

## BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:  
2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018

Agenda Item: 6

Report of North Area Council  
Manager

### **Preventing Excess Winter Deaths and Reducing Loneliness and Isolation Pilot for The North Area**

#### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report provides the Area Council with an introduction to Barnsley Council's intention to bid for the Warm Homes Fund Round Two.
- 1.2 Serves to make the Area Council Members aware that 1.1 provides the North Area with an opportunity to develop a reducing social isolation project with a housing and energy focus piloted in the North Area.

#### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1. **That the North Area Council should reflect on the information that they have heard during Item 4.**
- 2.2. **The Area Council should agree if they would like to proceed with a collaborative pilot project for the North Area that would focus on Reducing Loneliness and Social Isolation and Preventing Winter Deaths.**

#### **3. Background**

- 3.0 In autumn 2017 representatives from BMBC Housing and Energy Team approached the North Area Manager to provide a briefing on the planned Energy Efficiency Works and other affordable warmth initiatives. The team also provided an update on recent excess winter death and fuel poverty statistics.
- 3.1 It became clear that the Darton East Ward has a higher than average excess winter death index for the borough.
- 3.2 The trend in excess winter deaths for both Darton East Ward and Darton West Ward has increased steadily since 2006.
- 3.3 The Housing and Energy Team identified that Woolley Colliery Village would benefit from the installation of first time central heating systems available for private homes made feasible by the monies secured from round one of the National Grid Warm Homes Fund.

- 3.4 The proposal suggested in this report would be complementary to the Energy Efficiency Works in Woolley Colliery Village. The North Area Council in principle agreed to fund low cost added value works for Woolley Colliery Village properties at the November 2017 meeting. Housing and Energy colleagues will also be bidding for round three which will be for vulnerable and low income tenants which would again benefit some Woolley Colliery residents.
- 3.5 Following the update that an Older Peoples Participation Worker for older people would not align with existing BMBC service provision at the November 2017 meeting. The Area Council requested a workshop to explore an Older People's Reducing Social Isolation and Preventing Winter Deaths project.
- 3.6 The Area Chair and Area Manager attended a meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017 with colleagues from Housing and Energy and Public Health to explore the opportunity of a strategic piece of work that would splice with the work we are considering for the North Area with the preventive winter death work. It was a very positive meeting with the opportunity to do some joined up delivery and pilot a new approach in the North Area.
- 3.7 Shortly after meeting mentioned in point 3.6, the Group Leader for Housing and Energy provided an update that the National Grid and Affordable Warmth Solutions have opened their second bidding window for the Warm Homes Fund and that the Council proposes to bid for category 3 funding which is to enable 'specific energy efficient / health related solutions – bringing together relevant organisations and charities'. Housing and Energy Colleagues have teamed with Public Health officers an expression of interest was submitted on 5<sup>th</sup> January. Bidders will be selected from an assessment of the EOIs. If the Council's EOI is successful this could enable a core offer to be developed with borough wide partners and linked closely to the Independent Living Review. This would complement the community based provision that the North Area are considering funding to reduce loneliness and isolation which would service the North Area only. It is proposed that this service would include home assessments as part of the service.
- 3.8 An email update regarding points 3.6 and 3.7 was circulated to the North Area Council Members on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017.
- 3.9 To ensure that the Area Council is up to speed on the developments Jenny Macphail was invited to attend the Area Council, hence agenda item 4.
- 3.10 If the Warm Homes Fund are interested in the project proposed by BMBC then a full bid setting out the project proposal will need to be submitted by the 9<sup>th</sup> February.
- 3.11 The Area Manager has looked into Loneliness and Isolation projects commissioned for other areas and recommends an annual investment of £75,000 for at least three years. This would fund two social inclusion officers who would have to receive specialist training to offer home energy assessments and advice.

3.12 The Area Manager recommends that this work should include building a network of trained volunteers with knowledge of how to identify and address fuel poverty. This will ensure that there is active community capacity building within the community that will lead to increased resilience and leave a positive legacy once the project concludes.

**4. For decision**

4.1. Considering points 3.11 and 3.12 the Area Council is asked to indicate if they wish for the Area Manager to continue to develop this piece of work.

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**Date:**  
**8<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

