

Cabinet

10 October 2012



**County Durham Partnership Update
Report**

**Report of Corporate Management Team
Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive
Cllr. Simon Henig, Leader of the Council
Cllr. Brian Stephens, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and
Local Partnerships**

Purpose of the Report

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

Summary

2. There has been a wide range of activity across all parts of the County Durham Partnership over the summer months that continue to evidence the successful joint working taking place throughout the County. The Area Action Partnerships continue to engage with our local communities on their individual priorities which in turn contribute to the high level priorities set within the Sustainable Community Strategy.
3. Under the Altogether safer theme in particular there has been positive work carried out with young people, both in the Bishop Auckland Shildon AAP area as well as in Chester le Street. Both of these projects showcase the positive relationship that the AAPs share with Durham Constabulary, particularly through the neighbourhood teams.
4. A lot of work is also ongoing on the Altogether wealthier theme, the top priority identified for the CDP. This ranges from broadband in the rural parts of the county to apprenticeships are involvement in schools in Great Aycliffe and Middridge. Joint working across three AAPs (Teesdale, Weardale and Three Towns), in partnership with 2D, the Council for Voluntary Service in Teesdale and Weardale, is currently looking at employability with a particular aim of engaging with people either recently redundant or facing redundancy.

County Durham Partnership Away Day

5. The CDP Board held its third annual away day in September with the overall theme of Building Community Resilience. The main aims of the day were to consider the challenges and opportunities we face as a County and as a Partnership as well as to reflect on the progress made to date. It was also an opportunity to provide a strategic steer for the renew of the Sustainable Community Strategy and to ensure that the partnership working continues to be effective.

Better Together: Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy for County Durham

6. A draft VCS strategy is being developed jointly by partners from the public sector (Council, Police, NHS) and Voluntary and Community Sector. The Purpose of the strategy is to influence policy, clarify roles and illustrate the impact of the VCS in County Durham. Members of both sectors have already had significant input into the content to make it relevant and flexible. There is now an opportunity for a wider cross section of people and organisations to be involved in helping to shape the strategy through a formal twelve week consultation which will run from 10 September to 30 November 2012. The final strategy will be influenced by the views expressed in this consultation. An action plan will then be developed to implement it.
7. The draft strategy and consultation questionnaire can be accessed here: [Better Together: VCS Strategy for County Durham](#)

Consultations

8. As part of their role as one aspect of the consultation and engagement function of the County Council and its partners, and in advance of the consultation period, all 14 AAPs have been given prior knowledge and opportunity to play into the consultation on the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
9. Officers from the Planning Team within Regeneration and Economic Development are also currently consulting with all AAPs on the Preferred Option stage on the County Durham Plan which forms the spatial expression of the Sustainable Community Strategy. The County Durham Plan will help shape the future development of County Durham therefore it is important that our local communities are engaged in this.

AAP Profiles

10. Each year since their inception, AAP boards and forums have been provided with statistical profiles to help inform their work. The profiles are produced by the Council's Research and Consultation Team and reflect a broad range of socio-economic and demographic issues about each locality with countywide, regional and national comparisons where data are available. This year's AAP Profiles have been updated to include some new indicators following consultation with AAP Co-ordinators and services. The profiles support the work of the AAP promoting informed debate and decision making, developing local priorities as well as the more detailed work undertaken by various task and finish groups. The 2012 profiles will shortly be available on the Council's website at www.durham.gov.uk/aaprofiles. A link to previous year's profiles will also be available at this page. A paper copy of each profile will be made available in the Members' library.

Altogether wealthier

11. A Future Business Magnates Awards Ceremony, supported by the **Economic Partnership**, held in the summer celebrated the end of a six month competition in which 22 schools participated from across County Durham. Each team had been tasked to develop a business idea and complete a series of six business-related challenges with the support of business partners who 'mentored' the teams and shared their business expertise. Teams were awarded points for each challenge, with the winning team being the team that scored the highest number of points in total during the competition.
12. The winning team was Park View School, Chester-le-Street which received the FBM 2012 Winner's trophy and £2,000 for the school and £50 for each team member. Bishop Barrington School came second and Framwellgate School received the FBM 2012 third place trophy. In addition to the overall winner and runners up, eight additional prizes were awarded for performance during the competition, with the winning teams each receiving a trophy.

13. E Business Durham, in collaboration with Oldfields Durham and Bishop Auckland College held the final of "Oldfields Masterchef" in August. After four rounds, two contestants remained in the competition with both contestants preparing fantastic meals which impressed the judges. Bill Oldfield was keen that both students be recognised for their hard work and will be offering both the two young gastronomists the chance of an apprenticeship with Oldfields.
14. The success of this pilot has been widely recognised and it is anticipated that a more refined version of the programme will launch later in the year. Bill Oldfield is keen to offer this kind of detailed work experience to County Durham's young people. Business Durham sees the process as a good way to introduce young people to the real life work which goes on in the County's most entrepreneurial sectors.
15. For more information please contact Angela Brown, Partnership Support Officer on 0191 387 2117 or email angela.brown@durham.gov.uk

Altogether better for children and young people

16. The Children, Young People and Families Plan 2012-2016 has now been approved by Full Council and is available on the DCC website. Children and young people from Investing in Children are working closely with DCC colleagues to produce a child friendly poster that communicates the main messages of the plan. The plan will be monitored on a quarterly basis involving the **Children's Executive Board**, Children and Young People and the CYP Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the County Council. Plans are underway to prepare for the 2013/14 review of the plan. Further detail will be provided in the next update to the CDP.
17. An Overview and Scrutiny Review Report on teenage pregnancy was presented to the Children's Executive Board in June 2012. The report highlighted the good progress that has been made in relation to the effective commissioning, planning and delivery of teenage pregnancy services and made further recommendations for improvement. An action plan has been developed focussing on the following areas: a review of SRE and the development of a SRE portfolio for schools; the development of a communications strategy and the review of the effectiveness of the Sexual Health Bus. Work has begun against the action plan and an update will be provided to the Children's Executive Board in September 2012.
18. As set out in the Annual Commissioning Plan for 2012/13, work is underway in developing a Risk and Resilience Strategy with specific reference to teenage pregnancy with Public Health leading on this work. Information is currently being gathered to inform the needs assessment with analysis to follow in September.
19. The Youth Strategy is in its final stages of development. This strategy has brought partners from the Local Authority and the Third Sector together to consider creative options in delivering youth services in the future.
20. Developmental work has been undertaken in relation to the transfer of Public Health and PCT contracts. This includes the development of Memoranda of Understanding that sets out the funding arrangements between Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Local Authority. Progress is reported through the Disability Joint Commissioning Group and the Transitions Board.
21. Third Sector engagement remains strong in relation to Children's Services. This engagement includes regular communication with the sector in the form of newsletters and engagement days. The most recent engagement day took place in July 2012 and areas for discussion included think tanks in relation to Teenage Pregnancy and NEETS. A workshop was delivered in relation to Safeguarding, highlighting a best practice model and the contractual compliance expectations of the Local Authority. The engagement days are

deemed to be extremely successful and build strong relationships between the 3rd sector and the Local Authority. Over 90% of attendants have fed back that they have found the event useful or very useful.

22. For more information please contact Claire McLaren, Planning, Quality and Research Manager on 0191 383 3604 or email claire.mclaren@durham.gov.uk

Altogether healthier

23. On 5 September the **Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board** agreed the draft Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for public consultation, which will run from 6 September through to 19 October 2012. Presentations have been undertaken at eight of the Area Action Partnerships (AAPs); other AAPs were consulted through the online consultation. Presentations were also provided to the Adults Wellbeing and Health and Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy contains strategic objectives which will be the local priorities for health and wellbeing. It also contains a number of strategic actions which will be carried out by partners to meet the strategic objectives.
24. The six draft strategic objectives in the Strategy are:
 - a. Give children and young people the best possible start in life
 - b. Reduce the number of people dying prematurely, while reducing the difference between the least and most healthy communities and improve the least healthy more quickly
 - c. Improve the quality of life, care and support for people with long term conditions and those recovering from episodes of ill health or injury to assist them to live as independently as possible
 - d. Improve mental health and wellbeing of the population
 - e. Protect vulnerable people from harm
 - f. Allow people to die in the place of their choice with the care and support that they need
25. The Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board will consider a range of documents and items over the coming months including the final Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013/17; Clinical Commissioning Group Commissioning Intentions for 2013/14; Agree winter planning arrangements; consider a review of Joint Commissioning Strategies and future arrangements and Consider a report outlining proposed constitutional arrangements for the statutory Health and Wellbeing Board.
26. For more information please contact Andrea Petty, Policy & Planning Manager Children & Adults Services on 0191 370 8749 or email andrea.petty@durham.gov.uk

Altogether safer

27. The In 2011/12 crime fell again by 4.6% from 28,261 to 26,964 incidents. Between April and July this year we have seen a further reduction of 14% which is a reduction of 1,246 incidents. Crime is now at its lowest since electronic records began in 1983.
28. In 2006/07 there were 73,823 recorded incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour. The **Safe Durham Partnership** has seen year-on-year reductions and in 2011/12 the partnership reported a further reduction of more than 11,000 incidents to a total of 36,646; 50% down on 2006/07. At the end of 2011 the police carried out an audit of their records to test whether ASB was being under-recorded. In fact they found they had been over-recording against the national standard. This has impacted on recent figures as between April and July this year we have seen a further reduction of 36%. This equates to a reduction of 4,756 incidents in the first four months of the year.

29. The Restorative Justice Woodhouse Close project is underway. It is a structured intervention to tackle low level crime and non-crime matters that have a clear impact on victims and communities. It can be used as a diversion away from formal criminal justice proceedings. Volunteers and stakeholders have been identified and trained to facilitate the program. Referral mechanisms have been established and the program is now awaiting referrals.
30. A Task and Finish strategic Group has been put in place to strengthen the Partnership approach to organised crime. The aim of the group is to reduce the risk to County Durham and its interests from organised crime by reducing the threat from organised criminals and reducing vulnerabilities and criminal opportunities. Our response will be based on the following themes; Stem the opportunities for organised crime to take root; Strengthen enforcement action against organised criminals and Safeguard communities & businesses and the state.
31. The SDP has undertaken work to deliver a tool for Anti-Social Behaviour Case management. It is also developing a solution that will enable front-line workers to share personal information within a secure environment. This will be an interim measure until all partners have secure e-mail in place.
32. The Safe Durham Partnership is running an awareness raising campaign in conjunction with Crimestoppers called 'Behind Closed Doors'. It is designed to help make people aware that if they have concerns that a friend, neighbour or family member is experiencing Domestic Abuse they can report anonymously to Crimestoppers.
33. The Domestic Abuse commissioning process has been postponed until the beginning of next year. Derwentside Domestic Abuse Service will continue to cover the North and East and the County Council Outreach service will continue in the South until a new Countywide service is in place next year.
34. For more information please contact Caroline Duckworth, Strategic Manager for Safer Communities, on 0191 3708734 or email caroline.duckworth@durham.gov.uk

Altogether greener

35. Successful submissions to obtain Local Nature Partnership (LNP) status in the County were granted official status by Government in July. The two new partnerships are - the Land of the Three Rivers and Northern Upland Chain. Across England 41 of the 50 LNP applications were successful. The other nine, including the application for Newcastle and lowland Northumberland, will be provided with guidance on how their partnerships can be improved with a view to official status being granted at a later date.
36. The development of these new Partnerships will inevitably impact the scope and status of the Natural Environment Group, therefore a new structure is being developed and will be presented at the September meeting of the **Environment Partnership Board**.
37. South Moor 'Week in Action' took place in July and incorporated Grange/Villa/West Pelton and Fencehouses. Activities included two partnership and public walkabouts attended by Civic Pride, Police, Neighbourhood Wardens, Councillors, Derwentside homes, Three Rivers housing association and the general public. These proved to be very successful in identifying the main cause of issues within the South Moor area, including dog fouling, high volume of littering, sporadic fly tipping, untidy yards, graffiti removal, highway reports, planning reports and derelict properties.
38. The residents of approximately 40 untidy yards/gardens were issued with first stage advisory warning notifications; 24 dogs were chipped; 150 Pupils attended environmental/ASB Sessions; there were three Police Station 'drop in' sessions; one litter

fixed penalty notice was issued. Participants of the Community Payback scheme were involved in site clearances.

39. Judging has now taken place for all Northumbria in Bloom entries, Durham Riverbanks Project (project managed by Civic Pride officer) has been nominated for best conservation project 2012 again this year; it received a silver gilt award in 2011. The ceremony will take place on September 11 at Spennymoor Leisure Centre.
40. Judging of the Easington in Bloom photographic competition (what I love about Easington) took place during the last weeks of the school term in July with one child from each of the two schools winning a small goody bag, certificate and gold Tidy Ted pin for the efforts, the display of some 100 photographs were displayed for the judges to see. The display was left in the Welfare Centre in Easington during the following week as a community event took place within the centre, this offered the opportunity for further members of the general public to see the exhibition.
41. Plans are now well underway for the Partnership's 2012 bulb challenge where 250,000 crocus bulbs will be given out during October to schools, community groups and parish councils across the county with press opportunities in each area being arranged for maximum publicity.
42. For more information please contact Mary Readman, Customer Relations, Policy and Performance Manager, on 0191 3834692 or email mary.readman@durham.gov.uk

Area Action Partnerships Update

43. The Maintaining the Social Fabric of Our Communities Priority Group of the **East Durham AAP** has taken the decision to focus on three areas within the East Durham Area Action Plan: Community Buildings, Volunteering and Supporting Vulnerable People.
44. The group recognised the challenges that the current and future economic climate will place on communities in the East Durham AAP Area. Already identified as one of the most disadvantaged areas in the country it was felt that a recession and changes to benefits would impact most on those within our communities that are already at risk or vulnerable. The Group set out to develop actions that would build community resilience and ensure strong and sustainable communities. The Area Budget funded a Community Response project, employing a Community Response Co-ordinator to encourage a wider spread of community response initiatives e.g. Winter Squads and to stimulate collaborative working between community groups to ensure that limited resources are used effectively.
45. The Community Response Co-ordinator has supported the development of the East Durham Community Buildings Network. Recognising the key role of community buildings, the network supports the work of a wide community based facilities including Community Centres, Parish Halls, Church halls and Welfare Halls. The Network has explored those actions that would assist in ensuring sustainability, for example reducing costs. The Community Response Co-ordinator has worked to introduce a collaborative purchasing scheme e.g. PAT testing, and Utilities ink cartridges, telecoms and insurance. One community group in particular was quoted potential savings of over £1300 on their current fuel deal and is moving to sign up to this new contract. To support Community Building collaboration East Durham AAP have introduced a Community Buildings Fund, the main criteria for this funding is the collaboration between two or more Community Buildings that can demonstrate that the funding will lead to delivery efficiencies.
46. The Community Response Co-ordinator has been also tasked with developing community response projects that encourage the volunteering role of young people within their communities. One such project, took place during July at Robinson House, Horden, with residents and young people reaping the benefits of working together. New flower beds were dug, weeding and planting occurred and outhouses painted. The residents have also

received some resources to ensure that more people – residents and volunteers alike – can continue to offer their time in the garden. This project, in partnership with East Durham Homes, will be extended to all sheltered housing projects in East Durham. The Community Response has proven successful within a short period of time and will continue to support resilient communities in East Durham.

47. **Mid Durham AAP's** partnership approach to developing support for older people gained another funding boost in July when it was confirmed that their partnership bid to Comic Relief led by the Prince Bishops Community Bank was awarded £364,000. The bid attempts to address the issues over fuel poverty, targeting the reduction of electricity and gas tariffs whilst providing financial advice around benefits and savings.
48. The AAP continues to work with its associated Parish Councils to consult with and discuss issues affecting the lives of residents throughout the mid Durham area. The target is to consult with 1,600 residents (5% of the Mid Durham population) before the end of September with the results being used to steer the AAP at its November Forum as to its priorities for 2013/14.
49. The newest Mid Durham task group, 'employment and job prospects', continues to examine areas in which the AAP can make a difference. Using the recent Overview and Scrutiny report on 'Increasing Youth Employment 2012' and local statistical data, the group has identified support for sustaining and growing existing small businesses, localised access to employment and training advice and targeting support to the 29 to 45 age range which shows the highest JSA age range rise for Mid Durham. The group are keen to work closely with the County Durham Economic Partnership as all the partners within the task group agreed that one of the most effective ways to move forward in addressing this issue is to have all deliverers and support mechanisms linked and communicating with each other which from a ground level delivery perspective does not seem to be happening.
50. The **Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP** is making good progress towards committing its 2012/13 Area Budget Allocation. Task and Finish Groups are established for the partnership's three priorities of Employment and Jobs, Transport and Community Safety.
51. Following work from the Community Safety Task Group the partnership has committed to the following projects in the Woodhouse Close areas of Bishop Auckland. Following on from the success of the Crisis Intervention Packs project previously funded by Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP it was agreed to continue this very much needed provision. The project has received £4,000 Area Budget
52. Packs are given to people in various crisis situations who are extremely vulnerable. The group work with a variety of partners in the statutory and voluntary sectors and receive referrals for people who need immediate help to set up homes and in cases of great need, provision of food and basic household provisions.
53. Through the furniture reuse project and thrift shop furniture is provided along with household items to help a person set up home but some items are not always available. Such small interventions have a considerable impact on lives by helping people cope with a new start. A funding contribution from Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP has ensured the project can continue for the next year. This funding will enable another 60 cases to be handled by providing a worker for 5 hours per week to coordinate the project.
54. The Woodhouse Close Restorative project is a joint pilot initiative involving Police, Durham County Council, Restorative Solutions and Youth Offending along with key members of the local community to deliver Restorative Justice in the community.
55. Restorative Justice should contribute to a change in attitudes and behaviours and will help empower the local community to deal with crime and anti social behaviour on their door step. The outcome of the project will be to increase community resilience, victim

satisfaction and reduce crime and anti social behaviour. If successful it is envisaged that the project will be rolled out to other areas within County Durham. Funding will be used to provide training to neighbourhoods and for a Coordinator to manage volunteers and coordinate referrals.

56. Training, which will be free, will establish neighbourhood restorative panels to develop community stakeholders and 4 volunteers to become facilitators and trainers. The role of the facilitator will be to interview those that have been harmed and those that have caused harm and then facilitate any face-to-face meetings or correspondence, to help both victims and harmers move on positively with their lives.
57. Four volunteer community members will be provided with training to BTEC standard and will go on to become restorative justice trainers with the option to progress to a diploma. This investment in local people will develop volunteer's skills to increase their employment opportunities should they wish to progress to paid employment. The project is funded by Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership and Durham County Council (HIL and LMAP funds) and Restorative Solutions.
58. **Chester le Street AAP** supported a feasibility study for Collaborate (a mixture of housing providers and the local voluntary sector) has now found favour with the Homes and Communities Agency who are investing £270K over three years to find solutions to tackling homelessness. Other initiatives funded via the AAP include encouraging local children to make more use of their libraries, supporting the Kids for Kids UK film festival at the Gala and the continuation of the Small Grants Fund which has seen over 100 awards made since it started in 2010.
59. Through the engagement of young people at the AAP's annual 'Have your Say' event where over 700 young people have attended over the last three years the issue of 'Respect' is often raised. This is either respect for young people, respect young people have for others and respect between different age groups of young people themselves.
60. In working with Durham Constabulary Youth Issues Officer a Respect 'event' was developed to try and introduce young people aged 12 – 14 to different learning experiences in order to understand better the issues, attitudes and culture of different groups within society. The aim was to develop a sense of understanding and respect for people in our society where young people may have only limited knowledge and understanding.
61. An event combining 12 different workshop experiences on a 'carousel style' system ensured that all the young people got to learn and understand issues relating to homelessness, disability and deafness, older people, homophobia, hate crime, gypsy and travellers and domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour. They also took part in workshops designed to give inform them about 'respecting themselves' in relation to healthy eating, alcohol, and risk taking behaviour. The workshops were delivered by 8 different organisations such as Age UK, Mesmac, 4Real, SHAID, Durham Constabulary and others. Over 80 young people aged 12 – 14 took part in this event. A Respect 2 project is currently in development.
62. The other element to the Respect project was to deliver the carousel of workshops within the comprehensive schools in the AAP area across these year groups. A further 900 + young people experienced these workshops in school. Recent figures from the neighbourhood police team show a dramatic reduction in anti-social behaviour within neighbourhoods where these schools are based which is a further positive outcome.
63. Following the some productive and successful work of the Weardale AAP Task Group meetings the **Weardale Action Partnership** has committed £60,000 of its £120,000 Area Budget Allocation.

64. Broadband is a new priority for Weardale in 2012/13. The Task Group set up to look at Broadband has been working closely with the Durham County Council's Digital Durham project. To try and ensure that Weardale is a priority for the programme it was agreed that Weardale must demonstrate that there is sufficient demand as the best way to get telecom providers interested in delivering improved broadband is to show there is a demand for their products.
65. Utilising funding from Cllr Savory's Neighbourhood Budget the Weardale Action Partnership has undertaken a campaign to support the case for Superfast Broadband in Weardale. This has involved writing to every household in Weardale detailing the importance of Broadband to unlocking economic growth in County Durham, to create more jobs, improve business, support learning and transform access to services for our communities. The letters included a pre paid return envelope to encourage residents to return the survey.
66. The letter has been backed up with a media and communications campaign which has included coverage in the local press, posters in communities across the area, Facebook and targeted work with businesses and business groups such as the Weardale Visitor Network and Weardale Business Club.
67. In addition to this the Weardale Action Partnerships funded Family and Youth Participation project has carried out consultation work with primary school children to incorporate their views and thoughts into the campaign to secure Superfast Broadband in Weardale.
68. The **Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership** Board in 2011 agreed to fund the biggest project to date for an Employability Skills Fund project for local people to access. The project has been funded via GAMP Area Budget allocation and additional funding from all of the local Councillors Neighbourhood Budget allocations. Further funding has also come from a range of partners; Bishop Auckland College, Sedgefield Borough Homes (Livin), South Durham Enterprise Agency and MEARS. The total cost of the initiative is £147,910.
69. The project is being led by the Learning and Skills Coordinator at Bishop Auckland College and aims to have two funds designated to supporting any unemployed person over the age of 16 in the Great Aycliffe and Middridge area. The two funds are; an 'Employability Skills Fund' aimed at responding to specific training needs and a 'Discretionary Fund' aimed at removing barriers that prevent clients from accessing training.
70. To date a total of 39 applications have been submitted since the project officially commenced and in some instances the application is for more than one client, for example an application form submitted by housing provider Livin was to support 8 of their tenants. 15 outcomes have been achieved so far including 11 clients gaining employment, however it is important to note that a significant proportion of outcomes are pending, as training has not yet been completed.
71. The Apprenticeship Awareness Challenge project aims to equip over 300 pupils from both Woodham Community Technology College and Greenfield School Community and Arts College with knowledge about apprenticeships and career progression within the Manufacturing and Engineering Sector. The pupils will learn about product design, presentation skills and a wider understanding of the world of work.
72. The project will involve companies giving a brief demonstration to year 9 students at both schools during a series of workshop carousels, dubbed "speed networking", to give young people a flavour of the work they do. The youngsters will then be split into groups during site visits to six different companies, when they'll get to learn more about their chosen industry, from manufacturing to IT and HR.
73. The project is being led by Woodham Community Technology College with input from Engineering Development Trust, the largest provider of science, technology, engineering

and mathematics enrichment activities for young people in the UK. To date Firms including Tallents Engineering, Flymo Husqvarna, Finley Structures, Aycliffe Fabrications and Stiller Transport have expressed an interest in working with pupils from both schools.

74. The Aycliffe Apprenticeship Awareness Programme will launch at Woodham on September 19, with around 150 students split into six tutor groups, and then young people visited company sites in September.
75. The **East Durham Rural Corridor** Participatory Budgeting community voting event was held on 21st July at the active life centre@coxhoe (formerly Coxhoe Leisure Centre) and this event was also the Summer Forum where we celebrated our successes. The Sports Apprentices who we funded last year, five of which we have managed to place at the active life centre carried out sports related activities with children, young people and families, as well as promoting how they enrolled on the scheme and how other young people can. There was also a litter pick, Tidy Ted was in attendance and families were able to pot a marigold (official flower of the Olympics) to take home. The active life centre also provided some activities to help promote the centre and hopefully increase membership.
76. Over 550 people aged ten and over who live, work or study in the AAP area turned out to vote for the 26 groups who had arranged a market place display on their project. Many more turned up to take part in the activities mentioned above, as well as soft play for the younger children, and arts and crafts. One of the partners who attended was from the NHS and carried out Chlamydia Screening with young people. The officer in attendance feedback that taking part had been extremely beneficial as she'd networked and gathered a lot of contacts for her future work. As a result of this day, we now have an extra 221 forum members, over 66% increase.
77. The **Derwent Valley AAP** recently launched its second 'It's Up 2 U' scheme following the success of the previous scheme held in 2011. The AAP has allocated an increased amount of funding of £40,000 to the scheme which has been improved based on feedback from residents and participants.
78. As part of the new scheme, a roadshow will be held in each village across the Derwent Valley area, promoting all groups and their projects. Projects will also be promoted in the Derwent Valley News magazine which is delivered to every household in the area and there will be a dedicated section on the community website, Derwent Valley Life, so residents can learn more about the projects and the groups taking part (if groups wish to include a link to their own website or a You Tube clip, this opportunity will also be provided).
79. All projects which fully meet the application criteria will be recognised via a small financial contribution towards their project - this is to reward the efforts of each group for taking part in the scheme. The remainder of their funding request must be gained through public votes at the main event.
80. The main voting event itself will include a dedicated area for community groups to visit to meet with funders and receive a 'health check' which will help groups update their constitutions, attract more volunteers and access services at a lower cost. This links to the new Derwent Valley AAP priority, 'Support for Community Groups'.
81. The Derwent Valley AAP are keen to showcase the work of the AAP to local residents, partners and groups and are currently working on two projects to achieve this. A DVD detailing the work of the AAP, the projects and groups it has supported and its decision making processes is being developed in partnership with the Forum and local community partnerships who will also feature on the DVD to highlight their community work and experiences of working with the AAP. To complement the DVD, a showcase event will be taking place to highlight, visually, the projects supported by the AAP – this will include

performances from local drama groups, film and animation screenings, taster sessions and presentations.

82. To kick start their Consett Town Centre Events Programme, the Derwent Valley AAP will be holding their first event in late November / early December. The 'Christmas in Consett' event will be the main event delivered in Consett for 2012. The event will consist of a Christmas lights switch on 30th November with a Christmas market, Santa's Grotto, local brass band performances, recycled lantern parade, carol singing and Christmas craft workshops being held on 1st December. Local schools and partners will be invited to take part in the parade / celebrations and a shop window competition will also be run to encourage local traders to take part.
83. Durham's Got Talent was a production between the County Council's former Children and Young People's Service Grouping and the **Durham AAP** and was a resounding success. It was held at the Gala Theatre with the winner, 13 year old Katie Smith, hailing from CLS. There has already been a strong call to make this an annual event.
84. The Forum event held in July at the Sherburn Future Club combined the very best of Durham's Got Talent with a presentation and discussion on the subject of Climate Change from Dr Robert Song and what can the AAP do. This event really hit home the realities of Climate Change.
85. The Diverse Durham event in the Market Place in (sponsored by the Durham Indoor Market) was hailed a success. This gave many VCS groups the opportunity to promote themselves and also highlight the issues affecting many of those with protected characteristics.
86. The Dales Employability Project is a partnership between Durham County Council and Teesdale, Weardale and **Three Towns Area** Action Partnerships (AAP's) to work with local voluntary sector provider 2D and a number of local community organisations, local employers and local agencies to support residents into work, training and volunteering opportunities.
87. The project is aimed at local residents who may be facing redundancy or have been made redundant and/or in receipt of job seekers allowance (JSA) and are actively looking for work. The mentors work in the field to provide rural residents with information advice and guidance and employability support tailored to client needs identifying and removing barriers to work. The project success is based on building effective relationships, networking and working with employers and clients to build trust and respect ultimately improving unemployed resident's job prospects.
88. The role of the Employability mentors is to help remove the barriers to employment by providing one to one confidential and impartial advice guidance and support to individuals.
89. The mentor working in the Three Towns Partnership area is already showing a massive success rate and is currently working with 71 clients from the Crook, Willington and Tow Law area resulting in 18 people gaining employment, 10 people setting up in self employment, 1 person into an apprenticeship and 2 people into volunteering. Various training courses have also been funded through the project.
90. Through the Apprenticeship Scheme local employers can take up the opportunity of funding for apprenticeships to grow and develop existing and new business including self employed/ micro businesses. Seven people have been supported into apprenticeships in the Three Towns Area to date.
91. The 'Your Turn Summer Sports Play scheme' project was to deliver a summer holiday programme for under 8s in the 3 Towns area after identifying that there was a gap in provision for this age group. 295 children took part in a mixture of multi sports and fun

sessions along with more formal sports coaching in tennis, cricket and football. The project was delivered in play areas, open spaces and sports grounds, in total sixteen areas were used to spread the delivery across the 3 Towns reaching out to the outlying villages, delivering directly into the communities breaking down the transport and cost barriers that stop participation for many young people in this age bracket due to parents not being able to access delivery.

92. As the sessions targeted under 8s parents remained at the sessions the coaches actively engaged with 40 parents teaching them to play games with their children. It is hoped by engaging the parents they will then gain the skills to be confident in delivering play to their children, this will hopefully lead to more families using play areas more confidently, more frequently. The project was delivered two sessions a day in different town/ villages, five days a week.
93. Following the success of the 2011/12 Small Grants for Children and Young People scheme, the Three Towns Youth forum and 2D have been awarded £7,500 to deliver a funding stream to provide funding directly to children and young people (CYP) in the Three Towns Partnership Area that will enhance activity, create challenge, develop life skills and make a positive contribution to their local community Last year the Youth Forum, supported by 2D and the Three Towns Team, successfully appraised 18 applications for funding in less than 6 months, funding or partially funding 14 projects from the £4500 pot bringing with a matched investment of £8,691.40.
94. Through the Community Archaeology/Village Atlas project, local communities in the **4Together AAP** area will be able to discover more about their heritage through taking part in archaeological projects and to learn techniques of excavation and survey near Great Chilton. It will enable local people to work alongside professional archaeologists who will evaluate a local field to improve knowledge and understanding of the historic environment. This site in Great Chilton was identified as a key site for investigation where a series of complex crop marks are thought to mark the site of a Neolithic Bronze Age.
95. The Village Atlas project will work with Ferryhill History Society and local schools, linking to Cleves Cross Primary which is creating a geological timeline. Work will take place with numerous local groups and people will have the opportunity to get involved in things such as geophysical surveys and practical archaeological excavations.
96. The Haggrid project will develop the physical appearance of part of Chilton Community College, aiming to develop it into a community garden/outside learning area and will also implement a horticulture/agriculture alternative learning programme in conjunction with Durham Agency Against Crime. The project does not only meet priorities under Environment but also Crime and Community safety and has strong community cohesion links, a priority issue for the Chilton area. Both strands of the project will lead towards greater integration with the local community.
97. The Partnership team received special thanks from Bishop Middleham Parish Council for all the help and support they received in relation to their newly installed Multi Use Games Area.
98. With the financial support and backing of **Stanley AAP** the North East Horticultural Society again took place in September in Stanley. The events have been a huge success attracting over 5000 visitors over the two day event which has various Horticultural entries including some rare sights such as gigantic vegetables. The Championship Show had over 50 classes in various sections including; The National Pot Leek Society section, Vegetable Section, Floral Section, Heaviest Vegetable Section, Floral Section and a Primary Schools' Section and also featured a Poultry Competition.
99. Stanley Events Ltd held their first Stanley Music Festival over August Bank Holiday weekend, attracting over 3,500 attendees. The Festival received Area Budget funding and

support from Stanley Area Action Partnership and received financial backing from Stanley Town Council. The Festival was headed by Martin Turner's Wishbone Ash and also included soul pop singer-songwriter Beth Macari, tribute bands The Floyd Effect and Howaysis, DeeExpus, Dust Town Dogs and Stinger, a teenage band from Stanley.

100. Stanley AAP Board has provided funding for three Weeks in Action in three different villages in the Stanley area. The first two Weeks in Action have been delivered in the High Impact Locality areas of New Kyo and South Moor, the third Week in Action was delivered in the former Derwentside ward of Havannah in Stanley. The aim of the 'Week in Action' is to bring together all sectors of the community to deliver a high quality and cost effective campaign to improve the local environment, promote community cohesion and ensure a cleaner, safer and greener local neighbourhood.
101. **Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP)** continues to work on the four key priority areas of Children and Young People, Job Prospects and Enterprise, Natural and Built Environment and Tourism.
102. The Children and Young People's Task and Finish Group are working on a new project which plans to deliver play work in the Teesdale area. The Children and Young People's Small Grants Fund has been re-funded. The awards panel is made up of young people who make the decisions on who should get, or not get grants with the over all management of the small grants being done by 2D. Ideas regarding a arts/music/cultural festival for you people are also being discussed.
103. A survey of local businesses in the Teesdale area has recently been carried out. The Task and Finish group are now looking at the results to identify gaps in provision that may be able to be covered through an area budget project.
104. Under 'environment' a Green Dog Walking initiative is being developed with a number of Local Councils. Working with the Council's Civic Pride Team this project has been successfully delivered in other parts of County Durham. A small grants fund has recently been launched for environmental projects in the Teesdale area.
105. TAP recently held a local tourism event at the Bowes Museum. The event which was part funded by the Bowes Museum and Dickens in Teesdale, brought together local people involved in tourism businesses and organisations to look at what is needed in the Teesdale area to promote tourism and improve the quality of the tourism offer. The event which was badged as 'ideas into action', generated a lot of information which is now being looked at by the task and finish group. A small grants fund has recently been launched for community led tourism projects in the Teesdale Area.
106. Local Elected Members have recently helped local communities on projects such as funding new play equipment at Green Lane Primary School in Barnard Castle, improving security at Evenwood Recreation Ground, improving facilities at Barnard Castle Cricket Club, repairs to village halls in Woodland, Staindrop and Hamsterley, funding outside play provision at Bowes Pre-School, supporting Radio Teesdale and providing furniture for the newly re-opened Gaunless Valley Visitor Centre.
107. TAP are contributing to the consultation on the County Durham Plan. A meeting was held with the Planning Service to look at specific issues around wind farms and a proposed relief road for Barnard Castle and TAP will be providing a full response to the questions raised in the consultation. TAP Board Members have been very proactive in responding to this consultation.
108. **Spennymoor AAP** is supporting the Durhamgate Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (D of E). There has been an emphasis put on trying to recruit young people from the Spennymoor AAP area and to that end the project has done a number of local press releases promoting the D of E in the Spennymoor AAP area. The initial response to the

programme was slow and not as good as had been anticipated but that has worked in the projects favour by providing more time to recruit and train leaders to deliver the programme.

109. In the past five months the project has engaged with a number of young people via press releases and e-mail campaigns. Currently the project has one group running at the main college campus on Monday evenings. The group has fifteen participants, only two of which are actual students of the college. The remainder of the group are from the local communities with one exception (one young person travels from outside of the area to access the programme).
110. The project is still very much in the early stages but already significant benefits can be seen with those young people involved with the programme. Most of the participants have embraced the opportunity to get involved in the various stages of the D of E programme i.e. volunteering, physical, skills, and expedition. Young people are encouraged to come up with their own ideas of how they would like to achieve the various sections of the programme. The strong links the project has with the Durhamgate Development in Spennymoor has resulted in those companies on the site being willing to offer the young people the opportunity to either volunteer or learn a new skill with their organisation.
111. Two of the adult volunteers have now completed the majority of the Basic Exhibition Leadership award and are due to be assessed in October 2012. Once this has been achieved the group will be able to assess the participants themselves rather than sourcing this resource externally.
112. The Schools Enterprise Challenge programme has now started, with representative teams from both Spennymoor School and Tudhoe Grange Schools, working together. The Final Event will take place in October to give all of the schools a chance to complete all three of the tasks involved in the programme (website, car and business plan). Each of the teams of students have had eight weeks to work on all three elements of the project, which is a lot of work in a short space of time. The teams have produced some excellent work so far, some very creative thinking, innovative designs and worked well as teams.
113. Some of the activities have also had to be revised in order to complete certain areas before the summer break. A revised Business Plan has been sent to the AAP to detail this information. Some of the sessions will be filmed along with the Final Event itself. The project will also be publicised in the local papers/media after the event. It is hoped to launch a new programme in October, with the students building & flying helicopters. The process will include having to design, calculate & manufacture parts for the helicopter.
114. The main aim of the 'This is Where it's Art' project was to host a North East Art exhibition/weekend in partnership between Spennymoor AAP, Spennymoor Town Council, Bondgate Gallery, Spennymoor Town Hall Gallery, Number 15 and Spennymoor Leisure Centre Arts Resource. At the event there were arts exhibitions, arts demonstrations, street dancing, drama, toddler art sessions, a school arts competition with an Olympics theme, photography courses, face painting, comic book workshops amongst other attractions.
115. The Festival has now been completed and overall, has been a great success. In total thirty eight artists exhibited their work with an additional nine people/companies providing children's crafts and entertainment. The Facebook page for the Festival attracted over 2,715 people with the website having over 1,164 visits from over 679 individuals. There were also a total of 173 followers on Twitter for the Festival. There were estimates that well over 500 visitors came through the Town Hall alone during the course of the Festival, with most exhibitors expressing their commitment to see this Festival continue and grow into a yearly event.
116. Fourteen of the artists that took part in the recent Festival have already confirmed their participation for the event in March as well as interest to participate again from the

children's craft workshops. There were no major issues that occurred during the Festival. A few things can be developed and adapted to ensure subsequent festivals run a little smoother, however, for a first time event, overall the feeling was really positive.

Recommendations and reasons

117. Cabinet are asked to note the content of the report.

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

Appendix 1: Implications

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

Staffing - None

Risk - None

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

Accommodation - None

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

Human Rights - None

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

Procurement - None

Disability Issues - None

Legal Implications - None