

MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 20 July 2020
TIME:	12.30 pm
VENUE:	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

MINUTES

Present Councillors Leech (Chair), A. Cave, T. Cave, Hunt, Lofts, Platts, Spence and Tattersall

64 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

65 Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 5th June 2020

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th June 2020.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 5th June 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

66 Commissioning, Project Development and Finance

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, providing Members of the Area Council with a refresh report around the financial position and forecast for expenditure based on current projects. These included the Anti- Poverty – Community Outreach; Housing Migration Officer, Stronger communities Grant, Social Isolation and Cold Homes Project; Children and Youth People Resilience Grant and Fleets Nature Park.

It was highlighted that funding for the Anti- Poverty Community Outreach project was due to end at the end of September and a waiver to extend this contract for a further 12 months from 14th September 2020 to 13th September 2021 had been agreed, which would help with Covid-19 recovery. The service had been extremely well used during lockdown, with help needed on employment, debt and relationship breakdown. A significant increase in enquiries is predicted as the lockdown eases. Return on this project is excellent, with a £23 return on every £1 spent.

Citizens Advice Bureaux are currently funded until the end of September to deliver additional specialist debt advice through the Stronger Communities Grant. In light of COVID-19's wider inequality implications Members were asked to consider extending the funding until the end of the financial year, which will not impact on other projects due to slippage.

The Social Isolation and Cold Homes Project continues to perform well. The Covid-19 situation has highlighted how those people who don't have internet access are additionally socially isolated, with many accessing services via telephone with

befriending support. It has been possible to do some of the welfare checks and needs assessments over the phone and positive feedback has been received from residents.

It was reported that the Making Space Dementia Café is unlikely to recommence, in its intended model, in October for practical reasons combined with the vulnerability of service users. However, it would be possible to use the funding for a freephone dementia helpline and training for carers from October to March 2021. There is a chance that the service could be used by people from outside of the North Area but it was felt that the sensitive specialist service provided to people with dementia, including those with early onset dementia, outweighed the risk of this happening. Age UK also deliver a universal service to a greater number of people, some of whom may not reside in the North Area.

The start date for the Housing Migration Officer has been postponed due to home working arrangements for BMBC staff during Covid-19. Community Safety have offered reassurance that they are implementing a return to work rota, and this should allow for the preferred candidate to be inducted. All safety checks have been carried out but the DBS for the postholder is outstanding, as delays have been experienced due to Covid-19.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The North Area Council should note the existing budget position and funding commitments and position regarding the Housing Migration Officer
- (ii) Members agreed to vary the model for the Stronger Communities Grant awarded to Making Spaces. The funding will not support three micro projects between October 2020 and March 2021: 1) Freephone dementia helpline, 2) Training and Support for Carers of people living with dementia, 3) Weekly Older People Café at Barugh Green compliant with Covid-19 safety guidelines.
- (i) Member note point 7.1 of this report (supporting older people) and consider this in respect to Item 6 of today's agenda (Covid-19 Recovery – Supporting Older People in the North Area).
- (iii) Members extend the grant agreement with CAB to help with Covid-19 Recovery

67 Verbal update on Emergency Response in North Area

The Area Council Manager provided a verbal update on the emergency response to Covid 19 in the North Area. There are currently approximately 40 live cases, comprising a mixture of shopping and befriending requests. Volunteer shopping is being wound down to concentrate on the recovery phase. Referrals have reduced to a couple of new cases a week from the initial 10 per day. Darton East and Darton West have the highest proportion of service users. Government food parcels were initially specialist, tailored to the specific needs of the recipient. These have now stopped. Barnsley was very much on the ball in ensuring people received their food parcels when lockdown was at its most challenging. It was felt that awareness of the Good Food Barnsley CIC should be raised as part of the recovery phase, as this will have a strong focus on food poverty in Barnsley.

There is a real mixture of provision throughout the North Area, with additional funding targetted to areas of greatest need across all Wards. This includes a 'holiday hunger' project in St Helens Ward. Darton East Ward is looking to join up with Fareshare and Old Town Ward Alliance have recommended YMCA and Yorkshire Wildlife as possible delivery partners. It was felt that the need for food parcels will increase in winter period and consideration should be given to providing slow cookers to those most in need. It was pointed out that free school meals vouchers can be spent at The Community Shops (Athersley and Goldthorpe) and company shop as well.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the update be noted; and
- (ii) that a presentation on the Good Food Barnsley CIC should be delivered to a future Area Council meeting.

68 Young People's Health and Wellbeing - Resilience Grant

The Area Council Manager updated Members on the current position regarding the Young People's Emotional Resilience priority. Following a failed procurement exercise in early 2030 the opportunity has been modified to a somewhat smaller grant opportunity. This is designed to support the delivery of a range of positive after school and holiday provision (interventions/ projects/activities/sessions) that will contribute to building the emotional resilience and wellbeing of children and young people (aged 8-13); providing them with additional tools to help them transition smoothly between junior and senior school and make positive choices.

A discussion took place with regard to the grant opportunity. Specific items of note included:

- The need for both a Public Health representative and a school champion to sit on the Youth Resilience Fund panel.
- Covid 19 will present further challenges to the project around space and safety. Advice should be sought from the National Youth Organisation around working with disengaged young people.
- Timescales may be pushed back until after the October half term to give more breathing space.
- Challenges around Covid-19 recovery will be 16+, parenting (key in term of resilience), peer support for parents and those children and young people with additional needs such as autism and challenging behaviour
- Post 16 support around Covid-19 will be covered with promised national, regional and local interventions.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Members note the priority update and guidance, and
- (ii) Grant permission for the Youth Resilience Grant to be advertised.

69 Covid-19 Recovery Older People's Resilience

The Area Council Manager introduced this report, outlining the proposal to fund a project that will support older people in the COVID-19 Recovery Phase, also explaining Age UK's contribution in the North Area during COVID-19 lockdown. Members discussed the benefits of Age UK supporting older people in the North Area.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The North Area Council should note the project proposal and background, and
- (ii) Age UK Barnsley should be funded to provide support for older people in the North Area during the COVID-19 Recovery phase.

70 Devolved Ward Budget and Ward Alliance Funds

The Area Council Manager updated the North Area Council with regard to the financial position and the Ward Alliance budget for each ward for the 2020/21 period. Members were asked to pay particular attention to the Ward Alliance Covid-19 Recovery Plan document when developing projects during the remainder of 2020/21. There are still restrictions around safe working practices and volunteer matched funding requirements remain relaxed at the present time. It was reported that some funding bids have been received and Ward Alliances are starting to meet again by virtual means. It is vital that Ward Alliance Funding is utilised to enable Covid-19 recovery and to mobilise the community when it is safe to do so.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the update be noted; and
- (ii) that each Ward in the North Area Council area continues to prioritise the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds 2019/20, in line with the guidance on spend and taking into account the Covid-19 Recovery Plan.

71 Ward Alliance Updates

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 10th March 2020; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 4th March 2020; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 10th March 2020; and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 14th April 2020. It was reported that Ward Alliances are starting to meet again by virtual means.

Darton East Ward Alliance decided to proceed with hanging baskets in the area to provide colour and it was noted that a number of local sponsors had offset the cost of these. Grab bags will be delivered from next week as part of the Healthy Holidays initiative. Work continues on establishing what is needed in the area, and applications may be brought to the next meeting.

St Helens also went ahead with hanging baskets. Ad Astra had also provided grab bags. The vulnerable mens' group is hoping to start up again soon. As they meet in a large hall, it will be possible to socially distance. The summer gala had been cancelled, which was a big disappointment. Discussions have taken place about Christmas.

Darton West Ward Alliance met last week. Funding for defibrillators was previously approved and they have now been delivered and are awaiting installation. Improvements to Darton Park are now in evidence, which will help with physical and mental health.

Old Town has an ongoing programme of projects to finance as soon as a meeting is arranged. Cllr Pickering has managed to secure funding for Christmas trees.

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

Chair