

MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 16 July 2018
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room 2, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Leech (Chair), Cave, Howard, Lofts, Miller and Tattersall

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

Councillor Howard declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 6 on the agenda as her mother and sister both live in Woolley Colliery Village.

2 **Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 14th May 2018**

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th May 2018.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 14th May 2018 be approved as a true and correct record.

3 **Safer Neighbourhoods Service Presentation - Paul Brannan and Inspector Andy Norton**

Inspector Andy Norton and Cath Fairweather were welcomed to the meeting to update Members with regard to changes to the Safer Neighbourhoods Service. It was explained that the service was taking a multi-agency approach, with a new structure focussed on tackling crime, anti social behaviour and supporting and protecting vulnerable people.

Each area will be fully covered and will include tasking officers, PCSOs, community engagement, hate crime co-ordination and gypsy liaison, with a focus on conversation rather than a complicated plan. The service will be more focussed as there are less staff and will use a case management approach to dealing with offenders, protecting vulnerable people and dealing with repeat callers, a high percentage of whom are the same individuals. Resources will be demand driven and will concentrate on locations such as shops, businesses and schools, looking at the root cause of the issue and what the best approach will be. Information from PACT meetings will be invaluable and the MAG will be used for case escalation when necessary.

A number of recent case studies were highlighted, including a case where an individual who had been posing as a council worker to take advantage of vulnerable people had been issued with a Criminal Behaviour Order (which replace Anti-Social Behaviour Orders); a closure order was issued on a drug dealing address in the Old Town area); work had taken place around security improvement with Barnsley

Hospital to address thefts on wards and with Kendray Hospital around mental health patients who were missing from hospital. In the North area two repeat callers had generated 64 calls, one was a vulnerable adult and one had mental health issues. Through using a multi-agency approach, this demand had been diverted elsewhere. Repeat callers were down 46% using the new targeted approach.

In summary, although resources have been reduced, the demand on Police and partners has reduced through using a more focussed approach whilst still protecting vulnerable adults and the environment. Partner agencies are held to account, public confidence has improved and greater use is made of volunteers and neighbourhood watch. Area Council funded officers are also enhancing services, making an impact in communities and yielding results, including helping to combat social isolation.

Members asked a number of questions to which appropriate responses were given. These included:

A problem with break-ins and damage to cars and property had been experienced in the Old Town ward. There was a considerable delay before any action was taken. It was explained that speed of response would depend on circumstances but the World Cup and President Trump's visit to the UK had meant that resources had to be diverted. Police have to place risk to life over risk to property but are happy to look at individual cases outside the meeting.

A Member queried why Mapplewell police station had been closed and why email correspondence bounced back as the mailbox was full. It was explained that Estates issues were dealt with at Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) level so the rationale for this was unclear. If Members go on to the South Yorkshire Police website they can access email addresses and phone numbers for their individual areas.

Members were aware of the problem of 'Spice' (a synthetic cannabinoid), particularly in the Town Centre. It appears that this is a national problem and work is underway to strike a balance between enforcement and support for individuals. The use of this drug does not cause any harm to the public but can be disturbing to see someone who is under the influence of Spice.

All Councillors will receive targeted alerts from South Yorkshire Police, which will also include good news stories too. A rotating newsletter is planned with Barnsley Chronicle to share news and feedback to the public.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Representatives be thanked for their attendance and contribution;
- (ii) Members note the Safer Neighbourhoods Service update, and
- (iii) Members continue to report issues in the community, particularly reporting of off road bikes.

4 Fresh Street Project Update - Clare Relton, Sheffield University

Clare Relton from Sheffield University was welcomed to the meeting to provide Members with an update regarding the Fresh Street Project. It was explained that the purpose of the project was to develop and feasibility test an intervention to help create sustainable and healthy diets, eating behaviours and food systems in areas of high deprivation. The intervention is area based, with ninety-nine households across four streets in Athersley North identified as a suitable area and with every house on the street eligible to receive the offer.

78 households were recruited following a 7 – 10 weeks door knocking exercise. The project launched in March and each household was given 5 x £1 voucher each week for a 6 month period to spend in a local shop or on Barnsley Market on fresh fruit and vegetables only. The vouchers are enclosed in a bright green envelope with a free recipe and key health messages included.

It was reported that 90% of the vouchers (which have a 6 week 'use by' date) were redeemed within the first 2 weeks. Two-thirds of the vouchers have been redeemed at the local shop and the remaining one-third at Barnsley market, with more spending on fruit than vegetables.

Local Members have received positive feedback about the project. It appears that existing customers of the local shop have been buying more fruit and vegetables, have been buying locally instead of from the supermarket and that there has been a positive impact on eating habits, with children eating more fruit and veg. Some participants have reported that they have lost weight and there has been a financial benefit to those receiving the vouchers.

A member queried whether it would be possible to encourage participants to eat more vegetables as these are less harmful to teeth but it was explained that this would be difficult to implement.

The Medical Research Council is looking at interventions to improve population health and may be interested in the findings from this small scale research project. It would be informative to run the project for a longer period of time to identify long term benefits and enable a comparison over the summer/winter period but limited resources mean that it will run until the end of September. It was felt that funding for such projects should come from those who benefit from health improvement across the population such GPs, social care and health providers, as poor eating habits impact on the community as a whole.

Members expressed an interest in extending the project for a further 6 months period, which would cost in the region of £8,500, as this would provide some useful local information and would benefit the community as a whole.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Clare be thanked for her attendance and contribution
- (ii) An extension to the project for a further 6 months be agreed in principle pending receipt of detailed financial information.

5 Youth Participation Worker - recruitment update

The Area Council Manager introduced this item and provided members with an update on recruitment to the youth participation support worker. Members were

reminded that following discussions with the Early Intervention Service it had been agreed that two part time (18hr) grade 4 support worker posts should be recruited to as this would increase the flexibility of the service offer whilst ensuring the safety of the workers who could double up for out of hours work. The posts were advertised in May, eight applications were received, five were invited for interview, four attended and two preferred candidates had been identified. References and DBS checks are being undertaken and it is hoped that the officers will be in post by late July/early August before the schools restart in September.

RESOLVED that Members note the update regarding the proposed recruitment of a Young Peoples Participation Worker.

6 Social Isolation and Cold Homes Prevention

The Area Manager introduced this item and updated Members with regard to the current position of development, procurement and implementation of the commissioned service that is intended to address loneliness and isolation and prevent excess winter deaths in the North Area.

It was reported that 7 tender applications were received with some very strong submissions. Richard Kershaw from Housing and Energy along with Jennie MacPhail (Senior Health Improvement Officer) were involved in developing the specification and Kate Ripley (Health and Wellbeing Officer, Adult Social Care) and Jennie MacPhail were also on the evaluation panel. It is anticipated that the contract will be awarded from 10th August, following a 'stand still' period of two weeks.

RESOLVED that Members note the procurement progress to date.

7 Commissioning, Project Development and Finance Update

The Area Council Manager introduced this item and provided Members with a financial position and forecast for expenditure report based on the projects that have been proposed.

The report indicated the current position for projects, annual commitments from April 2018 and current budget position including underspend. In terms of the Stronger Communities Grants, performance information for the quarter end is currently being collated and monitoring meetings will take place shortly. It was highlighted that there will be a new provider for the distribution of the Community Magazine – a timescale is being developed and the next issue will go out in the autumn.

RESOLVED that

- (i) The North Area Council note the existing budget position and forecast for the funding commitments;
- (ii) The North Area Council note that contrary to previous information the North Area received a budget of £400,000 for the period 2017/18;
- (iii) Members note the update regarding the proposed recruitment of a Young Peoples Participation Worker;

(iv) Members note the update on the Social Inclusion and Fuel Poverty Reduction project proposal;

(v) Members note the current financial position, and

(vi) Members note that forecasted annual budget commitments based on the decisions that were made at the September and November 2017 meetings.

8 Report on the use of Ward Alliance Funds

The Area Council Manager updated the North Area Council with regard to the Ward Alliance budget for each ward for the 2017/18 period.

Members were encouraged to bring forward information about potential projects as soon as possible. It was reported that the Area Council Manager will meet with Rachel Tyas with regard to the provision of dog waste bins. Paul Castle and Matthew Bell will attend future meetings with regard to alternative uses for grass as no detailed information is available at the moment.

RESOLVED that each Ward in the North Area Council prioritises the efficient expenditure of Ward Alliance Funds in line with the guidance on spend.

9 Notes from the Area's Ward Alliances

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 8th May and 12th June; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 23rd May and 11th June; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 16th May and 6th June and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 12th April and 24th May 2018.

It was reported that whilst providing an excellent service and involving the community, a Member had recently experienced difficulty contacting Twiggs. The Area Council Manager explained that Twiggs had been very busy recently with increased requests for service and it may be beneficial to meet to discuss projects requiring Twiggs' involvement. The hanging baskets in the St Helen's ward were looking fantastic despite the warm weather.

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

Chair