

MEETING:	Central Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 30 September 2019
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room 5 - Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors W. Johnson (Chair), D. Birkinshaw, P. Birkinshaw, Bruff, Carr, Fielding, Gillis, Lodge and Williams.

13. Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

14. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Central Area Council held on 1st July, 2019 (Cen.30.09.2019/2)

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting of Central Area Council held on 1st July, 2019.

Questions were raised about whether any Ward Briefings with Neighbourhood Services had taken place, and it was agreed for the Area Council Manager to ensure these were arranged and to request representation from Neighbourhood Services at the next meeting of the Area Council.

Members noted that a Central Area Council information and networking event had been arranged on Thursday 7th November, 4-7pm. Those involved in delivering commissioned services and wellbeing projects would be in attendance.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Central Area Council held on 1st July, 2019 be approved as a true and correct record.

15. Performance Management Report (Cen.30.09.2019/3)

The Area Council Manager introduced the report which related to performance in quarter one of 2019/20. Attention was drawn to the overview of all performance, which included a number of performance measures to reflect new services which were now online.

Attention was then drawn to the narrative relating to each contracted service. With regards to the service provided by RVS, Members noted a number of areas were rated as 'amber' as at the time of producing the report no steering group had been convened. It was confirmed that since that time it had been held.

The performance of the RVS contract was positive with the revised targets either being exceeded, or on target to be achieved by the end of the year.

Performance against the contract being delivered by YMCA continued to be positive, with 126 sessions being held within the quarter and 33 new children participating.

Members heard how District Enforcement had issued 156 Fixed Penalty Notices, with 29 of these being for dog fouling. It was noted that figures for dog fouling exceeded that seen in any quarter previously, and notices issued for cigarette end littering accounted for around 69% compared to national figures around 90%. Members commended the performance, and the shift away from focusing on cigarette ends and towards dog fouling.

Those present discussed reports that officers were patrolling on private land and the issues associated with this. It was agreed that the Area Council Manager discusses this issue with District Enforcement.

Twiggs Grounds Maintenance had supported 6 Central Area Team/Ward Alliance events and led 21 social action interventions across the Central Council Area. 3 different emerging groups had been identified in the quarter and 74 adult volunteers had engaged with the commission, with 21 of these being new. Performance against the contract as a whole was extremely positive.

Members discussed the performance of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) focused on reducing household fly-tipping. 173 fly-tipping incidents had been reported, in addition to 25 incidents of waste in gardens. Members discussed whether any notices issued would result in income being returned to the Area Council. It was noted that much of the work of the officer was proactive and encouraged residents to take responsibility for their waste before any enforcement action was taken. Often when enforcement action was required, this was undertaken by another department.

With regards to recurring issues related to fly-tipping, Members noted that a workshop had been arranged to discuss these in more detail, which would be supported by relevant officers in the Place Directorate.

Those present considered the performance of the SLA to support new tenants in the private rented sector. It was noted that the officer in post required some training when first in post and subsequently had health issues meaning much of the work undertaken had been desk based. Members heard how research had helped to identify properties which were new to the market through letting agents, and also through the council tax database. Now that the officer was fully fit, progress in delivering this SLA was expected to accelerate.

The attention of Members was drawn to the performance of the service delivered by Family Lives. It was noted that some elements of performance were rated as 'amber'; this was due to service having yet to receive any referrals when the report had been submitted in July. Since this time a small number of referrals had been received. Members praised the number of volunteers being recruited to help deliver the service. Due to the reliance on volunteers for the delivery it was suggested that volunteer hours for this service be provided in future performance reports.

The Area Council Manager provided an overview of the projects funded through the Central Area Wellbeing Fund, some of which commenced on 1st June and others on 1st July, 2019.

138 residents had attended DIAL (Disability Information Access Line) sessions, 5 sessions had been held by ELSH (Employment, Learning and Support Hub), and Hope House had launched a new family support group.

Members heard that TADS (Therapies for Anxiety, Depression and Stress) one to one sessions had been delivered in schools in June and early July, and had recommenced after the school holidays. Members raised questions about the support for young people resident in the area, but not attending schools in the area. It was noted that the majority of children would access schools in the area, but for those that did not there may be other provision available.

The Youth Association had received match funding and was now delivering in the Kendray area, and feedback had been positive.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the report be noted;
- (ii) That volunteer hours feature in the narrative of future performance report where the service is reliant on volunteers as part of its delivery.

16. Procurement and Financial Update (Cen.30.09.2019/4)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the item, referring to the priorities of the Area Council and the work recently undertaken to update these.

Members noted that a workshop to consider loneliness and social isolation in adults and older people had been arranged to take place on 10th October, 2019. Members noted the reliance on volunteers to deliver the current service and the potential of exhausting the potential supply of willing volunteers. If unable to attend the workshop, Members were encouraged to submit their thoughts on this priority.

Following on from the performance report, Members were reminded that the SLA to provide a service to reduce household fly-tipping would come to an end in November, 2019 but that there was an option to extend this for a further year. Taking into account the informal positive feedback this was supported by Members.

With regards to the SLA to provide support to new tenants in the private rented sector, this was also due to finish in November, and had the option to extend for a further year. Further in quarter performance information was supplied, with 342 letters having been distributed and follow up visits due to take place. It was suggested that much of the preparatory work had been undertaken and therefore that positive results would be seen if the SLA was extended.

Questions were raised about the impact of the service to date, and Members discussed the differences between internal SLAs and contracts delivered externally, with the former being linked to the employment of an officer rather than the procuring of a service.

Members were reminded of the recent task and finish group to consider building emotional resilience in young people. The group were supportive of procuring a similar service to that currently provided and discussed the age range for any intervention. Recognising there were differences in opinion, it was suggested that the focus be on ages 8-13. It was also suggested that once the procurement was well underway, and the learning from the projects funded under the wellbeing fund was forthcoming, the Area Council could consider what provision would be required for the older age group.

A detailed business case was provided, alongside a procurement strategy synopsis, which was supported by Members. However it was suggested that the age range be extended to 14.

A procurement team was suggested, which included Member representation, and those interested were asked to make representation to the Area Council Manager who would let them know prospective dates.

Members also discussed the finance attributed to such a commission, and after some discussion supported providing an inflationary increase of 2% in years 2 and 3. The Area Council Manager provided an overview of the current financial situation. In the current financial year £147,610 remained. In 2020/21, if Members approved £135,000 for the service to build emotional resilience in children and young people, £378,290 would remain for allocation. However, if Members were minded to commission a service to address loneliness and isolation in older people this may be significantly reduced

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the overview of current Central Area Council priorities and the progress made regarding the development of the agreed priorities from 1st April, 2020 be noted;
- (ii) That the overview of all Central Area Council's current contract extensions and Service Level Agreements with associated timescales be noted;
- (iii) That the Service Level Agreement to provide support to address Household Flytipping be extended for 12 months (19th November 2019 – 18th November, 2020) at a cost of £32,000;
- (iv) That the Service Level Agreement to provide support to New Tenants in Private Sector Housing be extended for 12 months (19th November 2019 – 18th November, 2020) at a cost of £32,500;
- (v) That the Building Emotional Resilience in Children and Young People Task Group reconvenes to consider how they wish to address the issues that have been identified in the age range 14+;
- (vi) That the outline business case and procurement strategy for a new Central Area Council service 'to build the emotional resilience and wellbeing of children and young people aged 8-14 years living in the Central Council area' be approved and that the Executive Director, following consultation with the Area Chair Young People's Task Group, be authorised to complete any necessary paperwork to procure the service and for 3 years (1st April 2020 to 31st March 2023) at a cost of £135,000 in year 1 £137,700 in year 2 and £140,454 in year 3 on a 1 year+ 1 year+ 1 year basis, subject to annual review;
- (vii) That Members interested in taking part in the procurement of the service 'to build the emotional resilience and wellbeing of children and young people aged 8-14 years living in the Central Council area' make representation to the Area Council Manager;
- (viii) That the financial position for 2018/19, and the projected expenditure to 2022/2023 be noted.

17. Notes of the Ward Alliances (Cen.30.09.2019/5)

The meeting received the notes of the meetings of the Central, Dodworth, Kingstone, Stairfoot and Worsbrough Ward Alliances held in June, July, August and September, 2019.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

18. Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Cen.30.09.2019/6)

The report was introduced by the Area Council Manager and details of the expenditure for each of the Ward Alliance Funds noted.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

Chair