

County Durham Partnership Update

Report of Corporate Management Team

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Purpose of the Report

1. To update Durham County Council's Cabinet on issues being addressed by the County Durham Partnership (CDP) including 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. Partnership working in County Durham continues to attract national recognition and visits from other authorities. The Council was shortlisted for three Local Government Chronicle Awards for the work on Community Buildings Asset Transfer and that of the Health and Wellbeing Board with the awards ceremony held on Wednesday 16 March in London. Whilst the Council did not win in these categories, it is a great achievement to be shortlisted nationally.
3. The CDP Forum met in February with the focus on the draft Physical Activity Framework for the county. Steve Howell, Head of Sport and Leisure, and representatives from AAP and partner led projects presented on the need for a countywide shift in approach to getting inactive people more active as well as looking at some of the positive work within localities that can be scaled up to support a countywide campaign to increase physical activity. The report focuses on this area of work and what else is being done across the county.
4. As all parts of the CDP continue to focus on the economy as the top priority, both the Economic Partnership (CDEP) and the Children, Young People and Families Partnerships have focused on this area. The CDEP's February meeting focused on business and enterprise, looking at their framework and developments within the University. This focuses on working with businesses and looking at shaping local support. Also, the Youth Employment Initiative for County Durham has been approved which will support the work with children and young people. The £17.04 million funding is for a two and a half year programme to develop skills and increase the immediate and longer term economic, social and health benefits for 16 to 24-year-olds who are not in education, employment or training.

Key Partnership Developments and Achievements

5. The Council has been recognised at the Local Government Chronicle Annual Awards in three categories: The Health and Wellbeing Board has been shortlisted in the Effective Health and Wellbeing Board category whilst the Community Buildings Asset Transfer Programme has been shortlisted in the Community Involvement and Service Delivery Model categories. All of these have partnership working at their centre and could not have been achieved without the support of partners from the public, private and voluntary and community sectors. The awards ceremony was held on Wednesday 16 March in London and whilst the Council did not win in these categories, it is a great achievement to be shortlisted nationally.
6. The **CDP Board** invited Andrew Hebden, the Bank of England's Deputy Agent for the North East, to their meeting in January to talk about the work of his team and the national perspective. Their role is to talk to people to find out what is happening within the economy and to build an understanding of how wider society is impacted by economic changes. This includes talking to businesses but is much broader than this and includes talking to the public, private and voluntary sectors about the impact of changes in interest rates. The agenda also covered a State of the County report on the economy which set out the positive vision and highlighted a focus on housing, business and people and the importance of capitalising on the County's assets. The Economic Partnership collects a raft of data and performance information and from this has identified five measures of success for the County, linked to employment, GVA, number of businesses, household disposable income and the Index of Deprivation and the report offers an update on this. The proposed Board away day, planned for May, was also discussed with further information on this to be discussed at the April meeting.
7. The **Armed Forces Forum**, held twice a year, brings together representatives from organisations supporting serving and ex armed forces personnel. The meeting held in March invited presentations covering employment programmes for ex forces personnel, an update from the Army Families Federation and information from Combat Stress on support they offer. Following the Forum meeting, the Royal Navy Presentation Team gave a presentation in the Council Chamber to a wider invited audience on their work. The team are a collection of Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel who tour the country educating an increasingly diverse audience about the work that the Royal Navy does on behalf of the UK and its citizens. The presentation uses a combination of video footage, interviews from the Fleet and personal accounts from the team members, all who have first-hand experience of recent operations, to deliver a highly-engaging insight into what your Royal Navy does.
8. The CDP is planning to hold a **Welfare Reform and Poverty** event which follows on from two very well received welfare reform conferences held in July 2013 and February 2014. It will provide an update and opportunity to develop the discussions and actions further linked to the recent work on understanding and responding to poverty. It will continue to build on the discussions held throughout the Partnership, including Board meetings, thematic partnerships, forums and Area Action Partnerships where the action plan developed has been shared.
9. The conference will provide an opportunity to share experiences as well as focus on the practical solutions and initiatives that are being developed and will bring together the county's partners to:

- a. Continue to build a common understanding of the impacts of poverty across the County
 - b. Share information on the practical solutions being put into place to address the problems people face and consider what more we can do
 - c. Identify any gaps and to work together to look at how these gaps might be filled
 - d. Build on the partnership working already in place to provide the support and reassurance people need.
10. The **Durham Humanitarian Support Partnership**, chaired by Cllr Eddie Tomlinson and involving partners from the VCS, faith groups and other public sector partners, has continued to progress the County's response to the refugee crisis in Syria. Following the agreement of Cabinet in December, work has focused on the operational aspects of how we deliver on our commitment to support refugees in line with the Council's share of the national population (circa 200 Syrian refugees over the next four years).
 11. The Council has been working closely with the North East Migration Partnership, which is co-ordinating regional offers and arrangements on behalf of all North East councils, the majority of which are expected to welcome refugees in phase two (anticipated early summer 2016). Arrangements are now being made to receive our first five families towards the beginning of summer, with input and support from appropriate services and partners including education, health, police, faith groups and the community and voluntary sector.
 12. Main towns across the County have been assessed against key criteria to identify the most suitable areas for accommodating arrivals in small clusters of four/five family groups on a phased basis over the next four years and we have been working with housing providers to allocate properties in these areas. In the best interests of the refugees, and to try to maintain their anonymity and respect their privacy, we are not planning to generally disclose precise details of arrival dates and locations.
 13. Officers and Elected Members from Perth and Kinross Council visited Durham in March to hear about the work of the County Durham Partnership and learn from the work of the AAPs. This is one of many approaches made to the CDP from other local authorities and offers an opportunity to share best practice and learning opportunities particularly on the strengths of partnership working and community engagement through the AAPs.

Developing a Physical Activity Framework

14. The County Durham Partnership Forum met in February with the focus on the developing Physical Activity Framework for the County. The Framework will provide a wide range of physical activity opportunities across County Durham to support more active lifestyles. The consultation on the Framework was launched at the Big Tent engagement event in November 2015 by Dr William Bird, a GP in Reading who has set up nationally recognised schemes, many particularly focused on walking, to encourage people all over the UK to exercise in order to promote good health.
15. To date, officers from Culture and Sport have met with stakeholders to gather views on how to develop a single large scale activity campaign across County Durham, encouraging all partners to work together to reach inactive residents and encourage

them to engage in physical activity. The most recent meeting held on this was the County Durham Partnership Forum which invited a presentation from Steve Howell, Head of Culture and Sport at the Council, and AAP supported projects, to highlight the positive ongoing work as well as challenge partners to scale up their activity and broaden the approach.

16. The reason the Partnership is focusing on physical activity is backed by clear evidence to show that physical inactivity is one of the root causes of obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancers, dementia, depression and anxiety, arthritis and many other conditions. Physical inactivity is the fourth biggest killer nationally and the number of obese children at year six and the prevalence of excess weight in adults are all significantly worse in County Durham than the England average. Whilst the more obvious effects are on the Altogether healthier priority of the Sustainable Community Strategy, the new approach recognises and builds on the impacts that being more physically active can have on the other four priority themes of the SCS, which were covered in the presentation at the CDP Forum:
 - a. Altogether wealthier: 'All In' apprentices – offering community based provision across the Weardale and Teesdale AAP areas by taking on and supporting two Modern Apprentices who have since gained employment and are working with their own apprentices
 - b. Altogether better for children and young people: 'Ready, Sett, Go' pilot in the 3Towns AAP area working 3-5 year olds across all nurseries on activity that can also be done at home with parent support packs
 - c. Altogether healthier: Health Horizons Project, the largest cross AAP project to date supported by five AAPs with £125,000, this project focuses on over 65s to improve their health and mental wellbeing through sustained participation in physical activity appropriate to differing abilities
 - d. Altogether safer: Stanley Summer Football Project, worked with younger and older age groups to offer activities over the summer holidays and a safe place for the children to come together. There is anecdotal evidence that the reduction in anti social behavior over the same period in the area is due to the diversionary activity
 - e. Altogether greener: Hackworth Park parkrun was one of the first in the County and was supported by Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP with funding for start up equipment etc. It has been going for four years and will celebrate its 500th run this year.
17. The examples presented at the Forum meeting are some of the wide range of examples to be built on across the county from AAPs, town and parish councils and partners from the leisure industry as well as the voluntary and community sector. Others examples cover a variety of activities from support to traditional football and cricket clubs to ensuring younger girls who may not participate in mainstream provision can access activities they choose to. All of these examples show the contribution that local people can bring to their communities whilst recognising there is more to be done to get those who are inactive to be more active, in a variety of ways. The following paragraphs show some examples of AAP and partners supported activities with many more taking place across the county.
18. **East Durham AAP** has supported a large number of community based physical activity projects through funding local grassroots football, cricket and rugby clubs.

Much of the funding has been for physical improvements to their facilities including Easington Colliery AFC whose new moveable dugouts have helped reduce ASB in the area as the previous ones were subject to graffiti. Many of the clubs supported work with people of all ages which not only includes the whole community but ensures succession and sustainability for the clubs. Similarly **4Together AAP** has allocated their public health allocation to the 'Lifestyle for Learning' project which will make a current demountable building more user friendly and fit for purpose and update the equipment. The funding will also enable an event to take place which will focus on promoting healthy lifestyles through enhanced and advanced learning. Young people particularly will develop their knowledge and understanding and capabilities and the attributes needed to make informed decisions. The AAP's Healthy Changes project, in partnership with DDES CCG and Cornforth Partnership also works on tackling health inequalities for all age groups and will include healthy eating on a budget, learning through play sessions and sex education.

19. Encouraging children and young people to be active is critical in their physical and emotional development as set out in Sir Michael Marmot's review. Many AAPs and partners work with schools and nurseries as well as sports clubs to work with young people. As well as mainstream and traditional sports many schools now provide more alternative activities such as streetdance and colour runs. This attracts young people who may not participate in, or enjoy, mainstream sport classes, something which is identified. The **Derwent Valley AAP** is working with Leisureworks, Public Health and Consett Academy in local community and sports venues to develop a bespoke physical activity programme in direct response to the development of the countywide Physical Activity Framework. The main aim is to engage young people and their families who would not participate in, or sustain in the long term, physical activity. They will offer taster sessions in a range of activities before a summer programme is then developed across both indoor and outdoor which will also include music and art activities.
20. **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP's** Healthy Play project also delivers engagement activities on improved facilities at various sites within communities. It encourages children to learn the importance of a healthy lifestyle through physical activity and healthy eating as well as encouraging them to be safe, address bullying by providing safe environments and enhance their learning and confidence whilst making new friends. The children help to plan and evaluate the activities to ensure they are a true reflection of what they would like to see. To date the project has exceeded its targets and can show how it is meeting the outcomes of the Children, Young People and Families Plan.
21. Encouraging young girls to take part in sports and physical activity is one of the priorities of the **Spennymoor and Great Aycliffe and Middridge AAPs** through their US Girls project. This targets over 13s and is based in after school clubs within local secondary schools. It aims to engage 'non-sporty' girls and has the tagline 'Fun, Fitness and Friends'. It builds confidence and the activities are developed and led by the girls themselves. The project has been shortlisted for two Street Games National Awards as well as an Education Business Award.
22. **Spennymoor AAP** is also supporting a more alternative sporting activity with Sedgfield Water Polo Club which is looking to develop the work they do within their junior sections through a series of taster sessions and school festival. The AAP has funded the purchase of equipment as well as promotional activity and materials to ensure as many young people are included.

23. Older people have various health and physical needs which can be compounded by social isolation. As well as the Healthy Horizons project presented to the CDP Forum, the **3Towns AAP's** Active for Life programme engages with over 50s in physical activity sessions which are participant led and encourages social interaction as well as improving their physical and mental wellbeing. The activities, including dominoes and bowls, can then be replicated in their own homes to offer sustainable and manageable activities for people.
24. Rural areas of the county have problems with accessibility and transport to sports facilities which are different to other areas. **Teesdale and Weardale AAPs** are supporting the 'All In' project which came from an identified need for multi sports in community based venues as accessibility can be an issue in some villages which restricts young people accessing sports centres. In partnership with Culture and Sport, a doorstep model was developed which involves communities themselves being supported to deliver the programme and setting the activities. There was also a shortage of qualified staff within the county to deliver the activities so two modern apprentices, from the local area, were identified to work on, and within, the project to develop it as well as their own skills and qualifications. The two young people have since become employed by the Council as sports coaches and have themselves recently recruited other modern apprentices to sustain the project. They presented their project to the CDP Forum and were confident and professional in their approach and presentation. This project has helped with employment within the Dales and offers a sustainable programme that meets the needs of a sometimes isolated community.
25. Many other AAP led projects deliver activities within their local communities to ensure accessibility for all. **Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP's** Parklife outreach project focuses on physical activity and wellbeing for children, young people and adults in their own communities providing weekly outreach sessions. The delivery will take place over the course of the year with a mix of indoor and outdoor provision. Facilities such as community centres, village halls, Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs), playing fields and parks.
26. The main focus with the 5-16 year age group will be on an informal recreational approach looking to improve the health and well-being of children and young people in the area with a focus on participant ownership and self development. The adult provision will involve a tailored programme to target physical, social and mental well-being. Sessions will include fitness classes, general exercise and social activities with an informal feel.
27. **Durham AAP** has also had a focus on supporting community based activity working in partnership the voluntary and community sector targeted at groups of people who may not access mainstream provision because of their own specific needs. Belmont Community Centre is hoping to attract people with special educational needs into the centre for their sport and exercise project which will include anything from Taekwondo to gardening. Also Durham Communities Boxing Club is looking to attract new members to increase their general fitness as well as competing in the boxing ring. These projects were successful at the AAP's It's Up to You event which evidences locally led projects meeting wider needs and priorities. Durham University is providing a physical activity project for those in recovery or at risk from drug and alcohol dependency. The aim is to work with people who have become disengaged from physical activity and partners include Durham's Offender management Unit.

28. **Mid Durham AAP** has a strong working relationship with the town and parish councils in their area and has jointly developed a Green Physical Activity project with two of them. Allotment sites have been used to develop community based activity which in turn has also redeveloped the facilities and increased usage, also supported by the local Police. A local primary school has also started using some allotment space. The Haggrid Project is also running in the area, as it is in other AAP area, which is in association with Durham Agency Against Crime, and has seen the redevelopment of an area of land into a community garden, outdoor play area and skate park
29. As highlighted earlier in the report, the upscaling and sharing of these AAP and partner led projects is important if the physical activity framework for the county is to be successful and increase the numbers of active people in the county. Sharing best practice takes place in a range of ways already with **Chester le Street AAP** hosting a Get Active event last year which served as a forum for the numerous sport and physical activity clubs in the area to come together and showcase their activities. The free event saw clubs demonstrate opportunities for people to participate in throughout the day and increased membership of many. The event will be integrated this year into the Police led Market Activity week held in the town centre in the summer.
30. The Physical Activity Framework and countywide activity campaign is in the final stages of consultation and development and will be launched later in the year following further work to engage with AAPs and town and parish councils. This will also include the workshop feedback from the CDP Forum meeting where members were asked which groups of people in their local areas were inactive and what was needed to support them. The framework will be monitored and evaluated to ensure the behavioral change that is needed take place.

Altogether wealthier

31. The **County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP)** Board met in February 2016 with a Business and Enterprise theme. The board examined the latest position of the Business & Enterprise Framework and developments within Durham University. They also examined and agreed progress with the review of the Regeneration Statement and approved consultation and engagement recommendations for the next stage of development.
32. In 2015, members of the CDEP came together to develop a new Business & Enterprise Framework in alignment with the North East Strategic Economic Plan. Sitting alongside the County Durham Skills Strategy the focus is on supporting private sector growth to help balance the County's economy and improve its long – term sustainability. Alongside the vision and strategic priorities being set out the board discussed how the Business & Enterprise Strategy will be used to help partners maximise their resources through shaping support for businesses within a targeted delivery framework; examining local business sectors, business competencies and a spatial focus. The board agreed the next stage which included on-going partner consultation and the development of actions that encompass delivery across Business, Enterprise and Skills.
33. Dr Tim Hammond also presented on the work of Durham University in promoting business interaction with the University and an opportunity for partners to influence areas of work and promote shared practice in working with the local and national business community.

34. The CDEP continues to develop proposals for European Structural and Investment Funds based on a significant evidence base and widespread local partner engagement and consultation. The CDEP has been working with North East LEP area colleagues and a European Structural and Investment Fund Strategy 2014 - 2020 has now been published. A local EU Investment Plan is now in development to focus the local delivery programme and will be published in April 2016.
35. The Warm Up North initiative, which was launched in 2013, is endorsed by nine North East local authorities helping residents across Durham, Northumberland, Newcastle, Gateshead, South Tyneside, Sunderland, Hartlepool, Darlington, Redcar and Cleveland. The scheme aims to tackle fuel poverty by helping to lower energy bills and making it more affordable to keep warm. The programme has installed £4.9m worth of energy saving measures including new gas boilers and insulation across 3,690 homes in the region, with a total of 4,300 installations completed to date; 1,632 of these across County Durham.
36. This winter, eligible private sector residents can benefit from a range of energy efficiency measures, including free A-rated gas boilers, subject to survey and criteria, as well as cavity wall and loft insulation. The landmark scheme offers free home energy surveys that assess the energy usage in homes and recommend energy saving measures to help residents reduce their energy consumption and energy bills.
37. For more information on Warm Up North and its range of energy efficiency measures, including free A-rated gas boilers for eligible private sector residents with an inefficient boiler and cavity wall and loft insulation, contact can be made for the gas boiler offer on freephone 0800 316 4320. (Calls are recorded to improve their service). For all other energy efficiency measures, call free on 0800 294 8073 or visit the [Warm Up North website](#).
38. Many of the AAPs also support the business and enterprise work being led by the CDEP. The **Derwent Valley AAP** will be working with the new Derwentside Business Network to deliver a Business Skills Growth Academy project. The aim of this pilot project is to accelerate business growth, improve management skills and deliver job creation. The project consists of a business growth skills training programme aimed at managers and business owners who have a level of ambition, capability and capacity to improve and grow their businesses but need extra training and support to plan and implement their own growth programme. There will be a period of mentoring to support them with implementation.
39. It will be delivered over a period of 12 months, six months for delivery of training and six months for evaluation and monitoring (with a further monitoring activity after 15 months to capture any additional jobs created). It will involve 12 small to medium sized enterprises that have reached a stage for growth but need additional management skills, mentoring and peer reviews to plan and implement their growth programme.
40. The outputs will be ten additional jobs created, recognising that some businesses will take longer than the initial 12 months to implement their growth strategy and leading to job creation, hence the need for a further evaluation after 15 months, eight businesses demonstrating improved capability and performance and 12 participating businesses in total.
41. Many AAPs work with schools and colleges to engage with, and improve the offer for, young people. The **Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership**

(BASH) held a Forum event on Saturday 28 November 2015 at Bishop Auckland College. The event was part of a community Festive Fair and was open to all people who live, work, study or volunteer within the AAP area. It was attended by approximately 1500 people and was used by the AAP as an opportunity for the public to vote on AAP priorities for partnership as well as showcasing the work of the partnership, its partners and the projects that have been supported.

42. **Stanley AAP** has supported North Durham Academy to encourage their students into studying Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects at a higher level than they are used to, allowing students to access highly rewarding jobs within a thriving sector in the North East and in the UK. STEM is particularly important to the North East, due to the vast wealth and variety of enterprises specialising in this sector in the local area. Many students in the academy do not realise the great deal of employment options around them locally, something that this project will work towards enforcing. Funding will enable students to attend events and work through tasks which go above and beyond the remit of the academy, allowing increased participation and enthusiasm for the world of STEM in and around Stanley.
43. Employer and Student Engagement events that are to be held throughout the academic year will be aimed at GCSE and A-level students, some of whom will be considering careers in the industry as they leave school. It is hoped that if students are able to sufficiently impress potential employers during the events, that they will be offered potential work or invaluable work experience within these companies in the future. The events will benefit between 600 - 800 students in total, most from North Durham Academy, as well as others from schools in the local area. In addition to this, smaller groups will also be attending other activities during the year (e.g. 100 students travelling to the Nissan plant to see the idea of manufacture first-hand).
44. Another Stanley AAP led project supporting Altogether wealthier is the South Moor Retail & Energy Efficiency Pilot which will target an identified block of shops and first floor flats on Park Road, South Moor to test bed the appetite, appeal and take up of a Retail Improvement/Energy Efficiency scheme in the village and if successful, additional funding will be secured to broaden the scope of the project to benefit further shop/residential blocks on Park Road. Regeneration of Stanley and its villages has been consistently voted as a priority by the Stanley AAP Forum since the AAP's inception in 2009. When asked to expand upon the issues, Forum Members have raised concerns regarding the poor retail offer, the number of vacant properties and the overall aesthetic appeal of the town, village centres and surrounding streets.
45. The energy efficiency element of the project will support the South Moor Housing Regeneration works where external insulation has already been applied at Pine Street. The shop front improvement grant element is designed to improve the aesthetics of shop fronts and their window displays. It is anticipated that the South Moor pilot will benefit 5 - 6 small businesses.

Altogether better for children and young people

46. As reported to Cabinet in January, a refresh of the Children, Young People and Families Plan (CYPFP) has taken place for 2016-19 to ensure it remains fit for purpose, continues to meet the needs of children and young people and is aligned to the Sustainable Community Strategy and Council Plan. Further consultation has

taken place with key stakeholders, including children and young people with the following issues identified:

- Access to quality education and advice regarding sexual health
- Support for young people and families around risk taking behaviour including drinking, drugs and unprotected sex
- Prevalence of self-harm in young people
- Emotional health and wellbeing/stress of young people
- Develop opportunities for Peer Support networks
- Provide opportunities for young people to engage in positive activities
- Better promotion of services available to children, young people and families

47. This will be included in the refreshed plan which will be presented to Cabinet in May 2016.
48. In order to ensure the planning and commissioning of services meet the needs of all service users the CYPFP is undertaking further consultation and engagement with children and young people across County Durham by Thematic Partnerships, Area Action Partnerships, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Voluntary and Community Sector and other organisations.
49. As highlighted above, this feedback from children and young people is important and is utilised for service reviews, strategic plans and strategies (e.g. Children Young People & Families Plan, Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report, Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy). Young people also attend each of the Children and Families Partnership meetings to share information and issues which are important to them.
50. The Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge is an England-wide event where organisations are encouraged to open their doors to children and involve them in decision-making. The Takeover Challenge gives children and young people the chance to work with adults and get involved in decision-making. Children benefit from having their views heard, having fun and being inspired, and the Local Authority gets a fresh, unique and creative perspective on important issues. The council and partners will take part in the challenge in relation to providing children/young people the opportunity to be involved to support service improvements, and working with young people, who will help to design documents in a child friendly format.
51. As previously reported, Children and Adult Services successfully bid for transformation funding and was awarded £3 million from the Government. This has led to the development of the Families First Service is made up of ten teams across County Durham based within three localities. They are social work led, integrated teams with a range of practitioners who bring a breadth of knowledge and skills to improve outcomes for children and families. The service was officially launched in October 2015, with the first three teams launching in Peterlee, Seaham and Chester-le-Street. The remaining seven teams went live in February 2016.
52. Each team is co-located with the One Point hub ensuring seamless delivery of support and help in each area. Each of the three localities is managed by an Operations Manager who reports to the Strategic Manager for First Contact and Intervention.

53. The Teams support families who have complex needs; who need social work support or who require intensive family support. They conduct child protection enquiries where there are concerns for the safety of a child as well as some court work. The focus of the work is to work together with families to accurately assess risk and develop clear outcome focused plans with families. The teams work directly with families to facilitate change so that the outcomes for children improve. They work closely with partners to ensure that support is coordinated and work with the voluntary and community sector to ensure that there are long term sustainable plans in place for the family when they no longer need our specialist support.
54. Further funding to support the work with children and young people comes with approval of the Youth Employment Initiative for County Durham. The £17.04m programme which is made up of £12.78m of YEI/ESF funding and £4.26m match funding, is for a two and a half year programme to develop skills and increase the immediate and longer term economic, social and health benefits and opportunities for approximately 5,830 16 to 24-year-olds who are NEET, living in County Durham. The activities below will be key to the programme:
- a. Provision of individual guidance and support for young people, over a sustained period, using transition advisers, peer mentors and employment advisers. These support workers will provide on-going advice and support to unemployed young people looking to progress into employment, training or learning.
 - b. Programmes which specifically help vulnerable young people with multiple barriers to their progress. Programmes will include innovative activities to engage and motivate young people and support the development of their confidence and resilience. Other activities will develop employment related skills and provide work experience to enhance employability. A separate strand of activity will support disadvantaged young people who are living in deprived areas, are experiencing rural isolation or have been economically inactive for a longer period of time.
 - c. Creating employment, Apprenticeship and Traineeship opportunities and work experience through employer engagement and the provision of one to one recruitment and ongoing mentoring support for employers. In addition, creating alternative routes into employment and training by developing social enterprises, self-employment and volunteering.
55. The Youth Employment Initiative supports the County Durham Partnership's number one priority of improving the economy, and it is recognised that employment opportunities and supporting people into employment, has a massive impact on their lives and the lives of those around them.
56. The Believe, Achieve, and Succeed: Increasing the participation of young people in learning plan 2015-18 reflects the new opportunity through the Youth Employment Initiative to focus efforts in the right areas.
57. Each year many AAPs also hold specific engagement events with children and young people to ensure their views are considered alongside those of the usual forum members. In February, **Chester-le-Street & District AAP** set out to engage young people and children on issues they feel are important to them in the area where they live. In total 263 children (aged 7 – 11) from 16 primary schools in the area to go through the 'washing line exercise', which is where the children think through what they feel are 'pants' (bad), 'tops' (good) and 'socks' (need changing).

This is then used to help formulate how they feel about the area and importantly how they feel the AAP can change things.

58. The young people also vote on their priorities which are formed from all the issues they talk about in their sessions (each child had two votes each). The priorities they chose were:
- a. Priority 1 - Personal Safety: 167 votes
 - b. Priority 2 - Improved Environment 118 votes
 - c. Priority 3 - Improved Parks: 82 votes
 - d. Priority 4 - Improved swimming pool: 72 votes
 - e. Priority 5 - More activities for children and younger people: 48 votes
 - f. Priority 6 - Road Safety: 39 votes
59. The information from the event and the priorities the children have chosen will be used to both inform the AAP's task group focusing on children and young people and also to inform the AAP Board when look to choose their priorities for the coming 2016/17 year. The Children and Families Partnership are being approached to see how this information may also feed into the partnership's work.
60. The main aim of **EDRC AAP's** Voices Project is to create opportunities for children and young people to be involved in having a say about their community and the issues that affect them, after they identified a need for this within the AAP area. This was achieved by establishing an AAP Youth Forum, which led to close partnership working with children/ young people, local Councillors and the AAP. As this proved to be an extremely successful model of best practice, the AAP supported Investing in Children for a second year.
61. As part of this project, the AAP Youth Forum were asked to identify the best way of consulting with children and young people across the AAP area in relation to what issues they face, and what they need support with; the results from this determined the criteria for the Activities for Children and Young People Project Call out. Youth Forum members discussed the possible ways this could be done and decided that opportunities should be created for individuals and groups to be involved through on-line surveys, sessions in local schools and agenda days in the community; this consultation took place between June and October 2015. This piece of work means that the project is progressing well towards meeting the outcomes.
62. The **Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP** Children and Young People's task group are keen to see projects that impact on the health and emotional and mental wellbeing of children and young as well as raising their aspirations and opportunities. As a result the projects the partnership is supporting include suicide prevention initiatives, support for young carers, and the impacts of energy drinks. In addition capital funding has been agreed to support the development of a Skate Park in Coundon.

Altogether healthier

63. As reported in the January Cabinet report, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy is being refreshed with the objectives detailed below:
- a. Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life

- b. Reduce health inequalities and early deaths
 - c. Improve quality of life, independence and care and support for people with long term conditions
 - d. Improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the population
 - e. Protect vulnerable people from harm
 - f. Support people to die in the place of their choice with the care and support that they need
64. An additional outcome was highlighted in relation to supporting those people who have mental ill health which aligns to the work of the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat to work in partnership to improve outcomes for those people experiencing mental health crisis in the community and in police custody. A separate report on the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy is on the same Cabinet agenda.
65. **Stanley AAP** is actively contributing to this outcome through the allocation of its Public Health funding to the Social Isolation Navigator project hosted by Single Homeless Action Initiative in Durham (SHAID) based in Stanley. They have also secured match funding of £10k from the County Durham and Darlington NHS Health Improvement Fund via County Durham Community Foundation for the role.
66. The aim of this project is to reduce isolation and enhance wellbeing by promoting various activities throughout the year. These will include a phone / skype befriending scheme, a walking group, New Age Kurling, New Age Bowls, and Archery. All activities not only provide healthy exercise which aids mental wellbeing but they are also sociable activities. By keeping people connected to the wider community and in contact with people that understand their situation the isolation often associated with sight loss and the problems it brings can be reduced.
67. The Navigator will help identify services or groups which best suit their needs, giving them the tools to re-engage with society. It can help with a wide range of issues including: Tenancy Support, Social Isolation, Mental Health, Improve Health & Wellbeing, Domestic Violence, Debt Management, Training & Employment, Accessing Community Groups, Confidence Building, Volunteering, Accessing Statutory Services and more.
68. **Mid Durham AAP** continues to lead in the area of working with older people. Work is currently underway to look at developing a dementia awareness project which will link closely with the recently County wide commissioned Dementia Advisors programme. The project will seek to work in the local villages to make residents, local businesses and services more aware of dementia and how to make their community more 'dementia friendly'. The AAP is also in discussion with the Social Resource Centre (soon to be renamed 'Supportive') to examine a volunteer driver scheme which would cater for older residents to enable them to access local social activities. This has been a common issue over the past few years due to the reduction in public transport.

Altogether safer

69. The **Safe Durham Partnership** is currently consulting on the draft refresh of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2016/19. The strategic objectives in the Partnership Plan 2016/19 have been agreed as:
- a. Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour

- b. Protecting Vulnerable People from Harm
- c. Reducing Re-Offending
- d. Alcohol and Substance Misuse Harm Reduction
- e. Embed the Think Family Approach
- f. Counter Terrorism and Prevention of Violent Extremism
- g. Implement Measures to Promote a Safe Environment

70. Following a presentation of the draft Council Plan 2016/19 at the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 5 January 2016, a recommendation was made by the Chief Fire Officer to include a new outcome in the Council Plan which also impacts on the Safe Durham Partnership Plan. This outcome is 'Improved Safety in the Home.'
71. Further consultation has taken place and it has been agreed by the Safe Durham Partnership that a broader Strategic Objective of 'Implement Measures to Promote a Safe Environment' be adopted by the Safe Durham Partnership which aligns with the objectives in the Council Plan. This would encompass the new outcome detailed above, as well as 'Develop a Safer Road Environment' and a new outcome of 'An Improved Understanding of Open Water Safety.' These outcomes all require a multi-agency response.
72. Although the strategic objectives do not now align completely with the Sustainable Community Strategy for 2016/17 the change was agreed due to the changing nature of the work of the SDP. A new Partnership Plan for 2017/20 will be developed which will align with the full review of the Sustainable Community Strategy.
73. The Safe Durham Partnership continues to make progress in terms of planning and delivering the statutory 'Prevent duty' placed on partner organisations. County Durham can demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the risk of people being drawn into terrorism in the local area through the commissioning of the Counter Terrorism Local Profile. County Durham is recognised as a low risk area but no area will be deemed risk free.
74. A multi-agency response has been developed to take forward the work under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. As part of raising awareness, a nationally acclaimed Counter Terrorism expert, Dr Dave Sloggett, will be providing four seminars in April 2016 to County Council staff, elected members, schools and partners. The half day sessions will take place on Thursday 21 April and Friday 22 April 2016.
75. Durham, Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) are developing work based on the 'desistance model' to reduce re-offending, this follows on from a member of the organisation carrying out research in Canada and North America as part of a Winston Churchill Fellowship.
76. The learning that has been taken from people who continue to be involved in criminal activity or who have managed to cease offending has highlighted the critical role which identity, one's sense of 'self', plays in the process of desistance. This sense of identity can be changed through environment, experiential family and group support and the opportunity to give something back. Social action projects are being used to help the community and give offenders a sense of 'self'.

77. A series of cross-sector workshops to communicate this desistance model to partners, including Elected Members, will be developed in 2016/17. Work is also ongoing with partners and AAPs to identify small-scale local projects that the clients of the CRC can engage with.
78. Much of the work of the AAPs has an indirect impact on crime and community safety. **Stanley AAP** has funded an intergenerational project titled The Ageless Project that is being delivered by CONTINUUM CIC. The project will help increase understanding between generations, break down stereotypes, provide positive role models, prevent anti-social behaviour and challenge perceptions. The project is currently working with groups of young people and older people in the local community and is enhancing the knowledge of each other's lives, pasts, futures, hopes and fears.
79. Young people who are known to be undertaking anti-social behaviours and older people who may have been at the receiving end or witnessed this behavior are to benefit from the project and be directly involved in it. The groups of older and younger people are worked with separately to build relationships, explain the purpose of the project and start discussion around perceptions, conflicts, relationships and what they might have in common. The groups are then brought together to develop and deliver a 10 week programme of activity that include discussion topics about prejudice, oppression, perception, cooperating and safety, and activity work on fashion, food, work, communication, games, crafts, drama and the history of Stanley.
80. The **Derwent Valley AAP** will be working in partnership with Age UK County Durham, Durham Constabulary (Fraud Squad), Derwentside Homes, Home Group, DCC Care Connect and County Durham and Darlington Fire Brigade to deliver a 'Beat the Scammers!' project based on the success of the Callblockers pilot scheme delivered by Age UK in the South Tyneside area.
81. The project will recruit and train local volunteers to give presentations to older people in the community about how to handle cold telephone calling (recorded and live). Associated prevention services to complement the project will be promoted as part of the presentation relating to telephone and mail preferences etc.
82. Callblocker devices will then be subsequently supplied and fitted to older residents phones free of charge (for qualifying residents including those caring for someone in their home, those who live alone/are frail, in receipt of means tested benefits) while all older residents will be made aware of these devices and how to purchase them if they wish.

Altogether greener

83. Due to recent organisational changes both within Durham County Council and within the Board members' organisations, the Environment Partnership in March agreed the following:
 - a. Terry Collins, Chief Executive of Durham County Council, will retain the role as Chair.
 - b. Expressions of interest across both the Environment Partnership and wider County Durham Partnership (including AAPs) will be sought for the role of Vice Chair. The Environment Partnership would like to thank Julie Form from Groundwork for her contribution whilst acting as Vice Chair of the

Environment Partnership and Chair of the Environment In Your Community Group over recent years.

- c. The structure and objectives of the Environment Partnership will be unchanged however the terms of reference are to be reviewed to ensure they remain relevant.
- d. The Environment Partnership Action Plan will be revised to align with the revised 2017 Sustainable Community Strategy.
- e. An independent review of the Environment Partnership is to take place over the next few months to ensure the Partnership is fit for purpose and provides added value.
- f. Awards throughout the year are issued by the Environment Partnership to recognise the environmental improvements which have been made across the County.

84. Key updates from the task groups include:

- a. Work has commenced on the Land of Oak and Iron project- focusing on the Derwent valley through North-West Durham and Gateshead. The project is led by Groundwork, the aim is to preserve natural and industrial heritage, help people gain new skills and promote the area. The project will run till 2020.
- b. Work with the Community Action Team (CAT) involves residents and a range of organisations to tackle environmental issues throughout the county. They are currently working in Blackhall Colliery where there is a big focus and campaign on dog fouling both in public areas and private properties. Later in the year, they will move on to Ferryhill South and Station and will then revisit Horden Central.
- c. Britain in Bloom Champion of Champions - Durham City is bidding for gardening glory in the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Britain in Bloom and Northumbria in Bloom Champion of Champions competition.
- d. Energy Management in Community Buildings – an event is to be held on 9th June at County Hall with exhibitors from local businesses which will provide an opportunity for networking. 6 undergraduates have been recruited to carry out energy audits.
- e. The Local Nature Partnerships have merged and now is named the North East Local Nature Partnership.

85. Recent Caring for your Environment Award have been presented to:

- a. Heathland Heartlands Project. The project protects lowland heath around Annfield Plain, Stanley and Dipton. Fourteen willing volunteers were presented recently with Caring for your Environment Awards for undertaking habitat management tasks which will restore the lowland heath and encourage biodiversity.
- b. The Castle Eden Dene National Nature Reserve Volunteers were presented for a range of environmental work to protect and improve the nature reserve. The volunteers work all year round in a number of areas from undertaking practical land management work to helping out with events. They were awarded with Caring for the Environment Awards for their environmental work which helps to protect and improve the nature reserve.

- c. John Turner, Community Executive Chef at Durham University was presented with a Caring for the Environment Award for his work with local suppliers which will enable the department to support local producers, at an affordable price without further impacting the environment through increased deliveries.
86. Nominations for a 'Caring for Your Environment Award' can be emailed to the Environment Partnership - environmentpartnership@durham.gov.uk or by contacting the chair or a subgroup Chair (named below) directly.
- a. Environment Partnership Chair – Terry Collins, Durham County Council
 - b. Environment In Your Communities – Chair: Ian Hoult, Durham County Council
 - c. Heritage, Coastal and Landscape – Chair: Oliver Sherratt, Durham County Council
 - d. Climate Change – Chair: Tara Duncan, Durham University
 - e. Local Nature Partnership – Contact; Jim Cokill
87. The **Derwent Valley AAP** is working with Outdoor and Sustainability Education Specialists (OASES) on the 'Illuminating Waste 2016' project. This will work with ten schools and five young people's groups to develop artistic window displays in Consett Town Centre. The overarching theme for the window displays will be: 'What does our local environment mean to us?' It builds on the success of the pilot project in autumn 2015.
88. Primary, special and secondary schools will take part in the project starting in autumn 2016. These activities will start with a whole school assembly, to introduce the project and raise awareness of the issue of resource consumption and waste management. One class will then be supported to engage with the project through a series of three half day workshops. The first workshop will focus upon improving the children's understanding of natural resource consumption and disposal, and the impact that both have on the environment. The subsequent workshops will support the children to develop their window displays from waste materials.
89. Young people's groups will be involved in the project but sessions with the young people will operate differently: the initial introduction will be led by an OASES officer who will help the groups to develop their initial ideas before developing their displays on their own with support from their group leaders.
90. As per the pilot project, waste materials will be collected from local businesses as well as from the schools and young people groups and these will be used to create the window displays. The project will engage with some of the empty shops within the town centre to produce larger displays and all of the displays will be lit using (wherever possible) LED lights. The 'switch on' of the window displays will take place as part of the annual Derwent Valley Partnership's Christmas festivities and enhance the Christmas light displays within Consett.

Recommendations and reasons

91. It is recommended that Cabinet note 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