

At a meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held at EASINGTON LANE COMMUNITY ACCESS POINT, on WEDNESDAY, 21st MARCH, 2012 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor D. Richardson in the Chair

Councillors Blackburn, Ellis, Hall, Scott, D. Smith and Tate

Also in Attendance:-

Ron Barrass	Member of the Public	
Susan Brown	Area Community Coordinator	Sunderland Council
Andrew Carton	Locality Manager	Sunderland Council
John Chapman	Head of Neighbourhoods	Gentoo
Sarah Collins	ICASS Team Leader	Impact Family Services
Wendy Cook	Youth and Community Co-ordinator	SNCBC
Colin Curtis	Assistant Head of Streetscene	Sunderland Council
Dave Ellison	Area Response Manager	Sunderland Council
Hazel Hedley	CEO	Impact Family Services
Pauline Hopper	Area Officer	Sunderland Council
Matthew Jackson	Governance Services Officer	Sunderland Council
Linda King	Youth team Leader	Early Intervention Team
Pam Lee	Public Health Consultant	Sunderland TPCT
Malcolm Page	Area Lead Executive	Sunderland Council
John Patterson	RLS Officer	Sunderland Council
Karon Purvis	Area Officer	Sunderland Council
Steven Rowntree	Young Peoples Project	Washington Mind
Liz St. Louis	Head of Customer Service	Sunderland Council
James Third	Community Relations Officer	Nexus
Lee Wardle	VCS Representative	

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Rolph, Speding and Wakefield along with Melanie Caldwell.

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 1st February, 2012

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 1st February, 2012 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Community Action in Coalfield: Identifying New Issues and Agreeing Actions (2010/11 Work Plan)

Process for the Review of Local Area Plans and Priorities for 2012

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with the proposed approach and timeline for the Area Committee to review its Local Area Plans and Priorities for 2012.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Pauline Hopper, Area Officer, presented the report and advised Members of the timeline for the work as detailed in the report. It was expected that a number of the priorities for the Committee would be carried forward to next year as they were still ongoing. On 30th May there would be a State of the Area debate held at the Bethany Christian Centre. The outcomes of this debate would then be fed into the State of the City debate.

Councillor Scott queried how the area debate would inform the city debate and was advised by Ms Hopper that the details for the format had not yet been finalised. Councillor Tate added that the Scrutiny committees would be presenting the information in the same format as in previous years.

2. RESOLVED that:-
 - a. The information provided be given consideration
 - b. The proposed approach and timeline detailed in section 4 of the report be agreed
 - c. Actions against the current work plan be continued until the approval of the 2012 priorities.

Healthy City Investment Fund

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed the Committee of the proposed changes to the way the Healthy City Investment Fund would be administered and requested the Committee to give consideration to

taking responsibility for the allocation and administration of the fund from March 2012.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Pam Lee, Public Health Consultant, presented the report and advised the Committee of the proposed changes which would see the Committee taking responsibility for the administration of the fund which was available to support work to address cancer mortality among men in Sunderland.

3. RESOLVED that:-
 - a. The allocation and administration of £30,414 Healthy City Investment fund by the Committee be approved
 - b. The development and implantation of the approach for working with the area VCS network to develop initiatives in support of male cancer mortality by carried out by the Area Officer
 - c. The availability of the public health representative to advise on the potential impact of any proposed projects be noted.

Community Action in Coalfield – Progress Review

Local Shopping Centres

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) on behalf of the Shopping Centres Task and Result group which provided an update on the progress against the agreed actions in the 2011/12 Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Pauline Hopper, Area Officer, presented the report and advised the Committee of the work that had been done. Bernie Whittaker, Business Investment Officer, would be working with the traders in the area as part of the business support project.

SIB funds which had previously been allocated to the priority were recommended to be used to purchase 'ad bins', litter bin which were able to be used for advertising and could be used to promote local businesses as well as events in the area. Four ad bins would be purchased and they would be portable allowing them to be moved throughout the area.

Dave Ellison, Area Response Manager, added that the bins were the same as those installed on Park Lane in the City Centre. They were mounted on concrete plinths and the advertisement was simply an A3 laminated sheet which would allow the council to produce their own posters for the bins.

4. RESOLVED that:-
 - a. the purchase and installation of the ad bins be approved
 - b. the next steps detailed in section 4 of the report be agreed.

Activities for Young People

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) on behalf of the Young People Task and result group which provided and update against the agreed actions in the current years work plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Pauline Hopper, Area Officer, presented the report and advised that a number of projects for 13 – 19 year olds had been delivered as part of the responsive youth provision project which was funded by the Area Committee and gentoo. This project had been very successful in tackling youth disorder. The police were very happy with the work and Inspector Musgrove had reported a reduction in youth antisocial behaviour of 23 percent.

The XL winter provision had seen 215 young people attending the provision and this along with the other projects had achieved very good results.

Steven Rowntree then presented information on the work done in the area by Washington MIND. He advised that Washington MIND provided mental health services for 16-25 year olds in Washington and the Coalfield and were increasing their presence in the Coalfield. There was an open referral system in operation and since April 2011 there had been 83 referrals from the Coalfield area.

Councillor hall stated that it was pleasing to receive an update on the work done and queried where the work was being based from. Mr Rowntree advised that the work was being carried out from Herrington Burn YMCA.

In response to queries from Councillor Blackburn Mr Rowntree advised that referrals did not only come from GPs. He also advised that it may not be possible to break down the referral information geographically.

Hazel Hedley, CEO of Impact Family Services, then presented an update on the work done on the Ear 4 U project. She advised that the project had received funding in 2010 and since then had received a number of referrals, mostly related to family issues and other issues at home. Work had been done with the schools to put support packages together and there had also been work with social workers and family mediation services had been provided. The project was now coming to an end and had exceeded its targets. She then introduced Sarah Collins the team leader for the project in the Coalfield area.

In response to a query from Councillor Hall Ms Collins stated that work had mainly been done in Houghton Kepier and Hetton Schools; there had been 160 referrals and at one point there was a waiting list for the service.

Councillor Hall then expressed concerns that there were a lot of services in Hetton however very few in Shiney Row. She also stated that a large number of young people resident in Shiney Row attended Biddick School.

Councillor Blackburn then queried what level of funding had been received and was informed by Ms Hedley that there had been funding in the region of £30,000 received.

Ms Collins also advised that the majority of young people who had accessed the services had family problems such as domestic violence or were self harming; they were not just working with young people who were suffering from bullying.

In response to a query from the Chairman Ms Hedley advised that they were able to get direct referrals which removed the need for young people to visit their GP prior to accessing the service.

Members then discussed the feasibility of providing additional funding for the project and Ms Hopper advised that any applications over £5,000 would need to be full SIB applications; smaller applications for funding could be dealt with through the Community Chest. Ms Hopper agreed to look into the provision of additional funds to the project.

5. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The report of the task and finish group be noted.
- b. Four junior youth clubs, as detailed in paragraph 3.1 be developed
- c. The remaining SIB funding allocated to the priority as outlined in paragraph 3.1 be used to extend holiday provision into the summer holiday
- d. Members be invited to attend the task and result group meeting on 29th March to agree the locations and format of the XL summer provision.

Allotments and Community Gardens

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) on behalf of the allotments task and result group which provided an update on the progress against the agreed actions in the current years work plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Pauline Hopper, Area Officer, presented the report and advised that there had been good progress made at the two sites which had originally been identified as the focus of the work. The work on the site at Burnside was substantially complete; new fencing had been erected and derelict buildings and other structures had been removed. Some of the larger plots which had been difficult to let due to their size had been subdivided into smaller plots which would be easier to let. Work was now commencing on a further two allotment sites.

There had also been works carried out at other allotment sites throughout the area and details of these were in paragraph 3.4 of the report. Information on the plots brought back into use would be included in the annual report.

Work around the Community Challenge project had been continuing to support the Love where You Live campaign and the development of the Jubilee Celebrations. Susan Brown added that there was the intention to leave behind a lasting legacy of the project and ways of linking the Jubilee celebrations into the community gardens was being investigated.

Councillor Scott stated that there had been people who were using the sites illegally. When challenged they had left the sites and it was hoped that the sites would now be able to be brought back into proper use.

6. RESOLVED that:-
 - a. The report be noted
 - b. The next steps set out in paragraph 4 be agreed.

Work Plan

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with the Committee's Work Plan for 2011/12 which identified all of the actions against the priorities and the progress made on them.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Pauline Hopper, Area Officer, presented the report and advised that there was progress being made on all of the ongoing actions, none of the actions were marked as red.

Ms Hopper drew Members attention to the action 'Self Administration of Medication' which was part of the Support for older people priority. This issue had been raised by the task and result group as there was the problem of older people not taking their medication properly after being discharged from hospital which could then lead to them being readmitted to hospital. It had been felt that the Area Committee would not be able to effectively tackle this issue and as such it would be referred to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

Pam Lee advised that it would be worth liaising with the primary care trust as it was possible that there may already be work being undertaken. Pharmacies had a responsibility to check that people were taking their medication properly.

Councillor Hall stated that the scrutiny committee had held an event which looked at ways to improve discharging from hospital. There was a task and finish group looking at the management of medication for people leaving hospital. There were concerns for the longer term as there was a need to ensure that services were in place for those people who could not manage to take their medications.

7. RESOLVED that the work plan be noted.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest – Financial Update and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested the Members to consider proposals for the allocation of SIB and Community Chest funding to support initiatives that would deliver activity against the priorities for 2011/12.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Pauline Hopper, Area Officer, presented the report and advised that there were no applications for SIB funding as there was only £105 remaining in the budget which would be carried forward to next year. There were 14 applications for support from Community Chest and these were outlined in paragraph 2.2 and annex 3 of the report.

8. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The financial information set out in sections 2.1 and 2.2 and Annex 2 be noted
- b. The 14 proposals for support from the 2011/12 Community Chest as set out in Annex 3 be approved.

(Signed) D. RICHARDSON,
Chairman.