

MEETING:	South Area Council
DATE:	Friday 16 December 2022
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room 3, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Markham (Chair), Eastwood, Franklin, Frost, Higginbottom, Lamb, Osborne, Shepherd, Smith, Stowe, Sumner and White

15 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Higginbottom declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute number 21 as this referred to his portfolio, he left the room before discussion on this item started.

Councillor Osborne declared a non-pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda insofar as discussion related to Berneslai Homes, due to his position on the board.

16 Minutes of the Meeting of South Area Council held on 2 September 2022 (Sac.16.12.2022/2)

The meeting considered the minutes of South Area Council held on 2 September 2022. It was noted that Councillor Lamb was involved in Forge Community Partnership, but was not a director as stated in the minutes.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the South Area Council held on 2 September be approved as a true and correct record, subject to the amendment highlighted with regards to Councillor Lamb's involvement with Forge Community Partnership.

17 Notes of the Ward Alliances (Sac.16.12.2022/3)

The meeting received the notes from the following Ward Alliances:-
Hoyland Milton and Rockingham held on 7 September 2022;
Wombwell held on 3 October and 28 November; and
Darfield held on 15 September and 17 November 2022.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

18 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Sac.16.12.2022/4)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item, noting that many of the Ward Alliances had approved expenditure to support winter wellbeing, cost of living and Christmas events.

An update on finance remaining was provided. Hoyland Milton and Rockingham had around £1,961 remaining, Darfield around £4,659 and Wombwell £3,487.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

19 Heart Health Alliance - Kaye Mann - Public Health Specialist Practitioner (Sac.16.12.2022/5)

Kaye Mann, Public Health Specialist Practitioner, was welcomed to the meeting. Members were made aware that the Heart Health Alliance was a partnership group which led on work in this area. Work was focused on prevention, which included the prevention of heart attacks and strokes, but also covered the ongoing need for treatment.

In all indicators related to this area, Barnsley performed poorly. Members heard that around 36,000 residents in Barnsley were living with heart and circulatory diseases and every 13 hours someone died from a heart or circulatory disease. 55 deaths a month in Barnsley were from heart and circulatory diseases.

Members noted the priorities of the Alliance, and that their work so far had been considered successful.

Members heard that 80% of premature heart attacks and strokes could be preventable which equated to 44 lives a month in Barnsley. Work this year had been focused on identifying those with high blood pressure, which if identified and addressed could help reduce heart attacks and strokes.

With regards to strokes, Members heard that those suffering required treatment within 4.5 hours. The regional average was 4 hours, but the data for Barnsley showed 52 hours. Members questioned the reasons behind this, and issues such as presenting at Accident and Emergency, rather than telephoning 999, and people thinking they would be ok were noted.

Members noted the focus in 2023 on preventing strokes, and factors contributing to increasing the chances of stroke were acknowledged. Members noted the campaign to increase awareness of what to do if someone is having a stroke and it was noted that officers would work with residents to devise a more local campaign.

As mentioned previously, work had taken place on a blood pressure campaign, with free checks being undertaken in communities, including libraries, markets and in large businesses. Dearne and North areas, and men 50-60 had been specifically targeted, but the campaign had been extended throughout the borough.

In addition, members noted work to increase physical activity with the message that everyone could move more, and the promotion of NHS health checks to ensure people attended and issues picked up earlier.

It was noted that all work was underpinned by the Heart Health Plan 2022-25.

Members discussed the subject at length, including the reasons behind the concerning data. Concern was raised around the shortage of GPs and waiting times. Also of concern was the distance to stroke specialists in Wakefield and Doncaster, and for the high numbers of residents waiting for procedures in Barnsley, with the need for this to be reduced. Members also discussed ongoing issues with the Ambulance Service.

It was suggested that the Area Council and Ward Alliances had a part to play in encouraging health checks, and promoting public health messages. A suggestion was made that additional equipment could be purchased to enable Members and officers to undertake basic checks such as for blood pressure, in the community. It was suggested that that all Members could participate in checks at the next meeting of Full Council, and that this be used to promote their uptake. Work could also be supported to address contributory factors such as improving movement, and diet.

RESOLVED:-

- i) That thanks be given for the presentation and facilitating discussion on this subject;
- ii) That concerns regarding the high numbers on waiting lists be referred to the Executive Director Place Health and Adult Social Care;
- iii) That Members and relevant officers be trained to undertake basic health checks in community settings; and
- iv) That concerns around the time taken for residents experiencing a Stroke to receive treatment be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Chair and Officers for them to consider including in their future workplan.

20 Welfare Reform Review (Sac.16.12.2022/6)

The report was received by Members. The consensus was that the current service was being delivered effectively and allowed for local flexibility. However, the potential of learning from other areas and for economies of scale were noted. It was acknowledged that the report had already been considered by other Area Councils who had all preferred their services to be locally procured and managed.

Members noted the continued and increasing need for the service, and a suggestion was made to consider more evening and weekend provision so those working could be able to access.

Noted was the significant underclaiming of Pension Credit, and that, once in receipt, this could lead to being eligible for other benefits. The need to highlight this issue wherever possible was acknowledged.

RESOLVED that the Area Council continues to commission a welfare provision service for the South Area on an independent cycle, based on local need.

21 Tidy Team Contract Review and Future Direction (Sac.16.12.2022/7)

Members received the report and discussed the implications of giving notice to Twiggs Grounds Maintenance. Members heard how officers in legal services were considering obligations such as the transfer of staff and equipment and whether these applied, and Members would be informed of the outcome.

RESOLVED:-

- i) That the background information and current position, together with options outlined in the report be noted;
- ii) That the option for a further year of the Tidy Team contract be declined, and notice be issued to Twiggs Grounds Maintenance to conclude the contract on 31st March 2023;

- iii) That any Members be informed on the outcome of discussions between officers in Legal Services and Twiggs Grounds Maintenance about obligations relating to the transfer of any staff or equipment at the end of the contract period;
- iv) That a Service Level Agreement (SLA) be developed with BMBC Neighbourhood Services to provide a South Environmental Caretaker Service to provide supplementary services over the provision of the wider Council service at a cost of £120,963 per annum for 1 year from monies already ringfenced for the Improving the Environment priority;
- v) That a Community Development Officer (30 hours per week) be recruited to sit within the South Area Team at a cost of up to £34,804 per year for an initial period of 1 year from monies ringfenced from the Improving the Environment priority;
- vi) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director Public Health and Communities to complete all necessary paperwork to agree the SLA and recruit the Community Development Officer, as outlined in the report, following consultation with Members of South Area Council.

Chair