

Minutes of a meeting of the Bradford South Area Committee held on Thursday, 28 October 2021 in Council Chamber, City Hall - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 5.00 pm
Concluded 6.40 pm

Present – Councillors

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE
Dodds Green S Khan T Hussain Thornton Wood	Bibby Clarke

Councillor Dodds in the Chair

43. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

44. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2021 be signed as a correct record.

45. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no appeals submitted by the public to review decisions to restrict documents.

46. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions submitted by the public.

47. YOUTH SERVICE UPDATE - BRADFORD SOUTH

The Strategic Director, Place submitted a report (**Document “K”**) which gave an update on work undertaken by the Youth Service in the Bradford South Area in the past 12 months and outlined the direction of travel for the next 12 months.

The Youth Service Practitioner was present with a number of youth workers and service users to give a snapshot of the activities undertaken.

One of the main activities centred around the Covid recovery project and working with schools and the wider community in order provide support to young people around issues they had encountered during the pandemic.

A number of work streams to tackle issues around mental health and LGBTQ were alluded to and young people gave a candid account of the isolation and the challenges they had faced during the pandemic, and how the youth service had provided a safe space to talk about and address specific issues.

In response to a question on how engagement with young people was now compared to that during lockdown, it was stated that the transition had been difficult and the Service was now starting to work again with larger groups and utilising the youth centres, and therefore a sense of normality had now returned, however numbers coming through the doors was still lower than before the pandemic.

A Member thanked the young people for their powerful insight into the issues they had faced during the pandemic and ascertained if they was a linkage into the work other groups that were doing with young people. In response it was stated that the Young Covid Ambassadors work had been invaluable and there was a synergy with other work that was going on in supporting young people.

A Member questioned the viability of online clubs as we started to come out of the pandemic. In response it was stated that the online clubs had done really well, and although they were no substitute to face to face contact, there was now a concerted effort to move the emphasis in this direction and return to some sort of normality across all wards.

A Member stressed that ward members should be consulted during this transition period, particularly in relation to finding suitable venues in their respective wards.

Resolved –

That the work undertaken by the Youth Service in the Bradford South Area as detailed in Document “K” be welcomed and that the young people be thanked for their attendance and for sharing their insights.

ACTION: No Action

Overview & Scrutiny Area: Children’s Services

Under Paragraph 9.4 on Part 3B of the Council's Constitution, the Chair allowed a verbal update of the current Covid infection rates in the district, so that Members were made aware of the situation.

It was explained that the figures in terms of the daily infection rates showed a downward trajectory and that the district was currently ranked 228th out of 329 areas nationally, which was a marked improvement from the top quartile position recorded during the height of the pandemic.

Vaccination rates remained good including the take up of the booster jab, however infection rates amongst the 12-15 year old age group remained high, and there was an impetus to encourage take up of the vaccine within this age group to drive down infections and spread of the virus.

In response to a number of questions around death rates for those who had received two doses of the vaccine, social inequalities exposed by the pandemic and the correlation in death rates, it was agreed that this information will be disseminated after the meeting.

No resolution was passed on this item.

49. LOCALITY WORKING REVIEW: BRADFORD SOUTH APPROACH AND CREATING A LOCALITIES PLAN FOR THE AREA

At its meeting held on 30 September 2021, the Area Committee received a report from the Strategic Director Place (**Document "I" resubmitted**) which outlined 1) the District wide approach emerging from the Review, 2) considered the data available to support the process and 3) presented some options on how to develop the approach in Bradford South. The report *recommended*:

- (1) *That the committee notes the Localities Review and implications for Bradford South Area Committee.*
- (2) *That the Committee chooses one of the three approaches to develop a localities plan for Bradford South.*
- (3) *That the Area Coordinator is asked to lead on the approach and develop an engagement plan, keep Councillors updated on progress and report back progress to the committee in March 2022.*

After considering the report the Area Committee resolved:

That the Chief Executive be invited to the next meeting of Bradford South Area Committee to respond to Councillors concerns about the implications of the Locality Review.

In line with the above resolution the Chief Executive was unable attend the meeting, however the Assistant Director Neighbourhoods was present to give an overview of the new Locality Working approach and respond to Member's questions.

In explaining the rationale behind the new approach, it was stated that the premise was to have in place a structure that was more responsive and better linked and aligned with our health priorities and early help offer, so that a more connected service was offered to residents and one which provided better outcomes.

Although challenges remained, a number of different approaches had been trialled in other parts of the district, to see what worked and what could be altered, the ambition was that localities working would bring positive changes in terms of service delivery, in that it would be more responsive.

During the discussion some Members expressed a number of reservations around the proposed approach in particular as a policy was already agreed and in motion around locality working, and why was there the need now to change this direction of travel; that the current arrangements and the relationship with our health partners on how we better managed and deliver services was already confusing, so this added linkage may not offer anything additional; that in consulting with the Area Committee Chairs and Deputies in effect would bar any consultation with the other Ward Members across the district; that if there was a communication issue between the Council and its Partners then that should not require a wholesale change in what was agreed policy; that the issues in the respective wards and the data was already available.

In response, the Assistant Director stated that it was important to collect data as to what was important in the respective wards and then create a structure that is more responsive; that Area Committee Chairs/Deputies would be widely consulted on the new approach; that partnership working would be key in delivering services in the future; that the respective Chairs would report back to their Area Committees on developments, so Area Committees would be briefed accordingly; that the role of the Area Committees would be reinforced as officers shared information and intelligence with our partners and provide a more coherent response; acknowledge that the data was available, however a better analysis of the data was required as well as dealing with issues, so that they don't become major issues.

Following the discussion it was felt that a Bradford South approach was required which would inform the localities working, and it was therefore:

Resolved–

- (1) That the Localities Review and implications for Bradford South Area Committee be noted.**
- (2) That Option 3: Proposed Bradford South approach set out in Document “I” be chosen to develop a localities plan for Bradford South.**
- (3) That the Area Coordinator be asked to lead on the approach and develop an engagement plan, keep Councillors updated on progress and report back progress to the committee in March 2022.**

ACTION: Area Coordinator

Chair