

MEETING:	Central Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 3 June 2019
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room 2 - Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors W. Johnson (Chair), P. Birkinshaw, Bowler, Bruff, Carr, Clarke, Fielding, Gillis, Lodge, Williams and Wright

1. Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Central Area Council held on 11th March, 2019 (Cen.13.05.2019/2)

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting of Central Area Council held on 11th March, 2019.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Central Area Council held on 11th March, 2019 be approved as a true and correct record.

3. Performance Management Report Q4 (Cen.03.06.2019/3)

The Area Council Manager introduced the report which covered the period January to March, 2019. Members noted the time lag between the end of the quarter and the meeting to consider performance.

Members noted the overview of services and how they contributed to the delivery against the priorities of the Area Council. Also noted were the cumulative achievements from April 2017 to 31st March, 2019.

Part B of the report provided a narrative impact for each of the commissioned services. For the contract with Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) it was noted that there were a number of areas rated as red and amber. Performance in some areas was below target, and in others was above. Members heard of a change of staff managing the contract, and anomalies in reporting that were in the process of being resolved. It was noted that the report contained case studies of the campaigns and activities undertaken by RVS and the advice and support provided within the quarter.

With regards to the contract delivered by YMCA to increase the emotional resilience and wellbeing of young people, Members noted that the service had completed their second year of delivery. All targets had been met or exceeded. Within the quarter 124 sessions had been held, with 44 new participants attending. It was noted that whilst the number of new participants was relatively low, the service aimed to work with young people over a longer period of time. Within the quarter there had been 1,500 attendances and Members noted that half term activities had been arranged in addition to regular weekly sessions.

Members questioned the male/female split, noting that more females participated. It was acknowledged that YMCA was aware of this issue and striving to attract more males. However, it was noted that the venues were less suited to the activities which boys and young men liked to participate in, which were often outside. Members noted the high numbers of those engaged with disabilities and heard of the range of health needs of a significant number of others taking part.

Those present heard of the increases in emotional resilience and wellbeing reported by participants, and the differences in results seen between those attending afterschool clubs and youth clubs, with those attending the latter reporting greater levels of improvement on average.

Members discussed the contribution of young people involved with the YMCA to the Central Area Council awards event, and thanks were given for their efforts.

An update was provided in relation to the final quarter of the contract with Kingdom Security to provide Environmental Enforcement. Since April, 2017 1,225 Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued, with 14 being issued for littering in the previous quarter and 15 for dog fouling. Members considered the variation between Wards in the numbers of Fixed Penalty Notices issued. Members were assured that patrolling had been equally distributed between the Wards.

Members noted that patrolling was led by intelligence and this would continue to be the case going forward when the contract for Environmental Enforcement is delivered by District Enforcement. Therefore Members were encouraged to continue to supply intelligence, and encourage residents to do the same.

Those present discussed the use of payment plans for those in financial hardship and litter picking in lieu of paying the notice for young people over 12. Members also discussed the need to keep publicising the number of notices issued to act as a deterrent.

The meeting went on to consider the performance of Twiggs Grounds Maintenance, and their work to improve the environment with the local community. Within the quarter 120 additional pieces of work were undertaken, and 15 social action projects led. 23 new volunteers had also been engaged.

Members commented on the support of Twiggs during the Great British Spring Clean, in particular the 551 event which had around 100 volunteers attending. All present praised the work to enhance the area.

Those present discussed changes to the Neighbourhood Service programme, including to grass cutting schedules, and it was agreed that a representative be invited to a future meeting to make Members aware of any changes.

The recently established Service Level Agreements to target household fly tipping and support residents in low cost private rented accommodation were now fully established, though would not formally report performance until June.

Members questioned whether any enforcement had taken place as a result of the Service Level Agreement. It was noted that enforcement was only usually taken as a

last resort, with officers seeking to resolve this before any enforcement action was taken.

It was acknowledged that the start date had been revised for the service delivered by Family Lives; therefore the service would report performance at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: -

- (i) That the report be noted.
- (ii) That a representative of Neighbourhood Services be invited to a future meeting of the Area Council in order to make Members aware of any recent changes to the service.

4. Procurement and Financial Update (Cen.03.06.2019/4)

The Area Council Manager introduced the report reminding Members of the previous discussions to consider the priorities of the Area Council. Workshops had been to discuss these in more detail and plan for delivery post March 2020.

For the workshops, the Area Council Manager had been in discussions to ascertain current delivery, which would inform discussion about future provision in the area at each workshop. It was noted that the outcome of each workshop would be reported in to the Area Council.

An update was provided in relation to the Peri-natal Home Visiting Service, and, following a Barnsley focused recruitment campaign, two workers were now in post. It was noted that the workers will be home-based but will be using community venues in their delivery. It was acknowledged that, although the service had just launched, 14 volunteers had expressed an interest in assisting the service.

Members noted the positive links to the Community Midwife and 0-19 service for referrals, but Members acknowledged that they could also provide referrals if they were aware of relevant residents.

It was suggested that Family Lives attend a future meeting of the Area Council to provide an overview of the service and its impact.

An update was provided about the contract with District Enforcement providing Environmental Enforcement. A positive contract inception meeting had been held. Members were provided information about the shift patterns of officers, which included working evenings and weekends at times.

Members were provided an update in relation to the Central Area Wellbeing Fund. Following the launch workshop 14 applications had been received, with 11 organisations invited to give a presentation before the grant panel. Members noted that seven organisations were successful, and letters to confirm grant agreements had been distributed.

Members were reminded of the issues with management of the contract with RVS, with performance rated as 'red' and 'amber' in a number of areas. Members noted that in April the contract manager left and following his departure and a full audit of files was undertaken which revealed a number of anomalies in recording and

therefore reporting. The revised figures circulated showed only figures which could be fully evidenced.

Members noted that the number of home visitors was in excess of the target, but the number of new referrals was significantly below target. As a result RVS had agreed to put a raft of measures in place to ensure issues seen were not repeated, and that underperformance was addressed.

In addition, RVS agreed to underwrite costs of delivery from April 2019 to the end of March, 2020. This amounted to a total saving of £100,000.

Members discussed the options available, which included potentially re-evaluating the service and re-contracting. Members were satisfied with the offer from RVS, and believed that the measures put in place would remedy the issues. Also acknowledged was the continuity this would provide to users of the service. Assurances had also been given that the steering group would be revitalised, and Members noted that lessons learned would be taken forward in all future contracts.

The Area Council Manager made Members aware that £41,532 remained for allocation in 2019/20. However, if Members approved the proposal from RVS, this would leave £141,532 to allocate.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the overview of the current priorities and the scheduled dates for priority workshops be noted;
- (ii) That the overview of all current contracts and service level agreements be noted;
- (iii) That Family Lives be invited to a future meeting of the Area Council to provide an overview of the service and its impact;
- (iv) That the update in relation to the Central Area Well-being Fund be noted;
- (v) That RVS continues to deliver the service to reduced loneliness and isolation in adults and older people, as outlined in the report, from 1st June, 2019-31st March, 2020 with all costs associated with the delivery underwritten by RVS, in addition to costs from 1st April – 31st May, 2019 also being underwritten by RVS;
- (vi) That the financial position for 2018/19 and projected expenditure for 2021 to 2023 be noted.

5. Notes of the Ward Alliances (Cen.03.06.2019/5)

The meeting received the notes of the meetings of the Central, Dodworth, Kingstone, Stairfoot and Worsbrough Ward Alliances.

RESOLVED that the notes of the Ward Alliances be received.

6. Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Cen.03.06.2019/6)

The attention of Members was drawn to the finance carried forward from the 2018/19 financial year.

From the 2019/20 budgets, only Central Ward Alliance had allocated any finance, with £500 being approved at the time of the report being published.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

7. Appreciation of outgoing Chair

The Chair gave his appreciation for the efforts of the outgoing Chair Richard Riggs. His work as Chair of the Area Council, and within his ward, were given praise, which was echoed by all present.

RESOLVED that the work of the outgoing Chair be praised, and thanks be given for his hard work which contributed to the success of the Area Council.

Chair