

At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on TUESDAY, 17th SEPTEMBER, 2012 at 5.30p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Ball in the Chair

Councillors Emerson, Errington, Farr, Forbes, E. Gibson, Marshall, McClennan, T. Martin, Mordey, Price and Scanlan

Also Present:-

Paula Hunt	- East VCS Network Representative
Matthew Jackson	- Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Pam Lee	- Public Health Consultant, Sunderland PCT
Jen McKeivitt	- VCS Network Representative
Vivienne Metcalfe	- Area Community Coordinator, Sunderland City Council
Keith Moore	- Area Lead Executive and Executive Director of Children's Services, Sunderland City Council
Helen Peverley	- Area Response Manager, Sunderland City Council
Nicky Rowland	- Area Response Manager, Sunderland City Council
James Third	- Community Relations Officer, Nexus
Nicol Trueman	- Area Officer, Sunderland City Council
Jeremy Wicking	- Media Officer, Sunderland City Council

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received on behalf of Councillors Kay, Maddison and Wood along with Hazel Clark and Charlotte Burnham.

Declarations of Interest

People Board Progress Update

Councillor Errington made an open declaration that a family member was employed by the Primary Care Trust.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 26th June, 2012

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th June, 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Jen McKeivitt, Helen Peverley and Nicky Rowland in the attendances.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the progress against the Place Board's Work Plan for 2012/13.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Scanlan presented the report as Chair of the Place Board. She advised that this was a new board and that so far it had been working very well. There had been a lot of work done around Responsive Local Services and the Walk and Talk sessions which had identified a number of problems including graffiti, fly tipping and dog fouling.

Dog control orders would be discussed at the next meeting of the board; these could be used to ensure that dogs were kept on leads or were not allowed into certain areas such as cemeteries.

There was a problem with waste being dumped, particularly in Millfield and Hendon, partly due to the number of privately rented houses and student accommodation and other transient tenants. 80 percent of fly tipping in the area was household waste being dumped in back lanes and there were peaks at the start and end of the academic year; September and June; when students were moving in and out. The Area Response Managers would be investigating potential interventions to tackle the problem.

The programme for the Walk and Talk sessions was included in the report. The sessions in Millfield had been very successful and residents had attended to raise issues.

An enhanced Marketing Plan had been proposed for the Walk and Talk sessions which would include the Council's Communications Team producing draft publicity materials and a programme of sessions taking place between September 2012 and March 2013 which would be promoted through a number of channels including the PACT meetings held by Northumbria Police; social landlords Residents Associations and the VCS Network e-bulletin service.

Councillor Mordey stated that the new board seemed to be working very well. He queried whether the schools in the area had been contacted to see whether the young people could take part in the Walk and Talk sessions.

Keith Moore, Area Lead Executive, stated that this sounded like a good idea; he added that it would be good if both primary and secondary schools could be involved.

Councillor E. Gibson stated that the Doxford PACT meetings already involved young people from the local schools. The young people would bring photos showing problem areas and at the next meeting it would be checked to see what improvements had been made. It was good that the young people were involved.

Councillor T. Martin queried whether there would be any safety implications. Councillor E. Gibson advised that there were normally only 3 or 4 young people attended and that there would be school staff with them. They normally stayed within Doxford Park Estate as this was the area the young people knew. Mr Moore added that the school would have carried out assessments to ensure that the young people would be safe.

2. RESOLVED that the report be noted and progress updates be received based on the timetable outlined in annex 1.

People Board Progress Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated Members on the progress against the People Board work plan for 2012/13.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Emerson, Chair of the People Board, presented the report and advised that reducing male mortality rates in the area was a priority for the board, this was detailed at paragraph 3 of the report and there was funding of £31,413 from the Healthy City Investment Fund available to support this priority.

It had been agreed that Youth Services would attend the board meetings to discuss the provision of youth services in the area.

There would be work done around encouraging schools to open up their facilities to the wider community and this was detailed in paragraph 4 of the report. It was recognised that some schools did already open their facilities for wider community use.

Nicol Trueman, Area Officer, advised that the work around opening school facilities was progressing quickly; it was intended that information would be presented to the November meeting of the board. Schools in the area would be contacted to find out what facilities they had and whether they were

available for community use. Some schools had facilities open for community use however others did not due to various concerns. She had also been in contact with Paul Power with regard to the Scrutiny review into the lasting legacy of the Olympics.

Councillor T. Martin stated that the Multi Use Games Areas at Hudson Road Primary and Grangetown Primary Schools were very well used. Sport England had stated that there was a shortage of 2 playing fields within the area; Southmoor School had received land including a cricket pitch from Belford House which was supposed to remain in public use however this had been closed off to prevent public access. He also referred to the playing field at Valley Road Primary school which had previously been available for public use.

Paula Hunt stated that Valley Road Primary School playing field had been raised at the last VCS meeting. Back on the Map had met with the school and the voluntary sector was looking to take ownership of the land. Councillor Mordey added that this was an ongoing issue; when the playing field had been open to the public there had been undesirables using it and drug paraphernalia and broken glass had been found on the playing field.

Councillor Errington stated that he used to play cricket at Belford House. If this pitch was brought back into use it would be welcomed by the cricket clubs in the area. He also referred to the playing field at Grangetown Primary which had been taken out of use during works at the school.

Councillor Mordey advised that the playing field was now open. Vivienne Metcalfe added that since the works at the school the playing field was not big enough to be used as a football pitch; Sport England was looking into the possibility of them managing the site. Jen McKevitt added that there were discussions around opening the site of Amberley and Harrogate Streets as an informal play area for children.

Councillor Mordey stated that as lead Member for City Services he would be looking into the refresh of the play strategy. He would be seeking input from the people boards.

Mr Moore advised that there was a new headteacher at Valley Road Primary School so it was possible that the situation relating to opening up of facilities could change. Southmoor had recently become an academy and it would be useful to speak to the headteacher to try and negotiate public access to facilities. There was work being done around the new youth commissioning contracts; the People Boards would be consulted to get Members views on the contract specification.

3. RESOLVED that the report be noted and progress reports be received in accordance with the timetable outlined in Annex 1.

Community Chest, Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Healthy City Investment Fund (HCIF) – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested Members to give consideration to proposals for the allocation of Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) funding and Healthy City Investment Fund (HCIF) to support initiatives that would benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman, Area Officer, presented the report and advised that the Committee had been awarded £31,413 for the Healthy City Investment Fund to address the lifestyle causes of cancer in men. A workshop had been held with the VCS network in July and a consortium of organisations had been formed as detailed in paragraph 3.3 of the report. Evolve would be leading the project and match funding totalling £65,697 had been found.

Councillor Price queried how the organisations were planning to attract people to the projects. Ms Trueman advised that the groups were already established within the East Area and as such they already had an understanding of the barriers and how to overcome them. There were co-ordination meetings to ensure that the knowledge from the organisations was used as effectively as possible.

Councillor Mordey endorsed the consortium approach. It was good to see this project coming to fruition and it was especially pleasing that the SIB was being used to top-up a substantial amount of match funding rather than being the first port of call for funding. He queried how the football would be monitored to ensure that the participants were taking part in the health awareness programme as well as the football sessions. Ms Trueman advised that the healthy living advice would be given at the same time as the football took place. If there was the desire from participants to continue the football programme after the project had finished then Sport England would be happy to continue the delivery.

Ms Trueman then moved on to draw Members attention to the financial statement for the Community Chest and also to the application to change a previously approved SIB application. This change had come about as the target for element 1 of the project had not been met and the change to the project would allow for the target to be met. These changes would allow those in receipt of benefits but not yet enrolled on a mandatory DWP/JCP programme to receive assistance and full details of the change were detailed within the application form which was at Annex 3 to the report.

In response to questions from Councillor Errington Ms Trueman advised that the problems had been raised with her in July and it had been identified that if the application was changed to include people receiving benefits then the targets would be met. The project covered all of the wards within the area. Paula Hunt added that there was outreach provision within each ward.

Ms Trueman then drew Members attention to the request from the Place Board that £30,000; £6,000 for each ward; of SIB be ring fenced for the Walk and Talk programme. Any decisions to spend the ring fenced funding would need to be made by the Committee either at the next meeting following the application being submitted or by using the emergency protocol for urgent proposals.

Should Members agree to align £30,000 to the Walk and Talk priority there would be £255,522 of SIB remaining.

4. RESOLVED that:-
 - a. The financial statement for Community Chest for 2012/13 be noted
 - b. The application for HCIF funding from Evolve be approved
 - c. The request to change the previously approved 'Employment Support for People not in Receipt of Benefits' project be approved
 - d. £30,000 of SIB funding be aligned to the Walk and Talk Programme priority.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the Meeting.

(Signed) E. BALL,
Chairman.