

Minutes of a meeting of the Bradford West Area Committee held on Thursday, 17 November 2022 in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 5.35 pm
Concluded 7.40 pm

Present – Councillors

LABOUR
Alipoor
Amran
Azam
Engel
Hussain
Kamran Hussain
Nazir
Shaheen

Councillor Amran in the Chair

27. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

28. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

29. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No public questions were received.

30. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Resolved –

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of

Appendices E&G attached to Document “O” relating to the Progress report on the work of the Prevent Team in the Bradford West Area, on the grounds that it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if they were present, exempt information within Paragraph 2 Information Identifying an individual (Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual) and Paragraph 3 Financial or Business Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) of Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), would be disclosed and it is considered that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in applying these exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

31. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE PREVENT TEAM IN THE BRADFORD WEST AREA

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document “O”**) outlined the work carried out in support of the Prevent Strategy in the last twelve months in the Bradford West Area. It included more detail about specific items raised at the Area Committee meeting held on 22nd September 2022.

As Members wanted to discuss the specifics relating to the Not for Publication appendices and its implications on the Prevent Programme, it was resolved (as above) that the Area Committee go into exempt session.

Resolved –

That an internal review be undertaken on Prevent.

ACTION: Strategic Director Place

32. WORK OF THE DISTRICT YOUTH SERVICE TEAM

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document “N”**) provided an overview of the work of the District Youth Work team and gave an update on work undertaken by the District Youth Service during the last 12 months.

The Commissioner (Youth Provision) along with the Assistant Director Neighbourhoods was present at the meeting to give an overview and respond to Members’ questions. A number of young people involved in the Breaking the Cycle Project were also present at the meeting.

At the meeting of the Area Committee held on 20 October 2022, the Committee had requested some specific information around the role and structure of the District Youth Team as well as how the teams were deployed; what work had been undertaken in each ward and the funding mechanism. In response, detailed information was set out in the body of the report and was alluded in the presentation.

It was stated that the work of the District Youth Team had grown year on year and the value of the work undertaken by them was commendable, with the majority of

the work having been funded from a number of different external funding streams, such as the West Yorkshire Deputy Mayor's Office.

Breaking the Cycle formed a part of the overall offer; with this piece of work being intelligence led and in its fourth year of operation, with feedback on the work indicating good impact on some the most vulnerable children in the district.

During the discussion the Chair ascertained that where youth workers were seconded from the Area Team to the District Team, if those vacancies were then backfilled. In response it was stated that many Youth Workers did undertake additional work, however no staff had been taken out of the Area Teams.

It was also stressed that the District Youth Team was externally funded from the Council and that it was needs led; however, they worked closely with colleagues in the Area Teams.

In response to a question regarding the Breaking the Cycle logo visibility on vans, and whether it exposed young people to additional harm, it was explained that that the work undertaken in this area was seen as an exemplar; making a real difference to the lives of young people. In situations where specific intelligence/risk assessment indicated specific issues, a different approach would be adopted.

The Chair stressed that a number of concerns had been brought to his attention regarding Breaking the Cycle and it was important that the Area and District Youth Team worked together in the interest of the young people.

In response to a question regarding the number of Section 18 cases currently open and the percentage of those that had achieved a positive outcome, it was stated that a resilience framework measured the outcomes of the young people concerned, however without the specific data, the outcomes were generally positive in moving young people away from harm and criminality.

It was also stressed that the Cost of Living crisis was also adding to pressures in this area, and it was therefore important to pick up issues earlier through our early intervention work.

In response to a question regarding future funding of the work of the District Team, it was stated that the Service was looking at imaginative ways to ensure funding continued, including commercialisation where possible, where other authorities could buy-in services. In addition, all other existing and new funding streams would be explored to continue this invaluable work.

A Member stressed the need to adopt a localised model as opposed to a district model as this would yield greater results and be more responsive to local needs. The Assistant Director added that issues also had to be seen in the context of reductions in the Youth Service budget over a number of years, and that there was always room for improvements to be made.

Resolved –

That a review be undertaken of the Area and the District Youth Work Teams, with a view to ensuring how they can work more closely and share resources more effectively.

ACTION: Strategic Director Place

Chair

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Bradford West Area Committee.

THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER