

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Central Area Council
3rd August, 2020

Report of Central Area Council Manager

Central Area Council – Central Area Council Priorities

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide information on Central Area Council ‘Priority Setting Workshop’; as agreed at its first virtual Central Area Council meeting on the 9th June 2020.
- 1.2 To provide details of the discussions and way forward.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 In line with the Covid-19 Five Point Recovery Plan; the Workshop considered the role of the Area Council and Ward Alliances and aspects of the Area Council plan that aligns and can continue (or may need adapting), doesn’t align and needs to cease and the gaps that need addressing. The recommendation was that the priority “Supporting Vulnerable Families” is changed to “Supporting Vulnerable People”.
- 2.2 The Workshop members were provided with information detailing how the Central Area Team have been supporting older people in our area with befriending and shopping requests during Covid-19 response phase. In addition to the requests that have come via the emergency contact centre; Age UK Barnsley have supported over 90 older people in our area.

As agreed at the virtual Area Council meeting on 9th June; a Social Isolation and Loneliness Workshop took place in July to start working towards a Social Isolation and Loneliness procurement exercise. The reality is that it is likely to be towards the end of the year before this is complete. The team are working on exit strategies from Community Responder’s, but the lack of referral options is delaying this.

The workshop considered an options appraisal which included an offer of support from Age UK Barnsley. Age UK are a local trusted provider who have been through competitive procurement exercises in 4 out of the 6 areas. Their offer includes drawing on some match funding from Age UK national, as well as additional resources and volunteer time. The recommendation to the Area Council is to give a one off grant of £10k to Age UK Barnsley from Central Area Council funding.

This money will be used (alongside their own fundraised income) to provide a Covid Recovery Service in the Central Area up to the end of 2020. It will provide staffing and volunteer expenses to enable them to support vulnerable older people to shield further and to safely get back into the community with support following shielding.

3. Workshop discussions

3.1 As part of the workshop briefings Members were presented with information to consider:

- How the Central Area Council can better support the Council's 5-point recovery plan priorities (below) through Ward Alliances and Area Council commissioned services:

Proposing a 5-point Recovery / Renewal Strategy

1. Humanitarian - Health & Wellbeing

To help heal and restore the health of wellbeing to reduce and suppress infection across the borough.

2. Business Economy

To ensure that the borough's communities and businesses positively move on from COVID-19. To bring back public and investor confidence in our local economy.

3. Building Resilience

To improve resilience across the borough in preparation for potential future waves of the COVID 19; to continue to shield and protect the vulnerable.

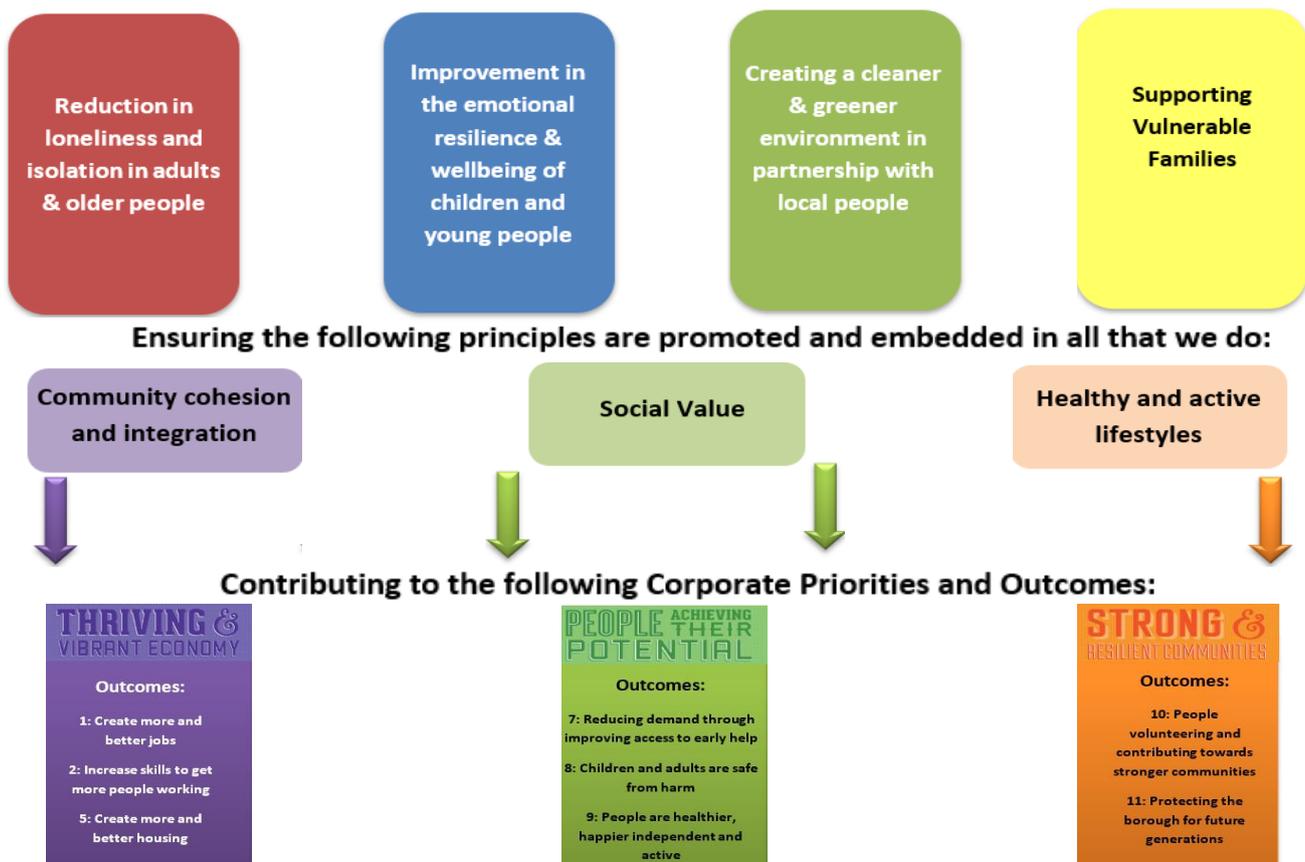
4. Education & Attainment

To safely open and reinstate educational activity to catch up and minimise impact on children, young people's development and outcomes pre-birth to 25 years old through both traditional educational establishments and digital means.

5. Infrastructure & the Environment

To safely reinstate infrastructure and transport networks as soon as practicable.

- How to address new challenges brought about by Covid 19
- Whether the following Central Area Council current priorities are still the right ones:



3.2 In the Central Area; all the commissioned providers flexed their contracts to ensure that those in need were supported. The Central Area Council benefitted from having established resources in place that could react quickly. Much of the provision was adapted to online and telephone support. The following was presented to Members at the workshop briefings to map how current contracts help meet the Central Area Council priorities and the 5-point recovery plan priorities:

- Twiggs – has provided support to Neighbourhood Services with targeted clean ups and litter picks, has provided support to community group maintained areas and provided support to grass cutting across the wards. Flexing the Twiggs service has supported BMBC Core services in areas across all 5 wards, helping to clear litter, tackle fly tipping, and keep areas safe and tidy.
- YMCA – The YMCA has flexed its delivery from the beginning of COVID and has offered online platforms and phone calls, delivering positive activities online ensuring young people are safe.
- Youth Work Fund – legal agreements have been signed with the Youth Association and the YMCA - delivery will commence when safe to do so
- Central Well-being Fund – The welfare service provided by Dial has flexed its services to provide telephone consultations and online support. Hope House who provide support to families with young children have adapted the way they deliver their support due to COVID. The Social Isolation research will be shared with the working group to determine recommendations to go to the next Central Area Council meeting for a decision on a way forward.
- District Enforcement – We agreed to an 'Educate and Engage' period up to the 12th July in order to manage any public backlash. Ticket issuing will commence on the 13th July with tickets being posted rather than handing PCN, FPNs. FPNs for dog fouling offences are being issued from 23rd June as the view was that this should not be tolerated.
- Fly Tipping SLA – Services flexed since COVID pandemic, but they have continued to provide the same level of support but in different ways, leaflet drops in relation to duty of care and waste management, investigating vehicles involved with waste carrying and working with private sector landlords and letting agents to remove fly tipping. SLA ends in November 2020 – decision needs to be made at the next Central Area Council meeting for a way forward.
- Private Sector Housing SLA – Prior to COVID the number of new households identified to approach was 158, the number of new tenant household initial contact/visits successfully made was 35 prior to lockdown. Services have been adapted and flexed to follow the guidance through COVID. The SLA ends in November 2020 – decision needs to be made at the next Central Area Council meeting for a way forward.
- Perinatal Home Visiting – have continued to provide a service to new mums through virtual visits and telephone support, referring people into appropriate services when there is a need and particularly to single and pregnant women. They have supported several families with installing and using Teams and Google Duo successfully to complete initial assessments and match meeting, They have supported families with accessing food banks and food vouchers',

sourced relevant financial assistance, provided a listening ear and advice around managing pregnancy, preparing for birth and welcoming a baby into the family and undertaken work with families around relationships, conflict, domestic abuse and accessing counselling.

5-point recovery plan priorities:

- When considering this against the 5-point recovery plan priorities and information about the various vulnerable groups that we have been supporting during Covid-19 response phase; it was evident at the workshop that our current priorities do not give us the scope needed to extend our reach in order to work with vulnerable groups that fall outside the scope of loneliness and isolation.

3.3 In recognition of the different types of vulnerabilities that have emerged as a result of Covid-19 and have been identified via our commissioned providers and community responders scheme. It is recommended that the Area Council build on the opportunities to build on this during Covid 19 recovery stages. It is therefore recommended that the Central Area Council changes its priority from “Helping Vulnerable Families” to “Helping Vulnerable People”.

4. Agreed way forward and action

4.1 Recommendations on a way forward and actions:

- Central Area Council change its priority from “Supporting Vulnerable Families” to “Supporting Vulnerable People”
- Age UK Barnsley are granted £10k from Central Area Council funding in order to support our Covid-19 emergency response exit strategy.

Officer Contact: Lisa Phelan/ Sarah Blunkett, Central Area Council Manager