



Better for everyone

Spennymoor
Area Action Partnership
Annual Report

2023/24

Introduction



Councillor Elizabeth Scott

Portfolio Holder Statement

As the Cabinet portfolio holder for Economy and Partnerships I am proud to say that the Area Action Partnerships fall within my remit.

AAPs have been supporting work in local communities for 15 years now. Funding has helped to sustain and develop numerous local organisations right across County Durham. Nearly £30m has been allocated through Area Budget grants since AAPs were created back in 2009 supporting nearly 3000 different applications.

The 14 AAPs cover the whole of the county, each with effective boards of 21 people which are made partners, public, councillors and agencies. The Boards work on their specific priorities that reflect the needs of the county's varied localities. Over the last year they have again allocated nearly £2M which has supported over 190 local projects.

Fellow County Councillors and I are very grateful for the support we get from the AAPs in allocating our Neighbourhood Budget. This is funding every councillor gets to support good causes and projects in the areas we represent. Since 2009 over £37m has been allocated through nearly 8000 different applications. You can imagine the difference funding via the AAPs and Councillors has made to our towns, villages and city. This year councillors have supported well over 600 projects with over £2.4M of funding.

At a time when communities and families are having to deal with ongoing financial pressures AAPs have been able to help those organisations who are helping others. The strength of the voluntary and community sector in County Durham never fails to amaze me.

I do want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who gives up their time and volunteers with local organisations. Be that with sports clubs, management committees at community centres, environmental schemes

or those people who volunteer on AAP Boards. County Durham would be a poorer place without you. However volunteering has to be supported and it's a key area that AAPs help with in terms of supporting groups with volunteer management, training and support.

There is no doubt that community organisations are struggling through the ongoing cost of living crisis so if you have ever thought about volunteering now could be the time. Local organisations give so much to their communities and they do need our help.

Since 2009 AAPs have been a feature of our communities but change is ahead. Last year the council concluded a review of its community engagement activities which included the AAPs. The outcomes of this review are now being implemented and this is going to lead to enhancements in 2025 with AAPs being replaced by new 'Local Networks'. The Local Networks will continue to bring local people, councillors and organisations together building on the legacy of the AAPs with the aim of broadening the reach within communities and developing Local Network Plans setting out the longer-term aspirations for our many towns and villages. Over the coming months we will keep people updated as we develop Local Network structures.

Prior to the launch of Local Networks in 2025, AAPs will continue to deliver over the next year which will only be possible with the hard work of all involved. So a big thank you from me to fellow councillors, AAP Board members, partner organisations, members of the public and the AAP staff. I look forward to continuing to work with you all over the next 12 months.

Councillor Elizabeth Scott,

Cabinet portfolio holder for Economy and Partnerships.

Spennymoor Area Action Partnership 2023/24 Key Information

FUNDING

£119,302

of AAP Area budgets to address Community Recovery and Covid 19 impact and issues on the Spennymoor AAP community and its effects, allocated to 11 projects



£98,739

of match funding generated for Area Budget projects

£116,196

of AAP Towns and Villages Fund allocated to 4 localised projects

£231,500

match funding secured for Towns and Villages Fund projects

£185,801

of councillor Neighbourhood Budget allocated to 50 projects including Small Grants, Towns and Villages which supported 31 local groups/communities

£200,421

match funding secured for Neighbourhood Budget projects

£46,341

allocated to 34 Fun and Food projects

£8,140

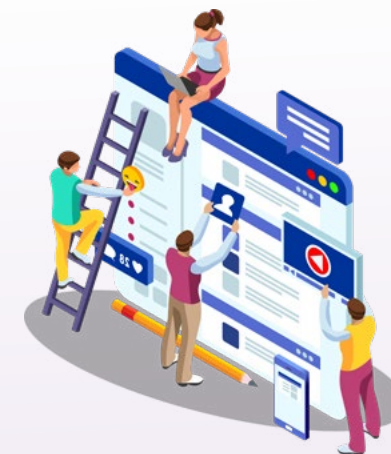
match funding secured Fun and Food projects



LOCAL INFORMATION

Over **10,000**

people are predicted to be supported through Area Budget, Neighbourhood Budget and Fun and Food projects



COMMUNICATION

27,400

social media engagements

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

84

projects developed and supported through Spennymoor Area Action Partnership



Spennymoor Area Action Partnership

Established in 2009 Spennymoor Area Action Partnership (AAP) brings together local people and partners to take action on local issues. Areas covered include the town centre and the outlying villages.

Over the last year the key focus has been on Community Recovery. Over £160,000 has been allocated to local organisations to support them through the Covid pandemic.

The partnership continued its work throughout the pandemic with the team and Board members adapting to the changing environment to support our local communities ensuring meetings took place virtually and project leads and community groups were informed of relevant information.

We also ensured communication to the Spennymoor AAP forum and community lines stayed open through the use of social media and emails.

Welcome from the Chair

Councillor Luke Holmes

I am thrilled to present my first annual report as Chairman of the Spennymoor Area Action Partnership, taking over from De Hickson, who set a remarkable standard with her tenure. This past year has been a period of learning, growth, and impactful work within the community. Throughout the year, we have funded numerous projects across a diverse array of sectors, including education, health, and infrastructure. We supported several programs aimed at improving public health and wellbeing, from mental health support services to physical fitness activities for all age groups. These initiatives have brought positive changes in community wellness and resilience.

We invested in programs designed to engage and empower young people, providing them with opportunities for skill development, mentorship, and recreation. These efforts have fostered a stronger sense of community and purpose among our youth.

Our Board and staff have worked diligently to allocate resources where they are most needed, ensuring maximum impact and benefit for the community. By fostering strong relationships with local businesses and non-profit organizations, we have been able to leverage additional resources and expertise for our projects.

It has been a rewarding experience to witness the tangible impact of our work on the local community. I am inspired by the dedication and passion of everyone involved. Our focus remains on building a stronger, more inclusive, and sustainable community. We will continue to strive for excellence in all our endeavours and remain committed to serving the needs of our residents.

I extend my gratitude to the Board, staff, volunteers, and community members who have supported our mission this past year. Together, we are making a difference and paving the way for a brighter future.



Our People

Anyone who lives, works, studies or volunteers in the area can get involved with the Area Action Partnership. We currently have over 2,500 people who are part of our wider Forum who receive regular updates and who are invited to get involved in the work of the AAP.

Our Board is the decision-making body of the AAP. It is made up of local people, elected councillors and representatives from partner organisations. Our current board members are:

Councillor Luke Holmes (Chair)
Agnes Armstrong (Vice Chair) (Public Representative)
De Hickson (Vice Chair) (Partner Representative)

Geoff Darkes (Public Representative)
Hugh Stephenson (Public Representative)
Heather Waugh (Public Representative)
Bob Pearson (Public Representative)
Paul Davison (Public Representative)
Amanda Jackson (Public Representative)

Cllr Liz Maddison (County Councillor)
Cllr Mark Abley (County Councillor)
Cllr Peter Malloy (County Councillor)
Cllr Billy McAloon (County Councillor)
Cllr Rachael Riches (Spennymoor Town Council)
Cllr Neil Foster (Spennymoor Town Council)

Helen Johnson (Livin)
Inspector Mike Sammut (Police)
John Trowell (Fire and Rescue Service)
Helen Bell (NHS)
Sarah Armstrong and Steve Evans (Durham County Council)
Gary Thompson (Business Rep)

We'd also like to thank former Board Members Darren Knowd, Ron Heighley, George Morgan Watson for their service to the Area Action Partnership.

2023/24 Funding Allocation

| Area Budget |
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| (Which includes Welfare Reform funding and Young Peoples Fund) |
| Bishop Auckland College, Upskilling Employability Discretionary Fund £25,000 |
| Durham County Council, Craddock Street Play Area Refurbishment £15,000 |
| Learning a new way CIC, ADHD Decoded £5,880 |
| Learning Library, Improving Visibility £13,299 |
| Lifeline Community Action, Spennymoor Community Support £8,197 |
| Spennymoor Youth and Community Association, Youth Connect £5,962 |
| Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association, Countering social isolation and loneliness £5,000 |
| St Pauls Centre, Dementia Support £7,166 |
| Trinity Methodist Church, Place to be £22,989 |
| Tudhoe Cricket Club, Tudhoe Cricket Club Roller £5,000 |
| Call Yourself an Artist CIC, Spennymoor Mural Festival Workshops £6,409 |
| Towns and Villages Fund |
| DCC, Spennymoor Market Place £45,000 |
| Kirk Merrington Primary School, Keep motivated positive strong outside gym £21,908 |
| North Park Primary School, Forest School Development £10,000 |
| Byers Green Village Hall, Male Female Toilet Update and Improvement £16,896 |
| Durham Constabulary, Spennymoor CCTV Cameras £33,496 |
| Croxdale Community Centre, Refurbishment Part 1 £30,000 |
| St Pauls Centre, Saint Pauls Centre Extension £37,000 |
| DCC, Craddock Street play Area £15,700 |

| Neighbourhood Budget |
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| DCC Neighbourhoods Durham Road, Spennymoor - VAS and Road Markings £13,579 |
| DCC Neighbourhoods Auckland Way Railway Path Improvements £7,225 |
| Spennymoor Boxing Academy, Spennymoor Boxing history book £4,998 |
| Solan Connor Fawcett Family Cancer Trust, Team Solan laptops £7,466 |
| Durham Pride, Durham Pride 2023 £250 |
| King Street Primary School, King Street Adult wellbeing sessions £3,800 |
| Walk & Talk Trust, Spennymoor AAP Heritage Walks £2,410 |
| DCC Neighbourhoods Central Drive, Spennymoor - Bollard Installation £2,244 |
| Learning a New Way AFT Club £1,078 |
| Spennymoor Youth Theatre Group, Spennymoor Youth Theatre Group Showcase £3,000 |
| Solan Connor Fawcett Family Cancer Trust, Team Solan Allotment Refurbishment £1,550 |
| Tudhoe Moor Nursery School, Tudhoe Moor Nursery Woodland Garden £1,351 |
| DCC Regeneration, Economy and Growth, Spennymoor Little Brass Bash £2,000 |
| Spennymoor Town Council, Cow Plantation £12,000 |
| SSAFA the Armed Forces Charity, SSAFA Southwest Durham Division Social Isolation £780 |
| Tudhoe Community Centre, Investing in Tudhoe Community Centre £16,777.50 |
| Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust (St Charles Catholic Primary School), Library Project - developing reading £11,796 |
| DCC Neighbourhoods Chestnut Avenue, Spennymoor - Resurfacing of Laybys £5,150 |
| Spennymoor Town Band, Percussion £7,155 |
| DCC Regeneration, TA1558 - Troutbeck Close & Wanbeck Close DAR's £3,294 |

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| Spennymoor Stage and Song Thank you for the music £4,500 |
| St Pauls (Spennymoor) Centre Ltd, St Pauls Centre Extension £11,000 and £4,000 (Town and Village) |
| Sing for Life Choir, Sing for Life Choir £1,000. |
| Tudhoe Cricket roller, Tudhoe Cricket club £4,000 |
| Learning Library, Swinging into 2024 £1,200 |
| DCC Neighbourhoods, Craddock Street Play Area Refurbishment £15,904 |
| Probus Speaker and Membership Drive £1,200 |
| Tudhoe Colliery Primary School, Tudhoe Colliery Oracy Project £3,400.00 |
| Star fundraising, Star Summer Engagement £2,400 |
| Spennymoor Town Council, Armed Forces Day £3,979 |
| Investing In Children, Children In Care £600 |
| DCC Regeneration, Economy and Growth, Spennymoor Vibrancy Event £8,388 |
| Spennymoor Youth Theatre Group, Spennymoor Youth Theatre Group Outdoor Audio £2,203 |
| 1st Byers Green Scouts, Rents and Storage £3,000 |
| Croxdale Community Association, Refurbishment part 1 £5,000 (Towns and Village) |
| DCC, Granite Memorial Stones £1,223 (Towns and Villages) |

Neighbourhood Budget is an allocation of £19,400 that each County Councillor receives each year to spend on community projects. This process is supported by the AAP team. The projects above have been supported by County Councillors Liz Maddison, Mark Abley, Luke Holmes, Peter Malloy, Billy McAloon, Cllr Maura McKeon, Cllr Jan Blakey and Cllr Joe Quinn.

2023/24 Funding Allocation

| Fun and Food |
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| The Fun and Food programme continued to provide access to a range of Holiday Activities with Healthy Food to children, young people and families from across the Spennymoor AAP area. Projects were developed in partnership with the voluntary and community sector and Durham County Councils Children and Young Peoples Services. |
| Stars Community, Let's Invent £2,472.50 |
| Spennymoor Boxing Academy, Easter BoxFit Brunch £607.50 |
| Learning a new Way, Well-Being for All £1,266 |
| SYACA, Easter Fun and Food 2023 £564.80 |
| Trinity, Bop and Hop Along! £855 |
| Byers Green Community Association Easter Holiday Fun! £1,035.00 |
| Learning a new way CIC, Well-Being for All £720.00 |
| Stars community learning CIC, It's All About the Story £1,003 |
| Byers Green Community Association Byers green Sport and Craft day £646.00 |
| Byers Green Village Hall Community Byers Green Village Hall Summer Fun £2,833 |
| Learning a new Way, Outdoor Adventures £1,590 |
| OASES, Nature Explorers £3,272.60 |
| Spennymoor Boxing Academy, Summer BoxFit £575.00 |
| St Paul's Centre, Summer Fun £1,740 |
| STARS Community Learning CIC, STARS Adventurers £3,953 |
| Spennymoor Youth and Community Association, Fun and Food Summer '23 £1,139 |
| Trinity Methodist Church, Creative Cornflakes Along £1,740 |
| O'Hehirs School of Irish dance, OHID Summer Camp 2023 £2,555 |
| Spennymoor Youth and Community Association, Halloween Fun and Food '23 £742.71 |

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| Stars community learning CIC, STARS Science Mystery £740 |
| O'Hehirs School of Irish dance, October Half Term Camp £2,191.65 |
| Byers Green Village Hall Community, October Events £785.00 |
| Spennymoor Boxing Academy, October Boxing brunch £650.00 |
| Byers Green Village Hall Community, Christmas Celebration for Children of the Village £1,056.01 |
| Learning a new Way, Holiday wellbeing £1,310 |
| STARS Community Learning CIC, An Enchanted Experience £2,646 |
| Trinity Lights & Lunch: Tea and Tealights £675 |
| SYACA February Fun £1,032.07 |
| Stars Community Learning CIC, Eat Well, Think Smart, Keep Fit £1,185 |
| Learning A New way, Medieval Adventures £986.00 |
| Byers Green Village Hall Community February holiday Craft/ sports day £508 |
| ALP Active, ALP Active at Whitworth Park Holiday Club £1,881 |
| Byers Green Village Hall Community Byers Green Easter Fun |
| Learning a New Way, Crafts & Challenges £706 |
| Spennymoor Boxing Academy, Easter Box Fit Bonanza £680 |



Learning a new way CIC – Outdoor adventures

The Difference We Have Made



Durham County Council Little Brass Bash

Spennymoor AAP allocated Neighbourhood Budget funding for the Little Brass Bash festival which was planned and delivered by DCC Festivals and Events Team.

A memorable evening of entertainment was provided in Spennymoor marketplace plaza, and over 250 people participated in the free community arts event, where international bands Back Chat Brass and DAT Brass provided an interactive set to promote community participation.

The Little Brass Bash event was also supported by local businesses who committed to staying open during the evening so people could access local coffee shops and businesses.

Participation in the arts is beneficial to mental health and wellbeing and brings a high energy and engaging event which can help to unify communities. One of the ambitions of the BRASS festival is to inspire a new generation of brass players to ensure we maintain and revive the great brass tradition of County Durham and the North East.



Fun and Food Summer BoxFit

Fun and Food is a scheme that helps to support local community groups and organisations based in the Spennymoor area to deliver activities with healthy food during the holidays.

The project delivered by Spennymoor Boxing Academy delivered two sessions that were aimed at both primary and secondary school children, delivering fitness and boxing based exercises suitable for both beginners and experienced young people. Sessions took place in the Boxing Gym located in Spennymoor Leisure Centre and were followed by a healthy individual packed lunch.

The project also allowed for the delivery of a talk with the young people about positive emotional wellbeing, and participants were given a top tips sheet to take away to support them in feeling good and explain ways to deal with problems.



Spennymoor Youth and Community Centre Youth Fair

The AAP team allocated Neighbourhood Budget funding and worked in partnership with Spennymoor Youth and Community Association to organise a one-day youth festival aimed at connecting young people with youth provision services and opportunities.

The festival provided a range of youth engagement stalls where 35 local organisations showcased their services. A variety of taster sessions and workshops were undertaken which included wellbeing and confidence, careers, leaderships talks and advice, along with pamper sessions which included nails, hair and makeup stalls. The event was attended by over 130 young people and provided a fun and informal day where young people and their families could talk and engage with a network of local youth organisations and service providers including sports, martial arts, music dance, employability, and churches.

The event provided young people with new experiences and connected people with provision and opportunities in Spennymoor, surrounding areas and online.

The Difference We Have Made



Tudhoe Cricket Club

Tudhoe Cricket Club Roller

Spennymoor AAP has provided Area Budget funding for the support of Communities recovering from the effects of Covid19 and its effects on the economy.

Tudhoe Cricket club has been at the heart of the villages community for over 150 years, and has over 70 active members, delivering a substantial programme of youth cricket to local children annually alongside adult practice and games.

Cricket is much more than just a sport. It can provide numerous physical, mental, cultural, and personal benefits. Whether you are a player or a fan, cricket can help you stay fit, improve your mental skills, develop leadership and teamwork skills, and grow and develop as an individual.

An essential piece of equipment (the heavy roller) became broken beyond repair, creating a drain on finances. Spennymoor AAP supported Tudhoe Cricket Club allowing them to fulfil their fixtures and prepare for future seasons safe in the knowledge that the equipment will allow the club to avoid sticky wickets for the foreseeable future.



Lifeline Community Action

Spennymoor Community Support

Spennymoor AAP allocated Area Budget funding to Lifeline Community Action to provide support packs to vulnerable families and individuals. The packs available include, household goods, babies and children's supplies, and cleaning and hygiene materials. Most packs are distributed by referral partners which include schools, midwives, health visitors, social workers, family workers, domestic abuse charities and foodbanks.

The project also accepts self-referrals and household packs can also be provided which are tailor made to the individual family and include items such as bedding, towels, kitchen equipment, crockery and small electric equipment.

This project ensures that Lifeline Community Action can specifically target Spennymoor by strengthening relationships with referral partners and ensuring the provision of support to those living in Spennymoor who are in need or facing hardship. It is anticipated that over 1200 individuals will benefit from this project and over 360 packs will be delivered with funding provided by the AAP.



Walk and Talk Trust

Spennymoor AAP Heritage Walks

Spennymoor AAP has allocated Neighbourhood Budget to support the health and wellbeing of its residents through supporting the Walk and Talk Trust.

The Walk and Talk Trust have supported local communities by creating and developing two fully signposted circular walking routes, one at Spennymoor and another at Croxdale. Utilising public rights of way, each walk had a Community Launch led by a team of local volunteers assisted by staff. The community volunteers adopted the route and continue to organise regular walks along the route.

Working with local schools and the community, walks have been organised and members of the community have been able to get the benefits of exercise and improved mental health. Leaving a legacy for our communities both in the physical landscape and an improvement to the health of the residents.

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