

At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the BUNNY HILL CENTRE, HYLTON LANE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 16TH SEPTEMBER, 2013 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Bell in the Chair

Councillors Bonallie, Copeland, Curran, Davison, Foster, Howe, Jackson, MacKnight, Shattock and Stewart.

Also in Attendance:-

Mr. Steven Anderson	Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Inspector Tony Carty	Northumbria Police
Ms. Gillian Gibson	- Consultant in Public Health, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Vivienne Metcalfe	- Area Community Officer, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Ruth Oxley	- SNYP, North VCS Representative
Ms. Allison Patterson	- Area Coordinator, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Alan Scott	- North Locality Manager, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Sue Stanhope	- Director of HR & OD, Sunderland City Council and Area Lead Executive (ALE)
Ms. Christine Tilley	- Governance Services Team Leader, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Claire Tulley	- Community Relations Officer, Nexus
Ms. Nikki Vokes	Chief Executive, SNCBC
Mr. Graham Wharton	- Salvation Army, VCS Network
Mr. Andy Wilson	North Area Response Officer, Sunderland City Council

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting, inviting introductions around the room.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Francis, D. Wilson, Wiper and N. Wright.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 20th June, 2013

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 20th June, 2013, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Strengthening Families Presentation

Mr. Alan Scott, North Locality Manager provided Members with a comprehensive powerpoint presentation which advised the Committee of:-

- i) the context in which the Strengthening Families Programme would operate;
- ii) the underlying strategy supporting the programme including the Common Assessment Framework, Family Focus and the weekly meetings of the referral panels in each locality;
- iii) an overview of the Family Focus Project, its criteria and its development within the wider context of the Strengthening Families Programme;
- iv) the delivery model for the Strengthening Families Programme together with its links to the Community Leadership Programme.

(For copy presentation – see original minutes).

Members welcomed the presentation.

Councillor Davison enquired what the incentives were for families to participate.

Mr. Scott informed that often families were facing a number of consequences such as going through the criminal justice system or at risk of losing their home. The key worker would work to support the individual and family as a whole with these issues and help them to control their own future and do things differently.

In response to Councillor Shattock, Mr Scott confirmed that trust in the key worker was very important. In a lot of cases the key worker might already be working with the family on a particular issue and therefore had already built up the trust and were helping the family to support themselves.

There being no further questions or comments from Members, the Chairman thanked Mr. Scott for his presentation and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the information within the presentation be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports - Area Voluntary and Community Sector

Ms. Nikki Vokes, Ms. Ruth Oxley and Mr. Graham Wharton, Area Network Representatives submitted a report providing an update with regard to the North Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Oxley referred the Committee to paragraph 3 of the report which detailed the work the VCS Network was undertaking and the services and activities it was continuing to deliver to address concerns and challenges.

The representatives welcomed the opportunity to work closely with the Council and other partner agencies to collectively approach key themes to achieve the best outcomes for communities.

3. RESOLVED that the update from the Area Voluntary and Community Sector be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Northumbria Police

Neighbourhood Inspector Tony Carty, Northumbria Police gave a verbal update to the Committee on the groups, sometimes of between 300-400 young people aged 12-18 years, who had been congregating via social media on the fields in the Seaburn area over the summer months and who, in some cases, had been committing incidents of antisocial behaviour. He advised that some of the young people were local residents, others were residents from other parts of the city and some were travelling from outside Sunderland to the area. This had culminated in a very serious sexual offence on a teenage girl.

Neighbourhood Inspector Carty informed Members of the procedure Police Officers had adopted to deal with the groups of young people. He referred to the £10,000 funding provided by the Area Committee to tackle the issues described above and the support the Council's Anti Social Behaviour Team had provided. He advised that joint visits had been made to 120 homes to alert parents about where their sons and daughters were, what they were doing and how in some cases they were putting themselves in vulnerable situations.

Neighbourhood Inspector Carty advised the Committee that 121 young people had been taken home and 5 had been served antisocial behaviour orders. In June/July there had been 33 calls and 40 crimes. However by the end of August this had been slashed by 75% to 8 calls and 10 crimes. Work had also been carried out in the Hylton Castle and the Dene areas which had impacted on hard core youth crime and arrests had been made.

Neighbourhood Inspector Carty advised that details of all of the 121 young people referred to above were entered onto the database and shared as part of a multi agency approach under the Strengthening Families programme to identify how they could be supported.

Mr. Alan Scott, North Locality Manager confirmed that a gap in service provision had been identified as a result of this and a worker had been sponsored to work with young people coming forward with drug and alcohol issues.

Neighbourhood Inspector Carty advised that as a result of all of this work approximately £7,000 of the allocation had been spent. He enquired whether the remainder of the money could be used on an operation for October half term week and Bonfire night on November 5th.

Neighbourhood Inspector Carty was advised that the remainder of the allocation would need to be returned and a new application made and considered by the Area Committee.

In response to questions, Neighbourhood Inspector Carty stated that much of the antisocial behaviour described above was due to alcohol. When it was seized, it was poured away, often in front of the young people it had been taken from. The amount of litter that had been left behind had also been an issue for the Council. Neighbourhood Inspector Carty advised that the Police regularly carried out an exercise in conjunction with Officers of the Trading Standards Service checking whether any off licences were selling alcohol to people who were under age.

Members thanked Neighbourhood Inspector Carty for the work undertaken to reduce antisocial behaviour in the area. Neighbourhood Inspector Carty thanked the Committee for its support.

Members commented that extra activities had been put on for the previous two years whereas this summer they had not and suggested that early consideration be given to getting activities in place during the summer holiday period next year in an effort to engage young people.

4. RESOLVED that the update from the Northumbria Police be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services

Mr. Steven Anderson, Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services provided a verbal update to the Committee, on performance monitoring details in relation to the local indicators for the North Sunderland Area Committee area for the period 1.06.13 to 31.08.13, in comparison with the same period in 2012/13, advising that there had been:-

- a total of 245 fires in the period whereas there had been 143 last year - this represented an increase of 41%;
- 7 less primary fires, 35 from 42;
- 108 more secondary fires (rubbish,grass), a total of 209 whereas last year there were 101; and
- a reduction in the number of incidences of automatic fire alarms (false alarms) from 199 to 152.

Mr. Anderson stated that he was able to provide any of the figures on a ward basis to individual Members on request.

Mr. Anderson advised the Committee that a recent ballot held by the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) had resulted in a 78% vote in favour of industrial action, however as of that point in time the strike dates were unknown. In terms of contingency arrangements, Mr. Anderson stated that there would still be fire appliances available on the strike days and they would be staffed by senior officers and non union members.

In response to Councillor Foster, Mr. Anderson advised that he had been surprised that the number of secondary fires had risen however there had always been an issue with rubbish and grass fires in the Bunny Hill and Hylton Dene areas. Mr. Anderson stated that he did not think this could be attributed to the £15 waste collection charge which had been introduced by the Council earlier in the year.

The Chairman having thanked Mr. Anderson for his report, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the update from the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service be received and noted.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chairman of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress against the current year's (2013/14) Place Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Vivienne Metcalfe, Area Community Officer presented the report drawing Members' attention to the Area Governance Arrangements detailed in paragraph 3 and the key areas of influence and achievements of the Place Board detailed in paragraph 4 in relation to Responsive Local Services, Greenspace and Shopping Centre Improvements, Accessibility of services, facilities, events and information and Heritage.

Ms. Metcalfe highlighted that an extraordinary meeting of the Place Board was to be held later that week to provide an update on North Heritage Projects.

With regards to the memberships of the Boards, Councillor MacKnight stated that it should have been clearly stated in the report that any Member of the Area Committee was able to attend meetings of the Boards even though they were not part of the core membership.

Ms. Ruth Oxley, SNYP, North VCS Representative enquired whether any consideration had been given to inviting the VCS representatives to the North Sunderland Area Boards as she was aware that representatives had attended the Boards for other areas.

Ms. Allison Patterson, Area Coordinator, Sunderland City Council advised that VCS representatives had been invited to attend other Area Board meetings as and when they could add information to a specific area of discussion and the same would apply to the North Sunderland Area Committee's Board meetings when it was appropriate.

Councillor Copeland raised the issue of the 'Wheatsheaf Clock' and a discussion ensued during which a number of Members expressed support for a replacement clock to be installed in a suitable location in the area of the Wheatsheaf Public House.

Ms. Metcalfe advised that the issue of a replacement clock was to be discussed at the Place Board meeting. She highlighted that any repairs and the ongoing maintenance of a replacement clock would need to be taken into account as this would mean potential additional revenue costs for the Council.

Ms. Sue Stanhope, Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development and Area Lead Executive for the Committee added in response to Members that there were financial regulations and procedures that would need to be followed and that the due decision making process in respect of whether to provide funding for a replacement clock would need to be followed after taking everything into account.

Following full discussion on the report and matters raised, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the progress and performance update with regard to the North Sunderland Area Place Board's Work Plan for 2013/14 be received and noted and;
- (ii) the information previously circulated on the costs associated with the reinstatement/replacement of the 'Wheatsheaf Clock' be re-circulated to all Members of the Area Committee for information in preparation for a discussion at a Place Board meeting and that the appropriate officers be invited to attend to advise Members when discussing the options available.

People Board – Progress Update

The Chairman of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress against the People Board's Work Plan for 2013/14.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Metcalfe, Area Community Officer presented the report drawing Members' attention to the key areas of influence and achievements of the People Board detailed in paragraph 4 in relation to Influencing Core Services Devolved to the Area Committee, Early Intervention and Locality Based Services and Job Prospects and Activities for Young People.

Ms. Gillian Gibson, Consultant in Public Health, Sunderland City Council referred to the Integrated Wellness Service Review which was aiming to work more closely with communities aligning with their needs and values, advising that the service was to be re-procured next year.

Ms. Gibson highlighted the stakeholder event being arranged for November 2013 and the proposal to discuss the review at the October People Board meeting to allow Members the opportunity to influence the review and feed in their views, sharing any comments they had picked up as Local Councillors from the communities they served. This information would in turn be put forward by the Area Chairman and Chairman of the People Board who had been invited to attend the event.

Councillor Curran referred to the section concerning activities for young people and the recent decision taken to locate a set of community goal posts on the New Derby Green Space. He stated that he had been disappointed that complaints had been received about the goal posts and that they had subsequently been removed given that the Area Committee was trying to provide resources for young people in the community to use.

Mr. Andy Wilson, North Area Response Officer, Sunderland City Council confirmed that there had been complaints received but there had also been an issue with the site in that it was uneven and therefore the goal posts had been taken down. Once the issue of the reinstatement of the land had been addressed the goal posts would be reinstated.

Members referred to the job prospects for young people priority and queried whether the age group 16-18/19 year olds should also be targeted along with 14-16 year olds to support employment opportunities for young people.

Full consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the progress and performance update with regard to the North Sunderland Area People Board's Work Plan for 2013/14 be noted;
- ii) the proposals as follows to support the delivery of the Health and Wellbeing strategy be agreed:-
 - to work with specialist officers to carry out and collate key statistics from wards on need; and
 - for the Area Community Officer to contact VCS/Faith Groups to identify specific issues and support which may be required to continue/enhance the offer to the community which will include potential for a SIB application and/or a call for projects;
- iii) the opportunity to influence the future service delivery centrally and via outreach of sexual health services be referred to the People Board to action by the end of October/November; and
- iv) the recommendation from the People Board on the Job Prospects for Young People Priority that the targeted age group be 14-16 year olds and an alignment of £100k SIB funding be made, subject to engagement with the local schools and to a brief being developed and agreed by People Board and a call for projects being made to support this, be agreed but that the People Board be asked to look at the age range 16-18/19 year olds and consider whether the Area Committee wished to support opportunities for young people in this age group also.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), Community Chest and Healthy Cities 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 a financial statement as an up to date position in relation to the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget, Healthy City Investment Fund and Community Chest and presented proposals for further funding requests.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Metcalfe, Area Community Officer presented the report drawing attention to the recommendations detailed at paragraph 5.

Members considered the report and having noted that a balance of £79 of the £31,079 Healthy City Investment Fund remained to be allocated, it was:-

8. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the financial statements as set out in paragraphs 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1 of the report be noted;

- (ii) approval be given to the allocation of £100,000 from the SIB budget for 2013/14 to support delivery to the School Opportunities Project for the Job Prospects for Young People Priority (subject to the development of a full project brief and call for projects);
- (iii) the fifteen approvals for support from the 2013/14 Community Chest, totalling £10,638.00, as set out in the annex to the report, be noted; and
- (iv) the balance of £79 remaining from the Healthy City Investment Fund be aligned to the Tackling Men's Health in the North project.

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

(Signed) R. BELL,
Chairman.