

MEETING:	Meeting of Members of Central Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 3 September 2018
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Reception Room, Barnsley Town Hall

NOTES

Present Councillors Riggs (Chair), P. Birkinshaw, Bowler, G. Carr, Clarke, W. Johnson, Williams and Wright.

7. Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

8. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Central Area Council held on 02.07.2018 (Cen.03.09.2018/2)

Members received the minutes from the previous meeting of Central Area Council held on 2nd July, 2018.

The Area Council Manager made Members aware of discussions with colleagues in Berneslai Homes to discuss the scope of an exercise to consider the borough wide service delivered locally. The scope had been agreed and a report from Berneslai Homes was expected in mid-September, with a workshop to discuss the matter further arranged to take place with Berneslai Homes on 11th October, 2018.

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the Central Area Council held on 2nd July, 2018 be approved as a true and correct record.

9. Fostering Champions - Central Area (Cen.03.09.2018/3)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item by welcoming Mandy Williamson, who was a fostering champion for the Central Area.

Members heard of the successful pilot, held in the North East area, to increase the numbers of foster carers. Mandy had been a foster carer for 23 years and stressed the need for foster carers in Barnsley to ensure that children would be placed near to their roots in their own community. It was noted that independent agencies are often more costly and children were more likely to be placed out of the borough.

Currently around 145 homes foster, and 37 families were approved last year. It was also noted that numbers do fluctuate, and families were always in demand. Members applauded the high standards of the Council, to ensure children fostered received the highest quality care.

In order to raise the profile of fostering, and start conversations with prospective carers, the team were attending events such as community galas. Members were made aware of games and prizes offered in order to engage families and start conversations. The current focus was around Christmas events.

Members supported the recruitment drive and agreed to support activities within their Ward. An application to each of the Ward Alliance Funds was suggested in order to support the work of the fostering champions.

RECOMMENDATION:-

- (i) That thanks be given for the presentation;
- (ii) That the recruitment of fostering carers in the Central Area be supported;
- (iii) That an application to each of the Ward Alliances to support the work of the foster champions be encouraged.

10. Performance Management Report Q1 (Cen.03.09.2018/4)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager who made members aware that for all of the five services commissioned and four Youth Resilience Fund projects there were no issues.

Members were reminded that the Youth Resilience Fund project delivery had ceased on 31st August, 2018, but that two of the four projects had been successful in gaining external funds and would therefore continue independently.

The service provided by Royal Voluntary Service continued to target the younger end of their age range, and the case studies circulated helped to demonstrate the value of the service provided.

Performance against the contract with the YMCA was positive and two sessions per ward continued to be delivered each week, with 120 in total being delivered in the quarter. It was noted that the Ardsley Community Centre was no longer available for use and therefore alternative venues were being considered.

Members considered the Environmental Enforcement service, noting that there were fewer Fixed Penalty Notices than in the same quarter last year, and that there had been changes in staff. It was acknowledged that since the end of the previous quarter, there had been a positive trend in the issuing of notices.

The meeting discussed the difficulties in witnessing owners not picking up their dog's fouling, and also noted the high proportion of notices issued for cigarette ends.

Members acknowledged the social action projects undertaken by Twiggs Grounds Maintenance and the case studies circulated which demonstrated added value.

Those present heard that the group of volunteers, previously supported by the Homestart Home Visiting Service, continued to meet at Hope House Church, and were supported by the Area Team.

The case studies related to the Youth Resilience Fund projects were received, and Members acknowledged the positive impact the fund had made.

RECOMMENDED:- that the report be noted.

11. Procurement and Financial Update (Cen.03.09.2018/5)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item referring to the current situation following Homestart going into administration. Support was being provided by the Central Area Team and a number of volunteers, and discussions were taking place about the possibility of this becoming part of the weekly programme offered by Hope House.

An update was provided with regards to the SLA to provide support to new tenants in the low cost private rented sector. An appointment had been made to the post, and it was hoped that the officer would start early October. Details would be circulated to Members in due course.

In relation to the Targeted Household Fly-tipping Enforcement and Education SLA, the post had been advertised on 17th August, with a closing date of 31st August, 2018. Members heard how 24 applications had been received, and shortlisting would commence soon.

Members noted the recent review of the Clean and Green priority, which had recommended that the clean and green service delivered in partnership with local people be recommissioned. However, it was suggested that this had an increased focus on involving local people and sustainability. Members noted the importance of a contract such as this to provide support to a great number of volunteers. Members supported the recommendations to procure a service at around £95,000 per annum, and endorsed the draft specification circulated.

Discussions at the clean and green review group had been inconclusive in relation to the continuation of an environmental enforcement service. Members discussed the service, noting that many of the fines had been for cigarette ends which had not impacted greatly on the visibility of litter in the area. Also noted was prevalence of dog fouling and the difficulties in prosecuting offenders. However, Members also noted the relatively small net cost of providing the service and the deterrent effect of the service. Taking everything into account Members were minded to recommission a revised enforcement service, with more flexibility within the service.

Members noted the feedback from the working group convened to consider the family support priority. The service specification to provide a service to support new mothers with low level emotional wellbeing issues was considered and Members noted that this would be closely linked to the midwifery service. The meeting discussed the relatively small numbers expected to access the service, but the important impact this could have. A suggestion was made that to measure the impact on participants would be important.

Members supported the procurement of the service, and also supported Member involvement in the tender evaluation panel.

The financial position for the Area Council was then considered, with approximately £127,000 expected to be remaining for allocation in 2018/19, with a further £53,000 in 2019/20. A discussion took place around how best to allocate the finance and it was suggested that it would be useful to undertake an analysis to consider each priority and the level of investment prior to any decision being taken.

RECOMMENDED:-

- (i) That the overview of Central Area Council's priorities, current contracts and procurement, including associated timescales, be noted;
- (ii) That the outcome of the Clean and Green review be noted;
- (iii) That the Executive Director, following consultation with the working group, be authorised to approve the service specification and associated procurement documentation to procure a service to Create a Sustainable Clean and Green Environment In Partnership with Local People at a cost of £95,000 per annum for one year with the option to extend for two further periods of one year;
- (iv) That two elected Members take part in the tender evaluation panel for the service to Create a Sustainable Clean and Green Environment In Partnership with Local People;
- (v) That the Area Council Manager develops necessary material in order to progress the procurement of a further Environmental Enforcement service in the Central Council Area;
- (vi) That the Executive Director, following consultation with the working group, be authorised to approve the service specification and associated procurement documentation to procure a service to deliver Peri-natal Emotional Wellbeing Home Visiting and Community Support at a cost of £50,000 per annum for one year with the option to extend for two further periods of one year;
- (vii) That two elected Members take part in the tender evaluation panel for the procurement of a service to deliver Peri-natal Emotional Wellbeing Home Visiting and Community Support;
- (viii) That the financial position for 2017/18, and the projected expenditure for 2018/19-2020/21 be noted.

12. Notes of the Ward Alliances (Cen.03.09.2018/6)

The meeting received the notes of the following meetings of the Ward Alliances within the Central Area: - Central Ward Alliance held on 27th June and 25th July, 2018; Dodworth Ward Alliance held on 19th June, and 17th July, 2018; Kingstone Ward Alliance held on 27th June, and 8th August, 2018; Stairfoot Ward Alliance held on 9th July, 2018; and Worsbrough Ward Alliance held on 20th June, and 26th July, 2018.

RECOMMENDED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

13. Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Cen.03.09.2018/7)

The Area Council Manager provided an update on the current financial position for each of the Ward Alliance Funds in the Area.

Central Ward Alliance had £15,613.24 remaining from an opening balance of £20,000.

Dodworth Ward Alliance had £12,504.45 remaining from an opening balance of £20,685.

Kingstone Ward Alliance had £14,827.00 remaining from an opening balance of £23,418.

Stairfoot Ward Alliance had £16,409.00 remaining from a opening balance of £20,975.

Worsbrough Ward Alliance had £18,615.70 remaining from an opening balance of £22,874.

Members were reminded that around six months remained of the financial year and that plans ought to be in place for ensuring finance was expended.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted.

Chair