Cabinet

18 March 2020

County Durham Partnership Update

Ordinary Decision

Report of Corporate Management Team

Jane Robinson, Corporate Director, Adult and Health Services

Councillor Simon Henig, Leader of the Council

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

Electoral division affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

1 The purpose of the report is to update Cabinet on issues being addressed by the County Durham Partnership (CDP). The report also includes updates on other key initiatives being carried out in partnership across the county.

Executive summary

2 The County Durham Vision 2035 was agreed at Cabinet on 11 September 2019. It is a document developed with partners as a shared vision for the next 15 years with three strategic ambitions:

(a) More and better jobs

(b) People live long and independent lives

(c) Connected communities

3 In October 2019, more than 150 people attended the County Durham Partnership Event which saw the official launch of the County Durham Vision 2035. Partners signed up to the vision and discussed how they could support its ambitions. As well as pledging to back the vision, partners also heard about the impact cultural events can have on the county's ambitions and the role culture can play in improving health and wellbeing. Work has commenced on a review of the strategic

partnership governance arrangements to deliver the new County Durham Vision for 2035.

4 In July 2019, England won the Cricket World cup after reaching their first world cup final in 27 years and through **AAPs**, one hundred tickets were distributed to community and voluntary groups across the county to attend the three matches played at the Emirates Riverside, Chester le Street.

5 The Poverty Action Steering Group has allocated £150,000 of additional funding for holiday activities with food until September 2020. £140,000 of this money will be divided between the **14 AAPs** to allocate to schemes that provide opportunities for young people and their families to socialise, be active and learn new skills while enjoying healthy meals and snacks. Projects are currently being sought to cover the forthcoming Easter break.

6 Lumiere took place for the tenth anniversary event on 14 - 17 November 2019. The number of visitors to the event was 165,000, bringing the number of people who have enjoyed the festival since it began in 2009 at just over one million.

7 In May 2018, members of the Council's Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee reported to Cabinet on their review activity looking at work in relation to cybercrime. The focus of this work was on working collaboratively with our partners to prevent young people engaging in cybercrime activity. The Safer Cyber working group (a subgroup of the Safe Durham Partnership) and New College Durham have been working together on a film to raise awareness of the potential consequences of participating in cybercrimes and hacking. This short film "Hack" has now been launched and will start to be used as a resource for schools to deter young people away from this illegal activity. Regional and national interest has been shown in this film and a communications plan for dissemination has been developed to showcase this excellent partnership work.

8 Checkpoint, set up by Durham Constabulary, has been named winner of the 2019 Goldstein Award for problem-solving in policing at a ceremony held in Santa Cruz, California. The innovative Checkpoint programme beat competition from around the world after judges heard that those who undergo the four-month intervention programme were far less likely to reoffend than those who go down more traditional criminal justice routes, such as magistrates' court orders or police cautions.

9 On 7 October 2019, Public Health England launched the "Every Mind Matters" campaign, which aims to support everyone in feeling more

confident in taking action to look after their mental health and wellbeing by promoting a range of self-care actions.

10 On 10 October 2019, World Mental Health Day was celebrated where a Healthy Business Strategy was launched which outlined how the council will work with local businesses to develop workforce mental health and wellbeing training and support, and reduce the stigma associated with poor mental health. This builds on the system wide approach to reducing stigma and discrimination of mental health whereby partners signed up to the Time to Change pledge on World Mental Health day in 2018 at the County Durham Partnership event.

11 Whilst recognising the pace of work undertaken to strengthen services since a focussed visit in January 2019 of children in need and those subject to a child protection plan, the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) took place between 9 and 20 September 2019 and the overall effectiveness outcome was "requires improvement".

12 In another Ofsted inspection, Aycliffe Secure Centre, which provides a secure children's home environment, was judged to be "outstanding" in terms of the overall experiences and progress of children and young people, based on how well they are helped and protected; their health; the effectiveness of leaders and managers; and outcomes in education and related learning activities. The Ofsted's report states: "The children's home provides highly effective services that consistently exceed the standards of good. The actions of the children's home contribute to significantly improved outcomes and positive experiences for children and young people who need help, protection and care."

13 Ofsted and the CQC's revisit of Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities took place between 22 and 24 January 2020.

14 Judges from Britain In Bloom awarded the city with gold in the Champion of Champion's category at this year's awards. Durham was praised for its commitment to educating the next generation of horticulturalists and for creating a vibrant buzz where everyone feels part of a community. Praise was also given for the community garden at Wharton Park, displays in Durham City Centre and the grounds of Durham Cathedral.

Recommendation

15 Cabinet is recommended to:

(a) note the contents of this update.

Background

16 The County Durham Partnership including the board and forum (which bring together the board and local communities), 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

17 The County Durham Partnership Forum in June focussed on Prevent (a strand of the counter terrorism 'CONTEST' Strategy) and community cohesion and raising awareness of this in our communities.

18 The County Durham Partnership Board has met four times since the last update report.

19 July's Board meeting focused on the future work programme of the Prevention Steering Group. This includes taking forward a new relationship between services and communities in line with the County Durham Vision 2035 to meet County Durham's needs, building on what is already available in communities.

20 At the September Board meeting, partners agreed the County Durham Vision 2035. They also agreed to the establishment of a new partnership online directory (previously Locate) to support mentors, health champions, social prescribing link workers and care navigators in their work with vulnerable people which will help signpost to appropriate activities and services, supporting social inclusion and wellbeing.

21 The County Durham Partnership signed off the proposal for a strategic governance review following the agreement of the County Durham Vision 2035. The review seeks to ensure arrangements are in place to support the delivery of the County Durham Vision.

22 The November meeting focused on Durham Insight which is a shared intelligence, research and knowledge base for County Durham, informing strategic planning and commissioning across Durham County Council and its partners.

County Durham Partnership Event 2019

23 In October 2019, a range of organisations held an official launch of the Vision 2035 for County Durham's future. The County Durham Vision 2035 sets out three strategic ambitions for the area over the next 15 years:

(a) More and Better jobs

(b) People live long and independent lives

(c) Connected communities

24 Guest speakers included Dr Darren Henley OBE, chief executive of Arts Council England, who spoke about the value of creativity in the community, linking to the health and wellbeing of people, and Helen Marriage, artistic director of Artichoke, the organisation that produces the Lumiere light festival, who explained the impact the festival has on the county. A number of community groups also presented on their work with the arts and feedback from the event was extremely positive.

Lumiere

25 Ten years ago, the County Durham Partnership agreed to the first Lumiere. For the 10th anniversary, the number of visitors to the event was 165,000, bringing the number of people who have enjoyed the festival since it began in 2009 at just over one million.

26 A selection of favourite artworks from previous festivals sat alongside a host of new commissions by international artists and fresh talent from the North East. There was a full programme of 37 artworks for this festival, which took place from 14 - 17 November 2019. Iconic landmarks were transformed, including Durham Cathedral, lit up from within by candlelit installation Spirit, whilst the public could manipulate the sound and light installation stones on the historic building's exterior.

27 Artichoke invited a range of community groups and individuals from across County Durham to take part in the creation of artworks for the festival. Women residents at HMP Low Newton in Brasside have worked with poet Hannah Jane Walker to create The Next Page, a message for the future in neon displayed at Clayport Library.

28 Students from Durham Sixth Form Centre collaborated with international artists on Are Atoms Alive? a fascinating short film displayed across nine shipping containers, whilst East Durham College students reimagined the brutalist building Dunelm House with the new artwork Lift Off, a legacy piece from the Apollo 50 project in Peterlee.

Safeguarding

29 The **Local Safeguarding Adults Board** (LSAB) and the **Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership** (DSCP) continued with their joint approach to raising awareness of key safeguarding issues in a second joint safeguarding week in November 2019. Key topics included domestic abuse, modern slavery and child exploitation.

30 The DSCP leads on recognising that exploitation of children is much broader than Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). The Criminal Exploitation Group now encompasses CSE, criminal exploitation,

County lines, modern day slavery and forced marriage. It remains a joint group covering both County Durham and Darlington. The group continues to focus on prevention through awareness raising, including effective communications and marketing. Its aim is to ensure there is an effective joined up partnership response in order to improve both outcomes and service delivery for young people, to protect them from CSE and other forms of exploitation.

31 One year on from the submission of the DSCP's action plan response to the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of Domestic Abuse, a report has been considered by the DSCP's Executive Group who have responsibility for improving outcomes for children and young people. All the individual actions identified in response to the JTAI report have been completed and evidence of effectiveness has been collected to provide assurance. The report reviews the current status of the JTAI action plan, and the progress made by agencies in responding to the areas for improvement identified by the inspectors. It includes elements in relation to the effectiveness of both the support provided and of the partner agency response to JTAI. A multi-agency review of the action plan has been undertaken to examine actions and provide assurance of impact across the partnership. The DSCP will continue to ensure that outcomes improve for children and young people who experience domestic abuse through its emerging scrutiny arrangements (including peer review, third party scrutiny, independent scrutineer post and scrutiny panel).

32 The DSCP has appointed a Young People's Commissioner (YPC) in a new and innovative role and the first of its kind. The YPC will work towards ensuring the commitment of the DSCP to hear the voice of the child and ensure this becomes a fundamental thread throughout its work.

33 The YPC has been involved in a range of work areas which include building relationships and networking with key contacts, engagement activities and was sponsored by the DSCP to carry out an engagement project involving targeted engagement with young people to help the DSCP better understand best practice as well as areas of improvement in relation to the themes of mental health, poverty and domestic violence.

34 To assist further with relationship development, she took part in the interview panel for the NHS Designated Safeguarding Nurse appointment in Oct 2019. In preparation for this she reviewed the job description and developed a list of potential questions advocating the voice of the child and young people within the role. Three questions were selected by the panel for her to ask each candidate. She received

some great feedback from the interview panel for her role in this process.

35 At their development session, held on 18 October 2019, the DSCP placed a focus upon the progress made under its new working arrangements, including the assurance from the four sector groups for the Criminal Justice Service, Education Sector, Health and the Voluntary and Community Sector. Dedicated time was set aside to focus upon themes from local Serious Case Reviews with the opportunity for members to hear from a national expert to draw upon their expertise and support, informing future local practice.

36 The LSAB development session, held on 14 October 2019, brought an opportunity for the Board to consider its wider assurance role in respect of the health and care provider market and drive its future arrangements for ensuring the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements locally. The session was well received with a number of recommendations to take forward.

37 User and Carer Voice is a key priority for the LSAB. Service users are asked what outcomes they want to achieve to help keep themselves safe and prevent any further risk. The Board receives quarterly data about service users' outcomes in a scorecard; currently 94.7% of people using DCC adult protection safeguarding report that their outcomes are fully or partially met.

38 The LSAB commitment to hearing the voice of service users is captured by the shared experiences of a service user in an animated video which has received high praise across partner and wider organisations. As a follow on the LSAB is working alongside the service user to develop a My Story booklet which illustrates the positive impact an effective safeguarding response can have when supporting adults; it will be used as an education aid for client groups.

39 In addition to hearing the voice of the service user the LSAB has responded to the feedback from a Practitioner Survey in 2018 and has developed and agreed an Information Sharing good practice guide, ratified and launched in October 2019. Further work in response is underway to provide practitioners with wider opportunities and access to workshops, events, legal briefings and e-Bulletins.

Vision 2035: More and better jobs

40 A working group has been set up to further develop the County Durham Industrial Strategy including its outcomes and performance indicators. This includes core membership from the County Durham Economic Partnership, the Business, Enterprise and Skills Group, Business Durham, the council and the university. There will be clear links with the

County Durham Vision to ensure local context as well as both the national and regional Industrial strategies.

41 The annual economic impact assessment 2018 which provides the volume and value of the visitor economy has been signed off by the Visit County Durham Board. Countywide results state that there were 19.7 million visitors in 2018 - the same as 2017 - and £914 million in economic impact (visitor spend), up 1.4% on 2017. The results show that there are fewer day visitors in comparison to the total number of visitors, but more overnight visitors who are staying longer which boosts the economy. There are now almost 12,000 people in employment in the visitor economy, up 2.7% on 2017.

42 In 2019, there have been over 19,000 visitors to the Heritage Open Days with the highest visitor count to date. Across the county there were 83 venues/events and, of these, 27 were new venues from local businesses, museums, churches and council venues. Amongst the many highlights which proved popular this year was the chance to explore the darker side of Durham's history on a Durham City Crime and Punishment guided walk and a history and heritage festival in Bishop Auckland.

43 **Spennymoor AAP** has supported the Town Council to develop the Cornish Trail which is a heritage trail, and part of the Heritage Open Days, showcasing the work of local artist Norman Cornish. This project has attracted visitors to Spennymoor, supporting a vibrant and well used town and a stunning exhibition of permanent artwork by Norman Cornish at Spennymoor town hall which attracted 1114 visitors.

44 Bowes Museum and Northern Heartlands have joined in partnership to deliver outreach sessions on the work of Norman Cornish to villages in Teesdale, which are to be hosted by local community centres. The sessions will reinforce the importance of the artist's legacy and bring his work to new audiences. A recent session was successfully held in the Randolph Community Centre in Evenwood, which is a former Surestart Centre, transferred to the control of the local parish council by Durham County Council in 2016 through Asset Transfer supported by the Partnership Team.

45 **4 Together AAP** is contributing to a local building to bring it back into full use and extend it to become a new 'heritage centre' and base for the Ferryhill Town band. Local schools have demonstrated a strong interest in using the heritage centre as a regular resource to provide a more varied and enriched learning resource.

46 In Wolsingham, the biggest agricultural show of the year took place and **Weardale AAP** celebrated the Year of Culture by undertaking a range

of workshops across the AAP area which utilised different artistic techniques, for example ceramics, painting, printing and working with clay and leather. This culminated in showing the pieces at the Wolsingham show.

47 The Durham Business Opportunities Programme (DBOP), now entering its fourth year is a six-year European Regional Development Fund programme that has recently been extended to support businesses up until November 2022. DBOP aims to help County Durham business grow by linking them with tangible opportunities to help spot and facilitate business growth. Support could be helping businesses secure a new contract, find new premises, a new supplier or perhaps secure some investment.

48 In the first three years, DBOP has supported Durham based small and medium enterprises across several sectors including childcare, food and drink, manufacturing and engineering.

49 Over 120 students from 17 secondary schools across County Durham are embarking on a challenge to come up with business ideas that will protect the planet. Future Business Magnates, now running for its 15th year, will see school teams of year 8 pupils working closely with local businesses to develop, create and present business ideas.

50 With many countries and local authorities, including Durham County Council, declaring a Climate Emergency and committing to reducing emissions this year students are being asked to come up with a business idea that will help to save the planet or will tackle one of the problems caused by climate change.

51 The students representing schools from across County Durham will undergo six individual challenges over the coming months, supported by dedicated business partners from successful Durham based organisations like Zumtobel Group, Honcho Markets, Wates Construction and Waterstons.

52 The programme will culminate in an awards ceremony in June 2020 hosted by BBC Radio Newcastle presenter Charlie Charlton.

53 At the County Durham **Armed Forces** Forum on 3rd October 2019 partners heard that since the introduction of the Guaranteed Interview Scheme for Veterans in April 2018, the Council has employed five veterans across four different service groupings. The Forum also focussed discussions on employment support through the new Defence Transition Service and the Royal British Legion Industries ‘Lifeworks’ employment support programme.

54 **Stanley AAP** have supported North Durham Academy to expand their Engineering Laboratory. The Laboratory will allow the Academy to be at the forefront of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education, especially within the area of engineering. At full capacity, the engineering laboratory will be able to accept approximately 60 level 2 vocational students from the academy per year, with an additional 60 students studying the high-end GCSE course and up to 15 studying an A-Level qualification. It is hoped that this will help to bridge the skills gap of students going into engineering into the future. Going forward the laboratory will be utilised by outside agencies to train and upskill local residents to enable them to take up local employment opportunities in the STEM sector.

55 Various advice projects have been developed by AAPs to support local residents tackle the impact of welfare reform. **3 Towns AAP** allowed residents to access advice and support with universal credit locally, to benefit residents in receiving income gains by accessing their entitlements. A number of people have also become debt free or have debts reduced to a level that is easily managed.

56 **Derwent Valley AAP** and Advice in County Durham are working together to create an integrated advice service in Consett to deliver advice services for individuals needing assistance with welfare reform issues within a one stop advice hub.

People lives long and independent lives

57 The **Health and Wellbeing Board** (HWB) agreed the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-25 at their meeting in March 2020. The key health and wellbeing factors which impact on health have been drawn out from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and utilised to inform the priorities for the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This has been coupled with the major policy drivers for improving health and reducing health inequalities.

58 The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy follows a lifecourse approach and is focussed not only on extending the length of life, but quality of life and reducing differences in health outcomes for our local residents.

59 The vision of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy is ‘County Durham is a healthy place, where people live well for longer’, with the strategic priorities being:

(a) Starting Well

(b) Living Well

(c) Ageing Well

60 Our Approach to Wellbeing builds on the County Durham Partnership Event 2018 which focused on mental health and the work of Cormac Russell on asset-based community development; highlighting the importance of greater engagement with communities.

61 There are many definitions of wellbeing, but in short it can be described as ‘how well we are doing’ or ‘how satisfied we are with our lives’. As well as health, measures of wellbeing include our relationships; our work and finances; our levels of participation in sport, culture and community events, where we live and how safe we feel; and the services we can access. Wellbeing is starting to be an equivalent measure to economic growth, ensuring that we consider these important factors in people’s lives alongside factors influencing economic development.

62 Wider influences such as finances, home, education, and environment can all have an impact on the health of our communities. However, communities also possess a number of assets available to them that help maintain and build their resilience and which in turn can protect challenges to their health or wellbeing.

63 Initiatives intended to encourage inclusive growth and improvements in wellbeing are founded on the engagement of communities and the devolution of power. County Durham has been at the vanguard in developing such approaches, engaging communities and sharing decision making through Area Action Partnerships. These have been operating since 2009, originally designed to give people a voice in how local services are provided. We know that this can make a difference and can build on these to close the gap and not leave people behind.

64 This approach to wellbeing is key to implementing the County Durham Vision together with our communities. We will operate to the following principles of working in order to improve the wellbeing of our residents:

(a) Solutions will be designed and produced together with service users

(b) We will work with communities and support their development and empowerment

(c) We will acknowledge the differing needs of our communities whilst acknowledging and building on their potential strengths

(d) We will direct our activities where they can make the biggest difference to those who are most vulnerable and help to build resilience

(e) We will make person centred interventions available, ensuring that they are empowering and not stigmatising

(f) We will align our related strategies, policies and services to reduce duplication and ensure greater impact.

65 The **Health and Wellbeing Board** have agreed to undertake an audit of organisational premises to support the ongoing work around breastfeeding friendly venues with a view to our organisations publicising this to staff and communities, showing system leadership of this important issue.

66 The **Local Councils Working Group** received a presentation seeking support to help develop a co-ordinated approach to reduce smoking in pregnancy and increase take up in breastfeeding rates. This focusses on the opportunity for local councils who own buildings, open to the public, to provide facilities for breastfeeding or to use their public events and other communications to promote the positive messages around the benefits of breastfeeding and the need to reduce smoking during pregnancy.

67 Obesity is a population health and inequalities challenge which has profound long-term consequences for health and wellbeing across County Durham. The Healthy Weight Alliance, a subgroup of the **Health and Wellbeing Board**, has taken forward County Durham's whole system approach to supporting people to achieve and keep a healthy weight.

68 The HWB advocated for a policy to impose restrictions on new planning and licensing applications for hot food takeaways, including the percentage in a given area and proximity to schools and colleges. The Hot Food Takeaway Policy will support our young people, families and communities to be able to live and interact within environments where healthier choices are the easy choice as part of a system wide approach to support people to achieve and keep a healthy weight.

69 Projects include the work of the Active Durham Partnership in developing the Active 30 Durham programme. The aim is to increase the physical activity of young people and over 100 schools are currently engaged and have signed up to doing at least 10, 20 or 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity every day in school.

70 **Chester le Street AAP** funded the first Man v Fat, a football league for men who want to lose weight. The league is decided not only upon points won but also upon pounds lost among participants. Support was given to each participant with unique resources, inspiration and 24/7 support to help them to lose weight, meet people and get fitter. It also helps to reduce social isolation and improve mental health. Following

national exposure of this idea on the BBC One Show, DCC Leisure Services approached the AAP to co-fund the league, 88 players signed up for the first season who in the first eight weeks lost 65 stones combined, with one player losing four stones.

71 **Derwent Valley AAP** are currently delivering a programme of cycle rides, walks, bikeability courses and training courses targeted at families and retired people, in partnership with Groundwork North East. The programme is also identifying and promoting six walking, cycling and running routes for a range of abilities and distances. The aim of the programme is to promote physical activity and health and wellbeing linked to the environment and also heavily supports the reduction of environmental impacts in the Derwent Valley by promoting and improving opportunities for sustainable travel through the identification and implementation of schemes that promote walking, cycling and the use of public transport. 346 local residents (both children and adults) have so far participated in the programme.

72 **4 Together AAP** has supported the Ladder Centre with their Learn Healthy Live Healthy project. A new group will have the opportunity to participate in a project designed to educate, motivate and instil a knowledge and commitment to health improvement in the area. Special emphasis will be placed upon engaging with people aged over 50 years. There will be weekly sessions and taster sessions of sporting and health improving activities to promote exercise, improve health and tackle social isolation. In addition, there will also be courses increasing knowledge and awareness of the importance of Cancer screening, understanding mental health, healthy eating, the benefits of stopping smoking and alcohol/substance misuse.

73 Ten of the project members will go on to become Volunteer Health Champions and they will be encouraged to use their knowledge and skills to improve the health and wellbeing of their peers, colleagues and family members and undergo training to become involved in specific areas of health improvement volunteering such as walk leaders, run leaders and wellbeing for life volunteers.

74 AAPs have used their Older People's Social Isolation Fund grants programme to fund a range of innovative projects to help people who are at risk of loneliness and social isolation. These include **Bishop Auckland and Shildon (BASH) AAP** which has supported client led eco-therapy using allotments and green spaces targeted at people with dementia and their carers and Age UK County Durham has supported older people to access information and support across **Teesdale AAP** including help to provide a development worker, recruit volunteers and pilot a new programme of "Let's Get Crafty" sessions to bring older people together. The project has also continued the work of "Beat the

Scammers" along with purchasing 20 call blocker units that can be installed in the homes of vulnerable older people who need help. Over 200 elderly residents have benefitted.

75 **East Durham AAP** funded a Dementia Friendly Coordinator who has now supported five communities to gain Dementia Friendly Community status. They are now looking to form a local network as well as take their place within the existing regional network. Local schools, health centres and Dalton Park have been involved in making the community more accessible for people living with dementia.

76 As part of the work of the **Children and Families Partnership**, a County Durham Youth Council is in development which will work alongside the County Durham Partnership to ensure that the voice of children and young people are at the heart of what we do. The Youth Council will be led by young people and looks at the key issues for young people. This would influence what all the thematic partnerships do and is being developed as part of County Durham's enhanced engagement with children and young people.

77 In addition, the County Durham Children and Young People's Awards is also being developed, by which the successes of children and young people across County Durham will be celebrated at an annual awards ceremony co-produced with representatives from the council and the County Durham Youth Council.

78 The Children's Takeover Challenge, supported by the **Children and Families Partnership**, is a nationwide event where organisations are encouraged to open their doors to children and young people and involve them in decision making. Takeover Challenge events and activities took place from October to December 2019 and included:

(a) Young people from the Children in Care Council took over the latter part of the Corporate Parenting Panel meeting on 25 October 2019 to deliver some care leaver training to members and officers of Durham County Council. At the session, young people identified what makes a good corporate parent, and the Councillors in attendance each made a promise to support the young people.

(b) Villa Real School and the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Designated Clinical Officer at North Durham and Durham, Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) took part in the challenge. They met with pupils from the school and discussed how to give young people with profound SEND a say in how they would like their voice to be heard in CCG services.

(c) Pupils from two schools took over the role of the Durham Learning Resources team. There were two sessions where children nominated from two schools went into the service to see how staff fulfilled a school order for resources, made some orders themselves and carried out tasks in the warehouse.

(d) A young person who was previously a member of Investing in Children's Children in Care Council and a co-opted young person who attended the Corporate Parenting Panel, before she left to go to University, shadowed Terry Collins, chief executive officer (CEO) of Durham County Council for the morning.

(e) The chief executive went over his roles and responsibilities as CEO. The young person then attended a County Durham Partnership Board meeting alongside Terry, where she was given the opportunity to ask questions and be involved in discussions. As a result, she volunteered to be involved in shaping the new Youth Council to ensure that all children and young people will be represented not just those who attend school.

(f) There is evidence that children from vulnerable families are more likely to experience "unhealthy holidays" in terms of nutrition and physical health. To address this issue, thirty young people from schools, youth clubs and Investing in Children's eXtreme group (made up of children and young people with disabilities) gave their views on the "Holiday Activities with Food" project. They spoke about the kind of activities young people want, where they want to access them and any barriers there might be. Their views are being used to help the council and partners to shape provision over the coming year.

(g) A young person in care, spent a day with Richard Crane, Head of Education and Skills. She visited Pittington Primary School where she spoke to teachers about their role and responsibilities and accompanied Richard on a tour of the school. She also met with managers and staff from the sections which make up the Education and Skills service; learning about professional development, the importance of performance and standards and the main elements of how the Education Durham team work. As a result, she has been inspired to consider working in education as a career of choice in the future.

79 Durham Area Youth (DAY) runs a youth forum which brings together young people from all of the villages it works in. A grant from **Durham AAP** has helped to get the youth forum up and running and members of the youth forum were consulted as part of the development of the new Vison for County Durham.

80 **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP** have successfully ran a Baby Ready or Not course using simulated babies. The group had a day out with the babies, tackling the day to day issues of using public transport and accessing communal areas. The young people had the babies for three days/ two nights and demonstrated the dedication and commitment needed to care for young children.

81 The **Voluntary and Community Sector** (VCS) Better Together Forum held a Policy Forum on Social Value in September. This Forum was convened to look at the current landscape surrounding social value, in a national and local context, and what opportunities and challenges it might offer the VCS in the current working climate.

82 There is no formal definition of social value, however, the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 defines this as “An act to require public authorities to have regard to economic, social and environmental wellbeing in connection with public services contracts; and for connected purposes”. Social value serves as an umbrella term for these broader effects, and organisations which make a conscious effort to ensure that these effects are positive can be seen as contributing to the long-term wellbeing and resilience of individuals, communities and society in general.

83 The Forum looked at social value in public sector procurement and commissioning, explored how the VCS might respond to social value in day to day work, and considered how the County Durham Approach to Wellbeing might be used to gather evidence of social value.

Connected communities

84 Since 2016, when County Durham welcomed its first refugee arrivals, the county has supported 259 individuals in 56 family groups over eight separate phases. The programme is on track to deliver Cabinet’s commitment to support between 250 and 300 vulnerable refugees by the conclusion of current resettlement programmes in 2020.

85 The county is recognised regionally and nationally as an example of best practice in delivering a successful resettlement programme that effectively supports vulnerable refugee families starting a new life in the UK.

86 Cabinet has agreed to participate in the UK’s new global refugee resettlement programme over the next four years following the conclusion of the current resettlement schemes in 2020.

87 The Council declared a Climate Emergency in February 2019, with the aim of making Council activities carbon neutral by 2030 and the whole County completely carbon neutral by 2050. Over 1,000 responses were

received to the Climate Emergency Response plan consultation and 38 schools have been part of that engagement. Key areas identified have been; the role of natural environment (particularly trees and woodlands), how we generate our electricity and heat our homes and businesses, travel and lifestyle changes from diet to household waste. Underpinning this is the need for significant structural change across the county; from new jobs in the green economy, new standards of development, upgrades of existing homes and travel that is cleaner than present fossil-fuel based modes. This work is a key part of the **Environment Partnership** work programme.

88 The Single Use Plastic (SUP) task group (consisting of both internal and external partners) has made significant progress towards the reduction of single use plastics across County Durham which has attracted both local and national publicity. This has led to adoption of a bespoke County Durham SUP pledge where residents and organisations can join a growing army of volunteers to reduce and seek alternatives to SUPs. Over 229 individuals and organisations have signed the pledge since March 2019.

89 The County Durham Single Use Plastics project won the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee Celebration Awards in the 'Best Waste Minimisation or Prevention Project' category. In addition, the SUP Project won the Waste Management category at the 2019, County Durham Environment Awards.

90 Organised by the **Environment Partnership**, outstanding examples of community spirit and green schemes were celebrated at the 30th anniversary Environment Award. In addition to the 12 category winners, for the first time in the awards' history, three projects were granted outstanding status.

91 The Auckland Project's newly opened Auckland Tower won in the design and built environment category, the Park Head Hotel in New Coundon near Bishop Auckland won for recognition of its environmental initiatives as a "green business", and Eleven Arches' spectacular outdoor live action show Kynren, won in the "volunteer group" category for developing the show site as a place where people and wildlife can thrive.

92 In addition, Peterlee's community garden triumphed in the community partnership category and St Bede's Primary School in Sacriston triumphed in the schools and colleges category. It was the first school in the region to be awarded plastic-free status and has also promoted its work nationally, with one pupil raising awareness of the need to reduce plastic use on BBC's The One Show.

93 The **Safe Durham Partnership** agreed the Safe Durham Partnership Plan (SDPP) 2020-25 at their meeting in March 2020. The key risks and threats contained in the annual strategic assessment that crime and disorder pose to the communities of County Durham have informed the priorities of the SDPP, which sets out the strategic approach that will be used to tackle crime and disorder throughout the County.

94 The vision of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan is 'Durham is a county where every adult and child will feel and be safe', with the six strategic priorities being:

(a) Promote being safe and feeling safe in your community

(b) Support victims and protect vulnerable people from harm

(c) Prevent: Counter Terrorism, Radicalisation and Violent Extremism

(d) Reduce reoffending

(e) Alcohol and substance misuse reduction

(f) Tackle and prevent cyber enabled crime

95 Through the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, local authorities have a duty and a core role to play at a local level in both safeguarding individuals vulnerable to radicalisation, and in protecting their communities from extremism.

96 As part of the awareness raising work of the **Safe Durham Partnership**, in September 2019, Small Steps delivered training to elected members, officers and partners to gain awareness of far-right extremism, racism and violence which can lead to community tensions in local areas.

97 County Durham Youth Justice Service, formerly County Durham Youth Offending Service, was presented with Investing in Children status for the work it does to involve young people in decisions that affect them and for its imaginative and inclusive practice.

98 A unique Speedwatch van, was launched in the **3 Towns AAP** in partnership with Durham Constabulary making it the first force in the County and the first of its kind in the UK, to use specialist software which recognises number plates which has proved to be a good deterrent to keep road users safe.

99 **Chester le Street AAP** and **East Durham AAP** have bought e-bikes for Neighbourhood Police teams. Police teams are able to cover up to eight times the area per shift than they would be able to on foot, facilitating

more community contacts and supporting community cohesion. The bikes have already proved invaluable in searching for “lost” individuals.

100 A talk and information session on staying safe from scams was hosted by NatWest Bank in the **Great Aycliffe and Middridge AAP** area which was a well-received and valuable session.

101 **Mid Durham AAP** has undertaken two Crime Prevention and Community Safety Roadshows at local primary schools in Langley Moor and Castleside. These roadshows are designed to bring the agencies working across this varied field to the communities in order that they can access information and advice and support in relation to feeling safe and secure personally, at home and in the community. Approximately 300 local people attended these events.

102 The role of **Faith Communities** in nurturing connected communities continues to be acknowledged through supporting local churches and faith groups to engage with AAPs in looking at the contributions they make to the health and wellbeing and connectivity of their communities. Faith and Wellbeing events held in **Teesdale AAP** in July 2019 and **Derwent Valley AAP** in November 2019 continue to demonstrate how faith groups work with communities to address social need and develop local solutions that work. Improved communication and partnership working between churches, faith groups and AAPs, will lead to better outcomes for local people. Once the role of faith communities has been explored with all AAPs later this year, an evaluation will take place to consider the impact.

103 Two Breakfast seminars bringing together elected members, officers, partners and **Faith Communities** in roundtable conversations on challenging and timely topics have taken place recently. Durham Constabulary’s lead officers for modern slavery and human trafficking introduced the topic ‘Modern Slavery… private problem or public issue?’ which gave an overview of the nature and prevalence of modern slavery and related concerns in County Durham. It explored how we can support and protect victims and challenged participants to consider the ethical choices that consumers are faced with.

104 The second seminar, introduced by the Head of Environment, was titled ‘Climate Emergency…. a moral imperative? The seminar gave an overview of the declaration by the Council of a Climate Emergency and gave feedback from the public consultation as well as considering how we can work together locally to ensure that no one is disadvantaged in making the changes necessary to reduce emissions and make County Durham carbon neutral by 2050.

Conclusion

105 The County Durham Vision 2035 was agreed in September 2019 and will be delivered through an integrated framework of partnership and organisational plans and strategies across the County Durham Partnership (including the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Safe Durham Partnership Plan) to measure the success of achieving the ambitions and objectives set out in the vision.

106 Work has commenced on a review of the strategic partnership governance arrangements. The review is currently being carried out and the views of partner agencies are being actively gathered. The review will conclude in May 2020 to ensure arrangements are in place to support the delivery of the County Durham Vision.

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.

Climate Change

This is recognised throughout partnership activities.

Human Rights

None

Crime and Disorder

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a statutory duty on local authorities to form a Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to tackle crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment and to reduce re-offending. In County Durham, the CSP is the Safe Durham Partnership.

Staffing

None

Accommodation

None

Risk

None

Procurement

None