

At a meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER, 2013 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors Allan, Atkinson, Dixon, Essl, Gofton, Oliver, Porthouse, P.Smith, Turton, Tye, Waller, P. Watson and S. Watson.

Also Present:-

Bill Blackett	Area Response Manager	Sunderland City Council
Simone Common	West Locality Ops Manager	Sunderland City Council
Kevin Douglas	Media Officer	Sunderland City Council
Janet Johnson	Area Lead Executive	Sunderland City Council
Kevin Jones	Sergeant	Northumbria Police
Bill Leach	Representative	VCS Area Network
Julie Lynn	Area Community Officer	Sunderland City Council
David Noon	Principal Governance Services Officer	Sunderland City Council
Julie Parker	Public Health Lead	Sunderland City Council
Helen Peverley	Area Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Dave Pickett	Inspector	Northumbria Police
Edna Rochester	Representative	VCS Area Network
Jeff Wilkinson	Station Manager	Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Jeff Wilkinson of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service who was attending his first meeting of the West Sunderland Area Committee. The Chairman then invited those present to introduce themselves.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Smiles, A. Wilson and T. Wright and also from Anita Heskett-Saddington of the VCS Area Network.

Declarations of Interest

i) Item 5, paragraph 4.2 and Item 6 paragraph 6.2 SIB allocation to support the delivery of a standardised job club across the West Sunderland Area – Councillor Porthouse

declared an interest in the reports as a member of the Farringdon Jubilee Centre Management Committee and left the room during the consideration of the item.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 25th June, 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the deletion of Councillor Pat Smith from the list of those present and the addition of Councillor Tye.

Strengthening Families

Simone Common, West Locality Operations 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)

Councillor Tye welcomed the presentation and in particular the designation of the Locality Manager as the single point of contact for the Strengthening Families Project. He referred to those families who refused to engage and asked how they would be catered for. Ms Common advised that it was sometimes the case that families would engage to a certain extent to get the Council 'off their backs' then disengage. The Council wanted to work with such families rather than punish them. Officers would look for evidence of common traits both for engagement and disengagement to establish reasons why families chose to disengage. They would also look to identify the 'hooks' which encouraged people to engage such as pregnancy or the pursuit of an education course and build on these.

Councillor Oliver referred to the objective of the Family Focus Project to 'turn around' families and asked that once a family had been deemed to have turned around, what measures were in place to prevent it reverting? Ms Common advised that she would expect that officers were confident that the turn around was sustainable before making such a declaration. Officers would work in partnership with the Police to monitor and support the family to ensure the turnaround was maintained.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Porthouse, Ms Common confirmed that Academies had a duty to report to Local Authorities only on an annual basis. Councillor Porthouse believed this to be inadequate and requested that they be asked to do so on a monthly basis. Ms Common stated that she would ask the question, she added that it was also a conversation that members who were Academy Governors could have with their Governing Body. It was all about ensuring that relationships and a dialogue with

the academies were maintained. As an example Ms Common advised that the Head of the new Farringdon Secondary Academy was keen to work in partnership with the Council and Farringdon Primary School.

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

2. RESOLVED that the presentation be received and noted.

Report of the West Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network (AVCSN) Report

The AVCS Network submitted a progress report (copy circulated) which briefed the Committee on issues pertinent to the Voluntary and Community Sector.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

In the absence of Ms Heskett-Saddington, Julie Lynn, Area Community Officer presented the report highlighting:-

- i) the continued support from the network with regard to collaboration, communications, intelligence and mapping,
- ii) the outcomes of the workshop held earlier in the week
- iii) the support from the Network in delivering the Committee's priorities in relation to Job prospects, Activities for Older and Younger Persons, Street Scene and Environmental Improvements together with Health and Wellbeing,
- iv) the increasing challenges faced by the VCS including financial pressures, a lack of volunteers and an increased demand for services.

In response to an enquiry from the floor, Mr Bill Leach, Area Network Representative, advised that a major concern was the lack of capacity of the VCS to address the growing demand for services especially in relation to computerised Job Searches.

Councillor Gofton added that from the Council's prospective it was currently working hard to support the Voluntary Sector via the channels of the network in the context of increasingly limited budgets. This included the provision of advice and information and helping the Sector to access those funding sources external to the City Council that still existed.

Mr Leech thanked Councillor Gofton adding that the support provided by the Council was greatly appreciated.

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Report of the Northumbria Police – Sunderland West

Dave Pickett of Northumbria Police presented a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the Force's most recent performance indicators. Particular reference was paid to crime levels in relation to violent crime including both

injury and non injury), vehicle crime, burglary from dwelling, burglary other than dwelling, criminal damage, theft and handling, shoplifting, youth ASB and Non Youth ASB.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Members were informed that all crime as an overall figure was slightly under the average with West Sunderland being the only sector in the Force area to show such a return. Key Challenges remained violent crime, burglary from dwelling and crimes against motor vehicles. With regard to violent crime and in particular domestic violence, Inspector Pickett advised that work was being undertaken with the Probation Service and Wearside Women in Need to tackle the problem. With regard to burglary from dwellings there were no specific patterns. There had been a recent success in Silksworth with two men charged in relation to a series of 10 burglaries. Good progress had been made with regard to anti social behaviour which continued to reduce despite recent spikes in South Hylton and Barnes Park.

In addition members were informed of the particular crime patterns in respect of the Barnes, Pallion, St. Anne's, Sandhill, Silksworth and St Chad's wards.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman informed Inspector Pickett of complaints from residents in the Silksworth area about a lack of Police response in relation to anti social behaviour. He also advised that some people had stopped reporting incidents because of a fear of reprisals. This was because in response to a report, the Police would send a marked car to their door even when asked not to do so. Inspector Pickett replied that anti social behaviour had always been a priority and remained so. He added that the Police would not send a marked patrol car if specifically asked not to and reiterated that it was important that residents continued to ring in with crime reports.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Oliver, Inspector Pickett advised that in many cases CCTV recording on petrol station forecourts was not fit for purpose. Crimes committed in these premises generally involved the drivers of vehicles fitted with stolen or false plates. A warning text messaging system was in operation between garages when there was a potential threat. With regard to a further enquiry from Councillor Oliver in relation to anti social behaviour involving motor cycles and quad bikes, Inspector Pickett advised that it was a city wide problem which was being tackled via the collection of intelligence and the issue of Section 59 Notices. Councillor Paul Watson stated that given that it was such a large issue and one that had existed over several generations, it was an indication that young people were telling the authorities that there was a demand for such activities.

He suggested that perhaps the authorities should think about facilitating provision for them rather than criminalising them. Inspector Pickett replied that Northumbria Police had investigated the issue but had been unable to identify appropriate areas of land within the West Area. Councillor P. Watson suggested that the issue could be tasked to the Committee's Place Board to investigate.

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted and that the West Sunderland Area Place Board be requested to investigate potential sources for the provision of off road motorcycling.

Report of the Tyne and Wear Fire Service

Jeff Wilkinson of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service presented a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the Service's performance indicators for the period 1st June to 31st August, 2013 compared to the same period in 2012 with particular reference to:-

- i) the number of deaths from accidental / all dwelling fires (there were none),
- ii) the number of injuries from accidental / all dwelling fires (there were two),
- iii) accidental fires in domestic properties,
- iv) deliberate property fires,
- v) deliberate vehicle fires
- vi) the number of secondary fires described by type
- vii) the number of malicious false alarms

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mr Wilkinson advised that the figures for dwelling fires were down, the main causal factor being a decline in kitchen fires.

A major concern remained secondary fires particularly in relation to grass and rubbish. There had been a noticeable spike in Barnes Park during July, coinciding with the school holidays. Discussions had been held with the Area Response Manager with a view to programming the grass cutting regime to minimise the opportunities for malicious fire starting.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Tye regarding contingencies in light of forthcoming industrial action by the Fire Brigades Union (FBU), Mr Wilkinson advised that a meeting on the matter was to be held between the Chief Fire Officer and the FBU during the following week. The Chairman having asked that the Committee be made aware of the contingencies in relation to the West Area, Mr Wilkinson advised that this would be at the discretion of the Chief Fire Officer

Councillor P. Watson highlighted the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service as an exemplar of public service excellence, particularly with regard to the proactive measures undertaken to ensure accidental fires had become a rarity. On behalf of the Committee he placed on record his congratulations and thanks to the Service on their achievements.

The Chairman having thanked Mr Wilkinson for his report, it was :-

5. RESOLVED the report be received and noted.

Place Board Progress Report.

The Chairman of the West Sunderland Area Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress against the current year's Place Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Julie Lynn, Area Community Officer presented the report drawing Members' attention to the initiation of action towards achieving key priorities as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report together with a summary of key areas of influence and achievements of the Place Board in relation to Responsive Local Services, the Core Strategy and Environment and Street Scene Improvements as at 31st August, 2013.

In addition Members were asked to give consideration to the approval of the final improvement plan for the St. Luke's Terrace and Thorndale Road shopping areas together with proposals to support businesses within the shopping centres as detailed in Annex 2 and Annex 3 to the report respectively.

Councillor P. Watson referred to the advertising litter bins as detailed on page 26 of the agenda papers and asked what form the advertising would take. Helen Peverley, Area Coordinator, advised that initially the bins were likely to carry messages from the Council regarding issues of importance to residents such as benefit changes or publicising Council organised events. It was hoped that over time, local businesses would come forward to hire the advertising spaces.

6. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the report be received and noted;
- ii) approval be given to the additional works to Thorndale Road and St Luke's Terrace shopping centres as detailed in annex 2 to the report;
- iii) approval be given to the proposals to offer and progress business support to retailers within St Luke's Terrace as detailed in annex 3 to the report;
- iv) approval be given to the proposed West Sunderland Area tour and route as detailed in annex 4 to the report

People Board Progress Report.

The Chairman of the West Sunderland Area People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on progress against the current year's People Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Atkinson presented the report drawing Members' attention to the initiation of action towards achieving the key priorities as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, together with a summary of key areas of influence and achievements of the People Board in relation to Early Intervention and Locality Based Services, Job Prospects, Health and Well Being and Libraries as at 31st August, 2013.

Councillor Atkinson welcomed and introduced Julie Parker-Walton, Public Health Lead who provided the Committee with an update on the current position regarding the review of Sexual Health Services and the Integrated Wellness review.

In response to enquiries from Councillors Tye and Porthouse regarding the delivery of the Stay and Bake programme, Mrs Rochester, VCS Network Representative, advised that the first session was to be held on Tuesday 1st October at the Tansey Centre as part of a six week rolling programme to be delivered across the West Sunderland Area.

At this juncture Julie Lynn, Area Community Officer, drew members' attention to paragraph 4.2 and annex 2 of the report in respect of proposals regarding 'Work Clubs'. She advised that the matter had been considered and a recommendation made by the People Board at its meeting held on 10th September, 2013. As the Board meeting had been held after the statutory deadline for the publication of the Area Committee agenda, the recommendation could not be included in the report however the Chairman would provide a verbal recommendation to this meeting.

Members were advised that the People Board had recommended that the current providers be requested to extend their provision on an outreach basis to deliver Work Club activity within each of the 6 West Sunderland Area Wards and that SIB funding be aligned to facilitate this.

Councillor Porthouse asked for clarification regarding the current providers referred to. Upon being informed that they were the Farringdon Jubilee Centre and Pallion Action Group, he immediately declared an interest as a member of the Management Committee of the Jubilee Centre and left the meeting.

With regard to the Board's recommendation, Councillor P. Gibson, Chairman of the Area Committee advised that this centred on the alignment of £70,000 SIB funding to allow staff at the Jubilee Centre and Pallion Action Group to deliver work club activity on an out reach basis within each ward. The funding would be time limited to 12months and would provide the equivalent of five half days of work club activity per week. In response to an enquiry from Councillor Tye it was confirmed that any approval would be subject to full application, consultation and appraisal.

Consideration having been to the matter, members indicated that they would be minded to approve the development of the delivery of standardised Work Clubs across each ward of the West Area and the allocation of SIB funding to support this. Accordingly it was :-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the report be received and noted;
- ii) approval be given to the development of standardised Work Clubs to be delivered by the Jubilee Centre and Pallion Action Group on an outreach basis across each ward of the West Sunderland to improve the offer to residents to support them to move into employment (see also Resolution 8 (ii) below);
- iii) the Integrated Wellness Review be referred to the October meeting of the People Board to allow Member's views to be fed into the forthcoming stakeholder event;
- iv) the Sexual Health Review be referred to the People Board for consideration;
- v) the project brief for the Works Experience Programme as detailed in Annex 3 to the report be approved.

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) in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Julie Lynn, Area Community Officer, presented the report highlighting the financial statement including an update on the allocation of Community Chest, HCIF, SIP and SIB funding, together with details of 23 approvals for support from the 2013/14 Community Chest budget as detailed in Annex 1 of the report.

In addition members were formally asked to consider the alignment of up to £70,000 SIB funding to support the delivery of a standardised work club across the West Sunderland Area as discussed earlier in the meeting.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

8. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Area Committee's funding statement as detailed in paragraphs 2.1, 3.1, 4.1, and 5.1 be received and noted,
- (ii) approval be given to allocation of up to £70,000 SIB funding from the 2013/14 budget, subject to full application, consultation and appraisal, to support the development of standardised Work Clubs to be delivered by the Jubilee Centre and Pallion Action Group on an outreach basis across each ward of the West Sunderland area, providing the equivalent of five half days of work club activity for a period of 12 months,

- (iii) the approval of the 23 Community Chest applications as detailed in Annex 1 of the report be noted.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions to the meeting.

(Signed) P. GIBSON,
Chairman.