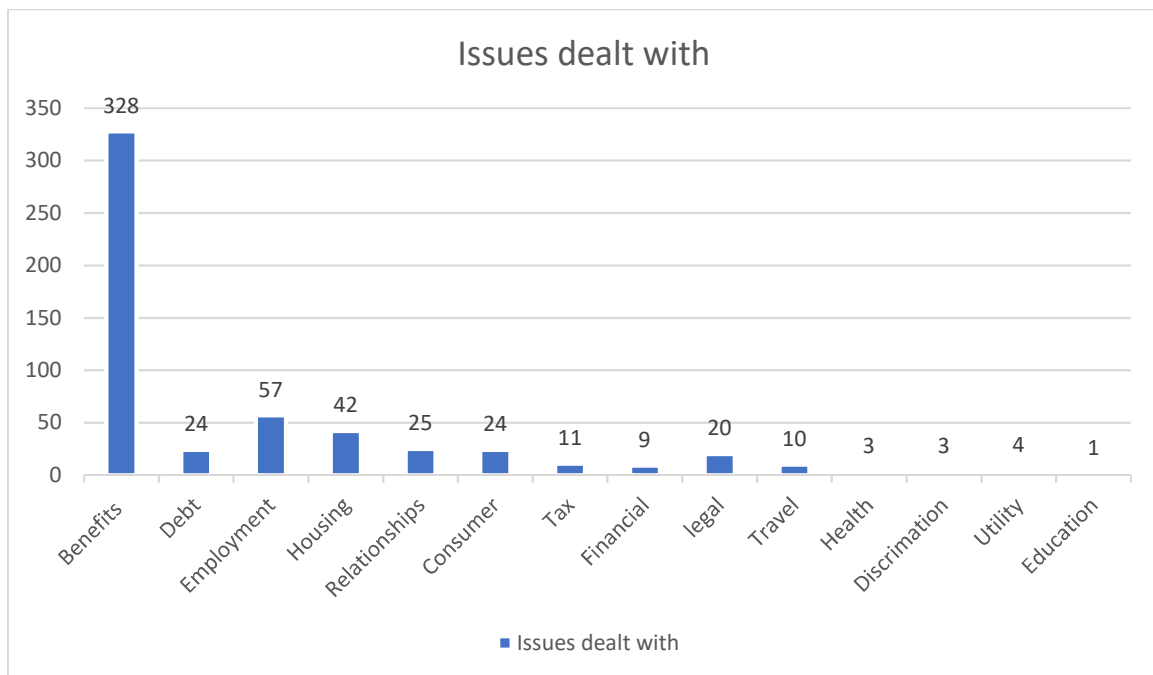
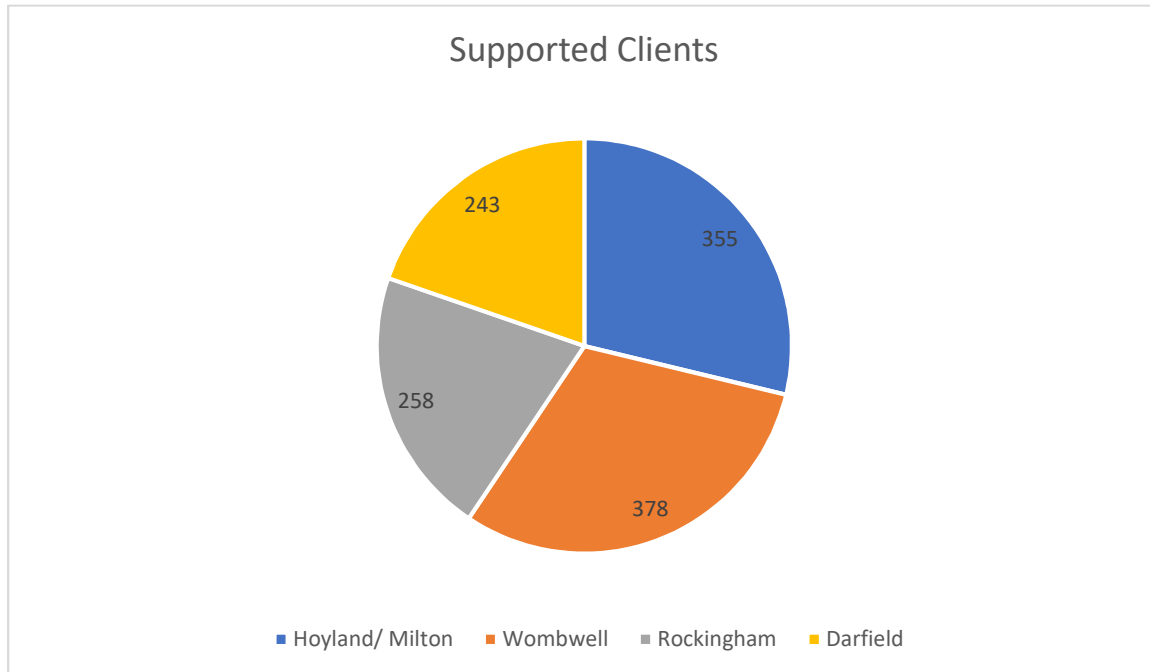
£261,134 of debt managed

Local people were helped to manage over £345,727 of debt



## January 2020 – December 2020

CAB have support people from the following areas. Darfield has seen the biggest increase during the pandemic.





## **South Area Council Community Outreach Project**

### **1st April to 30th June 2020.**

#### **CASE STUDY 2**

Client is employed full time in a key worker position in an essential employment role. However, client has a serious health condition and has received a letter from NHS saying that they are extremely vulnerable and must shield for 12 weeks.

Client has been to their employer, explained the above and requested that they be placed on Furlough due to their health condition. Their employer has refused and said that the client is not entitled to be Furloughed.

Went through and explained to the client that the latest Government information stated they are entitled to and meet all the requirements to be Furloughed. We advised the client on how to go back to their employer with relevant information and internet links, to show their entitlement and what the employer should do. Furthermore, provided the client with further details on how to proceed should their employer refuse to Furlough them.

Client felt empowered and better able to deal with their situation under the current lockdown and felt more confident in asserting their rights with their employer.

# Healthy Holidays Programme

## Young People

## Health & Well being



## South Area Council

Darfield, Hoyland Milton, Rockingham, Wombwell

£10,000 South Area Council funding allocated across 4 wards delivered through Ward Alliances

Tackling issue of school holidays having a negative impact upon children in lower income, providing activities to keep young people and families engaged and physically active throughout lockdown and social isolation and improving access to information advice and support for families that need it.

Work has continued with the schools, particularly through the Parent Support Advisors to provide advice and guidance where needed and improve people's access to support.

The Area team have worked with volunteers and groups to make best use of local assets throughout the pandemic.

# Healthy Holidays Programme

918 Healthy Lunches given out

37 Healthy Holiday sessions run

53 volunteers helped to run the sessions

16 New volunteers participated

150 easter activity packs

60 targeted family festive packs funded through Darfield Ward Alliance



Fruit, vegetable and information packs targeted to 19 Darfield families, 30 Wombwell families and 39 Hoyland, Milton and Rockingham families

50 goodfood Barnsley packs distributed in Hoyland, Milton Rockingham



Healthy Holiday activity packs prepared by Age UK and Brownies in Hoyland Milton and Rockingham



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## BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

South Area Council Briefings:  
23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Report of South Area Council Manager

**South Area Council – Procurement and Financial Update**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide a procurement update and recommendations for consideration. To inform and provide a steer on intentions for:
- A social isolation commission
  - Anti-social behaviour and off-road biking pilot
  - Post office – costs for additional opening hours

**2. Recommendations**

**Social Isolation commission**

- 2.1 That Members consider the recommendations in section 3 and the preferred option C that a social isolation and loneliness service is retendered and that the opportunity is advertised on YOR tender as an open and transparent and competitive tender.
- 2.2 That Members approve a maximum contract value of **£60,000 per year for a 3 year (1+1+1) contract** and approve the procurement timescale set out at 3.9 and also **nominate two Members to take part in the tender process, scoring and sit on the tender interview panel.**
- 2.3 That Members approve the recommendation that the **South Area Council Manager pulls together a specification for consideration by Members** taking into account feedback from the workshop.
- 2.4 That Members are asked **to delegate authority to the Executive Director Communities to agree the final specification and tender information for all commissioning work outlined in this report following consultation with Members of South Area Council.**

**Anti-social behaviour and off road biking pilot**

- 2.5 That members consider the request outlined at section 5 to run a pilot to better tackle off road bikes / quad biking across the South and if recommended approve the costs to purchase a Wide Lens, Long Range Camera, SD card and carry bag for £2500.

**Post office – costs for additional opening hours**

- 2.6 That Members consider the request outlined at section 6 for extending the opening hours of the Post Office currently based at the Wombwell Library and if approved agree the recommendation to fund the £1414 costs.

**3. Social Isolation contract**

- 3.1 The South Area Council currently commission Age UK Barnsley to deliver a social isolation and loneliness contract called the 'Better Together' service across the South Area.

- 3.2 The service was commissioned to tackle loneliness and isolation and increasing independence and health and wellbeing. The service actively supports people who may be vulnerable through loss of income, mobility and employment or partner bereavement. The service has adapted its delivery to target people in need throughout the Pandemic and changing Government guidance.
- 3.3 The service is a two-year contract delivering from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019. The contract value is £59,560 per year, total = £119,120. The contract will be completed on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021. There are no extensions on this contract.
- 3.4 The South Area Council held a virtual workshop on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 in order to consider the performance of the contract to date, ongoing demand and whether there are continued needs for a service.
- 3.5 In the last 12 months the 'Better Together' service has:
- Supported 168 people with one to one support delivered by the social inclusion workers
  - Supported 295 people to access other support services and signposting
  - Increased the number of people assessing local community groups and activities (449)
  - Encouraged 135 new people to get involved in physical activity and encouraging use of the outdoors
  - Helped 42 people dealing with fuel poverty and access help and advice
  - Made referrals to Social Prescribing, Berneslai Homes, Social Services, Memory Team, Carers Service, GPs, Community Matrons, Private sector Housing service, Tidy Team, CAB and self-referrals.
  - Helped groups to become more Dementia Friendly and supported Age Friendly Barnsley through approaches to delivery and building understanding and awareness.
  - Helped develop 43 Good neighbour relationships
  - Facilitated 36 community car journeys
  - Delivered 12 intergenerational projects
  - Supported 16 new groups in activities that have been identified by service users as gaps
  - Supported 23 existing groups and 8 groups specifically to become more inclusive
  - Engaged 71 new volunteers
  - Supported 132 volunteers in the delivery of activities and projects with over 1000 volunteer hours.
  - Offered a range of support with issues around social care, health, consumer advice and support with benefits claims. They carry out benefits assessments, help with fuel poverty, pension credit, council tax support, Blue Badge applications, and much more tailored to individual circumstances.  
£130,365 Benefits Gain
- 3.6 Below is a few examples of the work carried out by Age UK Barnsley and customer feedback:

**Project Feedback:**

*"I really look forward to my visits from the Social Inclusion Worker even though she has to stand outside. I hadn't seen anybody in months, as my nephew lives in Herefordshire*

*so it was a lovely surprise when she first visited. I look forward to the day when she can come inside and sit with me for a chat like normal.” JH - Elsecar*

#### **Social Inclusion worker:**

In partnership with Barnsley Carers Service the project was able to offer a tablet device complete with internet accessibility for a service user in Wombwell

This free provision has given a whole new lease of life to someone who has never used the internet before or any social media platforms. This lady has started to read the news online, check the weather, play games and even keep in touch with her Granddaughter via messenger. For someone with limited mobility, it has prevented social isolation & loneliness in a whole different way whilst remaining safe in her home during the difficult Covid times.

#### **Social Inclusion Worker:**

The “Activities at Home” programme in the South Area was a great success so Social Inclusion Workers decided to help service users remain as active as possible both physically and mentally. We had **72** people from the South Area take part in a range of interactive activities. The activities on offer ranged from Art therapy, Local History, puzzles and crosswords, and tea tastings. We understand that some individuals are unable to carry out activities due to health complications so wanted the activities to be inclusive, hence the formation of the Food Tasters Club.

#### **Feedback:**

“Thank you for sharing this activity with mum. As she is partially sighted and has osteoarthritis there are many things she can no longer take part in but she has a great appetite and has enjoyed her weekly pie tasting, and I have then wrote the score on the card for her. What a clever idea, carry on the good work”

#### **Elsecar Walking Group, Social Inclusion Worker:**

Two volunteers attended a one day course with NHS walking For Health, which enabled them to be walk leaders. **18** people registered their interest in attending weekly sessions which was due to begin January 5th 2021, however due to lockdown this has been postponed. Once restrictions are lifted, they can commence. This group is predominantly aimed at the 50 and over age bracket however we aim for this to be inclusive and welcome family members and their well-behaved pets.

3.7 At the workshop the challenges below were highlighted:

- That social isolation was an issue in Barnsley and in the South area before COVID and remains an issue
- That it has been exacerbated through COVID – all the usual support networks (friends, family and other interactions) have been reduced
- Through the establishment of the Emergency Contact Centre we have seen an increase of different people needing support due to being socially isolated
- That case studies for the South show a lot of people worked with don't have meaningful connections in their communities and this has become more difficult during the pandemic
- That social isolation has impacted on mental and physical health and befriending support needs have increased in the South through Covid.
- Through the CAB contract the following disability/health problems were declared: Long term health condition = 368, Physical impairment (non-sensory) = 34, Mental health = 92, Multiple impairments = 35, Learning difficulties = 7, Other disability/type not given = 163
- There are almost 5,000 older people in Barnsley who do not see or speak to other people from one week to the next (Age UK).

- Anecdotal evidence that people are fearful of getting back out and socialising even when we are able to.

3.8 At the workshop Members were asked to consider the information presented and provide a steer on how to proceed. Potential options:

- **Option a)** Contract to be terminated on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021, all support provided as part of this contract would cease from this date and Members consider alternative priorities and use of commissioning budget
- **Option b)** Recommendation that a different service with a different specification and model (i.e grants, all age group focus) is tendered for and that the opportunity is advertised on YORtender as an open, transparent and competitive opportunity
- **Option c)** Recommendation that the same / similar service is retendered and that the opportunity is advertised on YORtender as an open, transparent and competitive opportunity.

3.9 Option C was the preferred option at the workshop with the following being recommended in this report:

- **Maximum contract value of £60,000** per year with a contract length of **3 years on a 1 + 1+ 1 basis**. Members felt it was important that there is an opportunity at the end of the first year to re-evaluate what the needs in the community are and to have flexibility throughout all the stages of the contract to change delivery and interventions
- Working alongside the procurement team the following timescale has been developed. In previous years Members have always been keen to allow sufficient time between contract award and start date to allow a new provider or existing contractor to manage staffing arrangements and prepare for the contract start date. **Members are asked to agree the recommended timescale below:**

EVENT	DATE
Publication of Tender	<b>26<sup>th</sup> May 2021</b>
Deadline for Clarifications – through YORtender only	<b>18<sup>th</sup> June 2021</b>
Submission Deadline	<b>25<sup>th</sup> June 2021</b>
Evaluation of Tenders	<b>28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021</b>
Bidder Presentations	<b>TBC</b>
Notification of Intent to Award (Start of Standstill period)	<b>20<sup>th</sup> July 2021</b>
Contract Award – Issue of Contract for signature	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021</b>
Contract Start Date	<b>1<sup>st</sup> September 2021</b>

- Previously two Members have formed part of the tender interview panel alongside the South Area Council Manager and an additional officer. Tender interviews and presentations will be carried out by Microsoft teams



and tender scoring and paperwork will need to be completed individually and submitted prior to the tender panel meeting. Informal training through the procurement team will be available. **It is recommended that two Members are nominated to sit on the tender interview panel.**

- 4.0 Developing a specification: During the pandemic the South Area Council contracts, including the Social Isolation contract, have been able to flex their contracts in order to continue to offer appropriate and emerging support across the community. A new specification is going to have to take into consideration that we are still working through a Covid 19 recovery stage which has impacted on how all our contracts are able to deliver services.
- 4.1 Any new specification will need to reflect social distancing and anticipate / provide flexibility in how services can be delivered and follow the up to date Government guidelines.
- 4.2 Members were keen to ensure the specification:
- Recognises that a lot has changed through Covid including needs and methods of delivery and a new contract will need to be flexible to these changes
  - Recognises that communities will be living with Covid for some time to come and a specification will need to reflect this.
  - That any specification and provider is able to be flexible throughout all stages of a contract. Year one may need to look vastly different to year three. The suggestion is that an annual review takes place where the Area Council would work with the provider to look at needs to be addressed for year two and three and that there is flexibility even within this to respond quickly and swiftly to changing needs and demands, particularly as society opens up and people's needs will become apparent. The provider will need to have a proactive and adaptable approach. A three-year contract was discussed but with the approach of a yearly review and resetting of outcomes.
  - Reflects that we are in a recovery stage and this must be clear in the providers response e.g. many people are reporting a loss of confidence in getting out and about. Activities need to support this through activities such as gentle walking routes and supportive groups, activities that are easy to join in, are encouraging and supportive and look to engage people at their pace through a gentle reintroduction to the community, an emphasis will be needed on activities that take into account people with limited mobility / struggling with a loss of mobility or strength as a result of being less active during Covid.
  - Takes into account that isolation and loneliness affects all age groups. Whilst this commissioned service has delivered several projects working with young people to promote positive messages of older people, the service does not offer one to one intervention for people under 50. A specification should take this into consideration through improved signposting to support for all.
  - Plays a role in 'changing the relationship between the council and the community' which is a South Area Council priority. All providers need to better promote that services are funded through the South Area Council.
- 4.3 This report is recommending that the **South Area Council Manager pulls together a specification for consideration by Members** following details from this meeting.

## **5. Tackling Anti-social behaviour and off-road biking**

- 5.1 The Hoyland Milton Rockingham Ward Alliance have been discussing the issues of quad biking and anti-social behaviour in Jump for some time, particularly as more concerns have been raised locally throughout the pandemic. A number of options to tackle the issues have been discussed resulting in meetings with key partners including BMBCs Community Safety team, SY Police, Early intervention and Prevention Team, Berneslai Homes and South Area Team.
- 5.2 Although the initial discussions were regarding quad bikes in Jump Valley, during the discussions it was suggested by partners that a South Area wide approach would be more effective in tackling the wider issues rather than taking an approach looking at individual access points. Darfield, Wombwell and Hoyland Milton and Rockingham wards have all seen an increase in reporting locally of off-road bikes across the area and continues to be raised as an issue.
- 5.3 SY Police and BMBCs Community safety team have confirmed that tackling off road biking across the South Area Council is a key priority for their teams and are committed to working locally to look at addressing these issues.
- 5.4 In order to tackle the issue partners identified the need to:
- Increase reporting of incidents
  - Build a better picture of local intelligence and incidents
  - Clarify how and when to report incidents
  - Increase number of seizure notices locally and identify hot spot areas where notices can be placed
  - Make best use of the SY Police and off-road bike team through the purchasing of a Wide Lens camera. Other Authorities have used similar equipment to better identify off road bikers and can be used at a distance which will help when unable to pursue and for seizures after the fact.
- 5.5 The following is a suggested way forward for Members to consider as a pilot for the South Area:
- Signage in hot spot areas, this will allow bike seizure in hotspot area and help increase reporting. SY Police will be producing and funding these signs.
  - Purchase a Wide Lens Long Range camera, this would be kept with the South policing team and used in the South Area. It would also be made available to BMBCs community safety team to tackle other issues across the South Area Council including for out of hours and weekend patrols.
  - Communication campaign jointly between SY Police, BMBC and Berneslai Homes. The campaign would include key messages about reporting, where and how to report, reporting on seizures and successes leading from increased intelligence and a photo gallery.
- 5.6 Partners confirmed that there is evidence that the combination of increased reporting, improved intelligence and use of a wide lens camera provides sufficient evidence to increase the number of bike seizures which can be after the fact. The local policing team will also be in a better position to request the off-road bike team and to better target this resource.

5.7 If the above recommendation is agreed the costs to purchase a Wide Lens, Long Range Camera, SD card and carry bag would be £2500.

## **6. Wombwell Post Office – request for additional opening times**

6.1 Wombwell Post Office moved out of Heron Foods on Wombwel High Street into Wombwell Library on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The Post Office is delivered on an outreach basis from Birdwell Post Office and with two staff present. The Post Office is currently operating during library opening times in the extension as follows:

Monday 1.30pm – 4pm

Tuesday 10am – 4pm

Friday 12 noon – 4pm

6.2 The Post Office are working with local businesses to try and identify and secure a permanent solution on the High Street and take over the Post Office function in the longer term.

6.3 A request has been made to the Libraries service regarding the feasibility to open the Post Office on a Wednesday when the library is closed. Facilities Management are able to open and close the building and provide the additional cleaning. The charges to open the library are £54.38 per week, total cost of £1414 for a 6 month period.

6.4 Any training delivered to a potential interested business must be completed face to face, however due to Covid 19, this has delayed the opportunity to fully explore this. It is hoped that this can move on in the next 6 months however there is the possibility that this could take longer or that a longer term option on the High street is not found.

6.5 'Improving the Local Economy' is one of the South Area Council priorities. As part of this priority the South Area Council are asked to consider the request for extending the opening hours of the Post Office currently based at the Wombwell Library and if approved agree the recommendation to fund the £1414 costs.

## **7. South Area Council Finances**

7.1 The South Area Council currently have a commissioning budget of £24,800 which is unallocated and an additional £60,000 which has been ringfenced for a social isolation commission service if approved or will be added to the unallocated commissioning budget for further consideration.

**Officer Contact: Lisa Lyon, South Area Council Manager**

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