

**Cabinet**

**10 September 2014**

**County Durham Partnership Update**



---

**Report of Corporate Management Team**

**Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive**

**Councillor Simon Henig, Leader of the Council**

**Councillor 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 key issues 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 County Durham Partnership continues to take forward the priorities set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). The renewed SCS will be officially launched at the forthcoming whole partnership event being held in November. The event will be focused on the successes and achievements of the CDP as well as looking at the challenges going forward.
3. As the council and DLI Museum build up to the World War One Centenary Commemoration Weekend events taking place on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 September local communities are marking the War in a number of different ways, with some examples detailed in the report.
4. This report shows the diversity of how AAPs actively support their local communities on a daily basis in addition to funded projects. AAPs respond to many community concerns ranging from traffic calming issues to street lighting and supporting the establishment of new community groups where needed. Although many of these issues can be dealt with quickly and easily they are of concern to the public and communities of County Durham and the support they offer is therefore very important.

### **Partnership Event**

5. There will be a whole partnership event in November that will bring together all parts of the County Durham Partnership. The aims of the event are to help people understand the role they play in the work of the partnership as well as to highlight the CDP's achievements over the last five years. It will also encourage the whole partnership to focus on actions that have a big impact on local people; opportunities for asset transfer and the official launch the SCS as the shared vision for the future.

6. It is hoped that as a result of the event attendees will understand what the CDP can achieve through partnership working as well as feel enthusiastic about County Durham and its future. The event offers an opportunity to share ideas for change through workshop sessions focused on the partnership's six areas of cross thematic focus. Further details can be found in appendix two of the report.

## **Welfare Reform**

7. The **Three Towns Partnership** is leading on work with the Department for Work and Pensions on a new social justice pilot which aims to improve welfare and wellbeing outcomes for customers receiving DWP benefits in Crook, especially those who are vulnerable and have particularly challenging circumstances.
8. The objectives of the pilot are:
  - a. To bring together the managers and practitioners of relevant agencies and support organisations in Crook, to identify where better customer outcomes can be achieved by working more closely together and build upon existing relationships;
  - b. To take a 'customer centric' view of the support people may receive concurrently from different organisations, consider whether effectiveness of support can be improved and whether communications can be formalised and coordinated;
  - c. To identify the causes and contributory factors of problematic outcomes such as benefit sanctions and identify where action can be taken, individually or collectively, to reduce or prevent such occurrences;
  - d. To consider whether practitioners in organisations would benefit from having a greater knowledge of how things work in each of our services.
9. The AAP brought 40 people together for the first meeting from a wide range of organisations to understand the starting point and explore the possibilities for the project. A subsequent meeting took place in July where an action plan was developed and agreed with different partners taking forward actions.

## **World War I Commemorations**

10. There is a significant amount of activity taking place throughout the county to commemorate the centenary of Britain entering World War I. Many of the AAPs are working with local groups and supporting a wide variety of local events and initiatives.
11. The **4 Together Partnership** is working with elected members and community groups to help fund numerous projects across the partnership area to commemorate, educate, and bring people together to remember. One project will involve up to 90 young people participating in workshops over a number of weeks to prepare for the performance "Home Fires", a commemorative piece focusing on World War I which will take place at Auckland Castle. Other community based projects being developed include film clubs, tea dances, memorial plaques, and booklets being produced by children and young people for young people, including interviews with local people with their own war time memories.

12. Over the next four years there will be numerous projects in **Teesdale Action Partnership's (TAP)** area also commemorating the centenary of the Great War. Local councillors have supported a scheme led by Bowes which aims to create a 'roll of honour' listing all the residents of Teesdale who served in World War I. It hopes to involve every community in the Teesdale area and will leave a legacy that started in 1914 and was never completed. This project has also been heavily supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.
13. Residents of Eggleston are working together to commission an artist to create a memorial stone that will be erected in the village as a lasting tribute to all those who gave their lives. TAP has liaised with the local community and local councillors in order to make this happen.
14. **East Durham AAP** has supported the restoration of the original enamelled brass World War I memorial in Easington. It was created in 1920 and was recovered from the original Welfare Hall following a fire in the 1930s. Since then it had been stored in a cupboard for a number of years. The AAP was able to identify a specialist conservator who did the restoration free of charge, ensuring that the restoration was completed before 4 August.

#### **Joint working with the Voluntary Sector and Local Councils**

15. The working groups which enable partners to work strategically with colleagues from the voluntary and community sector and representatives from local councils continue to meet and share information on key issues affecting all parts of the partnership.
16. The VCS Working Group, which drives forward improved working with the VCS and the delivery of the VCS Strategy, has driven work that has seen significant progress made towards developing a clear approach to increase the number, diversity and quality of volunteer opportunities and recognising the impact and value of volunteering in local communities.
17. Key achievements, led by Durham Community Action on behalf of the Working Group, include:
  - a. An updated Do-it website to publicise County Durham volunteer opportunities.
  - b. A Kite Mark for good practice in volunteer recruitment being developed and supported in order to improve the volunteer experience.
  - c. A Volunteer Passport to improve employability through the enhancement of personal skills.
  - d. The launch of Volunteer Awards for County Durham.
18. The Working Group invited Professor Tony Chapman to their July meeting who gave a presentation on 'Continuity and Change in the Third Sector'. He gave an overview of the national and regional picture, the latter being based on his research through the Third Sector Trends Study. This is now in its third phase and responses to the latest survey are being sought from the sector <https://www.survey.bris.ac.uk/durham/tstnortheast2014>. Feedback on the county information from the study will be available once the research is completed and a report published in May 2015.

19. The Working Group has submitted a response to the Office for Civil Society's consultation on a new fund to support the sustainability of VCSE organisations. The outcome of the consultation should be known in the autumn with the new fund due to be launched before the end of the year.
20. A VCS Market Engagement event was organised in July and involved 34 voluntary sector organisations. The purpose of the event was to consider 'Social Isolation' and how a range of providers covering a variety of specialisms e.g. carers, older people, learning disability, autism, mental health, young people services, family services are able to address issues which result in social isolation.
21. Providers identified a number of cross-cutting actions and themes to help address social isolation. These included:
  - a. Encouraging and enabling people to access services with the support of volunteers, buddying, mentoring schemes;
  - b. Communicating in a range of ways – not everyone has access to IT or want to engage in IT;
22. Other funding streams were also highlighted, including EU investment funds, Area Action Partnerships and how VCS organisations can work effectively in a consortia approach to access funding to deliver joined up services.
23. **East Durham AAP** has engaged with a number of Neighbourhood Planning events in partnership with Local Councils in the area. Together with Thornley Regeneration Group and the Parish Council, the AAP organised a community visioning day. The aim of which was to give the residents of Thornley the opportunity to view the plans for a new community centre and recruit a management committee. The event attracted over 200 residents and saw over 30 people recruited. The AAP and Locality has supported the group to develop a robust business plan, a new Charities structure – Charitable Infrastructure Organisation (CIO), develop new policies and appoint trustees for the new community facility.
24. The AAP team supported the delivery of a community conference to highlight services available in Shotton and identify emerging community issues. The event was attended by over 140 people and will contribute to the Shotton Neighbourhood Action Plan. This work has supported a successful Our Place funding application and will assist in addressing the local priorities as identified by the community conference.

### **The community development role of Area Action Partnerships**

25. Whilst the updates given to Cabinet through these reports concentrate on the projects and initiatives supported by the 14 AAPs, it is also important to note that they deal with a wide variety of issues outside of these, ranging from environmental clean ups and litter to traffic calming. They are also widely seen as a source of advice and support within their local communities. The following paragraphs show some examples of the work led by AAPs to support local communities and individuals.
26. A key concern within many of the AAPs at the present time is around welfare reform and questions have been regularly coming to the **4Together AAP** team

about foodbanks. The local foodbank in the area approached officers for assistance and support to advertise the work that they do. This small request has led to the AAP devising a large scale welfare reform project for both Ferryhill and Chilton which is being developed at the current time and will lead to a Neighbourhood Budget project to refurbish the kitchen at St. Aidan's Chilton.

27. Members' enquiries also continue to be on the daily agendas of the AAP. There has been a series of anti-social behaviour linked issues including fly tipping, speeding, housing and licensing which are also raised through ongoing community consultation. Regular contact and support from partners means that the AAP addresses these complaints in a timely manner.
28. An example which has had a direct benefit to the local community is work carried out with Kier Group plc, a leading construction, services and property group specialising in building and civil engineering, support services, residential and commercial property development and infrastructure project investment. Through liaison with the AAP on local community needs, the Group is looking at how they can assist local groups with welfare reform projects. They are also interested in expanding one of the AAP's environmental and construction projects if their bid to Livin' is successful and this would expand a Chilton project to cover the Ferryhill area.
29. **Mid Durham AAP** is noted for its work at a village level, with 16 village action plans which have been developed through conversations with residents and partners over the last two years. Over that period the AAP has delivered 42 drop in surgeries and discussed village issues with over 500 residents, both young and old. Many of the issues that have arisen do not require AAP or County Councillor funding. A lot of the issues are related to either highway repairs, grass cutting or dog fouling, which residents are encouraged to report through the Highways Action Line or local PACT meetings. A number of these issues can also be solved by the residents themselves with officer support from the AAP and other partners, these include environmental improvements, newsletters, litter picks, community events and activities.
30. The Mid Durham AAP staff team attend and support various community partnerships, village halls and community associations and residents groups, offering advice where applicable and linking groups to other like-minded groups, partners, funding streams and countywide initiatives and programmes. The AAP also has good working relationships with its ten Parish Councils, attending regular meetings and a monthly Parish Councils Committee for the Mid Durham area. This relationship has seen the development of joint drop in village surgeries which created the village action plans.
31. The AAP has supported the Police in its work in Burnhope which, due to criminal activity over the past 15 years, had seen a huge reduction in community activity. Since 2010 the AAP has supported the resurrection of the local community partnership which now has over 100 members, its own village newsletter, an annual gala and several environmental projects ongoing.
32. The **Stanley AAP** staff team also deals with a number of neighbourhood issues and resident queries on a daily basis. The officers work with County Council colleagues and key partners to address and take action on the many issues that

come into the office via letter, telephone and email. The issues reported can range from a street lamp not working at a particular street corner to a housing relocation request from a disabled resident.

33. AAP officers act swiftly on local concerns and issues and ensure that the resident or organisation submitting the issue is kept up to date whilst it is being dealt with. In some cases solutions are not always available, however feedback is always passed on to local residents as to the reasons for this.
34. An example of supporting local community groups to access funding from the Stanley AAP area involves the South Moor Garden Association. They have been helped with their application to the County Durham Community Foundation for funding for improvements to the perimeter fence around their allotment site. The AAP co-ordinator assisted in filling in the necessary paperwork and ensured that the association also provided any accompanying paperwork that was required. South Moor Garden Association was successful in gaining the funding they applied for and the improvements were carried out. The Garden Association have now gone on and applied to other funds for further allotment improvements.
35. **Derwent Valley AAP** has also supported local groups in fundraising. As well as encouraging community groups and organisations to be proactive in fundraising, the AAP also plays a part in local fundraising efforts linked to Fairtrade, Willowburn Hospice and Marie Curie Cancer Care. Coffee mornings are hosted by the AAP on an annual basis to help raise funds for charity.
36. The AAP also supports local community organisations on a regular basis, this support ranges from providing advice regarding group governance, support with planned events, project advice and general signposting to other community and voluntary sector organisations and partners. By supporting the local community network through existing groups, the AAP has been able to promote its own work and has increased its forum membership to over 1,300 and the new Facebook page currently has over 300 'followers'.
37. It should be noted that the AAP also encourages and supports the creation of new groups, particular in areas where there is very little, if any, representation or means for the residents to have a collective voice. The AAP also works on a one to one basis with groups who are developing or researching projects specific to their area. This has recently led to the idea of hosting a 'Village Action' project aimed at focusing the efforts of the AAP team on a particular location for a set amount of time to help communities bring their ideas to fruition.
38. In order to develop projects to tackle AAP priorities and to add value to existing projects, the AAP officers frequently access data captured via a number of sources including the CRM system and monthly economic updates – this helps to keep the AAP up to date and further evidences local need.
39. The **Chester le Street and District AAP** is leading a piece of work to establish a new Friends of Chester-le-Street Riverside Park. This new group is designed to increase the amount of community involvement in the park and to work closely with the council's leisure services and the Riverside Management Team. The group will also be used as a vehicle to try to attract external funding into initiatives, improvements and events in the Riverside Park. 25 members of the public attended

the inaugural meeting of the group in June and work is underway to develop a constitution for the group and to establish a management committee. The AAP will play a supportive role to this group with the aim of the group becoming self-sustaining and independent from the AAP moving forward.

40. Working since 2012 with Pelton Fell Community Partnership, the AAP has been engaged in helping to co-ordinate all the service providers to agree a standard of service delivery for that community under themes of clean, green and safe. Having helped design and deliver a survey of residents in the summer of 2013 which identified issues locally which impact on the community this then set the foundations for the development of the Pelton Fell Community Charter which gives some assurances to residents about the input, work and promises by services to deliver a quality service in that area. The AAP's role was to co-ordinate a partnership of eight service providers who have a stake or responsibility under the clean, green and safe agendas. The AAP was central to the whole process through their support to the partnership in ensuring the right links were made, services were committed to the charter, surveys were designed and delivered, the charter was printed and a launch event for the community was undertaken.
41. Allyson Rose (Chester-le-Street & District AAP – Community Development Project Officer) who undertook the key co-ordinating role on behalf of the AAP was nominated by Pelton Fell Community Partnership for a “Locality – Local authority heroes award”, which is a national award celebrating local authority officers who have supported their community organisations. Allyson was one of only 22 winners across the country to receive the award for ‘outstanding partnership in providing support, encouragement advice and genuine guidance to local community organisations’ June 2014.
42. An area of concern for residents within the **Spennymoor AAP** area is the transporting of patients to GP surgeries. This was brought to the AAP's attention by a local resident who was unsure if there was such a scheme available to residents within the area, as it had been raised by a number of elderly residents directly to him. In order to address the query, the AAP co-ordinator arranged a meeting with Public Health colleagues and representatives from the Social Resource Centre based in Ferryhill. As a result of the meeting it was noted that this service was in existence and could be utilised by residents within the area. Also as a consequence of the meeting, the AAP now publicises the work of the Social Resource Centre on a regular basis and will work with the organisation on projects moving forward.
43. A second key issue of concern is about the area of land at the rear of Cheapside in Spennymoor which has been raised as an issue and appears to have been a concern to local people for a number of years. The main issue is due to the fact that this land is a relatively small area which is owned by a number of businesses/organisations that includes Durham County Council. As a result of these problems the Spennymoor AAP is endeavouring to try to find a long-term resolution to the situation. Work has been undertaken in order to gain a full picture of the situation. Alongside this, work is ongoing with the private sector owners in order to obtain their co-operation to any long-term solution that can be found. Finally, local County Councillors are also fully engaged in order for them to be able to fully explain to residents, if approached, about the site and also to potentially look at any future funding which may need to be outlined to develop the area of land.

44. The Spennymoor AAP has been working on a number of key areas recently which have included the following:
- a. Monitoring of the successful Your Money, Your Area, Your Views projects;
  - b. Continuation of the production of AAP countywide Youth & Business Engagement strategies;
  - c. Working towards a localised Carbon Offsetting project with Sustainability Strategy colleagues in Regeneration and Economic Development;
  - d. Development of local projects such as Mobile Cinema, BRASS Event, DurhamGate-Duke of Edinburgh, Skatepark, Young Peoples Publicity Project, Youth Council Project etc;
  - e. Awareness raising of the work of the AAP at key local events such as Spenny Gala, Blooming Great Tea Party etc.
45. Working with the Stanhope Community Centre committee, the **Weardale AAP** has looked at supporting the activities taking place within the centre, but more importantly working with groups to build longer term sustainability. The AAP team have been instrumental in linking together projects to ensure longer term sustainably and to avoid duplication.
46. The AAP board also received numerous concerns from local residents regarding disruption caused by the annual polar express. It therefore encouraged wider public consultation and meetings to find a positive outcome for all parties. The AAP has brokered relationships between the residents and service providers, ensuring that possible solutions are identified and agreed forward actions are accepted by all parties.
47. **Durham AAP**, like many others, deals with a vast range of issues arising from local communities and brought forward by local Elected Members on their behalf. The AAP has supported the creation of a local VCS network to help voluntary and community groups in providing mutual support for each other. To date there are over 120 new members (organisations and individuals) signed up. The AAP hosts events and funding workshops for organisations and individuals with support from partners including Durham Community Action.
48. A new Health Network has also been established within the AAP to support the needs of local VCS groups whose main activities are within the health sphere, supported by the AAP team.

### **Altogether wealthier**

49. The **County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP)** at its Board on 28 July focused on Youth Unemployment. With presentations and discussion on the key issues; the scale of the challenge, perceptions of business and young people, our partner approaches to tackling the problem including learning and progression and more tailored solutions, EU resources, the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) and the proposed activities as a response to the challenge.
50. Presentations were provided by Linda Bailey (Children and Adults Services, Durham County Council), John Cuthbert (Chair of Business Education Board) and Michelle Duggan (North East Local Enterprise Partnership). Some of the key issues, challenges and areas of discussion covered:



- a. High rates of youth unemployment that remain significantly higher than national rates
- b. Skills attainment levels are increasing; however there is a significant gap and need to improve higher level skills
- c. In terms of supporting progression, applications to higher education are increasing, but we have a low base and the joint lowest applications within the UK
- d. Increasingly competitive apprenticeships are being filled by more qualified young people. This exacerbates unemployment for those with least experience and few qualifications.
- e. Widening participation remains an important agenda. Need to continue to improve skills attainment and narrow the gap whilst enabling progression to employment and improving the employability of our young people.
- f. Need to bridge the gap between supply and demand. Through the Business Education Board partners will strengthen the relationships and deliver practical solutions for business and schools.

51. As partners we have various strategies, approaches and services in place to support this agenda. We need to continue to effectively raise aspirations, deliver demand led training, careers guidance and give our young people the right tools to pursue the opportunities and make the use of available resources through the Youth Employment Initiative and European Funding.
52. The Board's discussion also focused on future investments within the County, including those that have received Single Local Growth Fund resources and the opportunities available through the next round of European Funding. The work of the Durham Investment Group was highlighted and it was agreed to continue to strengthen this inclusive partnership approach.
53. The North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) has secured £290m investment, which will help create over 4,000 of new jobs for the North East. The investment is part of the Government's Growth Deal, which was announced on 7 July 2014. This provides the North East and County Durham with funding to take forward its plans and projects to support economic growth as set out within the NELEP Strategic Economic Plan.
54. Resources allocated for Durham will support the delivery of key economic infrastructure, transport, skills and business schemes. Some of the investments include: Horden Rail Station (£3.3m); Newton Park infrastructure development (£10m); NETPark infrastructure (£6.8m); Centre for Processes and Innovation (CPI): Centre for Innovation in Formulation; Rural Skills Development, East Durham College (£10m); and the North East Rural Growth Network (£6m).
55. Work is ongoing to refresh the Housing Strategy to consider key changes and issues that have arisen since the development of the last strategy. The existing Housing Strategy for County Durham 'Building Altogether Better Lives' was developed to cover the period 2010 – 2015. It is planned that the refresh will keep the 'Building Altogether Better Housing Markets', 'Building Altogether Better Housing Standards' and 'Altogether Better at Housing People' themes. A phased approach to the refresh has been undertaken, with key issues being researched and evidenced to inform future partner discussion. A draft refreshed Housing Strategy will be completed by the end of December 2014.

56. The first stage of formal consultation on the Council's proposal to transfer its homes ended in June 2014. Employees hand delivered 21,908 'Offer Document Packs' and 15,500 tenants were spoken to during the consultation period.
57. Follow up visits then took place where 8,116 tenants were spoken to and a further 70 tenants attended drop in sessions on the offer throughout June 2014. Open Communities (Independent Tenant Adviser) received 20 calls from tenants about the transfer proposal. The Stage One representation period ended at midday on the 7 July 2014, with 1374 tenants responding to the consultation, indicating 87% of respondents supportive of the transfer proposal. In addition, seven leaseholders responded to the consultation. None of the responses received indicated that the council should change or amend the offers it has made as part of its Offer Document.
58. On 16 July 2014, Cabinet agreed to proceed to a ballot in August 2014. The result of this is the subject of a separate report on this agenda. The majority of tenants voted in favour of the proposal and further work will now be undertaken to hand ownership of its homes over to a new group of its existing housing services providers (Dale & Valley Homes, Durham City Homes and East Durham Homes).
59. The **Derwent Valley AAP** is currently developing a Mobile Internet Support Project which will help communities living in the more rural parts of the area to access information and internet provision, particularly in those areas which do not have community venues.
60. This project aims to build on the success of the 'Time to get Online' project piloted by partners including Derwentside Homes. It will offer residents the opportunity to learn the benefits of using the internet, staying safe online, setting up e-mails, saving money on services and products, accessing information about health services and activities, researching online job opportunities, completing forms online and keeping in touch with friends and relatives. The 'mobile' nature of this project means that residents will not have to travel to access this support and it will be taken directly to their villages via an information bus style approach which could also present opportunities to deliver free health checks and other available services to more difficult to reach residents.
61. The delivery of **Stanley AAP's** Retail Improvement Project is fully underway with seven shop front improvement grants coming to fruition. The seven shops that make up phase one of the project have undertaken a major facelift and have received: joinery repairs, painting to doors, woodwork and masonry. New signage has been provided to five of the shops.
62. The shops have also received retail advice about their shop and window display layout to help maximise their retail offer and improve their footfall. A full press release is to be issued in the coming weeks once the shop front improvements have had the time to have a marked impact on Stanley Front Street. Shopkeepers and local shoppers will be consulted on the reaction to the shop fronts and any increase in sales or profits as a result.
63. Phase two of the project will be launched alongside the press release with shops on the Front Street being encouraged to apply for a shop front grant by a certain

deadline. A further six applications have already been received and have been put on hold until the deadline of phase two applications passes. The new applications will then be assessed and work identified. Schedule of works and sign designs for phase two will be carried out throughout June/July. Advertisement consent will be submitted in early August and once approval is confirmed, works will commence in late September 2014.

64. Building on the success of last year's apprenticeship initiative, a further 15 apprenticeship opportunities will be provided in the **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP** area. By working in partnership with Job Centre Plus and colleagues in Regeneration and Development within Durham County Council; £15,000 of Area Budget funding along with £22,500 of National Apprenticeship Scheme (NAS)/ Job Centre Plus funding will increase the number of apprenticeships in the area by encouraging private businesses to create additional opportunities.
65. The project will work with private sector Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) who have never recruited an apprentice before, or have not recruited an apprentice in the last year thereby increasing the business base of those companies who recruit apprentices (only 24% in 2011/12) and providing more opportunities for young people. A grant of £1,500 is available to SMEs from the NAS AGE 16-24 initiative and an informal agreement has been reached with NAS in order for the AAP to 'top up' the financial provision to provide a total incentive with a value of £2,500 (i.e. £1,500 from NAS and £1,000 from the AAP). The apprenticeship opportunities created will last a minimum of 12 months with the incentive being paid at the end of the first 13 weeks of employment.
66. In relation to the apprentices funded last year, at the current time monitoring shows that all of the apprentices will gain full time employment. A positive example of one of the employers engaged in this scheme is Altec Engineering in Bowburn. The AAP co-ordinator and Task Group Lead visited them recently and were very impressed by the organisation's forward thinking and felt that the company were contributing more to the apprentice by funding them to pursue higher qualifications.

### **Altogether better for children and young people**

67. Following consultation, the **Children and Families Partnership** endorsed the Early Help Strategy. The strategy provides a refreshed approach to early intervention and prevention in County Durham. As part of the transformation of Children's Services, the aim of this strategy is to support families as early as possible to prevent needs escalating. As part of the Early Help Strategy, the new First Contact Service went live on 7 April 2014. This provides a single point of access for Children's Services to ensure that referrers and families can get early help services quickly.
68. Progress has been made in relation to the new arrangements as outlined in the Special Educational Needs and Disability reforms as part of the Children and Families Act. A 'local offer' of available services to children and young people with special educational needs between 0-25 years has been published on the [Families Information Service](#) .
69. The Children and Families Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board supported the proposal for a six month consultation for a voluntary code,

discouraging people from smoking at outdoor play areas in County Durham. Smoke free play areas are part of the 'Smokefree County Durham Tobacco Control Alliance' plan. It is hoped that by making play areas smoke free, and changing social norms it will prevent young people from taking up smoking, as well as motivating smokers to cut down or quit, reducing exposure to second hand smoke, protecting the environment and reducing tobacco related litter. The consultation process will begin in July 2014 and will involve the public, communities and partners, including AAPs.

70. The **County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP)** is working in collaboration with the North East Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) to tackle youth unemployment in the County. The scheme, which has already launched, aims to crowd source ideas from the whole community utilising the Simpl platform. This is an electronic tool available on the FutureGov website for local councils and organisations to pose a question or challenge for a solution to a problem. Anyone can submit an idea, which will be voted on and those selected are taken forward and considered further at an event. The FSB and the CDEP are hopeful that the ideas will infuse new concepts to reduce the level of youth unemployment and help more young people reach their aspirations.
71. In the **Three Towns AAP** the 'Kids for Kids UK' received funding from the AAP to take a group of young people through an all- encompassing film making experience where they were able to experience first-hand, all aspects of film production from the conception of an idea right through to the marketing and organisation of their own film premiere. Participants were encouraged to take the lead in every role, supported by a team of professionals who were on hand to give advice and guidance throughout the process. The course took place over eight weeks, with participants looking at film theory, scriptwriting, pre-production methods, workshops in camera, lighting and sound operation. They then took part in the film shoot with individuals taking on roles such as director, production assistant, camera operator, lighting assistant, make up and continuity. Participants then worked post-production on editing, music, titles and credits as well as the marketing and organisation of a film premier.
72. The outcomes of the project include:
  - a. 12 young people took part in the project to produce a high quality film and organising a film premier at a local venue, the New Victoria Centre, Howden le Wear.
  - b. Over 100 people attended the film premier showcasing the work of the young people.
  - c. The young people who participated in the programme are inspired by film and media and the project has opened many new doors for individuals including opportunities to engage in BFI residencies in London with one young person being offered one to one mentoring from BAFTA.
73. Working in partnership with the Pre School Learning Alliance, the Healthy Starts project will support local families with information relating to health and wellbeing and support the volunteers who run local toddler groups to continue to support the families in an ongoing capacity. The project will focus on giving families information and advice on various issues around healthy weaning and the importance of exercise for children.

74. The Healthy Starts Project will include four visits to the eight toddler groups running in the **Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership** area: two groups in Neville Parade, Stephenson Way, St. Clare's, St Mary's, Burnhill Way, Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre and the Xcel Centre. The first visit will be to liaise with the leader to discuss the type of support needed and to go through a resource pack with the leader which contains a risk assessment and good practice checklist whilst the second visit will give families information about Welfare Reform changes and how and when they come into effect. Advice will be shared on budgeting and the dangers of payday loans, setting up a credit union or bank account and looking at where they can access the internet. Information will also be shared on different local organisations where families can go for help, for example 'GAMP Welfare Champions'.
75. The third and fourth visits will focus on Healthy Lifestyles in order to develop healthy eating choices and the importance of exercise for young children. Each session will include a messy play activity centred on making healthy choices: families will participate in making healthy snacks and meals looking at portion sizes, cost and healthy options. Sessions will also include music and movement time.
76. The Newton Aycliffe Detached Youth Work project, supported by GAMP Area Budget, will support two additional youth workers to target areas identified by police and young people who are involved in, or at risk of, being involved in risk taking behaviour e.g. alcohol and drugs, sex and antisocial behaviour. They will contact young people, predominantly at weekends, and work with individuals to recognise and manage their behaviour. They will also refer young people onto the project's workshops which will be held during the day with specialist tutors/agencies.
77. As part of this work, a series of workshops will be delivered to young people from local schools, identified by staff. Young people from the pupil referral unit will also be involved. The workshops will include: drugs and alcohol, sexual health, crime and antisocial behaviour, internet safety, bullying, HMP prisoner workshops and visits to local magistrates courts. The young people will have court visits to give an insight into the formal process and the gravity/impact of this process.
78. **Teesdale AAP** (TAP) has been working with local partners to organise and run a youth arts festival. The pilot YOUfest took place in July and involved 200 young people aged 13 to 18, with support from youth workers and volunteers. There was a diverse programme of music, dance, drama and art and young people were able to use the facilities at the TCR Hub, Teesdale Leisure Centre and Teesdale School who jointly hosted this event. To complete the festival atmosphere young people were able to camp out on the Saturday night.
79. Multi-sports for children are being delivered by the Council's leisure services team in villages right across the Teesdale area which is being made possible by funding from TAP and local Councillors. A successful pilot in Eggleston has proven to be very popular and now it is hoped that this can be repeated in communities stretching from Toft Hill to Mickleton.
80. In order to give more opportunities for young people and the wider community a project has recently been launched by Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services (UTASS) that will offer training to minibus drivers. It will allow young

drivers to obtain the correct permissions on their driving licence and will offer refresher courses for older drivers. The project is funded by TAP and was developed through the Voluntary Sector Task Group.

81. For the past three years **Chester-le-Street & District AAP** has been supporting the National Citizens Service (NCS) programme which focuses on school leavers (16/17 year olds) undertaking citizenship programmes. The AAP's role has been to introduce the 300+ annual intake of young people across County Durham to the AAP and what an AAP does, using the Chester-le-Street work as an example.
82. The aim of the whole programme is to enable them to make a contribution to communities through helping achieve something of benefit locally and through doing so give the young people an insight into enterprise and also in aiding them become a better citizen. AAP staff were asked to give out the countywide NCS awards in November 2013 for the recognition of the AAP's role in aiding the programme and the hundreds of young people who had taken part.

### **Altogether healthier**

83. The first **Health and Wellbeing Board** Annual Report was agreed in July 2014. It outlines the key achievements of the Board in its first year of operation since the Board was established as a statutory committee of Durham County Council, which include:
  - a. Agreeing ways of engaging with patients, services users, carers, the voluntary and community sector and other stakeholders in relation to the Health and Wellbeing Board activities
  - b. Developing the first Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-17 and supporting delivery plan for County Durham
  - c. Agreeing the County Durham Better Care Fund plan which will support seven work programmes to integrate health and social care working
84. A Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Delivery Plan for 2014-17 was also agreed by the board in July 2014. The delivery plan will ensure the actions in the strategy are taken forward by partners. Plans and initiatives in the Better Care Fund have been aligned to the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy delivery plan to ensure the work on integration and transformation is fully reflected.
85. End of life care is a key priority of the Health and Wellbeing Board. Following a review of hospice and palliative care services, the Palliative and End of Life Care Plan has been agreed. The plan will identify commissioning and service developments needed to ensure that the people of County Durham who are diagnosed with a life limiting condition, and their families and carers, receive high quality sustainable services which will lead to improvements in their patient and carer experiences when they are progressing towards the end of life.
86. Figures show that the number of people aged 60 and over with dementia is expected to double in County Durham by 2030, so it is essential that the right services are in place to accommodate need. The Dementia Strategy for County Durham has been agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board to address this challenge, by improving early diagnosis and support for patients with dementia and their family and carers. A key area of the strategy is the roll out of 'Dementia

Friendly Communities'; Barnard Castle and Chester le Street have been selected as the first two sites in County Durham to pilot this initiative.

87. Working in partnership with the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP), **Great Aycliffe and Middridge AAP (GAMP)** has recently launched an innovative project to help individuals with a health condition or disability return to the labour market. The Work for Health project aims to provide access to a training programme that will help individuals with a health condition or disability (physical, mental, psychological etc.) within the GAMP area move towards employment by focusing on the development of 'key' employability skills; providing access where appropriate to health interventions and support. The project will support clients to reintegrate with the concepts of employability and provide a combination of group and one to one support. The project will target GAMP area residents aged 19+ with a health condition wishing to improve their confidence and employability skills with a view to finding work in the future.
88. The ten week course will include a Level 1 Employability qualification (accredited by One Awards), interactive workshops to boost confidence, look at stress relief, promote team work, communication and problem solving. It will also cover digital workshops to enable job search, use of Universal Jobmatch and uploading CVs and online applications. This will be provided by the National Careers Service. Employer led seminars will be organised in partnership with local employers. Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and GAMP Welfare Champions will also be invited to provide support to clients affected by the current welfare reforms. Learners will also receive one to one support from staff or volunteers should this be required outside the two hours per week learning time, through informal drop-in sessions and community surgeries.
89. The **Stanley AAP** coordinator has been working with officers from Public Health in the preparation of a Health and Wellbeing commission to help improve the health and wellbeing of residents residing in South Moor and Quaking Houses. The project will incorporate a strong targeted tobacco control approach.
90. The project will aim to tackle health inequalities and improve health and wellbeing in the area. The main objectives of the project are:
  - a. Increasing knowledge and awareness of health issues in the community- specifically tobacco controls, social isolation issues for older people;
  - b. Promoting and facilitating the community to build networks, relationships and friendships that can provide caring, mutual help and empowerment;
  - c. Promoting mental well-being and developing resilience;
  - d. Supporting people back into education, training and employment;
  - e. Helping people access health services including the appropriate uptake of preventive services;
  - f. Empowering people to make positive lifestyle changes to improve their health, particularly when working with disadvantaged, low income or minority ethnic communities;
  - g. Focusing on helping people to manage their long term conditions.
91. The Health Improvement Service (part of the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust) has been appointed as deliverers for the South Moor and Quaking Houses Health and Wellbeing project. Stanley AAP will continue to work

with Public Health officers and the Health Improvement Service to make the project a success.

92. Roddymoor Allotments has received funding from **Three Towns Partnership** over the last two years. Roddymoor had no community building within the village and run-down allotments. The Neighbourhood budget monies, along with some monies from the remaining Its Up 2 U funding, helped to develop a community building along with storage area and a community garden which is available to all of the community as well as local groups and schools.
93. The benefits of the project have been significant and include:
- a. The community has been reenergised and feel more positive about the future of their community;
  - b. The community are now working together with motivation and encouragement;
  - c. Links have been made to local schools that will be using the community garden to teach pupils about growing their own vegetables;
  - d. Links have been made to the Salvation Army 'Victory Programme' which has taken over a plot to teach the 'Dig for Victory' element of the programme;
  - e. Links have been made to the local care home that will be using the community garden facility.

### **Altogether safer**

94. The **Safe Durham Partnership** recently approved the Safe Durham Partnership Plan for 2014/17. The plan demonstrates how the Partnership will deliver on the strategic objectives, which are:
- a. Reduce anti-social behaviour.
  - b. Protect vulnerable people from harm.
  - c. Reduce re-offending.
  - d. Alcohol and substance misuse harm reduction.
  - e. Embedding the Think Family approach.
  - f. Counter terrorism and prevention of violent extremism.
  - g. Road casualty reduction.
95. Each priority is delivered by a sub thematic group, each of which will develop a supporting delivery plan which sets out the actions intended to deliver the objectives and outcomes of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan.
96. The Ministry of Justice 'Transforming Rehabilitation' programme has resulted in the separation of probation services. A new public sector National Probation Service is dealing with all those who pose the highest risk of serious harm to the public. A private sector Community Rehabilitation Company is now managing all other offenders. The National Probation Service and the Community Rehabilitation Company are responsible authorities on the Safe Durham Partnership Board and will support both statutory and non-statutory partnership arrangements in County Durham.
97. The Safe Durham Partnership was awarded 'Runner Up' in the Howard League Community Programmes Award for its approach to Integrated Restorative Practices



at the national conference held on the 15 July, where presentations were awarded by HRH Princess Royal.

98. The Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduces a new range of simplified powers to deal with ASB. The Safe Durham Partnership is preparing for the introduction of those powers which, from October 2014, will include:
- a. Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, injunctions and support orders will be replaced by a single 'Injunction to Prevent Nuisance and Annoyance';
  - b. A whole range of measures from litter clearance, dog fouling, no alcohol zones and premises closure will be replaced by three measures designed to protect the community, protect public spaces and protect neighbourhoods from premises where drug misuse is causing nuisance or disorder; and,
  - c. Complex dispersal orders will be replaced by powers for the police to require individuals to leave an area where they are likely to be, or already have been, involved in anti-social behaviour.
99. Seaham Neighbourhood Policing team have been piloting a community engagement approach in the Deneside Ward, supported by **East Durham AAP**. They have undertaken nine focus groups which have identified the priority issues which the residents would like to be addressed and there are consistent themes that have emerged. On a positive note, the residents 'love where they live' and believe that 'Seaham is a good place to live' but unfortunately some also stated that there is 'no community spirit'. The focus groups have motivated residents to get more involved in their area, an example being that residents organised a litter pick of a communal area with over 30 Adults and Young People helping to fill 50 rubbish bags, remove mattresses, fridges, cookers etc.

### **Altogether greener**

100. The **Environment Partnership** Board has appointed a new member with representation now secured from Durham University which will assist in strengthening the partnership as there are opportunities to engage further with the University in terms of its environmental programme and local activities.
101. The 'Environment in your Communities' group is working on a volunteer project called Nourishing Neighbourhoods where community groups and individuals can access 'grow your own' facility. This project has health and social benefits and will involve a wide range of partners. The group is also co-ordinating partners to deliver a joined up approach to local action. This is based on the Council's Community Action (CAT) Team approach to resolving environmental issues within communities.
102. The launch of the Environment Awards was held on 5 June, 2014 at the Gala Theatre. The event celebrated the launch of the awards 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and it was well received by partners. There are 12 categories for the 2014 awards including a new category named 'places and spaces'. Judging is currently taking place for the awards and a ceremony is to be held in November which is funded via partnership sponsorship.

103. Durham City was chosen by Northumbria in Bloom judges as a national Britain in Bloom finalist in the Large Town category. Sedgefield was also a finalist in the Small Town category. This entry is led by Sedgefield Town Council and Sedgefield in Bloom and supported by the Authority. The judges visited Durham on 7 August and the final results will be announced 16 October 2014.
104. Britain in Bloom looks at the wider picture of residential areas, environmental responsibility and community participation as well as flower displays. It is a partnership initiative and includes voluntary organisations, Durham University, Durham Railway Station and the Police. Funding for the Britain in Bloom Durham entry was secured by various partners including AAPs, parish councils, members and businesses.
105. **Stanley AAP** supported Durham Wildlife Trust, Natural England and County Council Colleagues in their successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding for the Durham Heartland Heaths – Community Heaths Restoration Project. This is one of three complementary projects being taken forward by the Three Rivers Local Nature Partnership, to restore and regenerate Durham's heathland heritage in its heartland communities. Over two years, the project will:
- a. Establish closer links between communities and their local heaths;
  - b. Facilitate the integration of ideas from local groups into how their heathland sites are managed;
  - c. Establish and train volunteer groups to carry out practical countryside management works and wildlife surveys;
  - d. Lead 'green gym' work groups and health walks;
  - e. Build the capacity within the community groups to sustain this activity beyond the lifetime of the project.
106. The project offers the opportunity for local people to be at the heart of this regeneration, helping to determine how sites are managed, and using this as a catalyst for tackling some of the effects of deprivation. Increasing the appreciation of, and access to, the heathland sites could help improve the physical and mental health and well-being of local residents, offer the potential for skills training, and thereby effect regeneration within the communities themselves.

### **Area Action Partnerships Update**

107. In addition to individual projects the AAPs are collectively involved in a number of different pieces of work. This covers a wide variety of project work as well as the broader support highlighted earlier in the report. Some further examples of their work are detailed below.
108. A project which has just launched in the **Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP** area is Park Life. This is a new and exciting programme of activities for children and families exclusively designed to make best use of the outdoor spaces at Hackworth Park in Shildon, Bishop Auckland Town Recreation Ground and Glenholme Park in Crook. Families and children are encouraged to come along and try activities such as outdoor table tennis, cycling, running, archery, tennis, and many more. Both daytime and evening sessions are available, and subject to weather conditions, activities will move into one of the local leisure centres. The project also secured Sport England's Community Sport Activation Fund at a total of £250,000 through support from AAPs (BASH and 3 Towns) and DDES CCG.

109. **Stanley Area Action Partnership** and a number of County Councillors via their Neighbourhood Budgets supported the delivery of the BRASS: Durham International Festival - an annual celebration of internationally acclaimed brass artists. Building on the success of previous years, schools in the Stanley AAP area had the opportunity to benefit from the high quality musicians visiting Durham via their own intimate International Brass Band Performance. The overall aim was to ensure children and young people from the area who would not normally have access, benefit from the high quality, cultural and artistic opportunities which were offered throughout the festival.
110. The funding provided by the AAP and Councillors contributed towards a focused programme of outreach activity as part of the festival, in the form of performances/workshops in 15 schools from our exciting international street bands who were resident for the festival duration. This built on an established expectation from schools in the area that have successfully benefited from education and community activities as part of the festival in previous years.
111. Performances from international street bands are a popular aspect of the festival and provided a whole school experience, having been reported to be a highly effective tool in raising levels of cultural awareness, inspiration to play a musical instrument and generating opportunities for further in-school activity.
112. The AAP funded 15 school performances in 2013, reaching a total of 3893 staff and pupils. As in previous years, The Forge will lead on all co-ordination and booking of the bands into schools. The most popular words the children and staff used to describe their experiences were fun, fantastic, happy, amazing, achieving, enjoyable, excellent and inspiring.
113. Badged 'Are you Prepared' **Chester-le-Street & District AAP**, in partnership with the Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU), local Town Business and Resident Associations undertook a 'drop-in' session for communities and parish councils to learn more about community resilience. The AAP through its Improved Environment Task Group has been championing the cause to help better prepare local communities for potential emergency situations. Chester-le-Street Town has traditionally suffered from severe flooding, and the technical measures required to help stem flooding incidents are being addressed through neighbourhood teams alongside the Environment Agency. Northumbrian Water also has a proposed scheme, which could start this summer, investing circa £3m in improved drainage.
114. The AAP was conscious that the missing link in this work was in ensuring the communities of the town and surrounding villages were more confident, prepared for an emergency situation which could arise in the future. The drop in session was designed to give an introduction to community resilience planning and the benefits of this. Emergency services such as the Fire Service and Police representatives were also there to inform attendees of their responses to emergencies and the importance of communities being more prepared. Following the drop in sessions six communities across the AAP area are looking to take forward their own community resilience plans, relevant to potential issues within their areas. The AAP alongside the CCU and community partners will look to continue this work and have a number of community resilience plans in place by 2015.

115. Tourism brings economic wealth into **Weardale**, and the AAP's Tourism Task Group is working with Farmers, B & Bs, cafes, visitor agencies and networks including attractions to identify how all partners can maximise the tourism experience and bring in additional visitors. The groups have identified that, by utilising social media, effective B & B management, incentivising money off vouchers for visitor attractions and understanding the visitor offer for the entire county, this will offer some sustainability. A number of cycle, walking and visitor itineraries are being developed specifically to celebrate and publicise the Weardale offer.

### **Recommendations and reasons**

116. It is recommended that Cabinet note the report.

---

**Contact: Clare Marshall, Principal Partnerships and Local Councils Officer**  
**Tel: 03000 263591**

---

---

## **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

## Appendix two

### Partnership Events 2014

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event Title</b>	<b>Lead Partner</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
18 September 2014	Prevent Seminar: Perspectives on Terrorism	Durham County Council	<a href="mailto:prevent@durham.pnn.police.uk">prevent@durham.pnn.police.uk</a> or <a href="mailto:graham.mcardle@durham.gov.uk">graham.mcardle@durham.gov.uk</a> 03000 265436
23 September 2014	Domestic Homicide Review Symposium - Embedding the Lessons	Durham County Council	Jeanette Stephenson <a href="mailto:Jeanette.stephenson@durham.gov.uk">Jeanette.stephenson@durham.gov.uk</a> 03000 267390
26 September 2014	Economic Partnership Social Inclusion Conference	Durham County Council	Ruth Robinson <a href="mailto:ruth.robinson@durham.gov.uk">ruth.robinson@durham.gov.uk</a> 03000 264716
October	Mental Health Awareness Month	All	Catherine Richardson <a href="mailto:catherine.richardson@durham.gov.uk">catherine.richardson@durham.gov.uk</a> 03000 267667
2 October 2014	Health and Wellbeing Big Tent Event	Durham County Council	Andrea Petty <a href="mailto:andrea.petty@durham.gov.uk">andrea.petty@durham.gov.uk</a> 03000 267312
10 October 2014	World Mental Health Day Conference	Durham County Council	Catherine Richardson <a href="mailto:catherine.richardson@durham.gov.uk">catherine.richardson@durham.gov.uk</a> 03000 267667
20 November 2014	Whole Partnership Event – County Durham Partnership	Durham County Council	Clare Marshall <a href="mailto:clare.marshall@durham.gov.uk">clare.marshall@durham.gov.uk</a> 03000 263593
20 November 2014	VONNE annual conference	VONNE	Angela Goodfellow 0191 233 2000