

MEETING:	Dearne Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 15 November 2021
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Noble (Chair), Cain, Coates, Danforth and Gollick

Attending Virtually: Councillor Gardiner

24 **Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

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

25 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 6th September, 2021 (Dac.15.11.2021/2)**

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Dearne Area Council meeting held on 6th September, 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.

26 **Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing - Lauren Nixon CYP transformation lead. (Dac.15.11.2021/3)**

Lauren Nixon, CYP Emotional Health and Wellbeing Transformation Lead, was welcomed to the meeting. Members were made aware of the work to date in this area. A mapping and scoping exercise had been undertaken in order to record all services supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of young people. From this a number of recommendations had been developed into an improvement plan.

A multi-agency group on the theme had been convened, which was well attended by a broad spectrum of organisations. The formation of the group was designed to enable strategic decisions to be made collectively.

The CAMHS service specification had also been reviewed and a model developed which puts the child at the heart. Members heard how the service was now in an implementation period. A Mental Health Support Team was also in the mobilisation phase. Specialising in early intervention and mental health support in schools, the service would be fully operational by March 2022, but was already operating in all secondary and special schools, and some primary schools.

Investment had been made to provide a physical space, with the CYP Emotional Health and Wellbeing Hub located in the town centre. This was partly operational but would be launched fully in the new year.

Members were made aware of the CYP Emotional Health and Wellbeing Improvement Plan which focused on 5 key areas:-

- Early Intervention and Prevention:- assistance is provided through a mental health support team supporting schools to embed a whole school approach to mental health including looking at the causes of mental health issues and how to support those with adverse childhood experiences;
- Workforce Development:- a training calendar has been developed which has been rolled out to educational settings;
- The role of schools and school settings:- lots of work has been undertaken with school, and investment has been made to provide support through mental health support teams,
- Improved support for vulnerable children and young people:- the Mental Health Support Team specifically work with groups such as LGBT, Young Carers, and those at risk of exclusion. It was noted that these groups were not exhaustive and were under review;
- Engagement and Co-production:- working with such as the Youth Council, there has been significant engagement over the summer, an engagement strategy was in development.

Members noted the ongoing workstreams, which included the Self Harm Strategy, All Age Eating Disorder Working Group, development of the Hub Building and the provision of a centralised multi-agency training offer. trained.

The demand for the bereavement support service was noted and Members heard that a business case was being developed for more sustainable funding.

Members discussed how to engage smaller organisations, and suggestions were welcomed. Questions were raised in relation to support for those Electively Home Educated, and it was noted that parents were made aware of support by the Education Welfare Service.

With reference to eating disorders and self-harming, questions were raised about support for families, and it was noted that this was available for the families of those suffering with eating disorders if referred through CAMHS. However, a gap had been identified in relation to self-harm and options were being considered how to address this.

With reference to the training offer and how this could be made more widely available, it was noted that anyone working with Children and Young People could set up an account on POD and access the training.

Those present discussed the waiting times to access CAMHS, it was noted that there had been some improvement with on average 7 days from referral to appointment and three months to assessment. However, it was noted that improvements made in young people accessing earlier interventions could also impact on this.

Discussions took place regarding support in schools, in particular in relation to reducing exclusions. it was noted that the SEND team had a SEND improvement officer to work with schools to review practice and support development in all areas of SEND provision. Mental health support teams would also provide one-to-one support for students and help identify gaps in support. It was noted that progress in reducing exclusions would be monitored by the Education Welfare Service.

Members asked to what extent were local schools engaging with the agenda, and it was noted that this did vary, but all secondary schools were engaged as were three primary schools in the area. It was hoped that Ofsted's increased consideration of this area, and the impacts seen from positive engagement, would further encourage schools to take part.

In relation to the local offer website, it was acknowledged that this was not easy to use. However, work was taking place with young people, including Barnsley Youth Council to update this.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the presentation and update

27 Performance Report Q2 (Dac.15.11.2021/4)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the report which focused on performance in quarter two.

Twiggs Grounds Maintenance had worked with 258 volunteers, of which 57 were new, and had filled 454 bags of rubbish. 136 areas had been targeted and 8 cases of fly tipping reported.

In the quarter B:Friend had supported 77 isolating older neighbours and provided 468 hours of one-to-one befriender time. Staff had also provided 46 hours of staff visits or calls. The service had engaged 36 volunteers in quarter 2, with 11 of these being new. 52 hours of social group activities had also been arranged, with weekly sessions in Thurnscoe and Bolton-on-Dearne.

DECV had supported 47 learners within the quarter, of which 21 were new. Nine learners had achieved qualifications within the quarter, with five going into employment and 10 into further training.

The Private Sector Housing Officer had seen a slight increase in reports with 143 made in the quarter. These had led to 38 properties being improved and 37 people assisted to make positive changes. 41 cases of fly-tipping had been reported, with 31 houses making improvements after an initial contact.

In quarter two, Citizen's Advice Bureau had supported 60 people with 116 issues. The service had assisted residents to claim an additional £21,094 of benefits and manage £4,000 of debt.

DIAL had received 139 enquiries, and 248 had reported reduced anxiety as a result of using the service. In the quarter the service had supported £105,276 of additional benefit claims.

Members heard how TADS had provided 266 hours of support, with 40 children and young people engaged. In quarter two, online group support sessions had been launched, which had been well received. It was noted that this had been in addition to one-to-one support.

Questions were raised in relation to the provision of advice and guidance and whether DIAL and CAB would be returning to providing services in person. It was

noted that discussions had been taking place, with relevant risk assessments being undertaken, however feedback was still awaited.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

28 Finance Update (Dac.15.11.2021/5)

The Area Council Manager provided Members with an update in relation to the financial position of the Area Council.

From a starting balance of £207,783.34, £25,342.34 remained. However, £31,638 had been received from the practical support grant bringing the total available for allocation to £56,980.34. In addition £17,003.41 remained within the Dearne Development Fund.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

29 Dearne Area Council Procurement Report - Future Commissions (Dac.15.11.2021/6)

The Area Manager introduced the item, referring to the Social Inclusion Service currently being delivered by B:Friend. The service currently cost around £27,000 per year to deliver, supported social groups and provided one-to-one support for social excluded residents aged 65+. It was acknowledged that the pandemic had further highlighted this as a priority within the area. In considering options for the service, it was agreed that any future service should relax age restrictions to ensure more residents can benefit from support available. It was also suggested that the service also ought to target men, who have been underrepresented in interventions so far.

Members were reminded of the previous agreement to extend the Housing and Migration service level agreement until 31st March, 2022, with discussions taking place within the Safer Neighbourhood Service about future provision.

Since that time discussions had indicated that any core service would be reactive, and that Area Council would be best placed to procure any more proactive service. It was therefore suggested that the SLA should be extended for a further year. Members noted that, as part of the discussions, the Safer Neighbourhood Service had agreed to underwrite any redundancy costs associated with the post.

Members were supportive of the recommendation and acknowledged the impact of the post in the area.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the options set out in the report for future Dearne Area Council commissions be noted;
- (ii) that the specification for a Social Inclusion Service be approved and that approval be given to procure this service for three years at a cost of £28,000 per annum, from 1st August, 2022, to 31st July 2025;
- (iii) that approval be given to extend the Housing and Migration service level agreement for a further year, until 31st March, 2023 at a cost of £33,277.

30 Notes from the Dearne Ward Alliances (Dac.15.11.2021/7)

The meeting received the notes from the Dearne North Ward Alliance held on 21st September, 201 and Dearne South Ward Alliance held on 7th October, 2021.

The Dearne South Ward Alliance received an update in relation to the Principal Towns programme. A discussion was also had regarding the Renaissance Centre. The Neighbourhood Engagement Officer provided an update regarding their support of risk assessments for new and returning groups, and provided information about flu and covid vaccines. It was noted that the Ward Alliance will be reviewing their priorities and associated action plan. Group updates were also provided, and discussion took place about the autumnal fayre.

At the Dearne North Ward Alliance a presentation had been received about Section 106 finance. Two applications for finance had been considered, and the Neighbourhood Engagement Officer had provided an update on their work.

RESOLVED that notes from the respective Ward Alliances be received.

31 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Dac.15.11.2021/8)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the report, previously circulated. The Dearne North Ward had supported five projects and had £3,989.92 remaining from a starting budget of £10,182,.92

The Dearne South Ward had £5,817.72 remaining from an opening balance of £11,317.72 after funding four projects. It was noted that there were a number of applications for funding in development in the Dearne South Ward.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Chair