

## DERWENT VALLEY PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the **DERWENT VALLEY PARTNERSHIP BOARD** was held in the Salvation Army Hall, Consett on Wednesday, 26 September 2018 at 6.00pm.

### **PRESENT:**

#### **Councillors**

Derek Hicks, Ivan Jewell, Alan Shield, Watts Stelling, Owen Temple and Alex Watson (Chair)

#### **Partner Organisations**

Phillip Curran - Karbon Homes, Mick Clark - Co Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service (stand in for C Farrage), Gary Scott - Derwentside Business Network (DBN), Joanne Waller - DCC and Insp Keith Wardle - Durham Constabulary

#### **Public Representatives**

Marlene Boyles, Jeannette Harold, Helen Marley, Rosemary Morris and Donna Summerson and

### **APOLOGIES:**

Craig Farrage: Co Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service and Rachel Rooney: Clinical Commissioning Group – Partner Representatives, Shelley O'Brien and Christine Wotherspoon – Public Representatives

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Derek Snaith - AAP Co-ordinator, Fiona Kelly - Community Development / Project Officer, Lynn Dougal - Support Officer and Corinne Walton (DVP Co-ordinator)

### **PRESENTERS:**

Members of the Public – 12

### **1. Introductions**

Cllr Watson welcomed everyone to the meeting and Board members introduced themselves. He also welcomed Corinne Walton, who was sitting in the audience.

### **2. Minutes of Previous Board Meeting (18 July 2018)**

#### *Matters arising*

On p.1 regarding the Town Centre Partnership Group, Cllr Watson said it has been suggested that the DVP establish a sub group. After meeting with the vice chairs of the DVP, further discussions are required and it is proposed that a special meeting is held on 15 November. Cllr Watson asked the Board to note this date and the time and venue will be confirmed in due course.

There were no further issues raised and the minutes were AGREED.

### **3. Shotley Bridge Hospital (SBH) update**

Unfortunately Rachel Rooney, CCG Partner Rep was unable to attend the Board meeting to give an update on SBH but provided a short summary from a meeting held in September which Cllr Watson read out.

- Paper was presented to County Durham Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 7 September.

- The content of the report outlined some of the discussions to date but in no way was an indication that any decisions had yet been made on the final outcome.
- The CCG outlined that work was now underway to develop options around a clinical model which will look at the local needs of the population and not just the current activity which is seen in SBH.
- A robust communications and engagement plan is being developed and will include some key stages of involvement from members of the community, to ensure that people have access to clear and consistent messages and the public will be given the opportunity to feedback their comments on any proposed developments.
- Public engagement will begin in the near future (date to be confirmed soon) which will include some key messages for information and a potential list of options for the future.
- Formal public consultation is likely to start in the New Year with a 12 week consultation period, this is subject to confirmation.

Cllr Shield, who attended the above meeting, indicated that beds have yet to be determined but planning states that 24 beds are required to make it cost effective and sustainable, however the Carter Review (national report) recommends a minimum of 16 beds yet for the North West Durham area it could be an 8 bed provision; Some services like Chemotherapy, Paediatrics and mental health services could be centralised at other acute hospitals.

Cllr Shield said if services are centralised at UHND everyone in County Durham and the North East will be affected and reiterated that elected members, present at the meeting, were dissatisfied with the approach that was taken in issuing a report to overview and scrutiny without coming to the Reference Group first.

Jeannette Harold wonders how the CCG are responding to the issue of beds and what amount may be sustainable when there is no completed assessment of need as yet.

Cllr Temple said the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee has agreed to ask for a report, but a report that judges need, not by activity at SBH and outpatient's appointments as this will not be enough. The right information needs be fed into a health planner which should give us a better idea of the range of health needs.

Cllr Jewell was clear that having representation on the reference group and inviting councillors should not be seen as councillors being 'in agreement' with the report.

John O'Connor (Forum) said the Health and Wellbeing Task Group on 3 October takes place where hopefully Rachel (CCG) will be in attendance at the meeting and also suggested the task group has a separate meeting to discuss SBH.

Rosemary Morris said as part of a strategy locally we need to collect evidence about what we have lost, where we can get it and what the quality will be. If we cannot get answers and a decision is being made, perhaps a final option would be for a judicial review.

#### **4. DCC Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Budget Consultation**

*Joanne Waller gave a brief presentation on the MTFP Budget Consultation 2019/20.*

Each year DCC has to set its budget for the following year and is seeking the views of residents in County Durham in helping to shape future savings proposals. The Council's 'Altogether Better' vision has been in place since 2009 and this needs a refresh and focus on what is important for the Council going forward. This will involve a 3-stage consultation, through the AAPs, to be in place by March 2019 (a copy of the presentation is available upon request).

Joanne urged everyone to get involved in the budget consultation and can visit [www.durham.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.durham.gov.uk/consultations) to have your say. An outline of the full proposals are available online.

The closing date for online views is 19 October 2018. Comments will be considered by Cabinet in December 2018 and a final sign off in February 2019.

Rosemary is concerned about a 'no deal Brexit' with regards to European funding as this area relies on it and what that could mean for a lot of schemes.

John O (Forum) says there is a medium term plan for finance and a long term plan for development but there does not appear to be any connection between the two. He referred to the Durham Finance Fund of £20m through Business Durham and hopes this signals a change whereby DCC are looking to invest rather just making cuts all the time. The medium term plan tends to be about cuts with no mention of investment.

Joanne said it may be that we become more commercial in our operations to give us that long term vision and invest to save and invest to generate income. Joanne said it would be helpful if he could make these comments online.

Cllr Shield said he will be posing this question to John Hewitt, Director of Resources, and said we have savings/reserves in short term investment with an interest rate of 0.52% and also taking out additional debt with an interest rate of 2.52%. Therefore paying 5 times as much on debt interest than on savings interest and wonders if we could use some of the savings rather than taking out additional investment.

Cllr Watson thanked Joanne for her presentation and input at the meeting.

## **5. Budget Report and project proposals**

Derek said the purpose of the report is to give a mid-year update on the DVP's 2018/19 budget. The Board decided to go through the report first and make comments at the end.

To date £89,909 of the Area Budget (AB) has been allocated. 9 projects as part of our project call out across the 3 priority areas (£75,909), £9,000 was spent on Party in the Park and £5,000 allocated to projects celebrating the centenary of the end of WW1. This leaves a balance of £10,998.33 (which includes under spend from last year).

### *Welfare Reform (£10,000)*

There are 2 project proposals for the Welfare Reform funding which is ring-fenced money for projects linked to issues of poverty, low income or low employment opportunity.

1. *Wheels to Work (W2W)* - supporting people into work through a transport scheme.  
Amount requested £10,000.
2. *Age UK County Durham (Age UKCD)* - looking at advice and assistance for older people.  
Amount requested £10,000.

### *Area Budget (£10,998.33)*

There are 2 project proposals for the AB:

1. *County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service* - a scheme supporting vulnerable older people during the colder weather with a package of practical items such as blankets, oil filled (timed) heaters, torches, food/liquid flasks, emergency type foods and phone battery power bars.  
Amount requested from the AB £1,730
2. *Derwent Valley News* - to fund another edition, possibly in the spring of 2019 which could be linked to the DVP priorities for 2019/20 and possibly 2020/21.  
Approximate cost requested from the AB £3,693.

#### *Youth Fund (£9,902)*

Last year a call out for projects that supported youth activities was undertaken but this year it is proposed that the fund is given some additional criteria that addresses the issues of drug misuse and the impact this is having on young people, families and the wider community.

The DVP, in partnership with other services, will develop the criteria and it is also proposed that a small panel is set up to review the applications consisting of Board members and partner agencies with expertise in this area.

#### *Older People Social Isolation Fund (OPSIF) (£25,000)*

This fund helps support isolated older people who are more vulnerable and may well impact on or have a reliance upon health and support services.

The DVP are proposing that this fund be shared equally between the 3 task groups and look at developing projects that meet the criteria but also have an Employment, Enterprise & Training, Environment and Health & Wellbeing aspect to them. Each task group would receive approximately £8,330.

#### *Recommendations*

Cllrs Stelling and Hicks declared an interest in the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service project as they are both members of the Combined Fire Authority.

Regarding the Welfare Reform proposals, Cllr Shield would like clarity on the Age UKCD project as he thought this was to be a countywide project costing £108,000 and each AAP would be contributing to it. Derek highlighted that many AAPs had been approached of which we were one, but the decision on supporting this would be 'local' as in our DVP for the element we are being approached for.

Cllr Shield also declared a conflict of interest as he supported the Durham Christian Partnership (DCP), who received Welfare Reform money last year for a money advice service for the area, therefore he would like to abstain from discussions about the two Welfare Reform proposals.

Cllr Jewell said as the W2W project is supported by other AAPs, he would like more information on how effective this is as this project keeps coming back to us.

Rosemary said the W2W project is operating in about 34 local authorities countrywide which could operate as a self-sufficient company. There is also an option of £35/week which is available for people who need to travel by bus to their workplace.

Cllr Temple thinks if the Age UK project is a countywide project it is likely to be more sustainable and would be better value for money as more people would benefit.

Regarding the Age UKCD project, Rosemary would like to know how the older people are selected and is the case worker employed based in our area and for how long, i.e. a day per week. Cllr Shield said Age UKCD are based in Belmont and there is a northern area officer. He also said approximately £2.4b of pension credit funding has not applied for as people do not know how to apply for it and that they can.

Jeannette said Age UKCD receive match funding from the Council and whilst it might reach more people, the W2W project is doing more capacity building within the community by supporting and training people and helping them to take responsibility. If we make a decision based on numbers we could be excluding worthwhile projects.

Derek said regarding the Age UKCD project, an approach has been made to 11 of the 14 AAPs and is left to each AAP to look at the value of it within their area. Some AAPs have supported it and some have rejected it.

Derek said the W2W evaluation report is included in the Board papers as we have been asked to circulate it as further information. He said they are trying to get to a critical mass of scooters, which they are almost there and once they reach that target they can become self-sufficient.

Jeannette asked if we could find out how much funding the local Age UK receives from the local authority and what the total budget is that goes to Age UK from the Council.

Further discussions and suggestions included funding the Age UKCD project through OPSIF (suggested by John Shaw – Forum) and having a third option to reject both proposals and do a call out for projects.

The Board AGREED to defer both project proposals until the next meeting and obtain further information from the queries above.

Regarding the project proposal from County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service, the Board AGREED to fund this project from the 2018/19 AB.

Regarding DVN, the Board AGREED to fund another edition from the 2018/19 AB. Derek said we may look at sponsorship for DVN in the future.

Donna Summerson asked if projects that were not related to the additional criteria, in the Youth Fund, would be precluded from applying. Derek said no projects would be precluded from applying but would need to fit into the new criteria.

John O (Forum) said in the Health and Wellbeing task group, one of the highlighted issues, which ties into drug use, is the high rate of suicides in this area. As there is a national target to reduce suicides by 10%, and the CCG have money to address this, he suggested the task group look at organisations to deliver a youth project linked to these issues. Derek said projects that come forward may make that link in their application.

Regarding the Youth Fund, the Board AGREED to develop the additional criteria around drug issues and to form a small panel, including people with expertise in this area, to review the applications.

Regarding the OPSIF, the Board AGREED to equally divide £25,000 between the 3 priorities (Employment, Enterprise & Training, Environment and Health & Wellbeing) to look at specific projects.

## **6. Partner Updates**

### ***Police update by Inspector Keith Wardle***

Keith gave an update on the Bradley Open Cast site. A Liaison Committee has been set up linked to the site which aims to share information with the community and to assist in managing a fund (around £52k) that Banks Mining has set up which the community can bid for.

Another protest took place at the site on 8 September with around 70 people attending who came from across the country and from abroad. One crime of assault was recorded but otherwise it was a peaceful protest.

An increase in quad bikes being stolen, mainly in rural areas, has been reported as well as an increase in theft of motor vehicles in Consett town centre. Theft of motor vehicles is from insecure vehicles and Keith urged people to lock their vehicles and hide their valuables from view.

There has been an increase in scams/fraud in this area and nationally. Local PCSOs can offer training and advice in relation to scams and if anyone would like more information or would like them to attend a group, meeting, etc, please contact the local Neighbourhood Police team.

There is also a 'Meet the Detectives' event taking place at Delves Lane Village Hall on 10 October between 4-7pm and in attendance will be our digital crime team who will be delivering advice around cyber safety and fraud.

A discussion took place about the problems caused by speeding across the villages in our area and what can be done to tackle it, whether support from the local MP and the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner can help bring about changes and how groups of young people have visited the Police Training area in Meadowfield to help build relationships and breakdown stigma between young people and the police.

## **7. AAP Priority report**

Derek briefly covered the report and said every year all AAPs consult with the public to determine what local priorities are important to them and it forms the basis for the AAP to focus on in the following year. In 2017 the DVP Board decided to keep the priorities voted for in 2016/17 for another year.

This year a shortened priority survey is available both online and as a paper copy. The survey will be promoted in Consett Library and the access point in Consett as well as on our Derwent Valley Life website and Facebook page.

There are 2 online surveys - one specifically aimed at secondary school pupils and the other aimed at the general public and is available on DCC's website <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/1920Priorities>.

The voting is open now and will close on 30 November 2018 and Derek asked everyone to complete the survey and to share this information within their community.

The data will be collated in December and the results will be presented at the Board meeting in January 2019 for the Board to decide which priorities to focus on in 2019/20. The Board can also decide at that meeting to keep the priorities for two years rather than one year.

DCC will be reviewing their 'Vision' and 2 sessions are being held, one at Delta North to get input from young people and the other in St Patrick's Church Hall to get the views of the public.

Derek said if there are any groups/organisations interested in this we could come along to promote the local priorities/vision, please contact the DVP team.

## **8. Defibrillator report**

Derek updated the Board on the defibrillator report and said following the initial scoping exercise carried out earlier this year on Automated Emergency Defibrillators (AEDs), further research has been undertaken to look at what AEDs are available locally and nationally (a copy of the full report is available on request).

One of the main issues with accessing AEDs is that their location is not publically known. A partnership between the NHS, British Heart Foundation and Microsoft will be developing a comprehensive network of the UK's AEDs and should be available next year.

Once the network is launched AED owners/guardians will be encouraged to register their AED and it will allow Ambulance Services to direct anyone who needs access to an AED to the nearest one. Existing owners/guardians, in some areas, can register now online at [www.neas.nhs.uk/our-services/register-a-defibrillator.aspx](http://www.neas.nhs.uk/our-services/register-a-defibrillator.aspx).

There are 2 approaches linked to AEDs - one is to place AEDs in specific locations based on where it is most likely to be needed and the other is the 'first responder' approach where volunteers are trained in their use and equipped with an AED and directed by ambulance control to the emergency in their locality.

Currently in the DVP area there are 13 AEDs (that we are aware of), although all are not publicly accessible, and 2 first responders who have mobile AED units.

Cllr Shield said we need to coordinate our activities and make all AEDs publicly accessible and place AEDs in areas without one. He has spoken with John Mole from NEAS who has offered training on AEDs and a discount may be applied if we buy in bulk.

Cllr Jewell has received advice on where to locate an AED, their cost which is approximately £1500 plus £650 for the cabinet, the cabinet needs to be temperature controlled, they need to be maintained and signage to direct anyone to them.

Further discussion included a national online petition for government to make all AEDs publicly accessible, the signage should indicate how far away you are from an AED, every community has at least one AED, CPR training is also crucial and including the location of AEDs in the DVP area in the Derwent Valley News.

Derek said we will continue to work with NEAS to help improve accessibility, increase the number of AEDs and they are available in all communities. DVP will also link with the community association in Medomsley as a possible 'pilot' in terms of training and informing that community of the AED they have available there.

**9. Coordinators report**

Derek updated the Board on the monitoring information relating to projects supported by the DVP (copies of the full monitoring reports are available upon request).

There are 2 projects of concern in the Employment, Enterprise and Training task group relating to underspend and completion dates

Derek gave a quick update on the task groups:

*Environment*

The task group received a presentation from Civic Pride about 'Operation Spruce-Up' which will take place in Middle Street, Consett during October and will include painting of street furniture, jet washing, drain maintenance etc.

*Employment, Enterprise and Training*

The task group are considering a proposal to bring the British Cycling Tour of (Derwent) Reservoir to Consett as a possible tourist attraction where it could start and finish in the town centre rather than around the reservoir.

*Health and Wellbeing*

The venue has changed for the next meeting of the task group which is on 3 October at Consett Rugby Club.

**10. Any Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

**11. Meeting Close and Date of Next Meeting**

Alex thanked everyone for their attendance and a safe journey home.

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 October 2018 at 6pm. The meeting is due to take place in the Training Room, Derwentside Business Centre but another venue is being sought and will be advised in due course.

Signed as a correct record: .....

Date: .....