

<b>MEETING:</b>	North East Area Council
<b>DATE:</b>	Thursday 23 March 2023
<b>TIME:</b>	2.00 pm
<b>VENUE:</b>	Meeting Room 1 - Barnsley Town Hall

## MINUTES

**Present** Councillors Hayward (Chair), Cherryholme, Green, McCarthy, Peace, Richardson and Webster

### 40 Minute Silence - Caroline Donovan

A moment of silence was observed to reflect the sad passing of the former North East Area Council Manager, Caroline Donovan.

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

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests.

### 42 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of North East Area Council held on 26 January 2023 (Neac.23.3.2023/2)

The meeting considered the minutes from the previous meeting of the North East Area Council held on 24 November 2023.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the North East Area Council held on 24 November 2023 be approved as a true and correct record.

### 43 Exodus Project Update - Martin Sawdon

Martin Sawdon, Development Manager and Co-Founder of the Exodus Project, was welcomed to the meeting.

Members were provided with a brief overview of the project and the work involved since it was formed in 2000 exclusively for children and young people in Barnsley, details of which included:

- The project had 16 mid week activity clubs happening all over the Town which included dance, drama, sports and games to engage with young people.
- Weekend activity camps took place in the Projects own centre in South Hiendley called Jenny's Field, in order to build strong trusting relationships over a longer period than the 2 hour activity clubs.
- Home visits take place every week with the younger children's parents in order to be accountable to parents and carers and to build partnerships. Activity clubs are based on ages 8-11 year olds and 11-15 year olds.
- The volunteers are across all generations, but members were informed that almost half of the volunteers are young people that attended the activity clubs themselves and wished to become junior leaders.

- Partnerships with groups already working with young people in communities where the 16 activity clubs are based. Including work with schools, ward alliances etc

Members were informed that the Project had moved to new premises at the Methodist Church in Cudworth, which included the relocation of the Charity Shop from Cudworth High Street and was a way to bring the building back into community use.

Members questioned whether the Church would be available for community events. It was anticipated that this would be the case and over the summer months and Christmas would be used for a variety of events by both Exodus and from different groups across the North East Area.

Members asked what help was available for children with mental health problems. They were informed that in every activity session, 15 minutes of education time is provided on subjects such as stranger danger, family help, stress management during GCSE's and mental health amongst other subjects.

Members congratulated Martin and the Team for all the hard work they do and recognised that the young people coming through to be volunteers themselves was a testament what they do and that their model works.

Members were provided with an update to the refurbishment of the weekend activity centre, 'Jenny's Field'. Whilst £500,000 had been secured in grant funding, the cost of having the planned separate dormitory style of rooms would be double. This had resulted in a change of plans to have a number of smaller separate rooms that tents would be pitched in. The rooms would also be available to rent out to other groups to use. Members were encouraged and welcomed to visit the site.

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

#### **44 Procurement and Financial Update (Neac.23.3.2023/4)**

The Area Council Manager submitted a report providing Members with in up-to-date overview of the Area Council's current priorities. It provided an overview of all current contracts, contract extensions, Service Level Agreements and Grant Funded Projects together with the associated timescales.

Th report outlined the financial position to date for the 2022/23 financial year, and provided details of the future proposals and projected spend for the 2023/24 financial year as outlined in the appendices attached to the report.

#### **RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the overview of North East Area Council's current priorities, and overview of all current contracts, contract extensions, Service Level agreements and Grant Fund projects, with associated timescales, be noted;

- (ii) that the actual financial position of date for 2022-23 and the projected expenditure, including future proposals, to 20263-24 as outlined in Appendices 1 & 2 of the report, be noted;
- (iii) that the Area Managers secured funding of £2,000 per Ward Alliance (£8,000 in total) to increase the resource for grassroots community engagement (in its broadest sense) to enable people to get the right help, in the right place and at the right time, be noted;
- (iv) that Recommended Option 1: to devolve £40,000 from the Commissioning budget into Ward Alliance budgets (£10,000 per Ward Alliance) be approved;
- (v) that Recommended Option 3: to extend the BMBC Housing SLA with Safer Communities from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 at a cost of £40,000 per annum, be approved;
- (vi) that the update to the Detached Youth Work Fund – funding of the Youth Association StreetSmart Project be noted;
- (vii) that Recommended Option 5: move the underspend of £5,253 per year from Detached Youth Work into the Youth Development Fund Small Grants programme and maintain the total budget envelope for the Young People’s priority, be approved;
- (viii) that the Youth Development Funding panel recommended for approval finding for The Exodus Project to bridge the gap in funding of £1,636 for the period January 2023 to March 2023 to fund the Brierley Youth Club until applications for future periods can be considered under the Youth Development Fund 2023-2025;
- (ix) that Recommended Option 7: Devolve £12,000 (£3,000) per Ward Alliance) to be ringfenced for Ward Alliances to fund Advice and Guidance services within their Ward Area based on identified need. This would remove the requirement to commission through the Area Council, be approved; and
- (x) that Recommended Option 10; Commit a financial envelope of £30,000 per year for two years to progress the Health and Wellbeing priority by establishing a Health and Wellbeing Grant Fund from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2025, be approved.

**45 Notes of the Following Ward Alliances with Feedback from each Ward Alliance Chair (Neac.23.3.2023/5)**

The meeting received the notes from the Cudworth, Monk Bretton, North East and Royston Ward Alliances:

- Cudworth – 28 November, 2022 and 23 January 2023
- Monk Bretton – 13 January 2023
- North East – 5 December 2022 and 1 February 2023
- Royston – 16 January 2023

The following updates were noted:-

*Cudworth:* It was reported that the coffee mornings that had finished due to covid had received 6 months of funding to start up once again and would be held the third

Saturday of each month. Tea in the Park was announced to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023 and had a working volunteer team to support the event. An update was provided on the new process of putting hanging baskets up around the area.

*North East:* It was reported that the base was to be laid for a new bench at the pit wheel as a memorial for the miners that worked there. A more targeted approach to awarding funding was to begin in April to help new groups come forward for funding across the 4 villages.

*Monk Bretton:* The Burton Grange Craft Fair which was held in February half term had been well attended as well as 3 More Money in Your Pocket Events that had been held in the Area. The Achievement Awards had taken place in the Town Hall Council Chamber which was a fantastic night for all that attended. A bench that had been installed in the memorial gardens for the Yorkshire Regiment would be blessed on the 14 April 2023.

*Royston:* It was reported that the same issues were arising of the same groups coming forward for funding and it was hoped that they could reach out to encourage new groups to come forward. The Royston Gala would be held on 1 July 2023.

Members were informed that the Sloppy Slippers event would be brought back in collaboration with the More Money In Your Pocket Events. It was seen as a success in that people were asked to take their old slippers in to be exchanged to ensure they would not return to their worn out footwear, in turn preventing slips and falls and reducing accidents resulting in possible hospital visits.

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

#### **46 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Neac.23.3.2023/6)**

Lisa Phelan, Area Council Manager, submitted a report which outlined the agreed spend to date from the 2022/23 Ward Alliance Fund budget within the North East Area. The appendices attached to the report outlined the spend for each Ward Alliance together with the remaining balance to be carried forward into the 2023/24 financial year.

**RESOLVED** that the report on the use of Ward Alliance Funds be noted.

-----  
Chair