

MEETING:	South Area Council
DATE:	Friday 16 June 2023
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room 1 - Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Eastwood, Franklin, Frost, Higginbottom, Osborne, Shepherd, Smith, Stowe (Chair), White and A. Wray

In the absence of the South Area Council Chair, Members elected Councillor Stowe as Chair for the duration of the meeting.

1 **Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

Councillor Higginbottom declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 9 as he was employed by Age UK.

2 **Minutes of the Meeting of South Area Council held on 14 April 2023 (Sac.16.06.2023/2)**

The meeting considered the minutes of South Area Council held on 14 April 2023.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the South Area Council held on 14 April 2023 be approved as a true and correct record.

3 **CAB welfare rights contract – David Andy (Sac.16.06.2023/3)**

David Andy, Barnsley Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) provided an update in relation to the welfare rights contract delivered by CAB for the South Area Council.

In elaborating on the content of the presentation, Members were advised that the telephone and digital services were available five days a week from 9am to 5pm. On average each client had been assisted 2.5 times through the various channels available and presented an average of 8 issues each. It was explained to Members that CAB advisors were multi-skilled and trained to give initial general advice to all clients. Referrals were then made to specialist advisors and other services within the organisation. It was stated that many clients were unaware of welfare they were entitled to, and work was ongoing to educate residents.

During Member discussion, it was queried as to whether Social Return on Investment information was available, and this was agreed to be calculated and provided. IT access and computer competency issues were discussed, including signposting routes to Barnsley Council's Adult Education Service and Berneslai Homes.

Members discussed issues with the national benefits system, including reassessments and delays. It was questioned as to whether CAB raised the most common issues they were assisting with in this area with the DWP. Advice was given

that the CAB aims were to provide advice and assistance, but that issues that needed challenging were, such as reporting internally within the CAB organisation. At national-level, CAB had a team that raised these issues with the government and challenged the DWP and other agencies. Evidence was given where this lobbying had been successful, including a case study on organisation having to make reasonable adjustments for those who used British Sign Language as their primary mode of communication. Additional discussion took place on the quickest way out of poverty being through employment, with CAB giving assurance that “better off calculations” took place with clients, as did referrals to organisations who helped get people back into work, such as Reed.

Members sought clarity from CAB on what access arrangements were in place for clients who could not make visits into CAB offices due to disability. It was advised that telephone and digital means of problem-solving were used in the first instance, but that home visits would be arranged where required. For safeguarding reasons, home visits were conducted by two people, for example an advisor and a volunteer or partner, such as Age UK or Berneslai Homes. Staffing levels and capacity were discussed, with information given that recruitment was aligned to available funding with the current level of staff comprising 25 paid staff and 10 volunteers. Members were advised that promotion of the drop-in services available were not pushed so to avoid overwhelming staff, with digital and telephone services the focus of marketing campaigns.

Discussion was had on clients presenting with mental health issues and gambling problems. CAB provided anecdotal information that many clients presented without a formal mental health medical diagnosis. but did have symptoms. Several CAB staff were trained as medical first aiders and would assist to the level they could. There was no data available on clients with gambling addiction issues.

RESOLVED:-

1. That the update be noted; and
2. That the Social Return on Investment information be provided by CAB; and
3. That promotional literature for the service be provided by CAB to the Area Council Manager for distribution to Members.

4 Stroke prevention and early detection - Kaye Mann (Sac.16.06.2023/4)

Kaye Mann (Public Health Specialist Practitioner) and Jaimie Shepherd (South Yorkshire Integrated Stroke Delivery Network Manager) provided an update on the Barnsley Stroke Pathway and a new Barnsley campaign on stroke awareness.

In delivering the presentation, the Network Manager advised members that further analysis had been conducted since the last meeting of South Area Council, at which Members challenged the data on strokes. Assurance was given that although specialist units were not located in the Barnsley borough, residents still received a good service. Reflection was had on how stroke care had changed over the years and how management of patients and outcomes had improved in South Yorkshire. There were still however particular demographics of the population who were not

accessing care as quickly as they should, with the prevalence of strokes in South Yorkshire higher than the national average.

With regards to the Public Health response to stroke prevalence, Members were advised that a marketing campaign was being formulated, focusing on prevention, symptoms and dialling 999 so that optimal care is sought. Data analysis was taking place to enable relevant population cohorts to be targeted in the campaign plan. The “How’s Thi’ Ticker?” campaign was referred to as a successful format being built upon, with engagement with stroke victims and the Barnsley culture informing the new campaign.

During Member discussion, issues around care after hospital discharge, assessment delays and diagnosis of stroke cause were discussed. The low numbers of patients arriving by ambulance was questioned by Members, who queried whether this was due to responders being unavailable. Although data was not available to resolve this query, Members were advised that strokes were in the categorised as a category 2 response, which was high in the priority list for ambulance dispatch. Agreement had been in place for striking workers to cross the picket line and respond to patients believed to be suffering with a stroke.

Lifestyle issues that could be a determining factor to the cause of a stroke were highlighted as essential to any promotional campaign. Additionally, the need for the campaign to focus on making 999 calls in a timely manner was raised, as was the need to engage with Elected Members, so they could facilitate getting the message across in their communities. With regards to the targeting of the campaign, Members discussed geographical areas of deprivation being important targets, as would be any groups pinpointed through data on age and sex. Reassurance was given that the campaign was budgeted sufficiently, with social media messaging and community venues forming part of the strategy.

RESOLVED:-

1. That the update be noted; and
2. That material on the public health campaign be reported into a future meeting of South Area Council or through a member briefing, and that the nature of Members as community-based champions be utilised as a means of getting the message out.

5 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Sac.16.06.2023/5)

The Area Council Manager spoke on the item, referring to the report circulated in the agenda pack. It was highlighted to Members that despite being only part-way through the first financial quarter of 23-24 all ward alliances had managed to approve projects and make financial allocations.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

6 Notes of the Ward Alliances (Sac.16.06.2023/6)

The meeting received the notes from the following Wombwell Ward Alliance held on 15 May 2023 and Darfield Ward Alliance held on 18 May 2023.

Wombwell Ward Members took the opportunity to give their sincere thanks to Amanda Bradshaw, retiring Community Development Officer. Amanda had worked primarily in Wombwell, however other Members of the South Area added their thanks for work she had contributed to their wards.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

7 Ward meetings and priority setting review – verbal update from Lisa Lyon

The Area Council Manager updated Members on the plan to organise ward meetings for each of the South Area Council wards. Consultation had taken place with the South Area Council Chair and these meetings would look at establishing priorities and building work plans at a ward level.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

8 Procurement and Financial Update (Sac.16.06.2023/8)

The Area Council Manager presented Members with a procurement and financial update, which sought approval of various commissions and projects.

In discussing the environmental enforcement recommendations, Members were informed that enforcement officers would begin and end their shift in the South Area.

RESOLVED:-

1. That approval be given to modify the District Enforcement Ltd contract for a period of 12 months to comprise an additional 18 hours per week. This commission would be charged at £24,000 for the 12-month period plus a £1,740 internal Service Level Agreement; and
2. That approval be given to increase contract hours and remit with District Enforcement Ltd to provide a focused resource for school parking issues and education. This was to be funded through the South Area Council revenue from the District Enforcement contract which was at that time £7,000. The cost agreed to for 5-hours per week for a 12-month period was £6,666; and
3. That approval be given to fund the summer sports van for the 6-week summer holidays at a cost of £2,250; and
4. That delegated authority be given to the South Area Council Manager to make appropriate arrangements for delivery of the summer sports van activities; and
5. That approval be given for the South Area Council Manager to develop a new job specification for the Environmental Officer post; and
6. That approval be given to increase the hours of the Environmental Officer post if it is downgraded, to remain within the £34,804 financial envelope previously agreed; and

7. The approval be given to commission Barnsley Citizens Advice Bureau to deliver the community outreach project at a cost of £83,000 for delivery between 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024; and
8. That information on the South Area Council commissioning budget and the additional funding secured from the Household Support Grant be noted.

9 Performance Report Q4 (Sac.16.06.2023/9)

The Area Council Manager presented members with the Q4 performance report containing an update of each of the contracted services.

It was highlighted to Members that this would be the last performance report to include Twiggs' Ground Maintenance, as that contract had now ended. The Area Council Manager additionally advised Members that there was an outstanding query with regards to volunteer hours in the case studies, and that a further update would be provided once clarity was received.

Members were informed that an employee of Age UK for the Darfield ward had handed in their notice and therefore cover for this post would be sought.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

10 Staffing update – verbal update by Lisa Lyon

The Area Council Manager advised that the Community Development Officer post vacated by Amanda Bradshaw had been recruited to successfully. Claire Archer was to take on the post, increasing her hours from part-time to full-time.

At the close of the meeting, Members took the opportunity to reflect on Barnsley Council's recent accolade of LGC Council of the Year. It was stated by Members that the work at Area Council-level was an important factor in achieving the award. Increased professionalism shown by Members and new ways of working were asserted as instrumental to the Council's success.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

Chair