

<b>MEETING:</b>	Meeting of Dearne Area Councillors
<b>DATE:</b>	Monday, 16 May 2022
<b>TIME:</b>	10.00 am
<b>VENUE:</b>	Room 2, Goldthorpe LIFT Centre

## Notes of a meeting of Dearne Area Councillors

**Present** Councillors Bellamy and Cain

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

Councillors Cain and Bellamy declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute number 54 Q4 Performance Report as they are both members of Goldthorpe Development Group.

### 51 Notes of the Previous Informal Meeting of Dearne Area Councillors held on 14th March, 2022 (Dac.16.05.2022/2)

The meeting received the notes from the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council.

**RECOMMENDATION** that the notes from the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council Meeting held on 14th March 2022 cannot be ratified due to the meeting being inquorate.

### 52 Blood Pressure Campaign Update - Kaye Mann

Kaye Mann from the Department of Public Health was welcomed to the meeting to provide Members with an overview and update of the Blood Pressure Campaign. The campaign outlined the strategies being concentrated on, which focused on early detection and prevention of cardiovascular disease including heart attacks and strokes. Language had been changed to use terminology such as heart health and high blood pressure as much of the information tends to be clinical.

Efforts were being concentrated on a system wide collaborative approach to enable early prevention. The NHS Health Checks are about to be recommissioned, as they have been shown to ensure that patients' health is checked to put interventions in place if necessary. Having a targeted approach reduces inequalities and with blood pressure checks targeting the hard-to-reach cohorts, we can get outcomes for these people instead of people who may not need it.

Statistics show that 80% of heart attacks and strokes are avoidable, 36,000 people in Barnsley have heart disease and 28,800 of these occurrences are avoidable. This also indicates that a large proportion of the 55 people who are dying each month may be saved.

The Dearne area is significantly worse, specifically with late presentations. People are having strokes and heart attacks at home and are not seeking medical

intervention until days later. It is hoped that the message can be conveyed that if medical help is sought immediately, it can help prevent and reduce the impact. Furthermore, by informing the public that by reducing smoking and alcohol consumption and knowing the signs and symptoms of these conditions it may help people's health.

Blood pressure is a huge factor in Barnsley and a lot of people have undiagnosed high blood pressure. Specifically people in the Dearne who do not go to the GPs for blood pressure checks and especially males in their 50's.

A public health team is going out to take people's blood pressure and refer onto the pharmacy if a high reading is indicated. They will then be fitted with a monitor which measures blood pressure for 24 hours. Posters will be going up across the Dearne and the North to promote blood pressure checks and explaining there is a specific cohort to be targeted, this initiative starts the week commencing 6th June 2022. Items such as beer mats, posters and leaflets will be used to promote the service and there will be more campaigns as time goes on.

**RECOMMENDATION** C. Dawson, requested social media friendly information sending to support advertising the initiative.

In the ensuing discussion reference was made to the following:

- i. It was explained that GPs would be made aware of the service but that the people who do not visit a GP are the targeted cohort.
- ii. It is a national initiative since covid, to identify undiagnosed high blood pressure.
- iii. Ambulance waiting times are an issue, but people still need to be encouraged to call them.
- iv. Wives could be targeted to encourage husbands to get checked.
- v. Defibrillators and the training to use one along with emergency first aid will be explored.
- vi. Approaching clubs such as Bowling, Cricket and Fishing along with workplace initiatives.

The service is exploring a different model for health checks and have identified outreach working. Balmoral tanks was suggested, and Paul Clifford was noted as having has linked in with support, so he could be contacted for advice. Jubilee events were discussed and the Bounce into Summer event which is happening locally. Men around school waiting for their children could be identified to share the information with their male relatives.

**RECOMMENDATION** that Kaye be thanked for attending the meeting, for the presentation and for answering members questions.

## **53 Adult Skills and Community Learning - Caroline Oxley**

Members welcomed Caroline Oxley from Adult Skills and Community Learning to the meeting to present an overview of the service. It is aimed at providing training, advice and guidance to over 19's in Barnsley in a supportive and friendly environment. Courses are available online at Wellington House or in the community and include skills courses such as Maths and English from the basics to GCSE level. They are all free as long as learners do not already have a qualification in the subject.

Furthermore, they provide training in ESOL and IT and digital skills and this is funded by a national entitlement, which aims to concentrate on essential and digital skills such as the internet, email and online payments. There is an administration qualification which supports learners with PowerPoint, Excel and Word and further courses in levels 1-3 for Teaching Assistants and 1-3 for Health and Social Care.

There is an additional strand to the learning pathway with a Wellbeing course which many people start with and then progress onto the skills learning. This focuses on mental health and confidence and supports learners to improve their positivity. Additionally, there are creative wellbeing activities which identify how creativity can improve wellbeing. These activities include drawing, painting, sewing, digital photography, glass painting and baking. Furthermore there are courses for learners with disabilities, which include skills for independent living and work life and wellbeing with a person-centred approach.

Statutory courses are provided for businesses which include Level 2 Food Safety, Level 2 Health and Safety, Level 2 Manual Handling, Level 3 First Aid at Work along with Paediatric First Aid but charges may apply based on income.

The offer includes employability support and advisors offer advice on a 1-1 basis. They work with people who are employed or unemployed and support them with the skills to develop CV's, job searches, applications and career pathways. Furthermore, they source and pay for suitable courses i.e. Dog Grooming and help to arrange and pay for childcare. They also assist with applying for benefits and refer to other agencies such as IAPT, citizens advice and food banks. They can support with sourcing work experience and volunteering opportunities in specific sectors and can help with paying for interview clothes and provide a bus pass to get to work. This is delivered every two weeks over the phone, in the community or at Wellington House.

During Covid enrolment did drop but has now increased with online support and help with wellbeing. However, returning learners tend to be higher level but the service aim is to concentrate on the lower level, lower skilled and vulnerable learners. To do this they will be working out in the community and are happy to explore further options. Caroline is covering Dearne and Barnsley South, but her colleagues will be covering other areas across Barnsley. They will be attending local groups and having discussions about barriers to engagement such as travel and childcare, with a hope to move people towards work and raise their aspirations. They would like to encourage people to go to Wellington House, but understand that travel can be an issue, which is why they will provide information on online services and courses. They are additionally having an open day at Wellington House so that they can provide a further opportunity to share their offer.

In the ensuing discussion reference was made to the following:

- i. The employability service in Dearne with improving engagement, however vacancies are more qualification focused and with some learners not having Maths and English, it would be beneficial for this to be delivered in tandem with their appointments. This is being explored and Thurnscoe Library has the facilities to enable this.
2. Support with a CV, interview process and clothing, work experience and appointments over the phone is essential and with the market opening in

Goldthorpe on a Monday, starting on 13th June, this may be a useful place to hold an information stall.

**RECOMMENDATION** that Caroline be thanked for attending the meeting, for the presentation and for answering members questions.

#### **54 Performance Report Q4 (Dac.16.05.2022/5)**

The Area Council Manager introduced this item which provided an up-to-date overview of current priorities, and it was noted that:

- During the Twiggs contract for the last quarter they worked with 211 volunteers, which delivered 969 volunteer hours and targeted 27 areas. They reported 10 fly tipping cases and are carrying out some good work with South Yorkshire Police.
- The B.friend service offer 1-1 befriending support in Bolton and Thurnscoe and deliver groups in Goldthorpe at the Snap Tin Café. They have helped 93 isolated neighbours and delivered 608 hours of 1-1 befriending, but this contract comes to an end in July 2022. The authority has now gone through the procurement process to identify a new provider for this work.
- The Dearne Electronic Community Village which supports service users with CV writing, interview skills and ICT qualifications have 94 current people learning, 27 people have been helped into further training and 7 people are now in employment.
- The Housing & Migration Officer is paid through the area council budget and working on targeting private sector housing. The employee for this role was on long term sick and has now handed in their notice however, a new dedicated worker is now in the area.
- The Dearne Development Fund is a grant scheme for the area council to assist people in meeting area priorities.
- Citizens Advice have supported 53 people with benefits, debt, legal and housing issues, employment and health and community care.
- DIAL's funding comes from the Dearne Area Fund and has reported 152 enquiries regarding benefits and benefit appeals.
- The Goldthorpe Development Group facilitates a monthly get together and, over the last quarter 180 people attended with 30 volunteers assisting.

**RECOMMENDED** that members receive and note the reports.

#### **55 Dearne Area Council Financial Update (Dac.16.05.2022/6)**

The Area Council Manager introduced this item which provided an up-to-date overview of financial position and projections to 2023.

The starting budget was £208783.34, and Dearne Area Council have committed £175,000 on four commissions, allocated funding into the Dearne Development Fund and extended the Housing Officer post. This leaves £25342.34 to spend on priorities. They also have an additional £31,638 from the practical support grant bringing the total to £56980.34 for the next financial year.

Dearne Development Fund were allocated an additional £30,000 which paid for Dial, CAB and Goldthorpe Development Group's Bounce into Summer activity. There is a remaining allocation of just over £14,000.

**56 Notes from the Dearne Ward Alliances held on 22nd March, 2022 (Dac.16.05.2022/7)**

- Dearne South held a virtual meeting on 22nd March 2022 with 2 new members and no funding applications. Projects were highlighted, and there is an action plan in development.
- Dearne North held a virtual meeting on 22nd March 2022 and their future projects were identified with an action plan well under way and looking positive.

**RECOMMENDED** that the notes from Dearne Ward Alliances be noted.

**57 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Dac.16.05.2022/8)**

The Area Council Manager provided Members with an update in respect of Ward Alliance Funds.

- The Dearne North had a starting budget of £10182.92 with £8858.03 of this now being spent.
- The Dearne South had a starting budget of £11317.72 with £5500 of this now being spent.

**RECOMMENDED** that the report on Ward Alliance Funds be noted.

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Chair