

14 March 2018

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 (2017/18) 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/Houghton	Cllr Billy Turton
Copt Hill	Cllr Kevin Johnston
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 2018.

Area Priority: Access to training and learning to enhance life and employability skills	
Increase digital inclusion in communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A number of SIB funded projects approved by Area Committee in November 2017 have now commenced. Seven projects were awarded funding to increase and improve public access to computers and relevant support to use on-line services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Springboard – Hetton Centre, Hetton Penshaw CA, Penshaw St Aidans Community Centre, Herrington ShARP, Shiney Row ELCAP, Easington Lane Hetton New Dawn, Hetton Space 4, Houghton le Spring The above projects commenced in January and February and a Coalfield Digital Network has been developed by Springboard. The Digital Network will offer support and advice to local organisations and develop collaborative

	<p>working to maximise resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The People Board discussed the increasing need for support to access on-line services and make a recommendation under Item 5 Area Budget Report to allocate a further proportion of SIB budget to support this priority
Develop skills and sustainable progression routes into employment or business start up for local residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SIB Craft Academy project delivered by Fencehouses YMCA has provided job training to a total of 44 local residents over the lifetime of the project. Targets have been met and outcomes of the project include befriending homeless clients, working within a foodbank, working with local children making Christmas cards/decorations, organising and undertaking a Christmas fair and helping out at local community projects. All those who have received job training have moved on to other activities including volunteering, employment and maths/english courses
Area Priority: Work in partnership to address issues that affect emotional and mental wellbeing	
Reduce isolation and improve social participation in older and vulnerable adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ELCAP Community Transport and Shopping Bus continues to thrive and develop new partnership opportunities to provide a service to those who need additional support to access services and social activities. The second bus purchased has ease of access and provision for wheelchair users, allowing the service to be open to those with a disability. A total 169 individuals have benefited from shopping trips, social outings and assisted transport lunch club trips during October – December 2018 A range of SIB funded Social isolation projects continue to be delivered throughout the Coalfield with many groups running on the good will of volunteers. A further £30,000 SIB funding was allocated to this priority in June 2017 and a Call for Projects made via the VCS Network in December 2017. Project applications received have been assessed and reviewed by the People Board. Recommendations are contained in Area Budget Report at Item 5 The SIB funded Social Navigator project benefits those with long term conditions to improve their independence and wellbeing, and in the longer term access groups and activities available in their community. The project has provided telephone support to 100 people and one to one (in person) support to 33 people during October to December 2017, and a total of 27 have been supported to access other activities and services locally. The project is to continue beyond the original end date due to securing additional funding from Coalfield Regeneration Trust.
Support activities to improve emotional and mental wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended by the People Board that a further allocation of SIB funding is made to develop alternative activities, such as performing arts/ poetry/ writing/ dancing etc... to improve mental and physical health. Further information contained at Item 5 Area Budget Report.
Reduce stress caused by financial concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People Board discussed the impact that debt and financial issues have on individuals and what is available to address this priority. The Board recommends a sum of SIB is allocated to support the issue (see Item 5 Area Budget Report). Officers from Advice Services will attend the April People Board meeting to inform Members what is already in place, and support the development of a project brief.
Area Priority: Support capacity building in local VCS organisations to promote volunteering and collaborative working	
Continue to work with volunteers as part of the 'Step up' project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since it commenced, the SIB funded Step Up project, delivered by SNCBC, has registered 136 new potential volunteers. Currently, 56 are actively volunteering in local organisations, 10 are signed up to a 'pool' of volunteers for one off events and activities and 5 have gone into employment. The project has provided advice, support, training and DBS checks for volunteers. The project is also actively supporting 30 local voluntary and community groups. Ongoing support is provided to all individuals and to community groups to develop and sustain their volunteering programme.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to savings made within the Step Up project and securing funding from alternative sources, the project has now been extended until March 2019. <p>Case Study <u>The Houghton and District Centre for the Blind</u> is a small charitable organisation operating from a community centre off Thornhill Street in Houghton le Spring. Set up in the late 50's the centre has been run by the same management committee from the outset. In 2017, the centre received funding from Area Committee for double glazing and the Step Up project has since supported them to secure additional funding for replacement radiators. The Step Up project worker, Paul McKinnell, has arranged for a volunteer to work with the group to help them to rebrand. The centre and its activities will then be promoted with other groups and local health providers. In 2018 committee skill training will be planned and work to recruit additional volunteers to help out at their sessions will be carried out. The availability of the centre as a venue for hire will be promoted to help the group to generate an additional income.</p>
Deliver a 'Volunteer Celebration' event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The second 'Coalfield Volunteer Celebration' event will be held in June 2018 to coincide with Volunteer Week. A series of more local, organisational events will be arranged where volunteers will receive a certificate of thanks.
Encourage collaborative working amongst local organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All SIB funded projects are required to work with each other and engage with the VCS Network in order to further develop collaborative working and reduce duplication. Members of the VCS Network share information with each other and work in partnership in order to build the capacity of the local VCS sector.
Area Priority: Support provision of activities for young people that increase their involvement in community and area events and projects	
Activities for children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Call for Projects to provide activities and initiatives for 0-5 year olds and their families, young people aged 11-19 and young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) was made by the People Board in January 2018. Projects were assessed and consulted upon. The recommendations are contained within Item 5 Area Budget Report. Following ongoing disorder in Houghton Town Centre, People Board discussed the need for some initial engagement with young people to gain their input and promote clubs and activities available for them. From March 2018, senior youth workers will provide an outreach service at weekends for a period of 12 weeks with a view to diverting young people into positive activity. Recommendations will be presented to People Board. The People Board recommend that a further sum of SIB be allocated to this priority to develop activities or support, pending the outcome of the consultation by outreach youth workers. Further information is contained in Item 5 Area Budget Report.
Forward Planning	
A draft of the 2017/18 Annual Report will be circulated to members prior to the April 2018 meeting. Priorities for 2018/19 will be discussed by the Board at the April 2018 meeting.	

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 2016/17 and agree proposals for future delivery

Annex 1 2017/18 Work plan

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