

# Durham Area Action Partnership Minutes of the Board Meeting

Thursday 16 June 2022

Framwellgate Moor Youth and Community Centre

## Board Members

**Attendance:** Gary Tidbury, Rebecca Eves, Cllr Bill Kellett, Ian Moore, Cllr Liz Brown, Sam Humble, Lee Alexander, Cllr Lucy Hovvels, Rev Joanne Thorns, Chris Tindale, Dave Clarke

## AAP Officer

**Attendance:** Craig Morgan – AAP Co-ordinator  
Wendy Lavelle – Community Development Project Officer  
Lyndsey Hunter – Community Development Project Officer  
Marie Ainscough – AAP Support Officer

## Presenter:

Mary Readman - Head of Transactional and Customer Services, DCC

## Apologies Board:

Sarah Burns, Jen Straughan-Hawley, Cllr Eric Mavin, Cllr Lesley Mavin, Cllr Richard Ormerod, Parish Cllr Maureen Boettcher, Paul Howard, Alice Wilkes, Rebecca Ashby, Victoria Ashfield

**Forum Members:** 7 forum members attended the meeting

## 1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Cllr Liz Brown, Chair welcomed everyone to the Durham AAP Board Meeting.

Apologies for absence, [as above]. A round of introductions followed.

**Note:** No business could be formally agreed as the meeting was not quorum. The AAP Co-ordinator will seek consensus for any decisions taken in principle from absent Board members via email.

## 2 Presentation: Poverty Action Plan. Followed by Q&As

Mary Readman, Head of Transactional and Customer Services delivered a presentation on the Poverty Action Strategy and Action Plan.

The Poverty Action Strategy and Plan for County Durham is reviewed regularly. The 2020 review broadened the scope to include the immediate impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. It aims to:

- improve the standard of living and daily lives of those residents in County Durham who are currently experiencing financial hardship,
- help alleviate long term issues that can lead households on low incomes to experience financial pressures and poverty.

As part of the consultation, Durham County Council are asking –

- Are these the right objectives?
- Where are the gaps/what more do we need to do?
- Are there any groups of people missing?

The [Strategy and action plan available online](#). To 'Have Your Say' please visit <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/Poverty> or email: [povertyaction@durham.gov.uk](mailto:povertyaction@durham.gov.uk)

The closing date for feedback and comments is 26 August 2022.

The meeting was open for discussion –

- There are some key partners missing from the presentation - the Police and The Christian Partnership.
- Are you providing the same advice as the organisations you are working with?
- How are you engaging with those families who are finding it difficult to uptake the free school meals offer?
- How do you make leisure affordable?
- Are you planning to work with schools to sign up to poverty proofing?
- Is face to face contact with the Citizens Advice Bureau back up and running again?
- There are a lot of County Council services that have moved to other organisations ie Trading Standards.
- Are you doing much work around volunteering?

The Chair thanked Mary for her presentation, and everyone was encouraged to complete the survey.

### 3 [Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising](#)

The Chair reviewed the previous minutes for matters arising, actions and accuracy. There were no matters arising.

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

### 4 [AAP Funding Update](#)

- ❖ Durham AAP will be focussing on projects around Covid Recovery with additional themes of Environment and Climate Change and Community Safety.

- ❖ Towns and Villages Fund - £190,000 left to spend
- ❖ Healthy Relationships Funding - to support community led initiatives that improve support to children and young people around sensitive topics such as domestic abuse and ensure that there is a greater focus on prevention and early intervention. Each AAP had received £10,000, for projects that directly benefit young people aged 11 – 18 years (up to 25 for SEND/Care Leavers). Applications will also be considered for projects that work with the whole family. Applicants can apply for a minimum of £2,000.
- ❖ There is approximately £200,000 to allocate by 31 March 2023. Anyone with any project ideas for the pots of money available were asked to contact the AAP team.

## 5 Task and Finish Group Feedback and Project Approvals

### **Covid Recovery**

At the Covid Recovery Task Group meeting held on 7 June 2022, it was recommended that the following applications be brought to the Board for wider consideration.

- St Margaret's Centre - ICT Updates

The applicant had provided quotes following a request by the task group but felt that the IT companies were massively overstating their need and inflating the prices. They decided to pull together costs themselves and the new figure is £5,000.00.

The centre provides support to adults living with mental health issues and uses craft and design as part of its programme of activities. Their current IT equipment is out of date and needs replacing. Like any organisation having a functioning IT system is essential and this grant will help St Margaret's Centre to replace their out-of-date equipment helping them to be more efficient as an organisation.

Lyndsey agreed to explore if there was any funding available through the Mental Health Alliance Commissioning Framework following a comment made by a Board member.

- Harbour Support (Women's Refuge) - Holiday Home Families in Refuge

An application had been received for £9,020.00 towards a total project cost of £9,520.00

This is a pilot project that would allow the applicant to rent a holiday home over the summer giving the opportunity for families in need from the Durham AAP area to have some respite from their homes or refuges where they are residing, an experience of having an actual holiday. The

caravan site which they are looking at has activities as well as a swimming pool onsite and it is located on a beach.

The funds would be spent on the hire of a caravan for 6 weeks, transport costs, groceries as well as games and sporting equipment to enable the families to participate in activities onsite.

The Board agreed in principle to support this project.

- **EMPOWHer – Alternative Education Project**

An application had been received for £12,666.00 towards a total project cost of £14,022.00

This is a new venture that is looking to set up training that targets young women with employment needs, giving them an opportunity to obtain accredited qualifications.

They will provide the course in 3 blocks each 6 weeks over a 12-month period for up to 10 students at a time, 30 in total. They will access the course in Mandale Business Park, Belmont, 2 days a week for 6 weeks, 9.30 am-3.00 pm. The students will go through a range of learning from practical sessions to business set up, social media and advertising. Upon completion they will have everything they need to progress on to find employment or set up as a sole trader to work independently; and the students will continue to be supported by the CIC.

Discussion ensued around what safeguarding measures they had in place and concerns were raised around health and safety in relation to the chemicals being used.

The Board agreed not to make a decision on this project until satisfactory responses to the questions raised had been received.

## 6 Neighbourhood Questions

The following neighbourhood budget projects were shared with the Board -

**Name of Scheme:** Shincliffe Primary School

**Councillor(s):** Stoker

**Interest Declared:** No

**Amount:** £21,828.00

**Name of Scheme:** St Cuthbert's Churchyard Architect

**Councillor(s):** Brown / Scott

**Interest Declared:** No

**Amount:** £2,200.00

**Name of Scheme:** Durham Area Youth – Youth Workers  
**Councillor(s):** Hall  
**Interest Declared:** Yes, Trustee & Chair of DAY  
**Amount:** £1,980.00

**Name of Scheme:** Renny's Lane Underpass Improvements - fencing  
**Councillor(s):** E Mavin / L Mavin  
**Interest Declared:** No  
**Amount:** £7,132.00

The Board was happy to approve the projects and the interest as declared.

## 7 [Project Monitoring Report Quarter 4, 2021/22](#)

Durham AAP is required to monitor projects it has funded on a quarterly basis. The quarterly monitoring report for the period January – March 2022 had previously been circulated. Craig highlighted key points in relation to some of the projects. The Q1 report (April 2022 – June 2022) will be taken to the July Board meeting.

## 8 [Chair and Coordinators Update](#)

Cllr Liz Brown had attended the City of Culture event held on 31 May at Beamish. Durham County Council (DCC) had lost to Bradford. DCC will receive £125,000 which will be invested back into the county.

Durham City celebrated the Jubilee event in style and an event had been held in Durham Cathedral to mark the occasion.

Wendy and Marie attended Durham DASH on Wednesday 15 June. 12 local schools took part in the event.

Craig had been involved in the Lowes Barn Community Project and was pleased to report that they are starting to build on Monday.

The Durham City Air Quality Engagement Event scheduled to take place on 23 June 2022 in Durham Town Hall had been cancelled.

Craig had been asked to chair the Council's Community Resilience Group with support from the fire service around floods etc so we are more prepared should we have a repeat of Storm Arwen. If anyone know of any communities who would be keen to pull together a contingency plan, they were asked to contact Craig. Cllr Lucy Hovvels said she had done something similar and would be happy to share resources with anyone.

Cllr Lucy Hovvels requested that Durham AAP hold a Board meeting in Ludworth. Craig explained that venues had been booked for the 2022/23

Board meetings, but this is something the AAP team would consider in the future.

## 9 Partner Updates

### **Sam Humble – believe housing**

- ❖ There had been a spate of house fires in the area caused by electrical items such as extension leads. Work is ongoing to prevent this from happening.
- ❖ They were experiencing a lot of no accesses.
- ❖ Anti-social behaviour is rising and causing them a lot of work.
- ❖ Housing demand is extremely high.
- ❖ Complexity of cases of domestic abuse and suicide and they are offering support. This is happening across other agencies and they are working together.

### **Lee Alexander – DCC**

No update.

### **Ian Moore – Fire**

- ❖ Ian is now in charge of the Durham Headquarters.
- ❖ There had been 6 x accidental fires near Stanley.
- ❖ There had been secondary fires in Gilesgate and the Sherburn Road area.
- ❖ A cyclist had been run over on Framwellgate Moor Front Street

### **Rev Joanne Thorns – VCS**

- ❖ The Voluntary and Community Sector is working well with the county council making sure information is shared.
- ❖ They are struggling to keep/get volunteers.

### **Dave Clarke – Police**

- ❖ Still waiting for an update on the Street Friends funding re the bid they had submitted.
- ❖ Three drink safe breathalysers had been purchased costing £300 each. These are for door staff. The aim is to try to stop people from drinking before they turn out. Dave brought one along to the meeting and it was passed around so people could see it.
- ❖ Section 59 warning notices had been erected in Ludworth in relation to anti-social behaviour use of motor vehicles. They are free to those who want to display the warning.

## Rebecca Eves – Durham University

- ❖ It is the last week of term next week.
- ❖ The production of a leaflet around anti-social behaviour including noise will be coming out in the summer.
- ❖ There will be two open days for undergraduates on Friday and Saturday so it will be busy in the city.
- ❖ Durham University Orchestral Society will be returning to Sage, Gateshead on Sunday 19 June.
- ❖ DCAD Poster Competition in Clayport Library. Posters will be on display 20-24 June.
- ❖ There will be a talk from the Department of Geography on 20 June.
- ❖ Details of all events can be found on the website.

### 10 Any other Business

The Police and the Fire Service were thanked for their services during the Jubilee weekend.

### 11 Date and time of next meeting

12 July 2022, 2:00 pm – Online

#### **Subsequent Meetings**

- 24<sup>th</sup> August, 6:00pm, Sherburn Hill Hub
- 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2:00pm, Online
- 26<sup>th</sup> October, 6:00pm, Newton Hall Community Centre
- 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2:00pm, Online
- 13<sup>th</sup> December, 6:00pm, Durham Town Hall
- 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 2:00pm, Online
- 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023, 6:00pm, Durham Town Hall
- 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 2:00pm, Online

Everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting closed.