

MEETING:	South Area Council
DATE:	Friday, 3 September 2021
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Markham (Chair), Andrews BEM, Eastwood, Franklin, Frost, J. Higginbottom, Lamb, Osborne, Shepherd, Smith, Stowe and Sumner

8 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillors Franklin, Lamb and Shepherd each declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute number 14 due to their positions as directors of Forge Community Partnership.

Councillors Frost and Markham both declared an interest in minute number 14 due to their positions on the board of Age UK Barnsley.

9 Minutes of the Meeting of South Area Council held on 25th June, 2021 (Sac.03.09.2021/2)

The meeting considered the minutes of South Area Council held on 25th June, 2021.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the South Area Council held on 25th June, 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.

10 Notes of the Ward Alliances (Sac.03.09.2021/3)

The meeting received the notes from the following Ward Alliances Hoyland Milton and Rockingham held on 7th July, 2021; and Wombwell held on 19th July, 2021.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

11 Public Health Update - Diane Lee/Kay Tinkler (Sac.03.09.2021/4)

Diane Lee, Head of Public Health, provided an update in relation to Smoke Free Hoyland. Following two years of hard work Smoke Free Hoyland would be launched on 1st October, 2021. This would result in the High Street becoming smoke free, an idea supported by 96% of those spoken to. Members heard how work to install the mural had commenced and colleagues in Highways were erecting signage.

It was also noted that a stop smoking advisor had been recruited for the area and would be invited to a future meeting of the Area Council to meet Members.

Members were asked if they would like to receive an update at a future meeting in relation to serious mental illness and what could be done to increase access to health checks, which was supported.

Kay Tinkler, Neighbourhood Engagement Officer, then provided an update in relation to Covid-19. Members were made aware that case rates had slightly increased but were relatively stable and were highest in the 20-30 age group.

The correlation in those aged over 50 between having the vaccine and experiencing far fewer symptoms when contracting coronavirus was noted. Members heard that transmission was largely in community settings, and there were no wards that were considered significantly different than others.

Community observations highlighted variations in the wearing of face coverings, and the increase in footfall in town centres.

A number of areas had seen anti-vax graffiti, which had been reported and removed. Members were encouraged to continue to submit intelligence, including where anti-vax graffiti had been seen.

Members noted that a number of local community groups were now meeting in person. There had been no concerns raised, and reassurance was given that support was available to ensure groups were meeting in a covid safe environment.

Vaccine uptake continued to be encouraged, including amongst minority groups and workplaces such as ASOS. 84% of the adult population had received a first vaccine with a 76% receiving two. Drop-in clinics continued to be held at Priory Campus. It was noted that take up was similar across all age ranges.

Those present discussed the difference of approach between local and national test and trace facilities, with that provided locally preferred.

It was noted that there were currently 36 patients with covid in Barnsley Hospital, with 7 in ITU, however it was felt cases could rise with the resuming of schools.

In relation to the potential rise in flu and the need for flu vaccinations, it was thought that promotion would commence shortly, however discussions were still taking place about how this would be administered alongside covid boosters for the more vulnerable.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the update be noted;
- (ii) that a future meeting receives an update in relation to serious mental illness and what could be done to increase access to health checks.

12 Cancer Screening Behavioural Insights - Emma Bates/ Kaye Mann (Sac.03.09.2021/5)

Kaye Mann, Public Health Specialist Practitioner, BMBC, and Emma Bates, Commissioning and Transformation Manager, Barnsley CCG were welcomed to the meeting.

Members were reminded that 1 in 2 people get Cancer in their lifetime and that potentially 600 new cancers could be postponed or prevented each year in Barnsley. Members heard that the leading causes of death from cancer in Barnsley are lung, prostate and breast cancer.

It was noted that living a healthy life did make cancer less likely, including being smoke free, keeping a healthy weight, and being more active.

Those present heard of the importance of early diagnosis, which lead to an improved chance of surviving cancer. The importance of attending screening was also stressed.

Attention was drawn to the signs and symptoms of common cancers and the need for residents to have themselves checked if they experienced these symptoms, or experience any changes and were unsure.

An overview of behavioural insights and nudge theory was provided, and examples provided of where this could be utilised to increase numbers accessing cancer screening.

Members heard of the behaviour science trial being conducted. Based at the food bank in the Dearne, this would see staff and volunteers speak to clients, and where appropriate offer to refer to Care Coordinators at GP surgeries. They would then be able to proactively book appointments. It was noted that that promotion of the trial would commence shortly, and, if successful, elements could be rolled out across the borough.

The meeting heard of the support services available for those recently diagnosed with cancer living in a Barnsley postcode or accessing services at a Barnsley Hospital.

Members were asked to promote healthy lifestyle messages, raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer and encourage the uptake of screening. The message of consulting a GP if something did not feel right was also emphasised. It was noted that GPs were extremely busy, but it was suggested that awareness could be raised that if residents highlighted that their symptoms may be linked to cancer, this would help prioritise appointments.

Those present discussed the difficulties in securing an appointment with a GP, and it was agreed that these would be fed back to the CCG. It was also agreed that figures relating to the number and shortage of GPs in the area be circulated to Members.

However, it was felt important to retain some of the advances made during the pandemic, with telephone and email contact being useful in certain situations. Members discussed the high mortality rates of those age under 75 in the South Area and the need to promote access to screening and to GPs especially to groups less likely to engage.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That thanks be given for the information presentation; and
- (ii) That Members support the work to improve cancer detection rates as highlighted;

(iii) That figures in relation to the number of GPs in the area to be circulated to Members.

13 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Sac.03.09.2021/6)

The attention of Members was drawn to the amounts of finance remaining within each Ward Alliance Fund in the area. It was noted that there were also applications pending, which if approved would impact on the finance available.

The Area Council Manager raised awareness of the Adult Skills and Job Club launch on 16th September, 2021 from 10am-11am in Hoyland Library.

Members expressed thanks to Tanya Dickinson and Dawn Grayton for their hard work to support the Ward Alliances, and gave best wishes for the future in their new jobs.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

14 Performance Report Q1 (Sac.03.09.2021/7)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the item and reflected on the detailed information related to the Tidy Team contained within the report. A suggestion was made that this could be made more concise in the future.

Within the quarter Twiggs Grounds Maintenance had met all but one target, which related to the establishment of a steering group. The team had one apprentice in post with a second starting later in the year. Members heard of the positive work experience placement that had recently taken place.

Concerns were raised about the coordination of blitz teams, the Tidy Team and of volunteer who concentrated on clean and green activities. Issues around the collection of purple waste bags were also raised. It was suggested that the steering group could assist with this. Concern was also raised about the branding of the service, with many residents unaware that the service was funded by the Council. It was noted that branding guidance had been developed to address this.

The meeting discussed the prevailing issue of weeds and the careful consideration required of a variety of factors when using weedkiller.

Members requested a briefing to understand the parameters of the new Tidy Team contract, and it was agreed that this be organised prior to convening the steering group.

Members' attention was then drawn to the contract held by Age UK which provided befriending and one-to-one support. The service acknowledged that flexibility in provision was required, especially over winter, and that the service would future proof provision to enable benefits to be retained after the end of the contract. The benefits of the knowledge around supporting organisations and businesses to be Dementia Friendly was also noted.

Positive comments were received around the robustness of the procurement process to ensure that the best possible provider was secured, and money was well spent.

Discussion turned to provision for those socially excluded under age 50, and it was agreed that the Area Council Manager would develop options to address this issue, which would then be presented to a future meeting of the Area Council.

In relation to District Enforcement, it was noted that there had been some changes to equipment and software used by the Council which had a number of impacts including the ability to issue Fixed Penalty Notices. However, this had now been resolved. Patrolling hours had been maintained, with a focus on areas where dog fouling was prevalent.

It was noted that parking issues were still evident in Wombwell, and that this was expected to increase when schooling resumed.

Members heard that the service was due to cease at the end of March 2022, and a session would be organised to discuss the ongoing need to a similar service in due course.

Citizen's Advice Bureau had been successful in gaining the contract to provide information and advice, and it was noted that the impact of having to provide provision from a distance had strengthened the offer to include online and over the phone. Demand appeared to have increased, but it was uncertain whether this was merely due to better access through the increased offer. 60 new clients had accessed the service within the quarter together with 55 repeat clients.

Members questioned how proactive the service was in promoting the availability of benefits such as Pension Credit or Warm Homes Discount scheme, and the difficulty in being proactive but managing demand was acknowledged. Those present heard that there had been some proactive work with various officers in the community, raising awareness in order to refer suitable clients.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the report be noted;
- (ii) that a briefing be arranged to make Members aware of the detail of the Tidy Team contract;
- (iii) that efforts be made to establish the Tidy Team steering group;
- (iv) that a future meeting of the Area Council discusses potential Environmental Enforcement provision post March, 2022.

Chair