

# Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

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Cabinet

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County Durham Partnership Update



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## Report of Corporate Management Team

Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Councillor Simon Henig, Leader of the Council

Councillor Brian Stephens, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Local Partnerships

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### Purpose of the Report

1. To update Members on issues being addressed by the County Durham Partnership (CDP) including 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. Durham's partnership working has demonstrated a life changing response in recent weeks with the arrival of the first Syrian families supported through the Durham Humanitarian Support Partnership. They are being helped to resettle with input and support from services and partners including education, health, police, faith groups and the community and voluntary sector.
3. All partners are also actively engaged in promoting and supporting volunteers and through activities in Volunteers Week, including a Volunteers Fair hosted by the Council at County Hall, which saw over 100 potential new volunteers registered with Durham Community Action for various volunteering opportunities.
4. Monitoring and evaluating partnership activity is done in a range of ways through the different organisations involved and is often through qualitative information and stories from the individuals and groups supported. AAPs have also implemented a series of performance indicators that will go some way to quantify their work and also evidence the impact that partnership working at a local level has on strategic objectives and outcomes. This is shown in the Making a Difference section of the report with further examples throughout the thematic sections.

### Key Partnership Activity and Developments

5. The **CDP Forum** held in June focussed on two main agenda items: AAP Engagement, Action and Delivery and the County Durham Plan Issues and Options consultation. AAP representatives gave presentations showing how they deliver against: Consultation; Neighbourhood Issues; Action and Delivery and

Empowerment and Engagement. These were all well received and led to networking and presenters sharing information and contact details afterwards due to the cross AAP area opportunities that the Forum offers.

6. The second item was part of the County Durham Plan consultation on the Issues and Options, led by Ian Thompson, Corporate Director and Regeneration and Economic Development who set out what the Plan is about before a workshop gave attendees the opportunity to input into what the Plan priorities should be and also how it can improve the local area. Feedback from the workshops will be included in the wider consultation.
7. The positive and innovative collaborative work between different parts of the CDP continues particularly with town and parish councils and also faith networks linked to AAPs. The **3Towns Partnership** is working with Greater Willington Town Council to install a new set of real time monitored CCTV cameras in Willington High Street at existing locations. This has the potential to assist in the prevention of crime and have a positive impact on the whole area leading to a safer public realm for residents and traders which will help promote the town as a secure location for new business.
8. **Great Aycliffe and Middridge AAP** is working in partnership with Great Aycliffe Town Council (GATC), to fund replacement equipment at an existing Durham County Council play facility in the Cobblers Hall area of Newton Aycliffe. The new play facility will be free to use and open for all. GATC are also contributing significant match funding (£75,000) towards the initiative, along with future maintenance and insurance obligations. The overall project budget is circa £157,000 and it is anticipated that the facility will open in summer 2017. This example of joint working represents how the Council continues to proactively work with partners to ensure facilities and services are maintained and improved for local communities.
9. Across County Durham **faith groups** play a key and important role in health and wellbeing and contribute to flourishing and resilient communities. **Mid Durham Area Action Partnership** held a roundtable discussion at Ushaw College in May which provided an opportunity for over thirty participants from eleven different churches and faith groups in the Mid Durham area to share their experiences of the links between faith and wellbeing and reflect on what they are doing locally. A key aim was to facilitate better engagement between faith groups and the AAP. The event was organised jointly by the churches and faith groups in the area supported by the North East Churches Acting Together in partnership with the AAP, the Wellbeing for Life project, the North East Regional Faiths Network and the County Durham Partnership Team. A key outcome already has been improved communication and it is anticipated that further engagement will result in increased partnership working leading to better health and wellbeing in communities and a reduction in social isolation.
10. National Volunteers Week was celebrated in County Durham with a **Volunteers Fair** held in County Hall on 8 June. Over thirty different organisations were on hand to give information and advice on their volunteer opportunities. The event was open to the public and also aimed at giving council employees, who do not currently volunteer, the chance to think about pursuing new interests and using their gifts and skills in the community. Organisations took details from over 100 potential new volunteers and many more took information away to consider their options. The event, organised by Durham Community Action in partnership with the County Durham Partnership Team, proved a very useful networking opportunity and introduced new organisations to the support available from Durham Community

Action in helping to recruit and support volunteers and ensure that volunteers have a safe and enjoyable experience.

### Durham Humanitarian Support Partnership

11. The Durham Humanitarian Support Partnership, chaired by Cllr Eddie Tomlinson and involving partners from the VCS, faith groups and other public sector partners, has continued to progress the County's response to the refugee crisis in Syria. Following the agreement of Cabinet in December to support refugees in line with the Council's share of the national population (circa 200 Syrian refugees over the next four years), work has focused on the support vulnerable refugee families in County Durham will need and the detailed operational aspects to deliver our commitment.
12. The first five refugee families have now safely arrived in County Durham and are being helped to resettle with input and support from services and partners including education, health, police, faith groups and the community and voluntary sector. All partners have positively and enthusiastically contributed in assisting the families to settle as quickly as possible. Whilst it is early days for County Durham's new arrivals, the initial response has been very positive and encouraging.

### Making a Difference

13. The volume and diversity of partnership activity that is carried out across the county increases year on year despite austerity and other external factors impacting on the work of partner organisations. This is evidence of the collaborative and innovative approach to partnership working that Durham. Whilst the majority of AAP activity is qualitative it is becoming more important to measure quantitative information through performance which is an approach that has been developed recently.
14. Financially, AAPs continue to make a significant contribution to local communities as well as the broader economy through bringing in match funding, something they have purposely increased in recent years. The table below shows the financial picture for 2015/16 for area and neighbourhood budget and indicates the number of projects against the priority themes.
15. Whilst projects on safer and greener are fewer against the other three areas they have increased since the AAPs began whilst wealthier and children's remain the highest with regard to the number of projects and also funding.

Area Budget	Received in 15-16			
	No of projects	Committed	Internal match	External Match
Children and Young People	64	665,372.42	98,511.50	542,143
Greener	6	48,660.21	892.82	52,808
Healthier	34	323,875.18	21,860.67	246,037
Safer	6	53,871.00	1,874.38	36,344
Wealthier	50	682,889.21	160,969.85	653,177
	160	1,774,668.02	284,109.22	1,530,509

Neighbourhood Budget	Received in 15-16			
	No of projects	Committed	Internal match	External Match
Children and Young People	90	617,733.27	387,685.55	770,859
Greener	30	165,258.22	92,010.19	117,561
Healthier	51	252,644.27	20,669.15	331,503
Safer	38	428,161.60	47,955.12	30,603
Wealthier	74	446,870.97	314,974.74	838,854
	283	1,910,668.33	863,294.75	2,089,380

16. AAP Boards now receive a quarterly update on the performance of the projects that they are supporting with Area Budget resources to track the achievements of outputs during the delivery phase. This ensures that Board members are aware of the respective current performance of the project against the agreed milestones, outputs and outcomes. However, this approach also gives the Board and the Project lead the opportunity to work together to resolve any local issues or gain additional support to promote the project to ensure performance is as expected or above target. An 'Assurance' Audit has recently been completed on this new approach by the Council's Internal Audit Team and a 'substantive' assurance level was concluded. The performance indicators were introduced fully in 2015/16 (full list attached at appendix two) and include:
- a. Number of voluntary and community groups supported
  - b. Number of people involved in local decision making
  - c. Number of jobs created
  - d. Number of businesses supported/advised
  - e. Number of people benefitting from schemes that reduce the impact of welfare reform
  - f. Number of schemes aimed at improving support and outcomes to families
  - g. Number of road safety initiatives
  - h. Number of schemes aimed at improving mental health and wellbeing
  - i. Number of schemes aimed at delivering a cleaner, more attractive and sustainable environment
17. As part of the annual report process all AAPs produce their own information on projects approved, grants awarded and match funding declared as well as highlighting specific outcomes of a selection of projects, some of which were highlighted at the CDP Forum meeting as highlighted earlier in the report.
18. Examples of projects that can evidence outcomes in this way include:
- a. **East Durham AAP's** Holiday Hunger, recently renamed as the Summer Programme, worked with the VCS and Parish Councils to provide positive activities and access to nutritional meals. 4274 meals were provided to 1800 children.

- b. **4Together AAP** initially forecast that they would give access to new cultural/sporting/recreational opportunities to 173 people whereas they actually provided this to 2429 people, a variance of over 2000.
- c. **Mid Durham AAP's** Annual Report shows that they attracted over £600,000 of Lottery funding and 68 VCS groups were supported in their local area and 150 people were involved in schemes aimed at mental health and wellbeing.
- d. **Teesdale Action Partnership** ran a children and young people's small grants scheme as well as a capital scheme for community organisations which saw 67 grants awarding a total of £51,030.
- e. **Stanley AAP** enabled over 700 local residents to attend Lumiere 2015 thanks to their Family Transport project.
- f. **Great Aycliffe and Middridge AAPs** Step into Business project has supported 42 local business start-ups.
- g. **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP** has involved 1852 young people in schemes that help them make healthy choices and give them the best start in life.

19. These are only a handful of over 400 funded projects that the AAPs have lead in 2015/16 and show the type of diverse activity that takes place across the county to help and support local communities. All of the projects featured in the report have associated outcomes that are making a difference in local communities.

### **Altogether wealthier**

- 20. The **County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP)** held a special meeting in April to examine and understand the ongoing investment at Bishop Auckland. Both the Eleven Arches and the Bishop Auckland Castle project were discussed. The Kynren production will be the biggest live production in the UK and tells the story of the country through the eyes of the North East over 2000 years, bringing history to life. With a cast and crew of over 100 combined with over 600 volunteers and expected visitor numbers in the thousands the board ensured that partners were supporting current and future partnership working opportunities to maximise the economic impact.
- 21. Other significant work linked to the CDEP since the last report is as follows:
  - a. On 11 May 2016, Durham County Council's Cabinet agreed to move to the next stage of the proposed devolution agreement process, subject to several conditions, which would not leave the county in a detrimental position by the government's proposals on highways and transport funding. Other stipulations included mayoral powers and governance. Dialogue is continuing with government to ensure the region receives fair funding.
  - b. A final decision was then made on 17 May 2016 by the North East Combined Authority (NECA) Leadership Board, which consists of the region's council leaders, to approve the proposed devolution agreement, which includes the introduction of an elected mayor. The agreement has the potential to provide benefits to the region including, more control over funding, more control over spending on adult skills and employment support programmes, the opportunity for a fully integrated transport system and an opportunity for further devolution in the future. Decisions made on behalf of NECA would be executed through a Cabinet made up of the region's council leaders and the elected mayor. North East residents will be asked to vote for the mayoral candidates in May 2017.

- c. Significant discussion has taken place on the County Durham Plan with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Planning Inspectorate and advice sought from legal advisers. The outcome of these discussions was that it was advisable that the council undertake a three stage process in the preparation of the new local plan. On 6 April 2016, Durham County Council's Cabinet approved the timetable for progressing the County Durham Plan. The first round of public consultation will be in the form of an Issues and Options document. Cabinet will consider this Issues and Options on the 15 June 2016 prior to a six week public consultation which will be a key agenda item on the CDP Forum agenda on Tuesday 28 June.
  - d. Linked to the strategic plan is the development of Neighbourhood Plans which allow communities to establish general or detailed planning policies for a neighbourhood. The council support preparation but do not lead in the development of the plan and there is no statutory requirement to do so. Once a Neighbourhood Plan is adopted, it becomes a part of the Development Plan (along with the County Durham Plan - when completed) against which planning applications are determined.
  - e. The neighbourhood planning process comprises a number of stages from designating a neighbourhood area and if appropriate neighbourhood forum to preparing a draft neighbourhood plan through to independent examination (organised and paid for by LPA) before formally adopting the neighbourhood plan or order. To date, 22 neighbourhood plans in County Durham have been approved and a further two local councils have made enquiries in relation to local planning.
22. Area Action Partnerships have continually supported the Partnership's top priority of Altogether Wealthier and specifically job creation. This can be through information, advice and guidance or training as well as support to access job sites and also CV writing and interview preparation for the long term unemployed.
23. One example is through the **Bishop Auckland and Shildon (BASH) AAP's** Route 50+ Employability Project which offers tailored one to one employability support and mentoring with a particular focus on the over 50s in order to gain sustainable employment. The project also engages with local employers and is an extension of an existing project and will provide a part time mentoring officer. To date 78 people have been referred to the Employability Project with the majority been made by JCP Bishop Auckland, others from word of mouth and South Durham Enterprise Agency as well as a number from community support organisations. Employment routes have included a wide range of careers including: Delivery Drivers; Warehouse Packer; Pre-Employment Trainer; Factory / Production Operators; Labourer; Fabricator; Financial Adviser; Sports Coach; Operations Manager and Retail Assistant as well as self-employment.
24. A Route 50 Case Study involves a 58 year old man who had spent 35 years at Electrolux until he was made redundant and has not worked for the past 8 years. Although highly experienced in assembly work where he had been a supervisor of a small team, he lacked any belief that he had anything to offer being aged 58 and unemployed for so long. However the mentor produced a new CV, assisted him to upload his CV to the main job sites, identified a number of appropriate jobs and started making applications. By the time they were making the third application the phone rang with interest from a recruiting agency and the change in the client was instantaneous and enthusiastic.

25. **Spennymoor AAP** has led on a targeted employment project called Skills Foundation - Care Project which is a bespoke programme to get people into employment within the care industry. To date, 11 residents have completed the programme which has a target of 24. Four have progressed into employment within the care industry, one is volunteering and five have continued further training. The project has been promoted to Job Centre Plus, however to date no referrals have been made. Livin has also employed a dedicated employability adviser working with residents on a one to one basis and the AAP is working closely to refer into this scheme.
26. AAPs also support a range of regeneration through targeted work in their specific localities, particularly with retailers and traders. This partnership working encourages partnership working with the private sector and can encourage new businesses into an area. **Stanley AAP** has a task group specifically addressing the regeneration of Stanley and its villages. During the early part of 2015/16 they focused on supporting people to move closer to the labour market, training and volunteering, to do this they worked closely with the Learning Hive to support them in applying and securing Area Budget funding for their Community Engagement Tutor to support residents from across Stanley who are unemployed or unwaged, in low paid or part time employment and who wish to progress.
27. The Task Group also wanted to support local traders and businesses in the Stanley area, to promote what Stanley has to offer in terms of retail and visitor attractions. To do this they are working with the Council's ICT and Economic Development colleagues who came up with a Smart Stanley digital programme to set up a website and then explore the use of other digital platforms. The website will be launched during the summer of 2016.

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

28. The **Children Young People and Families Partnership** continues its work on 'ERASE' (Educate and Raise Awareness of Sexual Exploitation) which is well established and offers parents and carers advice on how to communicate with their children about who they speak to on-line and off-line. The ERASE Team and the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) hosted two ERASE Problem Solving and Referral Pathways events in April with sessions including risk indicators and risk matrix guidance, problem solving and interventions to reduce risk of missing from home and child sexual exploitation and how intelligence is used in the fight against child sexual exploitation.
29. The ERASE website was launched in January 2016. The front page has links for younger children, older children, parents, carers and professionals and also links to the LSCB website. An ERASE Young People's Conference took place on 22 June 2016 involving 12 Year 9 pupils from seven schools, in workshop sessions, based on understanding child sexual exploitation, appropriate relationships, grooming and online safety. Following the conference the young people will provide feedback and advice to their individual schools.
30. AAPs continue to find new and innovative ways to work with children and young people by engaging with them to ensure that their views and priorities are fed into the broader work of the AAPs. One such example is 'Diddycon', an active **Chester-le-Street & District AAP** task group and a recognised engagement method used each year to engage with the children and young people, this creates a real opportunity to deliver projects catering for their needs. Diddycon has been developed as a response to the young people's interest in bringing this unique kind of event to the area. With cult figures from Star Wars movies, having the Batmobile

and many other instantly recognisable characters, as well as electronic and board games to play both original and new, helped create this unique experience. It has attracted people from as far away as Leeds and also catered for families and enthusiasts. Over 500 people attended this first event of this kind, with only a £3,000 contribution from the AAP. Due to the relative success of this project and the interest from traders and participants this was instantly supported again for 2016, doubling the numbers attending and catering more towards a 'family' experience.

31. The **Derwent Valley AAP** will be working with a new partner, Durham Cathedral, to offer all local primary schools the opportunity to take part in a Supporting Schools in Partnership. The Cathedral's Education Team will deliver a range of organised sessions designed to further learning in key subject areas. Through the project, schools will be offered a full day at the Cathedral incorporating two half-day sessions, one of which will be a session based in the Cathedral alongside an outdoors session on the Cathedral-owned Woodlands and Riverbanks which will focus on nature, habitats food chains and life cycles. The Cathedral session will draw heavily on the life of St Ebbe, who has strong ties to the Derwent Valley area.
32. The return session will link into the work that was undertaken as part of the outdoor session at the Cathedral. The children will explore their school grounds to see what wildlife they support and what they can do to improve it, looking at similarities and differences to the Cathedral habitats.
33. The health and wellbeing of children and young people is a priority for many AAPs, particularly their mental and emotional wellbeing. **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP** has worked with If U Care Share for a number of years on a variety of projects. One in 2015/16 was the expansion of the Emotional and Mental Health (EAMH) pilot project. If U Care Share aim to provide services, which help prevent suicide and promote positive mental health, particularly in young people, aims to prevent suicide and promote emotional well-being in young people. This built on workshops delivered within Sedgefield Community College with year 10 students with a view to rolling out across the County, potentially in partnership with other AAPs where there's a need. The project was two-fold with those now actively involved in the delivery of the programme have achieved accreditation for their work via the National PHSE CPD programme by participating in the 'Effective Teaching and Learning in PHSE Education' course. Through this work they felt that the success of the EAMH programme could be enhanced by doing more work with schools/ young people both before and more importantly after the sessions.
34. This project worked with Sedgefield Community College, and included:
  - a. Work with a selected 'focus group' of young people from the school prior to sessions to establish 'what emotional/ mental health meant to them'.
  - b. Meeting and consulting in detail with key personnel from the school with regards to how PHSE fits within their curriculum, what work the school has already done around these subject matters, and also the support networks currently in place.
  - c. Looking to form more bespoke partnership agreements with the school to ensure the services could be aligned to their desired achievement, attendance and attainment outcomes.
  - d. Follow up assemblies, as well as development and delivery of more specific bespoke follow up sessions. This however was to smaller groups on a 4-6 week programme with participation on a voluntary rather than compulsory



basis. Young people were then supported to deliver to year 8 pupils with the objective of leaving a legacy within the school through peer mentoring.

e. Creating closer links with other training sessions that they deliver.

35. The second part was the Suicide Training on Prevention (STOP) training course was delivered in the community for relevant teaching/ support/ pastoral staff from Sedgefield Community College as well as community representatives who engage with young people so that they're better equipped to deal with some of the areas covered with the pupils in the workshops mentioned above.
36. These projects led to an increased understanding by young people, staff and community representatives who engage with young people, of what emotional/ mental health means to them, increased awareness of these issues, and also internal/ external resources available. Young people have also created their own model of empowerment to be adopted by their school for the use of all pupils.

### **Altogether healthier**

37. The **Health and Wellbeing Board** recently held discussions on the Sustainability and Transformation Plan which is the 'blueprint' for accelerating the NHS five year forward view, with a view to helping drive genuine and sustainable transformation in health and care outcomes. The Plan's footprint covers the geographical areas of County Durham, Darlington, and Teesside. It is important that the Sustainability and Transformation Plan aligns to key plans in place across County Durham and reflects local priorities from the Joint Health and Wellbeing strategy.
38. Integration has been a key policy driver in legislation relating to health and social care services over recent years, and features most recently in the Care Act 2014. The Government's ambition is that every area must have an Integration Plan by 2017 with health and social care integration in place by 2020. Through the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Better Care Fund, the Health and Wellbeing Board have made substantial progress and will continue to develop more joined up and integrated health and social care services, making the best use of resources and looking at potential areas for future integration in County Durham to meet the national vision.
39. As part of the work linking the strategic to the local that has developed in recent years between thematic partnerships and AAPs, the two CCGs and also Public Health now fund AAPs across the county to deliver a variety of locally determined projects and initiatives based on local need and intelligence. This report includes a selection of the outcomes delivered by some AAPs with a wider range of activity ongoing in all areas.
40. A good example of how AAPs deliver against strategic priorities can be seen in how they are leading on work to increase physical activity, linked to the developing physical activity framework and also the recent Director of Public Health Report on Obesity as well as the previous report on Social Isolation. The **3Towns Partnership** is focusing on physical activity and wellbeing to encourage participation, assist in the prevention of Type II diabetes and focus on reducing the feeling of social isolation with in the area. From regular partnership meetings they have proposed to utilise their CCG funding on three main projects that interlink to deliver this year:
  - a. ParkLife is a Sport and Physical activity project that will provide 12 coaching hours with each area hosting two weekly sessions in approximately six outreach areas with one aimed at young people aged 5-16 years and the

other concentrating specifically on adult provision. Both sessions offer the opportunity to have direct input into the make-up of the sessions which will be coach led with informal game play, for young people and gentle approach to physical activity for adults.

- b. The AAP is also providing an opportunity for older people to be able to participate in physical activity in a safe manner through a dance project, run by Jack Drum Arts. The dance and movement sessions with qualified dance and drama instructors providing a balance between three main areas – dance, drama, and movement work and a public performance/sharing event. The workshops will be designed to not only improve the participant's physical condition but also to improve their psychological wellbeing (self-confidence, self-esteem) via a social and supportive environment.
  - c. The third project is Active Play, delivered through Groundwork North East and Cumbria and will deliver weekly sessions within Glenholme Park in Crook. In addition to this core activity within the town, holiday sessions will take place in an additional two communities within the Three Towns area. Each Active Play session will encourage children and young people between the ages of five and 13 years to participate in activities such as outdoor games, arts and crafts, sports, role play and messy play. The sessions will be open and inclusive for all who wish to participate with children actively involved in planning and evaluating the sessions to ensure all activities are child orientated. Some activities will encourage children to take calculated risks to develop a sense of personal safety, staff will support social and emotional development through activities based around personal space, respect, bullying, internet safety and healthy lifestyles, promoting informal learning through play.
41. The outcomes for all parts of this partnership project will encourage young people and older people in social isolation to access sessions as well as increasing an individual's fitness levels and social activity over the 12 months and beyond and also encourage changes long term to individuals mental wellbeing.
  42. **Stanley AAP** targeted its specific Public Health funding to support for the elderly, carers, and disability groups and supported the development and implementation of an intergenerational programme that would bring young and old people together to discuss common issues between generations and the problems they have encountered in their local community.
  43. Single Homeless Action Initiative in Durham (SHAID) were also funded for a Community/Social Isolation Navigator project to provide one to one support to Stanley residents who have been affected by Social Isolation, Mental Health and Domestic Violence, or who need support to access services to assist with: Debt Management; Confidence Building; Volunteering; Statutory Services; Tenancy Support Training; Employment and more.
  44. **GAMP AAP**, in partnership with Greenfield Arts Centre, has established a Youth Cree in order to engage young people in positive activity to help them feel good, cope better with pressures and help reduce self-harm. To date, 274 young people have engaged with the project across both Greenfield and Woodham schools. The Youth Cree group was also this year's GAMP winner of the prestigious Chairman's Medal Award in the newly introduced children & young people category.
  45. Through DDES CCG funding a 'Buddies Befriending Service' has been established to support older residents, specifically those who are isolated and lonely, to live independently in their own homes and, at the same time, become integrated in the

community. The project is in partnership with the Pioneering Care Partnership and Cornforth Partnership. The project will engage with 150 elderly GAMP residents and recruit 40 volunteers to act as 'Buddies'.

46. Working with colleagues in Health **Weardale Action Partnership** offer a variety of methods to improve Health and Wellbeing, and have supported the installation of outdoor fixed gym equipment in the Wolsingham Recreation Area. They have worked on a phased programme to support inclusive fitness for all members of the community. The Wolsingham Recreation ground is a magnet for parents and children in the summer months, by having the gym equipment within the grounds children can be found in the play area, whilst parents can engage in some gentle exercise.
47. Live Well, Stay Well is a joint venture funded by **Chester le Street and District AAP** and led by Aspire Learning, Support and Wellbeing centre in partnership with Durham Alcohol Support Service. Utilising Public Health monies received by the AAP this project cost just over £6,000 to deliver a service to older women to help reduce isolation and tackle health issues particularly linked to alcohol.
48. A series of live well, stay well' sessions were delivered with the aim of helping older women (65+) live a more active and social life, whilst maintaining an informed approach to personal health and alcohol consumption. Age UK report that a million older people in the UK will not have spoken to anyone in a month. Evidence from Durham Alcohol support service has shown a 38% increase in alcohol consumption in the home from that of 20 years ago. The sessions delivered contributed to an increase in the mental health and wellbeing of those women attending who were previously isolated or in danger of becoming isolated, some of which have since been retained by Aspire and have moved on to make more friendships, leading to improved outcomes for those individuals.

### **Altogether safer**

49. The **Safe Durham Partnership** leads a varied work programme addressing a broad range of objectives and outcomes. It has made significant progress in terms of delivering the statutory 'Prevent duty' placed on partner organisations. In County Durham we have assessed the risk of people being drawn into terrorism through the commissioning of the Counter Terrorism Local Profile.
50. All agencies are engaged in delivering Prevent training and awareness, examples of which include:
  - a. Durham Constabulary provided train-the-trainer WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) training to partner organisations and awareness raising briefings to a range of organisations.
  - b. Over 5,000 front-line staff have received Prevent e-learning and this includes members of the Police and Crime Panel.
  - c. Durham County Council has delivered its e-learning course to over 4,500 of its staff (including schools). WRAP training for schools concluded at the end of April 2016 and WRAP is currently being delivered to relevant supervisors and front line staff.
  - d. All existing and new prison staff are receiving briefings.
  - e. One Higher Education establishment is currently developing online training to complement bespoke workshops that are in the development stage.

- f. Both Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Fire and Rescue Service have trained WRAP facilitators and will be delivering training to their staff.
  - g. 375 professionals across the Safe Durham Partnership and Voluntary and Community Sector attended four Prevent Seminars delivered by Dr Dave Sloggett; a national expert in Counter terrorism.
51. An increasing threat highlighted by Durham Constabulary and the Safe Durham Partnership is cybercrime. A task and finish group has been put in place to provide a co-ordinated and joined up approach which has developed an action plan aimed at raising awareness and building resilience. Safeguarding against cybercrime was part of two seminars delivered to practitioners who work with children in April of this year and on later this month a 'Get Safe Online' event will be delivered at Durham Town Hall which will include information and activity for people of all ages.
52. The Safe Durham Partnership agreed a new outcome for the Safe Durham Partnership Plan in relation to 'Improved Understanding of Open Water Safety' within the refresh of the Safe Durham Partnership 2016/19. Two existing groups; the City Safety Group (CSG) and the countywide Open Water Safety Group (OWSG) will now become sub-groups of the Safe Durham Partnership, reporting in on a six-monthly basis.
53. Both water safety action groups, OWSG and CSG, have made significant progress in relation to improving physical infrastructure and public awareness of hazards associated with open water, from a Durham City and County wide perspective. In doing so, the Council and its partners have become a national example of best practice with regards to water safety management.
54. The Safe Durham Partnership has agreed the new County Durham Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2015/18. The vision for domestic abuse is that all agencies work together to seek to reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse in County Durham and continue to provide and further develop a co-ordinated community response that provides high quality preventative, support and protection services and effectively deals with perpetrators. The vision for sexual violence is that it will not be tolerated and that perpetrators will be brought to account for their actions. Victims of sexual violence will be supported, treated with dignity and respect and made to feel safe within their community whilst seeing their offenders brought to justice.
55. The objectives within the strategy are:
- a. Prevention – To prevent domestic abuse and sexual violence and reduce the associated harm.
  - b. Provision – To ensure that all victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence have the access to the right help and support throughout the criminal justice process and that services are available to address their needs.
  - c. Protection – To improve the criminal justice response to tackling domestic abuse, sexual violence and sexual exploitation.
  - d. Pursue – To pursue perpetrators of domestic abuse through the criminal justice system and ensure that they face up to the implications of their actions.
56. The innovative Checkpoint Project is now its second year and, as of May 2016, out of the 539 cases referred to Checkpoint, 76% are completed, and this figure continues to increase each day. Positive feedback has been received from victims, offenders and their family, and police officers in general. The re-arrest rate for

Checkpoint in Phase 1 was 4% (22 people), considerably lower than the West Midlands Turning Point pilot project according to Peter Neyroud, QPM, ex-Chief Constable and now of Cambridge University, who is doing a peer review of the programme. The re-arrest rate for Turning Point was 29% (61 people) for the treatment group and 31% (64%) for the control group. 65% of total cases were males and 35% were females and this presents a significantly high proportion of female offenders in a trial project.

57. Informing the community of key messages regarding crime and community safety is vital in ensuring they are reassured as crime is an area that can often be a concern in spite of very low numbers in Durham. One way of doing this is through Crime Prevention and Community Safety Roadshows which are held by a number of AAPs and were first developed in the **Chester le Street** area in 2015, as way of both promoting safety messages, but also as a way of engaging people in this issue. Five communities were targeted and the timing of the events were specific to early winter, with darker evenings, bonfire night and general safe messages at times when people may be feeling more fearful of crime.
58. 350 people attended the events where 12 agencies were available to help give advice, information and support on issues relating to many aspects of crime prevention and community safety. 44 dogs were also chipped and 38 bikes security marked. Investment by the AAP was under £1k, which was matched. This project is looking to be re-formatted and potentially supported for the summer of 2016, taking this 'outdoors' potentially to the Riverside park in the summer, with different community safety messages being promoted.
59. **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP** is the most recent partnership to engage in the Mini Police Project which started in Durham AAP area. The project engages young people and two schools have initially been identified which are St. Williams RCVA Primary School in Trimdon Village, and Fishburn Primary School. It is hoped that two or three engagements will be completed by the end of the summer term, in line with the service level agreement. Although this project is in the very early stages, PC Craig Johnson who is leading on the project has promised to bring some Mini Police along to our Participatory Budgeting/ Forum Event on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 to help out.

### **Altogether greener**

60. The Environment Partnership Board meeting took place on Monday 27 June and feedback was presented on:
  - a. Responses following expressions of interest from across both the Environment Partnership and wider County Durham Partnership (including AAPs) for the role of Chair for the Environment In Your Communities Group. (Ian Hault, Durham County Council, is currently acting as Interim Chair of this group).
  - b. An independent review of the Environment Partnership is to take place over the next few months to ensure the Partnership is fit for purpose and provides added value.
61. The various subgroups continue to initiate a range of projects including:
  - a. The first 'Reach for the Beach' outdoor festival took place between Saturday 28 May and Sunday 5 June 2016 and there were events for everyone along the Durham coastline. There were themed guided walks, bike rides, rockpool rambles, a kite making workshop, a superhero beach clean, Pirates of Crimdon Dene, Durham coast half marathon and much more.

- b. The Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership and the Friends of the North Pennines are working together to roll out a 'Donate a Gate' scheme across Teesdale and the wider North Pennines area. Donating a gate will make the area's popular footpaths more accessible. Members of the public are being encouraged to sponsor a gate to replace awkward stiles.
  - c. Once again Litter Free Durham's annual Big Spring Clean campaign has proved to be a huge success. The campaign, now in its seventh year, took place from 29 February to 17 April and saw schools, community groups, parish councils, Greenpeace, Scouts and Guides, youth groups and the Environment Agency all working together in the fight against litter.
  - d. The new national Waste and Resources Action Programme's (WRAP) 'Good to Know' campaign will be targeting 60,000 households across County Durham from March to August this year and will run alongside the Bin it Right campaign. 'Good to Know' aims to raise awareness of which materials can be recycled from different rooms around the home using the blue lidded recycling bin and recycling box and also promotes the benefits of recycling.
62. On 9 June 70 people met in County Hall for a community energy event sponsored by Northern Powergrid, Durham Community Action, Durham University's Energy Institute and Durham County Council. The speakers covered a range of opportunities for community buildings to save money on energy bills and reduce their emissions. Companies and organisations provided lively, interactive exhibitions and several new and exciting community energy projects look likely to develop. These include plans for a community energy network, the idea of exemplar community buildings that could act as community hubs and bids for European funded projects. Those invited came through the Council's post asset transfer support network following the Community Buildings Programme as well as centres that are community owned and managed.
63. Durham County Council is part of the successful North East Combined Authority bid for revenue funding from the Department for Transport's Sustainable Travel Transition Year Fund. 'Go Smarter (across the North East)' has been awarded £2.34 m for 2016/17 to cut carbon emissions by reducing congestion through the promotion of sustainable travel options and create opportunities for residents by making it easier for people to access jobs, training and education.
64. The **Derwent Valley AAP** supported the County Durham Food Partnership and Durham Community Action to develop a Community Growing project in the local area. The project has progressed well, exceeded its anticipated outcomes and has supported a number of clubs and organisations locally to get actively involved in outdoor activities and to access other sources of funding.
65. The element of the project being delivered at Blackhill Comrades Club was recently successful in being awarded a grant of £12,000 from Tesco's Bags of Help (based on the sale of plastic bags) and following a project public vote. The award will go a long way in getting this community garden off the ground. The garden will link in with the community meal offered by The Alt Group at the Club every Thursday, supplying some if not all of the vegetables.
66. A public meeting to engage local people in the projects was held to which about 20 people attended, representing various organisations locally, this has generated some tailored growing work linked to the project for a children's nursery, a project supporting people recovering from drug and alcohol misuse, a supported living project, involvement of the Prince's Trust and two groups working with young adults with learning disabilities. The Association has also received help to apply for

funding from the Gregg's Trust, the outcome of which is awaited. The project is currently also working with the Dipton Manor Care Home and the Dipton Community Association on developing the plans for a garden suitable for people with dementia, using funding from the AAP.

67. **Chester le Street and District AAP's** Environment Task Group has seen positive results from its investment in Chester-le-Streets In Bloom project which is being led by the Council's Civic Pride Team. This has seen an increase in the floral offer and improved the aesthetic appearance in the town. Although environment focused this also has an economic value in that those places with a high Northumbria In Bloom (NIB) award inevitably leads to an increase in visitors/footfall. With the investment and the increase in community and business engagement has led to an improved NIB award from Silver (all previous years) to Silver Gilt, with only a few points away from Gold. The AAP's Environment Task Group was also 'commended' at the 2015 County Durham Environment Partnership Awards for this project, and for projects delivered in previous years. **Durham AAP** also supports Durham In Bloom activities with this year's entry being triumphant in Northumbria in Bloom and also receiving a gold award in Britain in Bloom.
68. **Spennymoor AAP** is embedding a new 'community litter pick' scheme for the 2016-17 financial year, built on the previous scheme run in 2015-16. Two have already taken place in May 2016 (where a local community group took the lead on the picks) and it is hoped that this will result in local groups taking on the concept moving forward. This is a very positive example of a community led approach to a local issue that offers a sustainable option to an ongoing issue.

### **Area Action Partnerships**

69. The AAPs continue to fund and support a range of projects that make a significant difference to their local areas and communities in a range of different ways. The **3Towns AAP's** Victory Project has been running since March 2014 and has already helped almost 100 people. The project works with ten participants at a time and will run seven six week courses split into three parts:
- a. It teaches the participants war time recipes and other more modern ways to stretch the family's food further cooking low cost meals from scratch.
  - b. It teaches the participants simple budgeting skills in a group setting with emphasis also being places on general money management skills.
  - c. Dig for Money encourages participants to learn gardening and growing skills in order to grow their own food, engage in healthy exercise and build confidence.
70. The outcomes for the project include: participants can produce a low cost meal using fresh ingredients and repeat the process at home; individuals on low income will have increased confidence and skills in managing on their limited budget; participants who are interested and able will gain skills in growing produce and participants will develop mental and physical wellbeing and gain in self-confidence.
71. **4 Together Partnership's** Principal AAP Coordinator developed a European CLLD (Community Led Local Development) bid in partnership with the Northern Principal AAP Co-ordinator for submission in Dec 2016. The first stage was successful, the second stage will be known by December 2017. CLLD funding is a bottom-up approach to allocating European funds which addresses barriers to the labour market. It is intended to support smaller scale activities and pilots that have the potential to inform mainstream funds.

72. 270 people were supported with advice and guidance through **Durham AAP's** support for the Durham HUB via the partnership between Durham Churches, MIND and the CAB as well as getting that all important food parcel. The AAP did support one tourism initiative which was the award winning Queen's Volunteers, the Durham Pointers. Over 60 people are now on the Pointers' roster for providing advice and guidance to the visitors to Durham.
73. The **Weardale Area Partnership** is supporting Killhope to enhance their visitor offer, through funding a handmade circular picnic bench, which was installed by local craftsman. Working in partnership with the Arts Council grant has enabled a more inclusive facility and offers an opportunity to "showcase" the work of local craftsman.
74. **EDRC's** Arts and Crafts for the Over 60s project only commenced in March 2016 and has got off to a fantastic start with 20 over 60s attending Trimdon Village Hall weekly on a Thursday morning, for the first course which is shabby chic and furniture upcycling. In addition to the courses, all attendees receive a two course hot meal; there are a variety of meals to choose each week. One lady attending has dementia and has not remembered anything until attending this course, the dementia nurse she sees at the hospital is very impressed with her progress since taking part in these sessions. This has not only had a huge impact on her wellbeing but also that of her family.

#### **Recommendations and reasons**

75. It is recommended that Members note the report.

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

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## Appendix 1: Implications

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**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 2 – Performance Indicators

Ref	Altogether Better Durham (Overarching theme)	Target
AB1	No of voluntary and community groups supported	
AB2	No of community buildings and facilities supported	
AB3	No of people accessing new/improved community buildings and facilities	
AB5	No of people given access to new cultural/sporting/recreational opportunities	
AB6	No of people engaged in voluntary work	
AB7	No of people involved in local decision making processes	
	<b>Altogether Wealthier</b>	
AW1	No of jobs created	
AW2	No of jobs safeguarded	
AW3	No of people supported into employment	
AW4	No of advice and guidance sessions	
AW5	No of people trained	
AW6	No of qualifications gained	
AW7	No of training weeks	
AW8	No of apprenticeships supported	
AW10	No of businesses supported/advised	
AW11	No of tourism initiatives supported	
AW16	No of IT connectivity initiatives supported	
AW18	No of schemes aimed at nurturing business creation, development and growth	
AW19	No of schemes aimed at creating vibrant and successful towns	
AW20	No of schemes aimed at improving the housing offer	
AW21	No of people benefitting from schemes that reduce the impact of welfare reform	
	<b>Altogether Better for Children and Young People</b>	
CYP5	No of children and young people involved in schemes to help them make healthy choices and give them the best start in life	
CYP8	No of schemes aimed at improving support and outcomes for families	
CYP9	No of children and young people involved in schemes to help them realise and maximise their potential during the early years, school years and into employment and training	
	<b>Altogether Safer</b>	
AS3	No of schemes aimed at reducing inter-generational and repeat offending	
AS4	No of people benefitting from initiatives aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour	
AS6	No of road safety initiatives	
AS7	No of people benefitting from alcohol and substance misuse reduction initiatives	
AS8	No of schemes aimed at protecting vulnerable people from harm	
AS9	No of schemes aimed at preventing violent extremism and terrorism	
	<b>Altogether Healthier</b>	
AH2	No of schemes aimed at improving mental health and wellbeing	
AH4	No of schemes aimed at improving the quality of life, independence, care and support for people with long term conditions	
AH5	No of people benefitting from schemes aimed at reducing health inequalities and early deaths	
	<b>Altogether Greener</b>	
AG4	No of schemes aimed at reducing carbon emissions and adapting to the impact of climate change	
AG5	No of schemes aimed at maximising the value and benefits of Durham's natural environment	
AG6	No of schemes aimed at delivering a cleaner, more attractive and sustainable environment.	
AG7	No of schemes aimed at promoting sustainable design and protecting Durham's heritage	