

MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 14 September 2020
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	VIRTUAL

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Leech (Chair), A. Cave, T. Cave, Charlesworth, Hunt, Lofts, Pickering, Platts, Spence and Tattersall

72 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

73 Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 20th July 2020

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th July 2020.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on the 20th July 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

74 Young People's Resilience Grant - Update

The Area Council Manager introduced this item and apprised Members of the current position regarding the Young People's Emotional Resilience priority. The opportunity has now been advertised as a grant which will support Covid-19 Recovery in the short term and transition work in the longer term. The Area Council Manager has met with CEO of the Every Child Matters Academy Trust and attended the Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Meeting, which is a multiagency meeting chaired by Alicia Marcroft, Head of Public Health. There is a new Emotional Resilience Lead Officer starting in September, Lauren Nixon, who will be offering advice on the evaluation of the grant opportunity. The grant opportunity was advertised on the 7th August 2020.

The closing date for applications is 4pm on Tuesday 21st September. All organisations that meet the criteria will be invited to present their project proposal to the panel on Tuesday 6th October. It is anticipated that service delivery will start after half term early November, with a steer regarding the start date from schools, given the current challenges because of Covid-19. The Emotional Resilience Lead Officer will evaluate the project and the Area Council Manager will discuss the option of external evaluation with her once she is in post.

RESOLVED that Members note the progress in this priority area.

75 Covid-19 Recovery - VCS grant funding opportunity

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, highlighting the purpose and function of the available funding available to community groups to help recover from the difficulties COVID-19 has presented to regular operations and activities and to ensure that as many people as possible are aware of the grants available. The application form is simple and easy to complete so that smaller organisations can be encouraged to apply, including church halls facing a loss of income and not-for-profit businesses. All members were asked to share this information within their Wards and will be sent a copy of the form.

RESOLVED that the North Area Council Members take note of the available funding and actively seek to ensure community groups and not-for profit organisations are aware of it

76 Commissioning, Project Development and Finance

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, providing the Area Council with a financial position and forecast for expenditure based on the projects that have been proposed. Existing projects were highlighted, including the Anti-Poverty project, Clean and Green and the Private Sector Housing Officer. The latter has been delayed due to contract finalisation. There is likely to be an increase in demand for the service in the future. Members were asked to report any new issues in their Wards, with existing concerns being passed on. It was highlighted that the Health and Wellbeing Project will be very important this winter, as will the Covid recovery project which did excellent work with community responders, taking food parcels out at the beginning of lockdown. It is anticipated that something similar may take place for older people in severe weather conditions with the combined challenges of seasonal flu and Covid-19. This will be discussed at a future meeting. There will be a budgetary underspend due to the delays in recruiting to the Private Sector Housing Officer post and the delay with the young people's project. All members are welcome to attend the Economic Recovery Briefing.

RESOLVED that The North Area Council note the existing budget position and the existing funding commitments; the update regarding the Housing Migration Officer and the recommendation to hold an Economic Recovery briefing

77 Covid-19 Recovery - Older People's Resilience - Verbal update from priority working group

The Area Council Manager updated the North Area Council with regard to the priority working group meeting last week. The purpose of the meeting was to ensure that third sector providers are aware of what help and support organisations will be providing in order to get eliminate inappropriate referrals and to avoid duplication. The event was very well attended along with attendees from social care and public health. Key concerns and gaps and opportunities in provision were explored.

Issues discussed included that there is a degree of apprehension about how people can confidently navigate society after lockdown; reduced physical strength and mobility as a result of the lockdown; limited social networks and impacts on mental health. It was reported that Age UK had seen an increase in younger clients in their 50s and 60s and there are also reports of older people who are not digitally enabled for a number of reasons. Gaps include limited access to low level mental health support; not enough early help for older people and severely limited community

activities. Safe operating guidance for groups is being developed but this is difficult as government guidance changes frequently.

RESOLVED that the Area Council Manager be tasked with exploring opportunities for developing older people's resilience as part of Covid-19 recovery.

78 Area Commissioning Performance Report

The Area Council Manager provided Members with a comprehensive North Area Council Performance Report for the period April-June 2020 (2020/21 Quarter 4). It was highlighted that many projects have been adapted and/or delayed due to Covid-19. It was reported that organisations have been very forthcoming in terms of adapting services and have done everything possible to prevent furloughing staff whilst still providing a service. A number of examples of the excellent work being done were given, with Members aware of a number of examples of good work across the piece.

RESOLVED that Members note the contents of the Performance Management Report.

79 Report of the Ward Alliance Fund

The Area Council Manager updated the North Area Council with regard to the financial position of the Ward Alliance budget for each ward for the 2020/21 period. It was highlighted that this is a difficult situation, especially as Christmas is on the horizon and the Area Council will have to think about different ways of doing things. The Area Team is available for help and guidance around this.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Ward Alliances pay particular attention to the Ward Alliance Covid19 Recovery Plan document when developing projects during the remainder of 2020/21 and
- (ii) Each Ward in the North Area Council area prioritises the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds 2020/21, in line with the guidance on spend.

80 Notes from the Area's Ward Alliances

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 14th July and 11th August; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 15th July; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 11th August; and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 20th July.

Further updates included:

Darton East – The Ward Alliance has continued to meet virtually. The Healthy Holidays Programme is in place to provide support over the school holidays. A 'grab bag' offer has been put in place, publicised through social media and leafleting. However uptake has been limited. This has been changed to offering fruit and veg boxes, but again with a low level of uptake. It is unclear as to why this is – it could be indicative of a low level of need or that people are too proud to accept help. The

defibrillator at Lidl Mapplewell has now been installed, is up and running and has already been used, which shows that there is a level of need for it.

Darton West – There is a degree of frustration about the length of time taken to install a defibrillator, which was ordered some time ago but has only just arrived. Berneslai Homes will be installing it soon. There is a need to keep a watchful eye on the situation in the Ward as winter develops.

Old Town – It was reported that efforts are being made to get sponsors for Christmas trees so that expenditure can be redirected to other areas, given the current situation. Members of the Ward Alliance have discussed opportunities to help community members struggling with their mental health. Sugden Recreation Area has experienced increased usage and there are several groups of YP using it. A number of footpaths in the area have been widened to encourage active travel. Work at the Fleets has been delayed due to staffing over lockdown, update will be sought from Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

St Helen's – A number of healthy activities have taken place. Free school meals vouchers have been matched by the Community Shop. Discussions have taken place with various organisations and bodies about Christmas, as it may not be possible to have the usual community events. New ways of reaching children in the ward will have to be developed. Litter picks with TWIGGS have taken place, within Covid Guidelines. Hanging baskets were placed just in time and have uplifted the ward during this challenging time.

Members were also reminded of the requirement for Ward Alliance minutes to be received by the Area Council.

RESOLVED that the notes of the respective Ward Alliances be received.

Chair