

# Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

13 February 2017

Cabinet

18 January 2017

County Durham Partnership Update



---

## Report of Corporate Management Team

Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships

Councillor Simon Henig, Leader of the Council

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

---

### Purpose of the Report

- 1 To update Members 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 The last few months of 2016 saw a lot of positive partnership activity take place across the county. Engagement between AAPs and local faith groups continued in the Three Towns area with the latest in a series of networking events with the focus on faith and wellbeing. A follow up from the Mid Durham event which took place last year has also taken place with other AAPs interested in hosting similar events this year.
- 3 Partners and AAPs were involved in the Council's latest budget consultation, with presentations given at all AAP meetings as well as roadshows carried out at other venues including supermarkets, in order to engage with as broad a range of people as possible. This is a slightly different approach than in previous years and worked well with engaging people who may not access information in other ways. Online and paper based surveys were completed, the findings of which were reported to Cabinet in December.
- 4 The Durham Humanitarian Support Partnership has worked to prepare for the second group of Syrian refugee families who were welcomed to the County last November and who have settled well. The first group who arrived last summer continue to settle and develop links and positive relationships within their community.
- 5 The main focus of the report is on how all partners and AAPs work with, and engage with, children and young people in local and strategic decision making which was the focus of the October meeting of the CDP Forum, led by Margaret

Whellans, Interim Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services for the Council. The presentation covered the national initiative from the Children's Commissioner on the Takeover Challenge and how this is being taken forward in Durham.

## Key Partnership Activity and Developments

- 6 The **County Durham Partnership Board** invited Visit County Durham to present to its November meeting on the Durham Place of Light campaign that was launched recently. This place brand and marketing strategy for the County aims to change perceptions of the county around economic success and is around four main themes of: Lighting up days and nights; Lighting up the past; Illuminating the future and Shining spirits. Further information is online at [www.durhamplaceoflight.com](http://www.durhamplaceoflight.com)
- 7 A presentation was also given at the November meeting on the council's transformation plans, following on from the Away Day in May last year, and to seek views on moving partnership working from good to great. As highlighted at the Away Day, all partners continue to face a range of challenges, some of which can be dealt with more efficiently by partners working together and sharing resources whilst others require a joint approach to ensure that the county has a louder and stronger voice. Work on this will continue with further updates being discussed at Board meetings moving forward.
- 8 Stuart Corbridge, the new Vice Chancellor and Warden of Durham University, presented at the December CDP Board, giving his views on the University in the City and the Region. He outlined plans for their estate as well as new opportunities for partnership working. Following on from the Autumn Statement, Geraldine Kay, on behalf of the Housing Forum and Derwentside Homes, gave a presentation on potential changes to housing both nationally and in the county. Geraldine also outlined the key challenges facing local people and agencies, including welfare reform and funding changes. The final presentation in December was on the NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) which form part of the five year plan for the health service. They aim to bring organisations together to develop a shared plan for better health and social care for local populations and address key challenges and are on 'footprints' different to existing delivery models. Further updates on the implications for the county will be brought forward as they develop.
- 9 The **Armed Forces** Forum has supported a joint bid to the Covenant Fund to extend the award winning Armed Forces Outreach Service, currently covering Tyneside and managed by Gateshead council, into County Durham and Northumberland. The aim is to establish a North East service providing veterans and their families with specific support to navigate and access all services appropriate to their needs. The outcome will be known by the end of March.
- 10 Across County Durham **faith groups** play an important role in health and wellbeing and contribute to flourishing and resilient communities. Improving engagement between faith groups and AAPs is continuing and the latest facilitated discussion on 'Faith & Wellbeing' has taken place in **Three Towns AAP** where faith groups shared their experiences of the links between faith and wellbeing and reflected on what they were doing locally and how they could work better together and in partnership with the AAP. In Mid-Durham a follow up event has been held between the AAP and faith groups focussing on projects, funding and volunteering.

- 11 Inter Faith engagement continues with the County Durham Faiths Network organising an event to celebrate Inter Faith week in November with a discussion on 'The Common Good'. A 'Mitzvah' day (social action) organised by a newly established Durham and North East Liberal Jewish Community in partnership with the County Durham Faiths Network, provided a lunch for people who are on low incomes, asylum seekers or refugees.
- 12 Our partnership working continues with the **Voluntary and Community Sector** through the VCS Working Group and support for the Better Together Forum which is chaired by the VCS representative on the County Durham Partnership Board and brings together senior representatives of larger or specialist VCS organisations with a countywide remit to share best practice and look for new opportunities to collaborate. Recent meetings of the Better Together Forum have focussed on 'Wellbeing for Life', 'Durham Works' and support for Young People. A workshop on consortia working and joint bidding is planned for the New Year.
- 13 'Wellbeing for Life' was awarded the County Durham Volunteering Kite Mark for demonstrating good practice in supporting volunteers. The assessment for the Kite Mark is managed by Durham Community Action, to date six organisations have been awarded the Kite Mark. There are now 55 volunteers using the Volunteer Passport developed by Durham Community Action in partnership with the Adult Learning and Skills Service, this helps them to track development of skills and experiences gained through volunteering to help personal development and future employment or education.
- 14 Encouraging and enabling employees to volunteer in the community is a priority for all partners. The council encourages employees to volunteer on a regular basis in their own time and to use the flexible working policy, where appropriate, to enable them to volunteer during normal working hours if the volunteering role requires it. Regular updates on volunteering opportunities are now provided on the intranet linking in to the Centre for Volunteering managed by Durham Community Action. There are currently 800 volunteering opportunities being advertised in County Durham.
- 15 The **Durham Humanitarian Support Partnership** has continued to support the Syrian families who arrived in the summer under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, all of whom have had positive experiences. The county has also recently welcomed its second tranche of refugees with six families comprising 28 people who are being supported to settle in the county.

### **Engaging children and young people in decision making**

- 16 The County Durham Partnership Forum meeting in October focused on how children and young people are actively engaged in the work of all partners and AAPs, particularly in decision making and having their thoughts and ideas heard and, more importantly, put into action.
- 17 The presentation, led by Margaret Whellans, Interim Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services for the Council, focused on the annual Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge which is an England-wide event where organisations are encouraged to involve children and young people in decision-making. This is the ninth year that partners in Durham have supported this initiative and it has gone from strength to strength.

- 18 The presentation contained a number of examples of how the Children and Families Partnership championed this initiative and encouraged partners to take part including:
- (a) the Senior Team at East Durham College will be taken over by young people who are part of the student Union;
  - (b) the Independent Reviewing Officer team are looking to produce a video diary with young people who are in the care system;
  - (c) the County Durham Youth Offending Service 'With Youth in Mind' Group will be looking at how we can improve our work with young victims;
  - (d) Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust will involve young people in a range of activities, including focus groups on how breast feeding rates can be increased in County Durham;
  - (e) Public Health will be involving children and young people in the development of the logo and branding for the 0-19 health visiting and school nursing service;
  - (f) On behalf of the Children and Families Partnership and LSCB a family fun day took place with the Gypsy Roma Traveller community, ensuring the voice of this hard to reach group is heard;
  - (g) Children's Services Commissioning Team will facilitate a small group of children/young people who will become commissioners for the day.
- 19 The Forum workshop discussion covered the following two questions:
- (a) How can we make the Takeover Challenge about more than just one day?
  - (b) What can you/your organisation do to engage young people in decision making?
- 20 The feedback for the workshop will be used by the Children and Families Partnership to ensure that the initiative is countywide and all year round as well as adopted by other partners as well as Durham County Council.
- 21 The presentation also featured information from Area Action Partnerships on a few examples from the extensive work they do with children and young people of all ages. AAPs have, since their inception in 2009, prioritised children and young people's activities and have developed their ways of involving them in the work of the AAPs. Whilst some approaches are across a number of AAPs, some are more specific to one or two with some ideas developed by one AAP and then rolled out across a number of others. Through this they are developed and can be scaled up along the way.
- 22 Every year across all 14 AAPs, forum members are asked to vote on what priorities they would like to see their Boards work on for the following year. This year, for the first time, young people aged 11 plus living or going to school in County Durham have been given an opportunity to participate in voting on their priorities for their local area.
- 23 AAPs have utilised a range of methods to engage with Young People including, over the last two years, piloting the use of Survey Monkey in two schools in the County to provide young people with the opportunity to participate in priority voting. This year, all schools were to support this opportunity anytime from October to early December by asking pupils to complete the Survey Monkey questionnaire. Feedback will be given to each school on how pupils voted what their priorities were and on any ideas young people had to address any issues or concerns in their local area. The results of the survey will be shared with County Durham Partnership

partners and used by all AAPs to inform their priority selection and as a basis for priority task groups to identify key issues and potential solutions to address concerns. Over 3,000 young people took part in the survey. Also, in order to give young people in County Durham more opportunity to have their voices heard AAPs are looking to develop an online youth forum. They were asked 'Are you interested in finding out more about becoming a member of the youth forum and having your say?' and 352 young people said they were.

- 24 Young people were asked to identify any issues or concerns they had under ten priority themes and asked for any comments. This information is being analysed and will be shared when available.
- 25 Previously young people have been involved under the 'Have Your Say' banner. The approach varies depending on the area however they are usually carried out in schools and within school time and have been developed alongside local schools to ensure buy in. **Chester-le-Street AAP** has hosted an event since 2009 with numbers attending growing from 150 to over 400. They utilise a 'washing line game' approach about their local area with 'tops' which is what is good about their area, 'pants', what is not so good about their area and 'socks' are ideas to change their 'pants' issues. This approach is now sustainable in the Chester-le-Street area and doesn't receive any AAP funding. One outcome of the event has been the Diddycon comic and gaming convention, a popular event outside of the normal events put on in a locality.
- 26 Once priorities are established, funding is assigned to task and finish groups to deliver against those priorities. Some AAPs, **Teesdale** and **Three Towns** in particular, have a Small Grants Fund that both involve children and young people in the design and delivery of the funding. The involvement of children and young people starts at the application stage as they must be the ones making the application and the application form is in two parts. The first part of the form must be completed by the young person although adults can help younger children. This includes a description of what the project is, information on the group applying and how they came up with the idea of the project. The second part of the form is completed by the supporting adult and contains information on costs, match funding and any legal / safeguarding information. Once forms are completed they are looked at initially by the AAP to make sure that they are correct.
- 27 The second part of the process involves a panel of young people who appraise and approve the project. In Teesdale, the AAP works closely with YMCA Teesdale on this and they are responsible for recruiting and training the young people who sit on the panel and support them during the panel meetings, along with a member of the AAP team. The panel take their role very seriously and are very detailed in their appraisal of the projects. They are not afraid to challenge projects if they think that too much money is being asked for or if they think there are elements of projects that could be done differently. All of this is fed back to the applicant. For the young people involved it is an important exercise in decision making and gives them actual responsibility which they do take seriously.
- 28 **Spennymoor** and **Great Aycliffe and Middridge AAPs** have both produced 'What's On' guides, in partnership with Success North East. This project came about following concerns from partners and children and young people that they didn't know what activities were being delivered in the local area. In both areas partners got together as well as establishing an e-network before publicity information and social media messages were produced. The booklets, containing information on activity from over 40 organisations, were delivered to every

household in the area. Most importantly, young people were engaged with during the development of the guide in order to map provision and to look for suitable ways of developing initiatives that respond to their issues and aspirations.

- 29 **Mid Durham AAP** has developed close working links over a number of years with the local Youth Area Committee which has young people from six villages across the AAP area. The young people represent their associated youth clubs and have worked with the AAP in the past to do engagement events and exercises. They have helped develop new youth sessions in villages without youth clubs and have also supported older young people to become volunteers at local junior clubs. From this Area Committee, the AAP co-opted a young person's representative for the Board who could bring a young person's view to the table as well as the task groups. This young person has gone on to win a number of Countywide and local awards for their volunteering. Mid Durham have also carried out regular work with primary and secondary schools to enable young people's voices to be heard as well as discussing local democracy and community cohesion.
- 30 In the early days of the AAP they worked closely with St Bede's school pupils in Lanchester to raise the profile of road safety in which those young pupils went on to win Shrievally Awards for this work. The AAPs recent work with Age UK County Durham has seen the creation of an accredited 'Have Your say' course ran by Age UK staff and volunteers. This course has involved over 100 young people from schools, uniformed groups and youth clubs who have undertaken the three day course which looks at how to get your voice heard and how to work more closely with adults and organisations to improve their community. The AAP helps run the final day and looks at instigating voice and action.
- 31 An interesting and unique example of a 'young person's' involvement with AAPs is **Stanley's** Chair, 22 year old Councillor Thomas Nearney. He has been a Board member since 2013 and is keen to build on the positive work he has seen taking place in the area. Stanley AAP, like Mid Durham, also has a young person as a community representative. 17 year old Liam Bell received the Chairman's Medal this year and is a keen volunteer, working with suicide intervention, a local community project and an anti-bullying charity.
- 32 Some of the thematic elements of the report have also focused on how the thematic partnerships engage children and young people in their work and local and strategic decisions.

### **Altogether wealthier**

- 33 The **County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP)** looks to support young people's participation through its partnership led programmes and direct support for young people in our structures wherever feasible.
- 34 The takeover challenge is a new challenge for partners. Across some of our delivery young people are involved in setting up and supporting our activity, including scrutinising delivery and set up of the DurhamWorks programme or getting involved in partnership working groups through apprenticeships, traineeships or work experience. However, the CDEP continues to support a host of activities and opportunities for young people to engage in our economy, these include;
- (a) NETPark Outreach Programme supports pupils from primary schools in Ferryhill and West Cornforth participated in the first of a series of training events at NETPark. Further sessions will take place over the coming months, concluding

in March 2017. To date, 34 young people are participating in this innovative programme to raise awareness of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) careers.

- (b) Future Business Magnates is a highly successful business enterprise competition for students, established in 2005.
- (c) It's a fun competition with an important business message. Schools from throughout County Durham take part in the exciting competition designed to introduce young entrepreneurs to the world of business and enterprise. Each school team is supported by a business partner from a local firm who guides the team through the competition.
- (d) Running throughout the academic year, groups of students are given a brief to start a business, and are taken through six challenges, from team building to marketing to product design.
- (e) The students are stretched and challenged to come up with a viable business and many of them do just that. In 2015, the challenge was very special – to create new products and services from new applications of light to coincide with [Light2015Durham](#), Durham's year of light. The 2016 competition challenged students to develop a new product for the home which will be manufactured in County Durham.
- (f) This year teams are working towards producing a product or service under the theme 'Connecting County Durham'.

35 The Council and partners strongly support apprenticeship opportunities for young people. As part of the two [Erasmus+](#) year project, five apprentices from the Council's Regeneration and Economic Development service grouping spent two weeks working with, and learning from, their counterparts in Gothenburg. Fully funded by the European Union, the visit saw the apprentices working for the local authority of Västra Götaland, Sweden's second most populous county, and follows on from a similar visit which took place in 2015. The Erasmus+ project aims to offer opportunities for people in the UK to study, work, volunteer, teach and train abroad in Europe. The Erasmus+ project offers a once in a lifetime opportunity to get experience of working in a different country and gives our apprentices the best possible chance of successful future careers.

36 The two week placement saw the apprentices add to their already burgeoning CVs by learning first-hand how the local authority's equivalents in Sweden approach regeneration, transport and the environment as well as the different social and economic challenges they face.

37 AAPs also support young people to engage with employment and apprenticeship opportunities. The aim of **Three Towns AAP's** World of Work project was to raise awareness of the world of work with 149 Y7 students at Parkside Academy. The evaluation following the event would indicate that the event achieved this aim.

38 Durham Education Business Partnership engaged with a wide range of employers who supported the event in a variety of ways. In total 25 presenters attended and were involved in six separate workshops:

- (a) The Buzz – students were given the opportunity to look at personality and learning styles and how this may impact career choice.
- (b) Money Skills – Students were introduced to the importance of budgeting and a range of information to help them to manage money.

- (c) Life after School – This session was led by a Careers Adviser and students were invited to consider what they might want to do when they leave School and some of the steps they may need to consider to achieve their goals.
- (d) Work Why Bother? – This activity considered the reasons why people work and the social and economic benefits involved.
- (e) What's my line? – Students were given the opportunity to guess the occupations of the presenters in this session through a series of clues.
- (f) Careers Carousel – This was the opportunity for students to get involved in interactive workshops with four presenters. The North East Ambulance Service offered the opportunity to learn about resuscitation, Radisson Blu talked about careers in the hospitality industry and gave students a taste of a 'mocktail', Go Ahead training offered the opportunity for students to programme robots and Durham County Council ICT department offered a hands on ICT experience.
- (g) Four habits of happiness and success – This final session was to introduce students to the behaviours needed to achieve happiness and success. This included positive thinking and having a vision for what they want to achieve in the future.

### **Altogether better for children and young people**

- 39 The **Children and Families Partnership** supports children, young people and families to achieve the best possible outcomes. The vision of the Partnership is that 'all children, young people and families believe, achieve and succeed'.
- 40 Member organisations of the Children and Families Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board opened their doors to children and young as part of the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge, as mentioned earlier in the report.
- 41 The Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner appointed a Police Cadet from year 7 to take over the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner's role for one day on 15 November 2016. The junior Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner chaired a committee of mini police and chose one of five pre-selected projects relating to re-offending and community safety. £10,000 funding was made available for this project.
- 42 The Young Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner launched the young person's Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) annual report which was developed by the LSCB in conjunction with young people in local schools. The Annual Report has been shared with all partner organisations, with schools for inclusion on school council meetings and with Area Action Partnership Co-ordinators.
- 43 The Interim Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services and Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services met with young people from across the county to provide an overview of their roles and responsibilities and answer questions. This opportunity was very well received by the young people who all had a positive experience. Feedback from young people included the importance of being healthy and having services easily accessible to young people (for example school nurses, counselling), having a job and accessing age-specific activities.
- 44 The inaugural Student Voice Survey of secondary schools in 2015 received the views of over 8,000 young people. Schools received their results along with countywide data for comparison and the Children and Families Partnership gained an important evidence base to help develop future services. An action plan has

been agreed to address some of the key issues identified by young people in that survey.

- 45 So far 20 secondary schools have agreed to take part in this year's survey, which has been developed in conjunction with a representative of the Durham Association of Secondary Heads. The survey will be presented to the Children and Families Partnership in January 2017 for agreement before being rolled out to schools between January and March 2017. A survey for primary school children is also currently in development with around 160 schools agreeing to take part. Potential interest has been identified and further work will be undertaken with Special School Head Teachers to undertake a survey for this group of children.
- 46 A Children and Young People's Portal Board and Working Group have been established with the aim of creating an online portal that will become the preferred digital reference point for children and young people in County Durham. The portal will provide young people with advice and information across a range of topics including health, safety, education and employment, as well as links to a directory of services and signposting to other organisations and opportunities. Social type information, 'what's on', freebies, discussions and competitions should make the portal more appealing to young people.
- 47 An engagement action plan has been developed to ensure children and young people are fully involved in the portal's development, and that it aligns with their interests and needs and to ensure that the site is current and contemporary there are plans for it to be run by a small group of employed young people.

### **Altogether healthier**

- 48 The **Health and Wellbeing Board** supports people to achieve their optimum health and wellbeing. The vision of the Board is to 'improve the health and wellbeing of the population of County Durham and reduce health inequalities'.
- 49 The Big Tent Engagement Event took place on Wednesday 5 October 2016, with over 200 people in attendance including service users, patients, carers, representatives from the voluntary and community sector, NHS and local authority partners. Themed workshops included health, social care and the wider wellbeing approach, child poverty, oral health, reducing obesity, mental health services in County Durham and health and social care integration. The event gave people an opportunity to provide their views on how services should be developed
- 50 Further consultation is taking place with Investing in Children (IiC) to gather feedback from children and young people throughout the county on their views of the priorities to improve access to services for children, young people and families in County Durham. A series of adult-free Agenda Days, facilitated by young people who are experienced members of the Investing in Children Health Group, will take place across the county throughout January 2017. The views gained will be used to influence future service developments including services to support improving children and young people's mental health, emotional wellbeing and resilience.
- 51 As part of the 0-19 Healthy Child Programme County Durham, Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust and public health have undertaken a number of engagement activities with children and young people. A community drop in service for children and young people (including school holidays) commenced in the autumn term. This is based on the philosophy of the Future in Mind 'one stop shop'. The community drop-ins will link with the community sexual health services and will be supported by the resilience nurses as well as generic public health

school nurses. Liaison with AAPs and the VCS is critical to provide a seamless support for children and young people.

- 52 Children and young people have been involved in the development of the logo and branding for the 0-19 health visiting and school nursing service and a promotional bus has been put in use to engage with seldom heard populations and raise awareness of the refreshed school nursing service. The bus is part of the communications strategy highlighting the text messaging service and website which is being developed during the autumn term.
- 53 Public Health met with young parents who have engaged with the teenage parent support programme for their input to help shape, improve and rename the programme for the next wave and a focus group working with partner agencies and young people took place to understand the issue and barriers in place to breast feeding to consider how breast feeding rates can be increased in County Durham, particularly in relation to the evidence from the Infant Feeding Equity Audit.
- 54 Engagement will continue to take place within schools and early years settings and with parents, carers, children, and young people to seek proactive feedback from service users to inform the delivery. To enable this to happen in a standardised way a Patient/Client Experience and Engagement tool will be developed.
- 55 **4Together AAP** has demonstrated partnership work between the AAP, local organisations and other Council departments in a national pilot. Often when supporting partners, AAPs also advise and support new approaches. With an initial focus on the 4 Together Partnership area the childhood obesity project has brought together a group that tries to represent the wider community and aims to change the current situation. Through a collective approach the hope is to explore the potential for creative solutions, drawing on the knowledge, experience and intelligence already in the community. The initial group includes voluntary sector leaders, public health and physical activity professionals, elected members, teachers, primary care and children's services.
- 56 The AAP agreed that engaging children directly in a conversation about their health, happiness, needs and desires would be a powerful way to generate energy, ideas and ownership. The approach used was a "World Café", a simple yet powerful conversational approach which is popular and proven, and used around the world in groups as diverse as corporate executives and school children. The approach can be led by the children themselves and is respectful, acknowledging that children often know what they need, how they need it and what matters most. They are asked, not told. A number of local schools used this approach to engage with their young people.
- 57 A World Café event was also held, facilitated by a local VCS organisation, which was a positive way of talking and listening to other children in a fun and respectful way and which sees children as experts in their own lives and who often know what they need and how they need it.
- 58 Sixty key stage 2 children were invited to come and talk, a mix of boys and girls from the ages of 7 to 11. The VCS created an inviting space which looked like a café and provided snacks and drinks to make everyone feel comfortable. Table cloths were on the tables and pens were provided for everyone so they could write or draw whatever they were thinking about on the cloths. The conversation was facilitated by simply asking 'do you feel happy and healthy?'. The findings have been summarised and fed back accordingly.

- 59 AAPs engage with children and young people on specific thematic issues as well as the more general work of priority setting and assigning funding. **East Durham AAP** recently held a Talking Dementia Event which brought together children and young people from across East Durham to watch a specially adapted drama for young people that explores the impact of dementia on the individual and their family. Performed for the first time, the drama focused on changes living with dementia brings and was developed with Newcastle University to highlight dementia to adults, this was the first of its kind to be performed to an audience comprising of young people. The children and young people, supported by their youth workers, were also involved in a question and answer session with the performer. Working together in workshops, the young people discussed the impact of dementia on children/families/communities and proposed a range of actions that the young people will follow up or present to the Health Priority Group.
- 60 A number of young people volunteered to work with the Hospital of God to produce an exhibition of art that will explore the issues raised within the performance as well as young people's feelings and thoughts towards dementia. The exhibition was showcased in a community exhibition following a display at the AAP board meeting in December 2016.
- 61 **Weardale AAP's** "All In" outdoor physical activity programme has engaged young people in two main ways: through their work with modern apprentices and the recipients themselves. The modern apprentices operate the "door step" development model which works on the principle of the young people working together to plan the programme of activities.
- 62 Each settlement within Weardale has a different programme which is designed and developed by the young people in attendance; activities include football, climbing, dance, running, soft ball and general fitness to name but a few. The aspirations are met because the young people are in charge, and work through the apprentices to watch a programme develop from a lot of ideas into delivery on the ground. Involving the young people who benefit from the programme in the decision making process has resulted in consistent attendance and engagement as they feel empowered and that they have some ownership of the programme. They are also able to see ways in which the activity programmes can be developed due to changing needs or through identifying new opportunities.
- 63 AAPs continue to support and carry out their initiatives that support all parts of their communities. **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP's** 'Out of the Comfort Zone' project is focussed on targeting isolated vulnerable people who do not participate in community activity. The legacy of heavy industry has left many people with a hearing impairment. People affected by hearing loss are unable to use the phone, hear the television or even communicate with other people apart from on a 1:1 basis. Late deafened people and people with dual sensory loss rarely leave their homes for fear of not being able to cope in different situations or understanding what is said. They wrongly assume that they won't fit in or will feel excluded because of their disability.
- 64 The project is focussed on targeting isolated vulnerable people who do not participate in community activity. A support worker and two volunteers have been trained in deaf and blind awareness in preparation for working with different groups.
- 65 One to one support has been given to numerous people in the locality, demonstrating hearing aids, compatible phones, personal loops and listeners which people can try. These products can help to reduce social isolation and enable

people to participate more actively in society. To date over 30 people have benefited from the project and the project is linking with the Sensory Support Team, GP Practice Managers, and the Helping Hands Project (for deaf and blind people) to enhance participation.

### **Altogether safer**

- 66 The **Safe Durham Partnership Board** works collaboratively to improve community safety across County Durham. The vision of the Board is for a county 'where every adult and child will be, and will feel, safe.'
- 67 A range of consultation mechanisms are used by County Durham Youth Offending Service (CDYOS) to capture the voice of young people in the Youth Justice System, both young people who offend and young victims of youth crime:
- (a) HMI Probation requires young people subject to supervision by Youth Offending Services (YOS) to complete an annual on-line survey to ascertain their views about the work of the service. Feedback from young people in 2015/16 was very positive about the work of CDYOS. 92% rated the service they had received from CDYOS as 'good' or 'very good' with 96% reporting they had been treated fairly by the Service. 100% felt that they contributed to the development of their intervention plan; 100% felt their case manager helped them to take part in the work undertaken with CDYOS.
  - (b) CDYOS developed and implemented its successful Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) Strategy in 2014. This has transformed how the service works and placed meaningful communication at the heart of everything CDYOS does. Young people's feedback, and their experience and frequent lack of understanding of their journey through the criminal justice processes, has been – and continues to be - central to the strategy and work to reduce offending and re-offending by young people. Young people's engagement – both as young people who offend and young victims of crime – has been central to the development of the service's ClearCut Communication (a range of communication friendly resources for young people in the youth justice system). These are regarded as national best practice and have been purchased by other YOTs nationally.
  - (c) The Safe Durham Partnership, through the Community Safety Fund, supports CDYOS Victim Liaison Officer (Young People) and the 'With Youth in Mind' group. The group comprises 35 young victims of crime (aged 9 to 20). The group provides peer support and mentoring for young victims of crime. Members actively shape CDYOS work with young victims to improve service delivery.
- 68 **Stanley AAP** has supported the delivery of Kicks & Mini-Kickers Social Inclusion Programme for the benefit of local children and young people which is designed to work in areas of high Anti-Social Behaviour providing positive diversionary activities for young people aged 13-19 years. The programme is delivered for 48 weeks of the year and provides young people with informal education in an environment they feel comfortable. Using the power of the Sunderland FC brand and football and sport, the programme aims to increase young people's life chances, aspirations, and confidence. This is achieved by providing young people with opportunities for personal growth and allows them to achieve accreditations which can help move them closer to the job market. Trips during school holidays, opportunities for

residential, youth exchanges are a sample of depth of the programme aimed at developing people.

- 69 The programme in Stanley is young people led, with a steering group in place to help drive the programme forward by choosing activities which will further empower young people to become engaged. Opportunities to become peer mentors and volunteers are offered to those interested as well as a possible pathway for both education and sport within the Foundation as well as signposting young people to new opportunities by third parties. Alongside the Kicks programme the Foundation developed a Mini-Kickers programme aimed at prevention for 8-12 years. In a similar model to the Kicks initiative the Mini-Kickers have the opportunity to engage with staff and undertake activities such as evening provision and holiday activities to help with long term sustainment and engagement.
- 70 AAPs work with all partners to help deliver against a number of joint priorities. The **Derwent Valley AAP** is currently working with Age UK County Durham, Fraud Specialist Investigation Team, Trading Standards, Derwentside Homes and Police Crime and Victims Commissioner Ron Hogg to deliver a Beat the Scammers project.
- 71 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 also be promoted as part of the presentation relating to telephone and mail preferences etc.
- 72 Call blocker devices will 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). All older residents who do not meet the qualifying criteria will be made aware of the devices and how to purchase them if they wish.
- 73 Detectives from the Fraud Specialist Investigation Team have supported the development of the volunteer telephone fraud training pack and training in how to install call blockers has been arranged for managers of the Derwentside Homes sheltered courts. This project has received a big boost through the support of our local partners and we are delighted that the Police Crime and Victims Commissioner fully supports the project and has provided some additional funding to recruit volunteers and roll out project development to more areas in the county. There are a number of older people's groups already waiting for presentations and interest from people wishing to volunteer.

### **Altogether greener**

- 74 The **Environment Partnership** held its annual Awards ceremony on Thursday 10 November 2016. The awards, now in their 27th year, celebrate great design, environmental guardianship and community spirit. There was an impressive 57 entries from all over County Durham and judges had the difficult task of whittling these down to 17 category winners and 18 'highly commended'.
- 75 Durham's Wharton Park was just one of the projects recognised in an annual celebration of environmental achievements. The Council led £3m restoration of the park, which received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) through its Parks for People programme, scooped an impressive hat-trick of awards. As well as winning the 'built environment' and 'places and spaces' categories, the scheme was also given the 'outstanding' award which judges can give to an exemplary entry which far exceeds the category criteria.

- 76 Judges felt the restoration had transformed the park into an attractive leisure facility for the 21st century while respecting its historic character. They said the vision, design, quality and execution of the work elevated it to outstanding.
- 77 Other winning entries were:
- Restoration of Auckland Castle walled garden (craftsmanship category)
  - Heathland Heartlands at Annfield Plain (natural environment)
  - School Carbon Reduction Programme (climate change)
  - Doe Park Caravan Park (greener business)
  - Cotsford Community Allotment at Horden (schools and colleges)
  - Murton Ribbon Academy (schools and colleges)
  - Whitworth Park STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Club (schools and colleges)
  - From Wilderness to Wonderland/Stevenson Way Academy, Newton Aycliffe (schools and colleges)
  - Heart of Teesdale project (community partnership)
  - Reach for the Beach festival (community partnership)
  - Burnhope Community Garden (places and spaces)
  - Sacriston and Changing Lives Conservation Project (volunteer group of the year)
  - Brusselton Incline Group (volunteer group of the year)
  - Joyce Roberts (volunteer of the year)
  - Roseberry Primary School gardening club (volunteer of the year under 18).
- 78 Durham City scored a horticultural hat-trick at the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Britain in Bloom awards, receiving a third national gold medal in three years, this time in the prestigious national Champion of Champions category. The other top entries came from Ahoghill (Northern Ireland), Birmingham, Cleethorpes, Lytham and St Pierre du Bois (Guernsey) with Ahoghill being the category winner. Supported by the Durham in Bloom group, over 448 volunteers dedicated nearly 10,000 hours to ensure Durham City picked up a gold medal in the national competition for the third year running.

### **Area Action Partnerships General Update**

- 79 **Durham AAP** continues to support local community groups and facilities. Following on from the initial support it gave to the now award winning Wharton Park, the AAP has supported Belmont Community Centre's installation of a new play area and Neville's Cross plans to erect a community centre at Lowes Barn. The AAP has also supported Fire & Ice alongside the Durham BID in an effort to attract shoppers into the city during the traditional post-Christmas spell. Village news from Durham AAP includes Witton Gilbert Parish Council has been successful in securing funding from a number of sources including the AAP, local councillors, s106 and has committed to raising their precept to meet the cost of the construction (£120,000) of a new village centre following public consultation identifying a new look for the village.
- 80 **Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP** has continued to facilitate visits from the Scotto Charitable Trust and has introduced the trust to a number of worthy causes not only in the BASH AAP area but across the County. This is an excellent and unique opportunity for the AAP to provide additional support and funding to groups in the area. As a result of this relationship and the support of the BASH AAP an additional £492,000 has been invested into the area by the Scotto Charitable Trust. With further visits planned and decisions outstanding it is anticipated that this figure will surpass half a million pounds by the end of January 2017. Primarily the funding

has gone to groups in the BASH AAP area however support has also gone into another five AAP areas.

**Recommendations and reasons**

81 It is recommended that Members note the report.

---

**Contact: Clare Marshall, Principal Partnerships and Local Councils Officer**  
**Tel: 03000 263591**

---

---

## **Appendix 1: Implications**

---

**Finance** - Area and Neighbourhood budgets are utilised and delivered through the 14 AAPs and ensure the Council (and AAPs) receive improved information on the outputs achieved through use of locality budgets.

**Staffing** - None

**Risk** - None

**Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty** - The actions set out in this report aim to ensure equality and diversity issues are embedded within the working practice of AAPs.

**Accommodation** - None

**Crime and Disorder** - Altogether safer is the responsibility of the Safe Durham Partnership.

**Human Rights** - None

**Consultation** - The County Durham Partnership framework is a key community engagement and consultation function of the Council and its partners. The recommendations in the report are based on extensive consultation with AAP partners.

**Procurement** - None

**Disability Issues** - None

**Legal Implications** – None