



Better for everyone

Great Aycliffe & Middridge
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 up of 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.

Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership 2023/24 Key Information



FUNDING

£119,902

Community Recovery Area Budget funding allocated to 13 local projects, with £48k match funding generated

£114,739

of Councillor Neighbourhood Budget allocated to 18 local projects, with £202k in match funding

£516,574

total investment, including match, for all programmes (Area Budget, Neighbourhood Budget, Towns & Villages, and Fun & Food)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

1,100+

local Forum members, regularly receiving updates on the work of the AAP

10,150

engagements with the community through social media

10 countywide consultations supported



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

23 community groups and organisations supported with an AAP grant this year

18 Holiday Activities with Healthy Food initiatives supported



Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership

Established in 2009, Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership brings together local people and partners to take action on local issues. Areas covered include the whole of Great Aycliffe, Middridge and the villages of Woodham, Aycliffe Village and School Aycliffe.

Over the last year, the key focus has been on an overarching 'Community Recovery' priority. Over £119k has been allocated to local organisations to help tackle local issues.

Welcome from the Chair

Andy Coulthard (Livin Housing)

As we move into our final year as an Area Action Partnership before we transform into the new Local Network format I look back on the past year and back to 2009 when AAPs were first invented with great fondness and familiarity.

Let us not forget that AAPs were groundbreaking, they were something no other authority in the UK has been able to replicate nor resource in the way Durham County Council has been able to do. The AAP staff, the partners who come together, the successful applicants and the local authority and its members who attend, resource, and make our meetings and subgroups so interesting and diverse all deserve our thanks and applause.

I am humbled to have been in a position whereby I have been able to Coordinate and now Chair an AAP and as I have worked in Aycliffe on and off for the last 35 years I could not had a better AAP to Chair than GAMP. It has been a pleasure Chairing a brilliant group of colleagues who collectively make up the GAMP Board. As ever, the AAP team led by my old friend Brian and more than ably supported by Paula, Victoria and Angela have kept me and the Board on the right path and continue to keep GAMP a shining beacon of how an AAP should be ran.

I was passed the mantle of Chair by Cllr Jimmy Atkinson who has been brilliant in keeping me on the 'straight and narrow' and my thanks go to him. As we go into our final year as GAMP I think it's fitting to pass the Chair duties onto to our public representative Chris Hutchinson who as an Aycliffe lad will make sure we finish on a strong note.

Let's make this last year as GAMP the best one ever.



Our People

Anyone who lives, works, studies or volunteers in the area can get involved with the Area Action Partnership. We currently have 1,300+ people who are part of our wider Forum who receive regular updates and 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:

Cllr Eddy Adam

Cllr James Atkinson – Vice Chair

Cllr Neville Jones

Cllr Tony Towers (Parish Council Representative)

Cllr Ken Robson

Cllr Michael Stead

Cllr David Sutton-Lloyd

Sue Cooke (public representative)

Glenis Simmonds (public representative)

Simon Hocking (public representative)

Jeff Watson (public representative)

Chris Hutchinson (public representative) – Vice Chair

Peter Shovlin (public representative)

Natalie Whitworth (public representative)

Daniel Blagdon (health representative)

Andy Coulthard (housing representative) – Chair

Liz Fisher (voluntary & community sector representative)

Inspector Sarah Honeyman (Police)

Andy Kerr (Durham County Council)

Oliver Sherratt (Durham County Council)

Malcolm Woodward (Fire Service)

Rosie Woodward (business representative)

Thanks also to outgoing Board members this year: Sue Hughes (public representative) and Carol Gaskarth (voluntary & community sector representative).

2023/24 Funding Allocation

Community Recovery Area Budget (total allocation £119,902)
£8,620: Community Focus Day (Glow Church)
£10,565: NAYCC Moving Forward (Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre)
£9,900: Community Hub (Lifeline Community Action)
£9,280: Happier & Healthier Older Persons Project (Lifeline Community Action)
£9,370: The Community Social (Groundwork North East & Cumbria)
£10,000: Family Learning Cooking Together (Stephenson Way Academy & Nursery School)
£10,000: Aycliffe Schools Partnership in Recruitment & Engagement (Aycliffe Business Park Group)
£5,000: Silvers Womens Group (Pimms & Needles)
£5,950: Winter Training 2023/24 (Newton Aycliffe Youth FC)
£14,250: Outdoor Triking (Five Acres CIC)
£7,575: Community Lunch Club (Pioneering Care Partnership)
£11,392: Newton Aycliffe FC Family Stand (Newton Aycliffe FC)
£8,000: Acle Duke of Edinburgh Award (Acle Scout Group)
Towns & Villages Area Budget Funding
£59,802: Aycliffe Footpath Improvements (DCC Highways)
Fun & Food Funding
Funding to help ensure that as many children & young people as possible have access to food, alongside enriching activities, in particular considering those children and young people who would normally receive a Free School Meal during Term Time.
Easter 2023
£1,612: Wellbeing for All (Learning a New Way CIC)
£1,580: Holiday Boxing Boot Camp (Aycliffe Amateur Boxing Club)
Summer 2023
£1,494: Outdoor Adventures (Learning a New Way CIC)
£3,040: Summer Fun & Food Boxing Fitness (Aycliffe Amateur Boxing Club)
£1,761: Nature Explorers (OASES)

October 2023
£1,200: October Holiday Boxing Boot Camp (Aycliffe Amateur Boxing Club)
£1,140: Holiday Activities (Newton Aycliffe RAF Cadets)
£2,210: October Holiday Club (Woodham Burn Primary)
£1,445: Vane Road Holiday Club (Vane Road Primary)
Christmas 2023
£1,092: Community Care Home Carol Sing (Shine Choir)
£666: Holiday Wellbeing (Learning a New Way CIC)
February 2024
£1,620: Holiday Boxing Boot Camp (Aycliffe Amateur Boxing Club)
£2,389: February Holiday Club (Woodham Burn Primary)
£596: Medieval Adventures (Learning a New Way CIC)
£2,350: Vane Road Holiday Club (Vane Road Primary)
Neighbourhood Budget
££9,522: Atkinson Gardens Carriageway Widening (DCC Highways)
£16,670: SUDS Nature Reserve Boardwalk Improvements (DCC Highways)
£11,962: Aycliffe Footpath Improvements (DCC Highways)
£21,715: Play Area (Horndale Infants & Nursery School)
£7,490: Western Area Improvements (Groundwork North East & Cumbria)
£600: Children in Care Packs (Investing in Children)
£500: Durham Pride 2023 Event (Durham Pride)
£13,935: West Park Bridge Improvements (Great Aycliffe Town Council)
£8,000: West Ward Area Seating & Bins (Great Aycliffe Town Council)
£2,000: Petting Zoo (Acorn Residents Association)
£5,400 Byerley Park Play Area Improvements (Great Aycliffe Town Council)
£3,208: Newton Aycliffe FC Family Stand (Newton Aycliffe FC)
£1,500: Reiki Training (The Hub of Wishes)
£2,202: STEMfest Event (Woodham Academy)
£2,110: Community Christmas Event (Newton Aycliffe Police)

£1,000: Sensory Equipment (Glow Church)
£5,907: Community Speedwatch Van (Newton Aycliffe Police)
£1,200: Creative Learning (Green Arts CIC)

Neighbourhood Budget is an allocation of £19,400 to each County Councillor, to spend on community-led projects. The process is supported by the AAP team.

The projects listed above have been supported by County Councillors Eddy Adam, James Atkinson, Neville Jones, Ken Robson, Michael Stead, David Sutton-Lloyd, Tony Stubbs.

Further information on Councillor-funded projects is available on the Durham County Council website www.durham.gov.uk



County Councillors provided funding towards a community Christmas Event with Newton Aycliffe Police, with an amazing grotto, Christmas crafts and games, and gifts from Santa and Mrs Claus! This was a free event open to all, helping families to experience the magic of Christmas, whilst also raising money to support local residents across the town.

The Difference We Have Made



Groundwork North East & Cumbria The Community Social

Groundwork North East & Cumbria secured a grant through GAMP's Area Budget to help fund their 'Community Social' project - a social club for local residents, welcoming all ages.

The group provides 2 weekly sessions in 2 locations across the area, in an effort to tackle social isolation and loneliness. The group offers refreshments, fun activities and advice on services residents may find helpful. Project workers also provide free cooking workshops encouraging healthy eating, and advice on how to budget.

"What I love about coming here everyone is so friendly and helpful, I hope it continues" said one attendee, *"I can sit and talk with friends and get to know my neighbours better."* People of all ages, both men and women, are attending sessions. The atmosphere is relaxed and the conversation flows freely. Workers are on hand to mix and mingle and bring the group together.



Five Acres Outdoor Triking

Five Acres secured a grant to support the organisation to purchase specialist trikes as part of their outdoor activity programme, making sessions accessible and inclusive to all attendees.

Five Acres is a day respite and development facility for individuals aged from 16yrs with special educational needs and disabilities. They have a huge focus on outdoor learning and activities and have purchased some outdoor equipment with funding which has enabled them to take their 'champions' further afield on outdoors trikes.

The organisation provides champions with the best possible development activities and are now seeing a massive success and improvement in their health and wellbeing, with more physical outdoor activities being provided with the addition of the new equipment.



Pioneering Care Partnership Community Lunch Club

The Pioneering Care Partnership has benefited from GAMP funding for their Lunch Club project. Due to the increasing cost-of-living and issues around social isolation post-covid, the Centre was keen to deliver a social-based session where residents could meet on a regular basis.

The project delivers 4 x 8-week courses delivered through a weekly lunch club, aimed at supporting residents within the GAMP area. The Lunch Club brings together individuals on Wednesday afternoons between 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm, providing a 2-course meal and 1½ hours of activities aimed at building confidence, resilience, and developing skills and knowledge through a range of activities.

Each 8-week course includes sessions delivered by qualified tutors: mindfulness, physical activity, and healthy eating on a budget. Additionally seasonal activities and taster sessions run throughout the year including, i.e. Christmas Wreath Making, Easter Crafts, Gardening etc.

The Difference We Have Made



“ I knew very little about the business park or any of the businesses before I visited, but now know the potential opportunities for employment in the future. ”

Aycliffe Business Park Community Limited Project ASPIRE

Aycliffe Business Park Community Limited have been awarded £10,000 for a Community Business Park project, which will see the 2 local secondary schools attend businesses on site.

Project ASPIRE (Aycliffe Schools Partnership in Recruitment & Engagement) will shine a light on the range of career opportunities Aycliffe Business Park has to offer, as well as engaging and building stronger and sustainable relationships between local schools and businesses on the Park.

150 pupils from each school will take part in a “Business Safari” - pupils will visit the host companies, facilitated by senior staff in each business, to include a tour, Q&A session, and an opportunity for follow-up.

The first visit proved positive with participating businesses who are keen to engage with the second group due in June. Pupils expressed their enjoyment and commented how insightful the visits had been.

Contact Details

Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership
c/o Chilton Depot
26 Chilton Way
Ferryhill
Co Durham
DL17 0SD

Tel: 07818 510362
Email: gampaap@durham.gov.uk
www.durham.gov.uk/gampaap

