



Better for everyone

Stanley
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.

Stanley Area Action Partnership

Established in 2009 Stanley Area Action Partnership (AAP) is the main engagement mechanism of Durham County Council in Stanley to ensure that local residents are engaged with the Council's policies and have a voice in their community. The AAP takes forward neighbourhood issues, works with Partner Organisations to shape local service delivery, and develops projects in the local area to address priority issues and links with local Elected Members to support them in their community leadership role. Over the last year the key focus has been on supporting local communities deal with the impact of the cost-of-living crisis whilst still recovering from the impact of the Covid pandemic.

People can get involved in Stanley AAP by joining the Stanley AAP Forum.

Welcome from the Chair

John Ullathorne, Chair of Stanley Area Action Partnership 2023/24



Throughout 2023/24 Stanley AAP have ensured that each part of the local community has been able to get involved with many projects that have targeted income maximisation, health and wellbeing, activities for children, young people, and families, cost of living support and food provision, information, advice, and guidance, mental health support and activities, recovery services, LGBTQ+ support and activities, community building infrastructure and sustainability, and the promotion of our many amazing local voluntary and community sector organisations activities and their buildings.

Towns & Villages funding committed by Stanley AAP throughout the year has also seen several CCTV cameras updated in Stanley Town Centre, local parks improved and their offer expanded to cater for extra section of the community, football fields and changing facilities upgraded, the redevelopment of Beamish Football Centre, and funding support given to a new War Memorial in Tanfield Lea, that will also see the marking of the village's rich mining heritage.

One of my key aims throughout 2023/24 and within my capacity of Chair was to engage, inspire, and raise the aspirations of young people from across the Stanley area via Joint Cadet Forces Presentations. The two events have enabled over 350 Year 8 pupils to engage with and participate in activities with the Royal Air Force Air Cadets, Durham Army Cadet Force, County Durham Fire and Rescue, and Durham Constabulary, showing them the cadet opportunities that are available locally, and hopefully inspiring them to be the best that they can be now and in the future.

The dedication and commitment shown by Board Members and Staff to improve the quality of life of residents from across the Stanley area has been second to none, and I look forward to continuing to be part of an excellent AAP in 2024/25, that I'm sure will be another year of success and ultimately transition. Thank you for the opportunity to take on such a role, it has been a real honour.

Our People

Anyone who lives, works, studies or volunteers in the area can get involved with the Area Action Partnership. We currently have over 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 for partner organisations. Our Board Members for 2023/24 were.

Suzanne Jobson (Karbon Homes)

Neighbourhood Inspector Dave Stewart (Police)

Barbara Edmundson (Integrated Care Board, NHS)

Martyn Stenton (Durham County Council)

Daniel Hodgson (Fire and Rescue Service)

Max Wright (Business Representative)

Nerise Oldfield-Thompson (Voluntary & Community Sector)
Vice Chair

Linda Tyman (Public Representative)

Olga Milburn (Public Representative)

Helen McCaughey (Public Representative)

Vicky Walton (Public Representative)

Darren McMahon (Public Representative)

John Ullathorne (Public Representative) Chair

Frankie Ward (Public Representative)

Carl Gippert (Public Representative)

Cllr Carole Hampson

Cllr Gordon Binney

Cllr Joan Nicholson

Cllr Angela Hanson

Cllr Carl Marshall

Cllr Joyce Charlton

Cllr Jeanette Stephenson (Stanley Town Council) Vice Chair

Stanley Area Action Partnership 2023/24 Key Information

A total of £565,645 has been allocated throughout 2023/24, that has levered in £1,374,184 of match funding, this equates to £2.43 for every £1 of funding allocated by Stanley AAP and our County Councillors.

FUNDING

£118,273

of AAP Area Budget Funding allocated to 15 local projects generating

£112,673

of Councillor Neighbourhood Budget allocated to 22 projects

£9,003

of Neighbourhood Budget Small Grants allocated to 13 projects



£2,300

of Neighbourhood Budget Kings' Coronation Grants allocated to nine projects.

£210,000

of AAP Towns & Villages Funding allocated to five projects.

£45,000

of County Councillors Towns & Villages Funding allocated to five projects

£68,396

of Fun & Food funding allocated to support 30 projects that enable children to take part in school holiday activities with healthy food

HEALTH

35 people supported by schemes that improve mental health

702 children and young people benefiting from schemes that aim to support them in achieving and maintaining optimum mental health and wellbeing

162 people benefitting from schemes aimed at protecting victims and vulnerable people from harm

20 families benefitting from schemes aimed at improving support and outcomes.



TOWNS AND VILLAGES

17 schemes that aim to ensure our towns and villages will be vibrant, well used, clean, attractive and safe

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

35 voluntary groups supported

33 community buildings supported

894 people accessing new/improved community buildings and facilities



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

125 people receiving debt advice and support

33 community buildings/facilities supported

88 volunteers have been supported

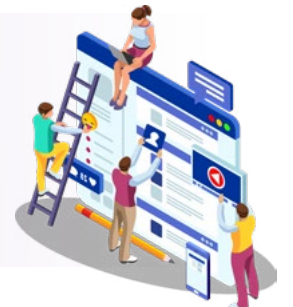
5 schemes that reduce the impact of poverty deprivation



COMMUNICATION

24,500

engagements with the community through social media



2023/24 Funding Allocation

Area Budget
£15,568 – STARS Youth & Community CIC – Freedom Zone
£7,566 – Oxhill Nursery School – Sensory Space
£8,080 – Tantobie Association for Sport and the Community – Recovery & Repairs
£5,900 – South Moor Allotment Association – Fencing & Waste Removal
£5,060 – Just for Women – Art Therapy
£10,000 – Stanley Advice Hub at The Venue – Welfare Rights Officer
£5,635 – Beamish Football Club – New Goals
£5,715 – The Activity Den – Open Access Youth Work
£20,000 – PACT House – Sustaining Service
£7,013 – Stanley Youth Consortium – Robotics
£7,500 – Just for Women – Counselling
£5,036 – Harbour Recovery Services – Survival Group
£5,000 – Stanley AAP – Activity and Support Information Directory
£5,200 – Greencroft and Annfield Plain Partnership – Generations Working Together
£5,000 – Stanley Town Council – Stanley in Bloom
Total £118,273
Match Funding £84,365
Towns & Villages
£50,000 – Stanley Events – Beamish Football Centre Redevelopment
£14,376 – Stanley Playing Pitch Improvements
£102,000 – Stanley Area Play Space Refurbishments
£16,900 – Stanley CCTV Upgrade
£26,724 – Marking Tanfield's Mining Heritage
Total £210,000
Match Funding £1,238,184
Neighbourhood Budget
£700 – Durham Pride – 2023 Pride Event
£9,575 – Stanley Young Peoples' Club – Making Music
£8,195 – Tanfield Lea Community Centre – Fire Doors
£2,000 – Burnside Youth Club – Room Hire & Youth Worker
£6,000 – Reg Vardy Band – National Finals
£1,250 – Stanley Events – New Beamish FC Building Reveal
£11,994 – South Moor Golf Club – Practice Facility Refurbishment

£2,000 – Annfield Plain Junior School – London Visit
£3,000 – Morrison Banner Group – Durham Miners Gala 2023
£13,155 – Enhancing Football Pitches – At Oakeys, Craghead, and Annfield Plain
£3,000 – North East Horticultural Society Show
£2,875 – Tanfield School – VEX UK Nationals
£3,822 – Durham County Council, Clean & Green – Hillside Garden Project
£1,200 – Just for Women – Duvet Project
£4,695 – White-le-Head Methodist Church – Toilet Refurbishment
£200 – Lumiere Recycling Project
£2,341 – The Activity Den – Legionella Remedial Works
£3,000 – Tanfield School – Eden Learning Trust
£16,956 – Annfield Plain Planters Refurbishment
£164.62 – Tanfield Lea Community Centre Car Park Improvements
£4,250 – Tantobie Association – Roof Repairs
£12,300 – Quaking Houses Village Hall – Access & Engage
Total £112,673
Match Funding £27,329
Neighbourhood Budget Small Grants
£850 – Craghead Community Association – Miners Gala 2023
£800 – Oxhill Nursery School – Garden resources for Stanley in Bloom
£326 – Craghead Community Association – Miners Gala 2023
£900 – Annfield Plain Cricket Club – Fun Day
£300 – South Stanley Partnership – Festive Brass Band Concert
£671 – White-le-Head Bowling Club – Club Uniform and Development
£600 – Annfield Plain Football Club – Team Tracksuits
£763 – New Kyo & Oxhill Partnership – Selection Boxes and Goody Bags
£500 – Beamish Football Club – New Strips Under 11's
£900 – New College Durham Academies Trust – Beamish Beasts Robotics Competition
£999 – Tanfield Lea Countryside Group – Notice Board at Harperley Nature Reserve.
£400 – Beamish Football Club – Event Room Hire, Entertainment and Ticket Printing

£994 – Craghead Development Trust – Burnside Family Centre – New Cooker
Kings' Coronation Fund
£150 – Tanfield in Bloom – Replacing Shrubs in Tubs for Coronation
£200 – Craghead Community Association – Coronation Party
£600 – Annfield Plain Football Club – Coronation Community Event
£250 – White-le-Head Methodist Church – Coronation Afternoon Tea
£100 – Shield Row Gardens Community Association & NHW – Coronation Gifts
£300 – PACT House – Coronation themed craft sessions
£300 – South Stanley Partnership – Coronation Party
£200 – Quaking Houses Village Hall – Coronation Party
£200 – Stanley Young People's Club – Coronation Party
Total £2,300
Match Funding £1,103
County Councillors Towns & Villages Funding
£10,000 – Tanfield Ward Play Area Improvements
£10,000 – Annfield Plain Planters Refurbishment
£5,000 – Tanfield Lea Community Centre Car Park Improvements
£18,593 – Parking Bays, Chaucer Close
£1,406.75 – Play Space Refurbishment Top Up Funding
Fun & Food - Holiday Activities with Healthy Food
Easter 2023
£1,124 – South Stanley Partnership – Fairy Dust & Daffodils
£1,925 – Stanley Young Peoples' Club – Easter Fun
Total £3,049
Match Funding £610.08
May 2023
£760 – South Stanley Partnership – Risky Biscuits
£1,012.50 – Stanley Young Peoples' Club – May Days
£530 – The Activity Den – School Holiday Fun Times
£970 – Oxhill Youth Club – Mental Health Craft & Booster Trip
£1,216 – Wear Rivers Trust – The Romans are coming to Stanley!

2023/24 Funding Allocation

Fun & Food - Holiday Activities with Healthy Food continued

Total £4,488.50

Match Funding £807

Summer 2023

£1,920 – Just for Women – Young Girls Summer Activities

£4,723 – Oases – Natures Explorers

£4,127 – Oxhill Youth Club – Summer Wellness Program

£3,435 – Quaking Houses Village Hall – Summer Fun

£4,174 – South Stanley Partnership – Stones & Roses

£9,587 – Stanley Young Peoples' Club – Summer of Fun

£824 – The Activity Den – Summer Fun in the Sun

£7,238 – Wear Rivers Trust – Stanley Holiday Provision

Total £36,028.50

Match Funding £8,603

October 2023

£1,168.40 – Burnside Primary School – Halloween Camp

£653.97 – Just for Women – Halloween Activities

£1,612.65 – Oxhill Youth Club – Fright Nights & Food

£3,115 – Quaking Houses Village Hall – Halloween Fun

£1,150 – South Stanley Partnership – Scarecrows & Sparkles

£2,207.50 – Stanley Young Peoples' Club – Spook-tober

£556.13 – The Activity Den – October Half Term Fun

Total £10,463.65

Match Funding £1,090.42

Christmas 2023

£2,250 – Oxhill Youth Club – A Magical Christmas

£4,405 – Stanley Young Peoples' Club – Christmas 23

Total £6,655

Match Funding £1,760

February 2024

£804 - ATOMS Education CIC -The Sound of Science

£1,915.80 – Burnside Primary School – Feb Half Term Camp

£609 – South Stanley Partnership – Chocs Away and Mystical Creatures

£1,800 – Stanley Young People's Club – FAB-in-FEB

£482.21 – The Activity Den – High Five to Healthy Eating at The Den

£2,100 – Tanfield Lea Community Primary School – Half Term Holiday Club

Total £7,711.01

Match Funding £1,000

Neighbourhood Budget is an allocation of £19,400 that each County Councillor gets each year to spend on Community Projects. This year the Councillors received an additional £300 each to celebrate the Kings' Coronation. The process is supported by the Stanley AAP team.

The projects listed have been supported by County Councillors; Cllr Carl Marshall, Cllr Angela Hanson, Cllr Carole Hampson, Cllr Sam McMahon, Cllr Joan Nicholson, Cllr Christine Bell, Cllr Joyce Charlton, and Cllr Gordon Binney.

County Councillors Towns & Villages Funding is a one-off allocation of £10,000 that the Councillors can use to fund localised projects that aim to revitalise and enhance Stanley Town Centre and the surrounding Villages.

For further information on what projects individual Councillors have supported contact your local AAP.

Fun & Food funding provides free school holiday activities with healthy snacks and meals for children and young people. Activities are provided by schools, voluntary and community sector groups, sport and leisure services, and Family Centres. The scheme is funded by the Department for Education and Durham County Council.



The Difference We Have Made



Just for Women Counselling Service

The Counselling Service delivered by Just for Women secured funding support from Stanley AAP to enable the continuation of counselling services to women, men, and young people in the Stanley community who are dealing with mental health issues. Individuals seeking support will undergo an initial assessment to help Just for Women understand their specific needs and challenges. Based on the assessment results, a tailored support programme for each participant is designed to comprehensively address their mental health concerns.

The core component of the project is the provision of counselling sessions. Clients will have the opportunity to discuss their challenges, feelings, and thoughts in a safe and confidential environment. In addition to counselling, Just for Women will organise mental health workshops that will cover the following topics; stress management, anxiety coping strategies, and building emotional resilience.



Beamish Football Club New Goals

Beamish Junior Football Club received Area Budget funding from Stanley AAP to help them replace and upgrade all football goals on their 9v9 and 11v11 pitches. They had previously secured external funding to allow them to improve and maintain their playing pitches for all our children and young adults. The AAP funding has allowed the club to purchase mobile goals helping the club increase their player numbers as well as alleviating damage to the pitches as they can be moved from pitch to pitch allowing the goal mouths to regenerate and repair themselves throughout the season. The club is growing at a rapid speed, and they hope to increase footfall within their Football Centre year on year. The football club is at the heart of the community and is a lifeline for lots of families within the area.

The Activity Den Open Access Youth Work

The Activity Den have been successful in securing funding from Stanley AAP to assist them to continue their open access youth work with funding targeted at their Youth Project Lead and Den Assistants wages, core costs, Young Volunteer training costs, activities, and the provision of food at all our groups.

The Den's weekly groups consist of: Sound Hub is a music session that provides opportunities for children and young people to learn to play instruments from expert tutors at an affordable cost. Instruments are provided and members are welcomed regardless of musical ability. Den Shoots is for children aged 6-8 years and offers games, activities, and arty stuff to get involved with whilst making friends and getting active! Healthy Futures is a club for young people aged 9-12 years that offers activities such as crafts, sport, games, and drama as well as healthy snacks and a focus on young people as wellbeing. Later is for young people aged 13+, offering opportunities to chill-out, socialise and take part in youth led activities. Den Download is a group for ages 10+ that provides a safe inclusive space for the exploration of issue-based topics chosen by participants, it also supports young people to get involved in social action projects. Den Dance is a new dance project that provides opportunities for members aged 6+ to take part in dance lessons delivered by an expert tutor. The Young Volunteers Task Force is for members wanting to give back to the community. Young Volunteers aged 13+ attend as many youth groups and events as possible and support Den youth workers in running stimulating activities for children and young people and other tasks.

The Difference We Have Made

PACT House Sustaining Service

Stanley AAP funding is being used by PACT House to help sustain their work and strengthen two of their main support routes; firstly, access to free and affordable cooked food / meals, and secondly local self-referral access to mental health and well-being support, from social and learning sessions to 1-2-1 counselling. Funding from the AAP is to be used to support staff in PACT House's community cafe that runs six days a week. The community cafe and community meals service currently provide in the region 250 free meals each week, more during school holidays and weekly provide approx. 150 affordable meals with costs ranging from £1.50 to £3.00. Much of the food support focuses on alleviating food insecurities, and helps bring the community together to prevent isolation, loneliness and provide a wide base for people to engage, give peer support and share experiences. This route of support opens up ways PACT House can promote and engage with the wider community, supporting with mental health, advice, well-being, addiction, benefits and housing issues and more so currently costs of living and fuel poverty. The funding will also be used to support PACT House's mental services manager and sustain their Think Positive Durham project, a dedicated mental health support service providing, well-being, social, listening ear and 1-2-1 counselling services. Think Positive, as a member of the Durham Mental Health and Well-being Alliance opens up a gateway to Countywide mental health support and alternative provision.

Harbour Recovery Service

Harbour Support Services provides support for clients who have experienced domestic abuse across the Stanley area. Harbour's Recovery Service Survivor Groups provide opportunities for women to engage in social interactions with others who have had similar experiences and are an effective way to help women and families to develop life skills, extend their community and support networks, and most importantly, increase their self-esteem and mental wellbeing. Stanley AAP funding secured by Harbour will enhance the provision of activities offered at the Stanley Survivor Group, drawing on external resources to provide a range of classes and workshops that support mental health and well-being and facilitate personal growth. The Survivor Group will deliver a range of health & wellbeing activities, such as self-defence classes, pamper sessions, and a range of arts & crafts sessions.



The Venue Welfare Rights Officer

Stanley AAP Area Budget funding has ensured the continuation of a Durham County Council Welfare Rights Officer in The Venue, Wear Road, Stanley every Wednesday providing seven hours of one-to-one appointments with residents who reside within the Stanley AAP area. The Welfare Rights Officer provides advice and support on social security issues and makes referrals on other money matters where appropriate to other partners in the building; Citizens Advice County Durham, Durham Money Advice Service, and Home Group, and Foodbank services. Advice in County Durham Partnership Officers and Welfare Rights Service Staff will also provide training, information, advice and guidance to staff and volunteers from the local voluntary and community sector in the Stanley AAP area to enable them to support and signpost residents for assistance.

Contact Details

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– Level 2, Front Street, Stanley, County Durham DH9 0TE

 Stanley Area Action Partnership

