



Minutes of the Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership Board Meeting

Thursday 23 March 2023

Microsoft Teams

Present

Partner Representative

Deborah Richardson (DR) - Community and Voluntary Sector Representative
Sgt Victoria Ord (VO) - Durham Constabulary
Mark Jackson (MJ) – Durham County Council
Rachel Edmunds (RE) – Believe Housing

Public Representative

Kirstie Hutchinson (KH)
Peter Quinn (PQ)
Tony Bird (TB) - Chair

Elected Members

Cllr Cathy Hunt (CH) – Elected Member
Cllr David Bell (DB) – Town and Parish Council Representative
Cllr Samantha Townsend (ST) – Elected Member
Cllr Shirley Quinn (SQ) – Elected Member – Vice Chair
Cllr Joanne Howey (JH) – Elected Member

Presenters

Chris Affleck (CA) - Project Manager & Mental Health Lead - Stamp It Out Partnership

Officers

Andrew Walker (APW) – Senior AAP Co-ordinator
Sheilah Metcalfe (SM) - AAP Community Development Project Officer
William Lightburn (WB) - AAP Community Development Project Officer
Emma Walton (EW) - AAP Support Officer

Apologies

Tommy Taylor (TT)
Cllr Andrew Jackson (AJ) – Elected Member
Insp Andy Reeves (AR) - Durham Constabulary

Colin Davis (CD) - County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service
Jayne Nicholson (JN)

Public / Other Attendees – 1

A1. Introduction and apologies

Introductions and apologies were made.

Please see page 1 & 2 for attendees and apologies.

TB welcomed Board and Forum members to the meeting and introduced and welcomed the following:

- Chris Affleck - Project Manager & Mental Health Lead - Stamp It Out Partnership Hub Coordinator
- Sgt Victoria Ord - Durham Constabulary who will be standing in for Insp Andy Reeves

APW explained the protocol for Microsoft Teams Meetings this included:

- Attendees will be invited to speak by the Chair.
- All participants should mute their microphone if they are not speaking.
- Forum members were asked to turn their cameras off unless invited to speak by the Chair.
- If attendees would like to speak this should be done by using the raise hand function or alternatively the chat function. Board members will be invited to speak first followed by members of the forum, where appropriate.
- When finished speaking lower your hand and remute your microphone

A2. Agreement of minutes and matters arising from previous meeting held 23 February 2023

The Board agreed the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

A3. Declaring an Interest

Sgt Victoria Ord declared an interest in the Bishop Auckland NPT E – Bikes – Durham Constabulary project.

A4. Local Neighbourhood Issues

➤ Stamp It Out

Board members received a presentation from Chris Affleck (CA) - Project Manager & Mental Health Lead on Stamp It Out. Stamp It Out is a Charity and Partnership Hub made up of organisations and individuals with mental health lived experience, working to challenge stigma and discrimination towards anyone who lives or works within County Durham. Stamp It Out has three main

target groups which are children and young people, employers and communities. Stamp It Out uses social contact conversations and various resources to address barriers, especially around stigma and discrimination to promote and educate the public to raise awareness across County Durham.

The Stamp It Out Partnership is led by Anti-Stigma Ambassadors. These are people of all ages with personal lived experience of mental health issues. All Anti-Stigma Ambassadors have a passion for challenging the stigma around mental health. This year's Mental Health Awareness Week takes place from 15 May – 21 May 2023.

Further details in relation to Stamp It Out are available via the website: <https://www.stampitoutcountydurham.co.uk/>

APW encouraged Board members to consider becoming Anti- Stigma Ambassadors and offered the support of BASH AAP in promoting information locally.

A copy of the presentation is available by contacting a member of the BASH AAP Team on bishopshildonaap@durham.gov.uk or 03000 268663.

The Board made the following comments:

SQ offered her support for any events that are taking place in the Shildon and the Dene Valley area. CA stated that due to limited staffing there are currently no planned events due to take place in Shildon. However, did welcome any suggestions regarding working with local groups or organisations, for future events.

CH asked if there are any resources available for sharing. CA stated these are available upon request.

TB welcomed any support and advice that can be provided to Dene Valley Community Partnership.

TB thanked CA for the presentation.

A5. Priorities and Action Plans

➤ Area Budget - Community / COVID 19 Recovery

APW reminded the Board that at the November Board meeting they agreed to approve £177,403 Area Budget funding to 10 projects as identified in the Board report.

At the AGM a presentation will be delivered to the Board regarding the work of the AAP over the past year, a financial overview of the funding available and will highlight the future challenges going forward. In addition, projects will be invited to provide an update on the funding received from BASH AAP.

APW informed the Board, that it is anticipated, that each AAP will have the following funding resources available to allocate in the financial year 2023/24:

- £100,000 Area Budget Funding
- £9,902 Youth Funding
- £10,000 Welfare Reform Funding

APW highlighted that contrary to previous years, there will be no Older Peoples Social Isolation or Young People's Healthy Relationships Funding in 2023/24. Due to limited budgets APW suggested that BASH AAP adopts the single priority of 'Community / COVID Recovery' for 2023/24. APW gave a background of last year's brief and highlighted the key themes that were identified.

SQ agreed with the single priority of 'Community / COVID Recovery' however suggested consulting with the public around the BASH AAP priorities in the future.

CH agreed with the single priority of 'Community / COVID Recovery' given the community engagement review and the uncertainty going forward. However, to seek the views of the public, on the priorities of BASH AAP, in the future.

APW suggested establishing a task group to discuss the agreed priority of Community / COVID recovery. The task group will identify key themes to be incorporated into a brief for a call for projects. The call for projects will be launched and projects will be invited to submit their applications. Each successful project proposal is subject to a final application and full technical appraisal.

The Board **AGREED** to the single priority of 'Community / COVID Recovery' for 2023/24 and that a task group be established.

APW asked if any Board members would like to be involved in the task group are to inform a member of the BASH team. RE, SQ, TB and JH volunteered to take part in the task group.

➤ **Holiday Activities with Healthy Food**

Durham County Council has secured additional funding from the Department for Education to continue to deliver holiday activities with healthy food during the school holidays. Individual allocations to AAPs were based on the number of free school meal eligible children and child poverty rates for 5 –15 year olds. BASH AAP has been allocated £90,273. The funding available is to be allocated in 2023 and is for the Easter, Summer and Christmas holiday periods.

In addition, funding has been secured from Durham County Council for holiday activities with healthy food during the school half terms. BASH AAP has been allocated £46,156. The funding available is to be allocated in 2023/24 and is for the February, May, October, and February 2024 half term periods.

The last round of funding was for the Easter School Holidays. Following a call for projects each application was assessed and considered by the funding panel

which agreed 10 applications to the project value of £16,017.50. The following projects were supported:

- Dene Valley Community Partnership – Easter Activities
- Woodhouse Church - Easter Activities
- Shildon AFC - Easter Holiday Football activity course
- Stars Community Learning CIC - Let's Invent
- Little Chef Big Chef - LCBC Holiday Activities
- AYCC – Easter Fun and Food
- Jubilee Fields CC - Easter Fun Extravaganza
- Wear Rivers Trust - Bishop Auckland Holiday Provision
- Eric Knows CIC - Easter crafts and sensory work for primary and secondary
- Daisy Arts - TIME TRAVEL ARTS

This leaves a remaining balance of £74,255.50 for the Summer and Christmas holiday periods.

Project leads will be invited to future Board meetings to provide an update on the funding received.

The next round of funding is for the May Half term. Applicants can apply for amounts over £500. The deadline for applications is 12 noon on Wednesday 12 April 2023. Each application will be assessed and considered by the funding panel who will meet on Tuesday 18 April 2023, 10am. An update will be provided at a future Board meeting.

APW suggested that due to timescales the funding panel consider the applications via correspondence. This was **AGREED** by the Funding Panel.

APW reported that as part of the monitoring the HAHF team arrange visits to projects that are delivering in school holidays. APW asked if any Board members would like to be involved in the visits. CH, SQ and JH volunteered to visit the projects supported through the HAHF.

ACTION – APW to inform the HAHF team of those that wish to take part in the visits.

KH gave an overview of the sessions due to be delivered by Wear Rivers Trust in the Easter Holiday period. KH welcomed Board Members to the sessions.

➤ **Town and Village Revitalisation**

APW stated that as reported at the last Board meeting the AAP Towns and Villages and the Councillor's Towns and Villages Budget has now been fully allocated. Project leads will be invited to future Board meetings to provide an update on the funding received. APW highlighted that several of the projects funded will be promoted in the County Durham News. A full update will be provided at the AGM.

➤ Neighbourhood Budget

The Board received the following Neighbourhood Budget applications for information and comment only. Each project is subject to a full application and satisfactory project appraisal.

- **Eldon Community Partnership Seating and Eating Facilities – Eldon Community Partnership**

NB Contribution – £3,404 (£1,000 each from Cllrs Matt Johnson & Samantha Townsend, and £1,404 from Cllr Shirley Quinn)

Match Funding - £0

Total Cost - £3,404

There were no comments received from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

- **Bishop Auckland NPT E – Bikes – Durham Constabulary**

NB Contribution – £6,000 (£3,000 each from Cllr’s Joanne Howey and Cathy Hunt)

Match Funding - £0

Total Cost - £6,000

There were no further comments received from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

A6. Coordinators Update

➤ Review of Community Engagement

APW reported that the ERS review of community engagement is now complete. The consultation on the ERS Community consultation review is now live. The consultation provides the opportunity to feedback on the following 4 elements:

- The Model
- Boundaries
- Funding
- Community Development

Sessions will be held for Board members to feedback their thoughts on the report and its recommendations. The planned sessions will take place via Teams on the following dates:

- Tuesday 28 March, 10.00 am – 12 noon
- Wednesday 29 March, 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm

- Thursday 13 April, 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm

In addition to the above, there is also a dedicated e-mail address cer@durham.gov.uk for feedback and questions.

The consultation will be live for 6 weeks. The deadline for comments is 23 April 2023. The findings and recommendations will be presented to cabinet in June 2023 where a decision on the future direction of AAP's and the County Council's Community Engagement function should be agreed.

SQ stated that she is unable to attend any of the sessions above and asked would additional sessions be arranged. APW stated that the sessions are organised centrally but said he would ask if further sessions could be added.

ACTION – APW to explore if further session are available.

Board members were encouraged to respond to the consultation and attend one of the sessions available. Further details in relation to the consultation are available via the website: <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/interview/227951a8-657c-4cf9-9532-be9adf9d3a89>

CH commented positively on how well the BASH AAP works apolitically and suggested other AAP's could be offered the opportunity to visit BASH AAP to see how we operate. APW stated that all AAP's work well however, each will experience a variety of different challenges and complexities.

JH congratulated the work of the BASH AAP and the team. JH commented that BASH AAP works well to ensure a wide spread of local projects and investment is delivered across the area.

➤ **Public Rep**

APW stated due to the departure of Stephen Nicholson and Andrew Coxon there are two public representative vacancies on the Board. The recruitment process for public reps is now live. The closing date for applications is 5pm, Thursday 30 March 2023.

APW thanked Stephen Nicholson and Andrew Coxon for their time on the BASH Board.

APW reported that informal interviews will take place on Friday 21st April 2023 at 9.30am. The interview panel consists of the Chair and Vice Chairs and asked if any Board members would like to support the interview process. If so, please contact a member of the BASH team.

Board members were encouraged to promote the public rep vacancies through their networks. Further details in relation to the vacancies are available by contacting a member of the BASH team.

➤ **BASH AGM**

The BASH AGM will take place on 11 May 2022, 4pm at Bishop Auckland Football Club, Heritage Park. At the AGM a presentation will be delivered to the Board regarding the work of the AAP over the past year and will highlight the future challenges going forward. In addition, projects will be invited to provide an update on the funding received from BASH AAP.

APW reminded the Board that the Chair and Vice Chairs for BASH AAP will be elected for 2023/24 at the AGM. It is the turn of Elected Members to take the Chair for this year. APW explained the process and encouraged Board members to consider the roles of Chair and Vice Chair. An email will be circulated to the Board in due course.

A7. Countywide Partner Issues

➤ Police / PACT Update

Sgt Victoria Ord gave an update on the main priority issues for the BASH area.

- Several staffing changes have taken place. 2 new PCSO's have been recruited.
- PACT meetings continue to take place. These are promoted on social media and via the Police website.
- There have been a number of horse related crimes at St Helens. A partnership approach has been taken to deal with these issues. VO reported that there were 50 calls relating to horses in February.
- The Community Action Team, DCC are currently working in the Coundon area. The project will be ending in the upcoming weeks.
- TB raised the issue of graffiti at Eldon.

A8. Date / Time / Venue for next Board Meeting

TB thanked Board and Forum members for attending the meeting.

AGM / Board - Thursday 11 May 2023, 4pm, Bishop Auckland Football Club