

MEETING:	North East Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 28 January 2021
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	VIRTUAL

MINUTES

Present Councillors Hayward (Chair), Cheetham, Cherryholme, Felton, Green, Higginbottom, Houghton CBE, Makinson, McCarthy, Richardson and Wraith MBE

11 **Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

Councillor Hayward declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 15 as he is a Trustee of Age UK.

12 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of North East Area Council held on 26th November 2020**

The meeting considered the minutes from the previous meeting of the North East Area Council held on 26th November 2020.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North East Area Council held on 26th November 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

13 **North East Area Staff Team introductions**

The Area Council Manager introduced the two new members of staff working for the North East Area Team, Lawrence Dodd, Community Development Officer (CDO), and Louise Hunt, Neighbourhood Engagement Officer (NEO).

Louise Hunt introduced herself and briefly explained her role. Initially she was involved in supporting local businesses such as Licensed premises, gyms and leisure centres with risk assessments, PPE, and giving information about grants available. The NEOs and CDOs have been working with Covid Marshalls and community responder teams, matching volunteers who need help with shopping, telephone befriending etc. and are now working with Trading Standards to ensure supermarkets etc are complying with Covid guidance.

Lawrence Dodd introduced himself and briefly explained his role, explaining that he had moved from Kirklees in a similar community-based role. He will be working closely with the Area Teams and the Ward Alliances.

RESOLVED that both Louise Hunt and Lawrence Dodd be welcomed to the North East Area and be thanked for their attendance and contribution at the meeting.

14 **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 recently. The following updates were noted:

Cudworth - Following the meeting on Monday Robert Street allotments was granted £500 agreed. The CCTV installation, part of the Principal Towns project, is now up and running. All Ward Alliance Members were thanked for their generous gifts to the children's fund over the Christmas. Special thanks were given to Steve Green for his hard work and John Marshall at Priory Campus. Priorities will be reviewed at the next meeting. New members are needed and opportunities will be advertised.

Monk Bretton - An application has been received from Carlton Bowling Club. Hanging baskets will be funded for the summer. The Ward Alliance is looking to set up a Facebook group. Cllr Green thanked everyone for their contributions to the Christmas fund, with in excess of 4000 presents received. This will be repeated next year. The Christmas lights were filmed and put on Facebook along with a message from Father Christmas.

North East - The Ward Alliance took part in distributing the winter warm packs. Some applications have been received, including some for hanging baskets. An application has been received from Great Houghton youth group, who do a lot of work in the ward. The defibrillator is awaited at Options but this is on hold at the moment due to the lockdown. Louise Hunt gave an overview of her role at the last meeting. Priorities are being set for next year.

Royston - The November meeting was attended by members of the Youth Participation Team to talk about the Make Your Mark engagement exercise. Over 7500 responses were received from Barnsley, which was the best response in the Yorkshire and Humber region. Priorities will be set from this exercise. Diversity and equality in school was the top for Royston, alongside transport and drugs. There is still a need to penetrate Area Council and Ward Alliances with youth engagement and Members were urged to keep youth engagement at the forefront of their plans.

The memorial bench has now installed at the entrance to St John's Church with help from Barnsley Community Build and Help4Homeless Veterans. Section 106 meetings continue to be well attended. Access steps at Rabbit Ings have been matched funded from this alongside Football Foundation money. Principal Towns Phase I is now complete and the centre of Royston is looking good. The last defibrillator has now been fitted free of charge by a local electrical company at the Grove on Station Road. Thanks were expressed to Steve Green for doing a fantastic job with the Christmas toy appeal. All those involved got a Spirit of Barnsley award. The new Christmas lights looked great and will be built on next year. Hanging baskets planned for the summer.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received and Steve Green be thanked, on behalf of the children of the Borough, for his hard work with the Christmas toy appeal.

15 Social Isolation and Dementia commission

Jane Holliday, the Chief Executive Officer from Age UK Barnsley, provided a detailed update to the North East Area Council about the work of the Social isolation and

Dementia commission. The contract began 1st July 2019 and is due to end 30th June 2021 at a contract value of £30,000 a year which includes £5,000 from Age UK Barnsley. Staffing consists of two part time workers providing 1 FTE with a team of volunteers supported by a Manager with a purpose of providing support for socially isolated older people, especially those with dementia, by developing opportunities within the community and promoting dementia friendly businesses and groups.

However, from March 2020 and the first Covid-19 lockdown the project changed quickly and involved shopping, collecting medication, emergency boxes and wellbeing boxes, contact calls, reassurance, signposting, telephone befriending, garden visits and outdoor walks. There have also been two cycles of themed home-based activities. The wellbeing boxes contained a minimum of £45 worth of goods and were very well received, with 110 distributed across the area. Hot Christmas Day dinners were delivered to homes from Chilli Grill. The project has continued to evolve with the further lockdowns, working with partners such as supermarket chains and local care homes.

Following the update, Councillors were asked to decide whether they would like to maintain, and fund, the extra service provision for the Social Isolation and Dementia initiative until June 2021.

RESOLVED that Age UK Barnsley is funded to maintain the additional service provision by the Social inclusion Workers in the North East Area communities until June 2021 at a cost of £5,000.

16 Covid 19 Pandemic

Lucy Butcher, Public Health Practitioner, was welcomed to the meeting and provided the North East Area Council with a verbal update and an actions and progress update report from Public Health about the Covid 19 pandemic.

It was reported that there has been a slight increase in transmission over the past few weeks and is being assessed by the Public Health team. Asymptomatic testing at the Metrodome has picked up around 7 cases. There have been a small number of outbreaks in care homes and work places together with an increase in household transmission, with multiple positive cases. There is a higher prevalence of new variants but the increased rates are of most concern. Joint working with partners such as South Yorkshire Police, Trading Standards and the Covid Marshals is taking place. Only Barnsley-wide raw data is available at the moment and the picture changes daily. No specific ward is showing a high case rate consistently and there is a need to consider age, levels of deprivation etc. Reports of residents visiting coffee shops and parks in high numbers have been received, with cases in all wards of guidelines not being followed, particularly in supermarkets. Members were urged to continue to follow the guidelines and be vigilant. Any intelligence around non-compliance with the guidelines should be emailed to: covvidmarshalls@barnsley.gov.uk.

Members were advised that testing starts this week at the Acorn centre in Grimethorpe, with information on the website. There are various testing sites across the Borough and all schools have testing provision.

Members were aware of a number of residents offered appointments for vaccination at Halifax, Bradford, Leeds, Wakefield and Manchester, which is impossible for many people to attend and is concerning when there are local vaccination sites close by. Vaccines are being administered to vulnerable residents who cannot leave their homes and this can be arranged through GPs. Lucy will take these concerns back to Emma White in Public Health. If there are further concerns around vaccination, these should be emailed to Emmawhite@barnsley.gov.uk.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Lucy be thanked for her attendance and contribution;
- (ii) Members note the information in the report;
- (iii) Members continue to encourage local communities to get tested, especially if they have symptoms;
- (iv) Members feedback any community-based intelligence to Covid Marshalls; and
- (v) Members contact Emma White in Public Health with any vaccination concerns

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

The Area Council Manager introduced this item. Specific items of note included: Age UK are still supporting 111 residents from across the area, and have received 18 new referrals this quarter for telephone befriending. New volunteers have been recruited and volunteers have provided 288 hours of volunteer support, which equates to £4000 of social value. A number of individual case studies from the commissioned projects were provided. District Enforcement have issued 130 FPNs and 42 parking tickets this quarter.

RESOLVED that Members note the report.

18 NEAC Financial Position and Procurement Update

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, reporting that the North East Area Council is on track for spend and is looking forward to the next financial year.

RESOLVED that Members note the report

19 Report on the use of Area Council Budgets, Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, highlighting that a number of Ward Alliance meetings will be taking place soon and that the budget can be carried forward to the next financial year.

RESOLVED that Members note the report

Chair