

MEETING:	North East Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 23 September 2021
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Hayward (Chair), Cheetham, Cherryholme, Ennis OBE, Green, Richardson and Wraith MBE

17 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

18 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of North East Area Council held on 22nd July 2021

The meeting considered the minutes from the previous meeting of the North East Area Council held on the 22nd July, 2021.

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

19 Notes of the Following Ward Alliances with Feedback from each Ward Alliance Chair

The meeting received notes from the Cudworth, Monk Bretton, North East and Royston Ward Alliances held throughout May and June 2021. The following updates were noted:-

Cudworth – A new Ward Alliance Member had been appointed. A campaign seeing additional sponsorship for hanging baskets was to be undertaken for next year. The Elmer the Elephant project in association with Barnsley Museums was to be undertaken. The St John's Garden was being 'turfed', the notice board was being erected and the flag pole had been erected outside the church. Funding had been obtained for the Darfield Road Community Centre and the surrounding area for projects to engage the local community and work on this was progressing. Work was progressing in seeking new volunteers for the Robert Street Allotments. Reference was made to the work of the local history group and also to the installation of a 'blue plaque' in commemoration of Dorothy Hyman at the Stadium.

Monk Bretton – The first Face to Face meeting had been held since the start of the pandemic. Four groups were now up and running throughout the area and were all doing fantastic work. A recycling project was being undertaken within local schools and work was progressing on planning for the Remembrance Day Parade. Work was also progressing on the painting of railings and investigations were progressing with regards to promoting hanging baskets sponsorship scheme. Thanks were particularly expressed for the superb work of volunteers throughout the area. It was also reported that the Elmer the Elephant Book was on sale at the Cooper Gallery.

North East – it was pleasing to report that the first Face to Face meeting had been held last week. Work was progressing with regard to the hanging baskets project for

next year. The two Gala's held in Grimethorpe and Shafton had been successful and other projects were in development with the various groups throughout the area. Specific reference was made to the work of the Section 106 Sub Group and to projects under development.

Royston – The Elmer the Elephant project was continuing, and work was progressing with the schools in the area. The Christmas Lights and Hanging Basket projects were continuing. A 'listening project' was underway with officers of the Council in order to identify 'gaps' in provision. The Royston Bowling Club had a new management committee and ways of providing support were being examined. The Jubilee Green Canopy tree project was being discussed and Ward Alliances were to be asked to plant trees. A community auction was planned and work was continuing with schools on various projects/initiatives. Some benches had been donated and delivery was awaited. Half Term projects were being planned for the Park and a new sports provider in Royston was keen to provide outside activities. Investigations were still progressing in relation to the future development of allotments in the area.

Arising out of the discussion, particular reference was made to the success of the hanging baskets projects in all areas and to the need to perhaps adopt a unified approach to their provision. Reference was also made to the arrangements for the future management of allotments. Further details would be circulated once finalised.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances and associated updates be received.

20 Ad Astra Projects update (verbal report)

Michelle Cooper from Ad Astra, gave a presentation on the Listening Support Group Work undertaken at Outwood Academy Carlton and Outwood Academy Shafton and on the Stop Smoking in Schools initiative.

In relation to the Listening Project, Michelle outlined why this was such an important project, how the project engaged with young people and what this enabled the project to achieve, the messages it gave to young people about being listened to and appreciated, the work that had continued throughout the pandemic and the issues that had been identified particularly in relation to those under 16 years of age. She then outlined the feedback which, in summary, indicated that the vast majority of young people felt that their time involved with the project had been beneficial.

Information was then provided about the Smoking Cessation Project which had been developed as the local NHS staff had struggled to engage with young people especially in schools. The initial pilot programme had proved to be very successful and the staff team had completed the NHS Smoking Cessation Training in the hope that they could increase the capacity of support available to young people. Later in the year it was hoped to re-start the project in Outwood Academy Shafton, however, before this occurred all staff would have their training reaffirmed to ensure that they were all Covid secure with the methods to be used. In addition, in the last few months requests had been received from school asking for support for students who wanted to stop smoking and appropriate support had been provided. This had clearly demonstrated that there was a demand for the service.

The projects were very much welcomed by members of the Area Council. It was hoped that these could be extended to other schools that children attended within the area attended but the reasons for this not being possible at the moment were noted.

Particular reference was made to the issues relating to mental health and to the increase in demand as a result of the Covid pandemic. It was noted that differing support was available throughout Barnsley but it was felt that there would be a benefit of having a co-ordinated/unified approach throughout the borough.

Rachel Payling stated that she was involved in a group which dealt with mental health and well being and she would share information about where help was available. She reported on the Draft Mental Health Strategy which was currently being prepared and on the possible development of a youth provision at the Lightbox as well as to the provision of support for men. It was hoped that similar provision could be made in all other towns in the borough.

Arising out of this discussion particular reference was made to the potential issues that may arise following the changes to Universal Credit and the withdrawal of the £20 uplift.

Michelle Cooper referred to a mapping exercise that had been completed which, once all the information was compiled, would identify gaps in provision. She also pointed out that there were many voluntary organisations that were providing support for young people that were not part of the formal network.

RESOLVED that Ms M Cooper be thanked for attending the meeting, for her presentation and for answering Members questions.

21 North East Area Council Project Performance Report - update on the delivery of commissioned projects.

Christie McFarlane, Community Development Officer for the North East Area Council introduced this item and gave a detailed update on the delivery of commissioned projects.

An update was provided in relation to District Enforcement for Quarter 1 covering the period April to June 2021. It was reported that 137 Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued, 118 of which were for litter and 19 for Dog Fouling. There had been a delay in car parking due to a new operating system and changing over to new equipment and software.

Twenty seven tasks had been received this quarter from the Area Council and Neighbourhood Services and Members were reminded to inform the Area Form Officer of any hot spot areas or other areas of concern so that they could be investigated.

In relation to Fixed Penalty Notices, it was reported that £4,900 had been raised during the quarter.

In relation to the two case studies, the first related to Rabbit Ings where 10 Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued, 5 for Dog Fouling and 5 for littering. The second

related to Monk Bretton and specifically West Green Way where 11 Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued, 9 for Littering and 2 for Dog Fouling.

It was then reported that some promotional items had been given out by Enforcement Officers these included Stubbies (which were mini cigarette bins), dog poo bag holders and tote bags. These were on display at the meeting and if any Members wished to take them for distribution within the community they could do so. It was noted that the Stubbies, which were a preventative measure for littering, also contained up to date contact information for the Smoking Advisor for the North East Area should anyone be thinking about quitting and need support.

In relation to the Stop Smoking Outreach Service, it was reported that for the current financial year, the contract had been extended once again and the total amount available was £30,000.

As a result of the Covid pandemic, there had been delivery charges moving from Face-to-Face sessions to telephone and online Support. Sarah Sverdloff (Smoking Advisor for the North East Area) had continued to support people with smoking cessation as well as helping with social isolation and signposting to mental health services. She had also continued to work with XBO Logistics on 'Train the Trainer' sessions and there were now 2 Level 2 trained advisors who could deliver support to other employees.

Smoking Advice Sessions had been provided by Michelle Cooper from Ad Astra.

In relation to smoking prevention, it was noted that just over 1 in 5 adults were smokers within the North East area, this comprised 18.8% in Cudworth, 18.4% in Monk Bretton, 18.6% in the North East ward and 17.9% in Royston, a total of 7,877 smokers across the area which had reduced from 11,968 in 2018.

In relation to the target performance, it was noted that all targets set had been exceeded and information was provided in relation to feedback received from service users.

Reference was then made to the proposed recovery steps post Covid which included, amongst other things, the trialling of Virtual Group sessions, delivering more 'Train the Trainer' Level 2 training with partners and resuming 1-1 Face-to-Face appointments. As a result of the success of this commissioned model of provision over the last three years, an additional three advisors were being recruited for the South, Central and Dearne Area Council areas.

In relation to other performance, reference was also made to the Age UK Barnsley Information Advice and Guidance Service for the over 50's. It was noted that for an investment of £4,000, a return of £46,415.44 had resulted in benefit gains.

Reference was also made to the Exodus Young Peoples Project and a case study of the success of the project was presented.

RESOLVED that the update be noted, and thanks be expressed to the staff and volunteers who have worked so hard during these challenging times.

22 NEAC Financial Position and Procurement Update

Christie McFarlane, Community Development Officer for the North East Area Council introduced this item and reported that the North East Area Council was on target for spend.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

23 Report on the use of the Ward Alliance Funds

Christie McFarlane, Community Development Officer for the North East Area Council introduced this item and updated Members with regard to the Area Council Budget, Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds.

It was noted that Ward Alliances were working with Officers in order to achieve expenditure to agreed profiles. In addition, it was reported that ongoing work was continuing with the Stop Smoking Advisor and with the Great Houghton Youth Club with the aim of developing satellite provision within the village.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

Chair