

**Corporate Overview and Scrutiny
Management Board**

23 July 2019

County Durham Partnership Update

Ordinary Decision



Report of Corporate Management Team

Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships

Councillor Simon Henig, Leader of the Council

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

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of the report is to update Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (COSMB) on issues being addressed by the County Durham Partnership. The report also includes updates on other key initiatives being carried out in partnership across the county.

Executive summary

- 2 The County Durham Partnership (CDP) is leading the development of the County Durham Vision to ensure we fully reflect where we want to be in 2035. This will incorporate learning from the 'Wigan Deal' for potential opportunities for Durham and supports the new relationship with people, the VCS and local businesses.
- 3 The draft vision document will be subject to a third phase of consultation between 10th June and 30th July and will be going to AAPs and other forums. Final sign-off of the Durham Vision 2035 is by County Durham Partnership in September.
- 4 The Powered by People campaign supports inward investment, jobs and growth and uses one of the strengths of the county its people at the heart of the campaign. Our people are our strength, our inspiration and our advantage they are good for business.

- 5 On 1st April 2019, the 14 AAPs covering the whole of County Durham turned 10 years old. During this time, residents, partners, elected members and community representatives have worked together as part of the AAPs to develop and deliver a wide range of projects to benefit their local communities. The AAPs were commended in the MJ Achievement Awards for a decade of delivering better outcomes.
- 6 An AAP 10-year anniversary event, attended by over 300 people, took place on 24 April 2019 to recognise the outstanding work of public, partners and staff in making the 14 AAPs a great success over the last 10 years. The event also recognised the 14 projects that have been chosen by each Area Action Partnership as their 'project without equal' from the past 10 years.
- 7 The AAP priority survey sought the views of all residents (including children and young people) within County Durham on what priority themes and issues they consider the AAPs and their partners should be tackling in 2019/20 and 2020/21. In addition, over 1,000 survey participants asked to join their respective AAP forums.
- 8 8,585 residents from across County Durham completed the survey:
 - (a) 3,303 pupils from across 17 secondary schools;
 - (b) 5,282 residents who took part in the general SurveyMonkey survey or residents who took part through community or participatory budgeting events.
- 9 Participants were asked to select their top priority themes from a list of ten. Across the county:
 - (a) Children, Young People and Families theme was ranked number one across all voting methods
 - (b) Older People theme was ranked in the top three for all voting methods
 - (c) Health and Wellbeing theme was ranked in the top four for all voting methods
- 10 New safeguarding arrangements were passed into law through the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The new arrangements created the Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership (DSCP) which has transitioned from the Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board which took effect from April 2019. The DSCP is led by an Executive with input from relevant agencies.

- 11 A Year of Culture is taking place in County Durham in 2019. There has been continual investment in the County and the opportunity to celebrate 2019 emerged with the range of events and anniversaries taking place. This includes being a host county for the Cricket World Cup, with three games taking place at the Riverside, Bishop Auckland and Seaham food festivals and the 10th anniversary of Lumiere.
- 12 The 2019 Year of Culture aims to extend stays and generate economic benefits for the local economy. The range of cultural events also aims to extend the season. Indirect benefits include improved health with a range of sporting events and involving communities to help cohesion.
- 13 County Durham has been selected as one of eight new national hubs to receive funding to tackle mental health stigma. The county will become a 2019 Time to Change funded Hub with the aim of helping change the way people think and act about mental health problems.

Recommendation

- 14 COSMB is recommended to note the contents of this update.

Background

- 15 The County Durham Partnership including the board, five thematic partnerships, safeguarding boards and all Area Action Partnerships lead on key initiatives being carried out in partnership across the county.

County Durham Partnership Board and Forum

- 16 The County Durham Partnership Board has met four times since the last update report.
- 17 November's meeting focused on the key messages from the **Voluntary and Community Sector** including opportunities for further partnership working, the impact on front line services, joint commissioning and investment opportunities and how it was important to work towards a clear pathway to volunteering and a joined up approach. The Board approved the emerging findings of the County Durham Vision 2035 for the next stage of consultation.
- 18 The December Board focussed on single use plastics and has signed a pledge to phase out the use of unnecessary and avoidable single use plastic. Progress on the area of prevention was also considered including:
- (a) the scaling up of a number of Area Action Partnership projects across the County, including wheels to work and dementia projects
 - (b) the use of two funding tools - GrantFinder and Open4Community by partner agencies and the voluntary and community sector.
 - (c) the roll out of making every contact count which will strengthen the link between the community and peer mentors
 - (d) workforce development to equip managers and staff to support people with mental health needs in the workplace across County Durham
- 19 The March board discussed the 2019 Year of Culture and Selective Licensing. Selective Licensing was introduced under part 3 of the Housing Act 2004 and gave councils the power to designate an area for selective licensing, providing certain criteria are met. Landlords operating in a selective licensing area would need to apply to the council for a licence and prove they are a 'fit and proper person'. A business case is currently being drafted for Durham to have 100% coverage based on middle super output areas and six designations are available, including if an area is suffering from poor property conditions, high levels of deprivation and high levels of crime.

- 20 The May board focused on several children and young people items including the new Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership, strategic improvements in Children's Services and the VCS Alliance.
- 21 Strategic improvements included: Liquid Logic which is a new recording / IT system for children's services which is now in place to help facilitate a more responsive system for performance management and oversight, Signs of Safety and investment in social work staff. The VCS Alliance makes links with local VCS organisations which allows families to participate in activities and access support services within their own area to support improved outcomes for children and young people.
- 22 The CDP Forum in February focused on the proposal to mark 10 years of the AAPs, the County Durham vision and the consultation on the Housing Strategy. The Housing Strategy was well received as a good opportunity to consider housing issues across the County, including further partnership working and raising the standards of private rented homes.

Area Action Partnership 10-year anniversary event

- 23 On 1st April 2019, the 14 AAPs covering the whole of County Durham turned 10 years old.
- 24 An AAP 10-year anniversary event, which was sponsored by local businesses, took place on 24 April 2019 to recognise the outstanding work of public, partners and staff in making the 14 AAPs a great success over the last 10 years.
- 25 Without these dedicated individuals the partnerships would not have been able to deliver over 6,000 community projects.
- 26 The purpose of the evening was to thank people for their fantastic efforts and also to recognise the 14 projects that have been chosen by each Area Action Partnership as their 'project without equal' from the past 10 years. Over 6,000 community projects have been delivered across the county; securing millions of pounds of match funding to support the delivery of these initiatives and benefitting thousands of residents of all ages, the unemployed, local businesses and the more vulnerable residents within their communities. Projects which have initially started with AAP resources have gone on to grow and develop across the county.
- 27 The winners for each Area Action Partnership are of these are listed as follows with further information about each project available in Appendix 2:

- (a) Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership – Crisis Intervention
- (b) Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership - Employability Skills Fund
- (c) Chester le Street and District Area Action Partnership – Market Activity Week
- (d) 4 Together Partnership – Days of our Lives
- (e) Spennymoor Area Action Partnership – Sponsor A Grown Up
- (f) Teesdale Area Action Partnership – Intergen
- (g) Derwent Valley Area Action Partnership – Beat the Scammers
- (h) Durham Area Action Partnership – Cheesy Waffles Project
- (i) East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership – Plastic Fantastic
- (j) Stanley Area Action Partnership – Stanley Advice Centre
- (k) Weardale Area Action Partnership – Wheels to Meals Project
- (l) 3 Towns Partnership – The Victory Programme
- (m) Mid Durham Area Action Partnership – Intergenerational and Community Buildings Project
- (n) East Durham Area Action Partnership - Welfare Champions

Voluntary and Community Services

28 Partnership working with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) continues to develop. The second Better Together VCS Policy Forum was held in February with a focus on Social Prescribing. The forum brought together representatives from key Voluntary Sector organisations, commissioners, and public sector leads to look at how models for social prescribing work and share knowledge and expertise about how a model may work for County Durham. The VCS are continuing to work collaboratively, together with colleagues in the Council and NHS, to develop a shared vision and will be carrying on discussion and debate via the partnership forums, including Advice in County Durham and the Better Together network. This is timely, as NHS England has said it plans to recruit 1,000 social prescribing link workers by April 2021.

Faith Communities

- 29 Valuing the contribution of Faith Communities continues to be recognised through partnership activities. Faith and Wellbeing events have been hosted by **Bishop Auckland and Shildon (BASH) and Stanley AAPs** exploring the contribution of churches and faith communities to the health and wellbeing of local communities. Two breakfast seminars bringing together elected members, officers, partners and faith communities have also taken place considering the developing Durham Vision and Humanising Housing, looking at the challenges around building communities and ensuring that they are developed, structured and designed to ensure human flourishing in all its manifestations.
- 30 Many people visit Durham because of its strong ecclesiastical connections. **Durham AAP** funding is helping 'Visit Durham' to produce a Churches Map of Durham. This will highlight the historical churches and church yards in the Durham city area on a handy map. It is hoped that the map will help people make the most of their visit to Durham and encourage them to stay in the city a bit longer.

Armed Forces

- 31 As part of our commitment to supporting the Armed Forces Community we maintain an outward facing Armed Forces Forum with representation from the council, public sector partners, the local military presence (Royal Navy, Army, RAF) and key military charities. The forum met in March and heard about innovative research by the Northern Hub for Veterans and Military Family Research to map veterans' and their families' welfare needs across the whole of the UK. A 12-month pilot project with Durham Dales Easington and Sedgefield (DDES) CCG will utilise this research and test out a link to GP surgeries to enable them to refer veterans to appropriate support. The County Durham Armed Forces Covenant Annual Report 2018/19 was received which highlighted the work of the Armed Forces Outreach Service and the honour of receiving the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award.
- 32 As part of the Gold Award the council has developed a Cadet Force Adult Volunteer (CFAV) Policy where uniformed CFAV's will be entitled to up to 10 working days paid leave per rolling year (pro-rata for part-time employees) for attendance at their annual training camp and/or other relevant training.

Local Councils Working Group

- 33 The Local Councils Working Group agreed the revision of the Local Councils Charter. The revision to the Charter focusses on three key

elements of Communication, Co-operation and Consultation. These elements build on the partnership working already in place and address the changing landscape in which the public sector operates, including the significant reduction in public sector funding and resources. The Charter is a framework to support good relationships, develop joint working and shared resources.

Prevention

- 34 Work is being undertaken to examine significant best practice from across the country. A study visit to Wigan Council (Council of the Year 2019) took place in January 2019 to examine the 'Wigan Deal' which involves a set of principles aiming to improve the prevention agenda. These include:
- (a) A new relationship between public services and citizens, communities and businesses
 - (b) Building on the assets and strengths of individuals, families and communities
 - (c) Integrated place-based services delivered in partnership
 - (d) An engaged workforce with core behaviours
 - (e) Confident communities where everyone does their bit
 - (f) Freedom and permission to innovate
- 35 The 'Wigan Deal' includes a focus on adult social care and health providing a pioneering approach which is transforming this service in Wigan from one which focused on traditional health and social care services to one which builds independence and self-reliance. The Wigan Deal for Adult Social Care and Health strengthens communities by taking an innovative asset-based approach to service provision by placing customers at the heart.
- 36 Learning from these approaches is being considered to understand potential opportunities for Durham to feed into the County Durham vision and is wider than health and social care and fits into the new relationship with people, the VCS and local businesses.

Safeguarding

- 37 The new Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership (DSCP) has transitioned from the Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board. The DSCP is led by an Executive and includes the three statutory safeguarding partners of local authorities, Chief Officers of police and Clinical Commissioning Groups with input from relevant agencies.

- 38 The relevant agencies will be represented by four agency groups that will be expected to meet and provide assurance reports to the Executive Group on an annual basis. These agency groups will represent the Criminal Justice Service, Education Sector, Health Service and the Voluntary and Community Sector.
- 39 The DSCP Independent Chair and the local authority Children and Young People's Service representative will engage with the Local Authority Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People every two months. The DSCP will use a values and performance framework developed during the transition to the new arrangements. This framework focuses on improving outcomes within the geographic boundaries of the partnership area.
- 40 The transition to the new arrangements was achieved three months ahead of the statutory deadline and was achieved through a six-month project which engaged partner organisations in addressing five separate workstreams.
- 41 The new partnership arrangements address the duty on new Child Death Review partners to review the deaths of children normally resident in the local area.
- 42 As reported previously, the Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) Business Unit has led on the development of a Modern Slavery Charter. The Charter focusses upon three key aims of prevention, protection and partnership working. Measuring and monitoring of a range of related activities against the Charter will inform upon its impact.
- 43 The LSAB annual event took place on 10 April 2019 which focused on self-neglect. It explored self-neglect in the broader context and to how a preventative approach might support this. Over 100 people attended the event with key speakers from Northumbria University, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), T-ASC (Training, Advice, Solutions and Consultancy) and Housing Solutions. Positive feedback was received, and delegates attended from over 25 agencies inclusive of the Care Quality Commission, service providers and the voluntary sector. Actions from the event will be taken forward by the LSAB.
- 44 The Safeguarding Boards held a joint Safeguarding Week in November 2018. The week focussed upon sharing key messages through social media, as well as a stallholder event. The week concluded with a range of briefing sessions covering topics such as Modern Slavery, Counter Terrorism and Prevent, and Carers Rights. Feedback for the briefings received showed 95 per cent of attendees felt they had received useful and relevant information.

Altogether Wealthier

- 45 The Powered by People campaign supports inward investment, jobs and growth and uses one of the strengths of the county its people at the heart of the campaign.
- 46 To develop the campaign, the Council engaged with a range of stakeholders across the Durham business community to define a proposition about business in Durham and, through a series of workshops identified that it is the people that makes Durham unique and that business in Durham is Powered by People.
- 47 Our research and development work gave a very strong message that our people make Durham different and very attractive to potential investors. Our people are our strength, our inspiration and our advantage, they are good for business.
- 48 The County Durham Economic Partnership has now been restructured with members identified with specific portfolios aligned to the national Industrial Strategy, this includes an Independent Chair and portfolio holders for Resources, Business Competiveness, Ideas and Innovation, Infrastructure, Inclusive Growth and People. Voices of the Public Sector, VCS and businesses are also represented.
- 49 A key objective of the Board is to develop and embed an economic and industrial strategy that is shared by all partners, enabling a coherent response to be given to opportunities as they arise. The work of the Economic Partnership continues to be led via the sub groups which are:
 - (a) Business, Enterprise and Skills Working Group
 - (b) The Thriving Durham City Board
 - (c) Visit County Durham County Council
 - (d) Business Durham
 - (e) Housing Forum
 - (f) Cultural Partnership
 - (g) Rural Working Group
- 50 There has been continual investment in the County and the opportunity to celebrate 2019 emerged with the range of events and anniversaries taking place with the 2019 Year of Culture. A range of promotional activity is taking place, including an online presence with the launch of the website (thisisdurham.com/19), social media ([#durham19](https://twitter.com/durham19)),

Newcastle airport advertising and the launch of a toolkit as well as the with the potential to attract hundreds of first-time visitors to the county.

- 51 The global debut of Paula Radcliffe's Families on Track will mark the finale of the first Durham City Run Festival, a three-day event from 25-27 July, which will take over the centre of Durham and the Gala Theatre, featuring films, talks, book signings, a running expo, free running activities, a new mile challenge called 'Run Like a Legend', and the already popular Prince Bishops 5K and 10K runs.
- 52 **Chester-le-Street & District AAP** are working with the local business community and local partners to prepare for the Cricket World Cup that will take place as part of the 2019 Year of Culture in June / July. The AAP have contributed funding towards a community-based festival in partnership with the Durham County Cricket Club Foundation that will showcase what Chester-le-Street has to offer through engagement with both businesses and local voluntary groups. This will be held the week prior to the first match at Emirates Durham and will give the chance for the wider community to celebrate the town being on the world sporting stage. Other works are also planned to ensure a warm welcome for the thousands of visitors that will be coming to County Durham.
- 53 An award of £700k has been granted to target entrenched rough sleepers across the north east region, identify support needs and assisting into permanent tenancies. Durham County Council will lead the coordination of the regional project with the eleven north east local councils.
- 54 The rural landscape of **Weardale AAP** was once home to large quarrying activities and now has limited infrastructure to support employment. Working with the governors and head teacher of Wolsingham School "cadetships" have been developed to support recruitment into the uniformed services. Working with our Civil Contingencies Unit a scenario around flooding in Wolsingham was developed to show how the AAP could support the community to ensure the safety of individuals and property. The activities then advised the model of working that could be used as "best practice" both regionally and nationally. The scenario and exercise engaged the Environment Agency, Army, Fire and Police Cadets, the mini Police, parish council and parents.
- 55 In partnership with Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services (UTASS), **Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP)** has used Welfare Reform Funding to help create a rural advice hub for the Upper Dales. Funding will be specifically used to develop and deliver a range of 24 hours a day, seven days a week support and advice service for those with urgent needs. Support will be made available through general drop

in advice sessions and a 24-hour telephone advice line. The project will also work with a number of referral partners, for example, Citizens Advice Bureau, Rural Payments Agency and North East First Credit Union.

- 56 **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP** has worked with Durham Savers to encourage people to save on a regular basis and help them to budget to meet unexpected events, for example, a washing machine breakdown, or income reduction/redundancy. To support people not to use pay day loans, doorstep lenders and weekly payment stores funding has been used to support residents, young people and their families through the employment of a Project Officer to engage with local firms and schools to raise the financial awareness and capability of young people, by establishing a savings 'Bank' within school, and salary savings schemes with local firms. This is then used as a vehicle to engage parents, guardians and school staff in financial issues and education and discussions on the negative impact that poor financial management can have on their lives. To date there is a total of 288 adult accounts with savings of £67,884 and loans of £41,566. Young savers have savings of £12,552.

Altogether better for children and young people

- 57 As highlighted in the last report, the Children and Young People's Strategy has now been agreed after undergoing a comprehensive consultation and revision process with a wide range of stakeholders including Durham County Council services, partner organisations and children, young people and their families.
- 58 This strategy supports the aspirations of children and young people across the county, encouraging them to strive for greater things, providing them with educational, social and cultural experiences and instilling in them a belief that they can achieve.
- 59 The vision that every child can achieve their greatest potential is combined with the desire to foster in them a sense of pride about their home county. This creates advocates for the future who will help share the message that our county is a wonderful place to live and inspire them to stay in the county as they grow into adults, looking for careers and starting families of their own.
- 60 In **Great Aycliffe and Midridge Partnership GAMP AAP** "Us Girls" targeted girls aged 13+ into sport related activities. The programme was youth led in that the young people were consulted on what activities they would like to take part in, with the aim to provide new and exciting opportunities where possible. The programme aimed to target 'non sporty' girls, who traditionally would not access formal sporting activities. During the lifespan of the project around 50 girls have

participated in regular physical activity through the project. The project has made a huge difference to the girls that have engaged in both the afterschool and community clubs, for example; two of the participants have started PE Apprenticeships with Sedgefield School Sport Partnership.

- 61 A number of AAPs have been working with partners on the Kicks programme. Kicks is young people led, with a steering group in place to help drive the programme forward by choosing activities which will further empower young people to become engaged. Kicks appoints young leaders to represent the group and feed information to the Kicks group. Opportunities to become peer mentors and volunteers are offered to those interested as well as a possible pathway for both education and sport within the Foundation, as well as signposting young people to new opportunities by third parties.
- 62 The Kicks project provides sessions for those aged 13-19 in the **Spennymoor AAP** area enabling participants to take part in a multitude of physical activities with the potential progress into further education to prevent, for example, anti-social behaviour and young people becoming NEET (not in employment or education). In January-March 2019, targets have been surpassed with 36 young people now engaged in the youth provision. Workshops that have taken place and included discussions on the benefits of exercise, implications of a poor diet and the impacts of social media on mental health which were led by the young people.
- 63 **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP** led a Kicks session for those aged 8-19 in Trimdon Village and Kelloe to enable the young people to then progress into further education and try to prevent anti-social behaviour and young people becoming NEET. The performance indicator relating to the number of children and young people involved in schemes to help them make healthy choices has achieved more than double its target of 50.
- 64 In response to young people telling the AAP that they don't have enough opportunity for physical activity at school, Active 10, 20 and 30 campaigns have been launched in schools. This means schools have signed up to doing at least 10, 20 or 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity every day in school. Currently over 100 schools are engaged.
- 65 Working with Public Health and 0-19 school nursing service, **Weardale AAP** provided tooth brushes and toothpaste and encouraged children to brush their teeth in school to promote good dental hygiene and oral health to reduce tooth decay in later life.

- 66 Following the first Corporate Parenting Annual 2017-18 that young people from the County Durham Children in Care Council (CICC) have written, work is taking place with young people from the CICC to write the CPP annual report for 2018-19.
- 67 Looked After Children shared their concerns about the contact centres, which are used across the county for contact with parents, family members and foster carers as not being conducive to having a pleasant session. Members were approached, as corporate parents, and asked to donate monies from their neighbourhood budgets to make improvements to the settings. Work took place with groups of young people to identify what they would like to purchase to make it a nicer setting, for example, rugs, radios, art, games etc. The first contact centre has been refurbished, and work is currently underway with a further four.

Altogether healthier

- 68 County Durham has been selected as one of eight new national hubs to receive funding to tackle mental health stigma. The county will become a 2019 Time to Change funded Hub, coordinated by Investing in Children, with the aim of helping change the way people think and act about mental health problems.
- 69 Time to Change Durham will be provided with £15,000 start-up budget along with £10,000 for a Champions Fund. This allows local 'champions' to bid for funding to run stigma-busting events and activities within their area.
- 70 The Hub will combine the insights of the national Time to Change campaign with local knowledge. It will support communities, workplaces and schools to take action to end negative attitudes and behaviours towards people experiencing mental health problems in their communities.
- 71 Time to Talk day took place in February which encouraged people in the workplace to talk about mental health. This included our health advocates being active during Time to Talk day promoting Time to Change at as many of the council's sites as possible to encourage conversations about mental health and partner colleagues being encouraged to make mental health an agenda item at team meetings, encourage all managers to approach the subject and make staff aware that they can talk about their mental health.
- 72 **Derwent Valley AAP** has worked with a specialist in behavioural education Delta North to work with around 70 young people locally, each with needs that were not being met in mainstream school. As an

organisation they were keen to assist young people in the development of their mental health and offer tools to help them when they needed it. Under this project, they have devoted key areas of their building to be used for art based therapeutic means through digital art, drawing, doodling, crafts and mural painting. They have been supported by the **Derwent Valley AAP** to create a bank of creative artistic tools and resources which will be placed in these key areas and to train various staff on ways to incorporate art as a therapeutic tool with young people.

- 73 The Durham Health and Care System plan has been developed which outlines the key programmes of work to be undertaken over the next year including any engagement and consultation activities. A joint Health and Wellbeing Board and Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee session will take place in June 2019 to help shape the five-year system plan.
- 74 Following the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting in September 2018, it was agreed that there should be a combined 'Think Autism in County Durham' action plan and an overarching all-age strategy for 2018-20. The aim of this approach is to improve support for individuals during the transition from childhood through to adulthood. The strategy was launched as part of World Autism Awareness Week, which ran in the first week in April to raise awareness of the range of services and support available around the county.
- 75 The Children and Young people's Autism Post Formulation Offer is a 12-month pilot aiming to improve access to mainstream services through reasonable adjustments and prevention of exclusion from schools.
- 76 A number of AAPs have been working with partners on the issue of older people's social isolation to decide where to invest their Older People Social Isolation Funding (OPSIF) of £25,000.
- 77 **3 towns AAP** has created an e-network to inform providers of relevant training and funding opportunities, supported several organisations to successfully apply for external funding for:
- (a) current and new activity which includes funding for the running costs for a dementia café and for a social group with links to local GPs
 - (b) transport for a Willington luncheon club
 - (c) a new luncheon club in Crook ran by Churches together.
- 78 **TAP and BASH AAPs** are working with Supportive to deliver a volunteer driver scheme to reduce isolation amongst residents aged

50+. Supportive are a charity who support a home care and volunteer driving scheme across County Durham. The scheme will help residents attend Hospital visits and community events/facilities.

- 79 **BASH AAP** are working with Groundwork North East to deliver the Green Links programme. Green links is a client led programme of eco therapy which addresses social isolation and low activity of people with dementia and their carers. The scheme provides regular social activities with the use of the outdoors and develops practical skills along with walking and gardening.
- 80 **4 Together AAP** are working with the Cornforth Partnership as lead on their Healthy Communities Project. A wide range of programmes have taken place, aimed at tackling socially isolated older people across the 4 Together locality, including yoga, pilates, various days out and bulb planting. Cornforth Partnership are liaising with Durham Community Action to try and target new volunteers for the befriending element of the project. Numbers have increased from around 6 people a week to over 20 a week attending the lunch club and Supportive are providing transport for those who need it. A number of local groups have been involved in delivery, thus benefiting the local area. There have also been some good links established with local faith groups to link to their befriending/volunteer networks.
- 81 **Durham AAP** funded the 'Durham's Fybro Haven' a support group for people living with autoimmune conditions such as fibromyalgia to support the weekly sessions at Bearpark Community Centre. The users of the group all said how the group had made a big difference to their quality of life.
- 82 The roll out of Dementia friendly communities continues with **East Durham AAP** seeing both Seaham and Blackhall gaining the status of Dementia Friendly Communities. The launch events saw a wide range of partners and schools outlining what they had achieved to date and why they were involved.

Altogether safer

- 83 The Hate Hurts campaign has been launched to show that partners are united against Hate Crime in Durham and Darlington. The number of hate crimes which are reported to the Police has increased by about a quarter over the past four years. This rise also reflects that people are more prepared than they used to be to report hate crimes to the Police. The Joint Hate Crime Action group, a multi-agency group of colleagues in the public and community sectors, working with the Safe Durham Partnership, has overseen a number of projects to address hate crime and continues to do so.

- 84 **East Durham AAP** has worked with the Fire and Rescue Service to launch the Easington Safety Centre as a community hub for the locality to provide training and education for the community and safety issues.
- 85 Durham Police Officers, Fire Service Officers and Youth Workers were brought together by **Stanley AAP** to combat anti-social behaviour and secondary fires. The aim was to take an active role to support local young people to create videos with the two themes highlighted within the videos. These videos will focus on the consequences of taking part in such activity and the impact such actions have on the wider community.
- 86 **Stanley AAP** are focusing on online safety and looking at all issues that affect young people from cyber bullying to how to stay safe online, the project will work with young people to identify issues and how to deal with them effectively. This builds upon the work of the Safer Cyber group, a sub group of the Safe Durham Partnership, who are producing a short film to raise awareness of Cybercrime. Students from New College Durham are leading this work and a launch is being planned for June. The resource will be shared with partners and schools.
- 87 'Beat the Scammers' delivered by Age UK County Durham is being extended by **Mid Durham AAP** to ensure those older people in demand of the call blocker system and further support in relation to personal and home safety can be accommodated. The project is hoping to impact on a further 100 older people.
- 88 **3 Towns Partnership AAP** worked with Prison Me! No Way! who delivered a Crime & Safety Awareness Day at Parkside Academy to all year 8 pupils. They are also working on the bespoke delivery of Your Choice days which will be delivered in two primary schools as a pilot in the 3 Towns Area involving over 300 Children and Young People in programmes designed to help them make healthy choices.

Altogether greener

- 89 This year's Big Spring Clean commenced in February at the Locomotion Museum at Shildon and concluded on the 9 April 2019. The campaign saw 2,215 volunteers take part in 187 litter picks, collecting 3318 bags of rubbish across the county. This year's campaign collected 297 more bags of rubbish than last year with a total of 5202.5 volunteer hours accumulated.
- 90 The council and partners have signed a single use plastics pledge in a bid to eradicate single use plastics. Many partners have already reduced their single use plastic consumption such as eliminating the use of plastic straws and cutlery and reusing cups.

- 91 A group of children from all year groups at St Bede's school, have been helping it discard as much plastic use as possible. This includes steps such as introducing reusable water bottles and using tin foil instead of cling film to cover food during lunchtime. Having already been awarded Plastic Free School status by the Government last year the school was quick to sign up to the pledge. The children are much more aware of the environmental effect of plastic pollution now and it has made them a lot more thoughtful.
- 92 In addition, Northumbrian Water are promoting its Refill scheme to reduce reliance on single use plastic bottles by encouraging businesses to sign up to become Refill Stations. This allows people to fill up their bottles with tap water free of charge.
- 93 The Stainton Grove Household Waste Recycling Centre reopened in March 2019 after a £3m transformation by the Building and Facilities Maintenance Team. The site affords residents and businesses more opportunities to recycle more materials and now has a shop where used goods will be sold.
- 94 Ecology and Clean Green teams are working to deliver a countywide network of multi-functional green spaces that maximise the environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities. This highly ambitious project seeks to redefine the management of our green spaces to deliver more wildlife, improved health and well-being and enriched recreational spaces in County Durham.
- 95 In Easington Colliery Local Nature Reserve, a 1.9km footpath is being created around the reserve to allow residents and visitors year-round access and help reduce the impacts of unmanaged access across the site and the neighbouring coastal Special Area of Conservation. Along with the path, entrances are being upgraded, designing out small scale fly-tipping hotspots.
- 96 The **Derwent Valley AAP** has worked in partnership with OASES to deliver a School Apple Project involving a range of schools and youth groups encouraging children to improve their local environment, learn new horticultural and cooking skills and gain an appreciation of where fruit comes from. The project has consisted of school assemblies raising awareness of how to reduce food waste, fruit education sessions, an 'apple swap', juicing workshops and cooking classes to create fruit kebabs, apple crumbles and flapjack. The project is culminating in collective orchard planting and community events at each participating school so schools can continue to grow their own fruit on school grounds. 791 children have so far participated in the project.

- 97 **Chester-le-Street & District AAP** has agreed an allocation of funding to improve the entrance into Chester-le-Street by working with the Clean and Green Team on the Park Road North roundabout which is the main route into Chester-le-Street from the A1. The scheme will see a more sustainable, lower maintenance planting scheme adopted for the roundabout improving the visual ascetic for visitors coming into the Town
- 98 Naturally Social is a mechanism to support older people to access a constructive, positive, healthy and sociable activity in the local area. Clients and existing volunteers meet regularly and do small scale tasks such as cutting back vegetation, clearing footpaths, keeping sites tidy, going for walks and spotting wildlife. **Stanley AAP** has supported the Naturally Social Officer to encourage existing volunteers to be the group's friendly face, welcoming new members to put people at their ease and becoming advocates for Naturally Social. Naturally Social's success will be assessed on how participants have felt, if they enjoyed it, feel fitter and more involved in their local area, and made new friends.

Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- None

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None

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.

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.

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 thematic partnerships and the working practice of AAPs.

Human Rights

None

Crime and Disorder

Altogether safer is the responsibility of the Safe Durham Partnership.

Staffing

None

Accommodation

None

Risk

None

Procurement

None

Appendix 2: Area Action Partnership 10-year Anniversary Award Winners

1. Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership

Crisis Intervention - Delivered by Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre

This project has been supported since 2010 and funded with various budgets including Area Budget, Neighbourhood Budget and Welfare Reform.

Funding has been used to contribute to worker salaries, packs and provisions and running costs.

The project supports people in crisis. Support can be in the form of food, furniture, heating and utilities and advice and is based on what the client needs. The support is confidential, friendly, encouraging and supportive.

Although funded by AAP and others the project is successful because of the input and commitment of volunteers.

The project has supported thousands of people as support and advice has an impact on the wider family as well as the individual seeking support.

2. Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership AAP

Employability Skills Fund - Delivered by Bishop Auckland College

This project provides funds up to £1000 aimed at supporting unemployed clients aged 16 and over into employment and also supports upskilling clients on low wages or zero-hour contracts to reduce their dependency on benefits and enhance their job prospects. The discretionary element supports the removal of barriers to accessing training or employment, for example, transport, equipment, childcare. A robust application, evidence and approval process ensures that funds are aligned to labour market gaps where no other funding is available.

The AAP has supported the project via Area Budget, Neighbourhood Budget and Welfare Reform funding and has promoted the project through a plethora

of partners which has resulted in three further AAPs funding this project (BASH, Spennymoor and TAP).

3. Chester le Street AAP

Market Activity Week – Delivered by Durham Constabulary, Chester-le-Street Neighbourhood Police Team

This project provides a summer event of free family focused activities in the town centre market place to engage families, deliver community safety messages and forge better relationships between uniformed services and the young people. It dispels the myth of parents 'calling the police' if kids misbehave and provides children and young people with direct contact with local Police Officers to build trust and mutual respect.

4. 4 Together Partnership Area Action Partnership

Days of our Lives – Delivered by Enter Community

The Days of our lives project enabled Enter Community Interest Company (CIC) to host and organise a number of events for the elderly residing in the local 4 Together community.

The events have ranged from informal get togethers to large scale performance events including commemorative events for World War 1 and festive events.

Every event has provided a unique opportunity for the elderly to come together and to enjoy entertainment and conversation from yesteryear.

These types of events are vital in communities such as the 4 Together Partnership area because much of the entertainment and social opportunities that currently exist are not currently geared towards the elderly. The events were particularly popular because they were often scheduled during the day at a time when the elderly are willing to come out of their homes and feel quite safe doing so.

The project enabled people from local residential homes to come out of their care homes to attend an organised event and to mix with the local community. This project had a massive positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the elderly in the 4 Together Partnership area. 210 people attended, and 6 people

were involved in voluntary work. Due to demand the project extended to cover the festive season.

Activity co-ordinators at the care homes commented on the fact that these events were having a positive impact on the wellbeing of their residents. It also helped to engage those who feel socially isolated in the community and gave the elderly something to look forward to and something which is conducted in a safe environment where attendees felt comfortable and relaxed.

5. Spennymoor Area Action Partnership

Sponsor a Grown Up - Delivered by Success North East

This programme engaged young people and their adult relatives in physical activity together. The programme helped increase participant's physical activity levels as well as providing opportunities for families to spend quality time together in a fun activity. The 'Sponsor a Grown Up' project was successfully piloted in the Spennymoor AAP area in 2014/2015 where 13 different activities were offered to 390 participants and the project proved extremely popular with families and providers. The project was extended in 2016/17 to look at engaging new families and local sports clubs to enable additional FREE family physical activity sessions.

Success North East worked with schools, nurseries and professional staff to identify young people to 'sponsor' an adult relative to take part in physical activity with them, as well as supporting sports clubs, coaches and multi-agency professionals to address any barriers and issues that prevented young people and adults engaging in physical activity.

Spennymoor AAP helped financially support the 'Sponsor a Grown Up' project with funding from the Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group Fund.

After being successfully delivered in the Spennymoor AAP area, the 'Sponsor a Grown Up' programme then went on to be delivered in the East Durham Rural Corridor, 4 Together and Great Aycliffe and Middridge AAPs.

6. Teesdale Area Action Partnership

Intergen Project - Delivered Teesdale YMCA

The YMCA Intergen project started in 2015 and has been going ever since. The project was originally funded by TAP; however, the YMCA has since continued delivery of the project with their core funding.

Intergen is delivered on the first Thursday of every month and sees a group of young people and a youth worker attend the Manor House Care Home to engage in a craft activity with the residents of the care home. The young people help the older people to create something that they can then keep. This breaks down the barriers between the two ages groups and reduces the impact of isolation on both age groups.

What we also see is a dialogue open up between the groups. The young people learn songs from days gone by and particularly war time songs that the residents remember and learn about signs and symptoms of dementia and are then able to bring this learning into the community. We have been told by Manor House Care Home that the emotional well-being of the residents following a visit from the young people lasts for a couple of days after.

The young people, now more aware of dementia, offer support to those in the community that they recognise with the symptoms and it breaks down the stereotypes that both groups may have. Young people demonstrate more patience for older people while the older people come to understand what it is like to be a young person today. The Intergen project delivers outcomes and has an impact on people that we did not anticipate and would struggle to measure.

As a result of the Intergen project the Dementia Friendly Barney Group has been supported through the project with the young people helping to create Fiddle Mats that have been distributed to various care homes and community groups.

7. Derwent Valley Area Action Partnership

Beat the Scammers - Delivered by Age UK County Durham

Representatives from the Derwent Valley AAP worked with Age UK County Durham to create the initial 'Beat the Scammers' project concept and subsequently funded the development of the pilot project via the AAP Area Budget at a cost of £10,000 back in 2015/16. Aside from financially

supporting the project development, the AAP has helped to promote the scheme locally via its newsletter, community website, facebook page and wider networks and has also promoted its success to other partners. The project has since received countywide and national recognition from the BBC and Home Office having reached over 5,000 older people and installing 540 call blockers.

8. Durham Area Action Partnership

Cheesy Waffles Project – Delivered by Investing in Children

The Cheesy Waffles Project (CWP) provides activities for children, young people and young adults with additional needs.

They run over 10 different groups ranging from junior and senior youth clubs, making music, girls and lads groups, holiday activities and the wider world young adults group.

Activities include residentials, shopping trips, meals out, sporting activities and fundraising for other local charities. Their key aim is that all young people should have the same opportunities and be able to have fun.

Young people who take part gain new skills and develop their own independence. The group also gives some respite to families and carers

Durham AAP have funded nine different initiatives from CWP since 2015 with support of over £27,000. This has included:

- One to One Support – This has allowed those young people who need one to one support take part in activities with other members of the CWP.
- Making Music - Each year CWP puts on three musical events. This funding helped in 2015 for CWP to put on a production of Bugsy Malone.
- Photographic display – In 2018, members of CWP had taken part in a project looking at the home front during World War One. They recreated everyday scenes and photographed them. The display at the town hall had a small launch event and was very well received.

9. East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership

Plastic Fantastic – Delivered by OASES (Outdoor and Sustainability Education Specialists)

The Plastic Fantastic Project which is working with three schools from across the AAP in a pilot project. The project links pupils with older members of their communities, so that the young people learn about 'life before single-use plastic'. It investigates plastic pollution in their towns and villages and maps what impact it's having in their communities and then does something about it.

They engage with members of the communities including grandparents/great grandparents who will remember what life was like before plastic was so common. They also help pupils to develop their understanding through a social history project understanding how people lived before plastic, the impact of increased plastic use through time and the alternatives to single use plastics now. Community centres and voluntary organisations that work with elderly people will be involved to identify and engage participants who are willing to impart their knowledge.

As a finale for the project they will create sculptures from waste plastic materials that will be showcased at a celebration assembly and then exhibited in the schools. These exhibits will also, hopefully, be taken into local community settings.

As a way of enabling the effort and learning of the children to be recognised the John Muir Award will be used. This award is an internationally recognised accreditation for young people. The schools involved are Cassop Primary, St. Williams RCVA Primary, Trimdon Village and Sedgefield Hardwick Primary.

10. Stanley Area Action Partnership

Stanley Advice Centre – Delivered by various advice and support services

The venue in Stanley hosts the following advice and support services; Durham Christian Partnership's Durham Money Advice Centre and Foodbank, Citizens Advice County Durham and Durham County Council's Welfare Rights. Between them a five-day a week advice service is available for local residents to get help with a wide range of issues including: debt, money management, benefits, housing and income maximisation. Local County Councillors supported the advice hub together with Stanley AAP and Stanley Town Council. The advice providers are all active members of the Advice in County

Durham Partnership that encourages joint working between its members and provides 'no wrong door' access points to information and advice.

Stanley AAP have supported the Stanley Advice Hub via its Welfare Reform and Area Budget funding streams to ensure they are able to continue this unique delivery model in a Town Centre base where they can deal face to face with people in need. Stanley Advice Hub has supported hundreds of Stanley residents and their families.

11. Weardale Area Action Partnership

Wheels to Meals Project - Delivered by Weardale Community Transport

Weardale AAP looked at the issues around rural social isolation, and what was needed to support an individual to access some conversation and a meal.

During the winter months the cafes and pubs do not experience as much footfall and this presented an opportunity for a set price meal with confirmation of covers.

A programme of venues are agreed by the Meals to Wheels group, a set price is agreed along with a menu choice. At the beginning of each month a programme is despatched to interested parties, a volunteer phones each of the clients on the mailing list to firstly have a chat and see which element of the programme is of interest. This is an integral part of the programme, because the friendly voice at the end of the phone makes all the difference. The route is then planned, and clients get a call to let them know what time they will be collected.

The Weardale community are a strong group and does not take to charity very well, however, because the set meal was at a reasonable price, they would be happy to pay. The AAP monies helped to reduce the mileage cost.

The journey to the venue enables old friends to catch up and new friendships are forged. The Wellness coordinator from the Wellbeing 4 Life service and the money advice worker, all connect into the service, and are familiar faces. This is needed to build traction and trust, so if an issue presents itself the workers can step in quickly and confidentially.

12. 3 Towns Partnership Area Action Partnership

The Victory Programme – Delivered by the Salvation Army Crook Corps

The Victory Programme started in February 2014 and is a “Free, Fun, second world war social experience”

It is broken down into 3 Main areas:

- Eat for Victory- everyone has their own work station and together they cook a meal based on a WW2 recipe. They take the meal home to share with their families and the ingredients to be able to make it again.
- Budget for Victory- Each participant is given the skills and a ‘Tool Kit’. To enable them to set up a personal budget. As a group they talk about the ways they can save money on grocery shopping, energy bills etc
- Digging for Victory- The group discuss the ways they can grow their own food even if they don’t have a garden or outside Space.

In 2017, the programme was expanded, developing a holiday victory programme for families as part of our 3 Towns targeted holiday activities programme putting on a range of stimulating activities that always includes food for everyone. Families are now having fun learning cooking skills together.

The 29th course is just about to finish and has seen 171 individuals take part, with the youngest aged 17 the oldest aged 92. Through the Victory for Families expansion 53 Families, 82 Adults and 119 children have benefited.

As well as the practical life skills of budgeting and cooking the programme participants have reported on the importance of social company; better self-esteem; pride in themselves and increased confidence.

With the cost of living going up and up, many families and individuals find it harder to make ends meet. This programme shares expertise and draws inspiration from the past to help make a practical difference to people’s lives now.

The project started in the 3 Towns area in 2014 and has been sustained ever since. It has been rolled out to Blaydon and Southwick in the North East and currently a toolkit is being developed to share UK wide to allow others to set up and run their own Programme. The 3 Towns Partnership has supported the programme with funding; marketing; development of the family programme and partnership links.

13. Mid Durham Area Action Partnership

Intergenerational and Community Buildings Project – Delivered by Age UK County Durham and 4 Communities

Mid Durham AAP were 'split' in terms of which project they wanted to see go forward as they both had high value, so decided to 'combine' two distinct projects but complimentary to each other.

The intergenerational element was delivered by Age UK County Durham and the Community Buildings project was delivered by 4 communities in Hamsteels (Hamsteels Community Centre), Burnhope (Burnhope Community Centre), St John's in Meadowfield (opening soon) and The Young Farmers Community building called 'Elsdon Lodge' in Buttsfield.

Mid Durham AAP financially supported the intergenerational project and helped link Age UK County Durham to the community facilities and networks within the area to aid them in making contacts and connections. The AAP through the children and young people's task group helped to guide the project in gathering local information and additional support from local organisations.

The AAP made a significant financial and team support contribution to the 4 new community buildings that have been built in more recent years of the AAPs operation. The AAP has contributed £55k across these buildings (alongside county councillor contributions of £47k) which has yielded a further £1.86 million into these buildings from partner organisations, parish councils and charitable and lottery funding, so gaining a 95% return for a 5% investment. Alongside this the team have contributed hundreds of hours of work in supporting those communities to achieve their aspirations.

14. East Durham Area Action Partnership

'Welfare Champions' – Delivered by the East Durham Trust

This is in recognition of the work undertaken by volunteers under the guidance of East Durham Trust in supporting people experiencing severe hardship as a result of austerity measures and the introduction of Universal Credit.