

MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday 18 July 2022
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room 1 - Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors T. Cave, Denton, Howard, Hunt, Lofts and Platts (Chair)

1 Appointment of Chair

Cllr Platts was appointed to chair in Cllr Leech's absence.

2 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

3 Notes of a Meeting of North Area Councillors held on Monday 16th May 2022

The Area Council received the notes of the meeting held on 16th May 2022.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the notes of the North Area Council held on 16th May 2022 be approved as a true and correct record;
- (ii) that Andrea Battye, Michelle Cooper and Rachel Sharp be thanked for attending the meeting, for their presentation and for answering Members questions in relation to the Youth Resilience Fund Project Delivery Update;
- (iii) that a Community safety update will be requested from Cath Fairweather;
- (iv) that Councillor Leech has a memorial bench to install and people from the regiment are coming along to help;
- (v) Cllr Leech has a memorial bench to install and people from the regiment are coming along to help.

4 Community Safety Update - Cath Fairweather and Carolyn Nichols

Members welcomed C Fairweather the Community Safety Coordinator who gave an update on Community Safety.

C Fairweather gave an update on the work being carried out, and it was explained that how they are operating has not changed. Wardens are still dealing with issues such as fly tipping, with dog waste problems going to enforcement. There has been a report on joining forces with the Warden's which should have been sent out. However, if this has not been received C Fairweather will forward it to Members.

Last week a Warden issued an almost instant £400 fixed penalty fine in New Lodge following a fly tipping report. The offender was also issued with a Duty of Care Notice. As part of Operation Duxford, the whole team spent time in New Lodge and Athersley North being visible, visiting addresses and dealing with non-complying tenants. Furthermore, several community protection warnings and final notices were issued.

The police team is still active in all areas and some key operations are being carried out dealing with drugs and stolen goods. There has been a property in Old Town identified as causing many issues. PAC meetings have started up again at the Roundhouse Library in Athersley North and other venues are being explored to host these meetings.

Bradley (Housing and Cohesion Officer) is currently covering some cases for a colleague and has a few cases ongoing. More officers are becoming centralised for ease of management but are still based in their areas. There used to be 2 managers working on dedicated cases but there are now 4 to 5 managers for escalated cases. Heather is also in place to provide support to vulnerable victims and witnesses. If anyone would like to know more about the work the team is carrying out under the new arrangements, this can be organised.

In the ensuing discussions reference was made to:

How the perpetrator of the fly tipping incident was identified and if it was the wardens who issues the fixed penalty notice. It was confirmed that a member of the public provided a statement. The warden visited the complainant and the perpetrator, who was issued with the penalty as a first offence. The wardens always go through the fly tipping to see if there is any identifying information, and the message will be put out that someone has been caught and fined. This will be on posters and will give out the message that people are being actively watched.

At present the team is very interested in waste carriers as quite often they are unlicensed, and this can lead to vehicles being crushed. When reports of these are enforced it is put out on social media for the public to see that the team is being proactive.

Members were provided with information on how the wardens work is prioritised and despite being centrally managed they are deployed to where the need is greatest. Although they focus on their allocated areas, they do cover other areas when team members are on leave. At present there is a priority case in Barugh Green, the Environmental Agency are involved, as it is having a significant impact on the community.

In regard to anonymous reports such as a fly tipped mattress which will most likely not have any identifying information, this will go to neighbourhood services for clearance and disposal. Additionally, if not on council land the team will liaise with the landowner to dispose of it.

The wardens for the area are:

- Tom Kitching
- Martin Lowe

- Liam Clarke

When the wardens are on a late shift, they cover the whole area and priorities at present include parks and open spaces.

Cllr Loftis stated that on the West Road mini orchard all 6 cherry trees had been stolen. Furthermore, the trees in the quarry off Wakefield Road which were planted by YMCA have also been stolen.

C Fairweather shared with Members that she is trying to organise a McMillan coffee morning in every area, and she is looking for sponsors and raffle prizes for this.

RESOLVED – that C Fairweather will send out the Joining Forces Report.

5 Heart Health Plan and Campaign - Kay Mann

Members welcomed Kay Mann from Public Health to the meeting to give an update on the Heart Health Plan and campaign.

K Mann leads on cancer prevention and heart health. There is a high-level strategy in place for heart health across the borough and an alliance has been set up with partners to prevent heart attacks, strokes, angina, and high blood pressure.

Primary care and pharmacies will be managing these after an initial referral from the team, but the vision is to prevent and improve heart health through early detection. 80% of heart attacks and strokes are avoidable through health improvement changes such as smoking, healthy diet, moving more and drinking less alcohol.

In Barnsley there are 36,000 people with heart issues and 55 of these result in death in each month. 44 of these could be avoided and St Helen is the worst ward for emergency admissions for heart attacks and deaths from heart disease. More needs to be done with a targeted approach to reduce health inequalities as many people are leaving it too late before getting help. This often leads to long term disabilities and death.

The time between the initial symptom of a stroke and presenting at hospital is 15 hours in the Barnsley area, in other areas it is 2 hours. The specific drug which can help with a stroke needs to be administered within 4.5 hours, so many are leaving it too long for intervention. People who are experiencing a stroke do not want to attend A&E or call an ambulance but, in these instances, calling an ambulance is the best option as this can determine the treatment and where it is administered.

The biggest risk factor is blood pressure, and the team are working with GPs to identify which patients have their blood pressure information missing from their records. They are concentrating on men from the Dearne and North and are working with local pharmacies to refer on for support. So far from the 2 sessions carried out in the North, 20 people from the 56 who attended have been referred on for further investigation. There is a session coming up shortly in Athersley and the team are trying to set something up at Asda, Old Mill Lane. Anyone who is picked up as having an elevated blood pressure reading is referred onto a pharmacy and can be fitted with a monitor.

The health check service is re-starting, and this will help people who need the most support. This comes from the public health budget and provides support to those over 40 and checks a number of things including height, weight, blood pressure and cholesterol. They want to concentrate on quality over quantity and there is extra funding available to embed this in communities by training people who offer other one to one service, e.g., hairdressers. There are resources in place to target men in deprived areas such as beer mats for pubs and working men's clubs and additional resources in the form of posters and leaflets. Additionally, the team are available to pull people in and do on the spot checks, as they are aware how hard it is to get into a GP. It was clarified that the team will explore visiting community centres, coffee mornings and Dementia Café's and are leaving leaflets in shops.

Members discussed the Cancer Research bus in the town centre and stated that it found obesity to be a problem, but that people were waiting a long time to be referred by the GP to BPL, sometimes 2-3 months and were losing motivation by this time. K Mann clarified that BPL do have a waiting list, but it is not as long as 2-3 months. Additionally, in regard to the new health model there is a focus on keeping the momentum going by providing all support face to face with a prompt follow up. The new team within GP surgeries which includes care coordinators and health, and wellbeing coaches are part of this. Furthermore, resources are being taken out into the community for rapid results.

Members stated that they are worried about the lack of access to GP's and as time goes by it is getting worse. K Mann acknowledged that it is hard to get into a GP, but that people need to persevere and that the public need to be encouraged to do this. One Member stated that he had witnessed a person in incredible pain trying to access a GP appointment to be told one is not available, after some time an appointment was offered but with a healthcare practitioner and not a GP. They are worried that this is systematic and that surgeries are run by agencies where you see a nurse practitioner and not a GP.

K Mann acknowledged that a GP is not always best placed to deal with medical issues, for example it may be a diabetic nurse with specialist training who provides support to manage a condition. However, Members noted that there is a triage system in place but that receptionists are doing this with a queue of people in front of them instead of in private and this is problematic. It was clarified that not all people are experiencing these issues and are getting to see a GP. However, some people are turning up at A&E as they believe they cannot see a GP.

The idea is for the service to fill a gap and target a huge number of people, Public Health are well placed to do this. The aim is to reduce the pressure on the NHS and help people before they require an ambulance. Only using A&E provision as a last resort. It was clarified that if something is found by the team there are protocols which become active to support the person moving forward. However, it is important to note that this service is in addition to regular support and any other issues require exploring with the GP.

On Wednesday 20th July there is an event for blood pressure checks in Mapplewell and Cllr Hunt will try to attend to support and promote the service.

6 Future Commissioning Workshop

R Adams gave an update on the workshop which focused on the cost of living. They had received a lot of information from Jill Bills from Business Intelligence regarding life expectancy and deprivation so they could share this in the workshop. 4 main points were covered in the workshop: -

- Support for fuel, food, and the cost-of-living crisis
- Anti-Social behaviour and the increase in nuisance caused
- Parking enforcement
- Careers advice / raising aspirations of 14- and 16-year-olds including information on a variety of jobs and opportunities that would not come out of regular careers advice in school

This led onto a further workshop with Emma Robinson from Business Intelligence. The headline information was: -

- Labour Market Profile
 - Cost of Living – The ‘squeezed middle’ and poverty
 - Impacts on wider determinants of health
 - Existing Support
- i. It explored fuel poverty including predictions and the number of households in fuel poverty as determined by the Fuel Poverty Coalition.
 - ii. The ‘squeezed middle’ were discussed, those who are likely to have high mortgage and childcare costs and who were not able to predict the rising costs of fuel, energy, and food.
 - iii. Leyla Nayeri Senior Health Improvement Officer explored excess winter deaths which indicated that even with taking care homes into account, the numbers for Darton East are far higher than elsewhere. Due to this, the team are now carrying out a piece of work with Healthwatch to explore this, along with industrial related illnesses.
 - iv. It was acknowledged that there is a two-way relationship between debt and health.

The main priorities were covered in point 5 of the report with high numbers of low income and life expectancy – especially in St Helens along with the percentage of households which are fuel poor.

Members discussed the sports van and questioned if it could move around areas during the summer. Food parcels again for this Christmas were noted, as it would help a lot of people in the run up to the Christmas holidays. R. Adams advised that she would take advice from the Good Food Barnsley network. From the funding that remains it would be possible to drill down into the cost of living to see what provision can be put in place.

Cllr Hunt acknowledged that the workshop was useful but questioned would be done around the cost-of-living crisis, particularly when looking at the data regarding St Helens, but did acknowledge this will impact all 4 areas. The summer holidays will be a pinch point and another workshop needs to be arranged to decide how the Area Council will utilise the current underspend of £70,000.

Members noted that this subject has repeatedly come up over the years and it is often the financially disadvantaged who get ill. However, it was stated that doing something is better than nothing and people need to be aware that they can get advice and support from DIAL and CAB.

It was clarified that another workshop needs to take place as it helps to focus discussions. The most needs to be done with what resources are available. Furthermore, the take up of school meals needs to be explored as it can be difficult for some families and support needs to be given to help people.

At Christmas there is a massive toy appeal in Barnsley, and this can be done alongside a temporary food bank. Last Christmas happiness hampers were put together and as an area council this can be done again. There are lots of things that can put in place and area teams were involved with the toy appeal last time. There is a lot of support in place; the new council website has lots of information and CAB are offering appointments for support. However, there does need to be improvement in communication.

It was shared with Members that York Council have a good model to deal with poverty emergency and this needs to be explored to see if the model can be adopted.

R Adams acknowledged that there is always a short-term plan in place, but the aim is to have longer term solutions. All funding cannot be spent on short term interventions without attending to longer term strategies. A workshop will be held to explore contractual commitments to see if redistribution can take place across priorities.

A directory of key information would be useful to share with people, but it has been difficult getting this all together. Although, there is a community shop in St Helens and residents from Old Town are welcome to use it. There are also distribution centres for food parcels around the town and there is the Community Pantry at Shafton Methodist Church where membership is £6 a week for around £25 worth of food. This is better for people as food parcels are only a short-term solution. The way forward is to have more community pantries, where the food comes from places similar to where Fareshare get their food from; Tesco and Marks and Spencer when they order too much produce.

R Adams noted that venues and volunteers are crucial to make the pantry models work and that it is best coming from the community as it is community run. Due to this, they would like to bring people back to discuss this in a workshop.

RESOLVED - That R Adams would explore the York Council poverty emergency model.

7 Priority Working Groups

R Adams clarified that this information details who will represent each group for the year ahead, it has now all been agreed. The priority working groups align one councillor from each ward against a specific priority. This enables continuity of discussion for priority specific workshops; however, workshops are open to all members.

8 Commissioning, Project Development and Finance

During the recent workshop a financial uplift for contracts was discussed. There is currently no official guidance on this. The cost-of-living crisis will be placing significant financial strain on providers to deliver services within the financial envelope of the contracts. Particularly where rent/room hire, utilities, vehicle fuel for a significant part of the running costs. Providers will also need to consider tax and national insurance contributions, which have all increased. The reality is that service delivery may need to be reduced following formal negotiation between contract managers.

There needs to be a formal negotiation but from a contract point of view the provider will be continuing to deliver, it was noted that this is sometimes being done at a deficit. Currently contract extensions will run based on existing terms but the Area Manager will consider what is reasonably practicable for service quality to be maintained and work with the Area Council, Procurement and Legal Colleagues to ensure that the Area Council is fair in its commissioning of services.

R Adams brought Members up to date with finance and funding, at the North Area Council Meeting in May. Members agreed a total of £95,000 for up to a 1-year extension of the CAB & DIAL contract.

In regard to CAB and the extension, it was recommended that a financial uplift of 3% should be considered for the short-term extension. The services provision is still part of the ongoing review. Advice will be sought from Procurement colleagues prior to any action being taken. The contract will be extended from 14th September 2022.

The end of year report at finance noted the grant programme had a £2,000 underspend, so there is currently a £76,000 underspend taking the area right to the end of the year. The next round of workshops will explore where money is being spent and on what. All delivery will help to contribute to Barnsley 2030 Outcomes.

Members noted that the children's cycle track in Mapplewell is coming together and looking good. There will be a launch in September when the children are back at school, with the grants panel being invited along.

RESOLVED - that R Adams would speak to procurement and legal to determine uplift funding for CAB.

9 Summer Sports Van Funding

It was noted at the end of the workshop that a sports van would be going around each area for 5 weeks during the holidays. The sessions in the North will be for 1.5 hours on a Friday. It was discussed whether to provide lunch bags for young people from local providers.

In the ensuing discussion reference was made to: -

The publicising of the van and this being sent out to networks and put on social media, the North Area Page, leaflets, community notice boards and posters. It was

determined as Reds in the Community are the providers for the van, they would also publicise this via their networks.

Funding of lunch bags were discussed. With hardship being experienced lunch bags should not be wasted and Reds in the Community will be asked to manage the flow of these. However, after consideration of the session's times it was determined that refreshments should be given rather than a lunch bag. Work is going to be done on a drink, cereal bar and fruit for refreshments rather than a sandwich.

It was questioned if other areas were going to have the Sports Van visited but R Adams clarified that young people can be directed to the areas the van is visiting as not all areas can be accommodated.

10 Report on the use of Ward Alliance Funds

All budgets went through the ward briefings to show what the spend looks like however, the report was put together two weeks ago and there may have been subsequent changes.

11 Notes from the following Ward Alliances

Darton East – held on 12th April 2022, 10th May 2022
Darton West – held on 25th May 2022, 15th June 2022
Old Town – held on 10th May 2022
St Helen's – held on 7th April 2022, 19th May 2022

Minutes and notes were provided, and Members were invited to share an update on their wards.

Darton East

- Applications for funding were received from North Gawber Football Club for first aid packs and footballs.
- Platinum Jubilee bunting was distributed to businesses in Mapplewell
- Hanging baskets are not up so an update has been requested from the provider

The hanging basket provider is a small business who are having difficulty managing the amount of work they have taken on. Due to the nature of the baskets being used to remember loved ones, it is a very emotive subject and Members are concerned the expectations of the sponsors are not being met. are being blamed for them being late. Reassurance has been received from the provider that any remaining North Area baskets will be up within the week.

R Adams advised that the tender process for the hanging baskets across the borough is being reviewed. There will be a very limited number of businesses that would be capable of undertaking the current volume of baskets across the breadth of the borough. However, change is needed, and this will also require individual wards to commit to the number of baskets they wish to fund much earlier due to the lead time required to prepare the baskets in the growing season. It was also advised that

the current provider has held their prices for many years and that they will also need to increase the unit cost to make the project financially viable.

Darton West

- A lot of time has been spent on environmental projects with Darton Parks but there have been anti-social behaviours with trees vandalised.
- Age UK Barnsley have donated a park bench to the community project in Kexborough.
- The Memorial Gardens were judged by Barnsley in Bloom recently.
- There are ongoing issues and concerns regarding litter and dog waste sites and since bins went dual purpose people don't want to use the seating next to them.
- Looking to the future, it is an aim to encourage people to be more thoughtful and think about the environment in which they live.

Old Town

- The area is not continuing with hanging baskets for Summer 2022.
- 2 defibrillators have been ordered but one has been delayed, there is one for the shop in Honeywell, but this is not up yet. R Adams will get an update on the other one.

St Helens

- There has been a funding application from Neighbourhood Watch for security items and the PCSO has a stall giving item out and a future event.
- For the Jubilee, bunting was provided by volunteers in primary schools, they were let down by the ride provider but there was a singer, DJ, fancy dress, and there were grab bags for the children.
- The Summer Gala is coming up on 28th July 2022 with activities for young people.
- There is a defibrillator at Athersley South Primary School but once the gates have been locked there is no way to access it. Someone needs to be found to be responsible for the one at Athersley North.

RESOLVED

- (i) It was noted that there is a shortage of spare parts for defibrillators and Councillors stated that Ward Alliances would set up working budgets were necessary;

(ii) that the minutes of the Ward Alliances be received.

Chair