

16 MARCH 2015

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE AREA PEOPLE BOARD**East Sunderland Area People Board Progress Report****1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 In June 2014 the Local Area Plan's priorities associated with People were referred to the East Sunderland People Area Board to action on behalf of the Area Committee. This report provides an update on the work plan, as set out in **Annex 1**.

2 Key Areas of Influence / Achievements

- 2.1 Outlined below is a summary of the key areas of influence / achievements of the East Sunderland Area People Board up to 28 February 2015.

Action Taken	Outcome
Education and Skills Strategy	<p>In January 2015 a presentation was delivered on the draft Education and Skills Strategy. The draft Strategy highlighted three key themes of getting people:-</p> <p>Ready for School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early identification of families most at risk of poor outcomes. Tailored programmes of support. Wider range of local services. • All families to have access to high quality early years provision, including 100% take-up of two year old offer. • Schools to be “ready for every child” – smooth and seamless transition. • Every child and young person to be “ready for next stage” at all key transition points. <p>Ready for Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every school and learning provider to have strong links with at least one employer. • Every school and learning provider to enable learners to develop and demonstrate skills and qualities for employability. • Gold standard in Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG). • Bank of materials / directory to support work-related learning. • State-of-the-art facilities and high quality programmes. • Employers to invest in up-skilling workforce. • Procurement projects: requirement to link with education.

	<p>Ready for life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of skills, qualities, characteristics not captured in formal assessments – with progression to regional / national awards. • Agreed standard for a “Great Sunderland School” – to be extended to “Great Sunderland College”, “Great Sunderland Employer”, etc. • Extend range and quality of learning opportunities that support personal, social, emotional, physical and cultural development. <p>Members were invited to share their views on the Strategy’s ambitions and to consider how the Committee contributes to the commitments in the strategy, as partners are being asked what they will commit to do over the next 3-5 years to realise the strategy’s ambitions.</p> <p>The Strategy is to be finalised by March 2015. Once approved, every People Board will be invited to discuss strategy implementation at an area level: to understand what is already being implemented, or proposed, and consider how it can support and influence future developments.</p>
<p>Early Intervention and Locality Working Youth Commissioned Contracts</p>	<p>In October 2014, Area Committee received an update on the performance of current commissioned youth contracts. Further information was presented to the January 2015 People Board when feedback was given regarding responses from members in terms of local provision. Proposals were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Extend contracts based on current Contact, Participation and Recorded Outcome targets, removing locality outcomes and reducing the accreditation targets. ii) The removal of locality outcomes would be based on the proviso that project managers meet with or correspond with their ward Councillors every quarter in order to check delivery meets their expectations and requirements and to report back progress. Members are encouraged to attend the Youth Operational Group so they can feed in to decisions made locally regarding provision. <p>Area Committee are requested to note the proposals.</p>
<p>Area Priority: Improving resident’s emotional wellbeing.</p>	<p>Since the last meeting, members from the People Board attended a tour of three mental health specialist services in the East. (Headlights, Sunderland MIND and The Art Studio) Key messages received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debt is a common cause of mental health issues. As a consequence other problems associated with debt occur, creating additional pressures, which affects

	<p>mental health and emotional wellbeing. If the signs are not recognised or notice early enough, the pressure can get too much and eventually lead to mental illness / crisis stage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health needs to be recognised as being as important as physical health. This needs to be acknowledged and more awareness raising undertaken with the public. • Increasing opportunities for people to socialise, take part in activities etc. helps to reduce isolation and, keeps people’s minds active, which in turns, improves emotional wellbeing. • Mental health can also be improved by providing the person with a sense of purpose. Even carrying out small tasks, i.e. cleaning up cups, can provide a sense of purpose and self-worth, because people feel like they are needed and helping others, which in turns helps them. • It is a must to provide a safe environment which is non-judgmental for people suffering with mental health issues. <p>A call for project was carried out to seek project ideas that could promote awareness of “no health without mental health” services and support that is available to East residents. Ten projects have been submitted for Area Committee’s consideration, which are recommended for approval by the People Board and are set out in the Area Budget Report.</p>
<p>Area Priority: Partnership in Practice</p>	<p>A call for project was carried out to seek ideas to enhance current provision or develop new projects or events for adults with early signs of dementia and their carers. Seven projects have been submitted for Area Committee’s consideration, which are recommended for approval by the People Board and are set out in the Area Budget Report.</p>
<p>Area Priority: Skills and Learning, with a focus on volunteering. Action: Co-ordinate and support volunteering opportunities across the council and partners.</p>	<p>Following on from the January 2015 People Board it was agreed to ask the East VCS Area Network the question:</p> <p><i>“Using your knowledge and awareness around either being a volunteer or supporting volunteering opportunities in the East Sunderland area, what do you think Area Committee could provide in terms of ‘added value’ to existing provision?”</i></p> <p>The feedback gathered was focused on providing support to strengthen the capabilities of volunteers by funding training courses. For instance, a coffee morning was going to be established but before it could commence, several volunteers needed to complete a food hygiene course. The fee was seen</p>

Background	<p>as a barrier which could ‘put off’ either organisations or individuals. Area Committee could bring added value by contributing towards the fees of training and “up-skilling” volunteers.</p> <p>The Board agreed to set up a Task Group to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify what is available to access currently? (e.g. from Sunderland Council, Partners, VCAS, Volunteer Centre, etc.) • Identify what the training needs of the VCS are? • Cross reference the above with each to identify gaps / barriers? • Bring back a future report for consideration. <p>Representatives from Voluntary and Community Action Sunderland (VCAS), Volunteer Centre Sunderland and Young Asian Voices have expressed an interested in joining the Task Group.</p>
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3. Recommendations

3.1 Members are requested to:-

- (a) Note the East Sunderland Area People Board Work Plan, as set out in **Annex 1**.
- (b) Note the Area People Board’s support and recommendation to approve the SIB project proposals for the area priorities ‘improving resident’s emotional wellbeing’ and ‘partnership in practice, as set out in the Area Budget Report.

Annex 1 East Sunderland Area People Board Work Plan 2014 / 2015

Background Papers East Sunderland Area People Board Agendas, Reports and Action List

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