



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

**Thursday 25 January 2024**

**Civic Hall, Shildon**

### **Present**

#### **Partner Representative**

Deborah Richardson (DR) - Community and Voluntary Sector Representative  
Colin Davis (CD) - County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service  
Steve Robson (SR) – Business Representative

#### **Public Representative**

Peter Quinn (PQ)  
Jayne Nicholson (JN)  
Bob Simm (BS)  
Tony Bird (TB) – Public Representative - Vice Chair

#### **Elected Members**

Cllr George Smith (GS)  
Cllr Shirley Quinn (SQ) – Chair  
Cllr Samantha Townsend (ST)  
Cllr Joanne Howey (JH) – Elected Member  
Cllr Mike Harker (MH) – Town and Parish Council Representative

## **Presenters**

Jess Hunt (JHunt) – Director - No More Nowt

## **Officers**

Andrew Walker (APW) – Bishop Auckland Programme Manager

Sheilah Metcalfe (SM) - AAP Community Development Project Officer

William Lightburn (WB) - AAP Community Development Project Officer

Peter Henderson (PH) - AAP Towns and Villages Team Community Development Project Officer

Peter Garrod (PG) – AAP Co-ordinator

Emma Walton (EW) - AAP Support Officer

## **Apologies**

Rachel Edmunds (RE) – Believe Housing – Vice Chair

Insp Mark Edwards (ME) - Durham Constabulary

Mark Jackson (MJ) – Durham County Council

Bernadette Crooks (BC) – Public Representative

Nicola Craddock (NC) – Public Representative

Cllr Cathy Hunt (CH) – Elected Member

## **Public / Other Attendees – 6**

### **Board Meeting**

#### **A1. Introduction and apologies**

Introductions and apologies were made.

Please see page 1 & 2 for attendees and apologies.

SQ welcomed Board and Forum members to the meeting.

APW reminded the Board that he has recently been appointed as the Bishop Auckland Programme Manager, DCC Regeneration. Tonight, will therefore be his last Board meeting. APW stated that a recruitment process has taken place to fill the post of AAP Coordinator within the BASH team. Peter Garrod has been appointed to the post.

SQ thanked APW for his time and dedication to BASH AAP and welcomed PG. This was echoed by PQ. APW thanked Board and Forum members for their support throughout his time as Coordinator of BASH AAP.

JH thanked APW, the BASH AAP team and PH for their continued advice and support.

## **A2. Agreement of minutes and matters arising from previous meeting held 23 November 2023**

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

## **A3. Declaring an Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **A4. Local Neighbourhood Issues**

### **➤ No More Nowt**

Board Members received a presentation from Jess Hunt (JHunt) – Director - No More Nowt on the No More Nowt programme. JHunt gave an overview of the programme and its delivery across the County. No More Nowt works to engage local people in creative activities and grow arts provision in ways that are sustainable and have longevity. JHunt highlighted the cultural hubs available across the County and the volunteering opportunities available.

The Board made the following comments:

ST informed JHunt of the cultural events ran by Stockton and Darlington Railways centenary and the opportunities these events can provide. In addition, highlighted the exhibitions and spaces available in libraries for future events.

JH asked have links been made with existing group in the BASH area. The following were suggested YMCA, AYCC and Bridge Creative etc. JHunt welcomed introduction to local groups and organisations.

TB thanked JHunt for the support provided in establishing the Men's Cree and welcomed JHunt along to future sessions.

SQ suggested linking with the town and parish councils / councillors, elected members and community groups/organisations.

APW offered the support of BASH AAP.

SQ thanked JH for the presentation.

**ACTION** – BASH AAP team to circulate Jess Hunt’s contact details to the Board.

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

## **A5. Priorities and Action Plans**

### ➤ **Area Budget - Community / COVID Recovery**

APW reminded the Board that at the November Board meeting the Board agreed to approve £126,211 Area Budget funding to 8 projects. Each project will be at various stages of development, regular updates will be provided to the Board.

APW reported that due to the reconciliation of underspend from previous years, there was a balance of £5,321 for any emerging projects. At the last meeting the Board agreed to align the underspend to Aclet School Nursery – Sensory Secret Garden project. The application has been circulated and agreed by the Board via correspondence. The application has been progressed and forwarded to the AAP Funding team. The Area Budget has now been fully allocated.

APW stated that ‘Nifty Fifties’ a project supported through this year’s Area Budget were invited to attend the Board however unfortunately were unable to attend tonight’s meeting.

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

The Board were informed that the AAP budgets for next financial year have not yet been confirmed.

### ➤ **Holiday Activities with Healthy Food**

Durham County Council has secured 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.

The last round of funding was for the Christmas holidays. Following a call for projects each application was assessed and considered by the funding panel which agreed 6 applications to the project value of £10,549. The following projects were supported:

- Little Chefs Big Chefs - LCBC Festive Fun
- Woodhouse Church - Children's Christmas Party Celebration
- Stars Community Learning - An Enchanted Experience
- Jubilee Fields Community Association - Family Fun Christmas Party
- AYCC - Christmas Holiday Programme
- Shildon Alive - Christmas Holidays with Shildon Alive

To date BASH AAP has supported 50 projects with £82,946 distributed for the Easter, Summer and Christmas holiday periods. SM stated that if participation targets for December are met, engagement will have taken place with 163 separate children and young people.

JH commented positively on the delivery at AYCC at Christmas.

SQ highlighted that the Jubilee Fields Community Centre also held a Christmas Party. The party was very well attended by children, young people and families.

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. To date £33,781 has been allocated in the February, May, and October half term holidays.

SM reported that the latest round of funding was for the February half term holiday period. Following a call for projects 4 applications were received, totalling over £8,000. Each application was assessed and considered by the funding panel who met on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024. An update on the projects supported will be provided at a future Board meeting.

SQ highlighted that the guidance on future HAHF funding is changing. APW gave an overview of the future changes and highlighted that the main purpose of the change is to ensure those young people who receive benefits-related free school meals are targeted.

PG stated that the guidance has been shared with previous applicants and a briefing session has been held with the Fun and Food team. In addition, a briefing note will be circulated to the Board and a session for funding panel members will be held in the coming weeks.

DR raised concerns with the new guidance and highlighted the affect this could have on families in particular communities.

JH raised concerns for other young people who may not qualify under the new DfE stipulation but may be from lower income families who may struggle during the school holidays.

APW encouraged applicants to work with the AAP and the HAHF team.

➤ **Towns and Villages Revitalisation**

PH reminded the Board that BASH AAP had an additional £210,000 funding to address the priority of Towns and Villages over 3 years. In addition, elected members also received an additional £10,000 each to address Town and Villages Revitalisation. PH gave an overview of the projects supported through AAP Towns and Villages and the Councillor's Towns and Villages Budget. These funds have now been fully allocated. All projects have received their offer letters and T&Cs.

JH thanked PH for the work that has taken place.

➤ **Neighbourhood Budget**

There were no neighbourhood budget applications presented at tonight's meeting.

APW stated that several neighbourhood budget applications have been circulated to the Board for their consideration via correspondence, however responses to these emails have been

limited. APW stressed that for those applications with a declaration of interest, need to be approved by at least three members from each sector of the Board to be quorate. If a 'quorate' decision isn't reached the application cannot be progressed through to appraisal. Board members were encouraged to respond to these emails promptly.

## **A6. Coordinators Update**

### ➤ **Review of Community Engagement**

APW highlighted that work continues to take place to establish how AAP's will work in line with some of the proposals taken from the community engagement review. The Board will be updated accordingly.

### ➤ **BASH AAP Office**

APW stated that from 31 March 2024, AAP's will no longer have an accommodation budget and as a result, the BASH AAP team will no longer reside in the Rest House in Shildon. APW highlighted that work is currently taking place with DCC Estates to try and identify alternative accommodation, however the final office base has not yet been identified. The Board will be updated accordingly.

### ➤ **F & P Scotto Charitable Trust**

APW provided a brief overview of the work that has taken place with the F & P Charitable Scotto Trust. The next visit will take place in March. The team are currently identifying projects to present to the Trust. APW welcomed project ideas.

### ➤ **Future Board Dates**

The Board were provided with a list of future board meeting dates for 2024/25 on the back of the agenda. APW stressed the importance of Board members attendance in ensuring the meeting is quorate. Where a decision is required, there must be at least three members from each sector of the Board.

➤ **AYCC 60th Anniversary – Diamond Anniversary**

AYCC are celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> diamond anniversary on 14 February 2024, 6-8pm. Board and Forum members were welcomed. To attend the event, contact the centre for a ticket.

**A7. Countywide Partner Issues**

➤ **Fire Service Update**

Colin Davis gave an update on the main priority issues for the BASH area.

- In December there was 5 primary fires, of these 4 were deliberate and 11 secondary fires, of these 10 were deliberate. There was one road related incident.
- Vehicle fires have increased. Vehicle fires have occurred in Coundon, Eldon and West Auckland.
- In January there was 10 primary fires, of these 4 were deliberate. Work is taking place with the Management Team and partners to identify patterns and reduce. There were 17 secondary fires with 17 of them being deliberate. Particular attention is being given to Bishop Auckland Town Centre where additional fire reduction activities are taking place. Again, there was one road related incident.
- So far for 2023/24 1526 Home Fire Safety Checks and 193 Business Fire Safety Audits/Inspections have been carried out.
- The Fire Service have attended several local engagement activities and have held a Station Open day.
- Partnership working continues to take place to reduce all fire related activity across Bishop Auckland and Shildon.
- The next fire service open day will take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Board and Forum members were welcomed.
- A whole-time fire fighters' course will be taking place this year. There will be 12 places available. It is anticipated around 3,000 applicants will apply.

SQ thanked the fire service for carrying out home inspections due to a recent incident. This was echoed by DR.



CD requested a slot on the March board agenda to present on the Risk Management profile.

**ACTION** – BASH AAP to reserve a slot on the March agenda for the fire service to deliver a presentation on the Risk Management profile.

➤ **Police / PACT Update**

In the absence of Insp Mark Edwards a Police update was circulated to Board members.

JH highlighted the ongoing issue of stray horses. Historic partnership work is ongoing, and a forum is in place, to tackle this issue long term. Issues at St Helens, Coundon and Bishop Auckland Town were highlighted.

JH raised concerns with allocating Neighbourhood Budget to fund improvements to football pitches for young people to play on when horses can quickly destroy them.

GS suggested using Section 106 funding to tackle this issue.

**ACTION** – APW to highlight the issues raised to Insp Mark Edwards.

APW notified the Board that Sgt Vicki Ord will be moving onto a new role. The Board thanked Sgt Vicki Ord for her time and support.

**A8. Date / Time / Venue for next Board Meeting**

SQ thanked Board and Forum members for attending the meeting. APW thanked and congratulated the Board on the work that has taken place over the years.

**Board** - Thursday 21 March 2024, 4pm, Bishop Auckland Football Club