

Derwent Valley Area Action Partnership



Annual Report 2016/17

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Introduction to AAPs

Area Action Partnerships or AAPs were introduced in County Durham in 2009 as part of the reorganisation of local government. There are 14 Partnerships covering all areas of the County.

The AAPs bring together local people, councillors and partners to set local priorities and explore ways to take action to address these priorities. People can get involved in the AAPs through the AAP Forum or by participating in one of the priority Task Groups.

Each partnership has a decision making Board of 21 people and an Area Budget which can be used to support local projects that address the priority areas agreed on by the Partnership.

The AAPs are part of the wider County Durham Partnership (CDP) and contribute towards the CDPs themes of Altogether Wealthier, Altogether Greener, Altogether Healthier, Altogether Safer and Altogether Better for Children and Young People.

Welcome from the Coordinator

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Derwent Valley Partnership Annual Report 2016/17 which details the work and achievements of the Partnership over the last twelve months.

This is our seventh Annual Report which reflects the impact locally of our partnership working with residents, community groups, voluntary and community organisations and partners to tackle local priorities, as chosen by our residents.

Our aim is to work closely with communities to identify and address local issues and in turn improve the area in which they live in. By engaging with the community through the Forum and the various community partnerships, last year we were able to assist in the development and delivery of 14 projects which have helped to address the priorities set by local people which were 'activities for children and young people', 'environment' and 'employment, education, training and regeneration'.

Last year was a busy year for events for the Partnership; we hosted our second large scale Party in the Park event in July in the beautiful surroundings of Blackhill and Consett Park, partying with over 3,000 local residents. We also held our fifth 'Christmas in Consett' and Christmas lights switch on event in Consett Town Centre in early December and included a new illuminated parade to add some extra sparkle to the evening! Over 250 residents braved the cold and wet weather to help make the event a success and bring some festive cheer to the town centre.

The AAP Team would like to thank Board, Forum and Elected members, Partners, community representatives and our wider local residents for their continued support and participation throughout 2016/17.

We look forward to the coming year with a renewed enthusiasm, new project ideas and the expectation that we will continue to work in partnership to deliver local action for the benefit of everyone.



Corinne Walton
Area Coordinator

Annual Overview Key Achievements 2016 /17

59 Projects Approved

- 13 Area Budget
- 45 Neighbourhood Budget
- 1 Welfare Reform

480 children/young people have been involved in local schemes to help them maximise and realise their potential.

£332,647.08 Match Funding declared

- £33,390.46 Area Budget
- £299,256.62 Neighbourhood Budget

77,957 residents reached via Facebook in 12 months.

830 local residents have benefitted from schemes aimed at reducing health inequalities and improving mental wellbeing.

556 local residents have been given access to new cultural, sporting and recreational opportunities.

£656,990.45 Grants Awarded

- £100,000 Area budget
- £546,990.45 Neighbourhood Budget
- £10,000 Welfare Reform

3,300+ residents attended the events hosted by the Partnership offering free information and family activities

Area Budget Projects 2016/17

Each year the AAP gets an allocation of £100,000 through its Area Budget. Projects and initiatives are developed through the work of the Task and Finish Groups and are approved by the Board.

Priority	Project Details	Amount Allocated
Activities for Children and Young People	<p>Life Stories</p> <p>Groundwork North East designed this project to gather cross generational stories from people living in the Derwent Valley area focusing on work, leisure time and the natural environment. Local groups, older residents and schools were engaged to promote interaction between younger and older members of the community, encouraging life stories and memories to be shared through story telling. Stories gathered in the project are being made available online and will feed into a large project to produce a piece of music and drama about the area.</p>	£8,767
	<p>TEAMH Suicide Prevention and Awareness</p> <p>If U Care Share Foundation delivered a TEAMH Suicide Prevention and Mental Health project in the area targeted at the 14+ age group. The aim of the project was to raise awareness of mental and emotional health with young people, increase their confidence to talk about mental health, highlight support services available to them and equip members of the wider community with skills to intervene when someone may be feeling suicidal as well as how to support those bereaved by suicide appropriately.</p>	£13,200
	<p>Motivate Programme</p> <p>Consett Rugby Club worked in partnership with Consett Academy and Spartan Performance to develop a structured training, health awareness and nutrition programme for young people who had barriers that stopped them improving their lifestyle and wellbeing. Consett Academy selected 60 young people, aged between 11 and 18 years old for 10 hours of after school activity. Young people who attended the programme and completed the course received a Level 1 certificate that formed part of their record of achievement and they received a free 'Motivate' kit.</p>	£6,200
	<p>School and Community First Aid</p> <p>St John Ambulance developed a project to teach children and young people essential lifesaving skills. A range of first aid training was delivered to all schools with first aid club resource packs and AED's (Automated External Defibrillator) and training on how to use them also being provided. The project also enabled the training of first aid champions within each school and provided resources which will help them set up and run school first aid clubs.</p>	£11,000
	<p>Derwent Valley Youth Outreach Sessions</p> <p>Consett Churches Detached Youth Project (CCDYP) delivered this project to provide a sessional worker with support worker to carry out detached youth work engaging young people through diverse leisure activities aimed at promoting physical and emotional wellbeing. A series of workshops were held on issues affecting young people such as drug/alcohol awareness and healthy eating as well as tackling issues such as bullying and suicide prevention. Two residential days were planned to give</p>	£5,000

	young people the opportunity to learn new skills away from their normal environment.	
Environment	<p>Growing Durham</p> <p>Growing Durham is a project of Food Durham and aimed to get many more people in the county growing some of their own fresh food, vegetables, herbs and fruit. Working with groups to develop community gardens, orchards, planters or hanging baskets with edible plants growing initiatives helped improve the local environment, got people of all ages engaged in some physical activities and increased mental and physical wellbeing. Funding for the project supported a community grower to work in the DVP area one day per week for a year with the aim of widening involvement and engaging new groups.</p>	£8,071
	<p>Wild about Derwent Valley</p> <p>OASES (Outdoor and Sustainability Education Specialists) and Durham Wildlife Trust developed a project aimed at encouraging young people and the local community to appreciate and improve their local environment. Local school children and people in the wider community were supported to engage and connect with their local environment and will have the opportunity to work through the 4 strands of the John Muir award (i.e. discover, explore, conserve and share). The project aimed to raise awareness of the ecology of the area, help foster an appreciation and respect for the environment and encourage people within the area to become active citizens and take responsible action for the Derwent Valley's wild places.</p>	£12,434
Employment, Education, Training and Regeneration	<p>Technology and Engineering Apprenticeship Hub</p> <p>County Durham Engineering and Manufacturing Network created a local Apprenticeship Hub working with 10 - 20 local companies to streamline the recruitment and selection process for apprenticeships. This enabled businesses to maintain their present skilled workforce and meet future skills needs to ensure they remain competitive locally, regionally, and internationally. The new Apprenticeship Hub liaised with local schools, colleges and training providers, promoted the Hub to young people via these networks, and organised the recruitment and selection days locally to match up the young people with an appropriate company/trainer.</p>	£7,298.08
	<p>Primary School Coding Club</p> <p>Learning code is an important skill in a digital age and this project set up an after school Code Club for one hour a week in each primary school in the Derwent Valley area where Year 6 pupils (10/11 year olds) learnt to code. Children learned the basics of programming, web development and computer language by showing them how make computer games, animation and websites. Funding was used to provide equipment in schools, room hire and was also used to provide training sessions for teachers / volunteers to allow them to sustain the club.</p>	£6,600
	<p>Routes into Apprenticeships</p> <p>Engineering Development Trust (EDT) developed the project to show students the advantages of choosing an apprenticeship in relation to other STEM pathways and the opportunities it offers that can lead to rewarding careers and higher education opportunities. Derwent Valley students gained an insight into</p>	£2,298.08

	<p>what companies are looking for in their apprenticeship candidates and how students can put themselves in the best position to be selected for interview and offered an apprenticeship. This project gave young people in years 10 and 11 (aged 14 - 16 years) the opportunity to spend time with a number of employers offering STEM apprenticeships in Derwent Valley.</p>	
	<p>Consett Destination Development Plan This project was identified by the AAP as an opportunity to provide Consett with an understanding of its place within the visitor economy of the County. Visit County Durham delivered the project which helped the town understand what it currently offers visitors, provided practical and pragmatic objectives on what the town needs to do to improve itself as a destination and enhance the experience of its visitors. This was achieved by research as well as through a host of workshops culminating in a destination plan for Consett.</p>	£5,724
	<p>Robotic Workshops Go Ahead Training North East delivered a new and exciting series of robotics workshops based around the technology used in today's industries. This pilot project ran a series of interactive robotic programs in Consett Academy with students from years 7 to 11 where they learnt the basics to create and build simple structures and use simple programs to create movement, write programs to control movement, use coding to problem solve and to debug and develop more complex devices.</p>	£6,207
All Priorities	<p>Derwent Valley News Magazine and Derwent Valley Life Website The AAP has funded the production and delivery of the Derwent Valley News since September 2009 and it is delivered to over 23,000 households in the area ensuring all local residents, community groups, organisations and partners are aware of the AAP, its priorities and how to get involved in its work. The newsletter was produced three times (Spring, Summer and Winter) and included articles from partners, community groups and organisations as well as the AAP itself.</p>	£10,000
	<p>Christmas in Consett and Illuminated Parade The AAP's 'Christmas in Consett and Illuminated Parade' took place in Consett on Friday 2 December. A range of live music, comedy related entertainment, children's characters and stilt walkers entertained the crowds throughout the evening, leading up to the Christmas tree lights switch on. A Christmas jumper competition was held alongside an illuminated parade and lit shop window displays linked to the 2016 'Illuminating Waste' project.</p>	£5,685
	<p>Party in the Park Event 2016 The AAP hosted a second Party in the Park event on Sunday 17 July 2016 between 12pm – 6pm. This was a free outdoor family event providing a selection of bands, individual musicians and local community groups as well as children's activities such as face painting, bungee trampolines, rides and outdoor games. A free shuttle bus service operated from various pick up points in Consett Town Centre to the park on the day of the event.</p>	£5,641

Welfare Reform Projects

This year the AAP has received additional funding receiving £10,000 to allocate to projects dealing with issues linked to changes brought about through welfare reforms. This additional funding was allocated through the work of the Task Groups / Board structures.

Funder	Project Details	Amount Allocated
Welfare Reform	Technology and Engineering Apprenticeship Hub Project – see project description above.	£7,298.08
	Routes in to Employment Project – see project description above.	£2,701.92

Information on Area Budget Key Performance Indicators against which project outcomes are assessed can be found at appendix one.

Neighbourhood Budget Projects

Neighbourhood budget is a £20,000 allocation that each of the local County Councillors receive to support local organisations. Organisations usually approach the councillors with a request and the project application is then developed with the support of the AAP team.

Councillor / Electoral Division	Project Details	Amount Allocated
Owen Temple Consett North	Consett Fun Day	£1,500
	Blackfyne Community Allotments	£2,500
	Empire Theatre Seat Refurbishment	£2,000
	Durham Road Bus Shelter	£1,000
	Consett Clock	£10,000
	Boxing Ring at Consett YMCA	£1,000
	Glenroyd House Boiler	£6,060
	Glenroyd House Capital Improvement Works	£5,950
	Mad Alice Theatre Lighting and Projector	£1,196
	Lighting for Blackhill and Consett Park	£2,420.50
Alex Watson Consett North	Consett Fun Day	£1,500
	Blackfyne Community Allotments	£2,500
	Empire Theatre Seat Refurbishment	£2,000
	Durham Road Bus Shelter	£1,000
	Consett Clock	£10,000
	Boxing Ring at Consett YMCA	£1,000
	Glenroyd House Boiler	£6,060
	Glenroyd House Capital Improvement Works	£5,950
	Mad Alice Theatre Lighting and Projector	£1,196
	Lighting for Blackhill and Consett Park	£2,420.50
Ivan Jewell Dipton and Burnopfield	Stanley Citizens Advice Bureau	£2,000
	Empire Theatre Seat Refurbishment	£2,000
	Pickering Nook Bus Shelter	£1,000
	Homing Society Equipment	£2,100
	St James Church Replacement Doors	£2,300
	Dipton Road Safety	£10,600
	Burnopfield Communal Room Improvements	£3,572
	Dipton Scouts Blackbull House Roof Repairs	£15,462
	Burnopfield Gardening Project	£4,107
	Dipton Scouts Blackbull House Roof Repairs Phase 2	£15,741
Joanne Carr Dipton and Burnopfield	Stanley Citizens Advice Bureau	£2,000
	Empire Theatre Seat Refurbishment	£2,000
	Pickering Nook Bus Shelter	£1,000
	Dipton Road Safety	£10,600
	Sustrans Survey and Improvements	£3,000
	CLLD Dipton Project Fund	£12,590
	Dipton Scouts Blackbull House Roof Repairs Phase 2	£24,959
Alan Shield Leadgate and Medomsley	Brass Schools Programme	£2,400
	St Ebba's Church Clock Tower	£2,288.50
	Ebchester Community Centre Dishwasher	£2,350
	St Ebba / Hamsterley War Memorial Refurbishment	£3,000
	Leadgate Cricket Club Wall	£2,500

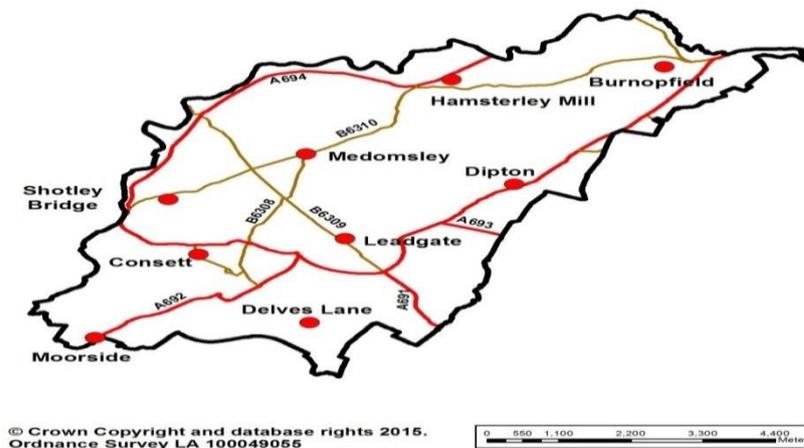
	Leadgate Footpath Improvements	£6,686.03
	Ebchester Hill Traffic Calming	£937.28
	Ebchester Footpath Improvements	£2,722.61
Watts Stelling Leadgate and Medomsley	Brass Schools Programme	£2,400
	St Ebba's Church Clock Tower	£2,288.50
	Empire Theatre Seat Refurbishment	£2,000
	Ebchester Community Centre Dishwasher	£2,350
	St Ebba / Hamsterley War Memorial Refurbishment	£3,000
	Leadgate Cricket Club Wall	£2,500
	Leadgate Footpath Improvements	£6,686.03
	Ebchester Hill Traffic Calming	£937.28
	Ebchester Footpath Improvements	£2,722.61
Stephen Robinson Blackhill, Bridgehill, Benfieldside and Shotley Bridge	Consett Fun Day	£1,500
	Replacement Indoor Bowling Mats	£1,000
	Snow Green Road Play Area	£22,953
	Shotley Bridge and St Mary's Christmas Trees	£1,488
	Derwent Angling Club	£5,000
	Community Improvement Programme BBBSB	£12,500
Peter Oliver Blackhill, Bridgehill, Benfieldside and Shotley Bridge	Consett Fun Day	£1,500
	Replacement Indoor Bowling Mats	£1,000
	Snow Green Road Play Area	£28,105
	Shotley Bridge and St Mary's Christmas Trees	£1,488
	Empire Theatre Seat Refurbishment	£2,000
	Shotley Bridge Cricket Club Noise Survey	£2,000
	Community Improvement Programme BBBSB	£10,594
Derek Hicks Consett South	Empire Theatre Seat Refurbishment	£1,000
	Consett Clock	£7,000
	Glenroyd House Boiler	£7,974.53
	Glenroyd House Capital Improvement Works	£2,740.42
	St John's Church Hall activities and Worker Costs	£10,500
	Warwick Avenue Parking Provision	£14,837
Jane Brown Delves Lane	Delves Behind the Hood CCfC	£8,000
	Empire Theatre Seat Refurbishment	£2,000
	Delves Lane Facilities Management / Community Development	£7,500
	Delves Lane /Temple Town/Crookhall Play Facilities	£26,000
	Consett Methodist Church Roof Repairs	£3,000
	Crookhall Community Centre Extension	£15,750
	Crookhall Community Development	£12,500
Bob Glass Delves Lane	Delves Behind the Hood CCfC	£8,000
	Empire Theatre Seat Refurbishment	£2,000
	Delves Lane Facilities Management / Community Development	£7,500
	Delves Lane /Temple Town/Crookhall Play Facilities	£26,000
	Consett Methodist Church Roof Repairs	£3,000
	Crookhall Community Centre Extension	£15,750
	Crookhall Community Development	£12,500

The AAP Area

The Derwent Valley Partnership area covers the north west of Durham and stretches from Moorside in the south west, through Consett and Leadgate, to Burnopfield in the north. The AAP is bordered by Northumberland and Gateshead Borough to the north.

The area is predominantly urban in nature with a population of over 45,000. Many of the settlements benefit from the picturesque views of the Derwent Valley and the town of Consett is located on a hilltop above the valley on the edge of the Pennines and was a former steel working town where operations ceased in 1980.

Adjoining Consett is Shotley Bridge, surrounded by picturesque woodland and once the heart of Britain's sword making industry. Leadgate now stands as a small village with a close knit community, but it originated as the home of the workers and staff of the Eden Colliery 1844-1980, and the Consett Iron Company.



The Derwent Valley Partnership area takes in a number of local communities, towns and villages: Blackhill, Bridgehill, Burnopfield, Consett, Crookhall, Delves Lane, Dipton, Ebchester, Hamsterley Colliery, Hamsterley Mill, Hat and Feather, High Westwood, Hobson, Iveston, Leadgate, Lintz Green, Lintzford, Low Westwood, Medomsley, Medomsley Edge, Moorside, Pickering Nook, Pont and Bradley, Shotley Bridge, Templetown, The Grove, The Dene, Villa Real.

The Derwent Valley Partnership Board

The Board is the decision making body of the Area Action Partnership. It meets formally at least six times per year and has 21 members who are brought together from the public, partners and elected officials.

Public	Partner	Councillor
Rosemary Morris	Police Inspector Keith Wardle	Councillor Watts Stelling Leadgate and Medomsley
Peter Dobson	Health Michael Thewlis	Councillor Alan Shield Leadgate and Medomsley
Ann English	Fire Craig Farrage	Councillor Alex Watson Consett North
Tina Townson	Voluntary Sector Anne Marie Parkin	Councillor Ivan Jewell Dipton and Burnopfield
Phillip Marshall	Housing Phillip Curran	Councillor Derek Hicks Consett South
Marlene Boyles	Business Gary Scott	Councillor Bob Glass Delves Lane
Elsie Davies	Durham County Council Lesley Jeavons	Councillor Peter Oliver Benfieldside

Forum Event(s)

The Partnership hosts two Forum events per year, one in the summer and one in the winter. The summer event(s) provides an opportunity for the Partnership to showcase its work and to celebrate the efforts of local volunteers. The winter event focusses on how the Partnership will move forward in the next financial year and enables residents to steer this work by voting for their local priorities. An outline of each Forum event held in 2016 is detailed below.

Derwent Valley Partnership Party in the Park Event

As opposed to hosting a June Forum Event in 2016/17, the Board chose to host a second Party in the Park event on Sunday 17th July 2016 between 12pm and 6pm in Blackhill and Consett Park which attracted over 3,000 residents.

The planning of the event commenced in early January 2016 and the Partnership Board allocated £5,641 towards the delivery of the event from its 2015 Area Budget. It was stressed at the outset of the event planning that similar to the previous Party in the Park, this would be a free, family focussed, outdoor music event, providing local partners and organisations with an opportunity to showcase their services and promote volunteering opportunities.

The organisation and delivery of the event was undertaken by the Partnership Team with support from Leisureworks and Durham Constabulary.

The event was sponsored by a range of partners and organisations including Leisureworks, Durham Constabulary, Eventcover Productions, Northumbrian Water, Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service and Derwentside College.

A range of in-kind support was also provided including the use of radios to ensure good communication throughout the course of the event and free hire of room facilities to store equipment/hold event briefings in the park lodge.

The Partnership Team developed an area wide publicity campaign which utilised local media, posters, flyers, newsletters, Facebook, circulation lists and noticeboards in community venues, shops, supermarkets and public facilities.

As parking was limited at the park, the Partnership Team procured the services of Stanley Travel to provide a free shuttle bus service for residents which ran throughout the day from Consett Town Centre to the park on a loop system, calling at various points along the route, this service was well received and eased parking pressures for local residents.

Derwent Valley Partnership November Forum Event

In November the Partnership holds a Forum event to update Forum members and local people on its work and to provide an opportunity for residents to vote for their local priorities for the forthcoming financial year. The number of people listed as a Forum member currently stands at about 1,300.

In November 2016, to ensure all residents were provided with an opportunity to take part in the voting process, the Partnership offered three mechanisms, postal voting, on-line survey and in person at a specially arranged event. These opportunities and the response received are detailed below.

November Forum and Priority Voting Opportunities

The Partnership hosted a Forum event on 30th November 2016, 6pm-8pm at Consett Academy. The event was host to a selection of information stalls showcasing the services of partner agencies and local organisations. A presentation was delivered to outline local data and profile information about the area to enable residents to vote for their priorities later in the evening during a facilitated workshop session.

The main element of the event was the opportunity for anyone aged 11 years or over, living, working, studying or volunteering in Derwent Valley, to vote for their local priorities from a selection of 10 as follows:

Priority Name
Children, Young People & Families (includes tackling anything which can support our children, young people and their families to live a happier and healthier life)
Communication, IT & Technology (includes tackling anything that would improve residents' access to up to date information and the means to accessing that information)
Community Safety (includes tackling anything that would help residents to feel safer at home, at work, and out and about in their community)
Culture, Tourism & Heritage (includes tackling anything that would improve access to culture and heritage, the development of tourism in your local area; improving networking, marketing and promotion, volunteer support and developing new tourism ideas, as well as events)
Employment, Enterprise & Training (includes tackling anything that could help residents to gain employment and access to training)
Health & Wellbeing (includes tackling anything that would improve residents' health and happiness)
Older People (includes tackling anything that would help older residents live a happier and healthy life; older residents are defined as 50yrs+ by Age UK)
Supporting Local Groups (includes tackling anything that would support local community groups and buildings, the voluntary sector and community activities)

Transport, Traffic & Roads (includes tackling anything that would help residents to access services and provision, and anything that would make using the highways less dangerous or difficult)
Your Local Environment (includes tackling anything that would help your town, village or countryside to become a more vibrant and attractive place to live and visit)

Residents were asked to vote for their priorities using the hard copy questionnaire contained within their event pack. The results of the voting exercise were then collated with the results from the subsequent on-line and postal survey returns.

Derwent Valley News Newsletter – Winter Edition 2015

In November 2016, the DVP Board chose to use the winter edition of Derwent Valley News to provide an additional and alternative mechanism for residents to vote for their priorities.

The newsletter was distributed to all households in the Derwent Valley area and contained the list of 10 generic priorities as detailed above along with a tear out voting slip for residents to complete and return, again, these results were collated as part of the overall number of returns.

Derwent Valley On-Line Priority Voting

In addition to the November Forum event and the circulation of the Derwent Valley News magazine, an on-line survey for the wider public and a specific targeted on-line survey for young people attending Consett Academy was developed to provide an additional voting method. The results of the on-line survey were included in the overall collation of the voting results for 2016.

Overall Voting Results for 2017/18

Based on the Forum event, circulation of Derwent Valley News and the on-line voting surveys, the tables below provide the combined voting results for 2017/18.

Voting results from general public:

Ranking	Priority	Votes	Percentage
1	Employment, Enterprise and Training	135	62.5%
2	Children, Young People and Families	103	47.7%
3	Health and Wellbeing	80	37%
4	Local Environment	66	30.6%
5	Transport, Traffic and Roads	56	25.9%
6	Older People	54	25%
7	Community Safety	49	22.7%
8	Culture, Tourism and Heritage	36	16.7%
9	Supporting Local Groups	35	16.2%
10	Communication	34	15.7%

Voting results from young people:

Ranking	Priority	Votes	Percentage
1	Employment, Enterprise and Training	45	91.8%
2	Children, Young People and Families	24	49.0%
3	Health and Wellbeing	22	44.9%
4	Older People	12	24.5%
5	Local Environment	11	22.4%
6	Transport, Traffic and Roads	10	20.4%
7	Communication, IT and Technology	9	18.4%
8	Community Safety	7	14.3%
9	Culture, Tourism and Heritage	5	10.2%
10	Supporting Local Groups	2	4.1%

These votes were considered by the Partnership Board at their meeting in January 2017 to help steer the decision making process relating to priorities for 2017/18.

Priorities

Each AAP chooses their priorities on an annual basis. How these priorities are addressed forms the core of the work of the AAP over the course of the year.

The priorities for 2016/17 were agreed upon by the Partnership Board in January 2016 with the decision being informed by a number of pieces of information. The vote by Forum members that was held in November 2015 was the key piece of information. Voting took place in a number of ways: a Forum Event was held in Consett Academy on 30th November, a special edition of Derwent Valley News was circulated to all homes which included a voting slip and an on-line survey was also offered via Survey Monkey for local residents and young people at Consett Academy.

The captured information from the voting consultation was supplemented with statistical information and local knowledge. Based on this information the Board agreed on three priorities for 2016/17.

- Activities for children and young people
- Employment, education, training and regeneration
- Local Environment

Having received additional funding related to Welfare Reform, projects based around this theme were also considered over the year.

The three priority areas are by their nature very broad and could potentially cover many, many issues, so it was important to be able to look at each priority in a bit more detail. To do this the Partnership established three specific Task Groups to explore the themes in conjunction with local partners, organisations, community groups and residents. Statistical information and local data was also used to ensure that the key areas of focus under each priority were the most appropriate.

Further to initial meetings of the Task Groups, each Group produced an action plan detailing specific themes against which projects would be developed and delivered, these were subsequently reviewed and agreed by the AAP Board and formed the focus of the work for each Group over the course of the year.

Task Groups

As previously highlighted, there is one Task Group for each of the Derwent Valley Partnership's priorities. They are made up of interested Board and Forum Members and those professionals whose expertise lies within the priority. The task groups discuss all of the relevant issues relating to the priority which helps to create an action plan that can be used to develop local projects. The Task Groups help to develop the projects before they go to the AAP Board for funding approval.

Activities for children and young people

The activities for children and young people's task group met regularly throughout 2016/17 and adopted a new Chair, Jessica Wray. The group provided direct feedback to the Board after each meeting regarding project development and progress of projects.

Task group members reviewed a range of local, regional and national data and consulted with a range of youth related organisations operating within the area and those services represented at the Task group meetings. The review of data and the input from our local partners and delivery organisations helped to identify potential actions and project ideas that could help the group to address the issues.

During their earlier discussions, the group considered; the scale and scope of the priority/issues, the type and amount of information required to make a decision as to the focus of the group work, what services and activities are going on already, how people find out about these services/activities, how successful current initiatives are, what has been tried previously and what worked well/not so well, who else needs to be involved and what will make a difference to our local children and young people.

Based on the above discussions, the task group created an action plan in 2015/16 which contained the following themes:

- Encouraging young people to engage with older residents via intergenerational opportunities.
- Promoting young people's health and wellbeing (mental and physical) and personal safety.
- Young people who may require additional or structured support.

In total 5 projects were funded under this priority theme totalling £44,167.

Employment, education, training and regeneration

The employment, education, training and regeneration task group met regularly throughout 2016/17 and nominated Rosemary Morris, public representative, to chair the group and provide direct feedback to the Board regarding progress. The task group has grown to be the most well attended group of all task groups created by the Partnership and attendance at meetings is always extremely high.

The task group discussed and considered a number of local issues as identified through data analysis and the experiences of local businesses and organisations themselves and subsequently developed an action plan for project development linked to the following themes:

1. Future Skills Development in the Workforce

- Engineering and Manufacturing recruitment - local Forum/hub to find appropriate staff
- Technical and managerial skills need
- More specialised training (technical /inspection)
- Employability/communication skills training
- Support for specialist external training
- Better aligned apprenticeship recruitment process
- Successful training providers/LAs work closely with employers in key sectors.
- Small manufacturing company needs
- Subsidised unit space
- Business led initiatives to engage the local community
- Local STEM employers group
- Work experience opportunities
- More links with secondary schools
- More realistic presentation of job opportunities and careers that exist

2. Supporting the development of higher level Science, Engineering and Manufacturing (STEM) skills/qualifications, specifically in all or any of the following:

- Automotive/Rail vehicle sectors
- Life/Health Sciences
- Digital/Creative Industries
- Space Technologies
- Oil/Gas/Offshore Wind sectors
- Built Environment
- Product Design
- Financial/Professional/Business Services.

3. Targeting specific groups for employment and training support in these areas eg 14-16s, 16-18s, 19+, apprentices, unemployed

4. Regenerating Consett and the Derwent Valley by supporting existing businesses, encouraging more businesses to locate in this area, and developing the workforce skills to the highest levels possible in occupations where there is an existing and future demand, and establishing much closer links with education and the world of work.

In total 5 projects were funded under this priority theme totalling £28,127.16

Environment

The environment task group was created as a new group for 2016; it met regularly throughout 2016/17, and nominated Richard Hurst, a representative from, OASES, as the chair of the group. The group provided direct feedback to the Board regarding progress throughout the year.

This was a new priority for the Partnership and as such, the group had a lot of initial work to undertake in relation to increasing its membership, exploring associated data, making links with service deliverers and identifying gaps in service provision locally. It was helpful that 'environment' had been a priority for a number of years previously, with a break in between, so there was a good starting point in terms of interested representatives who may wish to get involved again.

As discussions progressed and the group expanded, the task group decided to focus project delivery around the following action plan themes:

- Encouraging people to appreciate and improve their environment – environmental cleanliness perspective
- Encouraging people to improve their environment – environmental improvement perspective
- Promoting people’s health, safety and resilience (environmental focus).
- Recognising the benefits of raising awareness with young people (and others) of the ecology linked to the Derwent Valley area and the need to respect, cherish and preserve this for future generations.

The group worked in partnership with a number of organisations and internal departments to explore and develop the above themes including OASES, Durham Wildlife Trust and Civic Pride.

In total 2 projects were funded under this priority theme totalling £20,505.

Project Case Studies

Many of the projects approved by the AAP this year will not actually be delivered until the financial year 2017/18. This also means that a lot of the projects approved in 2015/16 were actually delivered in 2016/17. Information on all previously funded projects is available from the AAP team via a range of Project Booklets which the team have developed; however, we have provided some case studies below to give a flavour of what has been delivered over the past year.

1. Beat the Scammers! - £10,000

The Partnership worked with Age UK County Durham, Fraud Specialist Investigation Team, Trading Standards, Derwentside Homes and Police Crime and Victims Commissioner Ron Hogg to deliver a Beat the Scammers! project.

The project recruited and trained local volunteers and gave presentations to older people in the community about how to handle cold telephone calling (recorded and live). Associated prevention services to complement the project were also promoted as part of the presentation relating to telephone and mail preferences etc.

Call blocker devices have subsequently being supplied and fitted to older residents' phones free of charge (for qualifying residents including those caring for someone in their home, those who live alone/are frail, in receipt of means tested benefits). All older residents who did not meet the qualifying criteria were made aware of the devices and how to purchase them if they wished.

The project was delivered by a dedicated project worker and volunteer recruitment started back in July 2016. Detectives from the Fraud Specialist Investigation Team have supported the development of the volunteer telephone fraud training pack and training in how to install call blockers was arranged for managers of the Derwentside Homes sheltered courts scheme.

The project received a big boost through the support of our local partners and we were delighted that the Police Crime and Victims Commissioner fully supported the project and provided some additional funding to recruit volunteers and roll out project development to more areas in the county. Currently, other AAPs areas such as Stanley are supporting the delivery of the scheme in their areas based on our pilot project.

The project is now working with the DCC Community Safety Team and the County Durham Safeguarding Adults Board to ensure that the messages communicated through the initiative are consistent across County Durham and talks are being delivered to older people at a rate of one per week.

A Beat the Scammers referral form is now available as a writeable pdf that can be completed and emailed back to the project which is accessible for housing officers, Care Connect, Social Services and other referrers.

Case study - "I'm 86, I'm blind and I live alone. Please stop calling me!"

A call blocker was installed in the home of an older man who is almost blind. He was plagued by nuisance calls at all hours of the day and night (even at midnight). He thought he was appealing to them to stop by repeatedly telling them *"I'm 86, I'm blind and I live alone. Please stop calling me!"* This actually meant that his details were being sold to other scammers. Fitting the call blocker stopped all the calls immediately. When we contacted him for our follow up check he said *"The scammers must have fallen out with me – I've not had a single call"*.

2. Primary School Coding Clubs - £6,600

Learning code is an important skill in a digital age and this project aimed to set up an after school Code Club for one hour a week in each primary school in the Derwent Valley area where Year 6 pupils (10/11 year olds) would learn to code. The aim was to teach children the basics of programming, web development and computer language by showing them how to make computer games, animation and websites.

Further to the support of the Employment, Education, Training and Regeneration Task Group, nine primary schools in the Derwent Valley area have now set up coding clubs in addition to the one that was already running at Bishop Ian Ramsey School, the nine schools are: Leadgate Primary, Castleside Primary, Our Lady and St Joseph's, Brooms, Delves Lane Primary, Shotley Bridge Primary, St Patricks Primary, Benfieldside Primary, Collierley Primary and The Grove Primary.

Teacher representatives from each of the participating schools also undertook training sessions between January and June 2017 to equip them with coding skills so that sessions could be delivered and coding related work could progress beyond the life of the project.

Each of the participating schools received a VEX IQ super kit (robot), 10 micro:bit essentials kits and 100 complementary inventor's kits for the BBC micro:bit.

10 out of the 15 primary schools engaged in the project and based on its success, two further primary schools along with Consett Academy, have recently come forward to say if there is to be a second phase of the project then they would be interested in getting involved.

3. Enterprise Support Project - £10,920

At the request of the Partnership, CDC Enterprise Agency developed an Enterprise Support project aimed at supporting individuals with one to one training, coaching, advice and guidance to assist them to overcome barriers to self-employment.

The project aimed to support more individuals to set up small businesses in the area to increase employment rates and tackle issues inherent in underemployment (zero hours contracts, inconsistent working arrangements, low income etc.). CDC Enterprise Agency has a long track record in this field and although there is currently support for the unemployed, support for non JSA / ESA claimants is minimal.

This project was designed to be part of a wider network of delivery across the West of the County and aimed to engage with a minimum of 50 individuals from the Derwent Valley area and help create a minimum of 12 new businesses.

The Enterprise Support project is now complete and it surpassed a number of the targets set for its delivery. 253 hour long one-to-one coaching sessions were delivered with people interested in launching a new business. In addition to this 62 businesses were supported to help them become more sustainable and/or achieve growth. These sessions were delivered by experienced business advisers and were tailored to the needs of the individuals and their businesses.

26 individuals also accessed group training sessions on various aspects of setting up a business, including marketing, financial planning and building business confidence. The group sessions were really well received and provided an opportunity for people to network as well as learn about important business topics.

As a result of Partnership funding, the project has created 26 new jobs in the local area (compared to a target of 12), has helped 62 existing businesses to keep jobs in the local area or to create

additional jobs (compared to a target of 12), delivered 253 advice and guidance sessions (compared to a target of 150) and has supported 26 people in to employment (compared to a target of 12).

County Durham Partnership (CDP)

As well as having partners on the Derwent Valley Partnership Board, the Partnership itself is part of the wider County Durham Partnership (CDP). The CDP is made up from all of the key service providers in County Durham, such as Durham Constabulary, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service, Durham County Council, North East Chamber of Commerce, Durham University, Voluntary and Community Sector, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Public Health, Police, Crime and Victims of Crime Commissioner and Housing.

The Partnership submits regular reports on a quarterly basis on how it is impacting on the CDPs priority areas which is presented to the Partnership Board.

The CDP Forum meets three times per year and brings AAP Chairs with members of the CDP Board. The Partnership Chair Rosemary Morris has attended the CDP forum meetings this year on behalf of the Derwent Valley Partnership.

For more info on the CDP have a look at their website. www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk

Consultations

AAPs are seen by the Council and other partners as key consultees when major changes are being discussed. The Derwent Valley Partnership has a good record of responding to consultations and also in making sure that a thorough job was done to make sure any response is detailed and supplied to the service provider. During 2016/17 the Partnership has been involved in several key consultations:

- Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)
- Children, Young People and Families Plan 2015-18
- Consett Hotel Development
- County Durham Plan Issues and Options
- Middle Street Public Realm Improvements
- County Durham Safeguarding Community Engagement Strategy
- Safer Durham Plan 2016-19
- Police Council Tax Precept 2016-17
- Police and Crime Plan 2016-2020
- NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans
- Visit County Durham Tourism Management Plan
- Consett Masterplan Refresh

Wider AAP Work

Aside from meetings, priority work and consultations, the Partnership was involved in wider community related work including:

- Community development - engaging with individual residents and community groups/partnerships within the area at events and meetings.
- External fundraising - to help bring additional monies in to the area either through project development or supporting groups to apply for grants.
- Community based events – hosting events such as Party in the Park, Christmas in Consett and the 2016 Consett Remembrance Day Parade and supporting already established events locally such as Armed Forces Day.
- Networking - actively attending county wide and regional events and conferences to help bring examples of good working practice and projects to Derwent Valley.
- Communication – informing residents about local services, consultations, projects, funding opportunities and general news via our quarterly newsletter, Derwent Valley News, community website, Derwent Valley Life and increasingly popular Facebook page.
- Promotion – using our communication methods detailed above to help groups, partners and organisations promote their services, events, activities, good news stories and community facilities.
- Signposting and advice – providing residents and groups with information in response to general queries and requests for help regarding community group governance, fundraising and business planning and signposting groups to local support services such as Durham Community Action.

Performance Management and Monitoring of Projects

Area Budget Projects that the AAP supports are monitored on a regular basis. In order to do this each project must identify a number of outcomes, milestones and key performance indicators associated with their project. These forecast figures are submitted as part of the application and are shown in detail in appendix one.

All area budget projects must return monitoring forms to the Partnership on a quarterly basis. These returns are submitted to the AAP Task Groups initially for review and are then presented to the AAP Board with any issues to address highlighted by the AAP Team. Projects that are not performing as expected can be looked at and supported where appropriate, in a very rare number of cases, funding can also be returned to the AAP for reallocation to alternative projects.

All of the collated key performance indicator forecast figures for 2016/17 can be seen in appendix one.

Plans for 2016/17

The priorities for 2017/18 have been set and the Partnership will be looking at three key areas alongside one cross cutting theme:

- Employment, enterprise and training
- Local environment
- Health and wellbeing
- Children, young people and families (cross cutting)

The Partnership Board has also been provided with £10,000 of funding to support welfare reform related projects locally as per the previous year and has also received £9,902 to support youth related activities for young people aged 11-19 as part of a new AAP Youth Fund.

The three Task Groups have now started to meet to explore these themes and have recently drafted their action plan themes for the Board to consider so a 'call out' for projects can be made for each priority as appropriate. Partnership forum members, residents not currently involved and partners are encouraged to get involved in the work of the groups so they can share ideas and shape project development moving forward.

The Partnership Board will meet a minimum of six times throughout the year. Meetings all start at 6:00pm and take place in the Consett Salvation Army Hall on Sherburn Terrace in Consett. The dates are detailed below:

- 14th June 2017 (AGM)
- 19th July 2017
- 27th September 2017
- 18th October 2017
- 31st January 2018
- 28th February 2018

Look out for members of the AAP team at forthcoming community events taking place during the summer months and there will of course be our Priority Voting event in November and additional Christmas in Consett activities in early December so we look forward to seeing you there.

Thank You

The Derwent Valley Partnership would like to thank everyone who has supported their work over the year especially those who came along to Board meetings, task groups, forum events, sub groups and other events and activities. We would like more people to get involved in 2017/18 so if you would like to be active with the Partnership or know anyone else who would be interested then come along to one of our meetings or give the AAP team a call.

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