

MEETING:	Central Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 11 January 2021
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Held Virtually

MINUTES

Present Councillors Williams (Chair), P. Birkinshaw, Bowler, Bruff, Carr, Clarke, Fielding, Gillis, W. Johnson, Lodge and Wright

8. Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Williams declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 10 due to his wife being chair of Barnsley YMCA.

9. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Central Area Council held on 2nd November, 2020 (Cen.11.01.2021/2)

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting of Central Area Council held on 2nd November, 2020.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Central Area Council held on 2nd November, 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

10. Procurement and Financial Update (Cen.11.01.2021/3)

Andrea Battye and Emma Turton from Barnsley YMCA were welcomed to the meeting to speak about the Unity Project. This had been commissioned by the Area Council to help young people improve their resilience and promote positive emotional health and wellbeing. Members noted the programme of activities delivered with partners, which included schools. Members were reminded of the original organisation of the project, which aimed to deliver two sessions every week in each ward within the Central Area and also provided specific provision within school holidays. The sessions were led by young people and the service also offered opportunities for peer support and volunteering.

Those present heard of the changes necessary due to restrictions in place to address the pandemic. However, positive relationships had been maintained and nurtured throughout. Where possible lunchtime clubs in schools continued, as well as detached street-based activities, and virtual online sessions amongst others arranged in Covid safe ways.

Despite lockdowns, the service had delivered 211 sessions and reached 213 children and young people in 2020/21 with other performance targets also being met.

Members received case studies from the work undertaken in each Ward and praised the work of the service, continually adapting delivery in order to meet the needs of young people. Members acknowledged the significant challenges, and thanks were

given for the continuity the programme provided for young people who had been affected by the pandemic.

Questions were raised in relation to access to IT, as an increasing number of services were provided virtually. It was noted that young people did miss face-to-face contact and, now that teaching was online, felt increasingly overloaded by the use of technology. Members heard that detached sessions were still provided when possible to address this, and to include those who had poor access to digital services. It was noted that support was available those not digitally enabled, and it was suggested that the service highlights any issues they are aware of with families struggling due to a lack of IT.

The Area Managers then spoke to the report previously circulated. Members were reminded of previous discussions about the service to support new and expectant mothers. The Area Council approved the service in December 2018. Following a procurement process the service commenced in April 2019 for a year, with an option to extend this for two further periods of a year.

In year 1 it was noted that reports regarding the impact of the service were positive, however referrals were still considerably below target. Members had agreed for the service to be continued into year two, with efforts to increase the numbers being referred.

It was noted that in the second year Covid had severely impacted the service. Referrals were still below target, but the service still engaged volunteers successfully, and the impact on those accessing the service was significant.

Members discussed the service and the impact it would have in light of current restrictions which meant that new and expectant mothers were increasingly isolated. Concerns were expressed about referrals. It was noted that a significant number of referrals being made were not eligible due to individuals being resident outside the Central area, and this may have discouraged further referrals. Members discussed the service and whether it provided value for money in some depth.

The attention of Members was drawn to the service to create a cleaner and greener environment with local people. The contract had commenced in April 2019 and had since been extended for a further year. It had increasingly focused on supporting new groups and increasing volunteering. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions the service had to be flexed and had been supporting Neighbourhood Services. However, despite restrictions, the service continued to perform well against performance measures.

Members commented on the need for more environmental education, and it was noted that the service had arranged sessions with a number of local schools, but these had to be postponed.

Members then discussed the Environmental Enforcement Service delivered by District Enforcement, with a supporting Service Level Agreement provided through the Safer Neighbourhood Service. During the first lockdown the service had been flexed, and had not issued any fixed penalty notices (FPNs), but patrols can continued, which provided useful intelligence. The issuing of FPNs had since resumed, with approximately £13,000 issued within the year.

Those present discussed the service in detail, noting that the number of complaints about the volume of dog fouling and litter remained high. It was noted that Ward level information on patrolling and issuing of FPNs would be provided to Members. Members were encouraged to continue to report issues in as much detail as possible, including litter being thrown from vehicles.

Members were reminded of the Central Wellbeing Fund and the grant issued to Creative Recovery. Delivery had focused on two wards, with the extension of the project to deliver in two further wards dependent on performance. It was suggested that this be considered in more detail at the next meeting of the Area Council.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That thanks be provided to staff at YMCA for the presentation and for their continued hard work in the Central Area;
- (ii) That the overview of Central Area Council's current priorities, contracts, contract extensions, Service Level Agreements and Well-being Fund projects and associated timescales be noted;
- (iii) That the financial position for 2020-21 and projected expenditure as outlined in Appendices 1 and 2, be noted;
- (iv) That the overview of Central Area Council projects approaching the end of the contracted period be noted;
- (v) That approval be given for the service for new and expectant mothers delivered by Family Lives to be continued for a further year at a cost of £50,000 from 1st May, 2021 to 30th April, 2022;
- (vi) That approval be given for the service to create a cleaner and greener environment in conjunction with local people delivered by Twiggs Grounds Maintenance to be continued for further year at a cost of £95,000 from 1st April, 2021 to 31st March, 2022;
- (vii) That approval be given for the Environmental Enforcement Service delivered by District Enforcement Ltd to be continued for a further year at an annual cost of £45,000 from 1st April, 2021 to 31st March, 2022;
- (viii) That approval be given for the Service Level Agreement with Safer Neighbourhoods to be continued for a further year at a cost of £13,000 from 1st April, 2021 to 31st March, 2022;
- (ix) That approval be given for the service to build emotional resilience in children and young people delivered by YMCA to be continued for a further year at a cost of £136,500 from 1st April, 2021 to 31st March, 2022;
- (x) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Communities to negotiate necessary contract variations for the service support new and expectant mothers delivered by Family Lives, and the service to create a clean and green environment in conjunction with local people delivered by Twiggs Grounds Maintenance, following liaison with the Central Area Council Chair; and
- (xi) That the phase 2 grant for the Creative Recovery 'Uplift Project' be considered at the next meeting of the Area Council in March, 2021.

11. Notes of the Ward Alliances (Cen.11.01.2021/4)

The meeting received the notes of the following meetings:-
Central Ward Alliance, held on 28th October, and 25th November, 2020;
Dodworth Ward Alliance, held on 3rd November, 2020;
Kingstone Ward Alliance, held on 21st October, and 2nd December, 2020;
Worsbrough Ward Alliance, held on 26th November, 2020.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

12. Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Cen.11.01.2021/5)

The report was received for information

RESOLVED that the report be received.

13. Covid-19 Update - Cath Bedford, Kay Tinkler and Laura Dixon (Cen.11.01.2021/6)

Cath Bedford, Public Health Principal – Communities; Kay Tinkler, Neighbourhood Engagement Officer; and Laura Dixon, Neighbourhood Engagement Officer, were welcomed to the meeting.

Members were reminded of the national lockdown which commenced on 5th January, 2021 and it was noted that the rate of infection was steadily but persistently rising with around 100 new cases per day across the borough. Rises were generally seen in the working age population, especially in those aged 50-59 and 20-39. The message of 'Hands, Face, Space' remained and Members were also reminded of the need to open windows for fresh air.

Members heard that situation report meetings were held twice a week to consider data, and it was noted that cases seemed distributed across the borough. Members were encouraged to feed in any intelligence which may result in understanding any patterns.

16 Covid Marshals had been employed and though they have no formal powers of enforcement, they will work closely with Police and Regulatory Service staff who do. Their recent observations included lack of face coverings being worn, poor social distancing, and a lack of signage in commercial premises. Also noted were recurrent gatherings of young people in outdoor public places.

Those present heard how six Neighbourhood Engagement Officers were now in post. One was assigned to each Area Council. Members also heard about the community insights work, with workshops being organised to understand behaviour in relation to Covid. Additional finance had been secure to support engagement with disabled and BAME communities.

Members noted the work to support vulnerable communities impacted by Covid, and to understand and support the management of any outbreaks.

Members heard about the Covid Support Service in place to support the national test and trace efforts, with welfare telephone calls being made and even house visits for those unable to be reached.

Details of the Community Testing Centre at the Metrodome were provided. This had opened recently with a pilot focusing on the routine testing of critical frontline workers. Members noted that the lateral flow tests used were less accurate and any individual tested positive would be referred for a more accurate PCR test.

Members noted that Barnsley currently had three testing sites for those with symptoms, and a mobile testing unit. It was acknowledged that routine testing would also be undertaken in secondary schools, but further detail on this was outstanding.

Vaccinations had commenced with sites at Priory Campus, Apollo Court and Goldthorpe Medical Centre. Members were asked to encourage residents to wait to be called for their vaccine rather than making enquiries.

Members were provided details about the role of Neighbourhood Engagement Officers. They supported compliance in businesses, and referred any issues for enforcement where necessary, working closely with Covid Marshals and Community Responders. The role also included raising awareness of financial support to businesses in the area. Members were asked to report any breaches of Covid guidance which would provide useful intelligence for all agencies supporting this effort.

It was noted that the Central Area covered more wards and a greater population than other Area Councils. Members heard how resource from the Penistone Area could be used to assist Central when required.

Members discussed capacity at testing centres, and it was noted that there were no issues with capacity at the time of the meeting. Members were asked to encourage anyone with symptoms to get tested. Members discussed the rate of positive tests, and how many of these would lead to hospital admissions. It was agreed that this information would be provided if available.

Those present discussed the impact of vaccinations and whether this would lead to complacency, noting that guidance should be adhered to even when vaccinated.

The issues around schools and congregating parents were discussed, and it was noted that Covid Marshals could be deployed to situations such as this and schools had been aware of this offer.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That thanks be given to officers for the update;
- (ii) That figures relating to admission to hospital and any correlation to the rate of positive tests be provided to Members.

Chair