

DERWENT VALLEY PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the **DERWENT VALLEY PARTNERSHIP BOARD** was held in the Consett Salvation Army Hall, Consett on Wednesday, 18 October 2017 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT:

Councillors

Joanne Carr, Alan Shield, Watts Stelling Owen Temple and Alex Watson

Partner Organisations

Gary Scott - Derwentside Business Network, Joanne Waller - DCC and Insp Keith Wardle - Durham Constabulary

Public Representatives

Marlene Boyles, Jeannette Harold, Rosemary Morris, Shelley O'Brien and Christine Wotherspoon

APOLOGIES:

Cllrs Derek Hicks & Ivan Jewell - Elected Representatives, Phillip Curran - Karbon Homes, Craig Farrage - Co Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service & Anne-Marie Parkin - Durham Community Action - Partner Representatives and Donna Summerson - Public Representative

IN ATTENDANCE:

Derek Snaith - AAP Co-ordinator, Kath Clements - Community Development / Project Officer and Lynn Dougal - Support Officer

PRESENTERS:

Lesley Jeavons, Team Around the Patient Programme – North Durham CCG, Gordon Elliott, Head of Partnerships & Community Engagement – Durham County Council and Marion Ward & Kevin Earley – Shotley Bridge Hospital Support Group

Members of the Public – 13

1. Introductions

Derek Snaith introduced himself as the temporary AAP Co-ordinator and welcomed everyone to the meeting and to those who were giving a presentation.

Board members were given an opportunity to introduce themselves and apologies had been received as per the above.

Declarations of interest were made by Gary Scott, Digital Business Hub in the Derwent Valley project proposal and Cllr Stelling, Watling Woods project proposal.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meeting (27 September 2017)

P2. Cllr Shield referred to in comments regarding BIG and said it should be Business Improvement District (BID) and not BIG. An amendment has been made to the September minutes.

There were no further issues raised and the minutes were AGREED

3. Partner Updates

Lesley Jeavons gave a presentation on the Team around the Patient Programme

As Director of Integration, part of Lesley's role is to work across DCC, the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) in County Durham and the County Durham & Darlington Foundation Trust (CDDFT) to take forward the integration programme, which refers to adult social care services working alongside the NHS (a copy of the presentation is available upon request).

Jeanette Harold asked if they gather baseline information for North Durham and how do they measure the impact of improving and promoting independence. Lesley said they have a performance framework that identifies particular areas for example, are we delaying people going into residential care? To gather baseline information, we ran surveys amongst GPs, social workers, practice staff and patients to gather their views on how it is working now and we will go back in 6-12 months and measure if there have been any improvements.

Jeanette also asked how they will share information with the voluntary sector and those involved in the wrap around care. Lesley said we will seek permissions from people first so we can share information between agencies. Also if people are signposted to a voluntary sector service and they are already being supported for that referral, then it will not be necessary for detailed information to be shared.

Christine said as the focus is on the elderly initially, once that target is reached will they move onto a different population, eg mental health in young mothers. Lesley said that is the goal. There is also Primary Care Home which is about all activities. This is what is happening in the south of the region as they originally focussed on TAPs and have now moved across to all activities. They manage their own budget and when they make a saving they can invest it in other services in the area.

Brenda Bell (Forum) asked who is included in the voluntary sector. Lesley said they have asked Durham Community Action (DCA) to work on their behalf as they are familiar with the voluntary sector services, and initially it will be around support for older people. She also said any voluntary group that is able to offer a support service can be included.

Cllr Temple asked when we can expect an update on progress. Lesley said she is happy to come back at the end of March, which is the expected timescale for the TAPs to be up and running by.

Gary thanked Lesley for her presentation and input at the meeting.

Before moving on to the next presentation Cllr Shield wanted to raise an item, for information only, regarding the County Durham Plan (CDP) and the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). As he sits on 2 planning committees, he and other planning committee members were concerned that there is no CDP. A revised CDP will be resubmitted, possibly, in 2018 after it has gone through a consultation and reviewing process which could take up to two years.

Within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Paragraph 14 looks favourably at applications that encourage sustainable development. In County Durham there are 23 neighbourhood areas and 1 Forum that have already started on a NP, all at different stages in the process. If the sustainable development can be challenged by a NP it is likely that applications will be more balanced in the decision making. As the north of the county does not have many parish and town centre councils, he wondered if we should look at a NP that looks at all the DVP areas rather than a general one. We need more information on this as we could find that some areas, without a plan to refer to, could be subject to a decision making process biased towards the NPPF.

Cllr Shield suggested the Strategic Planning Team is invited to the next Board meeting in January to do a presentation about Neighbourhood Planning.

Gordon Elliott gave a presentation on the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and Budget Consultation 2018/19

Each year the Council has to set its budget for the following year and over the last few years this has been very difficult as there has been less money available. The Budget Consultation is seeking

the views of residents in County Durham to help shape our approach and to help us improve services and meet local needs (a copy of the presentation is available upon request).

Gordon urged everyone to look at the consultation leaflet and to complete the budget consultation questionnaire before leaving the building this evening.

The consultation questionnaire involves answering 4 questions:

1. Looking at our proposals do you think this is a reasonable approach?
2. Are there any particular saving proposals for 2018/19 that you would like to comment on?
3. Despite the financial challenges, we aim to continue to transform and improve. Is there anything about our services you think we should change?
4. The council recognises the importance of working with communities to meet local needs. What do you think would most improve the quality of life in your local community?

Please complete the paper copy or alternatively, visit the council website to complete the questionnaire online at www.durham.gov.uk/consultation.

Members of staff will be out and about in community venues over the next few weeks aiming to get as many people involved in the consultation.

Rosemary Morris asked if there will be more details on some of the proposals as we get towards the end of the financial year and which services are most at risk. Gordon said there are 39 proposals at the back of the cabinet report that are all itemised which is available online to view all the savings.

Cllr Watson wondered if offenders with community service could be employed to do some of the maintenance work, repairs, cleaning etc. Gordon said there is a small project within the Youth Offending Service for people on probation, however he thinks this may be around environmental clean ups.

Jeanette Harold enquired about the back office staff taking on more responsibility and asked how, if at all, the council is ensuring the health and wellbeing of these staff members. Gordon said we regularly survey staff on issues such as mental health, stress, confidences in the processes, etc. Despite all the changes we still have high satisfactory levels within the Council. We also have Public Health within DCC and they are keen we put necessary steps in place to encourage wellbeing such as walking groups and cycling activities.

Gary thanked Gordon for his presentation and encouraged everyone to take part in the consultation.

Marion Ward and Kevin Earley gave a presentation on the future of Shotley Bridge Hospital (SBH) (a copy of the presentation is available upon request).

The Shotley Bridge Hospital Support Group has approximately 200 members who are very passionate that Derwentside has a hospital facility in the area. There is always the possibility that SBH may close which could mean a 30 mile round trip to the University Hospital of North Durham for residents in this area.

There are a number of options available around keeping the existing building or looking at moving facilities elsewhere, but we would like to retain services at SBH. If we can get the support of the whole community, maybe we can maintain services in the area.

For updates, follow their Facebook page – Shotley Bridge Hospital Support Group.

Cllr Watson said the Shotley Bridge Member and Officer Group (SMOG) are aiming to come up with reasonable ideas and a way forward. He does not see refurbishment of SBH as an option but sees a new hospital being the way forward. As this area has a growing population there needs to be a hospital in this area as well as continuing to improve health services.

Cllr Stelling said he attended a meeting last November, that included hospital personnel and councillors, and it was stated that Shotley Bridge would be in the 'Consett area'. Whether this was to be a new building, a refurbishment, on the present site, etc, it was to be decided. Cllr Stelling asked Kevin and Marion if there is a preferred option for the group.

Kevin said the group would prefer to maintain the current level of services and beds. However, there will be pressure to fill the space at Stanley Health Care Centre as it is underused and also Chester le Street is an asset of the Health Service. Shotley Bridge was moved into NHS Property Company, therefore if you own the asset you are much more likely to use that. SBH is also facing pressure from other Health Trusts who locate their services to Durham, eg Sunderland Health Trust building an Endoscopy Suite.

Gary thanked Marion and Kevin for their presentation and as there are elected members who are involved in this, he asked if they could keep this Forum informed of any developments.

4. Task Group Update, Code of Conduct and Project Proposals 2017/18

Code of Conduct

Derek briefly covered the Code of Conduct and asked the Board to note its content. He also advised that this will be shown to all the Task Groups. In Board and Task Group meetings, the DVP aims to foster a good environment, allow people to talk freely in an appropriate manner and ensure decision making is fair and inclusive. He will be visiting all the task groups up until Christmas to offer support to DVP staff and to the chairs of the task groups.

Task Group Update and Project Proposals 2017/18

Derek advised he will be taking over from Corinne as lead officer of the Environment Task Group.

At the last Board meeting in September, the Board deferred the *Go Green in the Derwent Valley project* (Environment Task Group) until more information had been received. This information is available in the Task Group update report and a detailed response has now been provided by the Land of Oak & Iron (LOI) around what work they are doing and how it fits in with partners in the local area and what outcomes the LOI have delivered on.

Before the Board were asked to make a decision whether to fund this project, Derek said there are a further 2 project proposals from the Employment, Enterprise and Training Task Group and the 'Watling Wood' project from the Environment Task Group (although this is under the £5k threshold and would be considered if there was funding available) to consider.

As the remaining Area Budget for 2017/18 is £23,224.35 and the combined total of the above project proposals is £31,045 should the Board chose to fund all the projects, there would be an over spend of £7,820.65.

Derek also said there are 2 other pressures regarding the management of the budget. Firstly, in all of the projects funded so far, we are struggling to spend our capital allocation. Of the £100k Area Budget a higher percentage is allocated to revenue costs with a smaller percentage towards capital. Therefore the projects that have been supported so far and those projects to consider funding do

not have any/hardly any capital element in them. Secondly, as an AAP we are performing very poorly in terms of match funding.

Moving forward, the DVP can revisit all of the projects and see where capital funding can be gained. From the projects we have supported we can pick out some of the capital elements rather than the revenue streams; it would not affect the decision of the project. Regarding match funding, we can look at projects that may have match funding but it has not been highlighted either by the applicant or we have not picked it up.

Derek said the Board may wish to allocate all of the funding now or keep some funding back until the next financial year.

Cllr Carr indicated that as the LOI covers part of our area we may be able to obtain European funds, although it may be difficult to get. There are other funds available such as the Heritage Lottery Fund and Cllr Carr said she is happy to help with this.

Cllr Temple suggested we do not make a decision this evening on any projects, especially as 2 of the Task Groups have not met (Environment and H&WB), and we wait until we consider the issue of match funding and look at this again in January.

Derek reminded the Board there is still £10k Welfare Reform money ring fenced.

Gary asked if any of the project proposals are time critical and if we delay a decision on them it may jeopardise the project.

Rosemary Morris said the *Digital Business Hub in the Derwent Valley project*, under the Employment, Enterprise and Training Task group, would need the Board's approval as soon as possible as tied in with this project is a proposal to the LEP for £300k to refurbish a building in Consett. If we have several businesses already in a small place of that ilk, it is easier to prove we have serious interest here and we need bigger premises.

Gary asked the Board whether they wish to defer all or some of the projects.

Shelley thinks it is important to stay within budget and monies should be spent within the year it was allocated.

After further discussion it was decided to look at the *Digital Business Hub in the Derwent Valley project* – setting up a small Digital Hub in the Innovation Centre in Consett for 5 - 10 small digital businesses which would offer co-working and teaching space. Funding request of £14,000 from the 17/18 Area Budget.

Cllr Temple would like some clarification regarding Business Durham willing to offer support and them securing funding through EDRF for digital engagement and asked if we are in a position to commit them to this.

Derek said it is possible that if we look into this further, there is likely to be match funding that they have not highlighted.

The Board AGREED to fund this project.

To summarise, the Board AGREED to:

- fund the Digital Business Hub in the Derwent Valley project (Employment, Enterprise and Training Task group)
- Digital Skills training for over 50s (Employment, Enterprise and Training Task group) - deferred until next year
- Go Green in Derwent Valley and Watling Woods projects (Environment Task Group) – deferred until the next meeting

Derek advised that by the next Board meeting in January, the DVP will have a clear view of the budget in relation to capital expenditure and match funding.

Destination Development Plan

The Destination Development Plan was attached for information for the Board. This work has now been completed, however the action plan within the document is something the Employment, enterprise and training task group will look to take forward.

5. Derwent Valley Partnership Board 2018 Schedule of meetings

Derek asked the Board to note the dates for next year.

Brenda Bell (Forum) noticed that the date for 30 May 2018 is during half term. Derek indicated this date may be changed and notification will be sent to Board members in due course.

There were no further issues raised and the meeting dates were AGREED with a possible change to the May (AGM) date.

6. DVP Christmas Event Update

Derek advised that the DVP is holding a small Christmas in Consett event on Saturday 2 December between 5.30 – 6.30pm which will coincide with Small Business Saturday.

Although we have £2.6k allocated from last year to fund the event, we do have a shortfall of around £1200. There are 2 options - one to fund it from the Area Budget or to request a small contribution of approximately £100 from each of the local Councillors. The consensus from the Board was to approach the local Councillors to request a small contribution to fund the event.

7. Any Other Business

As you will be aware we have a vacancy on the Board for one public representative and there are 2 candidates, from the original interviews, that are still interested in joining the Board and they will be interviewed informally with a view to one them joining the Board by January. Also we should have a new partner representative from the CCG by the January Board meeting.

8. Meeting Close and Date of Next Meeting

Gary thanked everyone for their attendance.

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday 24 January 2018 in the Salvation Army Hall, Consett at 6pm.

Signed as a correct record:

Date: