

COUNTY COUNCIL

25 JANUARY 2017

QUESTIONS FROM AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIPS

QUESTION FROM GAMP AAP

As you are hopefully aware, Newton Aycliffe now has the largest Business Park in the County, which includes exciting exemplars of development such as; Hitachi and the University Technical College. Are there any further plans in the future to develop upon this, and help Newton Aycliffe to become the Business 'Hub' of the North?

RESPONSE

Firstly may I thank the AAP for their question.

Aycliffe Business Park is the largest Industrial estate in the County. With its choice of sites and employment of over 8000 people it is a business location of regional significance.

This will be further enhanced by the £13 million of funding that has been secured by the Council from the North East Local Enterprise Partnership, which is being used to prepare the 48 hectare Forrest Park site adjoining Aycliffe Business Park. A joint project between the Council and the landowners; it will create 163,000 m² of developable land and pave the way for the creation of 3,200 additional high quality jobs. This initial phase will create an access to the site and increase utility provision.

The Council through Business Durham continues to work with major companies on Aycliffe Business Park, such as Hitachi Rail Europe, Compound Photonics, 3M, Gestamp Tallent and Arlington Automotive and smaller companies like Meditek, Xcel Centre, PTSM and Greg Little Testing to support their plans for growth and highlight supply chain opportunities. We have also supported development of the business led forum, Aycliffe Business Park Community, which aims to stimulate local business to business activity.

We will continue to work with businesses, the AAP and local communities to ensure Newton Aycliffe remains a key regional business location.

QUESTION FROM 4-TOGETHER AAP

At the moment one of the biggest issues in the 4 Together area are gangs of young people congregating in various parts of Ferryhill and problems associated with this. What powers/role can the County Council take in issues such as tackling underage drinking, reducing the level of anti-social behaviour and fear of crime. Are there any future plans for targeted work in the 4 Together area which would tackle this?

RESPONSE

Firstly may I thank the AAP for their question.

Tackling antisocial behaviour remains a priority for the Council and its partners. Over the last 6 months we have worked together to reduce anti-social behaviour in Ferryhill. This has involved targeted patrols, seizures of alcohol and checks on licensed businesses.

Going forward, we welcome the opportunity to work with the 4Together AAP with their new priorities around activities for children and young people.

Now can I hand over to my colleague Cllr Ossie Johnson who would like to speak on the Youth Support Review.

I would like to thank the 4-Together AAP for their question.

Partners may be aware of the Youth Support Review led by Children and Young People's Services and the Youth Support Strategy which was endorsed by Council in September 2016. Work has now commenced to implement the agreed Targeted Youth Support model of service delivery. There are a number of elements to the new service delivery model, one of these is to introduce a Team Around the Community (TAC) across the County.

The Team Around the Community model will enable the deployment of youth workers, and other relevant professionals, to areas of concern. This will be necessary to avoid young people who are gathering with friends, but who are not involved in or causing any negative or risk taking behaviours being inappropriately targeted:-

TAC criteria required to be met – there must be evidence of :-

- Anti-Social Behaviour and/or criminal activity
- Negative risk-taking behaviour (i.e. alcohol and/or substance misuse)
- Vulnerable young people (e.g. at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation).

A range of partners including Police, the Youth Offending Service, Anti-Social Behaviour Officers and Neighbourhood Wardens will support the identification of areas for concern. Where appropriate, youth workers, working in partnership with a range of professionals, will be deployed to the identified communities to build effective relationships with young people, with the objective of addressing behaviour that is causing concern and improve relationships between young people and their communities.

A detailed transition plan is now being progressed as we move from the current service delivery model of open access youth provision to the new targeted model. The timescale for implementation is April 2017. Managers from the One Point Service and key youth work practitioners will be arranging meetings with relevant partners to design and agree the process for nominating and agreeing those areas and communities that will receive a TAC input. A key part of this development will be to agree how such interventions, once completed, will be evaluated so that success can be measured and tangibly felt by all members of the communities affected, including young people themselves.

As an interim measure, the following actions are planned in relation to a specific issue: the behaviour of a group of young people congregating next to the Community Hub, including leaving litter and broken glass outside.

Managers from our Youth Offending Service and Ferryhill One Point Hub have met to discuss actions to manage the situation. The following actions have been agreed (to take place Jan – March 2017):

- One Point will identify a couple of youth workers to try to engage with the young people, in partnership with Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), with the aim of engaging them in existing provision (i.e. Ladder Centre; Boxing Club at the Community Hub).
- CDYOS will address the issues with any of the group who are currently supervised by the service as part of their work to reduce reoffending.
- Intelligence sharing between CDYOS Police Officers and relevant partners.
- We are exploring the possibility, via CDYOS Positive Futures intervention, to target some resources as a short term interim measure to divert the young people away from anti-social behaviour.
- The possibility of focusing the next phase of CDYOS/IiC Comic Relief project on the Ferryhill area (post March 2017) when the next cohort starts is being explored
- The litter around the Community Hub is being cleared every Monday morning by young people on reparation (CDYOS)