

At a Meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held at BETHANY CHRISTIAN CENTRE, HETTON ROAD, HOUGHTON – LE - SPRING, on WEDNESDAY, 18th SEPTEMBER, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor D. Richardson in the Chair

Councillors Anderson, Blackburn, Ellis, Heron, Lawson, Scott, D. Smith, Speding, Tate and Wakefield

Also in Attendance:-

Ron Barrass	Member of the Public	
Susan Brown	Project Manager, VCS	ELCAP
Wendy Cook	Youth and Community Co-ordinator	SNCBC
Nonnie Crawford	Director of Public Health	Sunderland City Council
Dave Ellison	Area Response Manager	Sunderland City Council
Juliana Heron	Councillor	Hetton Town Council
Pauline Hopper	Area Community Officer, Coalfield	Sunderland City Council
Amelia Laverick	Member of the Public	
Malcolm Page	Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services & Area Lead Executive	Sunderland City Council
Rachel Putz	Coalfields Locality Manager, Children's Services	Sunderland City Council
Pat Robson	Member of the Public	
Bob Scott	Member of the Public	
Lesley Stobbart	Neighbourhood Operations Manager	Gentoo
Christine Tilley	Governance Services Team Leader	Sunderland City Council
Claire Tulley	Community Relations Manager	Nexus
Gill Wake	Area Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Lee Wardle	VCS Representative	ELCAP
Michael Webb	Member of the Public	

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular Councillor Anderson who was returning after a period of ill-health. He invited all those present to introduce themselves.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Taylor together with Mr. John Chapman and Ms. Melanie Caldwell both from Gentoo, Ms. Julie Stonebridge, Public Health Representative for the Coalfield Area and Neighbourhood Inspector Lisa Musgrove.

Declarations of Interest

Item 7 – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocations of Resources

Councillor Heron declared an interest as a School Governor of Bernard Gilpin Primary School taking no part in any discussion or voting in respect of the application submitted by the school for SIB funding for the community facility at the school to deliver activities for older and vulnerable people and those experiencing dementia in the wider community.

Councillor Lawson declared an interest as an employee of Anchor Housing in relation to the application submitted from the Friends of Gillwood Court, taking no part in any discussion or voting in respect of the application.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

Ms. Rachel Putz, Coalfields 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.

Ms. Putz advised that a regular update would be provided in future to the Committee detailing the number of families involved with the Programme. In response to Members' questions, Ms Putz informed that the programme would provide practical support and links to the right organisations to help and support individuals and families who were facing a number of issues. It had been estimated, according to Government figures, that there were 805 'troubled' families in Sunderland, however the Family Focus Project in Sunderland anticipated that it would need to work with about 1200 families to show success with 805. The skill of the Key Worker to engage and have the patience to continue to show they were committed to working with the individual and family, as a whole, on the issues they were facing and help them to control their own future and do things differently was very important.

There being no further questions or comments from Members, the Chairman thanked Ms. Putz for her presentation and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the information within the presentation and brought out during the discussion be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports - Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network

Mr. Lee Wardle, Ms. Sam Gallilee and Ms. Ann Owen, Area Network Representatives submitted a report (copy circulated), providing an update with regard to the Coalfield Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Pauline Hopper, Area Community Officer highlighted that the Coalfield Area Network delegates would present a report to each Area Committee meeting informing Members of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector. Ms. Hopper also highlighted the point that the Network had been invited to contribute to discussions with regards to the City Council's VCS Relationship Transition Project with one representative to sit on the project board and that the Transition Project had been set up to consider how best the Council can work with the sector to achieve joint objectives and priorities going forward.

Mr. Wardle briefed the Committee on the remainder of the report commenting that finance was the biggest issue for the Sector and that if this was not available then it would not be possible to offer the same level of service.

Mr. Wardle highlighted that a request for funding of £10,000 had been made to the Heritage Lottery Fund to commemorate the start 100 years ago of World War 1 in 1914 and that a decision on the application was anticipated by 28th October.

Ms. Susan Brown, Project Manager added that the network was pulling together a list of contacts to inform and involve people in the month long programme of activities to be developed to commemorate World War 1 in August 2014.

Councillor Lawson commented that some of the initiatives would not have been done without the VCS and thanked the Sector on behalf of the People Board.

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

Partner Agency Reports – Northumbria Police

Ms. Pauline Hopper, Area Community Officer read out a report which had been provided by Neighbourhood Inspector Lisa Musgrove who was unable to attend the meeting due to work commitments.

The Committee heard that Crime in Sunderland was showing a rise of 7% compared to the average year to date figures from last year. The Coalfields Area was showing an 8% rise with an increase of 79 crimes compared to the average last year. This in itself might appear concerning but it needed to be born in mind that the Coalfields Area had a 14.2% decrease in crime for the same period last year.

The crime areas that were showing a minor increase were criminal damage, violent crime without injury and vehicle crime. However there were no hot spots for these offences. Burglary was showing a decrease in all areas.

Youth Anti Social Behaviour in Sunderland was showing an average decrease of 33% on the year to date figures and the Coalfields Area was actually showing a 39.9% decrease which was an excellent result. There had been a report of a rise in minor youth ASB on the Hall Lane estate as discussed at the LMAPs meeting the previous day and the local officers were working with partners in order to identify the offenders and deal with them appropriately.

Theft of metal was a priority for the local neighbourhood teams at the moment and a number of operations had been carried out in order to tackle this issue.

Neighbourhood Inspector Lisa Musgrove had invited the Committee to forward any questions to her and she would ensure that they were answered.

4. RESOLVED that the update from Neighbourhood Inspector Musgrove be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Performance Monitoring details in relation to the Local Indicators for the Coalfield Area Committee area from 1.6.2013 to 31.8.2013 compared with the same period in 2012/13.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

5. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update against the Place Board Work Plan for 2013/14.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Scott, Chair of the Place Board, introduced the update on the progress made by the Place Board on the priorities identified, highlighting the work carried out to develop proposals in respect of a Dog Control policy and drawing attention to the order proposals for the various locations in the area detailed at annex 2 of the report.

Mr. Dave Ellison, Area Response Manager advised that Officers were seeking to develop a consistent approach in respect of the Dog Control policy which would be applied across the city, however it was possible to adapt a bylaw to a specific area where this was needed.

Mr. Ellison briefed the Committee on the detail of the work undertaken to improve areas of neglected land.

Councillor Wakefield asked that thanks be recorded to Mr. Ellison and his team for the work done commenting that a number of compliments had been received from local people.

Ms. Pauline Hopper, Area Community Officer briefed the Committee on the work done around the local shopping centres advising that an evaluation report was due March 2014.

Mr. Ellison briefed the Committee on the work undertaken to improve allotments in the area advising that positive feedback had been received from residents who were very happy with the improvements.

Mr. Ellison updated Members with regards to the flood defence work carried out in partnership with Northumbrian Water.

Councillor Scott asked that thanks be reported back to all those who had worked on the flood risk planning adding that the Council's Emergency Helpline had proved extremely helpful.

In response to Councillor Lawson who enquired whether residents were also contacting the Northumbrian Water Helpline, Mr. Ellison advised that residents confirmed that they were logging incidents with Northumbrian Water.

Mr. Ellison then informed the Committee of the area's recent success in the Northumbria in Bloom Awards including Hetton-le-Hole and Houghton-le-Spring which had both achieved the Gold Award in the Large Town Class and Herrington Country Park winning the trophy for best in class achieving the Gold Award for the Best Conservation area out of 38 nominations.

Mr. Ellison paid thanks to the community groups, schools, voluntary and business participants as well as Area Committee Members for their contributions and efforts in achieving the success in this year's competition.

6. RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the progress and performance update with regard to the Place Board work plan for 2013/14 be noted;
- (b) the proposed locations for Dog Control Orders be approved; and
- (c) a letter of thanks on behalf of the Committee be sent to all those contributing to the Area's success in the Northumbria in Bloom Awards.

People Board Progress Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the progress made against the 2013/14 People Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chair of the People Board, Councillor Lawson, presented the report highlighting the work that had been done by the Board up to September 2013 in influencing early intervention and locality services and invited Members to continue to provide suggestions for services/programmes that can improve provision in the area by feeding into the re-commissioning of Children's Centres.

Ms. Pauline Hopper, Area Community Officer, drew attention to the Directory which was being developed using information and knowledge from Council Departments, Public Health Services, Elected Members, the VCS Network partners and residents to raise awareness of services available for Older and Vulnerable People and encouraged the Committee to provide further intelligence to assist in the collection of accurate information.

Ms Hopper drew attention to the recommendations submitted for approval for SIB funding in respect of the provision of dementia training in the community for health champions and also for equipment to enable delivery of a project at a community 'dementia café' facility based at Bernard Gilpin School.

Ms. Nonnie Crawford, Director of Public Health advised that the Council had become responsible for public health in April 2013 and that the commissioning of Sexual Health Services became one of the areas of responsibility. It had been considered opportune at this time to undertake a review of the sexual health services available across the city which had commenced in July and was looking to improve the mental and sexual wellbeing of young people; identify gaps in service provision and research best practice. Ms Crawford welcomed the Area People Board and Area Committee's engagement and involvement in the review.

Councillor Lawson commented that the dementia training for health champions had been very well received. Councillor Lawson thanked the VCS and Elected Members for all the work they had undertaken and their attendance at the People Board meetings.

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

7. RESOLVED that:-
 - (a) the progress and performance update with regards to the People Board work plan for 2013/14 be noted;
 - (b) Members continue to support the Area Community Officer in the development of a 'One Directory' by providing local intelligence on a ward by ward basis;
 - (c) Members be involved in the citywide Sexual Health Review; and
 - (d) the recommendations for SIB funding in respect of the Area Priority 'Transformation of Adult Social Care' as detailed above and in the report, be agreed.

Love Where You Live Progress Report

The Chairman of the Area Committee provided an update (copy circulated) of progress on the Love Where You Live project which cuts across the work of both the Place and People Boards and also the VCS Network.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman of the Area Committee introduced the report and invited Ms. Pauline Hopper, Area Community Officer to brief the Committee on the work carried out by the project in partnership with Responsive Local Services Street Scene services. Ms Hopper explained that the project complemented and added value to the work the Council carried out as part of its day to day activity and did not replace or duplicate mainstream services.

Mr. Dave Ellison, Area Response Manager advised that 17 client claiming job seekers allowance had taken part in the project gaining work experience; the majority of whom had been really good, adapting well and making a difference.

8. RESOLVED that:-
 - (a) Members continue to support and become involved in the project in their own ward and across the wider area;
 - (b) a formal letter be written to the work placement clients offering the Committee's thanks and recognition for the work they have carried out; and
 - (c) further reports be submitted to the Committee on the progress of the project in due course.

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) providing a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) funding, Healthy Cities Investment Fund (HCIF) and Community Chest and presenting proposals for allocation of SIB for the Area Committee's consideration to support initiatives that will benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Pauline Hopper presented the report drawing attention to the projects submitted for approval from the People and Place Boards detailed at paragraph 2.2 and to the recommendation from the People Board that an allocation of SIB be made for the development of a call for projects to support the 'health of young people' priority detailed at paragraph 2.3. Further recommendations were being made to the Committee in respect of the use of the remaining balance of the Strategic Investment Plan for the Houghton Ward and a small sum remaining from the HCIF.

The Chairman commented that a number of Community Chest applications were being referred to him requesting him to reverse the decision. He explained that in a number of cases the request had come in too late for the application to be given further consideration as the organisation had already been informed of the decision on their application. The Chairman urged Members to give early consideration to the applications forwarded to them and to inform the appropriate Officer in the Area and Scrutiny Arrangements Team of their views.

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

9. RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the financial information set out in sections 2,3,4 and the previously approved Community Chest applications detailed in section 5 and on Annex 2 and be noted;
- (b) the SIB project applications listed in section 2.2 and detailed in Annex1 totalling £16,450 be approved as follows:-

St Aidan's Angling Training	- £5,000
Dementia Training	£5,750
Bernard Gilpin School	
Community Project	£5,700

- (c) a sum of £30,000 for small projects to address the young people and health priority be approved;
- (d) approval be given to the allocation of £14,000 SIP to Houghton Rectory Park improvements as part of a larger project; and

- (e) approval be given to the allocating of the remaining £413 HCIF to the existing Men's Health Project.

The Chairman having thanked everyone for their attendance, closed the meeting.

(Signed) D. RICHARDSON,
Chairman.