

**At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at FIRE  
AUTHORITY MAIN HEADQUARTERS, BARMSTON MERE on THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup>  
JUNE, 2016 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Williams in the Chair

Councillors Fletcher, Kelly, Middleton, F. Miller, G. Miller, D. Snowdon, D.E. Snowdon, D. Trueman, H. Trueman and Walker.

Louise Butler	-	Chief Executives
Matthew Jackson	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
David Hardy	-	Community Services
Jacqui Reeves	-	VCS Representative
Bryan Beverley	-	Washington Trust
Colin McCartney	-	Gentoo
Inspector Vicky Quinn	-	Northumbria Police
Steve Graham	-	TWFRA

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Farthing, Lauchlan, Scaplehorn and Taylor together with Karon Purvis and John Rostron.

**Declarations of Interest**

Item 5 – Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

Councillor D. Snowdon declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Annex 1 – Application for the Time to Care Partnership as he occasionally delivered courses on a self-employed basis for Washington Mind.

Councillor D.E. Snowdon declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Annex 1 – Application for the Time to Care Partnership as a trustee at Washington Mind.

They both withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this matter.

## **Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2016**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2016 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **Partner Agency Reports**

#### **(a) Report of the Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network**

The Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform the Committee of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Bryan Beverley and Jacqui Reeves presented the report and advised that the Network was continuing on its work in developing and supporting the VCS. The report included, at annex 1, the Annual Report of the Washington Area VCS Network which contained case studies and demonstrated the diversity of the VCS Organisations in Washington and the range of services and support the provided.

Councillor Kelly expressed concerns over the sustainability of VCS organisations as support which had previously been provided by the Council wouldn't be available anymore; there was a need for organisations to share information to identify appropriate funding sources for each organisation. He asked that the People board look into this. Councillor P. Walker added that it was possible that VCS organisations would need to merge with other similar groups.

The Chairman commented that the VCS organisations did very good work in supporting the Area Committee.

2. RESOLVED that Members noted the contents of the report.

#### **(b) Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority Report**

The Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed the Committee of the fire statistics for the period 1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Steve Graham, Station Manager, presented the report.

Councillor Fletcher referred to the figures for Washington East which had seen a reduction in incidents from 41 to 4; she queried what had happened to result in this reduction. Mr Graham advised that there had been litter picks undertaken so that there was less rubbish left lying around; there had also been assistance from the Keep Washington Tidy group.

Councillor F. Miller expressed concerns over rubbish being left outside of premises on the industrial estates. Mr Graham advised that he had been to look at the known problem sites and it appeared that the issues had reduced. He asked that any dumped rubbish be reported to him and to Responsive Local Services. He advised that his staff were tasked with reporting any dumped rubbish they saw.

Councillor H. Trueman advised that there were problems with litter in the tree belts between estates. Councillor Kelly referred to grass fires in the area. Mr Graham advised that these issues were linked as young people would make dens in the wooded areas where they were out of sight; they would then drink and leave the rubbish behind and on cooler nights would set fires to keep warm. Councillor G. Miller commented that there used to be an issue on the land between Barmston and Teal Farm however there had been new houses built in the area and also the land had been fenced off which had helped to tackle the problem.

Councillor Walker referred to the car fires which had occurred recently and queried whether there were any trends for where the fires were occurring and whether the cars were stolen vehicles. Mr Graham advised that the fires were not all occurring in the same place and there had not been any trends identified. The number was smaller than in some areas of the city.

3. RESOLVED that the update from Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority be received and noted.

### **Northumbria Police**

Inspector Vicky Quinn provided the Committee with a verbal update. She advised that she had 18 years' service with the Police and had recently been promoted to Inspector and she was new to policing the Washington area. She welcomed any questions from Members.

Councillor Kelly commented that there had been a lot of different Inspectors for Washington recently; he felt that there was a need for stability in the role and he stated that he wanted the police to be able to work closely with Members. Previously there had been a good reputation for the partnership working. He also praised the PCSOs for the work they did. Inspector Quinn stated that she was happy to be working in Washington and she had no intention of moving on. She agreed that groups needed to work together to tackle issues.

Councillor Fletcher stated that there was a need for meetings with Councillors and Neighbourhood Police. Inspector Quinn agreed and advised that she would circulate her contact details to Members.

Councillor H. Trueman stated that there had been assurances that there would not be any reductions in front line staffing levels. Inspector Quinn advised that she was not aware of what the historic staffing levels for the area were however the front line had been protected as much as possible. She also advised that officers had been provided with new technology including tablets which allowed incidents to be updated more easily and information was able to be accessed on the roadside.

Councillor Kelly commented that there had been a noticeable reduction in numbers and that there were very few PCSOs now. He also asked that the antisocial behaviour in Concord on Friday and Saturday nights be made a priority for the police as this had been a problem for a long time. The likely reductions in youth services were likely to lead to an increase in antisocial behaviour issues.

The Chairman asked Inspector Quinn what her priorities were. Inspector Quinn advised that safeguarding was a main priority for all areas; she also considered antisocial behaviour to be a priority as people needed to be able to feel safe.

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

### **People Board Progress Report**

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the 2015/16 work plan, sought approval of the priorities for the 2016/17 work plan and provided an update on the People Board governance arrangement for 2016/17.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman introduced the report and drew Members attention to the work plan for 2016/17 and the update on the priorities from 2015/16. In response to a query from Councillor Kelly she advised that the board had set the priorities and that it was intended that the board would recommend priorities to the Area Committee but also that the Area Committee would recommend priorities to the board.

The Chairman then referred to the Health and Wellbeing priority which was the subject of an SIB application which was to be considered under item 5 on the agenda.

Councillor Kelly expressed his support for the project but stated that he was concerned over whether the project would be sustainable after the 12 month project ended. He did not want people to lose the support they had when the project ended. Ms Butler advised that she had been in contact with Jeanette Sherratt who worked for the Clinical Commissioning Group; the project would provide funding for a co-ordinator who would bring together all of the resources to ensure that people were able to access all of the services; it was not intended for the co-ordinator to provide any counselling. Parental support would be developed as this would help parents to understand self-harm before their children were in a crisis situation. Ms Reeves added that people did not understand the system and this would help to make sure that people understood what resources were available. There was a need to look at the reasons for self-harm and reduce the fear that surrounded the issue.

Councillor Kelly then queried whether the schools would be involved. The Chairman advised that Oxclose provided support including doing 1 to 1 mentoring and providing referrals to other organisations. This project was in addition to the work that was already done by schools.

Councillor H. Trueman commented that young people were underprepared for how to pass job interviews. He also advised that he had been speaking with a young lady who wanted to work in mental health; this person had friends who suffered from mental health issues however they were unable to get help from teachers who dismissed problems as being just exam stress. Mental health had never been discussed at any of the governors meetings he attended and governors had not received any training in mental health issues. Ms Reeves advised that the youth parliament were looking at mental health and that it was still a taboo subject to talk about.

Councillor G. Miller commented that he was happy to see this project being brought forward. He asked how success would be measured. Ms Reeves advised that there would be partnership working and there would be an increase in the use of technology in order to help reach young people. Support would be given to parents; parents were scared of self-harm and just wanted it to stop but often did not understand the reasons behind the self-harm, this then led to young people hiding the self-harm which was much more dangerous. Hospital admissions for Sunderland compared favourably the rest of the country however it was important to realise that young people often did not go to hospital following self-harm.

Councillor Fletcher commented that Facebook groups could be used to communicate with young people.

The Chairman then referred to the Can Do fund and advised that there was an event being held in Biddick on 16<sup>th</sup> June. She asked that if any Members wished to attend that they contact Ms Butler.

Councillor Kelly then referred to the Washington Skills and Enterprise Project; he stated that there had been a number of similar projects in the past and that he felt that there was a need for assessments of the work that was done by the projects.

5. RESOLVED that:-

- a. Consideration be given to the Performance Update with regard to the Washington Area People Board's Work Plan for 2015/16
- b. The People Board's recommendation that support be given to the proposals for the Time to Care Partnership be supported
- c. Support be given to the People Board's recommendation for a call for projects for the Skills and Enterprise for Young People and approval be given to the project brief.
- d. The Washington Area People Board Work Plan Priorities for 2016/17 be agreed.
- e. The Area Governance Arrangements be noted.

## **Place Board Progress Report**

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the 2015/16 Work Plan including an update on the projects funded through SIB. The report also sought approval of the Work Plan for 2016/17 and provided an update on the Place Board Governance Arrangements for 2016/17.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chair of the Place Board, Councillor F. Miller, introduced the report and invited discussions from Members.

Councillor Kelly referred to the Neighbourhood Improvement Project; the budget reductions and difficulty in attracting match funding had meant that some of the work had not been done; he asked that the project be referred back to the Place Board. He also asked for an update on how much was available to spend in each ward. Mr Hardy advised that there had been a further £31,000 claimed and that the quotation for the lights at Helmedon was still outstanding; the PFI for this was able to be committed to once the quote had been received. Mr Hardy also advised that the expenditure for the wards was:-

Washington Central – £2,000 spent

Washington North - £6,000 spent

Washington East - £120 spent

Washington South - £8,000 spent

Washington West - £5,000 spent

Councillor F. Miller added that there were still projects being developed.

Councillor G. Miller expressed concerns that there were three Members who were not on any board. He felt that everyone should be a member of one of the boards to ensure that everyone had the opportunity to have a vote at board meetings; he asked that this be looked at for next year.

6. RESOLVED that:-

- a. Consideration be given to the Performance update with regard to the Washington Area Place Board's Work Plan for 2015/16
- b. Support be given to the Place Board's recommendation that SIB funds be aligned from the Washington Way project to deliver future health and wellbeing and greenspaces projects and promote the Washington Way
- c. Support be given to the Place Board's recommendation that SIB funds aligned to the Industrial Estates project be returned to the budget
- d. Support be given to the Place Board's recommendation for a Call for Projects for Washington Heritage and Culture project and approval be given to the project brief including giving approval to the Place Board agreeing the award of grants on behalf of the Area Committee.
- e. The Washington Area Place Board Work Plan Priorities 2016/17 be agreed.
- f. The Area Governance Arrangements for 2016/17 be noted.

### **Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) Community Chest – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources**

The Head of Area Arrangements, Scrutiny and Member Support Service submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with the financial statements as an

update on the progress in allocating SIB and Community Chest and which presented proposals for further funding requests.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms Butler introduced the report and advised Members that there was £365,039 available SIB funding for the area for 2016/17; this included the unallocated funds from last year plus underspends which had been returned to the budget and the new allocation of £287,261 which had been allocated to the area for 2016/17. There were two proposals for support for People Board priorities; there was £50,000 of SIB requested for the Time to Care project and it was proposed that the returned underspend of £30,563 from the Washington Way project be aligned to the health and green spaces projects.

There had been 9 Community Chest applications approved between March and April 2016 totalling £3,660 which left a total remaining budget for the area of £76,924.03.

7. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The financial statement be noted
- b. Approval be given to the return of £30,563 SIB from the Washington Way project and to the alignment of these funds to future projects to support health and green spaces projects
- c. Approval be given to the return of £35,000 SIB aligned for Industrial Estates work
- d. Approval be given to the award of £50,000 SIB funding for the Time To Care project
- e. The 9 Community Chest approvals be noted.

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

Current Planning Applications relating to the Washington Area for the period 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2016 to 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2016 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) L. WILLIAMS,  
Chairman.