

Durham Area Action Partnership Minutes of the Board Meeting

Tuesday 13 December 2022

(Virtual Meeting - held via Microsoft Teams)

Board Members

Attendance: Victoria Ashfield, Cllr Liz Brown, Chris Tindale, Rebecca Ashby, Ian Moore, Gary Tidbury, Cllr Eric Mavin, Cllr Lesley Mavin, Jen Straughan-Hawley, Parish Cllr Maureen Boettcher, Joe McGarry, Joanne Thorns, Hannah Shepherd, Lee Alexander

AAP Officer

Attendance: Craig Morgan – AAP Co-ordinator
Wendy Lavelle – Community Development Project Officer
Lyndsey Hunter – Community Development Project Officer
P J Harding – Community Development Project Officer (Towns and Villages Team)
Marie Ainscough – AAP Support Officer

Apologies Board: Cllr Richard Ormerod, Sarah Burns, Dave Clarke, Alice Wilkes, Tony Hockey, Sam Humble

Forum Members: 3 forum members attended the meeting

1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Cllr Liz Brown (Chair) welcomed everyone to the online Durham AAP Board Meeting.

Apologies for absence, [as above].

A round of introductions followed.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 24 November 2022. Agreement and Matters Arising

The Chair reviewed the previous minutes for matters arising, actions and accuracy.

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

3 AAP Funding Update

£99,912 of the Towns and Villages Fund had been allocated to date, with £110,088 left to allocate. Craig felt confident that by March 2024 all the Towns and Villages funding will have been allocated.

To date, £106,420 Area Budget had been allocated with £91,165* left to allocate. There are 17 expressions of interest in the Area Budget funding.

**[This figure may change depending on the outcome of the Board's decision on the applications being considered at this meeting]*

4 Task and Finish Group Feedback and Project Approvals

Covid Recovery

- County Durham Clothes Bank

Area Budget applied for: £5,000

The clothes bank based in Framwellgate Moor provides clothing and food to families in need. They are a small organisation who are currently getting support through the Wellbeing for Life team. For them to develop as an organisation they have applied for funding to cover their service level agreement with their landlord (Believe Housing) and to cover training costs that will upskill their trustees to better run the organisation.

The Board was happy to support this project and agreed that the SLA element of the funding be released in two payments (following satisfactory monitoring of the project after year 1, the remaining funding will be released.) The project was approved.

- Pelaw View Community Centre

Area Budget applied for: £11,109.76

[Cllrs Eric Mavin and Lesley Mavin declared an interest in this item of business]

The Pelaw View Centre on Sherburn Road Estate is run by Bernicia Homes for the benefit of the local community. It has recently been refitted and is looking to expand the services it can offer to the local community. They have applied for funding to cover costs of several sessions and to increase staff hours.

The Board was happy to support this project and it was approved.

- Wider World Project

Area Budget applied for: £6,792

[Cllrs Eric Mavin and Lesley Mavin declared an interest in this item of business]

The project supports young adults with additional needs. They provide a wide range of activities building the young people's skills and confidence. Much of this work is done at Belmont Community Centre however they are wanting to give their young people some 'real world experiences'. They would like to use the 'Skills House' a recent initiative set up by the Cheesy Waffles Project. The project will give the young people hands on experience of running a household and many of the activities are covered by ASDAN qualifications.

The Board was happy to support this project and it was approved.

Healthy Relationship Funding Application

- Healthy Relationships Training

Area Budget applied for: £9,754 (if approved the applicant will be asked to round this up to £10,000 which is the total amount of funding in this pot)

The Healthy Relationship fund is a separate pot of money that the AAP had been given this year to support organisations working with young people around the issue of healthy relationships.

The local organisations delivering services to young people (Durham Area Youth, Durham City Youth Project, Laurel Avenue Community Association, Cheesy Waffles Project) had come together to put in an application that would put in specialist training for 16 youth workers, giving them the skills and knowledge to deliver sessions to young people on this issue.

The Board was happy to support this project and it was approved.

Improving Our Villages and City

There are various Towns and Villages projects in the pipeline. PJ Harding said she was confident that there would be applications coming through in the new year. A forum member thanked Craig and PJ for their time and help in talking her through the early stages of projects.

Following a query raised by Gary Tidbury on the issues in Framwellgate Moor, Front Street, Craig agreed to get an update on this.

5 Neighbourhood Budgets

The following neighbourhood budget projects were shared with the Board -

Name of Scheme: Briar Rd/Coronation Ave, Carville - Parking areas

Councillor(s): Eric Mavin / Lesley Mavin

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £21,247.00

Name of Scheme: Heatherdale Crescent Path

Councillor(s): Christine Fletcher

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £6,065.00

Name of Scheme: Pitlington Community Association - Running Costs and Warm Space provision

Councillor(s): David Hall

Interest Declared: Yes, Cllr Hall is a Trustee of Pitlington Community Association

Amount: £1,150.00

Name of Scheme: Sherburn Community Association - Running Costs

Councillor(s): David Hall

Interest Declared: Yes, Cllr Hall is a member of SCA

Amount: £1,150.00

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

6 Fun and Food Update

Durham AAP had been allocated an amount of £23,758 towards Fun and Food projects for the four half terms from February 2023 to February 2024.

Below are the amounts requested for these holiday periods over the last couple of years:

Holiday	Total Amount Requested
May Half Term 2020	£4,313
February 2021	£3,086
May Half Term 2021	£2,200
October 2021	£11,030
February 2022	£5,573
October 2022	£11,844

Considering the figures above it was proposed that the amount of funding available be split as follows:

February 2023 £4,500

May Half Term 2023	£4,500
October 2023	£10,000
February 2024	£4,500

It was also proposed that a flexible approach be taken with these amounts up to approximately £2,500 if oversubscribed (as the amount can be adjusted for the next holiday period).

There will be no additional funding if oversubscribed.

The Board was asked for their thoughts -

- Given the cost-of-living crisis and increase in energy bills, it was suggested that the amount of funding available for February Half Term 2023 be increased.
- It was suggested that if the Fun and Food Fund was oversubscribed could we consider using other pots of funding to 'top up' the Fun and Food Fund to give more support to it.
- Could we divide equally?
- Could we shift some of our funding into a hardship fund? Craig to explore this before the January Board meeting and come back with ideas and options.

It was decided that a flexible approach be taken, and we take each holiday period as it comes.

7 Chair and Coordinators Update

Cllr Liz Brown (Chair) announced that this would be Ian Moore's last Board meeting as the Fire representative on the Board as he was retiring. She thanked Ian for his commitment to the AAP Board.

Craig Morgan, the AAP Co-ordinator also thanked Ian and asked him if he knew who would be replacing him as the Fire representative on the Board.

Craig had been liaising with those organisations who were potentially looking to apply for funding.

He had attended an interesting event with an organisation called Unbox who are looking at a project idea around recycling and litter picking.

He had attended the City of Durham Parish meeting.

He thanked Board Members and Forum Members for their continued attendance and support to the AAP and he also thanked the AAP team, Wendy, Lyndsey, PJ and Marie for all their hard work.

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

8 Partner Updates

Ian Moore – Fire Update

There had been a full evacuation of the passport office due to a suspected package that had arrived from America.

Heavy rain in November caused flooding and chaos on the roads which caused several road traffic collisions.

There had been a fire incident in student accommodation in the city and there had been issues with the students following the evacuation plan.

Joanne Thorns – VCS Update

The uptake of warm hubs had increased and lots of grants had been awarded.

Lee Alexander – DCC Update

There continues to be system pressures between local authorities and the NHS. Lots of work going on with winter planning. There are no nursing strikes taking place in Durham but there are strikes scheduled in relation to ambulance services.

Joe McGarry – Durham University, Student Union President

Lots of work done around the cost-of-living and they had been working with the university on the hardship funding that is available for students. A foodbank had been set up for students and they had also been reviewing support around student's mental health.

Hannah Shepherd – Durham University

- They had been supporting students with the cost-of-living crisis.
- A new chancellor had been appointed who had a connection with County Durham.
- Winter congregation takes place on 6 and 7 January 2023.
- Students will be returning on 9 January 2023. The university will have an almost shut down between 23 December and 2 January inclusive.
- The Service Level Agreement with DCC for the response around anti-social noise had been signed off and was working well.

Smaller Councils' Forum Short Report

Held this time in an extraordinarily creative setting Spennymoor has generated many talented artists which are on display there. Notably the Norman Cornish Trail well worth a visit to the Town Hall there.

Items discussed were

DCC Medium Term Financial Plan which was adeptly presented by Jo McMann
Details I believe are available on DCC website.

Generally, this year the following topics have been highlighted
There will be no further progression of double taxation

The subject of the slowness of DCC in responding to email / correspondence was raised and members expressed concern over the late receipt or non-receipt of responses from their principal authority.
It was suggested that CDALC could offer assistance by contacting senior officers within DCC to illicit a response

Proposed pledge between CDALC and the Police and Crime Commissioner Forum members agreed they had no objection to this pledge and in principle agreed it could be signed off by Smaller Councils

Civility and Respect

Details of the Civility and Respect Project funded by the NALC and SLCC (provided in Newsletter 3) identified that a fixed term project officer had been appointed and clarified its four main areas which are

*Lobbying government to strengthen the standards regime and encourage more people to become involved

* Providing councils with the tools to support good governance

* Training through the Improvement and Development Board (IDB)

(Members' attention was drawn to the availability of new training sessions identified in the latest Newsletter and were encouraged to participate in these sessions)

*Processes to intervene to provide support to struggling councils possibly through a local resolution protocol.

Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill/UK Shared Prosperity

The report was discussed amongst members and further updates were to be provided once details of regional directors were in position for levelling up.

9 Any other Business

None.

10 Date and time of next meeting

26th January 2023, 2:00pm, Online

Subsequent Meetings

- 21st February 2023, 6:00pm, Durham Town Hall
- 29th March 2023, 2:00pm, Online

Everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting closed.

The Chair wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.