

MEETING:	South Area Council
DATE:	Friday, 8 April 2022
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Markham (Chair), Andrews BEM, Eastwood, Franklin, Frost, J. Higginbottom, Lamb, Osborne, Shepherd and Stowe

7 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillors Franklin, Shepherd and Lamb each declared a non-pecuniary interest in any items on the agenda referring to Forge Community Partnership in so far as discussions related to their positions as directors.

Councillors Markham and Frost both declared a non-pecuniary interest in any items on the agenda due to their positions on the board of Age UK Barnsley.

8 Minutes of the Meeting of South Area Council held on 17 December, 2021 (Sac.08.04.2022/2)

The meeting considered the minutes of South Area Council held on 17th December, 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the South Area Council held on 17th December, 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.

9 Notes of the informal meeting of South Area Councillors held on 18th February, 2022 (Sac.08.04.2022/3)

The notes of the informal meeting of South Area Councillors held on 18th February, 2022 were received.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the notes of Hoyland Milton and Rockingham Ward Alliance held on 19th January, 2022; Wombwell Ward Alliance held on 20th January, 2022; and Darfield Ward Alliance held on 10th January, 2022 be received;
- (ii) that the report on the use of Ward Alliance Funds submitted on 18th February, 2022 be received;
- (iii) that thanks be given for the Public Health presentation; and that further discussions take place on how South Area Council can assist in delivering the Mental Health Strategy; and
- (iv) that further discussions be undertaken with relevant groups and agencies in order to establish current provision for children and young people and identify gaps where the Area Council may be able to intervene.

10 Notes of the Ward Alliances (Sac.08.04.2022/4)

The meeting received the notes Hoyland Milton and Rockingham Ward Alliance held on 3rd March, 2022.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliance be received.

11 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Sac.08.04.2022/5)

Members received the report which highlighted the amount of finance carried over for use in the 2022/23 financial year.

It was noted that each Ward Alliance had significant amounts of finance remaining, and that Community Development Officers were working with Ward Alliances to consider how best to support groups in their area. Members acknowledged that much of the finance remaining was due to the pandemic, and those present were confident that there would be an increased demand as groups started to be revitalised.

It was also noted that the Area Team had been successful in securing external finance to support projects, which had therefore reduced demand on the Ward Alliance Funds. Thanks were provided to the Area Team for their work that led to this success.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

12 Citizen's Advice Bureau - David Andy (Sac.08.04.2022/6)

David Andy was welcomed to the meeting to provide an overview of the Outreach Project which had been delivered by CAB from 1st July, 2017.

Members were reminded that the project had been delivered at various venues throughout the South Area until the pandemic, when the service moved to be delivered remotely. More recently the service had recommenced face to face support in Hoyland and Wombwell, and venues were being considered in Darfield.

Since the service started 5475 client contacts had been made had been made with clients supported with 10,177 issues. £6.93m of additional benefits had been gained, and £1.86m, of debt managed. There had been a £20 return on investment per £1 spent. Members suggested that this would be higher if a full analysis of Social Return on Investment was undertaken.

Members were provided with case studies, which served to highlight the human impact of the service.

Those present supported the work to re-establish outreach provision in the Darfield Area, and a number of suggestions of potential venues were made. The issue of unclaimed benefits was discussed, and it was noted that work was undertaken to publicise the service, which included the opportunity to undertake a full benefit check. It was noted that there was work underway to consider the best way

of keeping residents informed, and that the service worked closely with partner organisations.

Members received assurance that the service had the capacity to deal with expected increases in demand from the increased cost of living, with the service being scalable in the event of a significant increase.

In relation to those in work accessing the service, it was noted that the service was open until 7pm on Mondays and could be accessed via email, with responses provided within 48 hours.

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

13 Public Health Update (Sac.08.04.2022/7)

Garreth Robinson, Senior Public Health Officer, was welcomed to the meeting and began the update by referring to the recent review of E-Cigarettes by Office of Health Improvement and Disparities. The seventh in a series, it considered all vaping products. Members noted that smoking was the largest single risk factor which led to death and living in ill health in England and the role of alternative nicotine devices, such as vaping was acknowledged.

Members heard that Covid-19 was likely to have an impact on smoking and vaping, but this was not yet known. The government was set to review the Tobacco and Related Products Regulations in 2022, and a new Tobacco Control Plan for England was expected in Summer 2022.

Members were made aware of the findings of two surveys undertaken to understand the behaviours of young people. Vaping and smoking prevalence looked to have stayed the same in recent years, however it was suggested that enforcement of sales needed to be improved and more research into the addictiveness of vaping products needed to be undertaken.

Surveys into adult behaviours showed that the proportion of long-term vapers was increasing and prevalence was higher in disadvantaged groups which mirrored the pattern of smoking. How best to communicate the evidence of relative harms needed to be considered to influence smokers with a view to them moving to quitting completely.

Questions were asked in relation to the link with schools and it was noted that the issue of young people smoking and vaping was discussed at each meeting of the Tobacco Control Alliance.

Members expressed concern about the numbers of young people taking up vaping who had never smoked, and the view that vaping was now seen as normal. Consideration was being given to the enforcement of vaping material, but that this needed more central government support to reduce marketing aimed specifically at young people.

Questions were asked around the long-term impacts of vaping and it was acknowledged that it was less harmful than smoking, however long-term data on vaping would not be available in the short or medium term.

The link between unregulated sales and organised crime was noted, and it was suggested that there was an opportunity to access funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner for a project to address this.

Members went on to consider the Best Bar None scheme, which provided accreditation, supported by the Home Office, to improve standards in the evening and night time economy. This led to benefits such as a reduction in crime and improvements in the relationship between licensed premises and the Council.

It was noted that the scheme had commenced in 2018 with 13 venues in the Town Centre taking part, and, although being paused in 2020, had expanded to 25 Town Centre venues and 9 Dearne Area venues in 2021. It was acknowledged that the number of venues participating in 2021 was lower than originally anticipated, as many understandably decided to concentrate on their response to the pandemic.

Members were made aware of the arrangements to undertake the scheme, which included communication with the national scheme, training of assessors and recruiting licensed premises. It was noted that the scheme concluded with an awards ceremony to celebrate success.

With regards to the Dearne Area and the pilot conducted in 2021, Members were made aware of the outcomes which included the accreditation of 9 venues and the training of 30 additional staff in first aid. 9 venues now had up to date safety records and 5 of the venues received an award. Members were made aware of the costs to the Area Team to implement a similar scheme, with the main cost being to train assessors (£600 for 20).

Members supported the initiative and suggested a number of venues in the area which may wish to be part of a similar pilot. Noted were the added benefits of licensed premises having a positive relationship with the Council, which helped to raise standards and reduce the need for enforcement. It was suggested that a future meeting could consider funding a pilot in the South Area.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That thanks be given for the update; and
- (ii) That a future meeting of the Area Council considers a pilot of the Best Bar None scheme in the South Area.

14 Procurement and Financial Update (Sac.08.04.2022/8)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item and made Members aware that the workshop to consider the Children and Young People's priority had been cancelled but would be rearranged.

Members were made aware that the Boroughwide Contract for Environmental Enforcement had been awarded to District Enforcement. Members were reminded that the Area Council had previously approved a six-month extension to the Area Council Environmental Enforcement contract to ensure there was continuous service.

It was noted that the Area Council Manager was in discussion with colleagues in Safer Communities about whether this was still required and would provide an update in due course.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

Chair