

East Durham Area Action Partnership Board Meeting
6pm on Wednesday 13th December 2023, 6pm at The Glebe Centre, Murton

PRESENT:

Elected Members

Cllr Angela Surtees (AS) (Chair)

Cllr Julie Griffiths (JG)

Cllr Jake Miller (Cllr JM)

Cllr Ivan Cochrane (IC)

Public Representatives

Rona Hardy (RH)

Danny Dickinson (DD)

David Blackwell (DB)

Partner Organisations

Sgt Terry Hill (TH)

Ian Porter (IP)

Jim Murray (JMurray)

Co-opted Members

Edna Connor (EC)

Officer Attendance:

John Murphy (JMurphy) – AAP Coordinator

Kaye Stephenson – Community Development/Project Officer

Laura Towers – AAP Support Officer

Public Attendance:

Three members of the public were in attendance.

Apologies:

Cllr Kevin Shaw, Cllr Terry Duffy, Cllr Isabel Roberts, Graham Easterlow, Alison Paterson, Dr Kelly Rose, Amanda Moon, Annabelle Lumsden, Ian Hankin, Insp Joanne Eales, Insp Phil Carter

1. Introductions & Apologies

JM ran through housekeeping and health and safety.

AS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were noted, as above.

2. Previous Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous Board Meeting on 8th November 2023 were accepted by the Board as an accurate record of the meeting.

No matters arising.

3. Police Report – Sgt Terry Hill

Peterlee

Operation Zeus has been a very positive operation in relation to organised crime working with partners, including DCC. This should result in some charges.

A cannabis growth was found in Blackhall yesterday.

A multi-agency event helped to identify 15 addresses for target hardening.

There has been a rise in shoplifting nationally. Two people have been given custodial sentences in Peterlee.

Operation Trailblazer is targeting ASB. Officers are working overtime to deliver extra hours on patrol. This involves immediate justice, with people dealt with there and then. TH encouraged any partners encountering low level ASB to get in touch.

A male has been given a custodial sentence of several years for drugs, assault and burglary.

Another male in the Shotton area has been placed on tag.

Some bikes have been recovered in the area.

The Horden joint survey has received approximately 600 responses so far. Work is being done with DCC to analyse the results.

Seaham & Easington

A prolific offender in Murton has been given an 18-month sentence.

A shoplifter who committed a burglary the day after being released is to be sentenced in the new year.

Operation Trailblazer is going well in Seaham.

The team has been into schools. Sessions took place at Hopewood Academy.

Christmas parcels have also been delivered.

The team are looking to roll property marking out.

A security event has taken place.

A question was raised asking for further information on Operation Zeus.

TH advised that Operation Zeus is looking to tackle criminality in relation to OCGs and building on greenbelt land eg breaches of planning permission. This may involve locals as well as people travelling into the area.

AS provided thanks for all of the good work over the last year and asked that this is cascaded back to the teams.

Ian Hankin had submitted apologies for the meeting, so there was no fire report.

4. Neighbourhood Issues

None noted.

5. Priorities

Maintaining the Social Fabric of our Communities (MSFOOC) – Cllr Angela Surtees (Chair)

The minutes from the MSFOOC meeting held on October 19th 2023 were circulated to the Board with the papers and taken as read.

AS updated that a further meeting took place on November 29th. A presentation was delivered at this meeting on the Draft Housing Strategy and Draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

Children, Young People & Families – Rona Hardy (Chair)

The minutes of the previous CYPF meeting on 23rd November 2023 were circulated to the Board with the papers and taken as read.

RH updated that presentations had been delivered from Supportive on the services they provide and also on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. RH asked anyone interested to please get in touch with the AAP.

ACTION: LT to circulate the Duke of Edinburgh's Award information in December's e-bulletin.

RH updated that the Fun and Food funding for October Half Term was oversubscribed and highlighted that it is important that all of the data provided is correct.

Neighbourhoods & Place – John Murphy (AAP Coordinator)

JMurphy provided an update on the last N&P meeting on 5th December 2023.

Nitrous oxide was discussed under community safety. The legislation has changed.

Further possible community safety days and venues are being considered.

There was an update on Green Grants.

DD updated following the Connecting the Coast subgroup meeting on 12th December 2023. The project has been delayed. They are now working with Walk Unlimited. The first phase on the routes is being undertaken. Anyone who is interested in volunteering, please get in touch. The training will run from January to March. The plan is to get agencies involved, refresh leaflets and look at locations, using networks to promote the project.

The Capital Grants expressions of interest will go to the panel in January.

It was agreed by the group that daily meetings would be convened as a local crisis forum in the event of an emergency eg storm and/or loss of power.

6. NBs for notification or endorsement of a declared interest

The NB spreadsheet was circulated to the Board prior to the meeting, as per the spreadsheet above.

JMurphy highlighted the following NB project with conflicts of interest. The Board approved these projects.

Project Name: Memorial Seats – Town Park

Councillors: Batey & McKenna

Project Cost: £2,970

NB Amount: £2,970

Description: Seaham Town Council is applying for funding to purchase two decorative benches to place in the town park.

Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Batey. Cllr Batey's daughter-in-law works for Seaham Town Council. The Board approved this project.

Project Name: Pain Management Group

Councillors: Kennedy & Shaw

Project Cost: £1,456

NB Amount: £1,456

Description: Dawdon Youth and Community Centre is applying for funding to run a pain management support group in the centre.

Conflicts of interest declared by Cllr Kennedy & Cllr Shaw. Cllr Kennedy was chair of Dawdon Youth and Community Centre and Cllr Shaw is a trustee. The Board approved this project.

Project Name: Coronation Christmas Party

Councillors: Charlton-Lainé

Project Cost: £200

NB Amount: £200

Description: Groundwork NE is applying to the Coronation Fund to put on a Coronation themed Christmas Party at Seaham Youth and Community Centre with the youth group.

Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Charlton-Lainé. Cllr Charlton-Lainé is a trustee of Seaham Youth and Community Centre. The Board approved this project.

Project Name: Coronation Christmas Party

Councillors: Shaw

Project Cost: £300

NB Amount: £300

Description: Dawdon Youth and Community Centre is applying for funding to put on a Christmas Coronation Party for the youth hub.

Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Shaw. Cllr Shaw is a trustee of the centre. The Board approved this project.

The Board made no comment to the other NB projects which were presented.

7. Any Other Business

None noted.

AS thanked everyone for their commitment and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year whilst also sparing a thought for those who are less fortunate at this time.

8. Date and time of next meeting

6pm on Wednesday 7th February 2024, 6pm, The Glebe Centre, Murton