

MEETING:	Meeting of North Area Councillors
DATE:	Monday, 16 May 2022
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room 4, Barnsley Town Hall

Notes of a meeting of North Area Councillors

Present Councillors Leech (Chair), A. Cave, Crisp, Denton, Howard, Hunt and Tattersall

57 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Tattersall declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute number 52 Youth Resilience Fund Project Delivery Update as she is a Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

58 Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on the 14th March, 2022

The Area Council received the notes of the previous meeting held on 14th March 2022, but these are unable to be ratified due to the meeting being inquorate.

59 Youth Resilience Fund Project Delivery Update - Andrea Battye (YMCA) and Michelle Cooper (Ad Astra)

Members welcomed Andrea Battye from YMCA and Michelle Cooper and Rachel Sharp from Ad Astra who gave an update on the Youth Resilience Fund Project Delivery.

R Adams gave an overview of the work, and it was explained that these projects support young people aged 15-17 years who were displaying risk taking behaviours including self-harm, and the misuse of alcohol and drugs. Several workshops were carried out and these explored what provision was already in place which indicated there was a gap in services, not for this age group but the 8/9 and 13/14 years olds. Both organisations use differing techniques to deliver the interventions and are working with different schools. Statistics were explored and they identified three schools in St Helens and one school in an alternative area. Ad Astra will be covering this area with YMCA covering the other three wards. The work has been delayed due to covid and the unsettled periods in between lockdowns so both organisations have had difficulties.

Michelle from Ad Astra gave an overview on the history of the service which started in 2013 with staff having a vast level of experience and all being DBS checked and trained mental health first aiders. They cover North, North East and Penistone and have been based in St Helen's since 2016. They have a wider programme which includes delivering weekly food parcels, a woman's wellbeing programme, community bingo, café and groups along with afterschool provision.

In Old Town they are delivering the MAD Project at St Paul's after school club and in Penistone, Darton and North East they are looking at dental hygiene and listening support.

In Outwood work is being delivered to Y7 around transition, getting lost around school and not being able to sort dinner money. However, more serious issues came out such as bullying, gender concerns, estranged families, domestic violence, parents in prison, parents with disabilities, finances, covid and general anxiety with self-harm and suicidal thoughts. They supported over 50 children with these issues. Furthermore, they participated in parents' evenings with an information stall.

In Athersley North, Athersley South and Laithes they worked on a six-week transition programme and in New Lodge they delivered youth clubs and other activities. They did have some challenges which included covid but also building relationships with schools, communication and data collection. However, they now have a really positive relationship with Athersley North.

During Covid the service tried to support families by delivering packs of activities including art supplies and carried out outreach work in gardens. Since this, buddy and transitioning workshops have been delivered, with over 200 people completing the buddy training, along with litter picking and constructing bird feeders. During April 2021 to July 2021 all years 5 and 6 in Athersley South and Laithes Primary school were worked with.

In Athersley North the youth club grew to three sessions and was split into age ranges. There are now two sessions on a Tuesday with around 20 to 25 young people aged 8 to 13 years, with the older ones attending on a Wednesday night. During the holidays, hunger was a big issue at the holiday provision so cook and eat sessions were completed along with litter picks and walking to school groups for young people with ASD.

Some work with younger children in years two and three was implemented, as support was required early on to help with managing stress and building resilience. This makes it more cost effective for other organisations too as they will not be required to do work later on.

The service was really proud of the work they have delivered as they have worked with some amazing young people and watched them grow. Furthermore, they have been able to support families by helping parents get back into education through a 6-week training programme for maths and primary homework. They are pleased to be able to do it for another year and have had excellent feedback from Clare Storr at Athersley North, who said that young people had learnt how to be a good friend and how to stop bullying.

The relationship with Emma Sanderson from Athersley South has gone from strength to strength, the sessions have been really valuable and have contributed to growing confidence within the school.

In the ensuing discussions reference was made to:

The impressive work delivered which provides young people with the confidence to talk about things confidentially and detailed how the service responds to safeguarding issues. Furthermore, it clarified how to manage keeping secrets and what information can be kept as a secret or if it is something more serious such as

abuse at home, young people are aware they need to speak to an adult. The service tries to make sure they have information up front, they take a lot into schools and to other organisations and are there to support them on the journey.

Covid has had a huge impact on young people, and they will never get back the time that was lost, several young people are still wearing masks for fear of taking it home. They are academically worried and feel like they will never be where they need or want to be. The fear is there, and they will be living with it however, some young people think we need to get on with life. The education system has not been set up for a pandemic, so moving into GCSE's it is hoped that allowances are going to be made. Work has been done with some Y10 girls who are anxious, they have been referred to the service due to this, but early intervention is key as the issues raised can become far more serious.

The landscape has changed, and young people are struggling to respond to loss and family illnesses which have occurred. The economics within families and the war in Europe is impacting on young people's resilience and the need for the service is affecting their ability to respond. Prior to this they were constantly developing skills and now do not have the ability to do this. Work such as barriers to employment and communicating with employers have all been set back and we may not see recovery for a long time.

The issue of self-harm and how it is now across the board when previously this was not the case, was raised and the processes surrounding reporting this at a school level were highlighted, it was clarified that the service have a close relationship with the safeguarding officer. Waiting lists for correct services such as CAHMS are 2/3 years long, so the service is often picking this work up and more recently CAHMS have referred to Ad Astra for support. CAHMS does not have the capacity to take the numbers which are being referred, so are relying on the community and voluntary sector.

In regard to how numbers are gathered and recorded it was explained that YMCA receive data from youth and health organisations and being a national organisation they are directly involved in work targeting Barnsley, lobbying for funding and exploring why the levelling up funding was not received.

Ad Astra acknowledged concerns that schools are not identifying the correct pathways for young people and that CAHMS are being overwhelmed. They stated their service is not well known, so it is not respected enough to get heard by decision makers. Regarding academies it was claimed that it is tricky for the local authority to get anywhere due to how they are governed.

A Battye gave an overview of the work which had been carried out since 1857 which included:

- Safe Spaces
- Relationships with young people, families and local communities
- Emotional resilience & wellbeing
- Confidence
- Wellbeing Index & Resilience Framework
- Weekly activities in Darton, Kexborough & Mapplewell

- Design & develop sessions

The service has 3 key strands which involve Darton, Kexborough and Mapplewell, with Summer Lane soon to be added.

Schools youth work delivery:

- Wide range of activities to build relationships
- Y6 gender specific needs identified by school and then brought together
- After school drop in sessions
- Peer support training in Darton - working with years 7&8 to understand what it is to help others

Detached youth work:

- Street based since 2018 in Kexborough, Darton & Mapplewell
- Working on activities including arts & crafts, sports and environmental activities.
- Wider family's engagement around mental health and wellbeing
- Cross generational activities such as building communication skills
- Work with all communities to build relationships and reclaiming green spaces
- Personal development for parents - hosted a community event with arts crafts and games

Holiday Provision:

- Locally based and detached
- Supporting families and maintaining relationships.
- Increases opportunities for aspirations
- Make friends outside of school to build social networks

Wider opportunities include looking beyond the limitations of funding and being the venue for Chilypep's Home & Emotional Wellbeing Hub working with a step up/step down model. Collaborative working highlights gaps in services, increases services and enhances outcomes. Involving young people in service development along with youth volunteering and peer support guarantees the service has the young person at the heart of what they do.

In the ensuing discussions reference was made to:

Community green spaces where it was identified that the Ward Alliance were putting together a project for a community allotment and orchard, and in order to not duplicate work YMCA indicated that they would be excited to be involved. Although YMCA have limited capacity this could possibly be done as a subgroup.

The work being done and whether it is part of the curriculum or bolted on and it was confirmed that the work is open access and young people are funnelled into it. It was important to make sure that young people do not feel stigmatised, so work is done across the year group with the young people having their own agenda to support them in coming out of that environment and developing wider relationships. Ad Astra confirmed that the work they do is during the last hour of the school day and an hour after. It was noted that all

the work presented today is not all funded by the North Area Council but that wider opportunities come from all localities.

Services stated that it is difficult to employ youth workers on 1 or 2 year basis and it is an aim to offer people longer term contracts, with a clarification that this is more than 2 years, as people need longer term security to have sustainability.

RECOMMENDED that Andrea Battye, Michelle Cooper and Rachel Sharp be thanked for attending the meeting, for their presentation and for answering Members questions.

60 Stronger Communities Grant 2022/23

The Stronger Communities Grant had been running for a long time and the funding had been reduced over the last 3 years, with grants this year available for up to £10,000. Two projects have been funded which are:

Mother Runners – Stronger Mums and the Mapplewell and Staincross Greenspace and Recreation Group, Mapplewell Park – Children’s Cycle Path. Monitoring meetings will be carried out and reported back to evaluate. It was acknowledged that all applications were very similar as the needs of the community are in alignment.

61 Performance Report Quarter 4 2021/22

CAB & DIAL - The style they have for DIAL in particular and the work which has been done with appeals could not have been carried out without the support from DIAL. They have outreach services as a drop in within the community for each ward and the appointment system will cease at the end of May.

Twiggs - Their Activity programme is filling up but more forward planning would be useful. The KPI groups are not new to Twiggs, however it was noted that this is a difficult KPI to do authentically. Furthermore, it was noted that communication issues had been raised and taken on board by Twiggs but that it can be challenging for an organisation who are used to operational delivery being involvement in the development. The amount of volunteering hours was stated to be outstanding, and this will be collated to summarise its cash value in relation to the value of the contract.

Age UK has been delivering connecting communities which identified issues which covid only served to exasperate, the impact of loneliness is reported to be equivalent to smoking 20 cigarettes a day. The project has had 2 years of funding with the hope of bringing people together. It explored working age, older and people with long term disabilities and resulted in an all age physical and mental health activity. This is being delivered in the form of a walking group and a chair-based exercise group.

Regarding the Housing & Cohesion Officer, a lot of praise has been given to this officer as you can really see how they have developed in their role. The recent report which came in, indicates how they have joined up a wide range of opportunities and their values, skills and understanding contribute to the success of the role. They are someone who really cares about people and the operational responsibilities they had during covid was difficult, but they did a good job.

They have recently been working on two properties in St Helens and overnight you could see an amazing transformation, the street and the area improved immediately, and residents have given thanks for this.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust are behind in their delivery but are recruiting a project officer to support this. However, if this is not satisfactory the Area Council will be seeking to reclaim funds.

The 5-star wellbeing funding which provided support around period poverty and men's mental health has come to an end. However, some additional funding has been found as continuity is important and this will be to work with young people in Delta Academy, Darton until the end of the academic year.

The Reconnect project funding with Carol Cotton has come to an end but Methodist North West Church have found additional funding for the post, which will involve more pastoral work.

Transition with the REDS funding has come to an end, the project delivered lots of physical activity and confidence building and was enjoyed by schools and young people.

It was stated that there is a good mix projects funded by the North Area Council but following the workshop back in March, some of the issues identified such as cost of living, anti-social behaviour, parking and careers advice for 14-16 year olds needs be supported. It was agreed that another workshop to address this within the next month would be organised.

RECOMMENDED - A Community safety update will be requested from Cath Fairweather.

62 Commissioning and Project Development and Finance

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, R Adams.

Members noted the report and funds therein.

63 Report on the use of Ward Alliance Funds

Darton East - Have had 3 funding applications approved

Darton West - Have had the Stars Award which was a great success

Old Town - Various updates

St Helen - Have had a spring clean, Jubilee event, Gala, hanging baskets and new members and are looking at future events

RECOMMENDED - Cllr Leech has a memorial bench to install and people from the regiment are coming along to help.

64 Notes from the following Ward Alliances

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 8th March, 2022; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 15th March & 26th April, 2022; Old

Town Ward Alliance held on 8th March, 2022; and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 7th April, 2022.

RECOMMENDED that the notes of the respective Ward Alliances be noted.

Chair