

MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 19 November 2018
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Reception Room - Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Leech (Chair), Cave, Charlesworth, Howard, Lofts, Miller, Newing, Pickering, Spence and Tattersall.

21 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Tattersall declared a non-pecuniary interest relating to minute 23 due to her position on the Smoke Free Board.

Councillor Howard declared a non-pecuniary interest relating to minute 24 and members of her family being residents in Wooley Colliery Village.

22 Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 17th September 2018

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th September, 2018.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on the 17th September, 2018 be approved as a true and correct record.

23 Smokefree Schools - Kaye Mann (BMBC Public Health)

Kaye Mann, Public Health Senior Practitioner, was welcomed to the meeting to talk about the Smoke Free programme in Barnsley, which includes Smoke Free Schools.

This built upon the work to create Smoke Free Play Parks and Smoke Free Areas in the Town Centre, including in Barnsley Pal's Memorial Square. In these areas people were encouraged not to smoke, and although it was not enforced it had been successful so far. The initiatives so far had created much media interest with other authorities eager to learn from Barnsley.

Smoking prevalence continues to be high in Barnsley, though it has fallen more recently. However, significant inequalities could be seen across the borough.

The Smoke Free Schools Programme provided a whole school approach as part of creating a smoke free generation by 2025. By making smoking invisible, children would no longer see smoking as the norm., and were less likely to start.

In making areas smoke free, there are also impacts such as reduced litter, and it is supportive of those trying to quit.

The aim is for all schools to become smoke free and free resources have been circulated to each school to make the process as easy as possible. This includes a toolkit with templates for letters to be circulated to parents, and signage.

The initiative had received positive coverage by the media, including as part of the Newsround children's TV programme.

Smoke Free Schools is still in its infancy, so figures were not available detailing the numbers of schools already adopting the programme but an update could be provided to the Area Council when available.

Members discussed vaping, and it was acknowledged that their use is encouraged as a way of quitting smoking, and current evidence suggests they are safer, though no longer term studies are available. However, these are included in the Smoke Free areas, as it is thought that children cannot tell the difference between smoking and vaping.

Those present were supportive of the programme and agreed to encourage the adoption by schools in their area. It was agreed to circulate copies of the toolkit to Members for their information.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That thanks be given for the presentation and the work in this important area; and
- (ii) That the Smoke Free Schools programme be supported in the North Area;
- (iii) That copies of the toolkit be circulated to Members for their information.

24 Social Isolation and Cold Homes Prevention Project - Sharon Brown (DIAL)

Sharon Brown, Chief Executive Officer of DIAL, was welcomed to the meeting and started the presentation by highlighting the mission and strategy of DIAL and how these complemented the aims of the contract.

An overview of the branding for the project 'Warm Connections' was provided, as were the service objectives.

The service will provide a single point of access, with two social inclusion workers employed to undertake assessments face to face in resident's homes. The service will be supported by volunteers assisting people to switch energy providers and befrienders who will support those isolated to make connections in the community.

Energy awareness events will also be arranged and peer support networks established, where necessary.

An example of the pathway of a typical resident engaged in the project due to them being isolated was given. It was noted that support would be given from the social inclusion worker for up to 8 weeks, with review visits subsequently to check on progress.

In addition to interventions to assist with isolation, referrals could also be made to a wide range of other support services, for example to assist with issues due to fuel poverty, benefits, or fire safety. Referrals could also be made to the social care team for assessment, and also to the hOurbank for clients to exchange skills.

Members were reminded of the role of hOurbank, where individuals can use their skills to help other and be provided with an hour of the skills of others in the community.

It was noted that Individual Engagement Plans would be developed for each of those engaged, detailing the interventions aimed to reduced loneliness and isolation.

Members noted that a single point of access for referrals would be operational from the beginning of January, and those present were encouraged to make contact for anyone they had concerns about.

Questions were asked about referrals, and it was noted that people can self-refer. In addition it was also thought that referrals would come from those being discharged from hospital, and from the Warm Homes initiative. It was noted that 10 volunteers had already been engaged to support the project.

Members discussed the hOurbank project, with a Christmas party and swap/exchange day to be held on 5th December. It was suggested that snow wardens could link into hOurbank, and be able to bank time in response to them clearing snow.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the presentation, and that Members look forward to future information on the performance of the project.

25 Commissioning, Project Development and Finance Update

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager. The attention of Members was drawn to the priorities of the Area Council and those initiatives delivering against these.

In relation to the Clean and Green Priority, the Area Manager had worked with Twiggs Grounds Maintenance to ensure that the focus of the project was supporting volunteers as part of the delivery. A service request form had now been implemented in order to ensure relevant checks had been undertaken regarding land ownership and the permission to undertaken works.

It was reiterated that the commission should not duplicate the work of Neighbourhood Services, and expectations of service should also be carefully managed due to Neighbourhood Services being the subject of cuts due to austerity.

Under the Health and Wellbeing Priority, Members were reminded that DIAL delivered three projects for the Area Council; Warm Connections; the Advice Service (with CAB); and hOurbank delivered as part of the grant scheme.

In relation to the latter it was noted that this was due to finish on 31st March, 2019 and was just beginning to see the impact of work undertaken. Members noted that up to £85,000 per year had been allocated to the commission to reduce social isolation but DIAL the successful bidder had agreed they could deliver the service, Warm Connections for £75,000 per annum, for 2 years initially with an option to extend for a further year. Given the impact of hOurbank and the desire to see this continue, a suggestion was made to utilise the £10,000 per annum difference to continue hOurbank past 31st March, 2019.

With regards to the Opportunities for Young People priority, it was noted that the participation workers had commenced at the beginning of August and had been involved in a range of work, and Members were encouraged to forward any ideas or opportunities for their involvement to the Area Council Manager.

In relation to the Community Magazine, it was noted that there had been fewer problems with delivery. However the design process had been less than satisfactory.

The financial position of the Area Council was highlighted with an approximate underspend of £162,778 forecast for 2018/19, however it was noted that the annual commitment of £447,400 exceeded the annual allocation of £400,000. Members noted that all of the income from Fixed Penalty Notices had been received.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the existing budget position and financial forecast be noted; and
- (ii) That £10,000 per annum, for the duration of existing Social Isolation and Cold Homes contract be approved to fund the hOurbank project.

26 Stronger Communities Grants

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager who made Members aware of discussion held by the Stronger Communities Grants Panel.

The panel had recommended that the Area Council maintains the grant process for 2019/20, allocating a further £80,000.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the Stronger Communities Grant programme be run in 2019/20;
- (ii) That a total of £80,000 be allocated for distribution through previously agreed mechanisms;
- (iii) That the Membership of the grants panel be as follows:- Councillors Charlesworth, Howard, Pickering and Platts;
- (iv) That the indicative timeline for distribution of grants be noted.

27 Performance Management Report - Commissioned Projects & Grant Summary

The Area Council Manager spoke to the report, previously circulated. The attention of Members was drawn to Part A of the report which provided an overview of performance. Here there were a number of spaces where data had not been provided, and this was due to services being in their infancy.

Part B of the report provided an overview of the performance of each project commissioned.

Members noted the substantial figures for benefit gained and debt managed related to assistance provided by the service delivered by CAB and DIAL. Demand was now outstripping capacity, and work is now being triaged. Clients with time critical cases are prioritised.

The meeting discussed the service, and the impact this had on the lives of recipients. Workers were commended for the work undertaken, and it was suggested that the impact of this work be highlighted much wider, to such as MPs.

The Housing Migration Officer had made a significant impact in a short space of time, and an overview of the cases provided highlighted the complexity of those issues faced by those assisted. The officer successfully assisted many who were below thresholds for intervention by social care, and those who were unaware how to access wider support.

In relation to the Youth Participation Workers, Members noted that they were relatively new in post, and were getting to know the area. However the case studies provided showed the impact already made.

A brief update was then provided in relation to the five projects funded through the Stronger Grants Programme funded from April 2018; Ad Astra; YMCA; DIAL h0urbank; Wooley Miners Welfare, and RVS.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

28 Report of the Ward Alliance Fund

The report was introduced by the Area Council Manager, and it was noted that less than six months of the financial year remained and the remaining balances were highlighted. The diverse range of projects funded were noted.

RESOLVED that each Ward in the North Area Council area prioritises the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds 2018/19, in line with the guidance on spend.

29 Notes from the Area's Ward Alliances

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 11th September, 2018; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 10th September, and 1st October, 2018; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 2nd October, 2018; and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 27th September, 2018.

Councillor Spence provided a brief update on the Darton East Ward Alliance, with the Ward Alliance Fund being in a positive place financially, having funded a range of projects. Green Space was mentioned having set themselves the task of planting 8,000 bulbs, exceeding the 4,000 planted in the previous year.

Councillor Howard made Members aware that preparation for the Christmas events in the Darton West Area was well underway, and nominations were now being sought for awards ceremony organised for March, 2019. History groups were working hard in the area, and interpretation boards had been ordered for various historic sites.

Councillor Lofts stated that although initially costly, Christmas trees had been planted which can be used every year. Concern was expressed at the difficulties in allocating Ward Alliance Funds, due to the small numbers of constituted groups in the ward, but efforts were taking place to address that.

Councillor Tattersall gave thanks to Pete Goodlad for the bonfire held at Athersley Rec Football Club, with over 1,000 people in attendance. Preparations for Christmas were well underway, and support was being given to local groups to help organise their events. Planning had also commenced for the 2019 gala.

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

Chair