

DERWENT VALLEY PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the DERWENT VALLEY PARTNERSHIP BOARD (AGM) was held in the Salvation Army Hall, Consett on Wednesday, 16 May 2018 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillors
Derek Hicks, Ivan Jewell, Alan Shield, Watts Stelling, Joanne Carr and Alex Watson

Partner Organisations
Phillip Curran - Karbon Homes, Alison Lazazzera - DCC, Anne-Marie Parkin - Durham Community Action (DCA), Rachel Rooney – Clinical Commissioning Group, Gary Scott - Derwentside Business Network (DBN) and Insp Keith Wardle - Durham Constabulary

Public Representatives
Marlene Boyles, Jeannette Harold, Helen Marley, Rosemary Morris, Donna Summerson and Christine Wotherspoon

APOLOGIES: Shelley O'Brien - Public Representative

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

PRESENTERS: None

Members of the Public – 8

1. **Introductions**

Derek Snaith welcomed everyone to the meeting and to Rachel Rooney from the North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group who joins the Board as a partner representative and replaces Catherine Findlay. Derek thanked Catherine for her attendance at the Board.

Derek also thanked Anne-Marie Parkin for her time and input on the Board and advised that all DCA representatives will be no longer be on AAP Boards. It is hoped that a local VCS representative will replace DCA.

Apologies were received as above and there were no declarations of interest.

2. **Presentation of Annual Report**

Gary Scott asked the Board to note its contents and highlighted page 4 of the report which shows the key achievements for 2017/18. The report provides information on projects supported by the DVP that have been funded through the Area Budget, Neighbourhood Budget, Youth Grant Fund and Welfare Reform money. Gary thanked the Task Groups, Board and DVP Team for their time and commitment over the last 12 months.

Derek highlighted the Key Performance Indicators at the back of the report which is the statistical information on all the Area Budget projects delivered over the last year.

Jeanette Harold said it is good to know how many people have participated in something but she would like to see information about what impact it is having. Gary

said monitoring goes on beyond the project being delivered and shows the outcomes that have been achieved.

Derek said the impacts/changes could be included in next year's framework. Also under project monitoring on the agenda, the final evaluation report details the impacts and what difference the project has made.

A copy of the Annual Report 2017/18 is available upon request and will also be available at <http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2595/Derwent-Valley-AAP>.

3. **Change/New Vice Chairs and Chair for 2018-19**

Each year at the AGM the Board elect a new Chair and Vice Chairs. Derek thanked the current Chair Gary Scott and Vice Chairs Rosemary Morris and Cllr Watts Stelling for their invaluable support over the last year.

Nominations were received for Vice Chairs and AGREED as follows:

Gary Scott – Partner Representative
Rosemary Morris – Public Representative
Cllr Alex Watson – Elected Representative

As the position of Chair rotates to the Elected Representative category, Cllr Alex Watson was AGREED as the new Chair.

Cllr Watson thanked Gary for his work as Chair of the Board; he said it has been a very successful year and is looking forward to the challenges ahead.

4. **Minutes of Previous Board Meeting (14 March 2018)**

There were no issues raised and the minutes were AGREED.

Code of Conduct

Cllr Watson confirmed the amended Code of Conduct will be adopted for all AAP meetings and thanked Jeanette for her contribution.

5. **Older People's Social Isolation Fund (OPSIF) Guidance**

The Board has been given the report/guidance on this fund as information only as we are not looking to launch a call out for projects at the moment or obtain expressions of interest. Derek briefly covered the report and highlighted:

- Each AAP will receive £25k annually for the next 3 years and will be used to support projects relating to social isolation and health and wellbeing for older people. It is envisioned that projects will include preventative measures to help people reduce the impact on health services.
- An initial expression of interest is to be made to the DVP coordinator.
- A minimum amount of £5k for projects, however there may be exceptional cases where projects may need less the £5k.
- The funding is to be allocated by 31 March of each year and projects can run for more than one year.
- Projects will be monitored similar to those funded through the Area Budget.
- It is a targeted grant – for over 50s but there is flexibility locally.

Cllr Watson asked if this should go to the Health and Wellbeing task group who should look to make progress on the OPSIF fund, with wider support and input.

Brenda said as apprenticeships are being offered to the over 50s she wondered if it could apply to the Employment, Enterprise and Training task group.

The Board AGREED the OPSIF should go the Health and Wellbeing task group initially to scope out the potential for the allocation of this fund.

6. **Task Group Updates and Actions Plans** (key points highlighted)

Health and Wellbeing Task Group

The task group has considered intergenerational activities and suggested undertaking a survey to gauge people's opinions which could feature in the Derwent Valley News.

Youth suicide is particularly high in this area and Derek attended a meeting recently where the Deputy Director of Public Health discussed a strategy around mental health and young people. The DVP funded an If U Care Share project aimed at helping to address this and has received an evaluation report on what they have delivered. A copy is available upon request.

John O'Connor (Forum) advised the opening of Sweetharts on a Monday was from 7 May and not 1 May. Sweetharts is closed on Monday's but is opening specifically for those people living with dementia. Pre-booking is essential.

Regarding the meeting with the North East Ambulance Service to discuss a proposed defibrillator project, Cllr Shield said the meeting took place on 19 April and not 19 May.

Environment

Six groups applied for the Environmental Improvement Grant Awards and 4 were successful:

Leadgate Task Force - large planters
Royal British Legion - commemorative seating
Hamsterley Mill Residents Association - rights of way improvement
Medomsley in Bloom - gardening equipment

The group received a presentation from Living Streets about a Walk to School project. They were very supportive of this scheme and would like to see those schools where the 20mph zone has been/will be implemented targeted first.

A very good evaluation report was received from the Wild About Derwent Valley project which shows the outcomes and impacts it is having on the area. A copy is available upon request.

Employment, Enterprise and Training

The group received a presentation from Craig Skinner of The Grove Primary School (not Moorside School) about the impact of the Code Club project. It has been well received and 'coding' is set to get more national recognition.

Mark Short from Dysart gave a presentation on the rationale for developing a Town Centre Group and what that could do for Consett and the surrounding area. It is hoped that a steering group can be set up to focus on Consett Town Centre.

Cllr Watson said the County Durham Plan will be out for consultation soon and we need to be a part of it. He said there are a number of options to look at and suggested that DVP should have representation on a group to look at a Town Centre Board or a Redevelopment Board, with engagement from Project Genesis Trust. He has also spoken with Gordon Elliott and Andy Palmer to set up a meeting within Durham County Council on this topic. Cllr Watson said it would be beneficial if the public sector and the business sector could work together to make a town centre board happen.

John O (Forum) would like to see a formal proposal from the DVP to support the formation of a Town Centre Board/Working Group.

Cllr Watson said at this point we are not discussing a town centre board but looking at all the options. We would be initially looking to be part of a steering group and after further discussions with key people in the Council we should be in a better place to shape the future of the area.

Cllr Shield said we need to identify what we intend to do and how we engage with DCC. He would like to see the DVP Board endorse the formation of a development group. This was also supported by Jeanette Harold, Christine Wotherspoon, Marlene Boyles, Rosemary Morris, Gary Scott, Cllr Hicks and Helen Marley.

Rosemary felt engagement with the Council is crucial and we need to find the right model that will deliver what we want.

Derek said the next Employment task group meeting scheduled for 14 June is likely to change as the project call out ends on 15 June. Task group members will be informed in due course.

Derek asked the Board to note the Actions Plans which have been updated for all the task groups.

7. Project Monitoring Reports

The project monitoring update report was sent to Board members prior to the meeting and Derek briefly covered the contents of the report. A scaled down version was also shown 'on screen' and in colour (red, amber and green) which helped to show the issues/current status of the projects. Copies of the full monitoring reports for all projects are available upon request.

Regarding the Derwent Valley Digital Business Hub project delivered through CDC Enterprise, applications for a Digital Hub Manager closed on 11 May and interviews will take place on Friday 18 May.

The Dementia Friendly Communities Coordinator, through Alzheimer's Society County Durham, has been appointed and due to start employment on 21 May.

8. Partner Updates

Police update by Inspector Keith Wardle

Keith briefly covered the report and highlighted a few points. On 19 March 2018, Durham Constabulary in connection with Liverpool and Northumbria Police Forces engaged in a huge operation where 14 homes in the Consett area, 4 in Liverpool and 2 in the Northumbria Police area were raided. It has been a complex and long running operation with large quantities of cocaine seized and many arrests made.

Cllr Shield heard on the radio about County Lines and children being used as drug mules and asked if there is any evidence in this area. Keith said not in this area but there is evidence it is coming north. It started in London and he has heard of cases in Cleveland.

Cllr Shield said we need to engage with schools to make them aware of this and reinforce that 'drug dealing' is not a lucrative lifestyle. He would like to see DCC and Durham Constabulary be proactive to prevent this from happening.

Keith said they do go into schools and have a carousel they deliver yearly. He said County Lines is organised crime pushing out from urban areas such as London where the market is saturated. They target vulnerable young people and move into their area and spread the network out.

Jeanette thinks the issue is a whole community responsibility and would welcome any projects/partnerships to support this.

Rosemary shares everyone's concerns and suggested looking at examples from around the country and the world to see how they dealt with the problem. Police resources are already stretched and more are needed if this is to be tackled.

Christine Wotherspoon asked what can be done to deter this lifestyle. Keith said there is work being done and he has approached an ex-criminal, now reformed, to chat about it. They do a lot of diversionary work and the Checkpoint scheme signposts people to various agencies.

Regarding a protest camp by the Bradley Open Cast site, Keith said unlawful protests have taken place over the last 6-8 weeks with 15 arrests being made. This has cost the police over £50k which could be put to better use. On Monday and Tuesday of this week, his team spent 100% of their time dealing with illegal protestors locking onto one another and lying down on the road. On Tuesday the road was closed for most of the day and with around 40 thousand vehicles normally using the road it caused a lot of inconvenience and disruption to the area. It has been extremely difficult to manage due to limited resources and because of this no other police and community work have been carried out.

Keith said the police are supportive of local peaceful protests but there has been a number of protesters from out of the area who have set out to commit criminal acts. Some of the tactics used have involved assaulting people on site and digging underground tunnels.

A Forum member asked if the site security personnel could do more. Keith said the security firm can secure their site and it is well resourced i.e. CCTV but they cannot police the highway where most of the intrusion has taken place.

Cllr Shield does not condone the illegal acts that have been perpetrated by people outside of this community. He said one of the major problems with the application is that it has been refused twice by DCC but supported by one independent planning inspector. Problems have arisen through a lack of formal engagement between Banks and DCC. No notification was given to elected members about the footpath

being closed; it was only highlighted by protestors and local people and no provision was made for wheelchair users/pushchairs.

He also said Banks asked the community to work with them and to set up a liaison committee, which he is the Chair. He then read out a synopsis from the Liaison Committee Constitution. Cllr Shield feels that some of the problems could have been prevented if there was full engagement and communication and this is what has been sadly lacking.

Keith said he is available after the meeting should anyone wish to speak to him.

9. **Initial Defibrillator Paper**

Derek said the DVP has undertaken a scoping exercise, with advice from the North East Ambulance Service (NEAS), to ascertain what Automated Emergency Defibrillators (AEDs) are available in the area.

The Board received a copy of the report which provides information on the current location of publicly accessible AEDs (including a map), estimated costs, storage of the AEDs, suggestions for locating further AEDs and possible training opportunities. Also included in the report was information about a DVP funded project, delivered through St John Ambulance Service, which trained school children in First Aid as well as installing AEDs in 7 schools in the DVP area.

Derek suggested that a small group is formed, such as Board/Task Group members, to take this to the next stage. A more comprehensive audit could be carried out with the help of the NEAS to see where else they may be located (supermarkets, care homes).

Cllr Watson wondered if this could come under the remit of the Health and Wellbeing Task Group. A discussion then took place around forming a sub group from the Health and Wellbeing Task Group, getting input from businesses as they can purchase them privately and purchasing a large number of AEDs, may qualify for a discount.

Although the Board agreed that this should go to the Health and Wellbeing Task Group, Derek said after more research has been carried out through the task group, it could involve other people within the partnership.

10. **Coordinators Report**

Derek gave a summary of the report and advised that that the call out for projects for the 3 task groups, linked to the Area Budget, was launched on Friday 11 May. To date there have been 19 expressions of interest with most of those interested in applying coming along to one of the three funding application advice sessions on offer. The deadline for project applications is Friday 15 June.

The Youth Fund of £9,902 will be available again this year and will follow a similar approach as last year. This will be promoted in due course.

Party in the Park will be taking place this year on Sunday 15 July in Blackhill and Consett Park. The event will be managed by a local events management company, who helped deliver Christmas in Consett last year. We have been in contact with the Royal British Legion, Consett and District Branch who will be putting together an exhibition based upon the people named on the Consett Cenotaph and will be on

display at the event. They will also be unveiling a commemorative bench in the park to recognise the centenary of the end of WW1.

Funding (£5k) for local groups to hold events linked to the celebration of the end of WW1 will be made available. It is hoped this will be launched by the end of May/beginning of June and local groups can apply for up to £1k.

The deadline for submitting articles for the summer edition of the Derwent Valley News is 25 May 2018. The summer edition will be the last one for this year and we are planning to include a short survey to ask residents their thoughts on the newsletter to determine future commitment for this project.

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) improves individual's rights on the data held about them. Under GDPR, when we collect personal information from or about a person, we are required by law to give them a privacy notice – this will be standardised across all AAPs. Within all AAPs a review has taken place on how we collect and store data as well as what we use it for and for how long it is kept.

One immediate change is that when Neighbourhood Budget applications are sent out for review, personal details i.e. name, address, telephone number, email will be blanked out.

Helen Pinkney, who has been covering Fiona Kelly's position, left her role on 11 May and has gone back to her substantive post within the Council. Fiona is due back to work week beginning 11 June. Derek will remain in post as DVP Co-ordinator until November as Corinne Walton will be extending her maternity leave until then.

11. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

12. Meeting Close and Date of Next Meeting

Alex thanked everyone for their attendance.

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 July 2018 in the Salvation Army Hall, Consett at 6pm.

Signed as a correct record:

Date: