

**County Durham Partnership Update
Report**

Report of Corporate Management Team

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Cllr. Simon Henig, Leader of the Council

**Cllr. Brian Stephens, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and
Local Partnerships**

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Durham County Council's Cabinet on issues being addressed by the County Durham Partnership (CDP) including summaries from the Board, the five Thematic Partnerships and all Area Action Partnerships (AAPs). The report also includes updates on other key initiatives being carried out in partnership across the County.

Summary

2. The Partnership continues to make a positive contribution to the achievement of the high level aims and objectives set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). Through joint working against a range of jointly developed and agreed priorities, outcomes continue to be met. The AAPs continue to work on a large number of projects that contribute to the achievement of the five priority themes of the SCS whilst actively supporting the work of the five thematic partnerships. To reflect the importance given to the altogether wealthier priority, AAPs have increased their work in this area and many fund and support the Countywide Apprenticeship Scheme as well as working more closely with external partners, for example East Durham Homes, in establishing a Social Enterprise Company.
3. The Partnership supports individuals and groups in a variety of ways and through a number of approaches. Evidence of this can be found under each of the five altogether themed parts of this report. Some examples to note under the altogether better for children and young people theme are that 147 families are currently engaged in the Think Family programme as well as more local schemes, such as the one led by Teesdale YMCA, that sees youth workers engaging with 40 young people each week. The work of the Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) continues to impact positively on reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, the latter of which has seen a huge reduction of 31% in the first half of the year compared to the same period in 2011/12. A new area of work for the Environment Partnership, that of the recently established Local Nature Partnerships, has influenced a national event and may be used as case studies in the future.
4. AAPs contribute to the achievement of the objectives against the thematic priorities, an important aspect of which is the additional funding they have brought in to the county. This is particularly important at a time when the Council's resources in many areas are reducing. To date, AAPs have allocated close to £7.2M against a wide variety of projects and initiatives that have added value to all parts of the Partnership's work. Perhaps more significantly, this has been matched with £11.8M from external sources, to support the work of the Council and its partners in achieving its overall priorities, £7M of this having contributed towards the County's top priority of altogether wealthier.

5. The Council is committed to giving local people more say on how resources are used to meet priorities, a positive approach to this is through Participatory Budgeting, which is how a number of AAPs allocate some of their funding. Three Partnerships are holding further PB events in the next month to allocate over £600K. Partners, particularly Stanley Town Council, are supporting this initiative and proposals against specific themes will be voted for by members of those communities.

CDP Board

6. The CDP Board continue to address the cross cutting priorities of their forward programme and considered the findings of the work scoping what can be done, collectively, to address the needs of businesses when looking to recruit school and college leavers from the county. This presentation identified a range of actions that could be taken by the Council and its partners to try to tackle this issue, including improved local coordination leading to streamlined employer engagement as well as making the most of opportunities such as Hitachi and NetPark. The strong links with some of the apprenticeship programmes ran by Housing Providers offers the opportunities to harness their activities and the Council's apprenticeship programme will be a key driver in taking this work forward.

Key CDP links

Voluntary and Community Sector

7. The Council changed how it funds and supports the delivery of infrastructure support for the VCS in early 2012 and has funded Durham Rural Community Council (DRCC) in collaboration with Chester le Street CVS and Volunteer Bureau since July last year to do this. This arrangement has now been extended until March 2014 with the Delivery Plan for 2013-2014 to be agreed by the VCS Working Group. This work is key to maintaining the positive relationship that the Council and its partners have developed with the VCS and to the support offered to frontline services that support the themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy.
8. The annual One Voice Network Conference will take place on 22 March with the aim of stimulating debate and prompting ideas in order to respond to the changing political, social and economic landscape and to encourage communities to develop a more resilient approach to their sustainability. The speakers will offer views on how communities can become more resilient, how the Voluntary and Community Sector is faring in the North East as well as the benefits of an asset based approach to community health and wellbeing.
9. Two events, supported by the CVSs, were held to help groups to identify new sources of funding. A range of national, regional and local funders were invited to speak to local voluntary groups in order to enable them to bring in additional funding to the County. This is important as there is evidence that County Durham has not received the same level of funding as other areas.
10. The consultation on the Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy for the County ended in early December with valuable feedback received. This will be analysed and incorporated into the final strategy for Cabinet consideration in the spring.

Local Councils

11. In order to develop the Council's relationship with Local Councils across the County a working group has been established that is made up of both Elected Members and senior officers. The group meets monthly to discuss key issues and actions on areas of partnership working. This is a positive step forward in the relationship between the two tiers of local government and recognises the need for a shared approach to the changes facing all aspects of the public sector.

12. Issues discussed to date have included consultation on changes to the Local Council Tax Support Scheme. The Working Group enabled the Local Council representatives to receive the information on the Council's proposals at an early stage and for them to be able to feedback to their forums. This Group also discussed and concluded a way forward on double taxation.
13. AAPs continue to work with Local Councils in developing and delivering projects in partnership. The **Mid Durham AAP**, in partnership with the Mid Durham Parishes Committee, completed their residents survey entitled 'Well if you had bothered to ask me...' at the end of October. The survey took three months to complete and collected the views of 591 individuals from 24 different settlements across Mid Durham. Of the 591 responses, 284 were from young people. This included individual and group feedback. The AAP team undertook over 25 different group discussion sessions with around 350 of the responses coming through this method. This enabled the AAP and the Parishes to promote their work and attract more residents onto the AAP Forum. The survey looked at village level indicators asking questions on village assets, concerns, solutions to the concerns and priorities. Assets included community cohesion and pride alongside environment and recreation. Concerns covered nine different themes including young people, the voluntary sector, transport and broadband.
14. The survey identified the need for both financial and voluntary investment with several concerns already being addressed through either AAP or Councillor resources. The top five priority themes were children and young people, voluntary and community sector, road safety and highways, environment and community safety - the latter two were major concerns for younger people. It is now the intention of the AAP, its Councillors and the Parishes to deliver village surgeries during 2013/14 to discuss these concerns and solutions with local residents, schools and partners to enable a local approach to problem solving. The surgeries are expected to commence in June to enable newly elected County Councillors to be heavily involved in this. They will focus on the priority issues raised in each particular village by the survey. The survey also provided the AAP with a further 153 new forum members.
15. The Cornforth Village Improvements Project from the **4Together AAP** was developed in partnership with Cornforth Parish Council in response to requests from local residents who were keen to have more improvements in their village in preparation for Village in Bloom. The project included the provision of street furniture, aesthetically sensitive boarding-up of unused shops and public houses, and painting of shops, void houses and park fencing. The project has benefited all of the community, in that the High Street is now more attractive and the group are hoping that both the void shops and houses may be brought back into use at some point.

Armed Forces

16. As part of the commitment made by the Council and partners through the signing of the Armed Forces Community Covenant (June 2012) we have pledged to create an Armed Forces Forum. The first meeting of the Forum will be held in March 2013.
17. The Armed Forces Forum will carry out the following activities:
 - a. Bring together partner organisations to work together with the aim that local services better meet the needs of service and ex-armed service personnel in the County.
 - b. Provide a forum where the voice of the service and ex-armed service personnel and key partners can be heard and can help influence service development.
 - c. Enable partners to come together to influence priorities through the County Durham Partnership.

18. The forum will have a sub-group, the Community Covenant Funding Group, whose remit will be to assess and endorse bids to the MOD community covenant grant fund.

Consultations

19. As is usual for November and December the work of the consultation team focussed on consultations regarding finances, particularly Local Council Tax Support Scheme proposals and liaising with the AAPs through their Forums on how well they believe the MTFP process has been managed so far and on their views on where savings should be delivered.

County Durham Profile

20. To supplement the 14 AAP profiles, produced to support priority setting and more detailed task and finish work, the Council has compiled a county level profile summarising all results. This summary profile presents AAP level results across the county highlighting some of the different strengths and challenges each of the areas face.
21. This profile will be available via [County Durham Profile](http://www.durham.gov.uk/Pages/Service.aspx?ServiceId=6015) (<http://www.durham.gov.uk/Pages/Service.aspx?ServiceId=6015>)

Participatory Budgeting

22. Area Action Partnerships continue to focus on participatory budgeting as a way of engaging local communities in how they spend some of their funding. Derwent Valley, Three Towns and Stanley have all taken this forward for the second or third year in a row.
23. The **Derwent Valley AAP** has now set a date for its second 'It's Up 2 U' community voting event which will be taking place on Saturday 2 March 2013 between 10am and 2.30pm at Derwentside College, Consett. A total of 30 projects will be on display seeking public votes to receive a proportion of the £40,000 available. An 'It's Up 2 U' roadshow will be taking place throughout February 2013, visiting all villages in the area to promote the projects taking part.
24. The **Three Towns AAP** has a slightly different focus to participatory budgeting this time with £500,000 set aside for capital projects that will improve community facilities in the area e.g. community facility improvements/refurbishments, extensions, community land improvements and sporting facilities in the Crook Area.
25. Expressions of Interest were invited in September 2012 from not-for-profit organisations. Projects had to be physically located within a 1.5 mile radius of the centre of Crook, with a lower limit of £50,000 to try and ensure the funding makes an impact in the community. At that stage, 18 groups came forward with bids totalling nearly £2 million, with bids ranging from £50,000 to £500,000.
26. Following meetings that took place with these groups to explain what was required to go forward to stage two of the process 12 full applications were received totalling £1.4 million, along with associated business plans and supporting documents with all 12 projects being invited to go forward to the public vote. This will take place on the 23rd February 2013 at Crook Primary school. People who live or work in the Three Towns Partnership area are invited to cast their votes for their three favourite projects that they would like to see get a share of the £500,000.
27. **Stanley AAP**, working in partnership with Stanley Town Council, will again give residents of Stanley the chance to say how local budgets are spent for the third year running. 'It's Up 2 U' 2013 will give local organisations, schools, and community and voluntary groups in the Stanley area the opportunity to apply for funding of between £2,000 to £12,000 to deliver their local project. The overall 'It's Up 2 U' 2013 Participatory Budgeting (PB) Funding Pot will total £120,000.

28. The aim is to help local people to have control over what happens in their area and give them a say on which projects funding is granted to. Projects eligible for support under the 'It's Up 2 U' 2013 PB Project will show that there is a clear link to one of the combined priorities of Stanley AAP and Stanley Town Council:
- i. Regeneration of Town and Village Centres
 - ii. Housing and the Environment
 - iii. Shopping, Leisure & Heritage
 - iv. Transport, Traffic and Environment
 - v. Opportunities and Activities for Young People
 - vi. Crime & Community Safety
 - vii. Information & Communication
29. The 'It's Up 2 U' 2013 PB Voting Event will take place at the Louisa Centre in Stanley on Saturday 16 February 2013 from 10.00am. This will give those hoping to apply for funding the chance to showcase their projects and will give members of the public a chance to vote for projects they feel should receive funding.

Priorities and associated funding

30. AAPs contribute to the achievement of the objectives against the thematic priorities, an important aspect of which is the additional funding they have brought in to the county. This is particularly important at a time when the Council's resources in many areas are reducing. To date, AAPs have allocated £7.2M from their Area budgets and have attracted match funding of £11.8M.
31. The information, for AAP budgets, against the five themes, including match funding, is shown below with details under each thematic section.

Theme	Area Budget	Match Funding
Altogether wealthier	£3,407,222.80	£7,051,348.46
Altogether better for children and young people	£2,263,525.20	£2,473,949.07
Altogether healthier	£606,324.32	£1,463,040.53
Altogether safer	£406,549.64	£161,671.35
Altogether greener	£515,580.26	£703,994.90

Altogether wealthier

32. The North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP), of which Durham County Council is a key member, has commissioned a high profile team of leaders from UK finance, industry, public and civil society to produce a strategic, constructively critical review of the North East economy. By targeting both productivity and employment growth in the period to 2030, the independent economic review team will call upon expert evidence to provide the North East LEP and its local, regional and national partners, with a set of strategic interventions to be implemented over the next five years.
33. NELEP's economic review will be chaired by Lord Andrew Adonis, former Secretary of State for Transport and Minister for Schools. The private sector-led review team includes Will Hutton, former editor in chief of the Observer, now chair of the Big Innovation Centre and principal of Hertford College, Oxford; Heidi Mottram, CEO Northumbrian Water and member of the CBI's national infrastructure panel; Lord Don Curry, leading businessman and chair of NFU Mutual; Bridget Rosewell, economist and chair of Volterra Partners; and Jonathan Ruffer.
34. Alongside an assessment of the North East economy in European and global markets, the review will call for evidence on a number of cross-cutting themes including labour markets

and skills, infrastructure and land markets, finance and capital markets, private and social enterprise and the role of government and public governance.

35. The review will issue its final report in spring 2013. The North East Independent Economic Review will be submitted to the Deputy Prime Minister, the Right Hon Nick Clegg and cabinet colleagues. Its recommendations will identify those actions to be put in place by the North East LEP, others to be taken forward with regional and wider partners, and actions that require central government involvement and intervention. Regeneration and Economic Development is supporting a wider partnership response.
36. The **Economic Partnership** supports the eighth Annual Competition of the Future Business Magnates which was launched on 8th November with 25 schools taking part. Challenge one Team Building was delivered on 13th and 23rd November. Schools and their business partners worked together, learning the skills they needed for a successful team and participating in some fun activities to identify their strengths and weaknesses. A new website www.futurebusinessmagnates.co.uk has been developed to support the competition, this allows the participants to submit their work online and keep up to date with changes.
37. As highlighted earlier in this report, many AAPs focus their activity on the priorities under altogether wealthier, recognising that this is the top priority for the Council and its partners. Also, due to the economic situation nationally, there is a focus on skills and employment opportunities. In the current financial year more than £1.1M of the AAP budget has been allocated against this priority with more than £3.5M of match funding being brought in to the County. This significant additional resource is further evidence of how the AAPs contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the Economic Partnership and adds to the £2.2M spend in previous years which was matched with almost £3.5M. Projects of note include the East Durham Homes Social Enterprise Company, detailed in this report, bringing in £157K and £114k under Derwent Valley AAP for the Derwentside Homes Silver Knowledge project.
38. The second phase of the County Durham Apprenticeship programme was launched on 12 November 2012 with training providers with the aim of creating apprenticeship opportunities for unemployed individuals aged between 16-24 years old who live in the County. **Chester le Street and Spennymoor AAPs** both support this project at a local level and by incentivising businesses additional apprentice opportunities have been created that otherwise would not have existed. The introduction of the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) initiative, an Apprenticeship Grant for Employers (AGE) 16-24, has given the Council an opportunity to complement the availability of funding and develop a new successor programme of assistance to SMEs.
39. The project will enable a number of partners to engage with private sector businesses, especially SMEs and the focus will be businesses that have never recruited an apprentice before or have not recruited one in the last 12 months. This will increase the business base of those companies who recruit apprentices (only 24% nationally in 2011/12) and to provide more opportunities for young people specifically.
40. The Employability Team within the Council will deliver the project and utilise their previous experience on delivering projects and programmes through Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF), Future Jobs Fund (FJF) programme as well as the County Durham Apprenticeship Programme. The officers will identify, engage with and support the businesses to both create and sustain the apprenticeship opportunities. The best practice experience shows that in the long-term this project will contribute to an increase in the number of people starting and completing an apprenticeship and lead to a reduction in the number of 18-24 year olds who are unemployed in the area. By completing an apprenticeship this will improve the skills of the target clients which will improve their employability and chances of remaining in employment in future.

41. A further project looking at offering one to one tailored support for unemployed people in the South Durham area to achieve sustained employment has been developed. This will involve a co-ordinated programme of pathways into employment; enable workless people to access opportunities and build the skills that lead to sustainable employment and work with local employers to identify staffing needs to help fill vacancies from the target group. 319 residents have been referred onto the project in last eight months.
42. The **Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP)** is also supporting the objective of increasing employment. It has funded a successful project that is offering mentoring support to unemployed people in the Teesdale area. The Council is managing this project and has successfully engaged with over 60 local people, giving them support which has enabled a number of clients to access training, start an apprenticeship and get into employment. The project is currently exceeding its targets.
43. The Business, Enterprise and Skills Group of the Economic Partnership is addressing the opportunities available through social enterprise. **East Durham AAP** is supporting East Durham Homes to develop a Social Enterprise Company following extensive research, consultation and negotiation with partners over the last year. The aim of establishing the Company is to create employment and training opportunities which deliver complementary and low cost services to clients and the wider community. The project will provide three areas of work: decorating and maintenance; environment and horticulture and small works (handyman). It will employ a full time Supervisor (for two years) and four apprentices per year with all extra income generating additional teams, three teams in total creating 27 jobs and training 24 young people.
44. The main aims of the Social Enterprise Company will be to:
- a. reduce worklessness in East Durham
 - b. provide training and employment opportunities to the long-term unemployed
 - c. build skills, motivation, networks and confidence of local people to enable them to obtain employment opportunities
 - d. provide a unique training environment to our residents
 - e. increase educational attainment
 - f. improve the quality and range of services provided to customers
 - g. address social exclusion through the provision of low cost reputable services to the community of East Durham underpinned with a long-term self-sustaining business plan.
45. For more information please contact Angela Brown, Partnership Support Officer on 0191 387 2117 or email angela.brown@durham.gov.uk

Altogether better for children and young people

46. The views of children and young people on how the Children, Young People and Families Plan (CYPFP) 2012-2016 is progressing against delivering its actions have been gathered via the **Children and Families Trust (C&FT)**. They will be fed back and considered as part of the annual review of the CYPFP. This is an important part of the monitoring process and enables young people from across the county to shape programmes of work directly aimed at them and their families.
47. The C&FT has revised the County Durham Think Family Strategy to reflect the Government's Troubled Families Programme. The strategy aims to contribute to '*Helping children and young people in County Durham to 'believe, achieve and succeed'*' by ensuring all partners work together. This creates a coherent system of support to the whole family at the earliest opportunity enabling every child, young person and family to have the same opportunities and chances in life to become strong, resilient individuals.
48. The Council and C&FT are supporting key agencies to adopt necessary service transformation through a Think Family Partnership Agreement, with each agency

developing action plans to outline how they plan to embed Think Family approaches within their organisation. To date a total of 147 families are engaged in this programme. A target of 50 families per month has been set to ensure Durham County Council meets the target set by Government. Frontline practitioners have also begun to nominate families they are currently working with onto the programme. Durham received positive feedback from a visit from the Government's Central Troubled Families Team. They reviewed progress being made and discussed any issues or barriers and were particularly interested in the Think Family Mentorship approach which aims to support the workforce transformation required to enable all practitioners to work with families using a whole family approach.

49. Altogether better for children and young people has been the subject of the second highest AAP allocation, after altogether wealthier, since their inception. To date over £2.2M of the AAP Budget has been used to support work against this theme, with an additional £2.4M match funding secured. The £150k to support the Durham Agency Against Crime Haggard Project and £91k against Groundwork's Bearpark Play Area scheme are just two examples of the match funding usage.
50. Most AAPs continue to support initiatives that deliver outcomes for children and young people across the County. An example of this in the **East Durham AAP** area is the Multi Agency Youth Project which provides access for Children and Young People to Youth and Sport Provision in communities where little or no provision is available. Whilst this has been identified as the prime objective of the project, reduction in ASB and increased participation in sport were also evidenced from the six week pilot.
51. The project will work with young people aged 13-19 in four localities across East Durham that have been identified as 'areas of need': Thornley, Haswell, Wheatley Hill and Shotton Colliery. The project will respond to the needs and choices of the young people who engage with it and develop the delivery with the involvement of young people. The project has been designed to give young people the opportunity to continue with physical activity at the end of the project through the County Durham Sport Development Strategy.
52. Youth Workers participating in the pilot were given the skills and resources to enable them to continue to provide sports activities once the programme had been completed and link young people into existing provision through Sport Clubs. This was further supported through the provision of bags of sports equipment to be purchased for each of the identified areas including things such as kwik cricket, rounders, basketball football, athletics, rugby and tennis. On completion of the pilot this equipment remained with the youth worker to be used at youth club sessions as well as during outreach work and will be used within the project this year.
53. Teesdale YMCA and other partners have delivered a very successful project in Cockfield that delivers against a number of objectives of the CYPFP. This **TAP** funded work has led to two nights of youth work being established and involved over 40 young people every week. TAP and the YMCA are now looking at how this can be sustained in the future with the aims of young people being less likely to engage in risk taking behaviour as well as living healthier lifestyles. Also, it is hoped that young people will feel happier, more confident and less isolated. The project will also give them improved prospects for employment and new skills as well as enabling them to access volunteering opportunities.
54. For more information please contact Claire McLaren, Planning, Quality and Research Manager on 0191 383 3604 or email claire.mclaren@durham.gov.uk

Altogether healthier

55. Following a robust consultation process, the **Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board** agreed the final County Durham Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) on the 8 November 2012 with feedback on the whole being very positive. The JHWS will influence

a number of plans including the Council Plan and inform the development of commissioning priorities/plans for health and social care.

56. The six strategic objectives were agreed as follows:
- Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life.
 - Reduce health inequalities and early deaths.
 - Improve the quality of life, independence and care and support for people with long term conditions.
 - Improve mental health and wellbeing of the population.
 - Protect vulnerable people from harm.
 - Support people to die in the place of their choice with the care and support that they need.
57. The Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board will, over the coming months, review commissioning intentions for Durham Dales Easington and Sedgefield CCG as well as agree the final commissioning intentions for North Durham CCG. The Board will receive a first draft of an action plan for implementing the JHWS as well as an update regarding the establishment of Local Healthwatch.
58. Whilst AAP activity to support the altogether healthier theme has been lower than other thematic priorities there has been a significant resource allocated to support a range of activities. In total more than £600K of the AAPs' budgets have supported this theme, in addition, in excess of £1.4M has been brought in from other external sources. The SLAM Community Development Trust project brought in £57k for some improvements to a sport and leisure facility and £30k has been used to improve footpaths and cycleways in the Mid Durham AAP area.
59. **Three Towns AAP** is supporting a project that has health outcomes and also supports children and their families. The 'Talk Talk Talk' project aims to provide 28 focused support sessions in toddler group settings across the area; raising awareness of the need for communication between adults and children to stimulate speech and language development. The project will enhance the understanding of Group Leaders and parents of the need for supporting children with their communication skills and increase the opportunities provided for the children in the home too. The type of activities provided will also support parent and child togetherness and may have a long term effect on the development of their social behaviour as it is early intervention with the whole family.
60. The AAP has allocated funding to continue with a young person's counselling support service at Parkside Sports College to improve the emotional wellbeing of those students with specific needs. The service operates one day per week during term time and the counsellor sees on average eight students per day and, due to the limited time available, has operated a heavy waiting list since taking up post. As a result of this, the school has started using volunteer counsellors to see some of the low level cases in order to reduce waiting times. The service provides a professional listening ear to students and offers them strategies to cope in everyday life.
61. The service is well established and parents, students, staff and agencies are all aware of what's available and are able to make referrals. The project is having a positive effect on the long term mental health of the young person as it is a preventative strategy that endeavours to reduce problems in adult life.
62. For more information please contact Andrea Petty, Policy & Planning Manager Children & Adults Services on 0191 370 8749 or email andrea.petty@durham.gov.uk

Altogether safer

63. The **Safe Durham Partnership** completed the 2012 Strategic Assessment in November last year and, whilst County Durham continues to see significant falls in crime and anti-

social behaviour, there were issues identified where a focus is needed in order to maintain strong performance. The first two quarters of 2012/13 saw a 31% reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour compared to the same period the previous year which equates to 5,981 fewer incidents, from 19,285 to 13,304. However public perception has fallen at a much slower rate and a time limited task and finish group has been set up to address the recommendations outlined within the Strategic Assessment.

64. The Road Casualty Reduction Forum has developed an action plan to tackle risk areas outlined in the Strategic Assessment and contribute to the public reassurance agenda. These include child casualties, young driver's collisions, motorcycle casualties and casualties on public transport. This will build on existing achievements such as 1,300 young people undertaking Young Driver Training, 400 children and young people attending education programmes in schools, colleges, children's centres and nurseries and the delivery on initiatives such as the Safety Carousel.
65. The Domestic Abuse Strategy 2012-2015 outlines how member organisations will work together to reduce domestic abuse and support those affected by it. Based around three objectives – prevention, protection and provision – the strategy will guide the work of Durham County Council, Durham Constabulary, NHS County Durham and other partners over the next three years. The strategy, which was launched to coincide with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, outlines the partnership's previous achievements. These include a 20% increase in referrals to domestic abuse services since 2009/10 and 80% of defendants arrested and charged with a domestic abuse-related charge in 2011/12 being successfully prosecuted. The Domestic Abuse Strategy is available on the council's website at www.durham.gov.uk/domesticabuse. An action plan to support implementation of the strategy is currently in development.
66. The Partnership's Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2012-2015 has also been published and outlines how the partnership aims to reduce the harm caused by alcohol to individuals, families and communities in County Durham while ensuring that people are able to enjoy alcohol responsibly. The strategy was launched during Alcohol Awareness Week and its Action Plan will deliver against the three themes:
 - a. Prevention: targeted approaches to raise public awareness of the harm caused by alcohol by promoting consistent messages about drinking; targeted training and education to support individuals, professionals, communities and local businesses to address the harm caused by alcohol; engagement with children and young people to develop age and gender specific information, activities, services and education to prevent alcohol related harm.
 - b. Control: increased intelligence sharing to reduce alcohol related incidents and alcohol related offending impacting upon communities; engagement with licensees and target licensed premises to ensure they are managed responsibly and ensure a coordinated approach to policy development, planning and adoption of legislation.
 - c. Recovery Treatment: commission and deliver effective treatment and recovery services in line with national guidance and undertake work to identify the needs of particular groups where the data is limited e.g. pregnant women. Involve and support young people, families and carers (including young carers) living with alcohol related issues in order to break the cycle of alcohol misuse.
67. The Counter Terrorism group has delivered Home Office training for staff from partner agencies to deliver workshops to raise awareness of 'Prevent'; the Government's strategy for preventing people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Workshops will be delivered to those key organisations which are most vulnerable such as; Schools, Further and Higher Education establishments and those involved in Youth Justice, Prisons, Probation and Health.

68. A Task and Finish group has completed a mapping exercise in relation to Restorative Approaches ahead of the development of a Restorative Approach Strategy. Work is underway to pilot 'Integrated Restorative Practice', building on existing practices in Durham City. The approach aims to improve victim confidence and satisfaction in the criminal justice system. Two neighbourhood restorative projects are currently being piloted in Bishop Auckland and Horden. **Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP** has helped to fund the recruitment and management of volunteers for the project as well as promoting the pilot through their communication channels and pathways.
69. Many AAPs have identified projects that aim to support the altogether safer agenda. To date the AAPs have utilised £400K to support priorities set out in the Safe Durham Plan, matched by a further £160K, £24k of this against a project in Woodhouse Close Bishop Auckland for Church Community Group Crisis Intervention and £18k for the restorative project.
70. For more information please contact Caroline Duckworth, Strategic Manager for Safer Communities, on 0191 3708734 or email caroline.duckworth@durham.gov.uk

Altogether greener

71. The **Environment Partnership** is supporting the two new Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) who have been progressing the development of their governance arrangements and action plans. The first Board meetings have taken place and identified their initial priorities. The Land of the Three Rivers Board is looking to employ a staff member to bring together a 'prospectus' for the partnership to promote their work and involve other partners such as the LEP. The Northern Upland Chain Partnership identified a series of priority actions and has generated new money for two of the priority themes (Woodland Creation and High Nature Value Farming) and development work is underway on these. This partnership also provides representation on the steering group of a Defra LNP evaluation project.
72. A ministerial event for all LNPs is to be held in February; the County's LNPs have influenced the content of this and may be used as a case study at the event.
73. The Climate Change Group has been focussing on delivering the European supported 'Renergy' project which is progressing well with three case studies being set up across the county to implement energy efficiency initiatives:
 - a. Bio Mass plant at Chiltern, with community involvement to agree the most effective way of getting the most out of the energy produced
 - b. Instalment of a Community owned small wind turbine at Oakenshaw
 - c. Work with small businesses in the Seaham area to enable them to move towards being low carbon businesses through the identification of energy efficiency measures.
74. The Pride Group has organised a number of activities with schools and communities across the county, including Environmental Crime sessions and an introduction to Civic Pride with the Sunderland AFC foundation. Various litter picks and Tidy Ted litter assemblies have also occurred; in particular through partnership working with Local Councils. The Elwick View hedge adoption project has seen the local Housing provider, local schools, Parish Council and community volunteers working together to improve the local area.
75. The Waste Group is progressing two key projects involving the provision of waste advice to catering businesses in County Durham and exploring barriers to recycling in SME's, which is being supported by the national Waste and Resources Action Programme.
76. To date, due to AAPs, £1.2M has been utilised to support activities under the altogether greener theme, £515K from AAPs themselves and the remaining £700K from external

sources for projects such as the community archaeology and village atlas project which attracted £58k and £120k from Tow Law Town Council to improvements in Tow Law including developing a village plan. This is additional funding that has supported local communities to have pride in their areas and for the people of County Durham to live in cleaner and greener towns and villages.

77. **East Durham AAP** is supporting the work of the Pride sub group of the Environment Partnership with its 'Litter Free Coast and Sea' project. This will be a focus for volunteers involved in beach and coastal area clean ups, linking and adding to local and national campaigns like Beachwatch and Adoptabeach. Links are also evident with educational activity on local beaches and coasts. Some aims of the project are that schools will be challenged to adopt their local coast and supported with training for key staff members. Also, community and interest groups will be encouraged to carry out branded clean ups as part of their activities and two community events per month will be organised.
78. 25% of clean ups will record the type and quantity of litter found with this data fed into the Marine Conservation Society's national database. There will be a school challenge to interpret data and provide a local solution. The project will involve landowners and managers on the coast as well as linking with local business' Corporate Social Responsibility agenda and gaining their participation.
79. For more information please contact Mary Readman, Customer Relations, Policy and Performance Manager, on 0191 383 4692 or email mary.readman@durham.gov.uk

AAP Forums

80. The autumn/winter round of AAP Forums took place across the County in November and December with the Council's Corporate Management Team presenting an update all AAPs on the financial planning and progress against the MTFP. AAPs also engaged in various methods of information and vote gathering to determine their priorities for 2013-14. These will now be developed before work commences on them in April.

Area Action Partnerships Update

81. **TAP** is focussing on promoting 'Tourism in Teesdale'. An advert, developed jointly with **Weardale AAP**, will appear in the 2013 Visit County Durham Pocket Guide and local stakeholders will be brought together in the early spring to look at how Teesdale as a destination can be better managed. This will build on work done by TAP and the Council's Regeneration and Economic Development Service Grouping during 2012.
82. The Partnership has recently carried out a survey of businesses in the Teesdale area. Working with South Durham Enterprise Agency local businesses were able to give their views on a range of questions. Many businesses were interested in taking on apprentices and expanding in the future and wanted more information on public procurement. Many did however feel it was a big step to go from a one person business to a business that employs people. TAP will be looking at ways in which the findings of the survey can be addressed.
83. **Chester le Street AAP** is supporting Chester-le-Street Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) to recruit 15 new volunteers into a variety of roles ranging from administrators and receptionists through to generalist debt advisors. The positions will be aimed at young people who have left education but are not yet in employment and will allow them the opportunity to gain valuable skills which it is known from experience will help them to gain employment in the longer term. In the shorter term, this will help the CAB to increase their capacity allowing them to handle more enquiries about debt problems which are increasing.
84. Volunteers who take on administration and reception roles will gain experience in computer skills/data entry, making appointments, dealing with people/ meeting the public/inter-personal skills, filing, photocopying, answering the telephone, and dealing with

correspondence. Volunteers who wish to train as an adviser will gain skills in listening and questioning to help clients to explain their problems; collecting key facts which will affect the next steps; giving out information and giving advice and practical help; carrying out risk assessment based on advice needs, urgency, capacity, capability, consequences; case recording using the Citizens Advice CASE recording system and arranging/managing follow up work.

85. This project will benefit the wider community by increasing the CAB's capacity to allow them to offer debt advice to more individuals and families from the local area, something which is particularly pertinent given the changes which will be brought about as the Welfare Reform Act is implemented. At least 15 young people from the AAP area will receive training which will help them to obtain the skills (and references) necessary to secure employment in today's challenging market. Chester-le-Street CAB will be able to handle an estimated 400 additional enquiries and reduce waiting times to within a week.
86. **Spennymoor AAP's Shop Local** has now got over 60 businesses signed up to the scheme, with 9,700 cards being distributed within the town. This project encourages local people to utilise their local shops and to appreciate what the town centre has to offer as well as improving the economic vitality of the area. Some of the new businesses signed up include the Fox Cub, Spennymoor Leisure Centre and The Original Factory Shop as well as Thomas Cook. Some of the registered partners who have also signed up to Shop Local include Durham Gate, Spennymoor Town Council and Asda. The project has encouraged smaller independent businesses to be able to work with the larger businesses based in the town.
87. The second phase of this project included the installation of a footfall camera. This unique piece of technology has begun to provide the project with sophisticated data that includes information on peaks and downtimes in terms of footfall in the town. This data can be shared with all partners and businesses and it will hopefully become a real asset for the town. The footfall camera data is now being requested by local businesses that are considering opening times and staffing levels based on this data and one business, after receiving this data, has actually changed its opening times as increased footfall which could lead to additional revenue, was being lost.
88. Over the coming months the project will be evaluated through a survey of businesses and members of the public. A group of Durham County Council Officers from the Spennymoor AAP and Regeneration/Economic Development will meet with the Shop Local project lead on a monthly basis to ensure that the collaborative approach to the work within the town continues. Visits to shops and businesses will continue in order to recruit to the scheme and visits to potential partner organisations which have either a presence within the town or an interest in its long term future, and try to get them to join the scheme will also carry on.
89. **4Together AAP** is supporting the Capture Films 'Keep Safe' Project which will culminate in the production of four films and a website, working with young people from across the AAP area. The films will tackle all criminal and wellbeing issues, including drink, drugs, sexual health and bullying, and engage with over 2,000 children and young people to identify their specific needs, concerns and worries in relation to crime and their own wellbeing. The project will be delivered by joint partnership working with the Ladder Centre, DCC One Point and Capture Films over five centres in the 4Together AAP area. It was devised in partnership with local PCSOs, Safer Neighbourhoods and local Neighbourhood Watch. More than 60 children and young people will take part in the direct making of the DVD. There are opportunities for both Arts and Asdan Awards which are GCSE equivalents. Children and young people will be supported to achieve and attain to prepare them for adulthood as well as taking part in positive activities.
90. The AAP has received special thanks from Cleaves Cross Primary School for all the help and support in relation to the 'Time Line Project' due to start soon. The project includes a pathway around the school/community venue that will include imprinted features such as

prehistoric fossils, roman artefacts, memories of the wars and “Dig for Victory”. Other features include a maze, archways and sculptures. The project includes the involvement of local community members from allotment groups, residents groups, Rainbow Brownies and the local History Society, and will not only be an asset as an addition to the school’s curriculum, but also to the community as a whole. The Time Line Project links with the work currently being undertaken via Area Budget funding in partnership with Limestone Landscapes and the Village Atlas project. Cleaves Cross School and the community users will have the opportunity to work together to provide stimulating outside environmental areas, including the planning and measuring of the time periods of the path as well as taking part in health activities whilst learning about their past history. The project will involve working with six community groups with over 350 people having access to new cultural opportunities, and 205 pupils engaged in educational projects designed to improve attainment.

91. **Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP** supported the launch of the Shildon Health Express which is a unique project that will work to encourage healthier lifestyle choices by giving better access to advice and services in the area. The Health Express is available to everyone of any age living or working in Shildon and it is the intention that the initiative will be rolled out to all 14 AAPs across the County. The project helps people find out more about having a healthy lifestyle, as well as all aspects of health including physical, mental and social health.
92. Working with community members as well as other groups and organisations, its aims to increase awareness of the health issues faced in Shildon, as well as utilise and improve upon the local services and initiatives that are available. The project is being led by a partnership made up of County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, Durham County Council and Livin.
93. The **Derwent Valley AAP** is working in partnership with Leisureworks and the Derwentside Health Network to develop and deliver a programme of alcohol free youth events across the area. This programme offers the potential to stage local games nights, film showings and band nights aimed at encouraging young people to participate in fun, non-alcohol related activities. These events will provide an opportunity for the AAP and its partners to engage and consult with young people in an informal environment and the programme is currently being developed jointly by the AAP Activities for Children and Young People and Health and Wellbeing Task Groups.
94. The AAP is currently exploring the development of a local Traders Association with colleagues in Economic Regeneration. Further to the development of the AAP Consett Town Centre Events Programme and the successful Christmas in Consett event, a number of market traders and businesses have expressed a keen interest in helping the AAP to attract other businesses and visitors to the Town. The AAP Employment and Regeneration Task Group are leading on the development of an Association in response to this feedback and it is envisaged that this Association will be operational by March 2013.
95. The Partnership recently supported the North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust in their recruitment of local Community First Responders who are trained to deliver basic life support until the arrival of an ambulance. A need for more First Responders in Derwent Valley was identified by the AAP Health and Wellbeing Task Group and so funding and publicity support was made available for recruitment, equipment and training purposes. To date, six new First Responders have been recruited and their training has already commenced.
96. The **Durham AAP City Centre Group** has been successful in becoming a Town Team Partner following its application to become a Portas Pilot. This allowed them to support the City’s Christmas Festival. Last year saw an increase in attendance figures of 10% on the previous year to the Indoor Market during the weekend with some 26,000 people entering

the Indoor Market over the three days of the Festival. Coach parties for the weekend increased on last year from 85 to 111.

97. The former Durham AAP Housing Group has finalised its report which is to be shared with the stakeholders in the city and the AAP now has the beginnings of a working relationship with private landlords and estate agents in discussing some of the problems that have blighted city centre life for some years. The Housing Report has flagged up the need for stakeholders in the Housing market within the AAP to take note of issues such as the needs of the current student population and anticipated future student numbers; Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and licensing especially those in the non-mandatory category (these are the smaller private dwellings let mainly to students in the city); impact of changing nature of tenure on certain local areas – owner occupier to private rental. Also, low supply of affordable housing, lack of knowledge about the condition of the private stock and the need to improve relations and cooperation between estate agents, landlords, the University and students.
98. Recently, the AAP supported the 'Kids for Kids' International Film Festival at the Gala Theatre. The support included International film screenings at five secondary schools in the Durham AAP area of short films and animations from Asia specifically targeted at ages 13-19 years. It also included associated master classes in Asian Cinema including Korean film and Japanese Manga Animation. 120 young people from the AAP area took part in workshops to learn more about digital media and movie making.
99. The **Stanley AAP** funded the 'Stanley in Bloom' project that was set up to help various groups enter the various categories of Northumbria in Bloom has seen some very good work being carried out in a number of villages over the summer months. The project that is delivered by Civic Pride, Durham County Council has seen residents groups and community partnerships make environmental improvements to their local area.
100. Four local groups were recognised at the recent North East Awards Ceremony of the Royal Horticultural Society and Northumbria in Bloom's 'It's Your Neighbourhood' Awards for 2012. There are five levels of achievement within the Award; from Level 1 Establishing to Level 5 Outstanding.
101. The four successful groups at the Awards Ceremony were:
 - a. Catchgate Primary School and Catchgate Police Station - who received a Developing Award
 - b. New Kyo and Oxhill Partnership - who received an Improving Award
 - c. South Stanley Partnership - who also received an Improving Award
 - d. Tanfield Village - who received a Thriving Award
102. Stanley AAP has allocated Area Budget funding to the Walking in Stanley project that is being managed and delivered by Groundwork North East. The project will have two main aims; to engage local residents in walking activities which will improve the health of the individuals involved and to establish a group of volunteers who will monitor Public Rights of Way (PRoW) within the area.
103. Groundwork Project Officers will work with community groups in the Stanley AAP area to identify short, 2-3 mile walk routes from central locations within villages and deliver a programme of led walks around these routes. Each walk will last about an hour, be fairly easy going and aimed at introducing people to walking as a form of exercise which is available to everyone for free. Those who take part will be encouraged to then progress onto other walking programmes such as the County Council's countywide walks programme and Leisureworks weekly health walks across the former Derwentside area.
104. The concept of the **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP's** Great North Resource Community Hub Project was to create an environment that would address community spirit,

employment, young people's activities and engage the voluntary sector through an approach that combines health provision, education and animal welfare, whilst preserving the natural environment. To date five volunteers have been brought into the project.

105. Achievements include:

- a. conducting walks in Hardwick Park with young people affected by a range of conditions affecting their physical and mental health, with dedicated support workers
- b. progressing to phase two of the Sedgefield GP Consortium Social Prescribing initiative, with the project being assessed as having countywide potential
- c. contact made with all primary schools in the AAP area, and a first presentation on "Responsible Ownership" delivered to Sedgefield Brownies
- d. volunteer in place to engage with local youth groups
- e. agreement with Personalised Alternative Curriculum Centre (PACC) to expand Education facility to include more students in need of alternative curriculum provision for new school year
- f. meeting held with Mental Health North East (MHNE) to progress the pilot, engaging with groups across the Mental Health spectrum
- g. the first volunteer has secured full time employment after engaging with the project
- h. three apprentices have joined the project (two from Kelloe), studying to achieve NVQ3 in Health and Social Care
- i. a young person on the PACC pilot being awarded "Student of the Year", after showing significant attendance improvement whilst engaging with the project.

106. Feedback from user groups taking part in the Hardwick Park pilot has been very good. Various young people have been able to enjoy the experience of walking and petting dogs, and this has acted as an incentive to get them to exercise, which in some cases was not something they would willingly do.

107. **Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP)** is working with Durham County Council's Adult Learning and Skills Service, Bishop Auckland College, CAVOS and other partners in supporting Woodham Community Centre to develop many initiatives under the umbrella of adult learning. These include a Local Learning Partnership, Community Learning Champions, Championing Community Learning, Drop in time, Outreach work, South Durham Halls web site, and the GAMP Media project. This project will further develop the existing ongoing projects and initiatives and will draw upon the existing 'Community Champions Team' to develop adult and community learning. It will also encourage engagement with other community venues who don't offer adult learning opportunities at present. This approach will also facilitate joint funding bids and help promote and encourage others.

108. The **East Durham AAP** Priority Group looking at 'Maintaining the Social Fabric of Our Communities' developed a project to celebrate the work of volunteers in East Durham which has two elements:

- a. A newsletter delivered to every household encouraging those who would like to volunteer and giving examples of individual volunteers and their experiences.
- b. A Volunteers Awards, an awards ceremony was held on in November and attended by over 250 people. The event celebrated those that give their time freely and awards were presented by Grahame Morris MP to 36 individuals and groups.

109. **Weardale AAP** has set up a Community Building Improvement Fund to support the area's 20 community buildings. The fund is underpinned with a partnership team of experts that can support the groups with all aspects of building sustainability. It is dedicated to any type of community building that by investing in either its infrastructure or management team can support its longer term sustainability. The uniqueness of this project is the scope of the

funding from capital improvements and energy efficiency measures, to training for volunteers, and the support offered from initial application to project completion.

110. Weardale's rural employability officer works with people who are seeking employment and may need some support, for example, preparing a CV, interview technique skills and looking at vacancies. By addressing a specific training need or exploring volunteering opportunities to gain confidence and develop skillsets individuals are more likely to gain employment. To date the project has supported 54 residents with the following outcomes: 20 into confirmed employment; four into self-employment; one placement into work experience; six progressing self-employment opportunities; six apprenticeships and an additional 13 have been support into training and finally four into volunteering.
111. The **Three Towns AAP** staff team alongside the Three Towns Youth Forum attended a range of events and spoke to nearly 500 children and young people across the area to about collect their views on 'what's tops?', 'what's pants?' and 'what they would like to see change where they live?', along with asking them what their priorities for the area are. The Youth Forum presented the results of this consultation to the Three Towns Public Forum in November 2012 before they voted on the priorities for the forthcoming year. As a result of this work and other activities to ensure that children and young people have a voice and can influence the services they use the Three Towns Partnership have had their 'Investing in Children' membership renewed.
112. The Engineering Challenge project in the Three Towns area involved working with Year nine pupils from four schools over 16 weeks and had five key areas of activity relating to the following aims;
 - a. Provide an introduction to the workplace.
 - b. To develop enterprise skills, knowledge and experience.
 - c. To promote the Engineering and Manufacturing Sector as a career choice.
 - d. To give an insight into key business functions Marketing, Finance, Planning and Admin
 - e. To develop personal communication skills.
 - f. Confidence Building.
113. The Young People worked in teams to design and build a remote controlled car, design and build a website, develop a business and marketing plan and compete at a final event.

Recommendations and reasons

114. Cabinet is asked to note the content of the report.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - Area and Neighbourhood budgets are utilised and delivered through the 14 AAPs and ensure the Council (and AAPs) receive improved information on the outputs achieved through use of locality budgets.

Staffing - None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - The actions set out in this report aim to ensure equality and diversity issues are embedded within the working practice of AAPs.

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder - Altogether safer is the responsibility of the Safe Durham Partnership.

Human Rights - None

Consultation - The County Durham Partnership framework is a key community engagement and consultation function of the Council and its partners. The recommendations in the report are based on extensive consultation with AAP partners and the establishment of a Sound Board to progress the recommendations and will continue this consultative approach.

Procurement - None

Disability Issues - None

Legal Implications - None