

Cabinet

12 October 2011



County Durham Partnership Update Report

Report of Corporate Management Team

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Cllr. Simon Henig, Leader of the Council

Cllr. Brian Stephens, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Local Partnerships

Purpose of the Report

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

Background

2. It is important that Cabinet continue to receive regular updates on the work being led by the County Durham Partnership. This report also includes information summarising briefly, at high level, the work of the Thematic Partnerships as well as the 14 AAPs.

County Durham Compact

3. The County Council and its Public Sector partners have signed up to a new local 'Compact' with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS). The Compact outlines the principles for a working relationship between the public sector and the VCS and is designed to allow us to work together more effectively to strengthen communities and improve the lives of local people. It is based on the new national Compact and is very user friendly and should help all partners to embed Compact principles within our organisations.
4. It recognises that both sectors have distinct but complementary roles and reflects a fair balance of commitments of each sector. It also offers advice to both sectors on how to make the Compact work.

County Durham Partnership Board Away Day

5. On 7 September, the CDP Board met for half a day to reflect on achievements across the partnership since Vesting Day and to discuss how the partnership can remain fit for purpose in an ever changing environment. More information on the session and its outcomes will be provided in a separate report to Cabinet.

Altogether wealthier

6. A key ambition of the County Council's Regeneration Statement is to develop a new approach to public procurement and wherever possible, to create more opportunities for local suppliers. The **County Durham Economic Partnership**, working through Durham County Council, has launched the "Buy Local: Buy Durham" to address the frequently aired concerns of the business community that the procurement machinery of councils disadvantages smaller businesses.
7. The introduction of "Buy Local: Buy Durham" will create more opportunities for local suppliers by ensuring buyers seek a minimum of one quotation from companies based in County Durham where the procurement has an estimated value between £5,001 and £50,000. The new procurement QuickQuote system is already functioning within the County Council and training for over 200 internal buyers is underway. A series of actions has been developed to support and encourage local suppliers to register to Buy Local: Buy Durham including a series of network events and training for all specialist advisers and coaches.

Altogether better for children and young people

8. Significant collaboration has taken place between County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust (CDDFT) and the Local Authority Children's Services in the development of the new integrated One Point Service. Over 1200 staff have now been consulted in the development of the service and it is on track for implementation between end of September and end of October.
9. In preparation for the implementation date, a number of significant developments have been achieved. These have included the management structure being in place and staff recruited. The buildings are nearing completion and teams have been allocated. The Partnership agreement has been finalised between CDDFT, Children's Services and Adults, Wellbeing and Health (AWBH) which has seen operational procedures developed in consultation with staff from health and the local authority. To ensure business continuity, plans have been put in place for every migrating service and an integrated performance management framework has been established.
10. The preparation for the Children and Young People's Plan for 2012-2015 is progressing well. Following extensive research and consultation involving children, young people and their parents and professionals, a set of six priorities grouped under three outcomes have been proposed and agreed by the Children's Executive Board. The reduction in the number of outcomes and priorities for the CYPP from the current plan maintains the direction of the partnership but witnesses a shift in thinking as the Children's Trust rationalises and streamlines its key focus. The priorities will now be high-level and strategic, and based on 'cause' leading to a maximum 'impact' or 'effect' at a local level. The Children's Trust has also agreed to rename the plan as the '*Children, Young People and Families Plan*'.
11. Throughout September, a series of action planning workshops took place. The workshops focussed on identifying the key actions for the plan with input from across the partnership, ensuring wherever possible, and synergy with

other key plans. The objective is to add value rather than duplicate. The first draft of the plan will be ready for consultation by early December 2011.

Altogether healthier

12. The **Health and Wellbeing Partnership's** Altogether Healthier Delivery Plan has been revised for 2011-13 and sets out a major programme of partnership work to reduce health inequalities and bring about change in County Durham. The Plan considers the impact of the wider determinants of health and proposes a range of partnership actions. The plan also considers recommendations from the Marmot Review, *Healthy Lives, Healthy People* (2010). This report proposes the most effective evidence-based strategies for reducing health inequalities in England. It draws on a wide body of evidence and gives renewed impetus to addressing health inequalities. The coalition government recognises the *Marmot Review* as evidence for what works for reducing health inequalities.
13. A Health Networks (HN) development session was held in July and included representation from Health Networks chairs and leads and key members and AAPs. The objectives of the day were to look at what has worked well, what was learned from issues that have arisen and what added value HNs bring to the health economy. AAP representatives also attended in order to discuss how best to actively engage with Area Action Partnerships (AAPs).
14. Workshop discussion on what would help the Health Networks to achieve their goals and to look at developing a draft HN development and improvement plan to help reach those goals. A report has been compiled following the development session with the findings and recommendations presented to the Health and Wellbeing Partnership in September.

Altogether safer

15. The **Safe Durham Partnership** is developing a new Delivery Plan to reflect the new national strategy for Counter Terrorism (Contest) and the new Prevent Strategy which was launched recently. Police staff and front line workers across a wide range of responsible authorities have been trained to deliver a new e-safety resource to raise awareness of Prevent in schools. This is one of a number of new awareness raising programmes currently being used. A multi-agency panel now forms the Channel Programme which provides support to those identified at risk of being drawn into domestic and international terrorism.
16. The Partnership has agreed a Hate Crime Action Plan which will be monitored through the Vulnerability Delivery Group. Analysis carried out in 2010 identified that Hate Crime is an issue in County Durham that many people experience on a day to day basis. It can range from incidents of verbal abuse to serious violence. The Partnership is committed to tackling the issue of hate crime and will strive to encourage reporting; improve responses to reported incidents; improve support to victims; with the long term aim of preventing incidents occurring in the first place. The Action Plan represents the first steps in the Partnership's efforts to achieve these goals.
17. The Safer Durham and Darlington Partnerships have developed a County Durham and Darlington Sexual Violence Strategy 2011-14. The Partnerships

will work together to target efforts to the priority areas of Prevention; Provision and Protection. An implementation plan has been developed and a steering group is to be established to take forward the identified actions.

18. Anti Social Behaviour incidents in the County are now at a four year low. Although performance is strong, ASB remains a major public concern and is consistently highlighted as a priority issue in public consultations. An Action Plan is in place to support the implementation of the ASB Strategy and key actions include development of 'citizen focussed' services tailored to individual needs; more joint working at a local level; and ensuring that staff are properly trained and equipped and understand both the nature and causes of ASB. The Partnership's approach to tackling ASB is through early intervention, education and preventative measures, and where necessary a rigorous enforcement approach is adopted to reduce the harmful effects caused to individuals and local communities.

Altogether greener

19. The Built group of the **Environment Partnership** supported the Heritage Open Days by ensuring access to as many buildings as possible during the celebration of 46 of the County's historic buildings which took place between the 8-11th September 2011. The Pride group is also building on the success of the Altogether Greener event in June by arranging other events across the County to involve residents in improving their local area; including a Civic Pride week in Stanley which took place in early July 2011. They have also continued to focus on tackling the issue of dog fouling with the latest initiative seeing 80 people sign up to the Launch of 'Green Dog Walkers Scheme'.
20. The Partnership has had some key discussions on the emerging government policy and impact on its work, with some detailed work being carried out in relation to both the National Waste Review and the Natural Environment White Paper. The Waste Review focuses on delivery of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials, improving collection and disposal services to Householders and Businesses while delivering environmental benefits and supporting growth. It also introduces greater restrictions on the use of landfill sites and outlines the "business waste commitment" from local authorities to develop recycling services to SMEs.
21. The Natural Environment White paper establishes the commitment to develop Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) to strengthen local action. LNPs will enable local leadership and will raise awareness about the services and benefits of a healthy natural environment. It also establishes the creation of new Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) with a commitment to have 12 initial priority areas identified across the UK, with £7.5 million provided to support this. The paper encourages a more holistic approach to the natural environment and aims to achieve a better quality natural environment by taking and promoting action across farmed land, woodlands and forests, towns and cities, and rivers and water bodies. The Partnership is working with regional contacts and networks to discuss how a new LNP could be developed for the area.
22. In relation to strategic planning, the audit of services and key areas of mitigation has informed the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy which will be

discussed in detail by the Partnership before going forward to Cabinet for adoption.

Area Action Partnerships Update

23. Each year since their inception, AAP boards and forums have been provided with statistical profiles to help inform their work. The profiles are produced by the Council's Research and Consultation Team and reflect a broad range of socio-economic and demographic issues about each locality with countywide, regional and national comparisons where data are available. This years AAP Profiles have a more detailed breakdown of the information available within each AAP boundary.
24. The profiles are provided to promote informed debate and decision making, develop local priorities and the more detailed work undertaken by various task and finish groups. The 2011 profiles have been produced in consultation with AAP co-ordinators and will shortly be available on the Council's website at www.durham.gov.uk/aappfiles. A link to previous year's profiles will also be available at this page. A paper copy of each profile will be made available in the Members' library and an example is attached at appendix two.
25. A selection of the ongoing work that of the AAPs that meets the existing priorities is detailed in the following paragraphs.
26. This summer the **Weardale Action Partnership (WAP)** has been attending and holding a series of forum events. Rather than the usual one off meeting format the partnership decided to get out and about and bring the work of the partnership to the communities it serves e.g. by attending agricultural shows etc. The aims of these events were to promote the work of the partnership and to showcase the successful projects supported to date as well as raise awareness of the AAP and recruit new forum members.
27. WAP staff also held a bus tour showcasing the projects supported in Weardale. The Tour was open to all forum members and covered a wide selection of projects covering the full length of the Dale.
28. The AAP's Rural Employability Project is a continuation of an existing project which had been previously funded by ONE North East. The AAP stepped in and committed £30,000 Area Budget to allow the project to continue for a further nine months. Significant match funding from other sources has been used to employ a full time Employment Mentor to work with both individuals and employers in the Dale. The project is proving to be a huge success and after three months in post the worker has built up a case load of 32 clients, of which 10 have gone into full time employment and 1 into voluntary work with a further 10 businesses supported.
29. Two AAPs were actively involved this year with the Brass Festival. **Chester-le-Street & District** and **Spennymoor** teamed up with the Council's Heritage and Culture Team to support the County wide delivery of the Durham International Brass Festival throughout July. This led to over 10,000 people being involved. A major Town Centre cultural show - 'Theatre Xarxa' attracted over 7,000 people in to Chester-le-Street and Spennymoor on the evenings of the 12th and 14th July. Local town bands also took part at the events. Many

businesses opened up for the evening entertainment and reported very good sales.

30. In order to promote the event the distribution of 50,000 BRASS Festival programmes (featuring the Xarxa Theatre event in Spennymoor) were distributed, along with extensive promotion of the event on the BRASS Festival website www.brassfestival.co.uk. More locally posters and flyers were distributed to businesses and residents and at local events. The events also received media coverage. Hopefully the evaluation of the event (undertaken by Audiences North East) will indicate the benefits to the local businesses amongst other indicators such as number of new visitors to the towns etc.
31. **Chester-le-Street & District Area Action Partnership (AAP)** also contributed £5,000 towards the £10,000 Activity Week project which ran from Monday 22 August to Friday 26 August. The project took place in the heart of the Town Centre and created a focus for shoppers and local residents to get involved. It was organised by Durham Constabulary, through its town centre Police Community Support Officers. Part of the aim was to build relationships between the uniformed agencies such as the police with young people. This was something the young people identified in the 'have your say' event (consultation with local young people) undertaken by the AAP. Some local business sponsorship was also obtained from the Chester-le-Street Business Association to support activities which bring people into the Town Centre.
32. The Commercial Building Improvement Project was recently supported by the **Spennymoor AAP** to improve the overall appearance and feel of the town centre by improving the look of/bringing back into use premises. The scheme awards grants up to a maximum of 50% of costs and up to £5,000 in grant monies to shops and businesses to apply for. To date they have awarded four Commercial Building Improvement grants on behalf of the AAP to the total value of £12,651 with three now almost complete. Expressions of interest have also been received from a further three businesses and meetings have already taken place with these particular clients.
33. The **Derwent Valley Partnership**, as one of three AAPs piloting Participatory Budgeting, has recently launched its 'It's Up 2 U' scheme, allocating a funding pot of £20,700 for local community groups and organisations. To date, 61 expressions of interest have been received with requests for funding totalling £128,472. The short-listed projects will attend a large scale voting event on Saturday 5th November in Consett so local residents can come along and vote for their favourite community projects. A special presentation ceremony will then be arranged so all successful groups can be presented with their cheque.
34. This November Lumiere returns to County Durham and there are two exciting projects taking place in Derwent Valley which are being funded by the Derwent Valley Partnership so local communities can get involved in the light festival. 'Wildfire' is a series of lantern making workshops with professional artists culminating in a special lantern parade. Individuals and groups will work together to produce their own lanterns that will be seen at Lumiere in Durham City and during a local celebration event in Derwent Valley. Another project will explore the way local people feel about where they

live. Working with a professional creative writer, local people will produce a short piece of writing for an original artwork seen by tens of thousands of people this November.

35. DVP is supporting the work of the Consett and District Heritage Initiative and has recently provided the group with £5,571 of funding so they can continue their good work in the area. The Heritage Initiative seeks to gather heritage information about the local area so this can be shared with the community through visits to schools, attending local community events and having displays across the area.
36. **Stanley AAP** are also one of the three areas piloting the 'It's Up 2U' process and following their successful event they wanted to make sure that all those who had applied to the fund, but were not successful, would be able to get the support they needed to find other funding opportunities. Immediately after the announcement of the vote 'funding drop-in' sessions were organised by Derwentside Council for Voluntary Services and Volunteer Bureau (DCVS), in order to see groups could explore different avenues to obtain funding. Durham County Council Elected Members have also looked to provide some funding from their allocation of Neighbourhood Budget for local projects.
37. South Moor Golf club in Stanley hosted the McGregor Trophy in July this year which was described by a top English Golf Union executive Roy Case as "one of the best tournaments ever played for the McGregor Trophy." The Stanley AAP helped fund the club's staging of the 2011 English Open Boys Under-16 Championship with an Area Budget grant of £23,000. The club was also supported by Stanley Town Council and Local Durham County Council Elected members; representing true partnership working. The competition was won by local lad Jack Hermeston (14) who lives only 20 minutes from the South Moor Course.
38. The South Moor club hired a publicist with part of the grant fund, in order to promote the tournament using as many different avenues as possible, unprecedented by any members' run golf club in the UK, and attracted vast amounts of newspaper coverage plus news spots on BBC and ITV's regional television stations, with the Stanley AAP and Durham County Council banners getting a good airing. The improved facilities which the AAP grant contributed towards included a new practice ground which is hoped will encourage increased use and that this investment and the profile this national tournament has brought will attract new members and players to the club from Stanley and surrounding areas.
39. **Durham AAP** recently learnt that Wharton Park had made it through to stage two of the Heritage Lottery Fund's Parks for People. The final announcement is due around February 2012 but could see the park awarded around £1.7M for refurbishment.
40. Last year's Small Grants Fund supported over forty local organisations ranging from Women's Football to buying IT equipment. Last year's Stepping Up winners, Butterfly Barn, have since appeared in Vogue magazine exhibiting their brand of 'shabby chic'. The AAP is close to launching the 'Our Durham' website specifically aimed at the local VCS sector. The Mobile Cinema has been an to date been a success for local community centres and

we will be looking to see if a more permanent arrangement can be procured once the trial has finished.

41. The **Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership (GAMP)** has supported the purchase of portable cinema screening equipment; to deliver a community based cinema service for local people in the Great Aycliffe and Middridge area. Screenings will be available to local groups and held at various community venues throughout the area, and will be free of charge. Durham Police will be responsible for the equipment and the running of the project. This project is a great example of partnership working, with the Police working alongside the GAMP and various community groups within the GAMP area. 'Avatar' was the first film to be shown on July 23 and a launch event was held on the same day at Greenfield School and Community Arts College.
42. The Police are currently developing a programme of event screenings throughout the GAMP area in September and October which will include films being shown at Agnew Community Centre, Aycliffe Village Hall, Neville Parade Community Centre, Woodham Community Centre and Middridge Village Hall.
43. Young footballers from the **Bishop Auckland and Shildon (BASH) AAP** landed in Barcelona to play in a tournament thanks in part to £1,000 funding from the Area Action Partnership. St Mary's under-16 B team raised £13,300 to go to the 2011 Barcelona Tournament in Spain. The team triumphed by reaching the final and winning the Campio Consolacio Cup at U16 level.
44. BASH AAP continue to develop programmes to address issues within their three chosen priorities for 2011/12; Aspirational Activities for Children and Young People; Employment and Job Prospects and Community Safety. The Community Safety Group is ensuring that the programme developed for this priority will address the issues highlighted in the High Locality Impact areas that have been identified. Work is ongoing in the development to tackle void properties, domestic abuse and measures to address issues with the night time economy in Bishop Auckland Town Centre. A strong partnership between the AAP and its stakeholders is driving forward these initiatives.
45. The Big Lottery Trust for South West Bishop Auckland Action Group has held a number of successful community/family events within the SWBA area, which has raised the awareness of the 'Big Local Trust', within the communities it covers. Events were held in Cockton Hill, The Four Clocks Centre, Henknowle, St. Helens and Woodhouse Close.
46. The **East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership (AAP)** has worked in partnership with Groundwork North East, May Crescent Residents Association, The Seedlings (a gardening sub group of the May Residents Association) and the local community to create an allotment to the rear of May Crescent Community House for use by people of all ages. The scheme demonstrates an ongoing community benefit through the community regularly coming to work, visit and access produce from the garden enabling intergenerational interaction, improving health, improving social capital and building a true community spirit and reducing anti-social behaviour.

47. The **Mid Durham AAP** Board used their July Forum event to concentrate on engaging with the young people of mid Durham. A programme of work alongside both statutory and voluntary youth service providers operating throughout mid Durham over the July and August period was developed to engage with over 100 different young people from villages covered by the AAPs. To date group discussions with over 80 young people have taken place and topics covered have included promoting road safety issues and the development and involvement of intergenerational work. The 80 young people engaged with so far have prioritised a small number of issues that they would like to be addressed to improve their quality of life and have also offered possible solutions to them. This information will be fed back to the children and young people's activity task group to further examine and develop possible projects to address some of these priorities.
48. The 'Support for Older People' task group has recently commenced its work and will be looking at improving information on and access to both local and countywide services and activities. The group are keen to address the issue of social isolation and will be looking at existing good practice as well as the possibility to develop tailor made services.
49. The **4Together AAP** is working on the Big Wide World Project that is designed to raise young people's aspirations and help them to see that not only is there is a big wide world out there, but also that it is theirs for the taking. The project has been making good progress with young people visiting Amec an international engineering company, with further visits planned to the Highways Agency, the Police and a local farm, with more to come through the year. Young people are also being given the opportunity to visit places of natural beauty to help them to see and experience places other than Cornforth in the hope that it will inspire them and help them realise that there are places to explore and discover, that they are capable of doing themselves. To date they have walked at Kielder and more walks are planned in the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales.
50. Workshops where young people offer help with gardening to the wider community have also been delivered along with a plant and seed swap. The purpose of the workshops is to show young people how their hobbies and past times such as gardening can be transferred into enterprising activities, and that careers can be built around things that they are passionate about. The project is aimed at young people aged 12-15 so that they can be inspired at an age where they have a motivation and a goal to work towards while they are at school and are still able to take options and study subjects that will help them access the fields that the project will inspire them to consider.
51. Over 800 people attended the first **Three Towns AAP** Youth Music Festival held in Glenholme Park, Crook on the 16th of July and despite the torrential downpour all day music lovers enjoyed 14 of the hottest Young Acts from across County Durham. The festival provided the opportunity for local young people's bands to play on a professionally managed outdoor stage. The bands were supported in the lead up to the event to practice and play in small environments where they felt confident and not open to criticism.
52. The event also provided opportunities for the local community to engage in a range of activities from inflatable's, face painting, circus skills, arts and crafts,

ropes courses, climbing walls and a range of information and advice stalls. The event was funded by elected members Neighbourhood Budgets and supported by the Three Towns Team. Over 400 people attended the Three Towns Playday event to celebrate national play day on the 5th of August at Peases West Sports Ground. The event aimed at children (0-16yrs) and their families featured a wide variety of activities and entertainment for children and young people. The event brought together local organisations and service providers along with volunteers and provided a fun filled day where children and young people reaped the benefits of play enjoying face painting, dance mats, inflatables, laser quest, arts and crafts, climbing and sports activities.

53. Recognising the importance of the environmental impact on residents well being and satisfaction in the area in which they live, four Durham County Council Councillors working with **East Durham AAP** are combining their Neighbourhood Budget for 2010/11 and 2011/12 together with funding from East Durham Homes to bring about significant environmental changes linked to areas being improved through the Decent Homes Strategy.
54. The elected members requested that a condition of the project be that the work be undertaken by young trainees from the local area. They wanted to ensure that all projects they fund increase life opportunities and employability of young people in their area whenever possible. Five trainees have been employed by Kier and will be trained at East Durham College Academy to a NVQ level 2 in bricklaying and joinery. The trainees will be deployed on both internal and external elements of decent homes schemes, to ensure that they have the fullest range of experiences. At the end of the project if they are successful in securing their qualifications, Kier have guaranteed an apprenticeship leading to a permanent position.
55. After a long development process, supported by **Teesdale AAP (TAP)**, work on the Barnard Castle Market Place toilets has started with £66,309 contributed by the AAP. The work is scheduled to be completed by the end of September.
56. Projects to tackle the current priorities of Job Prospects and Training, Tourism and Children and Young People are currently being discussed by the respective task and finish groups and decisions on projects should be made in October.

Recommendations and reasons

57. Cabinet are 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.

Staffing - None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - None

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.

Procurement - None

Disability Issues - None

Legal Implications - None