

NORTH WALSALL AREA PANEL MEETING

31st January 2017 at 6.00pm

BLAKENALL VILLAGE CENTRE

Present

Councillor S. Fitzpatrick (Chair)
Councillor L. Jeavons (Vice-Chair)
Councillor J. Fitzpatrick
Councillor C. Jones
Councillor T. Jukes
Councillor K. Phillips
Councillor I. Robertson
Councillor M. Ward
Councillor A. Young

Officers

Vanessa Croft – Area Manager
Nikki Gough – Democratic Services Officer
Mandy Key – Walsall Link Line
Carol Boughton – Head of Safeguarding

21/16 **Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Pat Dean.

22/16 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

23/16 **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items to be considered in private session.

24/16 **Minutes**

Members considered the minutes of 17th November 2016.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2016, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

Funding Report

The Area Manager introduced the report which set out project applications received by the Area Partnership Team. The Area Panel were asked to consider the summarised project applications as set out in Appendix 1.

The following project applications were considered;

Affordable Heating – Green Rivers Community Association

This project sought to replace five costly air conditioning units to panel radiators. New radiators would ensure a consistent environment to deliver ongoing activities for the local community. Members questioned if the Area Manager had seen the quotes obtained and she confirmed that she had and that the quote of £780.00 (with £800.00 match funded by Green Rivers Community Association) presented the best value for money.

The funding application was moved and seconded.

Youth Information fun days - Frank F Harrison

Councillor C. Jones declared an interest as a Member of the Frank F Harrison Community Association Board.

This project aimed to fund a fun day that will act as an information day for local people which will inform local people of the activities planned for post March 2017. Local services would be invited to promote their activities including rainbows, girl guides, local nursery, children's dance classes, and church groups. Funding was sought for staffing, refreshments, room hire, flyers, banners, and equipment. It was noted that some equipment would be available for ongoing use.

Members challenged the amount of funding requested and the project representative explained that a new PA system was needed and over 300 young people had been identified, who would benefit from this project.

The Area Manager informed Elected Members that £3459.49 remained in the North Walsall funding allocation. However some projects were due to come in slightly under budget and so this was likely to be slightly higher.

Elected Members talked of the organisation and the good work that took place to divert anti-social behaviour. The project application was moved and seconded.

Walsall Link Line

The Project representative informed Members that sessions were delivered to help explain dementia to children. The project cost £18.50 per child supported and follow up work was also available. Members were also informed that the project was working with the watermill to set up a dementia cafe. Members stated that this was an excellent idea and

praised the good work the project did. The project application was moved and seconded.

Resolved

That the funding applications are approved as set out in the minutes.

26/16 Safeguarding Presentation

The Head of Safeguarding presented to the Committee (annexed). It was stressed that safeguarding was a shared responsibility and that if there was a concern that an individual was at risk then this should be shared. A common criticism in serious case reviews was that information was not shared. Common types of abuse were stated as;

- Physical abuse
- Psychological or emotional abuse
- Neglect
- Sexual abuse or exploitation
- Domestic abuse
- Modern Slavery
- Self neglect
- Organisational abuse
- Discriminatory abuse

The Committee were given information on the response that may be given to safeguarding concerns. Members were also informed that there were around 357 children with a 'child protection plan' in Walsall. This was roughly the number of children that the Department of Health predicted should be protected in a Borough of its shape and size. It was stressed that if the Local Authority believed that there was a risk then the response should be appropriate and proportionate. Support was offered to families to ensure children stayed safe.

27/16 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. Members asked for progress on the development of the Asda site in Bloxwich. Officers confirmed that this would be provided.

Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting would be 28th March 2017.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 7.30p.m.

Chairman:
Date: