

MEETING:	Dearne Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 20 March 2017
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room, Goldthorpe Library

MINUTES

Present Councillors Noble (Chair), Gardiner, Gollick, C. Johnson and Sixsmith MBE.

43 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

44 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 23rd January, 2017 (Dac.20.03.2017/2)

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Dearne Area Council meeting held on 23rd January, 2017 be approved as a true and correct record.

45 Developing Initiatives Supporting Communities - DISC (Dac.20.03.2017/3)

Emily Todd, Assistant Director for DISC was welcomed to the meeting, along with Jo Ekin, Commissioning Manager, Healthier Communities.

Members were given a brief overview of the service, which would go live on the 1st April, 2017, and would replace that previously delivered by Phoenix Futures.

It was noted that DISC did not currently deliver in the borough, but had a history of delivering in West Yorkshire, North Yorkshire and the North East.

Members heard about the approach taken by DISC of implementing the right intervention at the right time, which varied from giving light touch advice and information, to more clinical intervention over a longer period. Key to the delivery of the service was involvement of the families and communities.

The meeting heard how planning had already commenced and how DISC had already started to make links within the community. As part of the contract, clinical partner St Martin's Health Service had been engaged, and it was noted that St Martin's would be merged into DISC to help create a seamless service. The meeting noted that an SLA with Northern College had also been arranged to provide an Education and Apprenticeships Officer.

Members noted that DISC would be occupying 'The Factory' previously occupied by Phoenix Futures, as well as new buildings that were currently being refurbished. It was acknowledged that interventions were more likely to succeed if accessed locally in the community.

Plans to extend the service provided within 'The Factory' were noted, and Members acknowledged that safety issues were paramount, and that there were no plans for services such as a needle exchange.

When questioned how the service would differ from that currently being delivered, it was noted that there would be a single provider, rather than four, ensuring the service was seamless. In addition the service would work more closely with service users and the community to 'shape and flex' delivery.

Members praised the involvement of families as part of the interventions, noting this had been proven to have a positive impact.

Questions were asked regarding how the service would work with mental health provision. It was noted that information sharing arrangements were in place, and users may have dual health care plans. A commitment was given for DISC to work closely with all relevant providers in the area.

Members gave thanks for the presentation, and asked that DISC return in approximately six months to give a progress report on the delivery of the service.

RESOLVED :-

- (i) That thanks be given for the presentation;
- (ii) That DISC be invited to give a progress report to the Area Council in approximately six months.

46 Performance Report (Dac.20.03.2017/4)

The Area Council Manager introduced the report, which covered the period October to December 2016. The attention of Members was drawn to Part A of the report, which showed the cumulative impact of performance to date.

The number of full time equivalent jobs created was thought to be high when compared to the target. It was noted that this was due to a number of jobs being created by the Dearne Development Fund, which was an open application process. It was suggested that greater consideration could be given to setting the overall targets associated with the finance distributed by Dearne Area Council, including the Dearne Development Fund, in the future.

With regards to the Environmental Enforcement contract, Members were made aware that there had been 68 Fixed Penalty Notices issued, which was a slight increase on the previous quarter. The meeting was made aware of work across all the Area Councils in the borough to assess the impact and value for money of the service.

Members discussed the impact of the service in the Dearne, and agreed that there had not been the behaviour change expected, with litter still being a significant issue.

Although patrols spent equal time in both Dearne North and Dearne South Wards, it was noted that more notices were issued in Dearne North. Also noted was the clean-up event held in Dearne North. 7 young people had attended in lieu of paying their fine. Members heard that rather than organising their own separate environmental improvement event, Kingdom would now engage in already planned activities.

In reference to the Private Sector Housing Management SLA, 232 complaints had been received by the service. Of the 62, 56 had complied straight away, with only one case leading resulting in a Community Protection Notice being issued. Councillor Noble commended the team for their focus on providing support for vulnerable households, as opposed to enforcement. Members commended the staff employed through the SLA on their involvement in the clear up work at the Bullring, however Members acknowledged that this had since been flytipped again. The Senior Management Link Officer offered to provide flytipping posters for use in the area, noting that there had been a recent downward trend across the borough.

Members heard how Twiggs had supported 14 groups in the quarter in question. In addition the team had worked with 8 businesses and targeted 206 areas for clean-up. It was noted that impact of littering courses had been delivered at Carrfield Primary School and at Dearne Valley College.

The meeting heard how Twiggs had developed a positive relationship with Dearne Valley College and it was hoped that work placement opportunities could be offered to students in the future. Members noted that the recent thefts from Twiggs had resulted in much positive feedback from the community, which supported their work and attempted to reunite them with their equipment.

The meeting went on to consider the Dearne Development Fund, noting that 21 applications had been received, with 9 supported from 2015/16 finances at a value of £77,646. All of these awards had been successful in both delivering in the area, and assisting the successful groups to build their own capacity.

The Area Council Manager provided an update on the Dearne Allotment Group, which continued to do well. The group was working with the Salvation Army, Goldthorpe Development Group, Thurnscoe Park and Big Local. They had recently been successful in gaining Section 106 monies. It was noted that the Area Team would be working with the group to ensure they had appropriate skills and governance in place.

To date Goldthorpe Development Group had held 12 health events, with 1,093 people attending. It was noted that health providers attended the events, and as a result of Be Well Barnsley attending 6 individuals were referred to their GP with high blood pressure.

Members discussed the positive work of Dearne Valley Bulldogs, noting their inclusive nature, and a young person who had been supported was now playing at a national level. The £15,000 allocated to the group had resulted in them being able to access a further £75,000 from Sport England.

The meeting went on to consider the work undertaken by Dearne Electronic Community Village (DECV). It was noted that 71 learners had been engaged, significantly in excess of the 40 target. All 71 would eventually receive a qualification and 7 had gone on to full time employment. The meeting acknowledged the age profile of learners and recognised the impact the service had on their lives.

Councillors heard that hOurbank had 8 young members, who were mostly active in the school holidays. In addition 70 adult members had taken part in activities with much taking place around Cherry Tree Court.

Members discussed the work of TADS, noting the service had engaged with 20 children of primary school age and 10 of secondary school age. The impact was thought to be positive, but it was suggested that should a similar scheme be funded in future that the impact on the CAMHS waiting list should be determined.

The meeting noted the projects funded through the Dearne Development Fund in 2016/17. Members heard how the majority had started, and that monitoring information would feature in future performance reports.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

47 Dearne Area Council Financial Position and Progress of Projects Update (Dac.20.03.2017/5)

The Area Council Manager provided an update to the meeting. The opening budget for the Area Council in 2016/17 was approximately £220,000 including monies carried forward from the previous financial year. Members noted that just over £217,000 had been spent or allocated from this budget leaving £3,384 unallocated. It was noted that some small amounts of expenditure initially allocated from 2016/17 finances would come from the 2017/18 budget. Together with projected income from Fixed Penalty Notices, the carry forward figure was likely to be £9,199.

Members heard how the Dearne Development Fund had only spent around £57,000 of the £80,000 allocated. However there was a further panel meeting to discuss a number of applications on 22nd March, 2017.

The meeting was made aware of the outcome of the procurement of an Environmental and Volunteering Service, commissioned at a cost of £75,000. Two applications had been submitted and evaluated, with interviews taking place on 12th January, 2017. Members were made aware that Twiggs had been successful. The Area Council Manager stressed the differences between this and the previous contract, with the increased focus being on working with, not for, residents, businesses, schools and the community as a whole.

The meeting discussed the details relating to the Private Sector Housing SLA, noting that an Investigations Officer role would be employed centrally, and part of the role would serve the Dearne. Assurances had been given that all investigations would still be completed in a timely manner. Members agreed that this be monitored closely. It was therefore suggested that the SLA progressed from April, 2017 at a reduced cost of £36,081 per annum, to fund a single officer.

Members attention was drawn to the contract with Kingdom Security, the first year of which would come to an end on 31st March, 2017, with the Area Council being asked if they would wish the service to continue. The Area Council Manager took the opportunity to clarify a number of queries previously raised regarding the commission. The commission employed a single officer full time equivalent, but to ensure safety this had meant that officers patrolled in pairs. Correspondingly the service was provided 5 days per fortnight by the two officers. It was noted that often

the service was not often very visible, but that this could in part be attributed to officers often being in plain clothes.

Consideration was given to the progress being made as part of the embankment project. Members heard that the project had secured a further £40,000 of Section 106 monies, and officers were working with an architect regarding DDA compliant access to the site.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the financial position for the Area Council in 2016/17 and 2017/18 be noted;
- (ii) That the progress of previous agreed projects be noted;
- (iii) That the proposed reductions to the Private Sector Housing SLA be approved; and
- (iv) That approval be given for the continuation of the Environmental Enforcement Service for a further 12 months from 1st April, 2017.

48 Notes from the Dearne Approach Steering Group held on 9th January, 2017 (Dac.20.03.2017/6)

Members considered the notes from the meeting held on 9th January, 2017. The meeting noted that the group had supported John Heeley MP in his response to the proposed closure of the local Job Centre.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Dearne Approach Steering Group be received.

49 Notes from the Dearne Ward Alliance, held on 2nd February, 2017 (Dac.20.03.2017/7)

The meeting received the notes from the combined Dearne Ward Alliance held on 2nd February, 2017. Members acknowledged the merging of the alliances, recognising the Ward Alliance Funds were still kept distinct.

The meeting recognised the LGC award for community involvement which had been given to the borough, highlighting the significant impact seen due to the work of the Ward Alliances.

RESOLVED that notes from the Ward Alliance held on 2nd February, 2017 be received.

50 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Dac.20.03.2017/8)

The Area Council Manager made Members aware of expenditure from each of the Ward Alliance Funds since the start of the financial year.

It was noted that Dearne North had allocated approximately £14,000 from its budget of £20,069. Members acknowledged that 15 of the projects funded had provided match funding.

For Dearne South, approximately £10,000 had been allocated from an opening balance of £21,160. 8 of the projects funded had provided match funding.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

Chair