

MEETING:	Penistone Area Council
DATE:	Thursday 15 February 2024
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Penistone Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Greenhough (Chair), Barnard, Kitching, Lowe-Flello and Wilson

29 Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

No Members declared an interest in any item on the agenda.

30 Minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 30 November 2023 (Pac.15.02.2024/2)

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 November 2023.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on the 30 November 2023 be approved as a true and correct record.

31 Presentation from Age UK

Debby Bunn, Chief Executive and Emily Hall, Executive Manager, Lorraine Hunter and Helen Bradbury of Age UK Barnsley were welcomed to the meeting and provided members with an overview of the work that had been carried out by Age UK Barnsley in the Penistone Area since July 2022.

A number of events and celebrations had been held including:-

- Quarterly Volunteer Meals at Cubley Hall
- Wortley Afternoon Tea
- Cleethorpes Trip
- Christmas Get Together
- Christmas Party at the Holiday Inn
- Canal Trip, Hebble & Calder Canal
- Sloppy Slipper Events

The Information and Advice Service had provided £1,630,044.70 of benefit gains for the Penistone Area since July 2022. Support provided had included benefit checks, cost of living advice, housing support and much more.

One to one support had provided:-

- 71 new individuals being seen
- 13 long term service users
- 21 Befriending Services
- 42 attended groups

- 55 Shopping trips
- 12 Gardening jobs
- 32 Handyperson jobs
- 22 Free warm home services

Members were provided with a list of all the Group activities which had been provided including Thurgoland Community Group, New Inn Lunch Club, Happy Vibes Memory Café plus many more.

There were 42 active volunteers who had provided 2,015 hours of volunteering within the past 18 months and providing a social value of £30,829. Members heard of the added value that Age UK Barnsley could provide Penistone members including warm hubs, Dementia Choir, Elizabeth Activity & Care Centre. People could access some of these by travelling to other areas of the Borough.

Members were informed of the particular focus on options for men. It was acknowledged that Men in Sheds in general had been a success but that this was no longer supported by Age UK in Penistone and would not meet every man's need. Ideas in particular were around a possible fishing group or museum visits.

Members were provided with the next steps and focus for Age UK Barnsley. It was brought to members attention that Age UK did not just work with the elderly, but with people of all ages. An example was provided of a need that had been identified with people over 50 who were lonely or had health conditions, or under 50 with health conditions such as dementia or arthritis.

Members raised concerns that there had been a gap in provision in the Penistone Area, but that it was hoped that these issues would be resolved now that the service had successfully recruited to their vacancies and would be fully staffed from Mid-March 2024.

RESOLVED that Age UK Barnsley be thanked for their comprehensive presentation and that the updates be noted.

32 Verbal Update on Family Hubs

This items was withdrawn.

33 Notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 14 December 2023 and 11 January 2024 (Pac.15.02.2024/5)

The meeting received the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance meetings held on 14 December 2023 and 11 January 2024.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance meetings held on 14 December 2023 and 11 January 2024 be received.

34 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Pac.15.02.2024/6)

Members received the report and noted its contents. Members noted that there had been a significant and welcome increase in groups coming forward and submitting applications for funding resulting in a remaining balance of £950.70.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

35 Quarter 3 Performance Report (Pac.15.02.2024/7)

The Area Council Manager provided members with an overview of the Quarter 3 Performance report dated October to December 2023 and all contracted services. Members attention was drawn to the outcome indicators under the clean and tidy statistics which were zero. This was due to the Twiggs contract ending in September 2023.

Members were informed that some environmental support was provided in the quarter by the area team by providing purple bags, the purchasing of litter picking equipment for Groups to borrow and meeting some requests from businesses. Members were thanked for their involvement in this interim period.

The Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older People contract had seen a significant amount of Befriending through volunteers. 18 clients had benefited from the information and advice service with a gain of £28,000 in benefits. 38 volunteers had been recorded for the quarter which was the highest of all the 5 contracts in the Penistone Area. A list of BOPPA activities across the Penistone Area was provided to members within the report.

The Citizens Advice Service were establishing themselves in Penistone Library as a drop in every 2 weeks on Wednesday mornings between 9am and 12.00noon. They had seen 19 clients in the quarter. 56 Clients had been supported either online or by the telephone service. Members attention was drawn to the statistics showing that there was a great number of younger people (under 55s) accessing the service.

The DIAL information and advice service had seen the majority of issues dealt with associated to health related issued and largely looking at benefits and PIP attendance allowance payments. Whilst the face to face offer is limited to numbers that can be seen, there was a large number of people accessing the service via the phone. Members were informed that DIAL carryout a 3 month follow up of every client to check on their welfare in order to provide additional support if needed.

The Adult singing workshops had come to an end and the adults that had attended had gained a lot from being a part of the workshops particularly around health and wellbeing. Discussions had taken place with Angel Voices around creating a self-sustaining group.

The Thurgoland Thespians had provided a positive first quarter report showing that the Pantomime had been well attended, 35 young people had been involved and they were making good progress.

Angel Voices was going from strength to strength and had been inundated with new young people wishing to take part. The new contract would look at longer term aspirations and progressing young people into other groups such as Barnsley Youth Choir and Junkyard Theatre and getting links into higher up chain groups. Members

commended the group as a positive example of making a small investment into something that could positively change young peoples lives whilst also providing them with additional ABRSM qualifications.

Cawthorne Cricket come had presented some good outcomes including putting people through coaching qualifications alongside a holistic approach to training including Pilates and supporting mental health and wellbeing.

Members were informed that the Walking the Goats project was due to start in January 2024 so no update was provided in this quarter.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

36 Update on Food Support for the Penistone Area (Pac.15.02.2024/8)

The Area Council Manager provided Members with an update to the food options in Penistone.

Members were reminded of the food options that were already on offer in the Penistone Area including Penistone Food Buddies, the Food Bank, Christmas Hamper scheme and Community Shop on the Go amongst other offers. In order to continue to meet any future need in the area, a deeper insight was required to ascertain what the pressure points and barriers are with meeting current food needs and how aware people are of the provisions that exist. Members were informed that an approach had been made to Good Food Barnsley CiC to support with this work.

RESOLVED that members support a further period of consultation and investigation to provide an evidence base to establish a more appropriate tailored response to meet the need of the Penistone Area.

37 Procurement and Financial Update (Pac.15.02.2024/9)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the item providing members with a highlight of each commissioned project.

Members attention was drawn to the Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older People Service. Members were reminded that this contract would be finished the end of June 2024 and there would be a need for a future workshop to determine any future procurement requirements for this contract.

Members were informed that there had been no changes to the Working Together Grant Fund which remained with a balance of £37,052 in the pot. Members heard that this grant pot was being held in order to deliver any future food options in the Penistone Area.

The Working Together Grant Fund - Supporting Young People had funded 5 new projects at a total cost of £37,337.83 and had a remaining balance of £2,662.17.

The Environmental Service project was almost ready to go with the Service One following a tendering exercise and the successful bidder would be awarded a contract to start from March 2024. A grant application process had been established for Service Two, Community Environmental Support Service. An evaluation panel

consisting of members of environmental community groups and Penistone Ward Members would take place with a view to the service being operational from March 2024.

Members attention as drawn to the Penistone Ward Alliance remaining balance of £950. There had been a significant and welcome increase in applications being received with an estimated demand for ward alliance funds of £3,950 to the end of the financial year. Members were minded to approve an additional £5,000 from the Penistone Area Council budget to fund any further applications that may be received.

Members were provided with an overview of the 2023/24 budget. It was noted that following the allocation of £5,000 to the Ward Alliance budget, the remaining allocation to be carried forward into the 2024/25 financial year would be £32,216.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the update of the contract funded by the Supporting Isolated and Older People Grant Fund be noted and that members participation in a workshop to consider any future procurement options be agreed;
- (ii) that the update on the current financial position of the Penistone Working Together Grant Fund be received;
- (iii) that the current position and uptake of round 3 of the Supporting Young People Grant Fund ringfenced within the existing Working Together Grant Fund be noted;
- (iv) that the updates on the procurement processes for the new service contracts to support Penistone Area Council' environmental priority be received;
- (v) that the current financial position of the Penistone Ward Alliance be noted and that additional funds of £5,000 to support the Ward Alliance from within the 2023/24 Penistone Area Council budget be agreed; and
- (vi) that the record of allocated and proposed spend from within the current Penistone Area Council Budget for 2023/24 be received and that the potential underspend to carry forward into the 2024/25 financial year be noted.

Chair