

NORTH WALSALL AREA PANEL MEETING

17TH NOVEMBER 2016 at 6.00pm

BEECHDALE LIFELONG LEARNING CENTRE

Present

Councillor S. Fitzpatrick (Chair)
Councillor M. Ward
Councillor A. Young
Councillor T. Jukes
Councillor I. Robertson
Councillor C. Jones

Officers

Vanessa Croft – Area Manager
Nikki Gough – Democratic Services Officer
Stephanie Hammond – Steps to Work Manager
Vicky Welsh – Steps to Work Project Co-ordinator
Mandy Keay – Walsall Link Line
West Midlands Fire Service Representatives

14/16 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors K. Phillips, J. Fitzpatrick, L. Jeavons and Mr Pat Dean.

15/16 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

16/16 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)

There were no items to be considered in private session.

17/16 Minutes

Members considered the minutes.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13th September, 2016, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

18/16 Update from Steps to Work and Walsall Link Line

Steps to Work

The Area Manager introduced the item and reminded the Panel that Members had asked for an update on the progress of the project before all funding was awarded.

The Project Managers stated that this funding had enabled 23 individuals to acquire qualifications and one confirmed job offer with two pending. Members were reminded that the course had taken place in the previous month so more results may follow. This equated to a cost of £45.00 a person. The benefits of this and the value for money it provided were discussed. Members challenged the use of funding and the Area Manager confirmed that evidence would be required to provide the funding.

Members agreed to award £1250.00 to this project as requested in the original funding application.

Walsall Link Line.

A representative of Walsall Link Line attended to inform Members about the project. The aim was to raise awareness of dementia with children and lessen their fear of the illness. During a session children make and decorate a memory box, receive health eating messages, and think about working together and interacting with people with dementia. Feedback from the sessions had been positive and there was nothing else like it in the Borough. A discussion was held on the cost of a session. Members requested that this item was deferred until the next meeting of the Area Panel when more information could be received on figures.

Resolved

- **That 'Steps to Work' are awarded £1250.00 as requested in the original funding application.**

19/16

Area Managers Report

The Area Manager presented the report and stated that the report sought to inform Elected Members for the North Walsall Area Partnership of work carried out in the local area.

A discussion was held on;

- Anti-social behaviour issues on Harden Road.
- Over 50's event in town.
- Small fires on Swannies field.

A representative from West Midlands Fire Service spoke on the cadet programme which had been well received by Bloxwich Academy.

Resolved

That the report was noted.

Funding Report**The Watermill Sensory Room – Housing and Care 21**

This project aimed to provide a sensory room within the Watermill complex. Members suggested that this project should be supported as mental health needed more investment. The Area Manager agreed to find out if this could be funded out of the 'Goscote fund'.

Bloxwich Blazers (young fire cadets) – West Midlands Fire Service

This project will provide two 6-week courses for youth aged 8-11, who may be struggling at school and at risk of being involved in ASB, arson or Criminal damage. Members recognised the value of this initiative and agreed to award £2500.00 to this project.

Bloxwich Fire Cadets

The fire service is working with youth aged 11-16 to do a 20 week course aimed at teaching various fire service related skills as well as instilling discipline and respect. The Panel agreed to award £2500.00 towards this project.

Christmas Event and Ash End Farm – Blakenall Children's centre

The aim was to give residents living in North a chance to take part in a Christmas activity that included arts and crafts and a visit from Santa. In addition to offer a one off opportunity to roughly 12 families for a trip to Ash End Farm. Members questioned if this project offered value for money and were concerned that such a small number of families would benefit and declined to award funding to the project.

Christmas Community Concert

The project was to hold a Community Christmas Concert in the local area for all residents. The concert will showcase local talent in the area. The Panel agreed to award £2620 towards this project.

Resolved

That the funding applications be approved as set out within the minutes.

Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting would be 31st January 2017.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 7.00p.m.

Chairman:
Date: