

## **Cabinet**

**17 October 2018**

## **County Durham Partnership Update**



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### **Report of Corporate Management Team**

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**Councillor Simon Henig, Leader of the Council**

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

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#### **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, safeguarding boards 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 (CDP) continues to lead on and address key strategic issues. A new vision for the County Durham Partnership is being developed which focuses on a key set of priorities. A three stage approach which is both top down and bottom up is being used.
- 3 The AAP priority survey has been launched which will seek the views of all residents (including children and young people) within County Durham on what priority themes and issues they consider the AAPs and their partners should be tackling in 2019/20 and 2020/21. The survey will also provide a 'snapshot' of residents views at the end of September to enable a report to be provided for the CDP's visioning exercise.
- 4 In December 2017, the County Durham Partnership committed to end mental health discrimination in County Durham. Various events are taking place to raise awareness and encourage people to talk about mental health and suicide. This includes the prevention work focusing on mental health at scale in County Durham, the County Durham Partnership Event which took place on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and celebrated World Mental Health day, the first voluntary and community service (VCS) led forum which started with the topic of mental health, Stamp it Out campaign for young people and Time to Talk Time to Walk initiatives for workplaces.
- 5 Following the Wood Review and the Children and Social Work Bill in 2016, new safeguarding arrangements were passed into law through the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The new local safeguarding arrangements will be led by three Safeguarding Partners: Local Authorities; Chief Officers of Police and Clinical Commissioning Groups.
- 6 The Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) Business Unit has led on the development of the slavery and human trafficking statement.

- 7 A draft Children and Young People's Strategy is being developed, on the back of significant changes in the context for children's services delivery nationally and in Durham. In addition, the statutory Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Safe Durham Partnership Plan will be reviewed as well as the non-statutory Council Plan by the end of March 2019.
- 8 Community groups and voluntary organisations across County Durham have benefited from almost £40 million in grants during the past nine years and the Area Action Partnerships have celebrated their 5,000<sup>th</sup> grant award since the last report. The grant has been awarded through the **Durham AAP** to King's Church Durham - Achor Community. The group, which aims to reduce social isolation and build community cohesion in the Sherburn Road area of Durham City, has received £10,450 from Durham AAP.
- 9 Partnership working with **Faith Communities** is integral to social cohesion and connectedness. This was highlighted in a breakfast seminar focusing on social isolation introduced by the Director of Public Health and bringing together elected members, officers, partners and faith communities in a roundtable conversation. The seminar acknowledged the role of faith groups as being embedded within communities, well able to recognise local need and offer important services, particularly for marginalised and isolated groups.
- 10 A Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award is to be presented to the Council in recognition of the positive attitudes and policies adopted by the council towards serving personnel and veterans of the **Armed Forces**.
- 11 A programme of events and activities are taking place across the County in commemoration of the end point in the First World War. AAPs have been involved with a number of commemorative events and a Durham City annual remembrance parade to raise awareness with local communities as well as a Festival of Remembrance Concert on 10 November is being held to focus on the centenary.
- 12 To support reducing child poverty a number of AAPs have developed holiday activity programmes to assist and encourage residents who may find themselves under increased financial pressures during the school holidays, as well as providing opportunities for families to socialise.

### **Key Partnership Activity and Developments**

- 13 The **County Durham Partnership Board** has met three times since the last update report. March's meeting had two main items: Balance North East and Business Durham. Balance North East provided information on the measures used to tackle alcohol harm reduction in County Durham including affordability and availability. The Board will continue to request updates on this development as it progresses, which includes work that is ongoing with Balance in relation to raising the support for a Minimum Unit Price (MUP) and a national fund available to support an alcohol free childhood to the sum of around £6m. The Chair of the County Durham Partnership wrote to local MPs and Ministers to request support for Minimum Unit pricing in England. This follows commitment through a motion to Council in relation to supporting MUP and the endorsement and signing of a Local Government Declaration on Alcohol. Business Durham highlighted in their presentation that there is a skills shortage in the County and the need to match skills to employment opportunities.
- 14 The April Board discussed Drug and Alcohol treatment services which included an overview of the new provider and new model of provision for Drug and Alcohol Treatment services in County Durham which focusses around the needs of the

individual and their families. There is also a bespoke children and young people's team and a focus on Looked after Children. The Board also discussed the work with the Armed Forces and veterans and it was highlighted how important it is that the CDP celebrates the work undertaken with the armed forces as part of the Covenant signed by the County Durham Partnership in 2012.

- 15 The September board discussed the options for a new County Vision, the Partnership event held on 10<sup>th</sup> October and the establishment of a Health and Social Care Plan for Durham.
- 16 The County Durham Partnership event provided an opportunity to inform delegates about the work that is taking place on the review of the County Durham Vision. This included feedback on the first stage, which looked at the development of insight of what the public and performance evidence is telling us. It also included the timeline of initial consultation with the public, sharing the emerging findings, testing with partners and broader public consultation.
- 17 As part of Stage 2 of the consultation, during November the Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) will focus on providing qualitative feedback and gaining feedback from members of the public in relation to the County Durham Vision. In particular, sense checking the findings of the Insight work and hoping to frame the potential contribution of local communities towards its implementation as well as what success would look like. Stage 3 will be to consult on a draft vision document in early 2019.
- 18 The **CDP Forum** in June focused on two main items, the County Durham Plan and championing the environment. The County Durham Plan focused on the preferred options and initial feedback felt that transport, having sustainable and vibrant town centres and service infrastructure, for example GP surgeries needed to be considered; that housing should be of the right type to meet all needs including older persons and the Plan should consider health impacts.
- 19 The Chair of the Environment Partnership presented the "Plan on a Page" for comment. Most partners agreed with the areas of focus for the Environment Partnership. Good suggestions were made in relation to contributions AAPs, organisations and communities could make which will be taken forward by the Environment Partnership when developing the accompanying action plan. Further details can be found later in this report on the Environment Partnership.
- 20 Partnership working with the **Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)** continues to develop. The strategic VCS Working Group held its last meeting at the end of March, and the council and partners have now moved to a new way of working and collaborating with the sector by making use of the Better Together VCS Forum. In addition to this, other networks such as Advice in County Durham, the Volunteer Coordinators Network and the Share & Learn Network are used as access points for managers, commissioners and elected members to share information, consult and have dialogue with a wider cohort of stakeholders. The Better Together Forum is VCS led and brings together lead officers from larger and specialist VCS organisations operating countywide. It is chaired by Jo Laverick, Executive Director of Durham Community Action and the VCS Representative on the County Durham Partnership Board, and meets bi-monthly.
- 21 The first in a series of six-monthly VCS led forums, which are themed on specific policy areas which affect our communities, was held in July with a focus on Mental Health. The forum was convened to look at how the public sector and the VCS are responding to mental health needs in the County, particularly through partnership approaches, how support is commissioned and what potential there is for services

to be more aligned and responsive. The event highlighted some key messages for both public sector commissioners and the VCS, in particular the need to understand each other's constraints and the need for more collaborative working both within the VCS and between the VCS and commissioners.

- 22 The Council was one of the sponsors of the County Durham Volunteering Celebration organised by Durham Community Action and which took place in Durham Cathedral to mark volunteers' week. Over 200 volunteers received certificates at a formal ceremony to say thank you for their valuable contribution to our community.
- 23 The important contribution that **Faith Communities** play in addressing health and wellbeing concerns continues to be explored through engagement events with the AAPs. In July, **Durham AAP** heard about a considerable number of initiatives taking place in churches and faith groups which are responding to the needs of all age groups as well as highlighting the opportunities for future collaboration between faith groups and the AAP, especially around social isolation.
- 24 **East Durham and Spennymoor AAPs** hosted Faith and Wellbeing events to bring together the faith community and investigate ways of working together to address issues such as mental health, wellbeing and dementia.
- 25 The Council has gained national recognition from the Ministry of Defence for its support of the **Armed Forces community**. A Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award is to be presented in recognition of the positive attitudes and policies adopted by the council towards serving personnel and veterans of the Armed Forces. Most recently this includes the creation of an Armed Forces Outreach Service in partnership with other local authorities in the region and the introduction of a guaranteed interview scheme for veterans to help those who meet essential criteria overcome barriers to recruitment opportunities.
- 26 A number of AAPs have been involved in a range of commemorative events throughout 2018 in recognition of the World War 1 Centenary. In **Bishop Auckland and Shildon (BASH) AAP** a memorial garden has been created to honour all of the Witton Park residents who lost their lives during military service. The Fighting Bradfords were a family of four brothers and one sister, most born in Witton Park. All four brothers were decorated for their service during the First World War but only one brother survived. Uniquely, two of the brothers George and Roland Bradford were awarded the Victoria Cross (VC), the only known instance of brothers being awarded this medal.
- 27 The Garden has received much press coverage and was featured on BBC and Look North as part of the VC Commemorations. In addition the Garden was nominated for a Durham County Council Environment award under the Places and Spaces category in November 2017 and was highly commended.
- 28 In **East Durham AAP** an event to install a John Scott Youll (JSY) Victoria Cross commemoration stone and interpretation board in the grounds of the new build Village Centre in Thornley, which was constructed on the site of Thornley Pit. This is in recognition that JSY worked in Thornley Pit as an electrician before going off to war, and returning as a local hero.
- 29 **BASH AAP** has continued to facilitate visits from the **F and P Scotto Charitable Trust** and has introduced the trust to a number of worthy causes not only in the BASH AAP area but also across the County. This is an excellent and unique opportunity for the AAP to provide additional support and funding to groups in the area. F and P Scotto Charitable Trust has invested over £750,000 into the area

over the last four years with a total of 91 projects receiving funding. With further visits planned and decisions outstanding, it is forecast that this figure will increase further by the end of the year. Primarily the funding has gone to groups in the BASH AAP area however support has also gone into other AAP areas.

### **Prevention at Scale**

- 30 The Prevention Steering Group has progressed its work significantly since the last report to Cabinet. An action plan has been developed and is being implemented across the four main workstreams of:
- a. Building Best Practice;
  - b. Maximising External Funding;
  - c. Reducing the Demand for Services
  - d. Mental Health at Scale work.
- 31 County Durham was successful in its bid to become one of 15 pilot areas for the national Prevention at Scale offer which involves the Local Government Association (LGA) providing up to 20 days of support and advice to deliver at scale a preventative approach that will significantly change health outcomes for local people.
- 32 The focus of the Mental Health at scale work in County Durham is on:
- a. men aged 40-49 at risk of taking their own life;
  - b. children and young people at risk of self-harm
  - c. addressing the stigma and discrimination of mental health within the wider community
- 33 Through the programme, further external support has been secured through the LGA from the Design Council (government advisor on design) and Social Engine (behaviour change experts). A multi-agency team of officers have attended a series of workshops with the Design Council culminating in a session for Senior Leaders where analytical and practical tools will be taught and utilised to address the areas of focus as well as any future work.

### **Altogether wealthier**

- 34 The **County Durham Economic Partnership** met in July with a specific focus on the County Durham Plan. The consultation on the preferred options ran from 22 June – 3rd August 2018. This included consultation across thematic partnerships, AAPs, CDP forum, Community Groups and a broad range of business and VCS partnerships.
- 35 The Economic Partnership Board as part of the consultation focused on understanding four key strategic challenges that link with the Regeneration statement and would provide a platform for future discussions with partners. The key areas included how the plan can support:
- a. our economic ambition for the County,
  - b. our infrastructure,
  - c. delivery of the right homes in the right places,
  - d. rural employment issues.

- 36 Partners discussed these challenges with the Durham County Council Spatial Policy team who are now looking to ensure these challenges are addressed in the pre-submission plan.
- 37 Following the consultation period the representations received together with any updated evidence will be used to inform the Pre-Submission Draft Plan which will be the final stage of consultation prior to Examination-In-Public. In accordance with the Local Development Scheme the Pre-submission Draft will be published in Winter 2018/19 for consultation before being considered by Full Council and submitted for Examination-in-Public Spring/Summer 2019. A County Sustainable Environment Plan has also been produced as part of the Local Plan to ensure environment priorities are intrinsic to future sympatric developments envisaged through the local plan.
- 38 Working in partnership across the thematic partnerships is really important for Altogether Wealthier and the environment is an element of this cross cutting approach. Areas include:
- a. A thriving attractive natural environment creates a place where people want to invest
  - b. Job opportunities in the field of green industries and ecotourism
  - c. Improvement to quality and sustainability of our lives
  - d. Healthy environment supports healthy communities and increases productivity
- 39 Recent activities by the County Durham Economic Partnership which support these objectives include celebrating recent success in the Visitor Economy. In recent years Visit Durham has directly supported growth in the visitor economy. This has included new branding like the Place of Light campaign, new product development with events like Kynren and a continued support for the County's tourism businesses.
- 40 Newly published research in July 2018 measuring the volume and value of tourism has revealed that the county's ambitious tourism targets have been exceeded three years ahead of schedule. Commissioned by Visit County Durham, the STEAM economic impact model – which assesses data from attractions, accommodation, events, transport and visitor expenditure – shows that tourism was worth £867m to the county's economy in 2017. The record growth reflects a 15% increase from the £752m benchmark set in 2014, exceeding the 2020 projected target of £863m as stated in the Durham Tourism Management Plan 2016-2020. An increase in tourism that is well managed and sustainable ensures that job opportunities in the field of eco-tourism continues to be at the fore of a growing County.
- 41 Slitt Wood is valuable tourism asset in Weardale and additional enhancement works were undertaken in order to 'future-proof' the pathway against future potential damage in subsequent stormy weather. **Weardale AAP** worked with partners to repair a footpath in Slitt wood which had been storm damaged. Due to the success of this project the Weardale AAP and Visit County Durham are now working with a local walking group to obtain recognition for Wolsingham and Weardale in general as a 'Walkers Are Welcome' accredited destination.
- 42 As part of the BRASS festival in July, **Chester le Street AAP** supported a local BRASS performance by delivering a 'street ceilidh' in the Town Centre to support local tourism.

- 43 Working with the Environment Partnership the Economic Partnership has fostered closer working through low carbon activities. A recent example of this is the County Durham Business Energy & Efficiency Programme (BEEP). The Business Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP) has been designed to help County Durham Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) make financial savings through energy efficiency. Energy audits and direct support are free to any participating SME. A grant fund is also available that can financially support the installation of energy efficient equipment.
- 44 BEEP is in partnership with Durham County Council, Business Durham, The North East Chamber of Commerce, The Federation of Small Business, The North East Local Enterprise Partnership, and Northern Powergrid has been supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Programme 2014-2020.
- 45 To support this, **East Durham AAP** has replaced the old two boilers at the Robin Todd Centre with a more energy efficient system which will reduce running costs as well as the carbon footprint making the building more energy efficient.
- 46 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. In December 2017 Universal Credit moved to full service for residents in the **3 Towns AAP**. Citizens Advice are delivering a Universal Credit Assistance to ensure that they know how and when to claim and helping claimants be compliant with the requirements of Universal Credit. From January to the end of June 2018 residents have been supported with 164 Advice sessions and 71 Digital Support sessions.
- 47 Working with Colleagues at Bishop Auckland College, **Teesdale Area Partnership (TAP) AAP** will see the launch of three funds to support job seekers in Teesdale. The three project strands/funds are:
- a. 'Employability Skills Fund' – To respond to specific training needs for unemployed clients.
  - b. 'Discretionary Fund' - To remove barriers preventing clients from accessing training/work, i.e. childcare/travel/equipment/occupational licences
  - c. 'Upskilling/Diversification Fund' – To support clients employed in lower skilled/low paid occupations, to provide the opportunity to gain the required qualifications/skills to progress to the next level, change direction or work in dual roles in line with labour market demands/sector gaps.

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

- 48 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
- 49 To support reducing child poverty a number of AAPs have developed holiday activity programmes. **3 Towns AAP** has invested £24,785 funding 3 local organisations to deliver holiday activities with nutritional food and snacks from the summer and all holidays for the next year in Crook, Willington and Tow Law. A wide range of activities and experiences are being offered to children and families from themed arts and crafts, days, storytelling, fun science, nature reserve activities to a wide range of offsite trips with all activities include nutritious food. In addition,

eight organisations were successful in receiving grants for a range of holiday activities including Dance and Drama workshops themed on the musical Hairspray; A cultural trip to London to the imperial War museum to research for a play; Family cooking sessions; Wildlife experience days; 2 Summer Football camps; A range of sporting activities 5 days a week and Mischief Makers activities in two Local Libraries. Many of these activities also include food as part of the programme.

- 50 AAPs in the East funded holiday activities with **East Durham AAP** awarding funding of £25,002 to 14 organisations with a total value of £58,094.50 and **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP** funding of £16,867 to seven organisations, leaving £18,133 remaining for a second round of funding to be launched in time for either the October holidays or Easter 2019..
- 51 Partnership working facilitates the promotion of environmental education, which can help children and young people to connect with open spaces and the environment. The Environment Partnership encourages the development of neighbourhoods as a place for children and young people to meet friends and socialise.
- 52 As part of the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge, young people took key people from DCC's Clean and Green Team, Civic Pride Officers, wardens, school representatives, and County Councillors on a 'walkabout' in Kelloe to identify issues in their local area for action. The actions included litter and fly tipping to be removed, dog foul bins to be replaced, involvement in the Big Spring Clean and a Public Space Protection Order poster to be included in the school newsletter.
- 53 In **4 Together AAP**, two Primary Schools in Ferryhill, Dean Bank Primary School and Broom Cottages Primary School were visited as part of Spruce Up and were given an educational assembly on the work being carried out in the area and the importance of looking after the environment. Both Schools took part in a poster competition with the winning poster being displayed around Ferryhill via posters and bin stickers. In addition to the work done in the local Primary Schools, the Civic Pride Team also worked with a local community group, Positive Horizons, to carry out a litter pick of Dean Bank Park where a total of 12 bags of rubbish were collected.
- 54 County Durham Skill Mill provides environmental work in communities across the county for young people who have offended, who are paid national minimum wage for four days work and attend college one day per week. The initiative gives the young people important skills and qualifications to help them get into full time work whilst improving the local environment. The type of tasks they undertake include clearing rivers and streams, culverts/drains, removing rubbish, maintaining gardens, flood prevention, planting and general land management and habitat maintenance.
- 55 Work undertaken so far has included clearing a right of way and park path for Middridge Parish Council, clearing allotments in West Cornforth, Langley Moor, Stanley and Oakenshaw, renovating park benches in Sherburn, and installing a fence and gate in Meadowfield. Various further projects are planned with town and parish councils and the Skill Mill are working with partners to develop links to further suitable commissioned work and pathways to employment.
- 56 Children and Young people who are in contact with the youth justice system (YJS) are generally a socially excluded population, with significant complex health needs linked to underlying factors such as low educational attainment, unidentified speech, language and communication needs (SLCN), mental health issues and increased risk taking behaviour relating to smoking, drug and alcohol use and risky sexual activity.

- 57 A refreshed Children and Young People's Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience Local Transformation Plan (CYP LTP) for 2018/19 will be submitted to NHS England this month. Comprehensive engagement has taken place with stakeholders, partners and schools on the CYP LTP which reflects the vision and principles of the national 'Future in Mind' strategy and the 5 year forward view for mental health. The CYP LTP has a real ambition to develop the workforce so that everyone working with children, young people and families is ambitious for them to achieve appropriate goals. Successes to date include a flexible and responsive service 24/7, 365 days a year for children and young people experiencing a health crisis, bereavement support service provision and enhanced community eating disorder services for children and young people.
- 58 Twelve clear ambitions are to be realised by 2020 to achieve the LTP vision for County Durham:
- 'We want Children, Young People and their Families in County Durham to be supported to achieve their optimum mental health and wellbeing. Every child and young person will have access to early help in supporting their emotional and mental health needs. We want to develop children and young people's resilience and coping strategies. We will transform the quality and availability of our services from early help through to specialist provision. Local services will be locally delivered within communities, closer to home, targeted to the most vulnerable ensuring fewer children and young people require specialist mental health services.'*
- 59 This year, for the first time, young people who are looked after by Durham County Council, have helped to write the 2017-18 Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report. The young people from the County Durham Children in Care Council (CICC) have influenced the content, writing style and design of the annual report, to ensure it is easy to read and understand. The report has been adopted by the Corporate Parenting Panel as their annual report and hosted on the DCC website.
- 60 The Corporate Parenting Panel has recently appointed a young person from the CICC as a co-opted member of the Corporate Parenting Panel to ensure the voice of the child is reflected in discussions and decision making.
- 61 Work is taking place to ensure elected members, officers of DCC and young people are aware of the Corporate Parenting Panel, and that elected members and young people who are looked after understand the role of a corporate parent.
- 62 A Children and Young People's Strategy is being written in response to significant changes in context for children's services delivery nationally and in Durham. The revised high level strategy framework will focus on the wider determinants of health and addressing the improvements required in services for children and young people.
- 63 A vision statement has been developed along with four key aims, underpinned by fundamental principles for delivery. Consultation on the draft strategy is well underway, including engagement with children and young people, and the new Strategy will be presented to the Integrated Care Board for agreement in November 2018.
- 64 The **Great Aycliffe and Midridge (GAMP) AAP** Board has adopted the Young Carers Charter which outlines their support for young carers
- 65 **BASH AAP** supported a variety of youth activities, including, holiday activities at Auckland Youth and Community Centre, Bereavement Support for young people at

Butterwick hospice, Young Carer support with Family Action and an activity space for the 2nd Bishop Auckland Scouts.

### **Altogether healthier**

- 66 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'.
- 67 Partners work together to reduce health inequalities by addressing social determinants of health, including housing, fuel poverty and planning. Links between health and the environment stimulate work to increase active opportunities within communities and promote access to the 'green gym' of the outdoors.
- 68 The **Active Durham Partnership** engages organisations in promoting and supporting physical activity for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. The partnership looks at policy, physical environment, organisations, social environment and individuals to understand the needs and barriers for specific groups such as older people, women and girls and place based. The Beat the Street pilot in Ferryhill and Chester le Street involved over 8,000 participants walking, jogging, running and cycling nearly 67,000 miles to clock up points at various locations around their local area.
- 69 A number of AAPs have projects in their areas relating to increasing physical activity. **Chester le Street AAP** developed a project to tackle obesity in men, building on a national model 'Man v Fat Football leagues'. Players are put into teams and league points are awarded based not only on the football results but on collective weight loss of the Team. Support and peer mentors form part of the project. This will be piloted in County Durham for the first time within the AAP area. DCC Sport and Leisure are the lead delivery partner.
- 70 '**Active Valley**' will build on the programme above in **Mid Durham AAP** and look at what else along the Valley people can take part in from volunteering with Ushaw and Fruitful Durham out in the fresh air, to being part of the new primary school. Active 30 project which is getting primary schools to pledge to do more physical activity during school hours. The project seeks to work with more than 14 community venues and groups across the valley as well as over 20 volunteers and inspire more than 400 residents into sustaining regular physical activity. The project is managed by Durham County Council's Culture and Sport with an AAP grant of £10,000 which will be used to develop networks, provide marketing and information, equipment and incentives where necessary to get residents more active. The project run alongside '**Active Shildon**' to provide possible urban and rural models that Active Durham can use and roll out across the county.
- 71 **Derwent Valley AAP** has a programme of cycle rides, walks, bikeability courses and training courses targeted at families and retired people. The programme also identifies and promotes six walking, cycling and running routes for a range of abilities and distances. The aim is to support the reduction of environmental impacts in the Derwent Valley by promoting and improving opportunities for sustainable travel through the identification and implementation of schemes that promote walking, cycling and the use of public transport.
- 72 **Stanley AAP** has endorsed Greening the Gap 2, a programme of guided learning, tutoring, expert and peer support for participants to gain new skills and social confidence by participating in an innovative, tailored, specific skills programme over the summer. Participants included a blend of local residents experiencing/have

experienced multiple mental health issues and challenges, and older people at risk of isolation. The programme was delivered by Muddy Boots in partnership with Mental Health North East.

- 73 Durham County Council Culture and Sport service has taken on additional responsibilities for wellbeing. This includes providing a range of local groups in libraries, gyms and the countryside as well as arts, music and exercise working closely with the new Wellbeing for Life service.
- 74 **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP** funded project a to pay for transport and other associated costs, to provide opportunities for people aged 60+ and disadvantaged people to take part in painting/drawing excursions to sites/ locations, including those of historic or natural interest and exhibitions throughout the County. This funding has led to the weekly art sessions being transferred to a much larger room within Bowburn Community Centre to accommodate the increased numbers of members.
- 75 The target of 50 people being given access to new cultural, sporting and recreational opportunities has been exceeded and the outcome of older and disabled people living in rural areas enjoying increased access to activities has been achieved.
- 76 The Health and Wellbeing Board has agreed the Dementia Strategy, including the rollout of dementia friendly communities which has continued at a pace. Dementia friendly work has been developed and implemented in Beamish museum, which is seen by many museums as an example of good practice. Work with Dalton Park and Durham City Centre has commenced to make sure their shops, food outlets and cinemas are dementia friendly. Three Housing Associations have linked with four of the Area Action Partnerships to put in place a two year Coordinator post to support local areas to implement Dementia Friendly Communities.
- 77 The Dementia Friendly Communities (DFC) Coordinator (managed by the Alzheimer's Society) for **Mid Durham, Chester le Street, Stanley and Derwent Valley AAP's** alongside Housing colleagues Karbon, Durham County Housing Group and North Star came into place in May. In **Mid Durham AAP** work has already started to develop Lanchester and Brandon into DFC's.
- 78 The Health and Wellbeing Board initiated work with the Alzheimer's Society and the Council's Spatial Policy and Assets Teams to consider the effectiveness of emerging planning policies. Planning policies are being strengthened to ensure that the needs of people living with dementia are considered through the decisions about planning applications, helping to ensure that our neighbourhoods are for life, and extend the active participation of older people with dementia in their local communities.
- 79 **TAP AAP** is working on an intergenerational project with the YMCA (Teesdale). The 'Intergen Project' will see young people from the YMCA youth club in Barnard Castle attend the Manor House Care home to deliver an activity with the residents. The activities that are carried out involve arts and crafts which are stimulating for those with dementia. The young people help the residents of Manor House complete the activities.
- 80 Health and Social Care Integration in County Durham is well underway. A new role of Director of Integrated Community Services manages this work, replacing the previous Director of Integration post. A new integrated model for NHS Community will be managed alongside adult social care services. Governance arrangements are in place to include children and young people's services in the integration

agenda. Teams Around Patients are now operational across the county, designed to promote prevention and independence and deliver care in the community in line with local need.

- 81 A Health and Social Care plan for County Durham is being developed as a clear strategy for County Durham which will allow us to feed into the regional arena from a position of strength.
- 82 In line with the statutory responsibilities of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the recommendations of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment have been agreed which concluded that there are no current gaps in service delivery. As a key Health and Wellbeing Board partner, Healthwatch collected feedback from the public about how they access pharmaceutical services and their overall views of the services they receive. An action plan has been implemented which reflects the Health and Wellbeing Board's ambition to develop locally commissioned services to further support targets in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. These services will focus on the growing older population, incorporating pharmacy services into Teams Around Patients, the further expansion of pharmacy based public health services and promotion of self-care.

### **Altogether safer**

- 83 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'.
- 84 How we use public space can play a vital role in reducing criminal or anti-social behaviour and environment enhancement schemes can deter crime and help people to feel safe.
- 85 Multi Agency Problem Solving Groups (MAPS), based in the East, North and South of the county, are responsible for identifying crime and disorder issues in local areas requiring multi-agency intervention, identifying the causes of problems and agreeing interventions. These interventions often involve street clean ups, and environmental improvement schemes which can contribute to improved community cohesion.
- 86 For example, a Time Limited Project in Grange Villa was instigated by MAPS after identifying a decline in community cohesion in the village; with fly tipping, rubbish in rear yards, a lack of property maintenance and tensions with residents feeling abandoned by landlords and services. The project set about improving social inclusion and reducing crime and disorder to improve the lives of local residents and businesses. A public meeting was held to engage local residents. Problem locations, households and individuals were targeted for intervention, public spaces were improved, landlords have begun improvements to their properties which has encouraged residents to do the same. There has been a reduction in demand on services, particularly in relation to primary fires, and work continues to engage more residents to help sustain improvements.
- 87 The **3 towns AAP** project engaged young people on the cusp of anti-social behaviour and helped to connect them to the wider community. It taught young people joinery skills, resulting in a level one certificate as well as producing furniture for local community benefit. 19 people have been engaged in voluntary work and 44 young people will have improved employability skills and be better equipped to move into employment
- 88 **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP** continued to work in partnership with various partners including the Police, Town and Parish Councils, Team around the

Community (DCC), Neighbourhood Protection (DCC), and Sedgefield Community College, via a Multi-Agency Partnership meeting set up and led by the Police in response to around 200 youths from across the County hanging around in the Sedgefield settlement on a Friday night. This work has managed to disperse the young people back to their own areas, therefore making it more manageable to service providers. Interventions took place to ensure the safety of the young people with regards to alcohol and Child Sexual Exploitation, and community cohesion for all members of the community whatever their age or background.

- 89 Partners are working together to address the significant increase in deliberate fires in the east of the county over the last four years. The increase has been across primary and secondary fires involving buildings, motor vehicles, machinery, rubbish, grass and derelict properties. These fires have a significant impact on the local community, environment and partner resources. Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held a focussed session to understand the issues and response better and identified areas for further development.
- 90 A Deliberate Fire Reduction Plan has been implemented, focussed on securing properties, education and developing relationships with the community. Firestoppers provides an anonymous facility for local people to provide intelligence on deliberate firesetters and arsonists and a campaign titled Enough is Enough has been launched to give communities the confidence to address the issue.
- 91 Education programmes are being actioned including further development of the Young Fire Fighters scheme and development of the community safety areas within Peterlee Fire Station as a safety centre specifically focussed on education, specialising in anti-social behaviour, firesetter and prevention education. By far the most common type of fire involves cars and other road vehicles and police on patrols in the most affected areas have begun seizing abandoned cars to prevent arson.
- 92 A Water Safety Conference, hosted by the Durham City Safety Group, was held at Durham Town Hall on 26th March 2018, attended by representatives from York, Bath, Manchester and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA). The conference showcased best practice, provided assurance, identified areas for improvement and established a national network for future learning opportunities.
- 93 The event is reflective of the positive work that has taken place since the Open Water Safety Group and Durham City Safety Group were established in 2015, leading to a decrease in water related incidents and zero fatalities across the county in the 2017 calendar year. Risk assessments continue to be carried out for priority locations across the county and times of the year and a number of initiatives are in place to address the risks, such as review and monitoring of infrastructure, work with private landowners, educational events, and awareness campaigns.
- 94 **Mid Durham AAP** multi partnered Community Safety events have taken place in Brandon, Ushaw Moor, Langley Park and Esh Winning. The events are managed by the Community Cohesion Service with input from the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioners and a variety of relevant partners. The aim of the events is to raise the profile of the local community safety services under the banner of come and meet your local super heroes.

### **Altogether greener**

- 95 The **Environment Partnership** met in June. The main agenda item for the board was to agree the draft Environment Plan on a Page and the proposed consultation

forward plan. The Plan on the Page outlines the vision and approach which in turn is supported by four themes:

- a. Deliver a cleaner, more attractive and sustainable environment
- b. Promote the value, diversity and benefits of Durham's natural environment
- c. Reduce Green House gases and adapt to the impact of climate change
- d. Promote sustainable, sympathetic development and enhance Durham's heritage events

- 96 Under each of the four themes the partnership has outlined priorities to shape delivery. The priorities presented reflect that whilst some challenges remain the same for County Durham there are new opportunities for innovation, jobs, growth and better allowing our communities to access the environment. The priorities have further been produced through an integrated approach where it is informed by, but does not duplicate, priorities and actions from other strategies in key areas of environment, economy, health and children and young people.
- 97 Underpinning these priorities will be an action plan, which will provide the detailed actions for delivering our priorities. These are currently being developed and managed through the working groups of the County Durham Environment Partnership.
- 98 Altogether Greener is an important element and project development remains at the heart of strategic thinking, with recognition through the Environment Awards. Rewarding great design, environmental guardianship and community spirit in County Durham. The County Durham Environment Awards is an annual event rewarding projects that demonstrate great design, environmental guardianship and community spirit across the county.
- 99 Hosted by the County Durham Environment Partnership, with the aim of recognising the efforts of a range of organisations and individuals. The Environment Awards have been running in County Durham for 29 years and over that time projects involving thousands of people throughout the county and beyond have been awarded or commended for their contribution to the environment.
- 100 A number of AAPs have been involved in "Operation Spruce Up" which takes one settlement at a time, and combines the Durham County Council activities of Highways, Street Cleaning, Regeneration, Grounds Maintenance and others for a deep clean. Alongside this, they engage with AAPs, Parish Councils, Schools, Businesses and Community Groups, encouraging everyone to play their part in demonstrating pride in their area.
- 101 In **4 Together AAP**, 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. Ferryhill was identified as it is the most prominent and well used location within the AAP area and the work carried out could make a high impact to the local environment. A large amount of street furniture was painted as well as litter, leaves and detritus removed from the paths and roadsides. Drains were cleansed as they had a build-up of debris accumulated over the winter months - this action prevents flooding and build-up of litter and leaves within the drains throughout the area. In addition maintenance work was carried out along the A167 which runs close to the Town Centre. This is a very prominent a well-used road within County Durham and the maintenance of the steep road sides here would be very noticeable by residents and visitors.

- 102 **Durham AAP** helped identify Gilesgate as the area chosen for “Operation spruce up” during a walkabout which highlighted areas needing attention. The AAP was also involved in the launch of the event.
- 103 The Its Your Town project in **3 Towns AAP** focuses on making the 3 Towns area a nicer area to live and work. Each primary school within the area was offered the opportunity to receive an anti-litter assembly and a design a poster competition. Assemblies were delivered to 1997 pupils across 12 primary schools with Tidy Ted the council's anti-litter mascot and as a result, the children have embraced the anti-litter message and produced some amazing designs. In the majority of schools, all year groups took part in the competitions and winners have ranged from reception age children to the oldest in the schools from year 6. When Tidy Ted returned to schools to present prizes to the winners, the children's understanding of the litter message was excellent.
- 104 The winning posters have been made into posters and bin stickers and distributed around the local town or village, reminding all members of the community of the very important litter messages, in the children's own words and designs.
- 105 Refuse Community café are a charity that focuses on tackling food waste. They have recently opened a café in **Chester-le-Street AAP** area that receives surplus food from local supermarkets to cook meals that are available on a ‘pay as you feel’ basis. Their project moto is “feed bellies not bins”. This project targets groups of people on low incomes and people impacted by welfare reform changes. They also work with people who are out of work to train them in basic catering qualifications, for example, food hygiene. The project aims to engage 150 people into voluntary work and ensure 10 people gained accredited qualifications that leads to employment opportunities. To date over 1000 different people have accessed services at the café.
- 106 Working with Durham wildlife Trust, **TAP AAP** 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.

### **Local Safeguarding Children Board**

- 107 Following the Wood Review and the Children and Social Work Bill in 2016, new safeguarding arrangements were passed into law through the Children and Social Work Act 2017.
- 108 Provisions within the Children and Social Work Act 2017 will replace Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) with new local safeguarding arrangements, led by three Safeguarding Partners and supported by relevant agencies. It also places a duty on new Child Death Review partners to review the deaths of children normally resident in the local area.
- 109 Safeguarding Partners are identified as:
- a. Local Authorities
  - b. Chief Officers of Police
  - c. Clinical Commissioning Groups

- 110 Child Death Review Partners are identified as:
- a. Local Authorities
  - b. Clinical Commissioning Groups
- 111 Safeguarding Partners will have the authority to create a local safeguarding framework and safeguarding arrangements that works for that local area rather than a central prescriptive model. Safeguarding Partners will also identify and consult with the local relevant agencies in developing structures and to gain their support for local safeguarding arrangements.
- 112 In June 2018, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018' was launched. Following this, Safeguarding Partners will have up to 12 months to agree their safeguarding framework and arrangements. From the date of publication, Safeguarding Partners have three months to implement their safeguarding arrangements. These arrangements must be subject to independent scrutiny.
- 113 A project Board has been set up and the expected timeline of transition is as follows:
- a. **April 2018** - New LSCB Chair appointed to lead partners through transitional arrangements
  - b. **21 June 2018** – Durham LSCB Development Session to begin the process of formulating a new local safeguarding framework and safeguarding arrangements.
  - c. **End of June 2018** – DfE released the revised 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018'. This triggers the 12-month period Safeguarding Partners have to formulate and publish their proposed safeguarding arrangements.
  - d. **Summer 2019** – latest date for Safeguarding Partners have to formulate and publish their proposed safeguarding arrangements.
  - e. **End of September 2019** – latest date for implementation of new safeguarding arrangements.
- 114 Durham LSCB will continue to carry out all of their statutory functions, until the point at which safeguarding partner arrangements begin to operate.

### **Local Safeguarding Adults Board**

- 115 The Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) Business Unit has led on the development of the slavery and human trafficking statement to meet the requirements placed upon the Council in line with the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
- 116 The requirement for a statement to be in place applies to larger organisations or employers with a turnover of £36 million and covers a financial year. It should include steps the organisation has taken during that period to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any of its supply chains and in any parts of its own business. If organisations have not taken such steps, this should be included in any statement.
- 117 Section 54 (5) of the Act includes suggested areas that may be included in any slavery and human trafficking statements:
- a. the organisation's structure, its business and its supply chains;
  - b. its policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking;
  - c. its due diligence processes in relation to slavery and human trafficking

- d. in its business and supply chains;the parts of its business and supply chains where there is a risk of slavery and human trafficking taking place, and the steps it has taken to assess and manage that risk;
  - e. its effectiveness in ensuring that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in its business or supply chains, measured against such performance indicators as it considers appropriate;
  - f. the training about slavery and human trafficking available to its staff.
- 118 Some councils across England are supporting the Co-operative Party message that modern slavery has no place in council supply chains by means of a Charter. A bespoke modern slavery charter is being developed for Durham County Council. This is in addition to the existing law and guidance that applies to councils in respect of modern day slavery.
- 119 The Charter outlines ten standards, echoed within the Durham County Council statement. The Charter promotes that councils should pro-actively vet their own supply chains and ensure modern slavery is not taking place.

### **Recommendations and reasons**

- 120 It is recommended that Cabinet note the report.

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## Appendix 1: Implications

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**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