

MEETING:	North East Area Council
DATE:	Thursday 14 July 2022
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room 11, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Hayward (Chair), Cherryholme, Ennis OBE, Green, Houghton CBE, Makinson, McCarthy, Peace, Richardson and Webster

8 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

9 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of North East Area Council held on 26.05.22

The meeting considered the minutes from the previous meeting of the North East Area Council held on 26 May 2022.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North East Area Council held on 26 May 2022 be approved as a true and correct record.

10 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 June and July. The following updates were noted: -

In Cudworth it has been busy, the Ward Alliance have purchased a school shed so that second-hand uniform can be stored and passed to pupils joining new year groups.

The Queen Jubilee was a great success with 16 parties in the area, two of these did not take the councils financial contribution as they were happy to self-finance as a street get together.

A plaque has been placed at St John's church with an inscription to Father David as the Queen's Champion.

In Monk Bretton it has been relatively quiet however, they have had a new member join the Ward Alliance with the possibility of a further 2 or 3.

The hanging baskets have been placed in Lundwood and Monk Bretton.

The Dementia Club in Silverdale is going from strength to strength.

On Tuesday 19th July, Yorkshire in Bloom will be visiting to judge the memorial gardens which have been planted with bee friendly red, white and blue flowers.

In the North East they had 14 Jubilee parties and have recently appointed 2 new Ward Alliance members but they are still 1 or 2 short.

There has been trouble with access to the Dell.

Priority areas for funding have been agreed.

There was no provision for benefit support and it every week for 3 hours at a cost of £150 per week was offered. However, there is going to be a bid put in for the Better Barnsley Fund so that CAB can be in each village once a week.

Cllr Hayward noted that DIAL and CAB are the go-to providers for benefit and financial support in the area. It was suggested that funding could be explored with the view that it could come from the Area Council rather than the Ward Alliance. Face to face support is preferred and if the model is discussed this may be more cost effective.

Cllr Cherryholme acknowledged that the North Area council are doing it this way but Members acknowledged that not one size fits all and that negotiations need to take place with all parties to bring information together and move forward.

Rachel carried out a piece of work recently and have requested that area mangers explore this again as an options paper. It was clarified that Dial predominantly deal with disability and CAB a lot of the legal work.

In Royston it has been a busy few weeks with the Royston Gala where the scouts raised £1000 and the Ward Alliance offering free swimming sessions.

The hanging baskets are out and placing names on them has been successful.

There were 11 jubilee parties and they have entered Royston in bloom again and are hoping to do well.

Cllr Hayward attended the Gala on Saturday and said it was a good day. Cllr Makinson stated that Christie and the volunteers had made it a success and the money that it pumped into it brings positive outcomes for the community.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

11 Michelle Cooper Ad Astra - Listening Support Service in Carlton & Shafton Outwood Academy Project Update

Members welcomed Michelle Cooper and Mark Smales to the meeting to give an update on the work they are doing in Outwood Carlton and Shafton academies. They are carrying out group work in both academies which concentrates on active listening which promotes mindful thinking and reduces anxiety and depression. Active Listening creates a positive environment so that barriers can be broken and young

people can trust the workers. It aids in building resilience to help manage future situations.

Practitioners have the skills to understand a young person's body language and promotes an active awareness of what the young person is going through. They take in, digest, withhold judgement and reflect back to the young person, so they understand that what they are sharing is being acknowledged. This additionally helps them to know that other young people are experiencing similar struggles.

Young people have the support for 6/7 weeks and 126 of them gave mainly positive feedback. They enjoyed the sessions and trusted the practitioners which makes them feel better about school and home.

Three sessions are run each week with people who are waiting for other services such as CAHMS. A large proportion of these young people cry themselves to sleep and self-harm. Furthermore, since the pandemic the increase in eating disorders has been significant. There are groups of boys who are self-harming who have suicidal thoughts and many are acting on this.

The young people they work with are fantastic but they are falling behind due to things outside of their control including substance misuse, domestic violence and unofficial care situations.

In Outwood Carlton the service has been delivering 1 to 1 work and this has been successful in supporting the young people who do not feel able to share in a group setting. Additionally, the service regularly offer telephone support to young people reaching out for help.

The service has compiled a number of case studies which include a young person who was struggling with guilt due to their parents' breakdown, being fat shamed, struggling with their emotions, sexual accusations and sibling and social care relationship breakdown. They initially went into a group setting but changed to the 1 to 1 work. The service supported them with positive affirmations, relaxation and anger management techniques and confidence building. They are now attending the New Lodge Youth Club which has helped them to socialise with other young people. Furthermore, the service assisted with building a positive relationship with mum who provided feedback on how proud she was of her daughter and thanked the service.

Additional concerns from the service were raised with Members including young people not eating in school due to lunch money debt, these are families on low incomes not entitled to free school meals. The service take snacks into the schools for young people to get them through the day. They cannot always get a drink due to dirty water bottles. The young people don't complain, this information comes up in conversation.

Cllr Makinson gave thanks to the service for the work they do but acknowledged that the case studies do not come as a surprise. The statistics indicate that it is not always a positive outcome once people reach adulthood. The early work is needed to prevent further harm down the line. Furthermore, Barnsley do sometimes come out as the worst area and this is something that requires consideration.

Michelle Cooper highlighted that work was carried out earlier this year to clarify how many young people are in statutory services, the figure was £41,000 which does not include the young people receiving support from VCSE services.

Cllr Webster requested information on the involvement of parents due to the issue being one close to him and Michelle Cooper acknowledged that there is not a lot of support for parents. A young person who took their life last year has a parent who has started her own group. However, a lot of the time young people do not want their parents to know about what is going on.

Schools and services do have safeguarding protocols to follow and Members raised concerns that they would want to know what was happening if it was their child and that when these services are commissioned, we need to ensure they are following these rules and regulations.

Cllr Lamb requested that when commissioning services Members need to go to the schools for information as there is a concern that safeguarding issues are not being passed on. There is not a choice available in these circumstances and parents have a right to know. There needs to be a due process and the legal position requires adhering to. Additionally, sweeping judgements cannot be formed from small sample surveys.

Christie clarified the services safeguarding protocols but confirmed that she would seek further clarification with the service.

In the ensuing discussions reference was made to:

The fact that there is still work to be done and the issues raised do fit in with the bigger picture in Barnsley. However, it is important to not make sweeping generalisations about the young people in Barnsley.

Many parents are not supported and do not have the correct guidance when seeking to protect their children from self-harm such as looking for sharp objects and medication. It was stated that the statistics available provide a worrying picture.

RESOLVED that Michelle Cooper will forward specific data to share with Members and that Michelle and Mark be thanked for attending the meeting, for their presentation and for answering Members questions.

12 Jubilee Project Update - Lawrence Dodd, the Community Development Officer

Lawrence Dodd gave an update on the Jubilee Celebrations across the 4 wards.

The Jubilee fund supported groups, organisations and individuals to organise celebrations. The funds of £150-£200 were available to streets, schools, care homes and nurseries etc. The rationale behind the funding was to reduce the barriers and give people responsibility and ownership through enabling rather than doing for. Supporting with the practical and logistical issues and being the link between people and the council.

The celebrations produced £7,000 in financial support, with 270 volunteers, £26363 in volunteer match funding and 48 local events supported.

As a team learning from the experience enables us to recognise the skills and capacity which are in the community. Our role is to support this and the Jubilee was a great example of this. People came forward and wanted to be involved, this wasn't forced on them. Support was given to overcome barriers and people took responsibility. The feedback was positive and it was the good relationships which made this happen. L Dodd was proud to see the community activity especially after covid, meeting neighbours, witnessing the gratitude and community spirit.

13 Healthy Hearts Defibrillator Project Update

C. McFarlane acknowledged that the Healthy Hearts partnered with the ward alliance to install the final defibrillator in Cudworth with maps going up on community notice board to show where the defibrillators are located. The plan is to now move forward with community first aid courses so that people are trained how to use them.

Cllr Makinson noted that she has been in contact with Steve Plunkett as there is the opportunity for more defibrillators so they are working on finding gaps.

Cllr Hayward stated that in Cudworth the problem with having more defibrillators is finding somewhere to put them as it can be problematic due to them being 24-hour access and requiring connecting to electricity, the ward alliance have offered to pay for this.

Cllr Ennis questioned why there wasn't any movement on the Mill of the Black Monks having a defibrillator installed but it was reported that there were practicality issues and a guardian is required to perform regular checks and upload this information to YAS.

It was requested that this information is put on the council website and C McFarlane informed Members that there is matched funding available for additional defibrillators. She will ask YAS for a collective report to explore this further.

RESOLVED that C McFarlane will request a collective report from YAS to share with Members.

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

C McFarlane presented the performance report which detailed that a commission was put out for a social isolation project with Age UK being successful and taking the project live on 1st July 2022. The project worker will come to the next meeting to provide an update on the work carried out.

It was stated that there is a GAZ case study attached and Members were requested to look at this. GAZ have also been involved in supporting the PROM project.

In regard to the Youth Development Fund, there will be a meeting with the Exodus project to raise points and clarify provision for young people across the North East area. Members are invited to visit Jenny's Fields and C McFarlane has dates for these. Cllr Hayward acknowledged that the area is huge and the provision is amazing. Some young people do not get a holiday but Jenny's field provides this outside out their youth club provision. C McFarlane will be looking at the provision as a whole as the service is due for a review.

15 NEAC Financial Position and Procurement Update

No update was provided.

16 Report on the Use of Area Council Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds

No update was provided.

Chair