

MEETING:	Penistone Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 7 October 2021
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Penistone Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Barnard (Chair), Kitching and Wilson

15 Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

No Members declared an interest in any item on the agenda.

16 Minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 22nd July, 2021 (Pac.07.10.2021/2)

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd July, 2021.

The Area Council Manager made Members aware that figures relating to the Healthy Holidays provision had been received, and around only 25% of places available had been accessed. Members views on this were encouraged to influence future provision.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 22nd July, 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.

17 Notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 23rd September, 2021 (Pac.07.10.2021/3)

The meeting received the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 23rd September, 2021.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 23rd September, 2021 be received.

18 Cancer Screening Behavioural Insights - Kaye Mann (Pac.07.10.2021/8)

Kaye Mann, Public Health Specialist Practitioner, BMBC, was 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 led to an improved chance of surviving cancer. The importance of attending screening was also stressed. It was noted that screening rates in Barnsley were only slightly lower than the national average, but that there were still significant numbers of people not undergoing screening.

Attention was drawn to the signs and symptoms of common cancers. The need for residents to have themselves checked if they experienced these symptoms or experienced any changes in their body was stressed.

An overview of behavioural insights and nudge theory was provided, and examples given 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 them to Care Coordinators at GP surgeries. The Care Coordinators would then be able to proactively book appointments. It was noted 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. This included sharing positive messages on social media.

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. However, it was also stressed that it may be more appropriate for residents to see other health professionals. It was noted that discussions were taking place regarding provision within the Glassworks to help increase the uptake of screening.

Members suggested engaging Parish Councils on this agenda, which may include information being placed on their noticeboards, websites and in their magazines.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the presentation, and that Councillors respond to the asks of them.

19 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Pac.07.10.2021/4)

Members received the report, noting its contents. School's Out provision was briefly discussed, and it was suggested that this be put on the agenda of a future Ward Alliance meeting.

Members were made aware of a potential project in the Silkstone Area, which required some support to establish. It suggested that providers engaged through the Working Together Fund Supporting Young People finance may be able to assist.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

20 Performance Report - Q1 (Pac.07.10.2021/5)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the report, previously circulated, drawing attention to the revised format, with feedback being sought from Members.

It was noted that the report included the Area Council priorities, and which commissioned services delivered against these. An overview of performance against recorded indicators was also provided, which usefully compared these to performance in previous years. It was noted that much of the increased performance related to the relaxing of restrictions, enabling more residents to take part in activities.

The Clean, Green and Tidy Commission delivered by Twiggs Grounds Maintenance had supported 189 volunteers, who had pledged 398 volunteer hours. The service had filled 899 rubbish bags and delivered 17 value added projects. Within the quarter, 12 groups had been supported against a target of 10, as well as 16 individual projects. Questions were raised around what happened to the litter, and it was noted that this was processed with household waste arisings, with all but a small proportion of this being diverted from landfill. Members heard that links had been maintained with primary schools, and that work was starting to recommence.

The work to support vulnerable and isolated older people, delivered by Age UK Barnsley, had supported 211 people with 547 interventions. 30 volunteers had been engaged, with assistance being provided for residents to access an estimated additional £18,636.80 in benefits.

Lot 1 concentrated on social action and volunteering and had provided one to one support to 24 existing users and to 5 new users. Information and advice had been provided to 16 individuals, with just 4 community car journeys provided due to the limitations associated with the pandemic. Within the quarter there had been 8 new referrals, one volunteer had received their five-year service award, and two additional volunteers had been recruited. Members heard of the links made with Thurlstone Primary school, as one of Age UK service users had made 48 bug hotels. Also noted was the organisation of a Christmas lunch at Wortley Golf Club which had been booked for 1st December.

Lot 2 focused on community activities, and there had been an increase due to the relaxing of restrictions. Pilley Healthy Life group had restarted with a 6-week programme of Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls Prevention. The social group at Wortley St. Leonard's Church was also planning to restart. The service was planning to conduct a survey around the Dunford Bridge, Crow Edge and Carlecotes area to establish whether there was demand for local group activities. Promotion of the service was also taking place in Cawthorne with the view to start a walking group utilising Cannon Hall grounds.

An outside event for residents in Thurgoland had been planned, and the membership of the Silkstone Walk for Health group had increased significantly.

19 residents had attended the launch of Wentworth Castle Gardens Walk, with more planned. There had also been discussions about the relaunch of Men In Sheds, with concern raised about the lack of space in the current shed.

Lot 3 of the programme concentrated on establishing a network of interested parties who supported older people. Efforts had been made to re-establish this and links made between Age Friendly Penistone and Age Friendly Barnsley. This has resulted in the target to provide more seats in public places.

The service provided by Citizens Advice Bureau had supported 27 individuals within the quarter and had assisted the management of £6,000 of debt and the claiming of £2,000 of additional benefit. 40 hours of volunteering had been pledged within the quarter. Members noted that only 11% of users accessed the service for debt advice, however the potential impact of the impending changes to benefits and on the powers of landlords was noted.

DIAL Barnsley had received 97 enquiries within the quarter and supported £39,492 of benefit claims. 50 hours of volunteer time had been pledged and the project had returned £12 for every £1 invested. Though 44% of users had been provided with assistance related to benefits, it was noted that the service had also been providing support to those socially isolated who had previously accessed the service.

An overview of the projects funded using Young People Grant Fund finance was provided. Ad Astra will provide mental wellbeing at Penistone Grammar School to those pre-16 and had promoted the service during the summer. Penistone Grammar School was providing similar to those post 16, and it was noted this was not due to start until September. Penistone Girl Guiding had commenced their support to young women as part of a 'Challenge' Badge, however this had been limited by restrictions.

Members noted that Angel Voices had delivered a number of singing workshops, and a charity performance had been planned for the autumn.

Activities at Penistone Leisure Centre had commenced, with Teen Boxing proving to be popular. In addition, finance had been provided to the Active Minds project at Penistone FM, with trainees covering some events over the summer, including one at New Royd Community Garden.

Members noted the work of the Penistone Team and discussed how best to further promote the work of the team and of commissioned services. It was suggested that space in Penistone Living be purchased, as previously, with finance already being approved for this.

Comments were provided on the report, with the prevailing view to keep the report as simple as possible, with exception reports where performance levels raised concerns. In addition, it was suggested that the font be larger to aid accessibility.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

21 Procurement and Financial Update (Pac.07.10.2021/6)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the report noting that there had been little change in the financial picture.

Members were reminded that activities funded by the Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older People Grant had been extended during the pandemic for six months, and later on due to a further period of six months. A workshop had been convened to discuss the requirements of a future service to support older and vulnerable residents, and the Area Council Manager was in the process of developing a specification. Members noted that finance had already been allocated to this.

Those present heard that there had been no applications received from the Working Together Fund aside from £494 used to supplement the grant for younger people. Therefore, £33,699 of Working Together Fund remained for allocation, and it was agreed that this would be promoted widely.

Members were reminded that the Clean Green and Tidy Service was in the second year of the service, and there was the option of extending the service for a further 12-month period, which would be discussed later in the year.

It was noted that the Ward Alliance had a working budget of £26,925 for the 2021/22 financial year. An additional £10,000 had been ringfenced to encourage applications from groups during the summer holidays. Members noted £8,410 of this remained unallocated. Therefore, a total figure of £18,620.13 remained within the Ward Alliance Fund. It was suggested that the next meeting of the Area Council may wish to consider devolving further finance to the Ward Alliance Fund.

An overview of the budget was provided. For 2021/22 £215,225 was available, which included any underspend carried forward. An additional £10,000 was also provided from financial hardship monies.

Following approvals for the Clean, Green and Tidy contract, Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older People Grants, and after devolving £10,000 to the Ward Alliance Fund, £70,225 remained. However, it was noted that £18,880 of Self Isolation Funds had been received and therefore the budget remaining for allocation was £89,105.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

22 Feedback from Community Listening (Pac.07.10.2021/7)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the item providing Members with an update on the community listening exercises held during the summer. The exercise provided an opportunity for the area team to come together, offered an opportunity for reflection, and also was used to promote the Area Council and Ward Alliance.

The exercise was not designed to be a statistically accurate, but more to provide an indication of the views of the community. A number of events were attended, a stall was held on Penistone Market, residents were also engaged on social media and through Age UK. In addition, the team held a number of walks where conversations were had with residents along the route. A number of sessions were held to targeted certain groups of residents as well..

The exercise yielded 81 responses; however, it was noted that the online survey was still open. There had been responses from a varied range of ages, but respondents were largely women. 15% of those responded highlighted they had a disability, with 11% preferring not to say.

In responding to what they loved about the community, people highlighted that they liked the countryside, that the area was friendly with good community spirit, and that there was now more places to eat.

In response to the second question about what was needed now and in the future, people highlighted that there was good access to green spaces, good facilities, lots going on, and that the area was safe and good for families.

However, in relation to what was needed, and would add to quality of life, areas such as provision for young people, affordable housing and improved infrastructure were highlighted. Issues with traffic, signage and streetlights were also highlighted, as was access to a GP and to a dentist. Residents raised issues with parking, but also suggested a growth in the high street was positive.

In responding to a question about what had changed for residents due to the pandemic, people said that they now spent more time with family, enjoying countryside and locally. People were generally more conscious about their health, but some highlighted increased anxiety about going out and crowds.

Overall, the exercise had offered an opportunity to reengage as a team and have conversations with people at events. A number of residents had raised issues and been signposted to resolve these, and services available to residents had been promoted.

Members were asked whether they felt the exercise raised any new issues, and whether the Area Council priorities remained valid.

Road safety was discussed, including recent issues at Hazlehead, and it was noted that this was outside the remit of the Area Council.

In relation to the findings, it was thought that the Area Council was already aware of many of the issues and that the Area Council priorities still remained relevant.

RESOLVED that the findings of the Community Listening Exercise be noted, and that the Area Council priorities be reaffirmed.

Chair