

Cabinet

14 March 2018

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 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 The County Durham Partnership continues to lead on and address key strategic issues. The Board has discussed a number of key issues including the Aykley Heads development and subsequent development of the History Centre at Mount Oswald and County Hall relocation as well as the winter pressures facing the NHS, nationally and locally.
- 3 The Prioritising Prevention agenda remains a key area of work with progress made in identifying the key areas of focus following detailed work from the identified workstreams and national support from the Local Government Association.
- 4 The report features updates from all AAPs under the five thematic areas of priority with examples including a continued focus on mitigating the effects of social isolation as well as supporting children and young people particularly through projects regarding mental health and wellbeing. It also covers activity from across the broader partnership networks including the recent VCS conference and successful funding secured for those people leaving the armed forces who may need accommodation.

Key Partnership Activity and Developments

- 5 The **County Durham Partnership Board** has met twice since the last update report. December's meeting had two main items: Recommendations from the Prioritising Prevention Steering Group's work and the Family Intervention Programme (FIP), led by Housing. Both presentations led to interesting discussion with recommendations agreed for taking the Prevention work forward. This is covered in full later in the report. The FIP programme works with people who have been identified as the most challenging, who face multiple problems and risk factors specifically homelessness and anti-social behaviour. It works through the implementation of a whole family assessment which results in a whole family plan that draws on the expertise of a range of service providers.

- 6 The January Board discussed the proposed Aykley Heads development, following on from Cabinet's approval at their January meeting. The Board were very interested in the proposals and how they will be developed over the next few years, as well as the council's move from the current County Hall site. The Board will continue to request updates on this development as it progresses.
- 7 The Board had requested an update from CCGs on winter pressures and how local health facilities have coped, linked to media coverage on NHS pressures nationally. It heard that whilst there have been pressures, there are pressures throughout the year which are managed through a series of frameworks and online systems. Measures put in place from December include additional funding, taken from the statutory contingency fund held by CCGs, 70 extra beds and the Street Triage approach in partnership with Durham Constabulary and the Office of the Police, Crime and Victim's Commissioner. The presentation highlighted that this had been managed relatively well and a full 'wash-up' session will take place in early spring.
- 8 The **CDP Forum** in February was focused on two main items: Durham History Centre and the new Social Inclusion Fund. The History Centre proposals are linked to the Aykley Heads development due to the need to rehouse the five miles of archives that are currently stored in County Hall. These documents, some dating back over 900 years, are proposed to be moved which will offer further opportunity for them to be accessible to the public. Following a consultation with the public and through AAPs, Cabinet will make a decision on this proposal.
- 9 All 14 AAPs will benefit from additional funding via the improved Better Care Fund over a three year period. This is ringfenced to tackle social inclusion issues in older people and the Forum was part of the consultation on proposed criteria as to how the funding should be allocated. This will be implemented from April.
- 10 A Countywide Voluntary and Community Sector Conference, organised by Durham Community Action, brought together over 100 delegates from the **Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)** together with public and private sector partners to 'find common ground' in dealing with the complex issues faced by the VCS. The conference provided the opportunity to discuss challenges, share experiences and learn about the solutions that organisations have been testing in County Durham and beyond. Keynote speeches, including from the Corporate Director for Adult and Health Services, emphasised the positive impacts collaborative working is having by combining resources to move partnership working from 'good to great.' There were also a series of spotlight sessions providing information on commissioning, advice, finance and social investment, the voluntary and community sector alliance, volunteering and health and wellbeing. The conference stimulated discussion about how to harness insight across a broad spectrum of expertise in order to design better community services for County Durham. It also demonstrated a desire to develop some new approaches to tackling complex problems in closer partnerships. Further discussions are scheduled to take place with the council's commissioners to take this work forward.
- 11 Working with **Faith Communities** continues to offer fresh opportunities for collaboration. Over 30 participants from different churches and faith groups across the **East Durham AAP** area came together to share their experiences of the links between faith and wellbeing and reflect on what they are doing locally. A key aim was to facilitate better engagement between faith groups and the AAP. A considerable number of church and faith group initiatives were reported across all age groups addressing local concerns. As a result of the workshop the potential for future collaboration between churches and with the AAP has been identified.

- 12 The latest breakfast seminar bringing together elected Members, officers, partners and faith communities in a roundtable conversation considered some of the impacts of the introduction of Universal Credit in County Durham as well as some of the positive outcomes of effective partnership working which is helping to mitigate some of the worst effects.
- 13 Members of the County Durham Faiths Network have contributed to the Council's Holocaust Memorial Day exhibition. Reflecting on the theme 'The Power of Words' and responding to the Holocaust and subsequent genocides, short written contributions have been made by members of different faith and belief groups either living, working or worshipping in County Durham.
- 14 Our support for the **Armed Forces Community** continues with the establishment of the Armed Forces Outreach Service - a local authority partnership. Two ex-forces personnel are now embedded within the Housing Solutions Team to act as a first point of contact for former members of the armed forces of any age, or their immediate family, to provide advice and support on housing, employment and other welfare needs. Referrals to the service can be made directly or through the referral pathway provided by the Advice in County Durham Partnership. The service will be closely monitored to ascertain particular trends.
- 15 **Chester-le-Street and District AAP** has been working with SHAID who run St. Peters Court in Sacriston to support a £15,000 capital grant to double the size of the facility for ex-service personnel to gain essential support services and transition to more independent living. Work has started on the expansion which will create an additional 16 bed facility and is due to be completed in March 2018.

Prevention at Scale

- 16 As highlighted in paragraph three, the CDP board agreed in early 2017 that Prioritising Prevention should be an area of focus for all partners and established a steering group to investigate how the work of all partner organisations and thematic partnerships is contributing to this area of work. In doing so, the objectives were to have:
 - (a) Reduced demand;
 - (b) Increased healthy life expectancy;
 - (c) Reduced costs/savings across public services;
 - (d) Driven improvement;
 - (e) Happier, healthier communities.
- 17 The membership is taken from all public sector organisations as well as the voluntary sector and business representatives. The group developed a number of aims in order to achieve the above, these included:
 - (a) Identifying and agreeing three or four areas to be the focus of prevention work;
 - (b) Facilitating and coordinating implementation of good practice;
 - (c) Streamlining activities and removing barriers;
 - (d) Driving collaboration, co-production and a solution focused approach;
 - (e) Promoting a better use of resources to achieve budget reductions;

- (f) Overseeing and coordinating the work of time-limited task and finish groups, each with clear scope, leadership, time frame and reporting arrangements.
- 18 Alongside this, Durham was successfully awarded one of 15 national pilot areas for the LGA Prevention at Scale offer. This provides 20 days of a support manager and expert advice and support to a local area to deliver at scale a preventative approach for a particular area of specific focus which will result in a significant change in health outcomes for local people.
- 19 The Prevention Steering Group has met regularly and has progressed its three workstreams of Building on best practice; Maximising funding and Preventing demand for services. A number of areas have been identified to be implemented and progressed further with a presentation to the CDP Board on 15 December highlighting a number of recommendations, all of which were agreed. These include:
- (a) The LGA Prevention at Scale work focussing on Mental Health with further work to be carried out to identify the specific element to take forward;
 - (b) Developing an annual showcase event sharing best practice projects (the details of this and the interface with the Big Tent will need to be worked through);
 - (c) Projects demonstrating extended reach (for example through Area Action Partnerships);
 - (d) Promoting funding packages to support communities to become more resilient and sustainable with an aim of more funding coming to the county to pilot or try new innovative ideas
 - (e) Rollout of Make Every Contact Count training – this will equip front line workers to develop a conversation with residents about their own health, wellbeing, social connectedness and support communities to help themselves more.
 - (f) Further connectivity across the Community Mentor Network – to ensure that best practice and information is shared across a network of people who work across communities.
- 20 Dr Ann Hoskins and Kay Burkett, LGA representatives have both offered valuable advice and support to date with the first priority being to further focus down on the specific area of focus of Mental Health, with their advice being to utilise the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategic Plan.
- 21 The Plan identifies five key areas of focus:
- (a) Children and Young People;
 - (b) Suicide Prevention;
 - (c) Crisis Care Concordat;
 - (d) Dementia
 - (e) Adults, Health and Wellbeing.
- 22 At a joint meeting of the Prevention Steering Group and the Mental Health Partnership Board, a sub group of the Health and Wellbeing Board, in January, it was agreed that the area of focus would be Suicide Prevention with workforce and reducing stigma and discrimination as key areas to be addressed. This work will be taken forward through a series of task and finish groups with progress reported

back to the CDP Board and this update report. It is important that all parts of the partnership are involved in identifying and achieving outcomes and this will include working with businesses through the Economic Partnership as well as engaging with children and young people through schools and out of school activities.

Altogether wealthier

- 23 The **County Durham Economic Partnership Board** was held on 17 October at Lanchester Wines, Annfield Plain. Lanchester Wines is an excellent example of a thriving and expanding locally grown business. Operating in the global bottling business alongside national niche products the company is currently employing over 300 people with an ambition to employ 500. The owner was keen to emphasise Durham as a great place to do business with plenty of opportunities, to support his business growth, including access to renewable energy technology. Of note in discussions was Lanchester Wines biggest ongoing challenge of access to a skilled labour force. Innovative approaches from them included establishing their own fork lift qualification and training programme.
- 24 The main focus of the meeting was to look at management of the EU Structural Funds programme but also to consider the wider investment programme for economic development in County Durham. This includes almost £3billion of investment received and planned across the County for the next 10 years. The board noted that County Durham continues to be open for businesses and the added value that partnership working is bringing from across private and public investments. The economic partnership board recognised the importance of continuing to build our pipeline of investment aligned to continue shaping of our strategic direction. It was also noted that this process would align well to supporting the shaping of the Local Plan preferred options for the summer of 2018.
- 25 In late November 2017, the Government published its Industrial Strategy which aims to create better, higher-paying jobs with investments in skills, industries and infrastructure, and has a long-term focus on improved productivity.
- 26 The strategy includes the four cross-cutting 'Grand Challenges' of artificial intelligence, clean growth, future mobility, and ageing society. It outlines four initial 'Sector Deals' for the life sciences, construction, artificial intelligence, and automotive sectors, with other sector deals in development. The strategy confirms that 2018 will be celebrated as the 'Year of Engineering' with the aim of raising the profile of the engineering sector and engineering professions to 7 to 16 year olds as well as teachers and parents.
- 27 The strategy is supported by a number of funding pots and commits to publishing plans soon for getting one million more disabled people into employment within the next 10 years. The government has committed to establishing an Industrial Strategy Council to commission research and monitor the implementation of the strategy and measure its outcomes. In addition, Mayoral Combined Authorities or Local Enterprise Partnerships will be required to prepare 'Local Industrial Strategies' for their areas.
- 28 This year's Future Business Magnates (FBM) competition was launched on 3 November. FBM is an annual competition designed to inspire enterprise skills among schoolchildren in year eight from across County Durham. The theme for this year's competition is Smart County Durham, which will challenge the teams to devise a smart solution to a problem they have identified in the region. Pupils will present their finished concept to the judges and winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in June 2018.

- 29 Influential names from the business world, including Bignall Group, Ebac, Hydram, Waterstons, CA Group, Robertsons Construction, Hodgson Sayers and Thorn Lighting, are partnering the 18 school teams from across the county to provide mentoring and support.
- 30 AAPs continue to work with people within their communities to mitigate against the impacts of welfare reform and other financial issues that people may face. This is across all age groups and often working with young people can impact on the financial management of parents. **Spennymoor AAP** has funded the Durham Savers Project, alongside the council's regeneration team, which support residents, young people and their families in through the employment of a Project Officer. They have engaged with local firms and schools to raise the financial awareness and capability of young people, by establishing a savings 'Bank' within the school, and salary savings schemes with local firms. This would then be used as a vehicle to engage parents, guardians, and school staff in financial issues and education, and discussions on the negative impact that poor financial management can have on their lives.
- 31 Progress continues to be steady across the project. Activity across the area has led to five schools commit to the project. A new collection point for the area was established at Spennymoor Youth Centre in January. It is anticipated that the volunteer training will begin shortly for the scheme.
- 32 Alongside this, membership of the credit union in the Spennymoor AAP area has increased to 160 members with the current members savings have risen to £52,942. Members borrowing in the area has increased to £144,080.
- 33 The growth of the membership of the NEfirst credit union has reached 13,300 and the proposed merger of the two credit unions should create further opportunities. A new payday loan platform for the credit union completed its pilot phase and has been launched in Durham via the DCC and AAP Facebook pages in December 2017.
- 34 **4Together AAP** has allocated its £10,000 welfare reform funding to a project supporting people with Personal Independence Payment and Employment Support allowance on a 1:1 basis for those in special circumstantial need. The project is provided by the LADDER Centre in Ferryhill who have supported 107 clients. The majority of these clients have required multiple appointments to deal with their complex benefit issues. To date, notification has been received of benefits awards to the value of £104,389 per year/£364,440 across the term of the award to clients of service.
- 35 **Weardale AAP** has funded a Rural Advice Worker for one day per week since April 2017 and to date they have secured over £45,000 of external funding. They are utilising a person centred model to address initial difficulties including trust and confidence before being able to address specific issues raised by those individuals engaging with the project.
- 36 Communication and awareness raising via flyers, press releases, face to face meetings with community members and giving talks as well as 'being visible' have helped to build up the client group.
- 37 As featured in previous update reports, a number of AAPs have supported the Wheels to Work project and this is now expanding to cover the **3 Towns Partnership, Mid Durham and Bishop Auckland Shildon (BASH) AAP** areas.
- 38 The project seeks to offer the loan of a scooter for a fixed period of time (usually 6 months) so that individuals for whom transport is a barrier to employment, can take

up an offer of paid work, apprenticeship or sustain employment where it may be otherwise at risk. It is open to people aged 16 and over, the majority of clients to date are in their 20s and 30s many with young families.

- 39 Individual participants in the scheme receive an initial assessment to: verify their offer of paid employment; agree a travel plan; confirm willingness to pay an agreed hire rate for the scooter; arrange for the participant to undertake the Compulsory Basic Training Course.
- 40 Participants receive a crash helmet and other outdoor safety clothing including over trousers, jacket, protective gloves and a bike lock. Scooter hire includes regular servicing and maintenance of vehicles as well as 24 hour break down recovery. Case studies from other areas of County Durham highlight that working and indeed passing a CBT test and using a scooter is making significant differences to peoples mental health, self-confidence and levels of stress, increasing time with family and quality of life, flexibility and availability for work thereby increasing hours of work and pay, social networking opportunities thus reducing social isolation.
- 41 **Chester-le-Street AAP** has recently started a constructive dialogue with the Refuse Café who are locating in the town's Front Street. This project takes potential food waste from various supermarkets and uses that to cook meals on a 'pay as you can' basis. The people behind the new venture are part of the AAPs Welfare Reform and Employability Task Group who are working with local partners such as Job Centre Plus to ensure clients are aware of the café and the various supports services that will be run from this location for residents. The AAP will consider a project proposal in spring aimed at supporting a number of training opportunities within the café.
- 42 Linked to the continued regeneration of the City Centre, **Durham AAP** continues to run a City Centre task group. This brings together partners to look at issues relating to development in the city centre area, including economic regeneration activities. Durham City Business Improvement District (BID) recently received support from the AAP to host the Durham City Nativity, which included camels and other animals. This event brought a number of people into the centre of Durham at a time when numbers may have been low. The group is also looking at Durham City's Neighbourhood plan and is also looking at how Durham Town Hall can become more accessible to the public and tourists. This group also covers issues linked to the Greener and Safer agendas.

Altogether better for children and young people

- 43 The **Children and Families Partnership** supports children, young people and families to achieve the best possible outcomes. The Partnership has a focussed set of priorities to maximise its impact:
- (a) Reducing Child Poverty
 - (b) Building Resilience
 - (c) Best Start in Life
- 44 In early 2017 the Student Voice Survey gathered the views of over 9,000 primary and secondary school pupils on issues such as teaching, safety, careers and health. The surveys highlighted some positive messages such as almost all (99%) of primary school pupils saying that their school teaches them to stay safe online and three quarters of secondary school pupils saying that school is important to them. The survey highlighted some issues which students are concerned about such as being more likely to be bullied, feeling safe and careers information.

Students' responses also highlighted some areas of concern for organisations such as alcohol and drug use, lack of physical activity and the impacts of living in deprivation.

- 45 Schools have been given their individual results to address key issues and to use as an evidence base to assist future planning. A countywide action plan is in development to coordinate an approach to the issues across organisations and support schools to make improvements.
- 46 Linked to this, **East Durham Rural Corridor (EDRC) AAP's** Young People's Wellbeing project supports the mental health and emotional wellbeing of vulnerable children and young people within the AAP area who are facing the following issues:
- (a) Caring for others
 - (b) Bullying and social isolation
 - (c) Bereavement and loss
 - (d) Family and relationship breakdown
- 47 A trained counsellor will lead the following activities across the AAP area:
- (a) Provide early help for vulnerable young people through individual therapeutic support and group sessions around key issues such as caring, bullying, bereavement and relationship breakdowns.
 - (b) Manage a student on clinical placement from The Institute for Arts in Therapy and Education (IATE) who will support vulnerable young people through art psychotherapy.
 - (c) Recruit, train and manage two peer mentors who will provide peer support for other vulnerable young people to ensure they feel listened to and supported.
 - (d) Work in partnership with schools, social and health services and other local organisations to develop and embed a 'Young Peoples Wellbeing Pledge' to raise awareness, support early identification of vulnerable young people and signpost them to appropriate services.
 - (e) Recruit, train and manage two volunteers who will support the delivery of the Young Peoples Wellbeing Project.
- 48 The Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge is an England-wide event where organisations open their doors to children and young people to listen to their views and get them involved in decision making. The Children and Families Partnership was awarded a Gold Commendation, the highest level of recognition by the Children's Commissioner for England, for the events which took place in 2016/17.
- 49 A programme of work was implemented to get children and young people involved in decision making throughout the year. Progress was made in developing the ways organisations engage with children and young people, improvements were made to the choice of products available in food banks, intergenerational projects and young people made valuable links with local businesses and the voluntary and community sector to each increase their understanding of the needs of the other and how organisations can better engage with children and young people.
- 50 The 2017/18 Takeover Challenge was launched on 24 November and approximately 200 young people have so far taken part in a range of activities. They were able to see what it was like to 'take over' key roles and share their thoughts. Children benefit from having their views heard, having fun and being

inspired, and partners get a fresh, unique and creative perspective on important issues.

- 51 The internet provides a vast supply of information on every topic but it is sometimes difficult for children and young people to navigate the myriad of websites available and they need to be signposted to information and support available in their local area. Partners have come together to support Just Simply Ask, a website which is aimed specifically at children and young people in County Durham.
- 52 The website has been designed by a team of young people to not only signpost to reliable sources of important information but to be a fun, interesting and informative social media site where young people can share and explore ideas and issues that matter to them. The website will help young people to find local groups they might want to join, where they can get discounts or where they can get advice on relationships, sport or drugs and alcohol. Professionals are being asked to provide live online 'Ask the Expert' chat sessions where they will discuss topics with young people such as apprenticeships, mental health, bullying or sexual health.
- 53 The Children and Families Partnership has gained reaccreditation for the Young Carers Charter for 2018-20. The Charter is awarded to schools, communities and organisations that demonstrate a commitment to consider the individual needs of children and young people who have a caring responsibility in the work that they do.
- 54 The Partnership's Investing in Children Membership Award has also been renewed and presented as a result of the partnership demonstrating ongoing dialogue with children and young people which results in change.
- 55 **EDRC** and Durham Cathedral are working together on a project to engage children and young people more closely with their communities through a programme of activities undertaken during the school day. Children and young people examine and learn about the wildlife, habitats, animal and plant life that lives around their schools, understand how habitats can be improved to encourage more wildlife to flourish and undertake activities to put what they have learnt into practice. Children and young people will be encouraged to develop their understanding of the local community and develop a sense of place through creative learning, culminating in a piece of collective art produced by the whole class. This project will bring the community closer together by engaging with different schools across the AAP area using the overarching theme of Armistice, the First World War and the impact on the local community. As at quarter 2, the progress on the milestones is that all schools have been contacted, and 1 school has booked all sessions.
- 56 The Children and Families Partnership has signed up to the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Promise to improve education, health, leisure and sport respite opportunities, transport, employment and information for young people with SEND.
- 57 The Promise was developed by the eXtreme Group which is recognised as a representative voice for children and young people with SEND living in County Durham. The group works together to identify how services can make positive changes based on the experiences of children and young people with SEND. They developed the Children and Young People's SEND Promise by sharing their views and identifying key themes that they would like to see prioritised.
- 58 The Children and Families Partnership have agreed to uphold more than 25 individual promises set out in the Promise charter including:
- (a) Promising to provide a high standard of education that is fun and engaging in a safe learning environment, and to support children and young people to become more

independent by providing training for them to travel on their own to their education and leisure activities

- (b) Promising to fully involve and prepare children and young people during the transition from children and young people's health care services to adult health care services
- (c) Promising to provide an accessible work environment inclusive to young people with SEND
- (d) Promising that within any service, we will listen to the voices of children and young people ensuring services continue to make improvements based on their experiences.

59 As highlighted in a previous report, it has been highlighted nationally and locally that an increasing number of young people are buying and drinking energy drinks. It has also been noted that many parents and carers were seeking advice around energy drinks. After discussing at task groups, the **3 Towns Partnership** approached **Bishop and Shildon (BASH) AAP** to see if they could link in with the work being carried out in their area. The project was led by LifeLine, supported and funded by BASH AAP, with support from partners including Health Express, creating the HYPER leaflet along with other resources. The leaflets raise awareness and provide information about Energy Drinks and give schools access to a resource that provides advice and guidance for families.

60 10,000 leaflets have been printed for the 3 Towns area, 8800 leaflets have been distributed so far to every child and young person in all of our schools across the 3 towns and leaflets have also been made available in community venues such as GP Surgeries, Libraries, Sports Centres, and Community Centres.

61 **Durham AAP's** Children and Young People task group meets regularly to look at the relevant issues and consider project ideas. Support has already been given to County Durham Guides to support improvements to their building and Durham City Centre's Duke of Edinburgh's scheme has received funding through the 'Youth Fund'. The recent Up to you event also supported projects working with disabled young people, young people living with Autism and youth work in the Laurel Avenue. A number of other projects are currently going through the approval process.

Altogether healthier

62 The **Health and Wellbeing Board** supports people to achieve their optimum health and wellbeing by helping people to be able to help themselves and others. The vision of the Board is to 'improve the health and wellbeing of the population of County Durham and reduce health inequalities'.

63 In January 2017 the Health and Wellbeing Board agreed the County Durham Oral Health Strategy. In line with the intentions set out in the strategy, options for water fluoridation are being explored.

- (a) Oral health is important for general health and wellbeing. Poor oral health can affect someone's ability to eat, speak, smile and socialise normally, for example due to pain or social embarrassment. Statistics reveal health inequalities in County Durham where 61% of children in Woodhouse Close have had experience of tooth decay, compared to only 6% in Chester-le-Street South. National statistics show that water fluoridation significantly reduces tooth decay, particularly in ethnic minority and deprived communities, and Public Health England recommends water fluoridation as a safe and effective measure.

- (b) A number of options have been considered to ensure that the initiative would benefit as many residents and provide the best value for money possible. In November 2017 the County Durham Health and Wellbeing Board agreed to progress the preferred option to the next stage of the process.
- (c) The simplest and most economic method of fluoridating the water supply of all County Durham residents would involve water treatment works that supply water to some properties within Sunderland and South Tyneside Council boundaries. If these local authorities agree then a technical appraisal of the engineering requirements and associated costs will progress, allowing partners to come to an agreement which can be submitted to the secretary of state and begin the process which will be taken forward by a joint committee and include a full public consultation.

64 Macmillan Joining the Dots County Durham is a partnership project between Durham County Council and Macmillan Cancer Support, which has been in place since November 2015. The project aims to make sure people affected by cancer receive early and continuing support from the point of diagnosis. The project was established to develop a new “social model” of support which will make sure that all people affected by cancer in County Durham have the opportunity to receive early support for their individual needs, from income and housing to housework or emotional support.

65 A public consultation on the proposed support model for the service took place between September and November 2017. The model includes an assessment of each person’s wide ranging needs and level of support required, ensuring that people access the services and their needs are met, and peer support from other people who have been affected by cancer. A key worker to coordinate the support would be based in the local community and the referral centre would be open on evenings and weekends. The final proposal and implementation plan is being progressed through the appropriate governance arrangements.

66 The number of people living with dementia in Durham and the UK is set to increase significantly and many of these people are not registered as having dementia with their GP. The County Durham Dementia Action Alliance is working to increase the number of Dementia Friendly Communities, promote existing support services and improve residents’ awareness and knowledge of dementia with a view to improve earlier diagnosis.

67 Area Action Partnerships and the Alzheimer’s Society have been working with Durham County Council’s Spatial Policy and Assets Management Teams to explore the needs of residents affected by dementia and ensure that these needs are taken into consideration in design and development decisions. This includes strengthening emerging planning policies to ensure people with dementia are actively engaged in local communities. So far there are plans to resurface footpaths, provide new seating and signage and assess access arrangements so that people with dementia can feel confident to get out in their local area.

68 Good housing and well planned neighbourhoods can have benefits for the wider community beyond people with dementia, including older people and families with young children. The positive and wide ranging discussions from these workshops and comments from the Alzheimer’s Society will be considered in terms of future planning applications and the County Durham Plan. Officers have looked at where these principles can be expanded to adapt practice in other areas such as transport.

- 69 This has been championed by several AAPs with **East Durham** leading the way, closely followed by **Mid Durham, Chester-le-Street, Derwent Valley and Stanley**. Work in East Durham has seen Dalton Park come forward and will commence in the New Year to make their shops, food outlets and cinemas dementia friendly. Three Housing Associations (County Durham Housing Group, Karbon and NorthStar) have linked in with the four previously mentioned AAPs to put in place a two year DFC Coordinator to support local communities to implement DFC across their geographical patches.
- 70 A key issue for all 14 AAPs and the Thematic Partnerships, especially the Health and Wellbeing Board, is social isolation. From April 2018 each AAP will manage a Social Isolation Fund which will support community led initiatives to meet local needs and impact upon County and AAP priorities as they relate to improving outcomes for older and younger people who are socially isolated. It will focus on encouraging participation in activities and projects that provide opportunities for those residents that are affected by social isolation and enable them to contribute positively to their local communities. Each AAP will receive £25,000 for the next three years, which has been allocated through the improved Better Care Fund to enable local preventative measures.
- 71 As an example of how this may be used locally, Age UK County Durham in partnership with **Mid Durham AAP** have used their allocation of social isolation funding in an attempt to lever in funding from the Social Action Fund (managed by the Lottery and Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport). A 'place based' intergenerational programme that will seek to bring residents of all ages together to examine such issues as physical, social and welfare wellbeing has been chosen by Durham County Council to be their 'flagship project. Only one project from each local authority can be entered with 20 projects from around the country being chosen for the first phase of this Funds programme. It has the potential to be a 7 year programme with £500,000 of funding available. Details of this will be announced in March.
- 72 The Social Resource Centre in the **EDRC AAP** is also supporting people who may become socially isolated, specifically linked to welfare reform. This project aims to improve the quality of life for people aged 60+ by supporting them into building friendships and attending activities and appointments. The aim was to accomplish this by providing transport solutions for older, older disabled people or people experiencing poverty due to welfare reforms, to access activities/ appointments and ensuring safe access. As at quarter two, the target of ten people being engaged in voluntary work was exceeded with a total of 20 people engaged.
- 73 **Weardale AAP** has taken a different approach to tackling social isolation as a result of the loss of a colleague from an environmental background to illness. A pilot project has been developed with the aim of knitting a forest. Working with the Forestry Commission, community groups, libraries and any interested parties, a pattern for knitting a Christmas tree decoration was developed. The trees were displayed and donations offered, with over £700 raised. The Forestry Commission will be supporting the planting of new indigenous trees by friends and family. In terms of community engagement, numerous groups became involved stating, that meeting new people with something to focus on, give them a reason for leaving the house.
- 74 **Stanley AAP** is to fund and support the reintroduction of the Stanley Car Scheme delivered by Supportive Ltd in 2018. The project uses locally based volunteer drivers and their vehicles to provide a door-to-door service helping the transport

needs of vulnerable and socially isolated people of all ages. People contribute to the cost of the transport depending on the length of the journey.

- 75 The service aims to prevent social isolation for the passengers and to help them achieve a better quality of life. Feedback from 83 year old service user: "I would go mad if I sat in my house looking at the four walls. The Transport Scheme has changed my life. I knew there was activities on out there but wouldn't be able to manage if it wasn't for this. Now I have something to look forward to. I use it nearly every week and sometimes more often."
- 76 A Group of volunteers from **Stanley AAP's** Supporting Stanley Task Group that focuses on the AAP's Health and Wellbeing and Older People priorities have come together to form a new Movers and Shakers in Stanley Group, MASS for short! The aim of the group is to improve the health and wellbeing of Stanley residents by providing light physical activity in a relaxed environment, giving hands on support in helping manage weight loss, nutritional advice and healthy cooking demonstrations.
- 77 The initial pilot will see Wellbeing for Life taking a lead on deliver and supporting the new Group's Volunteers to eventually manage and run the Group themselves. Along with Stanley AAP the Group have also received invaluable support from SHAID and Mental Health North East.
- 78 **Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP)**, in partnership with Woodham Village Community Association, is one of the first AAPs to deliver a Public Access Defibrillator Units and Cardiac Arrest Awareness Training project.
- 79 Neighbourhood Budget Funding was used towards the purchase of six Defibrillator Units to be used in the GAMP area. These comprise of four 24-hour public access units - housed in external secure cabinets. All units are in place around the community. A dedicated training unit has been used to deliver Cardiac Awareness training as part of the project.
- 80 Training for 198 people has now been completed. The last phase of training sessions planned for County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service and the North East Ambulance service is being organised to take place across various venues.

Altogether safer

- 81 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.'
- 82 To support its drive for continuous improvement the Safe Durham Partnership Board asked the Local Government Association (LGA) to undertake a Peer Review of the Partnership in September 2017. A team of peers led by the LGA worked as 'critical friends' or 'trusted advisors' to support the Safe Durham Partnership in reflecting on and improving practice by providing an external view on progress.
- 83 They used discussions, observations, workshops, focus groups and visits to community projects to gain an understanding as to whether the Safe Durham Partnership is working effectively to make a difference for frontline staff and the public. This included consideration of involvement with communities, focus on preventative work and progressing the partnership's priorities.
- 84 The peer team highlighted a number of key strengths including effective multi-agency problem solving, strong relationships between partners, innovation, internal challenge and openness to change. The relationship between the Safe Durham Partnership and Safer Stronger Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee was

identified as a strength. Area Action Partnerships were identified as a key asset with strong, consistent and ongoing relationships with communities.

- 85 The Safe Durham Partnership Board has used the feedback to identify areas to improve the partnership. Organisations will co-ordinate community safety key messages to the public and ensure consistent messages are delivered across the Safe Durham Partnership. The Partnership will engage more with communities to encourage individuals and third parties to report incidents of Hate Crime so that any trends or areas of concern can be highlighted and actions put in place to address the issues. People are encouraged to report tensions in communities to give authorities an understanding of the impact that conflict may have on our local communities and help them to shape the response.
- 86 In January 2017 a new approach was introduced to build the confidence of professionals working with children and young people in reporting and raising concerns on areas of risk that share common factors and where offending behaviour share common traits. Exploitation, Grooming and Radicalisation awareness-raising brings together staff working across different thematic areas to demonstrate the similarity between grooming and radicalisation. It highlights common behaviours shared by victims of grooming and radicalisation and common methods used by offenders. It highlights the way in which mobile technology is used to target children and young people and raises awareness of how it is possible to use knowledge from the sessions to prevent risky behaviours and recognise when a child may already be at risk. Sessions were held in January, May and October 2017, with over 800 people attending these seminars.
- 87 The Durham and Darlington Victims and Witnesses Group (VWG) works in partnership to ensure victims and witnesses receive end to end, co-ordinated care and support that enables them to cope and recover from their experience and participate in Criminal Justice Processes. The group is improving support and communications with the overall aim of ensuring victims are fully supported through the criminal justice process and are able to give their best evidence as required.
- 88 A successful bid to the Home Office Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Service Transformation Fund County Durham and Darlington for £310,000 will fund a multi-agency intervention which aims to tackle those non-high risk perpetrators identified within the significant volume of calls to the police and referrals to children's social care. The project will provide a range of interventions which aims to stop the abusive behaviour. As well as working with individuals to support them to change their behaviour, the intervention will raise awareness of the unacceptability of domestic abuse.
- 89 Harbour Support Services have been awarded regional funding from the Big Lottery to roll out The Recovery Programme. This will provide long term support for women and girls affected by domestic abuse to sustain positive change in their lives. Women will be offered an extended service once they leave the existing core Harbour Services. Three years of funding was secured which will provide specialist workers, weekly survivor groups, ongoing access to 1:1 support and development of the peer mentoring service.
- 90 Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is conducting a review into cybercrime and preventing young people from being engaged or remaining in cybercrime activity. The scope of this work will focus on victims of cyber crime as well as offenders. So far the review has involved working with young people to increase their awareness of what cybercrime activity is and help them to divert their digital skills into more appropriate channels.

- 91 **Teesdale and Stanley AAPs** are the latest to support older vulnerable residents through the 'Beat the Scammers' initiative.
- 92 The project is being delivered by Age UK County Durham and aims to prevent older people becoming victims of telephone fraud. Age UK County Durham are currently working with partner organisations to give older people the confidence to protect themselves against fraudulent callers. A key part of the project is the installation of Call Blocker Units in their homes.
- 93 As part of the project Age UK County Durham has recruited and trained volunteers to support the project through giving presentations to older people across the community about how to deal with cold telephone calls (both recorded and live). The volunteers demonstrate how people can protect themselves from being a victim of scam calls, promote free services such as the Telephone and Mail Preference Services and raise awareness of how technology such as 'call blockers' work.
- 94 All participants receive a 'Beat the Scammers Information Pack' with key messages. Participants complete a feedback form which will enable Age UK to confidentially identify those who are eligible for a call blocker from the project.
- 95 **Bishop Auckland and Shildon (BASH) AAP** is funding a project aimed at children and young people called Chrysalis. This supports children, young people and their families who are survivors of domestic abuse. The project takes a complete approach in supporting the family to develop better relationships and coping strategies to recover from the traumatic experience of living in an abusive home.

Altogether greener

- 96 The last **County Durham Environment Partnership Board** was held on 5 December. With Oliver Sherratt, Head of Direct Services now confirmed as Chair of the partnership, the board was keen to review the strategic priorities going forward. Building on excellent partner participation at the board, including Durham Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency and Durham Community Action, the board agreed the Environment Partnership priorities (which include, Place, Low Carbon, Communities and Natural Environment). Actions will now be developed alongside these with wider considerations for sub groups.
- 97 The Board was also keen to review our local priorities alongside the Local Nature Partnership (North East Nature Partnership, NENP) but also hear about funding opportunities and working together to deliver them. The board agreed better integrated priorities with the NENP to add value for funding and delivery opportunities with regional partners. The board also discussed the Joint Health & Well Being Strategy and possible high level interventions which we agreed would be key environmental factors for Reducing Health Inequalities by addressing the social determinants of Health.
- 98 The 28th annual Environment Awards were held on the 23 November and were once again an outstanding success. This year saw 53 entries to the awards from all areas of County Durham. Judges had a very difficult task and in the end shortlisted 33 entries. Of these entries, 12 were given the award of Category Winner and 21 were Highly Commended. Once again, there was a wide range of excellent projects, which highlighted the commitment of individuals, and groups who give up their time to make County Durham a better place for people to live and visit. Volunteers from all over the county are working hard, dedicating their time to improve their local environment. The board recognised these awards as a unique opportunity to celebrate their fantastic achievements and discussed developments

for next year. Winners are referenced in the winter edition of the Environment Partnership newsletter.

- 99 The board also discussed the success of Durham County Council's environmental programme, 'Operation Spruce Up' which recently won the 'Campaign of the Year' at environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy's Network Awards 2018. The board noted the positive feedback this programme had received since its launch in November 2016. Twelve areas across the county have now benefited from a 'spruce up' involving jet washing; painting; gully cleaning; shrub planting; highways re-marking and much more. Children at Ferryhill Primary School, took part in a poster competition to encourage people to keep the village clean and tidy. Spruce Up is now taking place in Coundon.
- 100 **Derwent Valley Partnership (DVP)** will award Environment Improvement grants in early spring 2018 enabling communities who were successful in their applications to enhance their local environment, village or neighbourhood. The funding was for 'capital' items so groups were encouraged to think of 'feature' or 'statement' items they felt would enhance a more general environmental improvement scheme. Groups also signed up for the RHS Its Your Neighbourhood awards as part of the grant conditions. This model is an enhancement for the DVP area to the current County-wide Environment Grant operated through civic pride.
- 101 Local communities in the AAP area this spring are being encouraged to sign up to the 'clean and tidy Derwent Valley' awards to help encourage people to care more for their neighbourhoods and villages in which they live. Awards for the efforts made by volunteers will take place locally in the autumn, having been judged in the summer 2018.
- 102 Working with Teesdale Community Resources, **Teesdale Area Partnership (TAP)** is helping to develop a natural woodland site within Barnard Castle. Deepdale Wood is an ancient natural woodland, which has been continuously wooded for over 400 years. The site is valuable natural habitat for local wildlife. In order to encourage local wildlife and maintain the woodland, as a community resource, TAP funding has been used to improve access to the site and provide funding towards a programme that will recruit and train local people in woodland management skills. In addition, TAP funding has also been provided to install interpretation boards and construct a new footbridge. To date the project has recruited and trained 11 local volunteers.
- 103 **East Durham AAP** has funded a range of environmental projects in recent months:
- a. Interpretation panels to be installed at Easington Local nature reserve and Castle Eden Dene which look to cure pollution in the tributary and its catchment streams;
 - b. Greenscape provided some youth trips to support young people taking part in the John Muir award in environmental education and skills;
 - c. Deneside saw an access gate Walton Avenue to prevent flytipping on the old pit site;
 - d. A Community allotment at Seaview Primary School as well as Station Road allotments in Horden benefitted from local neighbourhood budgets.

Recommendations and reasons

- 104 It is recommended that Cabinet 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