

MEETING:	Informal meeting of South Area Councillors
DATE:	Friday, 18 February 2022
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

NOTES

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

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

No Member wished to declare an interest in any item on the agenda.

2 **Minutes of the Meeting of South Area Council held on 17th December, 2021 (Sac.18.02.2022/2)**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th December, 2021 were received.

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the meeting of South Area Council, held on 17th December, 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.

3 **Notes of the Ward Alliances (Sac.18.02.2022/3)**

The meeting received the notes from the following Ward Alliances:-
Hoyland Milton and Rockingham held on 19th January, 2022;
Wombwell held on 20th January, 2022; and
Darfield held on 10th January, 2022.

RECOMMENDED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

4 **Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Sac.18.02.2022/4)**

The Area Council Manager made Members aware of the following amounts of finance remaining in each of the Ward Alliance Funds:-

Hoyland Milton and Rockingham - £11,324.84
Darfield – £12,007.18
Wombwell - £9,574.11

RECOMMENDED that the report on the use of Ward Alliance Funds be received.

5 **Public Health Updates (Sac.18.02.2022/5)**

Diane Lee, Head of Public Health, spoke to the item and provided an overview of the draft Mental Health Strategy. The strategy covered the whole of the borough and

had been co-produced with those who had lived experience. Officers had worked closely with the Mental Health Forum.

The strategy acknowledged the impact of trauma and adversity on mental health, especially more recently from covid. It was noted that the document focused on the wider determinants of health, and also challenged stigma and prejudice. Members noted that the document also covered recovery and living well with mental health issues.

Noted were the themes within the strategy, which included the wider determinants of health, early intervention, a focus on children and young people developing well, as well as adults living and ageing well. Though focused on early intervention and prevention, the strategy also considered mental health crisis and suicide prevention, to ensure support was available.

Those present discussed how the strategy related to the South Area, and how this could be taken forward. It was noted that those with lived experience could engage with the Mental Health Forum, and community buildings throughout the area could be used to start a conversation about mental health.

Members discussed the increased pressures faced by children and young people, and also noted the significant waiting times for support through CAMHS.

It was acknowledged that the South Area was well provided by public and community buildings, and questions were raised about whether these could be better utilised to support young people more.

It was suggested that Lauren Nixon, CYP Emotional Health and Wellbeing Lead, could be invited to a future meeting in order to discuss the support already available for young people.

The Mental Health of older people was also discussed, and it was noted many groups which were paused due to the pandemic were now restarting, bringing people back together and improving their mental health.

Members also noted the positive work undertaken in the area by the Samaritans, and the popular misconception that they were only there to support people in crisis.

It was noted that many Area Council and Ward Alliance funded projects helped to bring people together and support positive mental health. It was suggested that it would be useful to map the support available and contribution to this agenda in the South Area, with a view to addressing gaps.

RECOMMENDED:-

- i) that thanks be given for the presentation; and
- ii) that further discussions take place on how South Area Council can assist in delivering the Mental Health Strategy.

6 Project and Finance Update (Sac.18.02.2022/6)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item, reminding Members of the investments they had made. £381,911 of the £400,000 received had been allocated.

An additional £20,000 of Local Support Grant had also been received and been allocated. £18,023 of the core budget remained for allocation and it was noted that £37,996 of Healthier Communities Covid Funding had also been added to the budget.

Members were reminded of the Area Council Priorities:-

Access to local information and advice;

Changing the relationship between the council and the community;

Improving the local economy;

Our environment;

Young people; and

Health and wellbeing for all.

Members noted the percentage of finance allocated to each theme, with 'Our environment' receiving significantly more money than others, with very little allocated to supporting young people.

An overview showing the distribution of Local Support Grant finance was provided. This had supported those impacted by the pandemic across the four wards. 7 projects were funded, which included supporting vulnerable residents and families on low income.

Members' attention was then drawn to the outcomes of the Community Listening exercise, where 86 responses had been received that related to children and young people. These included suggestions for improved facilities, better provision for teenagers, updated park equipment, summer camps and education on the environment.

Noting the finance remaining for allocation, Members discussed how young people in the area could be supported. Examples from other area councils were provided to stimulate this discussion.

There was support for detached youth work provision, which did not rely on community buildings and was thought would engage those who may not otherwise do so. It was also suggested that the Area Council may wish to consider provision for families with children who may have special educational needs or disabilities.

Many supported commissioning services, as it was thought that this would ensure appropriate coverage throughout the area.

Whilst not wanting to hinder progress, the consensus was to establish what provision was already in place, including through the voluntary and community sector and the Targeted Youth Support Service. Then a commissioning exercise could be undertaken to provide any further support based on gaps identified.

RECOMMENDED that further discussions be undertaken with relevant groups and agencies in order to establish current provision for children and young people and identify gaps where the Area Council may be able to intervene.

Chair