Area Board Working Group
Terms of Reference

May 2023

1. Purpose

An Area Board working group is an excellent vehicle to drive forward a local priority theme. The Area Board will evaluate a respective priority, in respect of the actions required and the existing arrangements in place, prior to setting up a new working group. Where there is an existing community or partner led group addressing this priority, the Area Board should work in partnership with such community or group and not create a working group of its own. Where a working group is required, the exact purpose is set out by the Area Board using the table set out in Appendix D.

Some example functions of an Area Board working group are set out below in relation to their respective theme. A group could be asked to:

- Research and review key data, intelligence and information related to the specific priority theme, to develop an in-depth understanding of the issue and opportunities;
- Democratically consider issues, projects and initiatives that could be developed and identify risks;
- Engage with the relevant partners to advance objectives, empowering the wider community to lead where appropriate;
- Provide regular information to the Area Board for review and further guidance; and/or
- Address any conflicts of interest that may arise as part of the local decision-making process.

2. Membership

The membership of a working group will be set by the Area Board but may include representatives as follows:

- City, town and parish councils;
- Voluntary and community sector organisations (regional, countywide and local level);
- Wiltshire Police;
- Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service;
- Ministry of Defence;
- Bath, Swindon and Wiltshire CCG, Healthwatch, Local Health Representatives;
- Local businesses, Chambers of Commerce;
- Schools;
- Housing Associations;
- Residents and resident action groups; or
- Other organisations, agencies and individuals that have a genuine interest in promoting the respective theme issue.

The Area Board should consider whether membership is fully representative of the local community by carefully considering the diversity and inclusion of the group. Consideration must be given where appropriate to the safeguarding procedures that must be followed (set out in Section 4 below)

3. Roles of all members of the Area Board working group

All members will be required to:

- Agree to the terms of reference as set out within this document;
- Take an active part in the development of the working group and its aims;
- Ensure that their organisation is represented by a person of appropriate experience/competency (or his/her appointed deputy) who has full authority within the relevant organisation to speak on behalf of the organisation and contribute fully to all discussions;
- Take responsibility for sharing information relevant to their organisation/ stakeholders/sector;
- Contribute any information that may have a bearing on positively achieving agreed objectives;
- Be mindful of the needs of the community area as a whole when providing input or making decisions;
- Be open and honest and work collaboratively;
- Work to promote equality and non-discriminatory practices;
- Respect all members of the working group and invited representatives; and
- Work to ensure high quality safeguarding practices are followed where appropriate.

4. Structure and operation

A working group will generally comprise of no more than ten members, to keep conversations and actions focussed. If nominal membership of the management group exceeds ten members, attendance at meetings should be sought by those most appropriate to the agenda. Additional attendees can be brought in as required when invited by the Chairperson.

The Chair of the group will be agreed locally and could either be the Area Board Councillor lead or another member from within the group. A vote of members can determine the Chair where required. Further Area Board Councillors can be appointed to the group as required and as deemed appropriate by the Area Board.

An assigned Wiltshire Council Officer will support each working group, however their role and involvement will vary. Brief notes with key actions and decisions will be recorded and reported back to the Area Board business meeting. The Area Board Councillor lead or the assigned Officer will provide verbal updates to the Area Board business meeting.

Decisions will usually be reached by consensus, however, if necessary, these can be agreed by a majority vote of all group members. The Chairperson would have the deciding vote in cases of a tie. This may be required if for example, the group is providing a funding recommendation to the Area Board.

Working groups must be culturally and socially considerate when focussing on themes that affect vulnerable or underrepresented groups of people (e.g., older people, young people, LGBTQ+, BAME and those with SEND). Ensuring a diverse and representative working group membership will support the safe and appropriate engagement with the respective groups to ensure voices are clearly heard.

The frequency, location and format of group meetings and activities should be determined locally, however, it is advised that groups do not formally meet more than quarterly and complement the timings of the Area Board business meeting.

5. Safeguarding

The Area Board and its working groups have a key role in ensuring the safeguarding of all residents. Effective safeguarding involves organisations working together to prevent the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while ensuring that the views and wishes of an

individual are at the heart of decisions that affect them, wherever possible.

Effective safeguarding is critical when groups are working towards objectives that support children, young people or vulnerable adults. It is critical that each group minimises all safeguarding risks and is aware of the relevant local agencies to escalate any concern.

If someone is in immediate danger you should contact the appropriate emergency service immediately by calling **999**. If you believe a child or young person is at risk of significant harm, neglect or injury, you should report your concerns to the Wiltshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub **(MASH)** by calling **0300 456 0108** during weekdays or on **0300 456 0100** at evenings or weekends. If you are concerned that an adult is at risk of neglect or abuse, please contact Adult Social Care's Advice and Contact Team by calling **0300 4560111** during weekdays or **0300 456 0100** on evenings and weekends please
contact the Emergency Duty Service on **0300 456 0100.**

When entering into agreements with voluntary and private sector organisations, working groups, under the umbrella of the Area Boards, need to be assured that the successful individual/organisation has the following in place:

1. Safer recruitment processes, including DBS checks; induction and supervision;
2. Identified designated lead(s) for safeguarding with appropriate relevant training;
3. Safeguarding policy, allegations management processes and policy, code of conduct policy; and
4. Child protection (where applicable) and Safeguarding training at the level appropriate to posts and roles.

6. Media Relations

Members of the working group may not issue media statements on behalf of the Area Board. Any media statements about the work of the group should be agreed with between the group and Chair of the Area Board.

7. Review

These terms of reference are subject to change and may be reviewed from time to time by the Leader, and at least annually.

Appendix C – Terms of Reference table

This table is to be completed and agreed by the Area Board when establishing/ re-establishing a working group.

Task	Area Board agreed response
Name of working group:	Nadder Centre Steering Group
Priority theme it is linked to: e.g., Environment, social isolation, young people	Young People Health and Wellbeing Thriving Economy
Councillor lead(s):	Vacant
Assigned Officer lead(s):	Craig Angel (Nadder Centre Manger) Karen Linaker (Community Engagement Manager)
Date of set up:	Reaffirmed 28 June 2023
Date of review:	June 2024
Specific scope and remit for the working group: • What are the specific objectives? • Any particular data or intelligence the board would like considered/ investigated? • Any partners, residents or other groups it should specifically link with? • Is the group being asked to review relevant grant funding applications?	• To provide oversight over the Nadder Centre's business plan as it recovers from the impact of Covid-19. • To consider how the Area Board and Nadder Centre can work together to support youth activities, as well as those for older and vulnerable people. • To consider how best to utilise the facilities on offer at the Centre for the wider community. • To encourage participation by local groups such as local schools, parish councils, community groups, voluntary and community organisations and local businesses • To encourage services based at and immediately surrounding the centre to collaborate and mutually optimize each other's offer to the local community from the centre, e.g. the pre school, childrens centre, library, history society, NHS Frailty team etc
Proposed membership (up to 10): This does not need to be an exhaustive list. The Cllr lead and local Officer can review as needed.	Craig Angel (Nadder Centre Manger) Karen Linaker (Community Engagement Manager) Cllr - vacant
Any specific safeguarding guidance? Meeting directly with young people or vulnerable adults?	Nothing specific for the group's purposes. Safeguarding checks and policies will always be in place for specific events or projects facilitated by the steering group.