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| MEETING: | North East Area Council |
| DATE: | Thursday 22 September 2022 |
| TIME: | 2.00 pm |
| VENUE: | Meeting Room 2, Barnsley Town Hall |

MINUTES

Present Councillors Hayward (Chair), Green, Houghton CBE, Makinson, Peace, Richardson and Webster

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

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

18 **Ms C Donovan - Area Council Manager**

Rachel Payling (Head of Service Stronger Communities) informed Members of the Council that Ms C Donovan (Area Council Manager) was off work ill and was likely to be away for some time. A 'get well' card was circulated for all Members to sign.

The Chair and Members of the Area Council asked that their best wishes for a speedy recovery be conveyed to Ms Donovan.

Rachel Payling then briefly outlined the arrangements in place to provide appropriate cover whilst Ms Donovan was indisposed.

19 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of North East Area Council held on 14th July, 2022 (Neac.22.9.2022/2)**

The meeting considered the minutes from the previous meeting of the North East Area Council held on the 14th July, 2022.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North East Area Council held on 14th July, 2022 be approved as a true and correct record subject to:

- The addition of Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE to the list of those present
- The deletion of the name 'Councillor Lamb' from Minute 11 'Michelle Cooper Ad Astra- Listening Support Service in Carlton and Shafton Outwood Academy Project Update' and the substitution of the name Councillor Houghton.

20 **Age UK Update**

Ms S Ramsden and Ms N Stokes from Age UK attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the operation and success of the North East Area Social Inclusion and Dementia Initiative over the last year.

The presentation gave details of the following:

- Key milestones included:

- An Annual Love Later Life event which had been undertaken as part of the Age Friendly Barnsley Festival
- The Service Leaflet and Brand was now in place
- There had been a targeted leaflet drop across the whole of the North East Area
- There had been active communications within social and traditional media outlets including Facebook, Twitter and the Barnsley Chronicle
- The initiative worked with, amongst others, the following:
 - Area Councils, Ward Alliances and the Area Team
 - Various Community Groups and the U3A
 - Community Facilities
 - Volunteers
 - Local Older people
 - Commissioned Services and particularly the CAB
 - Other third-party organisation
 - Funders
 - Local businesses
 - The Barnsley Older People Physical Activity Alliance (BOPPA)
 - Age friendly Barnsley Multi-Agency Groups
- In relation to the delivery of services:
 - There had been 101 one to one sessions held for 79 females and 22 males.
 - There had been 5,600 attendees at various activities throughout the year
 - There were 17 active volunteers with five new volunteers
 - A total of 1,079 hours had been delivered with a Social Value of around £13,000
 - Many shops and local businesses were now Age/Dementia friendly
 - A total of 11 events and one day out had been organised
- Work of the Information and Advice Service - £97,000 Benefit Gains had been obtained for the North East Ward Area – this had been achieved through the support of one day per week of specialist support time
 - Full support was provided for Pension age persons only
 - Support had included, amongst other things, for benefit checks, housing advice, care packages, blue badge support and the provision of support for will writing
- BOPPAA – aimed to provide activities aimed at preventing hospital admissions. Events had included Healthy Bones, Tai Chi, Yoga, Walking Groups and Bowls. Arising out of this, reference was made to the Digital Project, its aims and objectives and the support provided
- Events and Celebrations had included Winter Wellbeing, Jubilee Parties, Music in Care Homes, Age Friendly events, a Seaside trip and sloppy slippers, Love Later Life events together with a number of seasonal events
- Volunteers – five new volunteers had been recruited and a total of 17 volunteers were now available. As mentioned previously, the Volunteer Hours (1079) had achieved an equivalent Social Value of around £13,000. New volunteer roles had been created, recruitment was being undertaken and a new training event was being prepared
- Key Challenges included transport and mobility issues, volunteer recruitment and retention, the prioritisation of available resources and reaching the most vulnerable and unnoticed

- Next steps and areas of focus included training and development for TARA, Covid recovery for many older people, work to identify and support the hard to reach, Volunteer recruitment events, Digital inclusion, Age Friendly Barnsley (including Take a Seat), work with Dementia Friendly Groups, Winter Warmer events, Love Later Life events, Social inclusion events and events for Halloween and Christmas as well as other numerous events within each ward

Arising out of the above, reference was then made to the following:

- The dates for events planned would be provided for all Members of the Area Council. Information was also provided on the website and would be circulated round all networks and groups in the area
- There was a discussion of the way in which demand for services could be met. Particular reference was made to the way in which provision was adapted to meet changing demands as well as the consultation held with service users and potential users to ensure that needs were catered for where possible
- It was noted that a Love Later Life event was to be held on Monday in the North East Ward and a group was to start in the Dog Hill area of Royston on the 1st October. Details would be provided to the Area Council Manager so that appropriate contact could be made
- There was a discussion of the potential implications of the cost-of-living crisis and arising out of this information was provided about the services available, how these were accessed and provided and of how people could be appropriately signposted
- In response to specific questioning, information was provided about the ways in which service delivery had changed since the ending of the lockdowns due to the Covid pandemic

RESOLVED that Ms Ramsden and Ms Stokes be thanked for their presentation, for attending the meeting and for answering Members questions.

21 Smoking Cessation Update

Ms S Sverdloff (Community Stop Smoking Advisor) and Ms A Longden attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the current position with regard to the Smoking Cessation Initiative which included an overview of the project, the current performance against the set targets, the developments that had taken place as well as the aims for the future.

The presentation gave details of the following:

- Smoking prevalence for adults over 18 in the North East Area with comparisons to Barnsley as a whole. It was noted that just over one in four adults in the North East Area were smokers. This was consistently higher than the rates for Barnsley during the period 2014 to 2016, however the current rate of 25.5% was the lowest ever since 2013
- Contract performance from November 2021 to date. Difficulties had been encountered because of the lockdowns which meant there was limited opportunity to promote the service, however, targets were now largely already

- being hit and were likely to be exceeded. In relation to registrations into the service it was noted that there had been an increase between 2020 and 2022
- Information was provided about the 4-week quit rate. This indicated that 69% had quit, 16% and not quit and 15% had been lost to follow up
 - With the exception of December 2021, the 12-week quit rate was in the middle to high 70%'s
 - Development Work included SCIP visits engaging with, amongst others, GP's and pharmacies, attendance at various events, Service Promotion via social media and various training events
 - Going forward the service would
 - Continue to develop and work towards the Key Performance Indicators
 - Continue to work towards the governments smokefree agenda
 - Identify new areas for development
 - Continue with Lung Heath Checks
 - The Khan Review had been published in June 2022. An examination of this indicated that without continued intervention the target of making England Smoke Free by 2030 would be missed by an estimated 7 years with the poorest areas in society not expected to meet the target until 2044. It was clear, therefore, that to truly 'level up' health and wealth, the government would need to tackle the crippling burden that smoking had on the most disadvantaged communities

The presentation concluded by giving members details of the very positive feedback received to the initiative.

In the ensuing discussion, the following matters were highlighted:

- The Area Council Manager reported that the Stop Smoking Outreach Service was now to be funded centrally until at least October 2023 and there was, therefore, no need to consider the proposal within the Procurement and Financial Update report to be considered later in the meeting, to provide part funding for the Stop Smoking Advisor. This proposal was very much welcomed
- It was noted that support from the service would also be provided for the users of e-cigarettes
- Whilst the service had continued throughout the Covid pandemic largely via telephone consultation, it was pleasing to be able to reinstate 'normal' service delivery
- Comparative statistical for the North East Area with the rest of the Borough could be provided
- It was noted that the Salvation Army was to provide a drop-in session once a fortnight and if anyone wanted to become involved with this or any other group they should contact Sarah Sverdloff direct

RESOLVED that Ms S Sverdloff and Ms Longden be thanked for their presentation, for attending the meeting and for answering Members questions.

22 Quarter 1 (April to June) Performance Report (Neac.22.9.2022/5)

Lisa Phelan, Area Council Manager, presented a report, which was in a slightly different format to previous reports, giving an oversight and update on the delivery of the commissioned projects for Quarter 1 (2022/23).

The report outlined, amongst other things, how the projects within the Area Council area were meeting the Council's Strategic Priorities and the 20/30 Ambitions. It also gave details of how projects were being delivered together with performance data against targets where appropriate. It was reported that all appropriate contract and management meetings had been held and there were no issues or concerns to raise.

It was noted that services were provided on a needs basis, however, some wards had additional needs compared to others. Questions were asked, therefore, if there were any areas of concern had been identified where additional work or intervention was needed. The Area Council Manager reported that such matters were regularly addressed as a review of priorities and future commitments was discussed. Appropriate expertise was brought in as and when required, for example, data was to be provided in the future about youth work, an examination was to be taken of possible 'gaps' in services and work was continuing with the Children's Services Directorate in order to identify such gaps or indeed duplication as well. The priority was to be innovative in service delivery and to provide early intervention, help and support in areas of greatest need.

RESOLVED that the performance report for Quarter 1 (2022/23) (April to June) be noted.

23 Procurement and Financial Update (Neac.22.9.2022/6)

Lisa Phelan, Area Council Manager, submitted a report providing Members with an 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.

It outlined the financial position to date for 2022/23 and gave details of the projected financial position to 2023/34, with the financial projections assuming that the base income remained the same and that the existing services were maintained.

The report indicated that, as in previous years, a Grant Panel had met to consider the award of grants from the Youth Development Fund and three recommendations had been submitted for approval. In addition, the Panel had also discussed the possibility of creating opportunities for a more equitable and sustainable approach across the area and Members had asked the Area Council Manager to provide an options appraisal for further discussion and a workshop meeting was to be arranged to discuss this further.

An appendix to the report also gave details of the work of the Stop Smoking Outreach Service for which a contribution of £19,261 had been recommended, however, as previously reported, this was now to be funded centrally and so this recommendation was no longer required.

Appendix 3 to the report provided an update of the locality-based review of welfare service provision and presented options for possible future service provision.

It was noted that all Area Councils were to consider future welfare service provision. Arising out of this, there was a brief discussion of the ways in which resources could be maximised possibly by the introduction of one contract for all Area Councils which could

- be individually tailored to meet the needs of each area
- Involve external agencies such as DIAL, AGE UK and the CAB etc.
- enable economies of scale to be achieved.

It was suggested that a working party/workshop meeting would be arranged to discuss this approach and the practicalities thereof prior to the involvement of any external agencies.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the current priorities and overview of all current contracts, contract extensions, Service Level Agreements and Grant Funded projects, together with the associated timescales, be noted;
- (ii) that the financial position to date for 2022/23 and the projected expenditure and associated financial assumptions, including future proposals to 2023/24 as outlined in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report be noted and supported;
- (iii) that the recommendations from the Youth Development Fund Panel to fund the following three projects be approved:
 - Ad Astra, Young Peoples Group Sessions in School – Carlton Community College £6,000
 - Ad Astra, Young Peoples Group Sessions in School – Shafton Advanced Learning Centre £6,000
 - Ad Astra, Young Peoples 1-1 support – Carlton Community College £6,680
- (iv) That a Working Group/Workshop be arranged to further discuss the possibility of creating opportunities for a more equitable and sustainable approach to the allocation of Youth development Funding; and
- (v) That the proposals for a locality-based review of welfare service provision be noted and that a Working Group/Workshop be arranged to discuss options for possible future service provision.

24 Notes of the Following Ward Alliances with Feedback from each Ward Alliance Chair (Neac.22.9.2022/7)

The meeting received notes from the Cudworth, Monk Bretton, North East and Royston Ward Alliances held throughout July and September. The following updates were noted:-

Cudworth – there had been a busy summer programme and further feedback could be provided. Dorothy Hyman was proposing to host events in October half term and further details and costings were awaited.

There had been a break-in of the container at Pocket Park and the gazebos had been stolen. In view of the fact that these were used in other areas, the Ward Alliance had asked if a financial contribution could be made towards their replacement. Once replaced they would have to be kept at a different location for security reasons. Details of actual costings were being obtained which could then be considered by other Ward Alliances. Councillor Makinson also stated that the North East Ward had a large gazebo which could also be loaned to other areas if required.

The Environment Group had lost some members as a result of the Covid pandemic but others had now joined and further events were being planned.

The Food Bank in Cudworth was also continuing to run successfully and was available for people from the whole of the area.

Monk Bretton – at the last meeting grant applications had been awarded to various groups including Physical Features (Gala) (part funding), Monk Bretton Ari Scouts (part funding) and Jolly Good Communities (part funding).

The activities over the summer had been successful with good attendance. Money had been allocated for the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday and a meeting was to be held next week to agree those arrangements. Councillor Houghton suggested that Members should contact Matthew Bell (Head of Highways) as it was important that all remembrance events went ahead without a hitch. There was a discussion about liability insurance and related issues and Rachel Payling confirmed that Councillors had appropriate liability insurance cover whilst undertaking Council activities.

Councillor Richardson circulated the minutes of the Ward Alliance held last week. He made particular reference to the costings associated with the provision of Christmas Trees within the area. Similar costing issues had been encountered with the provision of hanging baskets. It was suggested that Members should discuss these issues with appropriate officers to see if the areas of concern could be addressed. Rachel Payling would take this matter up as it might be possible to reduce costs and achieve economies of scale on behalf of all Ward Alliances.

Royston – No meetings had been held since July as the September meeting had been delayed because of holidays. It was due to be held next Monday.

The Barnsley in Bloom celebrations were due to be held in mid-October in the Town Hall and there had been two entries, Royston Canal Club and Royston Green Spaces.

The Green Space Group was continuing to meet monthly and fundraising had continued at the Gala. Over £600 had been raised and spend on various projects. In addition, scouts had also continued fund raising.

Support was also being given to the Friends of Royston Group and a Food Bank was being run by the Royston Salvation Army.

North East – there had been two meetings and a lot of time had been spent on planning to ensure that there was appropriate organisation in place and that funding was appropriately allocated going forward. Investigation were being undertaken to possibly organise a Volunteer of the Year event at the Town Hall in March 2023 and it was hoped that winners could be given vouchers to spend in the local area, thereby, assisting the local business community.

Arising out of the above, there was a discussion about how best volunteer presentations could be organised. It was noted that a 10-year anniversary celebration was being considered and planned for all volunteers and there was a discussion as to whether or not this should be a centrally organised event for all Area Councils or whether these should be more local events. Rachel Payling briefly outlined the discussions that were taking place, how success stories might be captured and what type of presentation/event might be considered.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

25 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Neac.22.9.2022/8)

Lisa Phelan, Area Council Manager, presented this report which informed Members of the agreed spend to date from Ward Alliance Funds within the North East Area for 2022/23 and appendices to the report outlined the profile of the spending for each Ward Alliance together with the remaining allocations available. This also gave details of the remaining allocations carried forward for the financial period 2021/22.

It was reported that future reports would provide a narrative alongside the financial data showing monitoring undertaken of the spending against the allocated budget/finance. It was also intended that the detailed narrative report would be provided every six months.

Arising out of the discussion, a request was made for an update to be provided on parking enforcement and Phase 2 of the Shop Front Schemes.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Chair