

MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 13 May 2019
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room 1 - Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Leech (Chair), Cave, Charlesworth, Howard, Lofts, Pickering, Platts, Spence and Tattersall

1 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

2 Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 25th March 2019

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th March 2019.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 25th March 2019 be approved as a true and correct record.

3 Community Outreach - David Andy (CAB)

David Andy (CAB) was welcomed to the meeting to provide an update regarding the Community Outreach Project. The service is jointly delivered by Citizens Advice (CAB) and DIAL, providing generalist and specialist benefit outreach advice to people in the North Area Council wards from several locations. Two case studies were also presented, illustrating how clients had been helped to sort out benefits and debts which had been detrimentally affecting their health and wellbeing.

Key points from the presentation included:

- Since 1st October 2018 the project has made a total of 759 client contacts.
- To date, the project has helped clients to claim £1,241,208 of additional welfare benefits and has helped clients manage £43,588 of debt.
- The top 5 enquiries relate to Benefits and Tax Credits, Universal Credit, debt, relationship and family and housing.
- 73% of clients report a long term health condition or a disability. 38% of CAB clients own their own property, 48% live in rented, 13% prefer not to say and 1% are homeless. 19% are employed, 35% are on sickness benefit and 23% are unemployed.
- Every £1 spent on delivering the project generates £42 of benefits for clients, which is an excellent rate of return.
- Since Sept 2015, 4736 clients have been contacted, obtaining in excess of £7.3m of benefits and helping clients manage just short of £1m of debt.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) David Andy be thanked for his attendance and contribution, and
- (ii) Members note the update.

4 Commissioning, Project Development and Finance Update

The Area Council Manager introduced this item and provided Members with an updated financial position and forecast for expenditure, based on the projects that have been proposed, together with an outline of annual commitments and the current financial position.

It was highlighted that at the last meeting the Anti-Poverty Community Outreach Project and Clean and Green service were extended. In March 2020 the Area Council will need to agree if they wish to continue to fund this type of service provision and advertise the tender opportunity.

The Housing Migration Officer is on a fixed term contract which has been extended until Jan 2020, when a decision will need to be taken about future provision. One of the Youth Participation Worker posts is currently vacant and is in the process of being readvertised. Members expressed their thanks to Zoe Wardle, Youth Participation Worker, for the fantastic job she is doing across the Wards of the North Area Council.

The production of the North Area community magazine is currently being reviewed but it is unlikely that a Summer 2019 edition will be produced.

The Area Council Manager explained for the benefit of new members that an enforcement project had generated £112,294 in FPN income since 2014 but had since ceased as the expected behaviour change had not materialised.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Zoe Wardle be thanked for the work she has been doing in her role as Youth Participation Worker;
- (ii) The North Area Council note the existing budget position and forecast for funding commitments together with the current financial position.

5 Performance Management Report - Commissioned Projects & Grant Summary

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, providing Members with a comprehensive North Area Council Performance report for the period January – March 2019 (2018/19 Quarter 4) together with a number of case studies as supporting evidence, including Twiggs Grounds Maintenance; CAB and DIAL; Housing Migration and Youth Participation Officers, YMCA Youthwork; DIAL hOurbank and Social Isolation; Ad Astra Barnsley CiC; Woolley Miners Welfare Tractor Project and RVS – Looking Out for Older People. Members shared their views on their experience of various projects in their wards, although there was not universal agreement in respect of some of the projects highlighted.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Members note the Performance
- (ii) RVS be invited to attend a future Area Council meeting to update Members on their Looking Out for Older People project.

6 Outcome of Health and Wellbeing Workshop

The Area Council Manager apprised Members of the discussions that took place at a recent workshop to explore the opportunity for a North Area Council funded Health and Wellbeing project.

It was explained that two workshops had taken place to identify a young people based programme. A number of themes emerged but it was not possible to prioritise one theme over another. The workshops agreed that as this is a large and complex area of work, significant mapping would be required to invest responsibly in this priority area

A discussion took place regarding a number of issues which had emerged, including:

- The need to ensure that TIAG services are not duplicated;
- Behaviour change takes time and will not happen overnight
- An acknowledgement that although St Helens ward has the highest levels of need, there are pockets of needs in other areas.
- As this is a very broad scope, more work is needed to identify a narrower area – hence the need for a mapping exercise involving young people.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Members note the update, and
- (ii) Agree a working budget of £4,850 to enable the consultation and mapping exercise and development work with young people to take place to inform future direction and project model.

7 Report of the Ward Alliance Fund

The Area Council Manager updated the North Area Council on the financial position for the Ward Alliance budget for each ward.

RESOLVED that each ward in the North Area Council area prioritises the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds 2019/20 in line with the guidance on spend.

8 Notes from the Area's Ward Alliances

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 12th March and 9th April 2019; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 11th February and 11th March 2019; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 27th March 2019; and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 14th March 2019.

Darton East

It was reported that the Tour de Yorkshire was a great success, with kilometres of bunting and painted bikes throughout the area. The actual length of the bunting produced in total is being collated. Barnsley's efforts were even commended by Mark Cavendish on Twitter. The artwork also looked superb and local businesses were involved in the celebrations. There is lots of work ongoing in the ward, including hanging baskets, and consideration is being given to exploring the option for local businesses to fund the Christmas lights this year. The Community Garden has not started yet, which is disappointing.

Darton West

Cllr Alice Cave thanked Cllr Howard for sewing the bunting for the Tour de Yorkshire celebrations. It was reported that nothing can be done regarding the footpath at the bottom of Barugh Lane. A meeting has taken place with Jo Birch regarding the play equipment at Kexborough recreation ground and a quote for the works is awaited

Old Town

Cllr Lofts reported that a number of projects have been approved for funding recently, including £758.45 for Pogmoor Residents' Association's 'Bomber Bid'; £1090 for Emmanuel Holiday Hunger project on the proviso that outreach work is done; £1213 towards the borough-wide bid by the Majestic Academy of Music and Arts; £818 for the Pogmoor Residents Association for continuation of the Afternoon Club and £2516 for information boards at the Fleets.

St Helen's

Cllr Tattersall reported that the self assessment survey had been completed and results will be brought to a future meeting. The new gazebos have been purchased and offered to community groups. Athersley Crafty Crafters took part in bunting production despite the Tour de Yorkshire not passing through the area. Cllr Leech collected the flag in his role as Cycling Champion and delivered it to the Town Hall. Funding bids are coming in for a variety of projects, including CCTV cameras, purchase of contactless card sleeves and tables for the church hall. The Mamma Mia Dance Group applied for a donation to put a production on, which has been approved, along with the Spring clean budget. The Gala is planned for July.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the North Area team be thanked for their hard work on the Tour de Yorkshire, and
- (ii) the notes of the respective Ward Alliances be noted.

Chair