

20 March 2019

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE PEOPLE BOARD**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide an update of progress against the current year's (2018/19) People Board Work Plan.

2. Background

- 2.1 Earlier this year the Local Area Plan priorities associated with People were referred to the Coalfield People Board to action on behalf of the Area Committee. The People Board continue to initiate action on those priorities. Progress to date is outlined below, in the Work Plan at **Annex 1**.

3. Area Governance Arrangements

- 3.1 Area Committees are part of the Council's Executive Function and have two key roles:-
- Influencing decisions on services delivered at a local level; and
 - Identification of key priorities for their areas, in the context of supporting the delivery of the Council's Corporate Outcomes Framework at a local level and ensures maximum impact where necessary through utilising its own resources.
- 3.2 Area Place and People Boards were set up to support the Area Committee in identifying areas of priority and ensure action in line with those priorities.
- 3.3 Each ward has one elected member representative, whose role it is to liaise with their ward colleagues in between meetings and feedback collective views into the Board meetings. Members will work alongside key officers in what will be practical action orientated groups. It should be noted that the Board is not a decision making body and the work / recommendations of the Board will be presented to the Area Committees for final endorsement. Elected member representation on the People Board for this Area Committee is as follows:-

Ward	People Board Membership
Chair/Copt Hill	Cllr Kevin Johnston
Copt Hill	Cllr Mary Turton
Houghton	Cllr Neil MacKnight
Hetton	Cllr James Blackburn Cllr Doris Turner
Shiney Row	Cllr Geoffrey Walker

4 Key Areas of Influence/Achievements to date

- 4.1 Outlined below is a summary of the key areas of influence / achievements of the Coalfield People Board up to March 2019.

Area Priority: Access to training and learning to enhance life and employability skills	
Increase digital inclusion in communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SIB funded Coalfield Communities Connected project, delivered by Springboard, is delivering training and support on a wide range of issues and subjects across the whole of the Coalfield area. In the last quarter to January 2019 a total of 150 local residents have received 1-2-1 support, 68 group training sessions have been delivered to 135 individuals and 9 community groups have been supported. St Matthews at Newbottle has now joined the network of community hubs across the Coalfield area, bringing the total to 9 being supported by the Coalfield Communities Connected project. SIB funding has paid for a variety of equipment, services and staffing to enable residents to access IT support and training at a venue local to them. The projects are supported and co-ordinated by the Coalfield Communities Connected project. Springboard Hetton Hub has had over 314 drop in visits (110 unique clients) to use the ICT facilities and receive help and advice to perform various tasks including job search, Universal Credit and access to emails.

	<p>This has meant that clients didn't have to travel to outside the area and could access Digital Inclusion on their doorstep.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courses/sessions currently being delivered include computers for beginners, digital memories, job search, family tree, photo restoration, family history, digital creative art, iPad/tablet training and dementia friendly memory sessions. New courses and sessions can be developed if a local need is identified. <p>Houghton Racecourse Wednesday AM - Family Tree AM - Computer session hosted by Sunderland College</p> <p>ELCAP Easington Lane Community Access Point Thursday AM - Job Search Session Friday AM - Family Tree Beginners</p> <p>Penshaw Community Association Thursday - Free Computer Access Session Friday - Free Computer Access Session</p> <p>Space4IT Wednesday - Wifi Wednesdays Drop in Session</p> <p>Hetton New Dawn Friday AM - Free Computer Access Session</p> <p>St Aidans Community Group Tuesday PM - Photo Restoration Beginners Tuesday PM - Family Tree Online</p> <p>St Matthews Newbottle Monday AM - Computers For All Sessions</p> <p>ShARP Shiney Row Tuesday AM - RU Ready for Universal Credit / Job Search Wednesday PM - RU Ready for Universal Credit / Job Search</p> <p>Hetton Hub Monday 12:00 – 4:30 Computer drop session Wednesday 10:00 – 12:00 RU Ready for UCredit / Job Search Thursday 2:00 – 3:30 Photo Restoration Friday 2:00 – 3:30 Family Tree Online.</p>
Area Priority: Working in partnership to address key issues that affect residents emotional and mental wellbeing	
<p>Reduce stress caused by financial concerns by providing access to advice services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ShARP delivers benefit and money management advice across the Coalfield area and promote their service widely via the VCS Network. Advice on Prescription is currently being delivered in 6 GP surgeries across the area. Funding has been provided by Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to continue the project for a further 12 months. • Funded by SIB, a partnership project between Springboard and ShARP commenced in July 2018 to help people to prepare and apply for Universal Credit. The RU Ready for UC project complements current provision and responds to local need. In the last quarter to January 2019 there were 26 UC advice sessions delivered at ShARP and Hetton Hub. One to one support was provided to 32 clients, bringing the total to over 100 during the lifetime of the project to date. • Many clients have attended interviews and at least 3 clients have found employment though using the RU Ready for UC Project since it started in July 2018. • The project has helped enrol 55 clients onto the Universal Credit service and has increased the digital skills of many more. Staff actively promote relevant services to assist claimants access multi organisation services such as free school meals, Universal Credit Advance Payments, ShARP first tier Welfare Rights team, Sunderland Council advice pages, local Food banks and Welcome Cafes. • Clients have included people with learning disabilities, drug and alcohol issues, long term sick or unemployed, and low educational attainment. • Clients are supported to work online at their own pace and take ownership of their digital skills improvement. Many clients, initially, do not want to

	<p>learn ICT skills and would prefer others to perform these tasks for them but they are given all the support they need to get them to achieve learning themselves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The demand for the services the project offers far outweighs estimates. Predictions from DWP have been exceeded and clients are requiring longer term support than anticipated. It is proposed that the project is extended for 12 months from June 2019, utilising £30,000 of the previously approved Digital Inclusion budget. Further information is contained within Item 5, Area Budget Report.
Reduce isolation and improve social participation in older and vulnerable adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following a Call for Projects by the People Board in December 2018, a total of 16 applications for projects to reduce loneliness and social isolation were received. The projects were assessed and consulted on to establish which projects would receive support within the SIB budget available. Further information and recommendations for approval are contained in Item 5, Area Budget Report.
Provide access to support for carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 5,632 known carers in the Coalfield area, 1,281 of whom are engaged with the Carers Centre. Sunderland Carers Centre offer a range of advice and services to those registered with the service, but there are many more 'hidden' carers who are not accessing support available. The People Board discussed this priority at the October and December 2018 meetings and prepared a project brief based on findings. An application to deliver the project is contained in Item 5, Area Budget Report.
Area Priority: Support capacity building in local VCS organisations to promote volunteering and collaborative working	
Support local VCS groups to build capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All opportunities to access SIB funding and deliver projects on behalf of the Coalfield Area Committee are promoted and supported by the VCS Network. Local groups and smaller organisations are encouraged and supported to work together to strengthen individual and collaborative working. The Area Community Development Lead, Area Chair and 3 VCS Reps are all available to offer information and guidance to groups. SIB funding has been awarded to a number of local groups to support delivery of activities and services. In the current financial year to February 2019 over £200,000 SIB has been allocated to VCS organisations to provide activities and services in the Coalfield area. The SIB funded Step Up project has supported 14 groups to access funding, 8 of which have been in the last quarter to January 2019.
Continue to work with volunteers as part of the SIB 'Step up' project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Step Up For Coalfields project has continued to support Coalfields area based Voluntary and Community Sector organisations and groups. The number of volunteers currently in a placement stands at 50, of which 8 are new volunteers in the last quarter. Training has been identified at the recruitment and selection process undertaken by all volunteers to ensure that their individual training needs and the organisations requirements are met. All new volunteers are signed up to the Sunderland City Council Up-Skilling Volunteers website http://upskillingvolunteers.org.uk/ to undertake e-learning training with computer access also being available at Shiney Row Job Linkage Office. Training in this quarter has been undertaken by 3 individuals and includes E-Learning Safeguarding Adults and Safeguarding Children.
Encourage collaborative working amongst local organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All organisations in the voluntary and community sector are encouraged and supported to be part of the Coalfield Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Network. This is the recognised route for local groups to receive Area Committee information and provides a platform for organisations to network, share information and develop collaborative working. The VCS Network meetings are held each month (with the exception of August and December) and continue to be well attended and attract new members. All SIB Call for Projects are advertised through the VCS network, giving local groups the opportunity to deliver activities and services to meet Area Committee priorities. Successful applicants are encouraged to work together and share information to avoid duplication and develop collaborative projects

Area Priority: Support provision of activities for young people that increase their involvement in community and area events and projects	
Holiday activity for children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In response to a Call for Projects developed by the People Board 10 applications were received. All applications were assessed and consulted upon to ascertain which projects would be supported within the budget available. Further information and recommendations are contained in Item 5, Area Budgets Report.
Area Priority: Encouraging and supporting local residents to eat healthily and take part in wellbeing activity	
Support children and families during school holiday periods with alternative to school lunches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Call for Projects, referred to above, offered applicants additional funding to participate in the 'Fit and Fed' programme which offers activities with food during school holidays. Street Games offer support and advice to VCS groups providing activities and food as part of their project.
Support adults to take part in physical activity to improve health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following approval of 8 projects at the November 2018 Area Committee, a programme of SIB funded activity is underway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Let's Move It, Move It ELCAP ➤ Movement and Irish Dance B Active N B Fit ➤ Walking Football Houghton Sports Centre ➤ Indoor Bowls Houghton Sports Centre ➤ Bloomin' Good Health Acumen ➤ Seated Exercise St Aidan's Community Group ➤ Kepier Senior Football SNCBC ➤ Food for All, Community Garden Hetton New Dawn <p>A two page spread in the recent Vibe magazine promoted the projects.</p>
Additional Activity A previously approved wellbeing budget has been utilised to provide 'sanitary packs' to all local community organisations and venues. As part of the 'Period Dignity' agenda, Councillors have developed an initiative to support local VCS groups to provide sanitary-ware in female toilets for users and visitors of projects. The project is a pilot which will be monitored to inform future development.	

5. Recommendations

5.1 Members are requested to:

- Consider the progress and performance update with regard to the Coalfield Area People Board's Work Plan for 2018/19 and agree proposals for future delivery

Annex 1 2018/19 Work plan

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