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| <b>MEETING:</b> | Penistone Area Council               |
| <b>DATE:</b>    | Thursday 6 June 2024                 |
| <b>TIME:</b>    | 10.00 am                             |
| <b>VENUE:</b>   | Council Chamber, Penistone Town Hall |

## MINUTES

**Present** Councillors Greenhough (Chair), Barnard, Burnett, Kitching and Roberts

### 1 **Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests**

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

### 2 **Minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 11 April 2024 (Pac.6.6.2024/2)**

The Area Council received the minutes from the meeting held on 11 April 2024.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on the 11 April 2024 be approved as a true and correct record.

### 3 **Notes from the Penistone Ward Alliances held on 11 April and 9 May 2024 (Pac.6.6.2024//3)**

The meeting received the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance meetings held on 8 February and 14 March 2024.

**RESOLVED** that the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance meetings held on 8 February and 14 March 2024 be received.

### 4 **DIAL Presentation (Pac.6.6.2024/4)**

Sharon Brown attended the Area Council to update members on the work being undertaken by DIAL.

Members were provided with details of the types of enquiries that DIAL had dealt with, with the majority of requests made being for help with Personal Independent Payments followed by Attendance Allowance. Support was also provided to clients for appeals if they are turned down for these benefits. There was a 70% success rate for benefit claims which included appeals.

Members were informed of the added value that the contract provided over and above what the Penistone Area Council funded, some of which included:

- A central advice line funded from the Lottery
- Pants to Poverty
- Warm Connections
- Sleep Warm, Sleep Well
- Small Measures

Members were talked through the customer's journey from first contact to final outcomes. Some of the challenges the service had including the increase in demand leading to longer waiting times for appointments. There was also a need for more experienced Advisors and non-attendance at appointments was an issue in some areas of the Borough, members were informed that Penistone did not have a particular issue with non-attendance.

Members queried what would help with the wait time for appointments, in response they were informed that another session a week would help with this issue.

Members were informed that a new Adviser had been recruited and they were going through the shadowing phase of being trained. It was acknowledged that training an Adviser was complex as they had to have a wealth of knowledge including different aspects of case law, disability rights and human rights plus others.

**RESOLVED** that Sharon Brown be thanked for their comprehensive presentation and that the update be noted.

*At this point in proceedings the Area Council adjourned in order for members to attend the D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration held at Penistone War Memorial.*

*The meeting reconvened at 11.20am*

## **5 Quarter 4 Performance Report (Pac.6.6.2024/5)**

The Area Council Manager provided members with an overview of the Quarter 4 Performance report dated January to March 2024 which included all contracted services.

Members were reminded that the DIAL contract was due to come to end in January 2025.

The new clean and tidy services had commenced in April 2024 and members were informed that the first statistics would be included in the full Quarter 1 performance report that would be presented at the September meeting. No statistics had been received for the Community Car Share journeys and the number of community groups being supported were low. Volunteering numbers had improved with a number of volunteers being involved with Angel Voices.

The Environment Services reactive contract provided by Vital Facilities had started to work through the backlog of requests. The Community Environment Support Service provided by Greenotes CIC had a successful launch event and were working well.

Age UK had seen a number of referrals and interventions and 38 volunteers. CAB had seen an increase in face to face enquiries, there had been 32 in the quarter which was up from just 9 last quarter. It was reported that CAB had seen a reduction in food and fuel voucher support this quarter.

DIAL had seen an increase in demand for their face to face appointments which were fully booked until mid July. For every £1 invested from the Penistone Working

Together Fund, the project had brought £39.18 into the area. The majority of clients received support with Personal Independence Payments amongst other things.

The Supporting Young People Grant Fund had funded 5 projects, Ad Astra, Thurgoland Thespians, Angel Voices, Cawthorne Cricket Club and Walking with Goats. Members were provided with a highlight of each project and informed that Cawthorne Cricket Club and Thurgoland Thespians had concluded and that this was their final report. Members raised concerns around the number of referrals to the Walking with Goats project and were interested to visit the project in order to see what it entailed.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

## **6 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Pac.6.6.2024/6)**

Members received the report and noted its contents. The Area Council Manager drew members attention to the base allocation and carry forward figure totalling £25,710.70 for the 2024/25 financial year. Following the approval of two applications there was a remaining a balance of £24,960.70.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

## **7 Procurement and Financial Update (Pac.6.6.2024/7)**

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

Members attention was drawn to the Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older People's Service which was due to finish at the end of June 2024. Following a member workshop held on May 2024, the proposals would be to apportion money out to break up different elements of the contract. It was reported that this could include befriending, group activities and transport solutions contracts as well as welfare advice. Further work and research would be undertaken around potential options for who may be able to deliver on some of those options. Members were informed that there would a slight gap in provision, however this would not affect people accessing community based activities.

The Working Together Grant Fund had a remaining balance of £37,052. Members noted that it was coming to the time of year when they may wish to consider continuing the Supporting Young Peoples Grant Fund for the Summer period as the some of the previously funded Groups were coming to an end. Members confirmed they would like to continue this grant fund and in doing so wished to approved £50,000 to the Working Together Grant Pot from the main Area Council budget. This would then allow a further allocation for the Supporting Young People Grant Pot from the main Working Together Grant Fund.

The Environmental Services contracts were now in place and detailed updates would be provided to members at the September 2024 Area Council meeting. The Environment Grant Pot had been developed and open to applications from the end of April 2024.

Members were informed that the Area Council Priorities would be due for reviewing and updating later in the year.

The Area Council Manager would continue to monitor the cost of living crisis in regards to food. The Community Shop on the Go would be doing summer pop ups and it had been proposed to take this to Tankersley as an expansion from Penistone.

Members were provided with a brief breakdown of the 2024/25 financial year budget with all allocated spend for the year. Following the approval of £50,000 for the Working Together Grant Fund the remaining budget for 2024/25 was £62,216.

**RESOLVED:-**

(i) that the update of the Contract funded by the Supporting Isolated and Older People Grant Fund and the proposal to develop new grant opportunities to meet future needs within this priority once the current contract finishes at the end of June, 2024 be noted;

(ii) that the update on the current financial position of the Penistone Working Together Grant Fund be noted;

(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 and that the continuation of this scheme for 2024/25 supported by the allocation of additional funds of £50,000 from within the 2024/25 Penistone Area Council budget to the Working Together Grant Fund be approved;

(iv) that the updates on outcomes of the procurement processes for the new environmental service contracts to support Penistone Area Council's environment priority be received;

(v) that the current financial position of the Penistone Ward Alliance within the budget allocation for 2024/25 be noted; and

(vi) that the record of allocated spend from within the current Penistone Area Council budget for 2024/25 be received.

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Chair