

At a Meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held at the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND, on WEDNESDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER, 2018 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Lawson in the Chair

Councillors Blackburn, Cunningham, Heron, Johnston, N. MacKnight, Rowntree, Scullion and Speding

Also in Attendance:-

Steve Burdis	Station Manager	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Kevin Burns	Station Manager	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Gemma Calvert	Acting Inspector	Northumbria Police
Jill Colbert	Chief Executive Director of Children's Services	Together for Children Sunderland City Council
Wendy Cook	VCS Representative, Youth and Community Co-ordinator	Sunderland North Community Business Centre
Patrick Garner	Programme Manager	South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust
James Harrison	Reporter	Sunderland Echo
Pauline Hopper	Area Community Development Lead, Coalfield	Sunderland City Council
Samantha Humble	Head of Operations	Gentoo
Megan McBride	Communications and Engagement Assistant	North of England Commissioning Support Unit (NECS)
Gillian Robinson	Area Co-Ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Christine Tilley	Community Governance Services Team Leader	Sunderland City Council

Chairman's Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular Ms Jill Colbert, Chief Executive Together for Children and Director of Children's Services Sunderland City Council who would provide a link by which to feed into the Council's corporate priorities.

The Chairman apologised for having to change the venue for the meeting at such a late stage, however she explained that this had become unavoidable. Introductions were then made.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Turner and G. Walker, Councillor Susan Waterston (Hetton Town Council), together with Ms Debbie Ainscow, VCS Representative, Carer Locality Lead, Sunderland Carers Centre, Mr Paul Finch, VCS Representative, Hetton New Dawn, Neighbourhood Inspector Nick Gjørven, Northumbria Police and Ms Debbie Hall, Environmental Services Manager.

Declarations of Interest

Item 6 – Area Budgets Report

Councillor Johnston made an open declaration as an employee at Houghton Sports Centre in respect of the Strategic Initiatives Funding applications detailed in Item 6, Annex 1 and left the meeting before the applications were considered by the Committee.

Councillor MacKnight made an open declaration as a Member of Philadelphia Cricket Club in respect of Community Chest funding received by the organisation detailed in Item 6, Annex 4.

Councillor Rowntree made an open declaration as a Council appointed Member of the ELCAP Management Board in respect of the Strategic Initiatives Funding application detailed in Item 6, Annex 1 and left the meeting before the application was considered by the Committee.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 11th June, 2018 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as correct record.

Path to Excellence – Phase 2

Mr. Patrick Garner, Programme Manager, South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust presented a briefing paper and gave a presentation (copies circulated), which set out for Members consideration information on how local NHS partners were working together, across organisational boundaries, to address the pressures facing the NHS and how Path to Excellence Phase Two was just one small part of how they looked to transform all care locally.

(For copy report and presentation– see original minutes).

Mr Garner took Members through the presentation, advising of the key challenges which the NHS was facing and how they planned to address those. The Committee was informed that further key stakeholder events and staff engagement to set evaluation criteria for any future possible solutions would continue throughout November, 2018. A public listening panel would be held during December, 2018 which would be an opportunity for wider stakeholders to apply to present their evidence and any views on the draft case for change and issues for the NHS to consider.

In early 2019 key stakeholder events and staff engagement would be carried out to apply the evaluation criteria to a wide range of future possible solutions which would allow the sharing of ideas and the opportunity to gain feedback to influence the final options that the CCG would consider for formal public consultation. It was expected that the formal public consultation would be undertaken during the Summer in 2019.

Councillor Blackburn commented that there was never enough professionals and organisations were forced to employ Agency Workers who could command higher wages and he enquired whether there was any way to address this.

Mr Garner advised that they were trying to work with partners such as the University to have people qualified and trained so that there was future capacity. The new medical school in Sunderland was some way off and therefore until there was an increase in the supply of clinical staff there would always be a reliance on agency staff and added that this was a national issue.

In response to enquiries from several attendees, Mr Garner advised that there were arrangements in place to work with the Council and other organisations to facilitate discharge from hospital for older people.

In response to the Chairman, Mr Garner advised that it would depend on the degree of change following the consultation period however implementation of the new model was likely to take place in 2020/2021.

The Chairman having thanked the officers for their attendance it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the presentation in respect of the Path to Excellence Phase Two be received and noted.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress and performance against the current year's, 2018/19 Place Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chair of the Place Board, Councillor Heron briefed the Committee on the report drawing attention to the area priority to support local shopping areas and the support provided to develop trader groups and initiatives to increase footfall in local shopping centres. Councillor Heron also highlighted the support provided to historical events and celebrations including Houghton Feast and the local Miners Banner Parades.

Members of the Committee having considered the report; it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the progress and performance update with regard to the Coalfield Area Place Board's Work Plan for 2018/19 be received and noted and that the proposals for future delivery be approved.

People Board Progress Report

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress and performance against the current year's, 2018/19 People Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chair of the People Board, Councillor K. Johnston briefed the Committee on the report drawing attention to the projects being undertaken to increase digital inclusion in communities, the CAN DO Fund which was used to encourage young people to engage with local Councillors and present ideas for projects, projects to reduce social isolation and improve social participation in older and vulnerable adults and provide access to support for carers.

Ms Jill Colbert, Chief Executive, Together for Children and Director of Children's Services Sunderland City Council, enquired whether projects for young people were being provided for people with disabilities and whether they felt included.

In response, Ms Wendy Cook, VCS Representative, Youth and Community Co-ordinator, Sunderland North Community Business Centre confirmed that projects were currently delivered for children and young people with disabilities and therefore that they were included.

Ms Colbert welcomed the above however she suggested that it be made clearer that children and young people with disabilities were included, that the key ingredients were there to enable this so that they could share in the success of the projects.

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

4. RESOLVED that the progress and performance update with regard to the Coalfield Area People Board's Work Plan for 2018/19 be received and noted and that the proposals for future delivery be approved.

Partner Agency Reports – Coalfield Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network Progress Update

Ms Wendy Cook, Ms Debbie Ainscow and Mr Paul Finch, Area Network Representatives submitted a joint report (copy circulated), providing an update with regard to the Coalfield Area Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Network.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms Wendy Cook, Area Network Representative briefed the Committee on the activities of the Network, which had met three times since the last report to the Area Committee in June. The report provided details of the issues and activities discussed at the meetings including judging artwork entered for the SIB funded Tall Ships Challenge, receiving an update from colleagues at Houghton Job Centre and a presentation from a Public Health Specialist on the results of the Loneliness and Isolation in Sunderland research carried out.

Ms Cook thanked the Area Committee for the support it provided to the Network.

The Chairman thanked the VCS network for the work it was doing and commented that it was amazing what the Network and the Area Committee achieved together and thanked them for the contributions they were making.

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

5. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the contents of the report be received and noted;
- (ii) the Area Committee continue to support the Sector when developing and implementing actions against local priorities; and
- (iii) information gathered from Network meetings be used to inform current and future priorities.

Partner Agency Reports – Northumbria Police

Acting Inspector, Gemma Calvert, Northumbria Police submitted a report (copy circulated), providing data in respect of Crime and Disorder for Houghton covering the period 6th June 2018 to 2nd November 2018, together with data for the same period the previous year for comparison purposes.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Acting Inspector Calvert advised the Committee of the details of the new Police Officers which had been appointed.

Acting Inspector Calvert briefed Members on the recent fire which was suspected to be arson at the former care home, Manor House, Easington Lane where a man had died. Inspector Calvert advised that Detectives had made two arrests, however the men had been released under investigation after being questioned on suspicion of murder.

A PACT meeting had been scheduled and had been held following concerns raised by the community about Manor House and measures were being put in place to address these.

Councillor MacKnight reported that residents were unable to get through to report incidents on the 101 service.

Acting Inspector Calvert responded to say that this was due to demand and suggested reporting any issues on the website as an alternative. Acting Inspector Calvert advised that the 101 service was however being reviewed and that some of the issues reported were not Police matters.

The Chairman commented that she had used the Northumbria Police Contact Us website and had received a response the next day which she felt was a very good service.

In response to Councillor Blackburn, Acting Inspector Calvert advised that the use of DNA spray had gone live in August/September and she briefed Members on its permitted use.

Acting Inspector Calvert thanked Easington Lane Community Access Point for their assistance, as they had been very accommodating when trying to arrange community meetings at short notice.

The Chairman having thanked Acting Inspector Calvert for her attendance and full consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the update be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Station Manager Kevin Burns, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) submitted a report (copy circulated), providing Performance Monitoring details in relation to the Local Indicators for the Coalfield Area Committee area from 1st May, 2018 to 31st October, 2018 compared with the same period in 2017.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Station Manager Kevin Burns, TWFRS briefed the Committee on the report drawing attention to the fact that there had been one death from fire recorded during the period of the report. The incident had occurred at the Aged Miners Homes, Houghton-le-Spring.

Station Manager Burns advised that TWFRS had carried out an initiative post incident to fit smoke alarms and give fire safety advice to residents within the community and that 107 Home safety checks had been completed and 20 smoke alarms fitted.

Station Manager Burns advised that they were working with traders and schools and would welcome working with Members and other agencies to reduce fires.

Councillor Blackburn enquired whether postcodes could be included in the report, however Station Manager Burns advised that they could not be more specific with respect to the details provided in the report.

Councillor Blackburn thanked the Officers for carrying out the initiative to fit smoke alarms and give fire safety advice in the Easington Lane area.

Station Manager Burns advised that they would be undertaking more initiatives to make people safe and build relationships with the community.

The Chairman thanked the TWFRS Officers for the communications which they had disseminated to Councillors relating to the serious incidents.

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

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

Partner Agency Reports – Gentoo Update

Ms Samantha Humble, Head of Operations, Gentoo provided an update for the Coalfield Area from June 2018 to October 2018.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms Humble briefed the Committee on Universal Credit which had gone live in the city in July 2018 and the effect this was having in relation to Gentoo rent arrears, together with the work they were doing to try and assist customers.

Ms Humble highlighted that where tenants were responsible for accidental fires that they were responsible for the property clean up and disposal and replacement of damaged personal items and not Gentoo. Ms Humble advised that Gentoo tested fire alarms every year and they were hard wired into their properties.

The Chairman referred Ms Humble to the Digital Inclusion project funded by SIB which aimed to provide training and support to residents and assist with making Universal Credit applications with the aim of avoiding the situations described in the report.

Ms Humble advised that there were PCs in place for existing customers to use and there was an agreement with the Job Centre to use PCs, however she would also signpost customers to the above project.

In response to Councillor Blackburn, Ms Humble advised that they talked to customers at sign up for a property about the need for a basic house insurance policy.

Councillor Scullion commented that residents were being asked to pay £25 for a wheelie bin when moving into what had been a void property and enquired whether Gentoo had a budget to provide for this.

Ms Humble advised that it was not the responsibility of Gentoo to provide a refuse bin at the property and that this was a requirement of the Council to provide. She added that policing of wheelie bins was not possible for them to manage at their properties and was the responsibility of the individual tenants. Since the facility to get a crime reference number for a missing refuse bin had been removed, there was a blanket charge to provide a new bin. Ms Humble confirmed that the Council was notified when a property was void.

Members commented that the above was something they might want to consider together with ways to protect the wheelie bins at properties when tenants moved out.

The Chairman thanked Ms Humble for her attendance and full consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

8. RESOLVED that the update be received and noted.

Area Budgets Report

The Head of Member Support and Community Partnerships submitted a report (copy circulated), providing a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest funding and presenting proposals for further funding requests.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms Pauline Hopper, Coalfield Area Community Development Lead, presented the report drawing the Committee's attention to the financial position as set out in paragraph 2.1 which showed an SIB total balance of £227,400 for 2018/2019.

Ms Hopper referred to paragraph 2.2 which reported that the Barnwell Parking Scheme had been completed under budget and therefore a sum of £9,386 had been returned to the main SIB budget.

Ms Hopper also advised that the previously approved support for Sail Trainees had been delivered under budget and therefore a sum of £1,500 had been returned to the main SIB budget. In the end 5 Trainees had taken part in the Tall Ships, Sail Trainees project.

Ms Hopper referred the Committee to the Call for Projects to provide physical activities for adults made by the People Board in August and September 2018 and the 9 projects which were recommended as a result of this detailed in paragraph 2.4 totalling £38,422.

Ms Hopper referred the Committee to a further 7 recommendations for SIB funding from the 2018/19 budget, totalling £181,000 outlined in paragraph 2.5 and detailed in Annex 2 of the report.

Ms Jill Colbert, Chief Executive Together for Children and Director of Children's Services Sunderland City Council advised that extensive consultation had been undertaken with young people and that she would feed this in to the Committee.

Ms Hopper referred Members to the proposal to allocate funding to Sunderland Community Vibe to support the inclusion of area updates in the publication.

Ms Hopper highlighted the proposal to allocate £40,000 from the Youth Activities Budget identified in paragraph 2.1 of the report, for the People Board to develop a diverse range of activities. A Call for Projects would be made and project allocations presented to Area Committee in March 2019.

Ms Hopper referred Members to the 3 recommendations for additional SIB funding from the 2018/19 budget detailed in paragraph 2.6 and to the approvals for Community Chest funding supported from July to October 2018.

Consideration having been given to the report it was:-

9. RESOLVED that:-

- a) the financial statements set out in sections 2.1 and 3.1 of the report be noted;
- b) the 9 projects in paragraph 2.3 and Annex1, totalling £38,422, from the previously allocated Physical Activities budget, as set out below, be approved:-

•	Let's Move It, Move It	ELCAP	£4,782
•	Movement and Irish Dance	B Active N B Fit	£5,000
•	Walking Football	Houghton Sports Centre	£4,985
•	Indoor Bowls	Houghton Sports Centre	£5,000
•	Bloomin' Good Health	Acumen Community Buildings	£4,876
•	Seated Exercise	St Aidan's Community	£1,404

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| | | Group | |
| • | Kepier Senior Football | SNCBC | £5,000 |
| • | Penshaw Wanderers | Penshaw CA | £2,410 |
| • | Food for All – Community Garden | Hetton New Dawn | £4,965 |
- c) the 7 SIB proposals, in paragraph 2.5 and Annex 2, from the 2018/19 budget, totalling £181,000, as set out below, be approved:-
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| • | CAN DO Fund | (Managed by People Board) | £10,000 |
| • | Step Up Project | SNCBC | £40,000 |
| • | Retail Support Programme | Business and Innovation Centre | £28,000 |
| • | Support for Friends Groups | (Managed by Place Board) | £8,000 |
| • | Support for Carers | TBC | £30,000 |
| • | Environmental Improvement and Education | TBC | £40,000 |
| • | Social Isolation | Call for Projects | £25,000 |
- d) £40,000 be allocated from the Youth Activities Budget and projects be developed by the People Board and presented to the March 2019 Area Committee;
- e) £5,000 to support the inclusion of area updates within the Sunderland Community Vibe, be approved;
- f) the 32 Community Chest approvals supported from 2018/2019 Community Chest as set out in Annex 4, be approved;
- g) the return of £9,386 to the main budget from the Barnwell Parking Scheme project approved in 2017/18, be noted; and
- h) the return of £1,500 to the main SIB budget from the previously approved Sail Trainee project, be noted.

Current Planning Applications (Coalfields Area)

A schedule (copy circulated) of current planning applications lodged during the period 1st October and 31st October, 2018 was submitted for Members' information only.

(For copy schedule – see original minutes).

10. RESOLVED that the schedule be received and noted.

(Signed) A. LAWSON,
Chairman.