

MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday 15 January 2024
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Leech (Chair), A. Cave, T. Cave, Denton, Howard, Hunt, Lofts, Tattersall and N. Wright

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

Councillor Tattersall declared a non-pecuniary interest as she is a member of the Berneslai Homes Board.

92 **Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 13 November 2023 (Nac.15.01.2024/2)**

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 November 2023.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on the 13 November 2023 be approved as a true and correct record.

93 **Environmental Community Caretaker Team 6-month Update - Matt Holdroyd (Nac.15.01.2024/4)**

Members were provided with an update from M Holdroyd, Environmental Community Caretaker.

Members noted that between July 2023 to December 2023 a total of 197 activities had been planned with support from the North Area Council Team, of which 83% of the activities had been delivered, 16% of the activities had been deferred and 1% of the activities had been cancelled across all Wards. A large focus had been given to litter picking during the period, with over 110 litter picking events held, together with the completion of other environmental works and requests to support volunteers in action days.

It was noted that no overspend was forecast. It was envisaged that staffing would remain static over the next 6 month period; the individual that had been providing cover within the team in M Holdroyd's absence would return to their substantive post on 5 February 2023. Plans for the future included the procurement of a ride on grass cutter.

Councillor Hunt expressed his thanks to M Holdroyd and the team for the work undertaken in the Darton East area. He considered that the team had very good attributes, attitudes, behaviour, and a very high quality of workmanship. In particular, he wished to highlight the work undertaken by Sammy. He queried whether the team carried out investigations in relation to fly tipping.

In response, M Holdroyd commented that all members of staff were trained to report any evidence of fly tipping sites i.e. bank statements, letters etc. which would be forwarded onto the Environmental Support Officers.

Councillor Lofts commented that on several occasions he had reported the moss on the pavements around the Kensington Road area, which would become slippery and dangerous to pedestrians in wet weather. He would provide M Holdroyd with a photograph of the moss.

Members noted that moss removal requests would be forwarded onto the Neighbourhood Services Team to be dealt with. M Holdroyd would ascertain whether the removal of moss in the Kensington Road area was on the schedule to be dealt with.

Councillor Howard expressed her thanks for the work undertaken by the team in the Darton West Ward.

Councillor Tattersall expressed her thanks for the work undertaken by the team in the St Helen's Ward. She was pleased to observe that M Holdroyd had returned back to work and was in full health.

R Adams gave thanks to M Holdroyd and the team who had been very responsive to requests in the North Area over the last 6 month period.

On behalf of the North Area Council, Councillor Leech expressed his thanks for the work undertaken by the team.

RESOLVED that Members noted the update.

94 Introduce the Youth Resilience Grant - Review Process (Nac.15.01.2024/5)

Members were presented with a report which provided an update on the Youth Resilience Grant and a summary of current performance, which provided Members with an overview of the grant review process.

Following the unsuccessful tender procurement exercise to ascertain a service provider that could provide children and young people aged 8 – 14 years with the required resources to transition happily and healthily into adolescent, the grant opportunity had been advertised to focus on emotional resilience and transition ages. YMCA and Ad Astra had been successful and had commenced work in schools the North Area from 1 November 2020 as follows:-

Wellgate School YMCA
Kexborough School YMCA
Summer Lane School YMCA
Athersley North School Ad Astra
Athersley South School Ad Astra
Laithes Primary School Ad Astra

Members recalled that at the North Area Council Meeting held in March 2022 an agreement had been reached to fund the project for an additional two years at £90,000 p.a. until 31 October 2024.

Following a query raised by Councillor Howard regarding whether sessions had been held in schools during the COVID-19 pandemic, R Adams commented that it had been intended to commence sessions in schools during April 2020, which had been deferred to November 2020.

K Ashworth queried whether Members would be willing to be videoed to pose a series of open-ended questions for young people to respond to. The questions would be focused around confidence, self-expressions, relationships, making better decisions, peer support, advocacy, worries, concerns and anxieties for the future.

Councillor Leech requested Members to contact K Ashworth if they were interested in participating in the video recording.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Members used Sections 3 - 8 to refresh on the background of the funding Stream.
- (ii) Members familiarised themselves with the review programme.
- (iii) Members noted the timelines associated with funding the programme.

95 Targeted Lung Health Checks - Hannah Young Cancer Alliance (Nac.15.01.2024/3)

Members received a presentation from Hannah Young at Cancer Alliance, which provided an overview of the targetted lung health checks.

South Yorkshire had been chosen as one of ten pilot counties across the country to participate in the new lung screening programme, due to the high levels of deprivation and smoking rates in the area. The aim of the programme was to identify lung cancer as early as possible. The programme was aimed at individuals aged 55 – 74 years old who had ever smoked. Individuals would be invited to participate in the programme via letter had have a short telephone appointment to confirm eligibility.

Councillor A Cave had been contacted by local residents who queried why they had not been called to participate in the programme even though they met the criteria. She had advised them to contact their respective General Practitioners (GP). It had been raised to her attention that the receptionists at the GP Surgery on Huddersfield Road, Barnsley had been unaware of the programme.

H Young commented that work was underway to promote the programme as much as possible, which was currently being ran through Rotherham and Barnsley, and would be launched in Penistone in February 2024. The GP groups had been assigned rag ratings on a needs basis. She would visit all the GPs in the areas to be launched and leave her contact details, and she would ascertain the position with the GP Surgery on Huddersfield Road, Barnsley.

Councillor Howard commented that information regarding the eligibility for the programme was displayed at the GP Surgery on Park Road, Barnsley.

The outcomes of the programme that was ran in Doncaster on approximately 30,000 individuals as at 30 September 2023 were noted as follows:-

- A total of 222 cancers had been detected consisting of 169 lung cancers and 53 other cancers.
- 76% of lung cancers had been found at an early stage.
- 74% of patients had been suitable for curative treatment.

Following a query raised by Councillor Lofts regarding the methods which had detected the 53 other cancers, H Young commented that CT scans on the chest area were undertaken to focus on the lungs. In the event that the CT scans identified other areas for concern, referrals would be made to the relevant departments.

Members noted that at present it was not intended to roll out the programme to non-smokers. Individuals were encouraged to contact their GP's if they had any health issues.

Councillor Howard requested R Adams to provide H Young with the details of the Darton Afternoon Club.

Councillor Tattersall declared an interest, as part of her Mayoral duties in 2022 - 2023 had included a visit to Wath where she had observed a full demonstration of the lung screening programme. She was a member of the Smoke and Tobacco Board, and she requested R Adams to provide H Young with the contact details to enable the results of the programme to be provided in a PowerPoint presentation to the Smoke Free Group regarding how the programme could be linked into the work with the Stop Smoking Service.

H Young requested Members to endorse the programme and to encourage individuals that were eligible to go for a scan as part of the lung screening programme.

Councillor Leech expressed his thanks for an informative presentation.

RESOLVED that Members noted the update.

96 Priorities, Commissioning, Project Development and Finance (Nac.15.01.2024/6)

A report was presented which provided Members with a financial position and forecast for expenditure based on the projects that had been proposed. The report also highlighted the need to agree a clear plan for commissioning against the priorities during a challenging financial period.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Members noted the update on the Environmental Community Caretaker Team composition.

- (ii) Members noted the Youth Resilience Fund Review timeline, with the intention to make a decision regarding funding for this priority area in March 2024.
- (iii) The North Area Council noted the existing budget position and the existing funding commitments.

97 Report of the Ward Alliance Fund (Nac.15.01.2024/7)

A report was presented which provided an update on the financial position of the Ward Alliance budget for each ward for the 2023/24 period.

Members recalled a discussion that had ensued at the last meeting regarding a letter sent into the Barnsley Chronicle, which had wrongly suggested that the North Area Council was not passing money onto the community groups. Members noted that the BMBC Communications Department had issued a statement to Barnsley Chronicle which would make clear the funding segments including the one which the community could bid upon; a good number of applications had been agreed by all Ward Alliances.

In relation to the new sheets detailing the funding allocation for each Ward Alliance, Councillor Tattersall requested an additional column to indicate how much had been spent, the total remaining and the amount returning back into the budget.

R Adams would look into Councillor Tattersall's suggestion further. At the end of each financial year a report would be brought to the North Area Council meeting to detail the running budget, indicate the underspend and carry over into the next financial year. It was anticipated that the 2024/25 funding allocation would remain the same as previously.

RESOLVED that each Ward in the North Area Council area priorities the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds 2023/24, in line with the guidance on spend.

98 Notes from the Area's Ward Alliances (Nac.15.01.2024/8)

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 14 November 2023 and 12 December 2023; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 15 November 2023; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 14 November 2023 and 12 December 2023; and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 30 November 2023.

Councillor Denton referred to the work undertaken by the Darton East Ward Alliance. Funding applications had been approved for St John's on stage, Opal's Women's Institute and FOMAS Christmas lights. Members noted the Christmas events that had been held which included visits by Santa Claus and the Maple Bear, which were hoped to feature on an annual basis.

Councillor Howard provided an update on the work undertaken by the Darton West Ward Alliance. Members noted the Christmas events that had been held with the main focus at Priestley Avenue, Darton which had received a very good turnout with children singing from Kexborough Primary School and a visit from Santa Claus. The Ward Action Plan continued to be discussed and updated at each meeting.

Councillor Lofts provided an update on the Old Town Ward Alliance which had included the Christmas light switch on events at Huddersfield Road and Summer Lane. The community pantry had been the main focus of attention and good progress was being made.

Councillor Wright provided an update on the work undertaken by St. Helen's Ward Alliance which had included a number of church events, the Christmas light switch on which had been well attended, and the Santa sleigh ride around the residential properties within the Ward which had been a great success.

Councillor Howard expressed her thanks to Councillor Wright and his wife for providing the sleigh for display at the Christmas event held in the Town Hall, which had proved to be very popular.

Councillor Leech referred to the plans in place for a sleigh to be made available within the St. Helen's Ward, which could be borrowed by the other Wards. The sleigh would be purchased through personal funds rather than through the Ward Alliance.

RESOLVED that the notes of the respective Ward Alliances be noted.

Chair