

Cabinet

20 November 2013

**County Durham Partnership Update
Report**



Report of Corporate Management Team

Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Councillor Simon Henig, Leader of the Council

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

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. The AAPs are undertaking a significant period of consultation on the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan which will end in December at an event in the Three Towns area. This involves local people participating in a group activity to discuss Council services and influence how savings of £100m could be made. Their views will be used to help shape future budget decisions.
3. Also as part of the November Forums, all AAPs have undertaken Participatory Budgeting exercises to determine how some of their area budget should be allocated to projects voted for by local people. Over 500 projects will be considered as part of the 14 exercises and will benefit from a share of approximately £500,000 across the County, including funding from North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group for the northern AAPs.
4. The AAPs continue to support a wide range of local initiatives and, to date, have allocated almost £8M to over 700 projects. This has been matched by over £13.5M in match funding. This equates to £1.71 for every £1 of AAP funding. The funding allocations against each priority theme reflect the change in focus for the AAPs in recent years.

2013 A Year of Culture

5. **The County Durham Economic Partnership** is delighted to have supported and helped implement The Lindisfarne Gospels, one of the many successes of the cultural calendar this year. The Durham University exhibition gave people a rare opportunity to see the 1,300-year-old gospels outside London. The exhibition, which opened on 1 July, has attracted 97,208 visitors (1,200 per day) from as far as Canada, New Zealand and Asia. Programme director Dr Keith Bartlett said the

manuscript had "inspired" the whole of the region. The manuscript, created by Eadfrith, Bishop of Lindisfarne in honour of St Cuthbert, was last in the region in 2000.

6. One example of the AAPs supporting local people to take part in the Gospels experience was in the **Three Towns AAP area**. All of the councillors in the area came together to fund a once in a life time opportunity for school children from St Cuthbert's School Crook, 28 children took part in banner-making workshops with a textile artist, and of these 13 attended the finale event for the Lindisfarne Gospels in Durham Cathedral to participate in the procession a further five took part in the community chorus, joining in with the performance of Will Todd's 'St Cuthbert Oratorio'.
7. **Lumiere 2013** sees the return to the County of this light festival for the third time. From the 14 to 17 November, an estimated 200,000 residents and visitors will be able to experience some unique and awe inspiring installations throughout the city centre as well as across the county as a whole. They include an interactive model of the sun exactly 100 million times smaller than the real thing to 'Elephantastic', a giant 3D promenading elephant.

Welfare Reform

8. The Council and its partners continue to monitor the impacts of welfare reform on communities in the County, particularly through working with colleagues in the voluntary and community sector as well as through the AAPs.
9. The Welfare Champions initiative, supported by **East Durham AAP**, continues to have positive impact in the communities benefiting from the support provided by the local champions. At present there are 10 active Welfare Champions, with 15 new Welfare Champions having been recruited. Training for the new recruits will be provided by East Durham Trust, East Durham Homes, Citizens Advice Bureau, Credit Union, Welfare Rights and Housing Solutions Team and will take place in early November. Testimonies provided by clients show that they are proving to be magnets for local people in crisis. They continue to advise scores of people affected by the economic situation and to date have made over 500 interventions and over 100 referrals for food parcels.
10. **Chester-le-Street & District AAP** has been working with local Princes Trust on their Princes Trust Team Programme as an intervention to tackle the priority of Welfare Reform and Employability. The Princes Trust Team programme will work with up to 100 young people over six 12 week course throughout 2013 / 2014 who are not in employment, education or training to provide them with accredited training in preparation for further employment or volunteering opportunities. The Project is based within two Community venues to cater for young people aged 16-25 from all over the Chester-le-Street area. Referrals to this programme are made from a number of local agencies including Job Centre + and the YMCA.
11. The project was developed as a direct consequence of a rise in young people classed as NEET over recent years within the Chester-le-Street area. The course will see young people learning essential team building skills and awareness of having to work in a team environment, links are made with local employers to offer two weeks work placement as part of the course, and established organisations also support with aspects of personal development such as interview training.

Integral to the course is the design, fund raising and delivery of a community based project that meets local needs. This may tackle an emerging neighbourhood issue raised through an AAP or a PACT meeting for example. Links are also being made with Regeneration and Economic Development to support the awareness of further Apprenticeship opportunities after the Course has been completed as well as enhancing links with the local Enterprise Agency to try and ensure the young people have routes into paid employment or further work experience. Evidence from other areas nationally suggests that over 75% of the course attendees go on to stay in education, obtain employment or carry out voluntary work.

12. Welfare reform projects are also being developed in many other AAPs.

AAP Strategic Working

13. The AAPs continue to support a wide range of local initiatives and, to date, have allocated almost £8M to over 700 projects. This has been matched by over £13.5M in match funding. Both of these figures show a significant contribution to the work carried out within the County by a wide range of partners and community groups. It equates to £1.71 for every £1 of AAP funding. The funding allocations, shown below, reflect the change in focus for the AAPs in recent years. Initially the majority of the AAPs focused on priorities that involved children and young people whereas now, all of them have a priority linked to the Altogether wealthier theme.
14. Over £13M has been invested by Elected Members since 2009, to support more than 1500 local priorities, which has also drawn in significant match funding. This funding is often jointly allocated with the AAP funding to offer significant support to projects in the Members' local areas.

Priority theme	Area budget	Match funding
Altogether wealthier	3,877,124.00	8,694,482.00
Altogether better for children and young people	2,449,010.00	2,572,783.00
Altogether healthier	637,933.00	1,447,337.00
Altogether safer	461,000.00	175,177.00
Altogether greener	552,399.00	812,379.00

15. AAPs are currently undertaking their annual priority setting through their forum meetings. The results of this exercise will then be put forward to the AAP Board meetings for approval.
16. Also, all 14 AAPs are undertaking a Participatory Budgeting exercise, as part of the November/December AAP Forums, alongside the priority setting and financial consultation. This is the first time that all of AAPs have utilised this form of budget allocation and will mean that they can build on the advantages of Participatory Budgeting to attract more people to get involved in AAPs as well as engaging in the process itself. In the North of the County, the Clinical Commissioning Group has also contributed funding for this exercise meaning that more than 500 community projects will be able to benefit from over £500,00 of funding.
17. The **Mid Durham AAP** has used the village action plans (highlighted in the July Cabinet report) that they created with their associated Parish Councils to form the

basis of their participatory budgeting exercise during October. The 16 village action plans identified residents' concerns on such areas as road safety, community venues, environmental improvements, sports facilities and play provision. The plans have been formed on the basis of discussions with over 800 residents between November 2012 and July 2013. The AAP has delivered another 16 sessions during October and November revisiting the action plans and updating the residents on the progress being made. Several of the concerns have been developed into project proposals and will be put forward at the relevant village session to be voted upon by the residents. Due to the geographical size of Mid Durham the village action plans will continue to be a focus of work for the AAP and its partners for the next few years so that the AAP can develop its reputation at a village level as well as increasing the knowledge of local residents on the work of its partners and that of the County Durham Partnership.

18. The AAPs have all had the opportunity at the recent CDP Forum meeting to input into the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy. This was part of a series of opportunities for the views of stakeholders to be gathered which also included two Members Seminars and a session with the Council's Extended Management Team. The SCS is the subject of a separate report, jointly with the Council Plan on this agenda.

Sharing good practice

19. As the different parts of the County Durham Partnership evolve there are more opportunities to share good practice. The AAPs particularly learn from each other and how they can deliver initiatives within their localities. An example of this is the Horticulture, Agriculture, General Education and Individual Development project (HAGGRID), which is described later in this report. The Durham AAP project was developed from HAGGRID projects already taking place in the Derwent Valley AAP area. Similarly learning and good practice has been passed between AAPs on a range of employability projects.
20. A further example is in the 3 Towns and BASH AAP areas which have been identified by the Sport and Physical Activity Strategic board as priority areas for a coordinated bid to Sport England's Activation Fund. This is due to the two areas being the lowest rate for participation across the County. The Durham Dales CSPAN (community sport and physical activity network) has taken the lead and engaged with a wide variety of partners as well as conducting extensive consultation with residents of the two AAP areas over the summer period. The findings of the consultation will underpin the bid. The bid will focus on delivering community sport and physical activity provision in and around Glenholme Park, Hackworth Park and Bishop Auckland Town Rec in the summer months and utilising indoor facilities over winter months. It will look to put community activators on the ground delivering family/adult and young people based provision focussing on the sports and physical activity that the consultation reflects.
21. An example under the Altogether safer priority is the Cycle Crime Reduction project in the BASH and Spennymoor AAP areas. The project will allow bicycles to be security marked at both point of sale and retrospectively with a view of reducing and preventing cycle crime. By the use of local publicity and the links with the various partner agencies the project aims to reduce cycle crime, increase detections relating to cycle crime and to educate all cycle users on what they can do to prevent them becoming a victim of cycle crime. This is part of a County wide

project however the funding from BASH and Spennymoor AAPs and DDES CCG is for targeted intervention in the two AAP areas. The project will be delivered by Durham Police.

Altogether wealthier

22. The **County Economic Partnership Board** at its July Board meeting agreed to lead on developing opportunities for County Durham presented by the EU Structural Funds Programme for 2014-2020 in relation to European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF). The EU 2014-2020 programme provides a significant opportunity to provide investment into the economic development of County Durham, at a time of reducing resources.
23. Within the National Programme, a strong role has been given to Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), who are to be given a notional allocation of ERDF and ESF for the programme period with a spend review period in 2017. Government recently announced the allocation for LEPs which will see €539.6m for the North East LEP over the period of the programme. Of this amount, €157m is Transition Region Money specifically for County Durham and €383m for the rest of the LEP area.
24. As a Transition Region there is more flexibility over spend than in more developed regions which means that within the North East LEP, County Durham has slightly more freedom to spend on local issues than the rest of the LEP area, which is to be welcomed and focuses the strategic leadership role for the County Durham Economic Partnership.
25. The CDEP is also continuing its work on the County Durham Apprenticeship Programme, which, since its inception, has attracted expressions of interest from 342 employers looking to recruit across a cross-section of employment frameworks. To date, there have been 277 starts on the programme, with the most popular ones being 59 (21%) Business Administration, 51 (18%) Engineering, 17 (6%) Customer Service and 16 (5.8%) Electrical.
26. Of the current programme starters, 223 (80%) are aged 16-19. The council and partners including across the **Area Action Partnerships** are making good progress in focusing on the younger age range which was identified as a priority in the Apprenticeship Action Plan by the council in conjunction with the County Durham Economic Partnership.
27. Regarding the businesses creating the apprenticeship opportunities 199 (72%) have fewer than 20 employees and 242 (87%) have fewer than 50 employees, which emphasises the importance of focusing on the smallest growing businesses.
28. The Council and the Economic Partnership have also launched a Social Value Taskforce to help small businesses and social enterprises win more contract opportunities. Chaired by Councillor Neil Foster, the taskforce will run from September to December to recommend ways that the Social Value Act can be used to help grow the local economy. It will also examine how the council can embed the principles of the Act across everything the council does.
29. The Social Value Act came into force in January 2013 and places a duty on public bodies to consider social value before procuring goods and services, therefore improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area. The

council has already made good progress in helping businesses in the county to access contract opportunities; in 2012/13, 55% of the council's spend was with County Durham suppliers, and 77% of this amount was paid to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the county. The taskforce, the first of its kind in the North East, provides an opportunity to build upon the good work the council has already done and learn from best practice elsewhere in the country to further improve opportunities for businesses in County Durham. As well as representatives from council departments, the taskforce also includes representatives from the Federation of Small Businesses, North East Purchasing Organisation (NEPO), the Economic Partnership, Business, Enterprise & Skills Working Group, Social Enterprise UK, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and experts on social accounting. The first meeting took place on 13 September 2013.

30. As previously reported, **Teesdale, Weardale, Spennymoor, Great Aycliffe and Middridge (GAMP) and East Durham Rural Corridor (EDRC) AAPs** are some of the AAPs that are supporting the County's Employability project in their localities. The specific implementation of the projects differs in each area dependant on the needs of the client group. The programme looks at co-ordinating a series of pathways into employment that will lead to sustainable employment, enable workless people to access opportunities and build the skills that lead to sustainable employment. The project works with local employers to identify staffing needs to help fill vacancies from unemployed residents.
31. Due to the success of a number of their projects **EDRC AAP** has again chosen to fund its Young Enterprise scheme and Apprenticeship Bursary scheme. Young Enterprise is 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. By providing quality materials and volunteers from the local community to deliver the programmes, the students engaged in fun interactive sessions that will help them achieve employability and key life skills that they will need in later life.
32. 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.
33. **Stanley AAP** is also working towards regeneration priorities through its Retail Improvement Project. The Project will contribute towards the AAP's Regeneration of Stanley and its Villages Priority and will deliver the following three strands on Stanley Front Street:
 - a. A Shopjacket pilot,
 - b. Shop Front Improvement Grant for Small Retailers
 - c. And a Shutter Improvement Scheme
34. The Shopjacket element will take a suitable vacant shop on Stanley Front Street and apply 3D graphics to it. The graphics give the impression of an occupied shop and thus shows the potential of the retail premises for a new occupier. The work

will improve the look of the shop and area and draw attention to details about any support packages or incentives for new businesses which may be available. The new graphics will also market the empty property and strengthen the retail offer on the Front Street. The Shop Front Improvement Grant element of the project will tie in with Stanley Masterplan's Targeted Business Improvement Grant and improve the look of shop fronts and window displays generally. The Grant will allow ten shops to receive a grant of up to £1,000 to do up their shop front. The aim of the Shutter Improvement element of the Retail Improvement Project is to brighten up the shutters of permanently closed shops and the shutters of shops that are closed during the day and then open on an evening. This element will brighten up the look of the area and make it more attractive to local shoppers and people visiting the area.

35. It is hoped that this Project will significantly improve the look of the shops involved and tie in perfectly with the wider public realm improvements that are to be carried out as part of the Stanley Masterplan.
36. The AAP has also allocated £20,000 of Area Budget funding to the South Moor Housing Regeneration Project that is to be led by Housing Regeneration, Durham County Council. South Moor is an area of failing housing market performance resulting in high numbers of private rented properties and many empty homes. Many of the residents are in the lower-income bracket and therefore struggling to make ends meet, especially in these times of high energy costs. The properties have solid brick walls which lose heat easily. This results in many properties being poorly heated with a higher risk of health issues - both physical and mental - for the occupants. The project's objective is to begin the revival of the failing housing market through a phased programme of housing, energy efficiency and environmental improvements. The project will focus on Pine Street, South Moor which has a prominent elevation to the main road. Key elements of work will include the provision of attractive and energy efficient external wall insulation and other energy efficiency measures, replacement gutters and fascias to 50 properties and landscaping and street/public realm improvements to the frontage of Pine Street.
37. The Area Budget contribution will be used to kick-start the project by creating a number of 'show-homes' to facilitate sign-up. This is the best way to show exactly what the project will do so owners, landlords and tenants can see the finished result.

Altogether better for children and young people

38. Following the review of the **Children and Families Trust**, this partnership will now be known as the **Children and Families Partnership** to reflect its role as the thematic partnership for Altogether Better for Children and Young People.
39. Through the Partnership, a plan has been developed to support increasing the participation of young people in learning. This will help the council and partners meet their responsibilities in relation to raising the participation age of young people.
40. A Special Educational Needs and Behaviour Review has been undertaken in Durham which identified that County Durham has more children and young people with special educational needs than the national average. A Special Educational

Needs Strategy will be developed for County Durham which will cover the period 2014-2018.

41. AAPs continue to support the work of all of the thematic partnerships through delivering local projects linked to strategic objectives. **4Together AAP** has recently supported 'ReSolve', a project that aims to reduce the levels of risk-taking behaviour including the misuse of drugs & alcohol, risky sexual behaviour, sexting (sending explicit messages by text), criminal offending and anti-social behaviour. The County Durham Foundation has also contributed £9,800 to this project from its Priority Health Fund towards tackling risky behaviour around alcohol issues.
42. ReSolve will in addition strive to tackle the growing problem of violence and abuse in teenage intimate partner relationships. All these issues have a devastating impact on the lives of local people and the wider community. Concerns about crime and community safety came forward as one of the top priorities for the 4 Together AAP. The Board's Crime and Community Safety Task and Finish Group looked at the many issues that were reported to them. The Task group was asked to consider the ReSolve project by the Cornforth Partnership and its members felt that ReSolve will positively impact on the AAP's community safety priority. The project also has links to a number of key local strategies including Durham County Council's new Risk and Resilience Strategy; The Safe Durham Partnership's Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan and the 'Think Family' approach.
43. ReSolve will deliver a programme of activities, training and support for the people who take part. Participants will also be invited to engage with a programme of intensive one-to-one mentoring support if they are engaging in or are at risk of engaging in risky behaviour. Project leaders will also work with participants to develop SMART Action Plans, identify any issues, and support them to overcome personal barriers. Project leaders will work with stakeholders and key partners to develop and deliver a better understanding around why people engage in risky behaviour, which will ultimately lead to the development of effective support services and management techniques.
44. One of the most important aspects of the project will be to work with participants' whole family to develop diversionary activities and deliver custom-made workshops to help people to understand the risks associated with legal and illegal highs; sexual attitudes and beliefs and conduct; crime and anti-social behaviour.
45. The **Derwent Valley AAP** is currently working with the Newcastle Falcons Community Foundation to develop a rugby engagement project aimed at both secondary schools (sevens activity) and primary schools (tag rugby activity) which will engage over 900 young people and their families locally. This project will also have positive health and wellbeing impacts on the children and young people taking part.
46. This project will take place over the spring and summer 2014 terms and schools will receive 6 weeks of coaching sessions, a tournament for each age group at Consett RFC, coaching camps in the summer half term holidays and free t-shirts and tickets for Falcons games to promote sport and partnership working on a regional basis.

Altogether healthier

47. The **Health and Wellbeing Board** held an engagement event in October to inform the review of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2013 which provides an overview of health and wellbeing needs and to inform the refresh of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS). The review of these documents will inform commissioning plans for the local authority and clinical commissioning groups.
48. Various stakeholder groups including voluntary organisations and members of the public, service users, carers and patients attended this event and further opportunities to provide views on the development of the JSNA 2013 and the refresh of the JHWS will also be available through AAP's.
49. More AAPs have identified the health and wellbeing of their residents as a priority in recent years. **Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership**, in partnership with the Pioneering Care Partnership, has developed a project to engage with disabled people to improve their health and wellbeing with the support of a fully qualified health trainer. Funded by Area Budget (£5,000) and a contribution from local Councillors' Neighbourhood Budget (£5,000), the intention of the project is to support up to 40 local disabled people. Included in these figures will be the recruitment and training of five Health Trainer champions (volunteers) who have accessed this project and who will continue to provide sustainability in the future, the volunteers will be recruited from local groups that are currently operating within the community. Health Trainer champions will be trained to complete the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) Level 2 qualification, employability skills training and brief intervention training.
50. **Chester-le-Street & District AAP** has undertaken a second Change 4 Life (C4L) Road show event building on the success of the winter road show held in conjunction with the National C4L road shows which were held across the country. Chester-le-Street is the smallest town involved compared to places like Nottingham and Leeds and one of only 12 road shows country wide. Just over 250 local people 'signed up' in August for the Change 4 Life campaign which is designed to help people eat better and move more. The summer theme/campaign for C4L was aimed more towards young people with a 'get going' slogan encouraging children and families to undertake activities together.
51. The AAP worked with public health, leisure colleagues and local voluntary sector agencies to ensure there was more activities on offer at the event to engage people in health related activity, clubs and support organisations. The AAP had a stall in the market place where we offered 'free fruit' supplied by a local market trader, free bags with C4L leaflets and information in (also to put the fruit in). Helping on the stall were young people (late teens) engaged in a national citizens service programme over the summer holiday period which encourages young people to undertake community projects in their local areas. The event in August was part of the Market Activity Week which has been in operation for the last few years (supported by the AAP and local members) which is aimed at young people and families bringing them into the town to undertake fun activities as well as to encourage them to spend more in the town as the local economic centre.
52. Combining both the winter and the recent summer Chester-le-Street C4L road shows over 500 local people have signed up to a healthier lifestyle and have received packs and information on how to eat well and move more. The AAP continues to look forward to the next C4L campaign in which it can engage the local community in.

Altogether safer

53. The **Safe Durham Partnership** continues to deliver a number of programmes focusing on its seven high level objectives. As part of its work, a county wide domestic abuse outreach service has been commissioned by Durham County Council and commenced in September. It is providing outreach support, group work and empowerment programmes for victims of domestic abuse and their children. The marketing campaign aimed at women over 40 is currently running and includes posters and radio and online marketing. The campaign will be evaluated by Durham University at the end of the year to assess impact. Sadly, a further domestic homicide has occurred in County Durham which takes the number of domestic homicide reviews currently being undertaken within County Durham to seven.
54. The Organised Crime Task and Finish Group concluded their 12 month task in August to reduce the threat from organised criminals and reported its progress to the Safe Durham Partnership Board on 24 September. This work resulted in an increase in awareness raising (for example community awareness through AAPs), resources (more agencies contributing), legal powers (Housing Powers of entry) and information sharing and intelligence. This has strengthened the work of the Partnership Disruption Panel and increased its scope to include 'interventions'.
55. A project to divert women offenders across County Durham and Darlington from re-offending went live in spring this year and, to date, 63 women offenders have been offered a six week program to divert them from being charged with offences at the point of custody. 32 women have successfully completed the course with another nine expected to do so shortly. The project is supported by the Home Office and the Prison Reform Trust and is part of a national Women's diversions pilot.
56. The **Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner**, in conjunction with the Vulnerability leads from Durham and Darlington, is to take forward a joint County Durham and Darlington Hate Crime Action Plan. More information will be included on this in a future update to Cabinet.
57. The Safer Homes Scheme has now moved into action with 18 Neighbourhood Watch volunteers carrying out crime prevention surveys for elderly and vulnerable people in their scheme. Volunteers have access to basic security equipment such as timers, shed alarms and security sensors that they can provide and can refer to the County Durham Handyperson Scheme following a special arrangement made on behalf of the volunteers. The local Bishop Auckland Crime Prevention Officer came up with the idea of providing people with a 'holiday kit' which includes equipment that makes it appear that someone is home (e.g. TV Flickering device on a timer). This will be available to people who have to go into hospital and leave their homes unoccupied. Other areas around the country are showing a keen interest in the idea. The project is currently funded and project managed by Durham County Council and volunteers are supported by Crime Prevention Officers and police Community Liaison. In due course, DDF&RS will train the volunteers to carry out Fire Risk Assessments.
58. In addition to this, **Weardale AAP** and the local Farmwatch group have now taken possession of some new thermal imaging binoculars for the team to use when out

on Farmwatch joint operations. One of the farmers commented that as the price of livestock increases so does the increase in rural crime, it is necessary to have the same equipment as those who have no respect for farmers and their livestock. The equipment will form part of a package of deterrents.

59. The County Durham Youth Offending Service (CDYOS) Intensive Employability Programme was a finalist in the Howard League Community Programmes Awards 2013 (Children and Young People category) and although CDYOS did not win an award, Frances Crook, Chief Executive, The Howard League for Penal Reform, wrote to the team's Strategic Manager which included the following:

'Thank you for attending the Community Sentences Cut Crime Conference and congratulations on being shortlisted. It was a very competitive field and the judges were impressed with the work that you do at the YOS in Durham. Your work is a shining beacon of effective practice and shows that community sentences can work to reduce crime, involve the community and change lives.'

60. This programme started in April 2011 (funded by ESF) and, due to its success in improving outcomes for young people, funding has been secured to extend the programme until March 2014. It provides an intensive package of wraparound support for a minimum of 50 young people per year who are high crime causers/prolific offenders, those in custody and those at risk of entering the criminal justice system. Engagement in the programme is voluntary with the aim being to achieve successful progression into appropriate and accredited training or employment to prevent re-offending. The programme has made significant impact on those young people within CDYOS client group who most need this support. Performance figures demonstrate that the programme is consistently achieving positive outcomes with young people who have previously failed or achieved very little in terms of employment. Over the last two years there have been many examples that demonstrate positive impact and outcomes.

Altogether greener

61. Over recent months, the **Environment Partnership** which delivers the 'Altogether Greener' theme has been reviewing and refreshing the existing Partnership structure. The revised structure has been agreed and work to define the terms of reference and key actions for the newly formed groups is currently underway via the Partnerships' Chairs. The Environment Partnership will have the remit of delivering environmental transformation work via the Board and the following groups will feed into the overall structure:
- a. Environment in your Communities
 - b. Coastal, Heritage and Landscape
 - c. Climate Change
 - d. Local Nature Partnership (LNP)
62. The 2013 Environment Awards concluded with a high profile ceremony on the evening of 8th October at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Durham. Out of a record 55 shortlisted entries, 31 were selected to receive prizes from 11 categories spanning; green businesses, community volunteering and partnership-working to schools and the built environment. Two entries; the restoration of Seaham Marina and the opening of the prestigious Durham University Science Park, received Outstanding Awards, which are only given to schemes that achieve exceptional benefits across

the environment. There has been a great deal of interest and sponsorship received from various organisations including the Banks Group, Sita UK and Groundwork. Next year will be the 25th year of The Environment Awards and work is being carried out now to plan ahead for a special commemorative programme, attracting new partners and funding. For example we are aiming to introduce two new award categories: Urban Green Space and Urban Green Technology.

63. Following its recent Environment Award at the Altogether Greener awards the HAGGRID (Horticulture, Agriculture, General Education and Individual Development) initiative, run by Durham Agency Against Crime (DAAC) has also been awarded four Royal Horticultural Society Awards for its work in Consett, Ushaw Moor, Wharton Park and Chilton. The RHS judges were so impressed with the partnership working that they have flagged it up as best practice to the Home Office.
64. The programme is aimed at young people aged 11-18 who may have been identified due to being at risk from crime, antisocial behaviour, poor school attendance, low self-esteem and/or lack of aspirations. The project consists of enabling the young people to acquire skills, training and accredited qualifications, raising awareness of common policing and social issues such as the environment, drugs and alcohol, damage to property and anti-social behaviour and provide a programme of visits and practical work based around horticulture and agriculture.
65. The **Derwent Valley AAP** is working in partnership with the DAAC and pupils at the new Consett Academy to develop the HAGGRID project at Consett and Blackhill Park.

Area Action Partnerships Update

66. The Area Action Partnerships continue to deliver a wide range of initiatives in their local areas that support their locally determined priorities. These projects differ in size, financial contribution and longevity but all meet an identified need in a specific area.
67. **Teesdale AAP (TAP)** has tourism as one of its local priorities as it has a massive economic impact on the area and TAP is keen to support work that builds the tourism offer. The 'Timeless Teesdale Tour' is a piece of work that has filled a gap in the market. This driving tour directs people to all corners of the area and focuses on the medieval history of Teesdale. The project paid for the design and production of a number of maps which were disturbed at the Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition in Durham City and it was hoped that people picking these up in Durham would then travel out and spend time (and money) in the TAP area. The project was led by staff and volunteers at The Witham and supported by Bowes Museum.
68. Another TAP funded project that continues to go from strength to strength is the YMCA led youth work in Cockfield. The area had been identified as somewhere with high areas of anti-social behaviour and fear of crime. Over the past two years the team from Teesdale YMCA have developed three nights of youth work in the village. There is a general 'drop in' on one night. A project group on another and a girls group on the third night. The project group have done some of their own fund-raising and developed projects around a diverse range of activities such as baking and fishing. This work has also supported developments at the Lipscombe Hall in

Cockfield which is now open to the public seven days a week offering a community café, access to computers and community meeting space. TAP continues to look at new ways to engage young people and recently attended an event at Teesdale School. Information from this event and others that TAP hope to get involved with will help TAP to decide on next year's priorities.

69. AAPs continue to work with Local Councils to provide much needed resources in their areas. **East Durham AAP**, working in partnership with Peterlee Town Council, Sports Development and Groundwork, has supported the Urban Legacy Woodhouse Park project which was developed in response to high levels of anti-social behaviour in the area. The project has not only tackled the problems associated with youth nuisance but has established Woodhouse Park as the centre of excellence for Urban Games for County Durham. The sessions are focused at peak times in the evening four times per week using qualified Durham County Council park activators and a private urban activity company to deliver a comprehensive programme of workshops over the first year. The sessions will be to focus on young people in the surrounding areas, an emphasis on time and type of activity which will be the priority. The project will remove barriers to participation by developing doorstep clubs for young people to attend without cost or transport.
70. **Spennymoor AAP** has also recently funded a project that will offer children and young people a safe place to congregate within the town. Spennymoor AAP, Spennymoor Town Council and local Councillors are 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.
71. 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.
72. Budding stars of the future gathered at Glenholme Park in Crook on Saturday 14 September for this year's annual 3 Festival, led by the **Three Towns Partnership**. Some of the best young bands and performers in the area took to the stage to perform in front of a live audience. Dance performances, samba drumming, an assault course and a human powered cinema also kept the crowds entertained. The alcohol free youth music festival was organised by One Point youth workers from West Durham Youth and Community Resource supported by local County Councillors, 3 Towns Partnership and the Wear Community Alcohol Project.
73. Many AAPs are already starting to plan for their Christmas activities. **The Derwent Valley AAP** is once again working with Groundwork North East to host its second Christmas in Consett event as part of the AAP's Town Centre Events Programme. The Christmas event and lights switch on will be taking place on Saturday 23rd November from 10.30am until 6pm. A range of market stalls will be selling a selection of festive produce and gifts and there will be a varied programme of musical and theatrical entertainment throughout the day. Other attractions will include free face painting, children's rides and Santa will be appearing free of charge in his Grotto in the Derwent Centre. The event will close with the switching on of the Christmas lights at 6pm by The Dust Town Dogs.

74. **Stanley AAP** has allocated £5,000 of Area Budget funding to the Stanley Christmas Festival 2013 that will take place from Saturday 30th November and the following Saturdays in the run up to Christmas Day 2013.
75. The 2013 Stanley Christmas Festival will build on the success of the 2012 event. The programme of activities will run over four weeks and will work alongside local traders to maximise the economic impact. The programme will be promoted as a Christmas Festival through local media, Press Releases, Radio Adverts, Flyers, Posters and Social Media. The festivities will include a range of activities over a four week period, including: a programme of local and national performances including singers, dancers, local schools, the local pantomime and the Christmas Tree switch on by a high profile celebrity; A Santa's Grotto on Stanley Front Street, enabling local children to have the chance to see Santa; A meet and greet with children's cartoon characters including Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck, Daisy Duck and Fireman Sam (three performances throughout the day) and carol singing and brass band performances.
76. The Area Budget funding will be used to cover all associated costs with the programme including advertising, staff, first aid, equipment hire and entertainment costs. The funding will also be used to hold a competition in local schools, with the winners helping to switch on the lights.
77. The **Mid Durham AAP's** 'Support for Older People's' Task group has managed to bring together three key services for older people and develop a joint marketing scheme. Durham County Council's 'Care Connect', Derwentside Homes 'Silver Talk' and the Prince Bishops Community Bank's 'Managing Money Better' have developed a promotional package for older people which will provide care, social support and advice on saving money. The task group feel that to make a significant impact on older people's lives, services will need to work more closely together as finances and capacity will be stretched over the next few years for both statutory and voluntary services. This exercise cuts across the thematic groups of 'Altogether Healthier (Reducing health inequalities / improving quality of life, independence and care) and Wealthier' (sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities) The AAP will be taking this principal forward into its other task groups.
78. The **Bishop Auckland and Shildon (BASH) AAP** team continues to support the implementation of the Big Local programme which will see at least £1,000,000 awarded to achieve the Big Local outcomes in six communities, to make a positive and lasting difference over a period of 10 years. It provides a mixture of funding, finance and support that 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. The BASH team has done considerable work in the community and with the support of the AAP an Interim Development Group (IDG) made up of residents who are active in their communities has been established. Again supported by the BASH team the local group has finalised a Big Local Profile document and vision which have both been agreed and signed off and the group are well on the way to formalising their structure after which the Action Plan will be developed early in the New Year. The group has also agreed to change its name to the Gaunless Gateway Big Local.
79. **Durham AAP** has continued to deliver against its main priorities. The VCS group is hosting an alternative 'Meet the Funders' event in November to which non-

traditional trusts and grant making bodies are to be invited to provide an alternative perspective on how such organisations can provide support in different ways. The AAP Board is also now working with the Student Community Action Group from Durham University to promote and widen the scope of volunteering for students to encourage them to play an active part in city life. SCA involve themselves in a range of activities from dog walking to supporting people with dementia.

80. The City Centre priority for the AAP has just reviewed its objectives for the coming year and has identified issues such as toilets, visitor information and informational signage they would like to address. The Board also continued its Supporting Activities for Young People in the Framwellgate Moor area to divert them away if they have been identified as at risk of becoming involved in crime. Likewise in Gilesgate, an alternative project is seeking to do the same, using a community allotment. The Board has recently supported the continuance of its Small Grants Fund which has proved very popular with community groups looking for small amounts of money.

Recommendations and reasons

81. Cabinet is 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