

**At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2018 at 5.30p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Ball in the Chair

Councillors M. Dixon, English, Essl, E. Gibson, Hodson, Hunt, Marshall, McClennan, Oliver, O'Neil, Scanlan and P. Wood.

**Also Present:-**

Malcolm Bell	-	Operations Manager, Stagecoach in Sunderland
Matthew Jackson	-	Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Shaun Makin	-	Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Sarah Reed	-	Director of Strategy, Partnerships and Transformation, Sunderland City Council
Gillian Robinson	-	Area Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council
Jamie Southwell	-	Inspector, Northumbria Police
Emma Taylor	-	Senior Comms Officer, NHS NECS
Nicol Trueman	-	Area Officer, Sunderland City Council
Scott Watson	-	Director of Contracting, Sunderland CCG

**Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received on behalf of Councillors Mordey and A. Wood together with Joanne Cooper, Julie Maven and Lisa Wilson-Riddell.

**Declarations of Interest**

Item 2a – Path to Excellence Phase 2

Councillor McClennan made an open declaration that she was a Member of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and that the matter was being considered by the Scrutiny Committee.

Item 3 – Place Board Progress Report

Item 4 – People Board Progress Report

Councillor Hunt made an open declaration that she was Chair of Ryhope CA; there was feedback from work done with the CA in these update reports.

### **Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2018**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **Path to Excellence Phase 2**

The South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Partnership submitted a report and PowerPoint presentation (copies circulated) to inform the Committee of “The Path to Excellence – phase two” public and Stakeholder engagement.

(for copy report and presentation – see original minutes)

Mr Scott Watson, Director of Contracting and Informatics, Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group, presented the report and advised the Committee of the key challenges, how they planned to address them and the steps to be taken going forward.

Councillor Wood referred to the statement that the service had been overfunded for some time and asked how and why this had occurred. Mr Watson advised that it was deemed to be overfunded rather than actually being overfunded and that the funding levels were set nationally by imputing data into an algorithm which then decided what level of funding was deemed to be required; Sunderland would have the least amount of funding of any CCG.

Ms Reed referred to the online promotion of the programme and advised that the Area Committee had done a lot of work around digital inclusion and that other areas had differing levels of digital inclusion. Mr Watson replied that the regional governance arrangements would ensure that there were no unplanned consequences from these differences. It had been ensured that the NHS trusts would have capacity to deal with whatever demand there may be. The Secretary of State was keen for more online communication and there would be engagement around how best to use digital communications. There was guidance available on what the CCG should be doing and work was being done to help those who were excluded from services; there was a need to ensure that the new system would not exclude anyone.

Councillor McClennan asked whether Mr Watson was able to provide any update on the changes to urgent care provision as these proposals to close urgent care centres were causing real worry within communities in the city. Mr Watson advised that the consultation had recently finished and feedback had been received from patients. The proposals were for an urgent treatment centre at Pallion to replace the existing centres at Bunny Hill, Houghton and

Washington. The proposals were not just about the potential closure of the centres; there would be increased provision for GP access with surgeries running into the evenings and at weekends to help meet the potential demand. How to utilise community based services was also being looked at. It was important to consider that nothing had been decided yet.

Councillor English queried the preventative measures and Mr Watson advised that there would be more work done around the Live Life Well Campaign and there would be work around making every contact count; there were thousands of individual contacts made to the NHS trust every week. There was also the All Together Better Alliance which worked with Sunderland Care and Support to provide out of hospital services. There was work being done to identify whether the CCG and partners were doing all they could to meet the required provision of services.

Councillor English then commented that there had been a lot of information provided however it seemed to him that this was purely about saving money; there was a lot of agency staff and this was possibly due to wages being too low for permanent staff. He was concerned by the name Path to Excellence as he did not believe that reducing services would lead to excellence. It was already difficult to access services in Doxford Ward and there were already often three week waits for GP appointments. Mr Watson advised that there should not be three week waits for appointments; the extended hours service was only running at approximately 70-80% of capacity so he agreed to look into why these appointments were not being offered to patients. The programme was not about reducing services but was about ensuring that services were delivered more efficiently.

In response to Councillor Oliver Mr Watson advised that there were difficulties in attracting health care professionals into the area and training of local people was being looked into.

The Chairman thanked Mr Watson for his attendance and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the update from Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group be noted.

## **VCS Area Network Progress Report**

As the VCS network representatives had been unable to attend this meeting there was no update provided on the work of the VCS Network.

## **Northumbria Police Update**

Inspector Jamie Southwell provided the Committee with an update on the work of the Police within the area. He advised Members of the various operations which were running and were about to start including the start of the Darker Nights Campaign; also starting were Operation Cranberry which

would see officers providing support to cash in transit vehicles and Operation Nightingale which was an annual operation which worked with commercial properties which were at risk of robbery. Currently running was Operation Jasper which had seen the police working with the Council and The Bridges; over the last week there had been 25 arrests including burglars, shoplifters and people carrying weapons. As a result of this operation there had been no commercial burglaries in the area in the last week. The work done as part of Operation Jasper was on top of officer's normal duties.

There was also a lot of work being done around the night time economy in the run up to Christmas and bar and door staff were being offered training around vulnerability; the training had been well received; takeaways and the street pastors were also being approached.

Within Millfield there had been an operation tackling burglaries in the area and this had resulted in a 37% reduction in burglaries in Millfield over the last 28 days. Hendon and Ryhope had seen operations targeting car crime and burglaries and the Challenge Us scheme had been launched which saw police working with 13 partner organisations in the area.

Inspector Southwell then provided some key statistics for the area. Within the central area covering the city centre, Millfield and Ashbrooke there had been an 8% reduction in burglaries of dwellings; a 21% reduction in robberies and a 16% reduction in antisocial behaviour; there had been a 1% increase in violence however this was only 3 offences and it was important to note that there had been changes in the way violent crimes were recorded; the number of injuries as a result of violent crimes had reduced. Within the remainder of the East area there had been a 19% reduction in burglaries of dwellings; an 86% reduction in robberies and a 14% reduction in antisocial behaviour; violent crimes had reduced by 1%.

Following the issues with scrap collectors driving down back lanes in flat bed trucks looking over back walls and then stealing from yards there had been work done and a vehicle had been stopped by the traffic police who had charged the driver with a number of offences; the driver was going to be taken to court for these offences; although there was no evidence to suggest that the scrap in the back of the vehicle was stolen. The police were also aware of another vehicle being used in this manner and it was hoped that the driver would be caught in the act of committing offences.

Councillor Hunt thanked the police officers for their attendance at Ryhope Remembrance Day Parade; Inspector Southwell thanked Councillor Hunt for her kind words and advised that a lot of the officers in attendance had attended on their day off.

In response to questioning from Councillor Essl around beggars and busker's licences Inspector Southwell advised that there had been community protection warnings issued to nuisance beggars and there would be community protection notices issued in future. If a person had a busker's licence but was acting in a manner which was considered to be clearly

begging rather than busking then steps would be taken to revoke the licence. There was knowledge of some beggars who were not actually homeless or needy and were responsible for committing antisocial behaviour and other crimes.

Councillor M. Dixon expressed concerns that residents did not receive follow ups after they had reported incidents. Inspector Southwell advised that work was being done to improve the quality of follow ups; there would be more information circulated to Members in due course including details of the restructuring of teams to provide staff dedicated to doing follow up work.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Southwell for his report and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the update from Northumbria Police be noted.

### **Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service Update**

Station Manager Shaun Makin presented the Committee with an update on the number of fires in the area and the other work that was being done in the area by the fire service.

The figures were for quarter 2 which was the period July to September; within this time there had been 23 primary fires compared with 30 last year; 20 primary vehicle fires compared with 14 last year and 133 deliberate secondary fires, which included rubbish fires, compared with 96 last year. The increase in secondary fires was partly due to the sustained hot weather and most of these fires had been within Hendon Ward.

Over the course of the year there had been 237 deliberate fires within Hendon and as a result there had been an initiative set up working in conjunction with the police, council and Back on the Map to reduce fires and antisocial behaviour in the area; businesses in the area were being spoken to about prevention of fires including the need for fly tipping to be tackled. There had been home safety checks carried out on homes of vulnerable people to ensure that the properties were safe. There had been 107 such checks carried out and as a result there had been 13 smoke alarms installed and one private landlord owned property had been reported to Environmental Health; there had also been four safety audits carried out which had seen two deficiency notices issued. There were also safe and well checks for elderly residents which looked at ways to make houses safer for elderly residents by removing trip hazards and providing equipment to make day to day living easier such as grabbing tools. Across the East Area there had been a total of 520 properties visited since April.

The police cadets had delivered leaflets around the area asking residents to make sure that wheelie bins were not left out and there had also been visits to Southmoor Academy and Valley Road and Grangetown Primary Schools; over 1000 leaflets had been distributed. There had also been a social media campaign which had reached over 29000 people.

The statistics from Bonfire night would be circulated to Members outside of the meeting once the figures were available. The Chairman suggested that these figures could be brought to the area boards.

There would be changes to the operational response and there was consultation on this ongoing until 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Since 2010/11 there had been a reduction of £11m in the annual budget for the service and the savings have been made in a way that ensured that the public were not endangered by reduced services. There had been three main proposals put forward and it had been suggested that there would be an additional appliance at the Central fire station. It was not intended to reduce the size of the fleet but rather to change the staffing levels and shift patterns.

Councillor McClennan commented that she was not surprised to see that there had been so many rubbish fires within Hendon; this was due to the amount of people who came into the area to fly tip waste and the waste then being set on fire. She also commented that it was a good idea to use social media to communicate with communities; within Hendon there were a lot of localised communities which each had their own social media presence. Mr Makin advised that the service was still learning how to use social media effectively and the information had been placed onto the service's social media pages.

In response to queries from Councillor E. Gibson regarding the new staffing levels Mr Makin advised that the duties were being looked at; Tyne and Wear was one of few areas to not have a retained service within urban areas and the introduction of a retained service with a vehicle based at the Central fire station was being looked into. The proposals were all still very broad so he was not yet able to provide details.

Councillor Marshall queried whether there would be enough resources still in place to cover major incidents if the efficiencies were based on analysis of the normal levels of risk. Mr Makin advised that there was an agreement with neighbouring authorities to provide support to each other when there were major incidents; this had happened during the fire at the Alex Smiles Scrapyard.

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

### **East Sunderland Area Place Board Progress Report**

The Chair of the East Sunderland Area Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update on the work done by the board against the priorities set out in the work plan for 2018/19

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chair of the Place Board, Councillor E. Gibson, introduced the report and presented Members with an overview of the work done by the board which included community clean ups taking place under the extended Cleaner Communities priority; the work done in each ward under the Think Big, Act Local priority; and the Maximising Community Assets priority. There would be updates to the board on the Local Services and the Highways Maintenance Programme at future board meetings.

Councillor McClennan expressed concerns around the Maximising Community Assets priority; there had been a policy decision made by the Council that funding would be stopped for youth groups however it seemed that this priority would be providing funding through a back door route and she was worried that groups might start to take this funding for granted rather than looking to other funding streams.

Councillor P. Wood commented that the outputs from the Cleaner Communities priority were good however he queried why there had been such a small take up of e-learning. Ms Trueman advised that the targets had been set to encourage volunteers to take part in activities; it had been found that in practice there were a lot of people who were willing to volunteer however they would often volunteer as a one off to complete a specific task rather than being a regular volunteer. There had also been a number of volunteers who were under 18 and had not been eligible to take part in the e-learning. The groups would continue to promote the e-learning opportunities.

5. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The East Sunderland Area Place Board work plan, as set out in annex 1, and the progress made against the SIB funded projects be noted.
- b. The request from Millfield Councillors to approve £5,000 of SIB funding to support the Reclaim the Lanes deep clean project be noted.
- c. The update on the Maximising Community Assets priority and the potential allocation of SIB to fund diversionary activities on Friday and Saturday night be noted.
- d. That an update on the Highways Maintenance Programme 2018/19 and an update from Local Services be received to future meetings be noted.

### **East Sunderland Area People Board Progress Report**

The Chair of the East Sunderland Area People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the work done against the work plan, as set out in annex 1.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chair of the People Board, Councillor Marshall, presented the report and gave Members an overview of the work done by the board which included the

establishment of a digital network and delivery of outreach provision under the East Digital Inclusion Task Group; the East Community Connector Hubs; the Young Minds project; the Fancy a Day out programme; Valuing Volunteers; the Healthy Steps project; and Sunderland Carers Centre.

6. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The East Sunderland People Board work plan, as set out in annex 1, and the progress made against the SIB funded projects be noted.
- b. The update on the Fancy a Day Out programme and the East Volunteers OSCARS award ceremonies and the potential allocation of SIB be noted.
- c. The update from Sunderland Carers Centre be noted.

### **Area Budgets Report**

The Head of Member Support and Community Partnerships submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update on the financial statements for Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms Trueman introduced the report and advised Members of the SIB requests which were recommended for approval and were set out in annexes 1, 2 and 3 in addition to the request for extra funding for the Fancy a Day out scheme and the request for funding to allow the inclusion of area updates within the Vibe magazine; these requests came to a total of £44,918. There were also three requests in relation to the Maximising Community Assets priority which were recommended for refusal which were set out in annex 4.

The Maximising Community Assets priority had been forwarded to all groups in the area, not just youth groups, and Members were asked whether they wished for a further approach of the groups to be undertaken. It was suggested that more work could be done on Friday and Saturday nights through the winter.

There had been discussions at the People Board around the Sunderland Rangers Project and there would be further work done on this around ensuring the safety of volunteers; the intention was to work with Friends of Doxford Park to do more work than just litter picking to improve the area. Councillor English commented that given the pressures on the Council this could be a good template for working with groups to improve the city's parks.

Ms Trueman then drew Members attention to the Community Chest financial statement and the 21 funding awards which had been made which were set out in Annex 5. The Chairman reminded Members that they needed to ensure that as much Community Chest funding was spent as possible as she did not want to see the wards lose any of the funds.



The Chairman then stated that the Reclaim the Lanes project within Millfield was an excellent project and that it should be extended into the city centre. Councillor Hodson agreed that there was a big problem with rubbish in the city centre which was mostly commercial waste; there was a different team responsible for the city centre than Millfield and he had been working with the Rangers to improve the city centre. The Chairman added that the two worst areas in the city centre appeared to be behind the Boots store and behind Phoenix House.

Councillor Hodson then commented that the Vibe magazine was already funded by the Council and asked why the Area Committee was being asked to put money into the magazine and what the benefits to this would be. The Chairman advised that the money would allow a double page spread within the magazine for good news stories from all five areas. Ms Robinson added that it would allow more space within the magazine and that the money would allow content within the magazines for the next two years; the magazine was sent out seasonally.

Councillor McClennan commented that Newcastle had done a similar publication and that each department within that council had contributed to the costs and had been given the chance to publicise their work. She also stated that the magazine needed to be non-political as she was concerned that a political publication would not have credibility with the public. She felt that it was not possible to rely on the media to deliver good news stories, especially as the readership of the Sunderland Echo had reduced to around 25,000 readers so was not reaching all the population.

Councillor M. Dixon commented that there had been a previous publication within the area which he felt had been politically biased; he was pleased to hear that this publication was intended to be politically neutral.

Councillor Wood queried who would decide what stories went into the publication and Ms Robinson advised that it was up to Members to decide what stories they wanted including and that the Council's communications team would be managing the content. There was not a lot of space to fill so Members were recommended to identify showcases such as volunteering.

Councillor Scanlan queried whether the £5,000 had been requested based on the actual costs of the double page spread; Ms Robinson confirmed that this was the case and that there would be four issues per year for two years paid for by the funds; the cost was less than that charged to advertisers wanting space in the magazine.

Consideration having been given to the applications it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The financial statements set out in tables 1 to 3 be noted.
- b. The three SIB programmes totalling £39,712 as set out in annexes 1 to 3 be noted.

- c. The additional £206 to top up the Fancy a Day Out 2018 programme be approved.
- d. The area contribution of £5,000 to include East updates in the Sunderland Community Vibe magazine be approved.
- e. The three SIB project proposals totalling £14,200 as set out in annex 4 be rejected.
- f. The 21 approved Community Chest funding proposals as set out in annex 5 be noted.

### **Planning Applications – For Information Only**

Current Planning Applications relating to the East Sunderland Area for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018 were submitted for Members information only (copy circulated).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

- 8. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

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

(Signed) E. BALL,  
Chairman.