

Cabinet

24 June 2013



**County Durham Partnership Update
Report**

Report of Corporate Management Team

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

Purpose of the Report

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

Summary

2. Over the next few months many parts of the partnership will be undertaking reviews and refreshes. As well as the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) being renewed, the majority of the thematic partnerships will be undertaking light touch reviews on how they continue to deliver against the priorities set out in the SCS. Also, throughout April, all 14 AAPs recruited public members of the AAP to take up places where existing public representatives have come to the end of their four year term of office. In the majority of cases AAPs have seen a complete refresh of public representatives. The collective drive and commitment of the outgoing representatives has been very important in establishing AAPs as a key engagement, action and consultation mechanism for the Council and key partners. Thanks have been extended to them and it is hoped that many will continue to take part in forums and task groups.
3. AAPs are developing their new work streams for 2013/14 following the ratification of their priorities. As with previous years these projects and initiatives will contribute towards the high level priorities set out in the SCS and will look to draw in additional funding from partner agencies and other sources of funding.
4. Durham County Council, with partners, continues to highlight the economy as its top priority and will be working with the North East Local Enterprise Partnership, to look at the North East Independent Economic Review (NEIER) report which was published in April 2013. Within its priorities it offers an agenda for the North East Local Enterprise Partnership and its partners. There is a focus within the report on the proposed Combined Authority and it sets out a framework for the region to accelerate economic growth. Combining "more and better jobs" within the area's economy is at the heart of the agenda and the highlighted themes and the recommendations support this outcome.

Key CDP links

Voluntary and Community Sector

5. As agreed by Cabinet earlier this month, the Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy, developed between partners, is now in place and work on implementing the action plan has

begun. The initial focus is to ensure that the lead partnership groupings build on the actions identified and develop specific targets to achieve the desired outcomes. The Action Plan identifies a range of outcome focussed actions under each objective, which include:

- a. Create a forward looking and adaptable VCS to ensure it is fit for the future
 - b. Enable all partners to be well informed, responsive and collaborative
 - c. Increase the range of volunteering opportunities across all sectors
 - d. Facilitate individual choice and self-determination to enable individuals to be resilient and better able to adapt to change
 - e. Ensure the VCS has a strong strategic voice
6. A new partnership of Citizens Advice Bureaus (CABs) and other Advice Service Providers in County Durham has been awarded £336,593 as part of the national Advice Services Transition Fund. This two year project is designed to make existing service provision more effective by designing a joined-up service that is accessible at over 70 face to face locations throughout County Durham as well as by website, e-mail and telephone. Clients will be given access to general self-help information as well as specialist advice in the areas of welfare benefits, debt, employment and housing. The main partners involved are: Age UK County Durham; County Durham Citizens Advice Partnership; Durham Rural Community Council; Durham and Chester-le-Street MIND; and Sedgefield and District Citizens Advice Bureau.
 7. The launch of a Compact e-learning tool for employees and volunteers is one of the main achievements of the Compact Implementation Group for 2012-13. Both the VCS and public sector have taken up the e-learning offer which will aid in the understanding of the guiding principles. Another positive outcome is the acknowledgement of Compact commitments in both the Corporate Strategy for Commissioning and Procurement and the Sustainable Commissioning and Procurement Policy.
 8. Two events focusing on the 'Altogether Greener' theme stimulated reflective dialogue between Members, officers and local faith communities. A breakfast seminar held in County Hall on 22 May, considered 'Greener Communities – What prospect in a time of austerity?' A second event, to coincide with World Environment day 5 June, considered ethical issues, fair trade and the practical actions individuals and communities can take to live more sustainably. Both events build on the partnership work between the Council and the Churches' Regional Commission.

Local Councils

9. Joint working with local councils continues to take place across the county to meet the AAPs' local priorities. In response to public feedback, Spennymoor Town Council are working in conjunction with Spennymoor AAP and local DCC Councillors to provide a skatepark facility for residents and visitors to the Spennymoor area who use items such as skateboards, scooters, BMXs, in line skates etc. The facility will be maintained by Spennymoor Town Council.
10. This new asset for the area will be located in Jubilee Park Spennymoor and will be of a suitable size to provide adequate provision not only for the young people who currently use their scooters etc in and around the town centre but also for residents of the satellite villages and communities of the AAP area. Extensive consultation will be undertaken with young people and local residents to ensure that the facility is as far as possible the best and most suitable design for the needs of the users while also being suitable and aesthetically compatible with other facilities within the park. At present a funding package of £115,000 has been secured and it is hoped that over the coming months this amount will have increased to £150,000. It is then envisaged that other partners will be engaged prior to liaising with developers to discuss designs for the skatepark.

Welfare Reform

11. An event has been arranged for Friday 26 July in order to harness the positive and widespread practical support and advice available on welfare reform across the county. This event will bring together service providers, partners and the voluntary and community sector in order to build a good understanding of the impact of welfare reform across the county and share information on what is known to be taking place to minimise the adverse impact of the various changes and to seek other good examples of activities. It will also identify any gaps and look at opportunities on how these may be filled.

AAP Strategic Working

12. AAPs continue to support the priority themes of the County Durham Partnership and in 2012/13, under Area Budget, this has meant 206 projects being processed. For the same year under Neighbourhood Budget funding, 729 projects have been, or are being processed. Almost £1.4M of Area Budget was invested in 2012/13 with a further £950,000 committed. Additional to this, from Neighbourhood Budgets, over £2M has been invested with a nearly a further £2.4M committed. It is important to remember however that funding can be rolled forward year on year.
13. Proposals for the current year are to amend the capital/revenue split allocated to Elected Members to reflect current spending patterns so that Members have the same overall funding allocation of £22,000 per annum. The same principle of subdividing capital and revenue spend to AAP Area Budgets will be applied but Members and officers will be asked to be slightly more challenging in the way they apply it i.e. not to simply reflect current spend practices. This will then aim to achieve a saving to the Council's revenue budget through administrative changes that would leave Members and AAPs with the ability to continue developing initiatives in line with previous spending patterns.
14. Throughout April, all 14 AAPs sought to recruit Public Members of the AAP to take up places where existing public representatives have come to the end of their four year term of office. Existing public representatives could reapply for an AAP Board position if desired, but the selection criteria were clear that if shortlisted candidates' skills and experience for the role were equally matched, then preference would be shown to new candidates who had not previously been involved in a Board role. In the majority of cases AAPs have seen a complete refresh of public representatives which was encouraging as it shows that interest in being an active member of the AAPs remains high. The collective drive and commitment of the outgoing representatives has been very important in establishing AAPs as a key engagement, action and consultation mechanism for the Council and our key partners. Thanks have been extended to them and it is hoped that many will continue to take part in forums and task groups.
15. The AAP Funding Team, following the local election, supported the Member Induction days in order to brief members, new and existing, on the Neighbourhood Budget element of AAP related funding, alongside colleagues from Highways and Member Support who covered the Local Area Measures Allowance and Members Initiative Fund. A further offer was extended to members to meet with the team to talk in more detail about funding if required. Some new members have requested details of grants previously allocated in their divisions in order to help them to familiarise themselves with community activity and funded work in their area.
16. In addition to the regular funding allocated by AAPs, the **Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP** has been busy supporting and working in partnership with the Big Lottery and the Community Development Foundation for external funding to benefit areas in the Bishop Auckland and Shildon area. These are exciting community initiatives which benefit and complement the work being carried out by the AAP in the area.
17. 'Big Local' in South West Bishop Auckland is a ten-year programme that aims to achieve lasting change in 150 areas in England. It will provide a mixture of funding, finance and

support. This will enable local people to build on local talents and aspirations to identify and act on their own needs, to make their areas better places to live, now and in the future. Local communities will drive Big Local in their area. The programme will support, challenge, train and encourage people to develop and take ownership of Big Local in their local area. There will be a unique programme of activity in each area based on local needs but sharing the Big Local programme outcomes. It will support communities to identify issues and plan and develop solutions. This will provide a sustainable approach to long-term issues and ultimately create better places to live.

18. At least £1,000,000 will be awarded by Big Local in Bishop Auckland to achieve the outcomes in six communities, to make a positive and lasting difference over a period of ten years. Big Local aims to make these communities even better to live in. How the money is spent depends solely on the wishes of the people who live, work or study in the following communities:
 - a. Cockton Hill
 - b. Henknowle
 - c. St Helen Auckland
 - d. Tindale
 - e. West Auckland
 - f. Woodhouse Close
19. The AAP team has supported the establishment of an Interim Development Group (IDG) made up of residents who are active in these communities. It is important to work in a way that draws on all the excellent work conducted by local people and organisations in the area to date and the BASH team has worked hard with communities to gain a great deal of knowledge about the issues that they wish to see improvement on in their area.

Participatory Budgeting

20. On Tuesday 23 April the Council held a successful visit by senior representatives from the United States (US) to discuss our approach to Participatory Budgeting (PB). The visit was co-ordinated by Church Action on Poverty and we were one of a small number of organisations the delegates chose to meet (others including the Scottish Minister for Local Government) to discuss how lessons could be learnt between our joint experience of piloting this innovative form of public involvement. The visit was timely as Durham had recently held three PB events in February and early March which attracted over 5,900 people and allocated £848,000 towards community based projects.
21. The US delegates were made up of: Josh Lerner who has developed a number of PB exercises across the USA and Alderman Joe Moore from Chicago who has utilised his "Councillor Budget" of \$1.3 million to hold an annual PB exercise within his ward.
22. Whilst it was established there are a number of common issues in organising PB exercises wherever the location, the model used in Chicago highlighted a potential way of providing greater strategic direction for PB exercises. The overall conclusion from the event was that PB as a means to involve large numbers of local people in decision making is attractive and is something we will need to continue to develop.
23. **East Durham Rural Corridor (EDRC)** AAP has utilised Participatory Budgeting (PB) as a tool to support 23 projects across all of its priorities, such as funding much needed equipment for a local Boccia Group. Boccia is a sport people with disabilities, their carers and their families can take part in. Since receiving the funding and utilising the equipment a 21 year old young man has taken part in trials for future Olympics. Other examples include funding a Learning Project, delivered from a local community centre providing accredited and non-accredited courses on a variety of subjects, and a project to create and maintain a wildflower meadow, using volunteers from the community, allotment holders and the local Junior School in order to encourage bees and other pollinators to the area.

24. Projects such as the Sports Apprenticeship Scheme were showcased in an innovative way at the EDRC PB event, as the apprentices based at the Active Life Centre @ Coxhoe where the day was held carried out fun activities with children, young people and their families, as well as promoting how to become an Apprentice via the AAP. Partners who have either been funded by the AAP, or worked in partnership in some other way, also took part in the day including health colleagues giving out water bottles for cycling/ walking etc, Football Activators for Durham County Council Sport and Leisure who provided activities and supplied information on local clubs, and provision of Chlamydia testing for Young People.

Altogether wealthier

25. The North East Independent Economic Review (NEIER) report was published in April 2013 and within its priorities it offers an agenda for the North East Local Enterprise Partnership and its partners. There is a focus within the report on the proposed Combined Authority and it sets out a framework for the region to accelerate economic growth. Combining “more and better jobs” within the area’s economy is at the heart of the agenda and the highlighted themes and the recommendations support this outcome. In addition to strongly emphasising the potential of a Combined Authority for the North East, key actions for NELEP, its partners and Government focus on; access to finance; an integrated approach to investment and funding; innovation; inward investment; transport; skills; apprenticeships; strengthened governance and institutional capacity.
26. The reaction to the NEIER has been positive across the **County Durham Economic Partnership** and its partners have been positive across the public, private and community sectors. The LA7 Leadership Board has welcomed the opportunity presented by NEIER and confirmed its intention to move existing collaborative arrangements onto a statutory basis. Key areas for further review include; Transport North East, Skills North East and North East International. Any further statutory arrangements as a result of a Combined Authority would not replace the North East Local Enterprise Partnership.
27. The County Durham Economic Partnership will continue to work with partners to promote opportunities and influence the agenda for growth across the County and NELEP. Durham County Council’s Regeneration & Economic Development Service Grouping is also providing a further detailed report on the reviews findings, the Combined Authority and next steps for consultation which will be circulated before the summer. At the February 4 Board, it was agreed there was a clear need for the partnership to reconsider its core function and priorities. On 16 April a consultation workshop was held with CDEP Working Groups Chairs to collectively review the baseline position and consider the key questions arising from the individual consultation sessions. This has been the subject of further discussion at the CDEP Board on 13 May.
28. The CDEP Board agreed that there should be some key principles on how the Partnership and Board approaches its activity to ensure the partnership continues to consider that ‘*we are doing the right things, in the right places and in the right ways.*’ It is therefore agreed that the partnership should adopt the following principal ways of working and therefore the partnership’s role would be to provide a forum for:
- a. Information and market intelligence
 - b. Setting the strategy and strategic focus for actions
 - c. Collaboration on key economic issues
 - d. Exploiting opportunities
 - e. Influencing
29. The next phase of the review will consider and develop:
- a. Size, membership and core functions of the Board
 - b. Number and functions of Working Groups to tackle key economic issues

c. Governance arrangements and level of support offered by the secretariat.

30. A £17m project to turn Auckland Castle into a major heritage site and visitor destination has received initial funding of £1m from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). A first-round pass with development funding of £1m means that the Auckland Castle Trust moves one step closer to securing a grant of an additional £9m from the HLF at a later date, to redevelop the 800 year-old Bishop's Palace located in the historic market town of Bishop Auckland. The Auckland Castle project will turn the largely unknown private dwelling, now under the ownership of the Auckland Castle Trust after being saved by philanthropist Jonathan Ruffer last July, into a heritage site and visitor destination attracting about 120,000 visitors in five year's time.
31. The initial funds will secure the development phase of the scheme, which will involve the appointment of key personnel, further research into the site, and the procurement of an architectural team to drive the project. The HLF's investment would ensure the long-term sustainable future of Auckland Castle, and would also have an impact on the economic prosperity of Bishop Auckland and the surrounding area.
32. The Durham Housing Triage Procedure sets out what is expected as good practice to support those customers who are affected by the changes brought about through Welfare Reform. The overall aim of the procedure is for both Registered Social Landlords and Durham County Council operating in Durham to work consistently to ensure that residents receive the help and support they require, to address the issues which may put them at risk of losing their home. The support and advice they receive will aim to improve their current circumstances and/or assist the customer into more suitable and affordable accommodation. If a customer advises they are struggling financially and are unable to pay their rent or mortgage or wishes to apply for Discretionary Housing Payment, the Officer who receives the request must ensure the Triage Process is followed. The customer will be referred to one of the partner agencies and receive advice and support with the following: Employability/Employment Options; Debt and Welfare Advice and Support and Housing Needs.
33. Any customers who are struggling financially and it is having an impact on their current housing situation should first speak to their landlord or for more support and advice they can contact the Housing Solutions Service at Durham County Council.
34. AAPs continue to address the County's top priority of Altogether Wealthier. There are a small number of well-established schemes that continue to be developed and adapted across the County by AAPs.
35. The **Derwent Valley AAP** has now launched its new Consett Traders Association in partnership with BSupplied Ltd (a retail and franchise development agency) and colleagues in Economic Development. The need for a Traders Association was identified under the AAP's employment and regeneration priority and aims to provide a collective voice for local traders to help improve the town centre and its facilities. The Association recently held its inaugural meeting attracting over 30 businesses and it is currently working with the AAP to develop the programme of town centre events.
36. Previous reports have highlighted the Employability Skills Fund which is **Great Aycliffe and Middridge AAP's (GAMP)** biggest project to date. The aim of the project is 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.
37. One example of the training delivered is the Employability and Essential Skills Course. The One Point Service submitted a group discretionary application on behalf of a number of learners who wanted to attend this course. The application was to cover the cost of the

course fees (£23), for learners who were not entitled to fee remission; the course was delivered by through Bishop Auckland College via their commissioning contract with Durham County Council. The learners were predominantly mothers who had undertaken no means of learning since they had their children, and who had low esteem and confidence issues. To start their learning process and to help address confidence they had already undertaken a five week programme, which included self-awareness, listening skills etc and were now ready to move onto a more specific employability course.

38. GAMP and Durham County Council's Employability Team have come together to offer local firms the chance to offer apprenticeship opportunities in the Aycliffe area. The project will support businesses to create 20 engineering and manufacturing specific posts for young people living in the Great Aycliffe and Middridge area. The aim of the project is to tackle the high levels of youth unemployment in the area by encouraging and supporting businesses to create employment opportunities that would not otherwise have existed.
39. The introduction of the National Apprenticeship Service Initiative, an apprenticeship grant for employees aged between 16 and 24, has given the council the opportunity to complement available funding to develop a new programme to help small and medium size businesses. A total grant of £2,500 is available to businesses. The programme will create opportunities that will last a minimum of 15 months with an incentive being paid at the end of month 15. GAMP has dedicated £10,000 from its Area Budget to the project with a further £10,000 from the Neighbourhood Budget of the late Cllr Enid Paylor. In addition £30,000 has been secured from the National Apprenticeship Service.
40. GAMP and South Durham Enterprise Agency (SDEA) are working in partnership to provide a package of training and business development grants for new business within the GAMP area called Step into Business. Funded via Area Budget (£20,000), Councillor's Neighbourhood Budget allocation (£15,000) and funding from SDEA (£9,000), the project aims to provide a series of business related workshops and a package of grants for business start-ups. The initiative is managed by SDEA with its business advisors engaging and supporting potential clients wanting to start their own business.
41. **Spennymoor AAP** is one of the AAPs driving forward the Durham County Council Employability Scheme project. This will engage clients providing specialist support to help individuals into employment, as well as mentoring and progression support that will be delivered by a Mentoring Officer. The principles of this local model are to co-ordinate a programme of pathways into employment that lead to sustainable employment, enable workless people to access opportunities and build the skills that lead to sustainable employment and to work with local employers to identify staffing needs to help fill vacancies in the Spennymoor AAP area.
42. To achieve the objectives it is proposed to carry out the following:
 - a. Grass root engagement of clients providing initial individual engagement and specialist support to help individuals wishing to undertake volunteering as a pathway to employment
 - b. Mentoring and progression support - Delivered by the Mentoring Officer
 - c. Financial incentives to break down barriers to employment - The project will provide financial incentives for both the employer and the employee in an effort to break down barriers to employment.
43. The **Three Towns AAP's** Employability Project has been very successful. The first year of this part time partnership project which is aimed at local unemployed residents who are actively seeking work in the Three Towns Area has seen 59 people progress into employment thanks to the support and training received. By helping to remove barriers to employment, 119 clients have been provided with one to one confidential and impartial advice, guidance and support resulting in 30 gaining employment, 19 starting up their own businesses and 10 apprenticeships being placed.

44. **East Durham Rural Corridor (EDRC) AAP** is working with 'Young Enterprise' the United Kingdom's largest business and enterprise education charity. Every year they help 250,000 young people learn about business and the world of work in a classroom environment under the guidance of volunteers from 3,500 companies. Their mission statement is "to inspire and equip young people to learn and succeed through enterprise." Its guiding principle is to do this through 'learning by doing.' Their programmes cover a whole range of topics exploring the world of work, saving, earning, decision making, teamwork, presentations, skills needed for certain jobs, interview techniques, entrepreneurship and raising aspirations.
45. Nine primary schools and one secondary school within the AAP area will be able to take part in this project as a result of the AAP working in partnership with 'Livin' and securing funding from them along with £21,000 worth of volunteer time, School funds and £3,000 worth of Young Enterprise Local Funding. All schools within the AAP area were approached and all of those willing/ able to take part have been included. By providing quality materials and volunteers from the local community to deliver the programmes, the students will engage in fun interactive sessions that will help them achieve employability and key life skills that they will need in later life.
46. The AAP Co-ordinator and Community Development Project Officer have volunteered to be trained and teach some of the sessions, as has a public representative Board Member; all Board Members will have the opportunity to go along and spectate at sessions. The AAP Co-ordinator and public representative have now started teaching the session, and feedback is excellent. Pupils have engaged and have certainly learnt from the sessions, one particular positive outcome is the engagement of an autistic child who does not normally engage in lessons.
47. EDRC funded the Sports Apprenticeship Scheme and Apprenticeship Bursaries in 2011/ 2012 to help young people take a step closer to the world of work. These schemes have continued to operate through providing new activities for children and young people free of charge in schools and community centres, in Saturday morning and after school clubs, and supporting businesses in the area. The AAP gave £31,005 to the sport apprenticeship scheme, which brought in a further £84,615 of external funding, and £21,000 to the bursary scheme for which Durham County Council also secured an additional £18,900. The money is subsidising wages and covers tutoring, fees and materials. There has been a reduction in the number of young people not in education, employment and training within the AAP area since the projects were implemented. As well as linking with Altogether Wealthier this links with Altogether better for children and young people, as the Sports Apprenticeship scheme supported the other AAP priorities of activities for children and young people, and supporting the community and voluntary sector (by providing apprentices for Active Life@ Coxhoe, and holding sessions in local Community Centres).
48. The sport apprenticeship scheme is equipping young people with the necessary skills, qualifications and experience to seek jobs in the sport and leisure industry. The 16-week course, which was been extended to a year by attracting other funding, includes football coaching and leadership awards, employment awareness and key skills; trainees can extend it with customer care qualifications. Of the 45 spaces available, four are available currently, and work is ongoing to secure places with the training provider leading on the project, with a view to taking the young people on permanently at the end of the placement; their role will be as mentors for long term unemployed seeking work. One day a week is spent on a course work file and four days on placement with youth clubs, sport venues and schools including Coxhoe Junior and Deaf Hill Primary Schools. To gain practical experience, participants are also running youth activities in villages across the AAP area.
49. Three sport apprentices are also working at the former Durham County Council run Coxhoe Leisure Centre which has reopened as community venture Active Life @ Coxhoe. The apprenticeship bursary scheme is supporting fourteen young people placed within eleven

small and medium sized firms within the AAP's area. This scheme aims to match businesses looking for a trainee with 18 to 24-year-olds wanting to work in a particular field and vice versa. This has resulted in a trainee accountant, mechanic, green keeper at a golf club, child care assistant at a nursery, animal care, florists, engineers, horticulture and agriculture and business administration.

50. **Teesdale Area Action Partnership (TAP)** is working with Councillors and communities in supporting a number of projects that will develop the economic impact of the area as well as supporting those most affected by the current economic down turn. These include supporting CAB Outreach work in Evenwood and a new foodbank which has been established for the Teesdale area. The Rural Employability Project continues to support individuals who are struggling to find work, sometimes because of complex needs. This project has forged links with local employers such as Glaxo Smith Klein and over 25 people have found work with the support of the employability mentors. A similar number have accessed training whilst others have been getting valuable experience through volunteering.
51. However TAP's main thrust on economic development comes through its work on tourism, which is once again a priority for this year. Discussions have already taken place with Weardale Action Partnership on potential joint work after the success of the joint advert in the Durham Pocket Guide. It is hoped TAP can build on the national exposure the area has received through the 'This is breathtaking, this is Durham' campaign. On a practical level TAP has supported several small organisations through its tourism small grants fund. This has helped to better promote local events to a wider audience and also help local events to add something different that enhances what they have to offer people. Again working with Councillors and communities other organisations such as Teesdale Ski Federation Barney Guild have been supported to develop their offer to the visitor.
52. TAP Members continue to take a keen interest in Broadband and are keeping abreast of new developments like the Rural Community Broadband Fund. There is a strong desire in the Teesdale area that communities are not left behind when it comes to new technologies and are keen to work with the Council and partners to ensure that every household in Teesdale and County Durham will have access to super-fast broadband in the future.
53. Linked to the tourism agenda, **Stanley AAP** Board Members recently approved an Area Budget Application for a Brass in Stanley 2013 Project. The project is part of BRASS: Durham International Festival 2013 which is the annual celebration of internationally acclaimed brass artists featuring outdoor arts, new commissions, challenging collaborations, outreach work and the very best of contemporary brass playing, taking place in July. The Area Budget and Neighbourhood Budget funding granted to the Brass 2013 in Stanley Project will deliver a bespoke package of activity that will contribute to the AAP's Regeneration of Stanley and its Villages, and Opportunities and Activities for Young People priorities.
54. The project will involve Durham County Council's Arts Team working with Stanley AAP to develop an outdoor family event in Stanley Town Centre. The event titled the Big BRASS Bash will take place on Saturday 20 July and will feature French theatrical street band Zic Zazou who will tell the magical story of an abandoned bandstand brought back to life. Hilarious and unpredictable, the enchanted 'Kiosque' blends circus tricks and music box sounds, leading musicians and audiences into a mad parade through the streets. The outdoor family event will also feature Trundlehonk, a keen member of the local brass band, whose extremely wilful horn simply refuses to play along, the North East's favourite professional Bboy and break dance company, Bad Taste Cru who will bring their unique brand of explosive footwork and awesome moves to the bash, performing alongside fantastic BRASS international street bands.
55. To complement the town centre activity, local children will be given the opportunity to see International performers in their school and to build excitement for the Big BRASS BASH

event. 15 schools in the Stanley AAP area will host performances from international street bands from the 9th - 20th July.

Altogether better for children and young people

56. A review of the **Children and Families Trust (CFT)** is underway to take into account recent policy developments, the new NHS landscape and the interface with the Health and Wellbeing Board and with schools and education. The remit is to ensure the composition; terms of reference and remit of the Trust remain fit for purpose. The review will be completed by August 2013.
57. In tandem with the review of the CFT the Children, Young People and Families Plan (CYPFP) will be reviewed to ensure it captures any changes to policy, the new NHS landscape and takes into account views of children and young people. "Agenda days" were led by Investing in Children with children and young people in March 2013 relating to the priorities in the CYPFP. In total 62 young people took part ranging in age from 10 to 16 years old. Recommendations were provided as part of the discussions from children and young people and will be considered as part of the review.
58. All agencies have signed up to a Think Family Partnership Agreement and developed an action plan which outlines how they will implement the programme as well as change the way that services are delivered within their own agencies. These action plans will be monitored through the Think Family Board.
59. There is significant interest from the Government's Troubled Families Team in the mentor model which is in place within Durham, as well as the commitment from partners to develop a sustainable model which changes practice and which will have the capacity to continue following the three years of the government's Troubled Families programme.
60. A Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) framework is being developed for implementation in June 2013 as a pilot in some schools and youth settings. The framework aims to provide practitioners based in schools, colleges and youth settings with a consistent approach to the delivery of SRE in County Durham. The framework 'sets a quality standard' for the delivery of SRE, which responds to the views of children and young people who consistently tell us that they would like SRE to be delivered on a regular planned basis, by confident and knowledgeable practitioners.
61. AAPs have continued to support the Altogether better for children and young people priority theme since their inception and have allocated nearly £5M from Area Budget and match funding to this priority.
62. The **EDRC AAP** 'Youth Workers in Training' project has a rolling programme available to train six local people from the AAP area to Level 3 Youth Work status, to enable them to deliver youth work across the whole area. All of the places are full at the moment, and as well as being employed as Workers in Training throughout the duration of the course, therefore adding value to existing provision, the workers are also equipped with the necessary skills, qualifications and experience needed to continue with a career in this field. They are all progressing and passing assignments, and have attended a weekend of training which looked at the practical and theoretical side of running a youth club.
63. The **Three Towns Partnership** Youth forum, one of the first projects set up under the priority of Children and Young People in 2009/10 has been formally recognised for their hard work and achievements in enhancing the life of their community by being awarded the Prestigious High Sherriff's Shrievalty Award 2013 at an event at Durham Castle. The Young People aged between 10 and 16 have organised two Youth Awards events themselves to recognise the achievements of and to promote a positive image of young people in the Three Towns Area as well as managing a grants pot for other children and

Young Peoples groups to bid into, being active community volunteers and for their consultation work with other Children and Young People.

64. Two Young People from the Three Towns Youth Forum have been successful in being selected to be AAP Board members as Public representatives for the area, the Two Young People aged 16 have been involved in a wide range of projects as Youth Forum members for the past three years and will now use the skills and knowledge they have gained to play a full and active role as members of the Three Towns Board.

Altogether healthier

65. The first meeting of the **Health and Wellbeing Board**, not in Shadow form, is due to be held on 21 June and its first item of business was to agree and endorse the Health and Wellbeing Strategy Delivery Plan which includes work to ensure that there is synergy between the CCG commissioning intentions, the CCG three local priorities, and the delivery plan to ensure a coherent forward plan of action.
66. The Strategy will be reviewed annually including indicators and targets, to ensure that any significant changes and developments are identified and included within HWB performance arrangements, in line with the review of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
67. **Derwent Valley AAP** has been successful in its application to take part in the 'Our Big Gig' national music event which will be taking place across the country between 11 and 14 July. Only 27 'Big Gigs' will be held regionally and the AAP has been selected to host one in Consett and will receive funding and publicity materials to bring the project to fruition. The project is supported and sponsored by the Arts Council, Department for Communities and Local Government and Superact which is a not for profit arts organisation aimed at using creativity and music to improve the health and wellbeing of local communities.
68. A successful AAP funded project that has continued following the cessation of AAP funding is the **EDRC AAP Cycle/ Walkway Project** which had the primary aim to provide a series of walkways and cycle routes linking the whole of the AAP area, with the main aim being safe routes to work and school. However, there are also obvious health benefits and this project will help to reduce carbon emissions and traffic congestion across the area. Following on from the completion of phase one (NETPark, Sedgefield to Fishburn – funded from 2010/11 Area Budget and other sources), work is ongoing to commence phase two (Fishburn to Trimdon Village) not funded by the AAP but following partnership working with Transport colleagues at Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council. Part of this work involves looking at opportunities to link with the Bike It initiative and the Living Street Officers for a limited period to encourage behaviour change and promote new facilities in schools, such as the bicycle storage racks at Sedgefield Community College (Specialist Sports College).
69. The Healthy Hubs project aims to build strong, resilient, sustainable communities through increasing confidence, motivation, knowledge and skills. Using asset based community development approaches (focusing on a community's strengths/ assets not deficits) engagement will take place with local people (including young people), community needs will be explored, additional provision in communities will be established and local residents skills will be increased. Preliminary work has already commenced in Bowburn Community Centre, including linkages with Wellness on Wheels (WOW) which was based at the Centre, and further updates will be provided as the project progresses.
70. **Three Towns AAP** is another Partnership that has invested in the Altogether healthier priority. The 'Fit n Fun' club has been developed through ideas from the children as they want to increase the variety of activities offered in the village. These children wanted to encourage their peers to become more active as they felt they spent too much time playing on their computers. 'FUNdamental' skills sessions will provide children with a core set of skills. The project will create a new after school activity at Hunwick Primary School to

promote health and fitness. Pupils from the school will become accredited 'Junior Sports Leaders' and be able to deliver 'FUNdamental' skills sessions to their peers. The activity will be supported by a member of school staff but child-led in terms of the activities offered which will include obstacle courses, cheerleading and circus skills. Funding will purchase a range of equipment as well as fees for DCC coaches to provide coaching sessions and deliver the accreditation.

Altogether safer

71. The **Safe Durham Partnership (SDP)** continues to address a number of key areas that support the objectives and areas for improvement in the Safe Durham Plan. The Integrated Restorative Practice Strategy was agreed by the SDP Board in March 2013 and a steering group has been established, chaired by Gill Eshelby, to drive this work forward. The associated action plan will be developed and will cover Training, Delivery, Communications, and Performance Management. To support this initiative over 400 police staff have received restorative approaches training to date. This approach will be piloted in the Durham LMAP and future actions will include bringing together 'training champions' from each service (Children's Care, County Durham Youth Offending Service, Police, Probation) to agree a common understanding and standard; Incorporating Restorative Approaches as an element of the Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) escalation process; Integration into the 'Think Family' agenda working closely with those would benefit from restorative training such as officers within the One Point and Family Intervention services.
72. Success in tackling drug addiction, alcoholism and acquisitive crime was evident at the recent 'Blessing of the Banner' event held in Durham Cathedral. Durham has many ex drug users in early recovery who want to inspire others and stimulate hope by helping their peers achieve and maintain long term recovery and to stop offending. People who have gone through recovery want to contribute back into society. However, due to a long history of drug abuse and offending their job prospects are poor. To try to tackle some of these issues it is proposed to develop a self-sustaining social enterprise and partners (including DCC, Police, Probation, and Health) will provide ongoing support. The Recovery Community will pursue a programme to get people into work while partners will assume an arm's length governance role. The Recovery Community has also recently set up the first self-governed Recovery House, based in Chester-Le-Street. It is based on the Oxford House programme, which operates across several states in America. Members of the recovery community live in shared accommodation and support each other to help prevent relapse, stop offending and enhance community reintegration.
73. ASB remains a top priority for all partners involved in the Safe Durham Partnership and it is important to monitor how local communities perceive the work being carried out. Whilst the percentage of people who perceive that the Police and County Council are dealing with concerns of ASB and crime stands at 57.6% (Q2 2012/2013) against a target of 58%, perceptions do not fluctuate far from this figure, despite significant falls in crime and ASB. The Chief Constable has made it his priority to tackle low level ASB and recent Police surveys show that issues such as dog fouling, litter and graffiti and speeding vehicles continue to be of real concern to local residents. A small group of partners has come together to focus on tackling these issues in order to impact on people's perception. A community pilot is underway in Langley Park to tackle environmental ASB. The Council issues more Fixed Penalty Notices concerning environmental issues than any other Authority in the region and, while this is often necessary, we need to use alternative approaches as existing ones have still not impacted on perceptions sufficiently.
74. The Safe Durham Partnership ASB Team and Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust have developed a joint protocol on Mental Health and ASB which has been implemented as a three month pilot from April this year. It will then be evaluated during and, if positive, will then be adopted permanently. The protocol has been developed to establish a co-ordinated approach between the teams when dealing with ASB cases where either the perpetrator or the victim may have mental health problems. The aim is to improve

information sharing and joint risk assessment, leading to the development of joint victim and perpetrator action plans to reduce the risk from ASB and mental health and improve access to services.

75. Commissioning of a countywide domestic abuse outreach service is progressing and the service is expected to be in place by the summer. A marketing campaign was launched recently and focuses on raising awareness of the signs of domestic abuse on women over 40; a group known to be at greater risk of domestic abuse but less likely to report it. The campaign sign-posts people to support services available within County Durham. Local Domestic Homicide Review guidance has been developed in line with the national guidance and the Chair of the SDP has recently instructed the review of four domestic homicides which are underway. A further two have recently been completed with action plans and overview reports about to be published. Actions plans will be monitored and governed through the existing structures of the SDP to ensure that any lessons learned are acted upon quickly and efficiently.
76. Two years ago DCC lent its support to the police to modernise Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) and developed a strategy to increase membership and help people get active. Today, County Durham has a higher percentage of households in a NHW scheme than any other area in England and Wales. Some significant projects have been undertaken by NHW coordinators supported by police, the council and partners. These are covered in the refreshed NHW Strategy that was discussed at the SDP Board in May. As part of this drive to bring Neighbourhood Watch to more people a greater number of young professionals have been encouraged to become involved and the Junior Neighbourhood Watch Scheme has involved 900 primary school children. The Business Watch Scheme has a membership of 298 businesses while Wear and Tees FarmWatch was crowned 'Best Community Scheme' at the 2012 National Country Crime Fighters awards. A new initiative will see some Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators vetted to Police Volunteer status and, with the help of Durham County Council, will be part of a programme to deliver crime prevention advice to those in their scheme that need it most.
77. **Mid Durham AAP** has championed road safety as a priority theme for the last couple of years. Their Road Safety task group will have seen the implementation of its Gateways and Road Safety Promotional Scheme during the spring. These two schemes alongside the ongoing community speedwatch programme and school/youth club/local businesses Road Safety Educational Programme (delivered by Durham County Council's Road Safety team) will provide a package of support that will start to address the speeding and road safety concerns highlighted by residents. The task group have recognised a need to develop a number of different types of approaches to reducing speed that collectively will make a stronger impact, with education and driver culture being at the forefront. The overall aim of this package is to reduce the speed of vehicles travelling through the villages throughout Mid Durham but it is recognised that this will also have an impact upon the aims of the Altogether Safer Thematic Partnership and their need to develop a 'safer highway, free of accidents and free of the fear of accidents'.

Altogether greener

78. The **Environment Partnership** has delivered a themed week of activities and events surrounding World Environment Day on 5 June 2013. This is annual event raises the profile of the work of the Partnership as well as encouraging county wide participation in Environmental projects. The theme for 2013 was 'Think before you **eat** and help **save** our environment!' The theme centred on anti-food waste and food loss campaign that encourages people to reduce their 'foodprint'. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), every year 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted. This is equivalent to the same amount produced in the whole of sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, one in every seven people in the world go to bed hungry and more than 20,000 children under the age of five die daily from hunger. This year's campaign encouraged people to take action from their homes and then witness the power of collective decisions made to:

- a. reduce food waste,
 - b. save money,
 - c. minimise the environmental impact of food production and
 - d. force food production processes to become more efficient.
79. The partnership delivered a week of activities linked to each of the five themes (Climate Change, Waste, Pride, Natural and Built Environments) and encouraged pro environmental behaviour via engagement with schools, community groups, stakeholders and the general public. During this week various activities were carried out which included:
- a. Free seeds to schools
 - b. 'Slam Dunk the Junk' Litter picks in the North of the County in partnership with the Derwent Valley Area Action Partnership
 - c. Riverbank and Spring Clean Ups
 - d. Twinning litter pick activity with County Durham in Western Australia and Durham City North Carolina
 - e. Climate Change Stakeholder Event involving the faith communities and the Durham Fair Trade Partnership
 - f. Food Waste Reduction public event held in Durham Market Place showcasing demonstrations from Love Food Hate Waste, the Durham Master Composters, Fair Trade, Feeding the 5000, Groundwork and the Environment Agency.
80. The Environment Awards were opened for entries on 28th May 2013 and work is underway to maximise publicity and ensure engagement with media partners. Judging will take place over the summer and The Environment Awards ceremony will take place in October, 2013.
81. Registration for the 'Big Spring Clean 2013' was opened on March 6, with the activities running from 18 March to 12 May 2013. This campaign resulted in 75 community groups registering and delivering community clean ups.
82. Consideration is also being given to the key actions of focus which the Environment Partnership will deliver in future years in line with the Sustainable Community Strategy refresh.
83. The completion of the Satley play site in the summer will see the majority of **Mid Durham AAP** villages provided with excellent quality outdoor fixed play provision. Since 2009 the AAP has been involved in funding and supporting the development of seven new play sites and three refurbishments acting upon local residents (young and old) requests to provide quality outdoor play space for the children and young people of Mid Durham. This action is also closely linked to the shared aims of Altogether Safer, Altogether Healthier and Altogether Better for Children and Young People.
84. **4 Together AAP** has started work on the Chilton Rebuild. The main outcome for this project will be to combat fly tipping within backyards, anti-social behaviour and the general tidy up of the Ford and Raby Terrace Streets in Chilton, to raise the community aspiration of the currently disheartened residents in the this particular area of Chilton. This is a multi-agency approach including Safer neighbourhoods, S&D Training, Neighbourhood Watch, selective licensing team, Housing Regeneration, Neighbourhood Services, private landlords, Livin and the residents of Chilton, in order to address the many local issues that have been raised via LMAPS, Neighbourhood Watch and to the AAP. 22 properties will benefit from the replacing of rear gates and/or rebuilding rear walls which have been left to deteriorate since the previous regeneration scheme ceased. 90 properties will benefit directly overall, including paint works. These works will be carried out by apprentices, overseen by S&D Training and managed by Safer Neighbourhoods.
85. The training and skills learnt from this project will go towards their qualifications, and a valuable source of work experience, each apprentice will each receive their own basic tool kits, as an incentive. Polycarbonate windows will be fitted to the void properties, as these

premises have been an easy target of thieves in recent times, taking copper piping, boilers, lead flashing, metal gates and fences. As a result houses have been left in a bad state of disrepair, and have caused both concern to the residents, and the general appearance of the area was rated as "appalling". The polycarbonate windows and door screens will improve the aesthetics of the buildings and the surrounding area, and provide effective security.

86. This is phase two of the project as a whole, the first part being the installation of five street light columns, "let there be light", which was part funded by Neighbourhood Budget and Housing Regeneration. The full costs of the projects are £45k, of which 4 Together and Elected Members contributed £16k. The task group members continue to monitor the project as it develops and the multi-agency approach remains vital, as problems are ongoing in relation to fly tipping in the yards that have yet to be made secured, it proves to be an ongoing battle. It is envisaged that covert cameras will be installed as soon as possible to catch the culprits, as currently "clean ups" have taken place in the rear of the yards in order for works to be carried out, but are quickly re-filled with rubbish by fly tippers. Residents are already reporting the difference the project has made to date, and appreciative of the works taking place and the Crime and Community Safety Task and Finish Group continue to explore ways to address all issues as they occur across the whole AAP area.

Area Action Partnerships Update

87. The AAPs continue to deliver against their 2012/13 priorities whilst also preparing to begin work on their recently agreed 2013/14 priorities. All of the work carried out through the work and support of AAPs at a local level links directly back to the strategic priorities and objectives of the County Durham Partnership. Some early project ideas for the forthcoming year include local community surgeries across the Derwent Valley area, alcohol free youth events in conjunction with local health providers and a Newcastle Falcons rugby engagement schools project. Other proposed projects may also looking at broadening the support provision around welfare reform as well as a project to address self-esteem issues within young people.
88. Within communities, partners and AAPs are focusing on working with people in need of support and advice and tailoring their initiatives accordingly. Partners are addressing needs such as housing support, benefit changes and supporting credit unions.
89. The **Three Towns AAP** supported a Citizens Advice project based in Willington which will give support to those struggling to cope with the benefit changes that have occurred and that are due to occur over the next year. It is recognised that residents are facing great hardship as a result of the changing system and advice services are experiencing a sharp increase in requests for help and support. Referrals to the food banks and emergency sources of help have increased dramatically but it is longer term advice and support that people will require to stop these problems reoccurring. As the benefit system changes clients are becoming increasingly confused about what they are and are not entitled to. This project will try to increase the knowledge of the general population and thus empower individuals to help each other and those who can to act on their own behalf. At the same time it will be able to provide advocacy for the most vulnerable when dealing with the new systems. This project will employ a worker for ten hours a week for one year.
90. **East Durham AAP** is implementing a range of actions to address community issues relating to the impact of Welfare Reforms with one of the projects being Welfare Reforms Champions. Locally based volunteers will be trained and supported to provide an accessible, frontline advice and signposting service, within the setting of a specific locality. The volunteers will be trained and given specific information on a range of potential signpost destinations and issues, including: Welfare Reform/Benefit Changes; Credit Union; Illegal Money Lending Unit; Welfare Rights; CAB; Priority/Non Priority Debt; Emergency Interventions (e.g. Emergency Food Parcels). The project commenced in April

2013 and is being delivered by East Durham Trust and funded by the AAP. Phase one of the project was initially to recruit and train 15 volunteers, however there have been 21 volunteers trained to date. Within the first two weeks of the project, 100 sessions have been delivered.

91. Also linked to the welfare reform agenda is the increase in need for Credit Unions and the need in East Durham was evident through the reports from the community of Loan Sharks and high interest legal money lending. A Development Worker was employed to assist in the introduction of a Credit Union (Durham County Credit Union) and to date 50 volunteers have been trained to staff the 16 collection points across East Durham with 799 accounts opened. Having strived unsuccessfully for many years to establish a Credit Union in East Durham this outcome is rightly seen as an achievement, but with East Durham having a population of more than 92,000 residents, this represents an uptake of less than 1%. Current share holding amounts to £82,582, but with £45,000 having been withdrawn in the weeks before Christmas 2012, the savings figure recently topped £125,000. 177 loans have been advanced amounting to £74,102.
92. Over 50% of members are over the age of 65 with members under 30 making up only 10%. However, the AAP is working closely with the Association of British Credit Unions and Experian to produce a comprehensive report on the members' circumstances, needs, behaviours and preferences. The Experian report (Customer Segmentation) will formally capture knowledge in a more consistent way and entails dividing the population into distinct groups that are distinguishable from each other based on their demographics and lifestyles. It is hoped to have the report in June/July 2013 and it will be used to drive phase two of the project.
93. The **EDRC AAP** Board agreed at a recent meeting that two thirds of Area Budget would be allocated to a PB event for projects in relation to the top two priorities, and the remaining third would be allocated via a Task Group for more targeted/ strategic work around Employment and Job Prospects. It is important to note that, although this process will hand the final decision on funding allocation over to the community, the criteria will be developed strategically to ensure the needs and wants of the community are addressed. This will take place following consultation at Forums, and other events such as Parish Planning and also what is highlighted in the AAP Statistical Profile.
94. In addition to the Big Local mentioned earlier in the report, the **BASH** team are also working closely with partners in Shildon on the Shildon Communities First Project. Community first is an £80m government-funded initiative that will run for four years, until March 2015. The programme will help communities come together to identify their strengths and local priorities to plan for their future and become more resilient. It will fund both new and existing community groups. Through this fund the Shildon West Electoral Division has been allocated £33,910 over four years to spend on new and existing community projects.
95. Within this area the programme will: support local projects that improve the quality of life for local people; promote a sense of ownership not only of problems but of local opportunities and resources; start more neighbourhood groups and revitalise existing groups and Introduce a new approach to funding projects – leveraging time, money and other resources – helping neighbourhoods play a leading role in regenerating their area.
96. The amount of funding allocated to the Shildon West ward is £33,910 and covers the full four years of the Community First Programme. This allocation is split by: year one £5,624; year two £8,489; year three £8,488; and year 4 £11,309. Funding for the years one and two has been secured on seven community projects ranging from cycle initiatives to support for the local CAB.
97. Rural employability continues to be a focus for the **Weardale AAP**. Working with a multi-agency team combining the statutory and voluntary sector organisations the success stories

of this project to date have been received by the Employment and Job Prospect group. A total of 360 clients in 2012/13 have engaged with the project via a multitude of referral mechanisms.

98. 80 of these clients have been supported into employment or pathways that would lead to employment. The breakdown is impressive, with 45 clients gaining employment via the following route: 11 into apprenticeships, 21 into full time employment, five into part time employment, and eight into self-employment. Building on this success, the project will be intensifying the support to one full time worker. Also working via the task group we are currently designing a be-spoke training and employability programme; relevant to the expanding industry of tourism and activity led pursuits that will support the economic growth are the area.
99. Working with a local resident a collection of poetry inspired by the landscapes and people of Weardale will be published. The book titled: No Random Loving, is published utilizing the expertise of local residents and a not for profit organisation namely Vane Women. This collection of will be utilized as a tool to promote Tourism and the culture of Weardale. Also, by working with another local resident based in Witton Le Wear, the WAP team have supported the publication of: Witton Warriors 1914-1919 memories, both in narrative and photographs. Witton Warriors is the story of Witton le Wear during the Great War. It gives insight into the men who left home to fight for their King, country and freedom, the camaraderie of the war and the changes those that did return home faced.
100. To further promote Weardale as an activities destination, the open round of this year's Premier Calendar Cycle series is now a two day biking event which makes it the highest-ranking stage race in the county outside of the Tour of Britain. The course utilised the area around the Derwent Reservoir, making an arduous race around the picturesque villages of Weardale i.e. Edmondbyers. A marketing specialist suggested that the addition revenue brought into the area from the race, would be in excess of £100k.
101. **Chester-le-Street & District AAP** has been working closely with Durham County Cricket Club and local partners through an Ashes Planning Group to build up a package of related projects to celebrate the Ashes in August. A range of projects have been supported including the concept of creating 'Ashes Makers' to support the festival and provide an interface for visitors who are new to County Durham and Chester-le-Street in particular. This initiative will be launched by the Cricket Club over the coming weeks. The AAP has also worked with Visit County Durham to produce a revised Town Map and Information Guide that highlights places of interest for visitors including routes into the Town centre to ensure people can link with the many businesses and amenities that the Town has. The Cricket Club will post out a copy of this Town Map and Information Guide with all of the expected 75,000 tickets. Further event based projects will be firmed up by working with the Council's Events Team over the coming months to ensure a robust and vibrant offer is given to both visitors and local residents.
102. The Chester-le-Street Skate Park has been formally opened. This project which was designed in direct response to local concerns raised around the amount of skaters and BMX users in the Town was supported by a range of funders including Cestria Community Housing, local Councillor Neighbourhood Budget contributions, local fund raising from the Rotary Club, Section 106 planning monies and designated funds from the Youth Service. A local group 'Ride4Chester' was formed to engage with young people on the design and the final choice of which tender design was built was made by young people through a public vote. The park has been tremendously well used since it was completed. Leisure Service supported the implementation of the project and the Skate Park will be a welcome addition to the offer available to visitors to the Riverside Park.
103. **Durham AAP** rounded off another year after submitting 46 Neighbourhood Budget projects allocating a total of £458K during the year and drawing in £2.2M of potential match. The

Area Budget supported 18 schemes and brought in match funding worth £600K. Most Neighbourhood and Area budget schemes were under the heading of activities for children and young people.

104. Following discussions at the AAP presentation in December there are now concessionary tickets to be made available for the Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition. Thanks to AAP funding the Brass festival will now replicate an event that is featured in Prague when the Market Place will host 'BRASS Windows' which is a series of musical performances from the windows of the buildings surrounding the square on the 6th and 20th of June.
105. Since last report the AAP has backed a scheme subtitled 'So you've seen the cathedral what next?'. This involves cashing in on the success of the Durham Pointers to enhance their service with a dedicated meet & greet for coaches during the summer and both will be supporting a promotional campaign aimed at highlighting other hidden gems such as the Botanic Gardens, Crook Hall, DLI Museum, Oriental Museum that might encourage visitors to think about coming back or extending their stay.
106. Work on six play areas supported through Neighbourhood Budgets has commenced or is about to commence across the AAP alongside plans to develop Low Burnhall Trust.
107. Children and Young People continue to be a priority for **Teesdale Area Partnership (TAP)** and projects from last year will be monitored and supported throughout this year. Small Neighbourhood Budget supported schemes include the creation of an archery club at Ramshaw School and the continued support of the very successful work in the Gaunless Valley area. TAP are keen in 2013/14 to look at how children and young people can become more directly involved in the work of the AAP and will be working with partners on this. A workshop has been planned to help TAP focus on the key issues for children and young people in the area.
108. Although Crime and Community Safety is not seen as a high priority for TAP it is not being ignored. For young people especially it came out top of their concerns so TAP will be looking at this issue as part of its work with young people. Smaller individual projects funded through Councillors Neighbourhood Budgets are being taken forward and TAP are working with the local police on the development of projects including a project that is looking to reduce the number of fuel oil thefts in the Teesdale area.
109. Following on from an update given to Cabinet in February where one of the achievements listed was 'progressing to phase two of the Sedgfield GP Consortium Social Prescribing Initiative, with the project being assessed as having countywide potential.' This initiative, which is a Sedgfield Locality Commissioning Intention, as reported at the February Sedgfield Health Network meeting under the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) update, has now been launched.
110. Stray dogs that had faced the bleak prospect of being put down are helping people live happier, healthier lives under this pioneering initiative designed to boost well-being. They have been given a brighter future and new purpose by being used in the Social Prescribing Initiative with the NHS. Anyone at risk of developing mental health issues, such as depression and anxiety, is being encouraged to visit the centre based in Coxhoe to take a dog for a walk in the countryside boosting their mental and physical health. The scheme is open to anyone referred by their GP who wants to increase activity levels in an enjoyable way.
111. Dog walkers can tackle a host of local routes including Limestone LinX which the AAP have supported, with just a dog, or with a volunteer which the AAP have funded or anyone else using the scheme. This is a prime example of how working in partnership, with support from the AAP Board, Co-ordinator and staffing team can lead to excellent opportunities for the well-being of local people.

Recommendations and reasons

112. Cabinet is asked to note the content of the report.

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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