

MEETING:	South Area Council
DATE:	Friday, 31 July 2020
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Held Virtually

MINUTES

Present

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

47 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillors Frost and Markham both declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute numbers 52, 53 and 54 due to their positions as board members of Age UK Barnsley.

Councillors Franklin, Lamb and Shepherd each declared non-pecuniary interests in minute numbers 53 and 54 due to their positions on the board of Forge Community Partnership.

48 Minutes of the Meeting of South Area Council held on 5th June, 2020 (Sac.31.07.2020/2)

The meeting considered the minutes of South Area Council held on 5th June, 2020.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the South Area Council held on 5th June, 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

49 Notes of the Ward Alliances (Sac.31.07.2020/3)

The meeting received the notes from the Hoyland Milton and Rockingham Ward Alliance held on 4th March and 1st July, 2020.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliance be received.

50 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Sac.31.07.2020/4)

Members considered the report and it was noted that three applications had been funded by Darfield Ward Alliance, which had £16,417.84 remaining to allocate. Wombwell Ward Alliance had also funded three applications and had £16,808.29 remaining. Hoyland Milton and Rockingham Ward Alliance had yet to allocate any finance and therefore the full balance remained.

It was acknowledged that Ward Alliance Funds were to be used to support recovery efforts to help overcome the impact of Covid-19.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

51 Lucy Rayner - Private Sector Housing Officer (Sac.31.07.2020/5)

Lucy Rayner, Private Sector Housing Officer, was welcomed to the meeting to give an overview of the work undertaken to date in the South Area.

Work had been proactive, searching out issues, working with tenants and landlords. A number of multi-agency meetings had been attended and strong links had been made with the Police, Fire Service, Social Care, and with agencies such as CAB and Age UK. Though hot-spot areas had been targeted, work had taken place throughout the area.

The service had been promoted through community events, where a number of contacts had been made. Members heard that to date contacts had been made with 205 households, with 39 being identified as vulnerable. Members were made aware of the types of issues dealt with, which included waste on premises, and issues with disrepair. A number of case studies were considered which showed the complexity of issues and the impact being seen both visually and in the quality of life of residents from the intervention of the officer.

Members gave praise for the service and the impact this had made in the area. Praise was also given for the work undertaken by the officer to support the Community Responder service, providing much required local intelligence.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the presentation and continued hard work in providing the service.

52 Jayne Holliday- Age UK Barnsley (Sac.31.07.2020/6)

Jayne Holliday, Chief Executive Officer - Age UK Barnsley, was welcomed to the meeting. An update was provided about work undertaken during the first 10 months of the service, which included the work done post lockdown.

To March 2020 work was undertaken to promote the service through such as GPs, chemists and supermarkets. Up to lockdown the service worked with 54 individuals, with 14 of these matched with a Good Neighbour volunteer for befriending. Other users were supported to attend community activities and services, with excellent feedback from users reporting significant reductions in social isolation.

With the organisation being small and locally based, it was able to respond quickly to lockdown and make necessary changes. Since lockdown 115 vulnerable older people had been supported to stay safe. Regular befriending calls were made, wellbeing parcels distributed. VE day tea packages were also support in lieu of a group afternoon tea.

Reports were extremely positive with some residents calling the service a lifesaver, as the service supported older and vulnerable residents to stay at home as per the guidance.

50 volunteers had been engaged to provide the service, with 24 offering support due to the Covid situation. 576 hours of support had been provided over the course of 10 months which equated to a monetary value of £7,793.

Members were made aware of the Information and Advice element of the service, which had been provided via telephone and email from March. The accredited service had dealt with a myriad of different issues and had supported 56 older people in the area to claim £119,625 in benefits.

Up to March, 18 community events had been held in the area and, working with Barnsley U3A, staff had enabled the establishment of 9 new groups including Men in Sheds and the Parkside Group. However, this had to be curtailed due to Covid-19. As only 35% of the client group had access to the internet, the need to be imaginative was stressed. Parcels were delivered with a number activities and menu of clubs people could join was circulated. This included such as a pudding club, exercise club, creative writers and wildlife clubs. Consideration had also been given to how the outcomes could be shared between clients. These types of intervention had offered much welcomed opportunities for stimulation.

Members noted the support given in establishing the Community Responders scheme. Also noted was the issue of Mental Health which had been identified across a wide age range. In addition, issues around confidence, and around mobility and balance had also been identified. Members were assured that these would be areas of focused support moving forward.

It was noted that, consideration was also being given to what support could be provided face to face in a safe environment in the future, however it was acknowledged that there was a reluctance for many venue operators to reopen at this current time.

Noted was the work to fund raise and apply for grant funding. Those present discussed the Age UK shops around Barnsley and the difficulties being faced on the high street. However, the added value the shops provided as a community venue for many residents was acknowledged.

Members praised the work of the team in such difficult conditions, and the impact this had on the lives of many residents was noted.

RESOLVED That thanks be given for the presentation and continued hard work of those involved in the delivery of the service.

53 South Area Council priorities and forward plan (Sac.31.07.2020/7)

Members received the report and considered the recommendations in light of the presentations received and the discussions earlier in the meeting.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the information on the South Area Council Workshops be noted;
- (ii) That commitment be reaffirmed to the existing South Area Council priorities, with the addition of a sixth priority 'Health and Wellbeing for all';
- (iii) That work is undertaken with Public Health to provide a better insight into the impact of social distancing in the South Area;
- (iv) That decisions regarding any use of South Area Council budgets is put on hold until the work with Public Health is completed;

- (v) That ward briefings take place to discuss the opportunities for South Area Council and Ward Alliance to support the inclusive economy agenda;
- (vi) That commissioning intentions and areas of work in development prior to Covid-19 be revisited at future date in light of the outcome of the work with Public Health.

54 Procurement and Financial Update (Sac.31.07.2020/8)

Members received the report and considered the recommendations.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the content of the presentations earlier in the meeting be noted;
- (ii) That the performance information in relation to the Private Sector Housing Officer and contract with Age UK Barnsley be noted;
- (iii) That approval be given to continue the Age UK Barnsley Better Together Service for a further year at a cost of £59,560'
- (iv) That the Service Level Agreement for the Private Sector Housing Officer post be continued for a further year at a cost of £32,580 with the hours being increased from 30 to 37 per week.

Chair