

DERWENT VALLEY PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the **DERWENT VALLEY PARTNERSHIP BOARD** was held in Consett Salvation Army Hall on Wednesday, 13 March 2019 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: **Councillors**
Derek Hicks, Ivan Jewell, Alan Shield, Owen Temple and Alex Watson (Chair).

Partner Organisations

Lesley Duffy – Karbon Homes, Craig Farrage - Co Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service, Alison Lazazzera – Durham County Council (DCC), Rachel Rooney - Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Insp Keith Wardle – Durham Constabulary.

Public Representatives

Marlene Boyles, Helen Marley, Shelley O'Brien and Donna Summerson.

APOLOGIES: Cllr Watts Stelling – Elected Representative, Gary Scott, Do Business Network (DBN) – Partner Representative and Jeannette Harold – Public Representative.

IN ATTENDANCE: Corinne Walton - AAP Co-ordinator, Fiona Kelly - Community Development / Project Officer, Lynn Dougal - Support Officer.

PRESENTERS: Rachel Rooney, CCG on Shotley Bridge Hospital.

Members of the Public – 18

1. **Introductions**

Corinne Walton welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Lesley Duffy from Karbon Homes who is the new Partner Representative. Board members introduced themselves and apologies were noted as above. There were no declarations of interest.

2. **Minutes of Previous Board Meeting (30 January 2019)**

Regarding p5, Cllr Shield advised it is Cllr Watson who is part of the Shotley Bridge Reference Group and not Cllr Stelling. An amendment has been made to the January minutes.

There were no further comments or matters arising and the minutes were AGREED.

3. **Durham County Council Draft Vision**

Corinne gave a brief update and said following the recent consultation DCC held regarding changing the current vision and its Altogether Better themes, it was envisioned that a draft Vision document would be presented at this meeting. Due to the large number of responses received and the significance of this for the Council and its partners, it was felt that more time was needed to consider the feedback before producing the next version. Therefore it is likely the draft Vision will be presented to the Board at either the May (AGM) or July Board meeting.

4. **Older Persons Social Isolation Fund (OPSIF) project proposals**

Corinne went through the report, which the Board received plus copies of the project summaries prior to the meeting. Each AAP has been allocated £25k in 2018/19 to deliver projects that tackle social isolation in the over 50s. The DVP Board agreed to split the OPSIF equitably between the 3 task groups (Environment, Employment, enterprise and training (EET) and Health and Wellbeing (HAWB)) each receiving £8,333.

Each task group discussed a number of ideas and have recommended the following project proposals for the Board to consider funding:

Environment – a small grants fund for local community organisations to apply for funding to deliver environmental activities in their community, £8,333.

HAWB – A Dementia Memory Café in St Patrick’s Church Hall, Consett for those with dementia and their families and carers, £4,400.

EET – The Do Business Network will offer basic digital skills for those considering self-employment and how to use technology effectively in the business world, £8,333.

EET – basic IT skills training in St Patrick’s Church Hall that will help people to use computers and the internet for online banking, GP services, etc, £8,333.

Should the Board wish to fund all of the above projects, there will be an over spend of £4,399. There are a number of options for the Board to consider:

- Part fund one or more of the above projects
- Reduce the amount of the Environmental Small Grant fund as this does not have specific beneficiary numbers at this stage
- Reduce the proportion of funding to each proposal, assuming they can still deliver with the smaller amount
- Allocate £4,399 from the 2019/20 OPSIF

Cllr Shield felt the 2 proposals from the EET task group were a duplication and suggested supporting only one of the proposals. He also thought reducing the funding for each proposal was not a good idea.

Shelley O’Brien mentioned a countywide programme called ROAD (Reaching Out Across Durham) which is a fund specifically for unemployed people and their target group is the over 50s. Unemployed people can get up to 6 months digital support as well as one to one support and wondered if we are duplicating what is already available.

Shelley also asked if the OPSIF was specifically for vulnerable older people and wondered if the DBN project is targeting the right audience particularly if the participants are considering setting up a self-employed business.

Brenda Bell (Forum) said the OPSIF is not just for vulnerable people and mentioned Go North East’s project to get passengers engaging with one another.

Cllr Jewell shares Cllr Shield’s concerns about duplication. He is also keen there is a level of sustainability in all of the proposals and referred to the Dementia Café proposal. Corinne said regarding the Dementia Café proposal, a lot of the equipment and signage will help them initially, but we would be asking them to evidence what other sources of funding they are applying for to sustain the project in the longer term. However, this applies to all projects that we would support.

Susan Mellor (Forum) said the Derwentside Rotary Club received funding for a memory café some years ago and is proposing they work in partnership with St Patrick’s Church Hall to avoid replication. She also queried why they require special flooring, crockery and signage.

John O’Connor (Forum) said St Patrick’s received information from the Alzheimer’s Society who set minimum standards which includes flooring and signage.

Further discussions took place around how many project proposals each task group received and whether any unused money from the OPSIF could be carried over into the next financial year. Corinne clarified that the OPSIF could not be carried over into the next financial year.

Shelley said if the Board agree to fund one of the proposals from the EET task group and the Environment proposal, she suggested the under spend of £3,933 go to the HAWB task group as they have not used their full allocation of £8,333.

Corinne confirmed that the Board AGREED to the following:

Environment – to fund an Environmental Small Grant Fund, £8,333
HAWB - to fund the Dementia Memory Café, St Patrick's Church Hall, £4,400
EET – to fund the Keep IT Real project, St Patrick's Church Hall, £8,333

The remaining £3,933 will go to the HAWB task group to add value to projects being currently developed/explored, this must be committed by the end of the financial year (30th March) and be in keeping with the themes of the OPSIF.

5. **AAP Budgets 2019/20**

Corinne discussed the report which explains the budget allocations all AAP's receive annually, the budget process and the options for the DVP.

At this stage we do not know what the budget allocations will be and based on last year's funding we hope to receive the following:

- Area Budget - £100k
- Welfare Reform - £10k
- Youth Fund - £9,902
- OPSIF - £25k

There is a budget process all AAPs have to adhere to, with some budgets linked to specific criteria and a dedicated Funding Team who review the submitted project proposals. There is some flexibility in how the budgets are allocated such as how we develop project proposals, which proposals are supported, and the timescales linked to these processes.

To overcome timescale pressures linked to the allocation of the above budgets, the Board were asked to consider the following options for 2019/20:

- Area Budget – to split £100k equally between the 3 task groups and each task group to undertake a project call out
- Welfare Reform – to undertake an open call out for project proposals amounting to £10k with the aim of generating higher value projects or to split £10k between the 3 task groups which would limit proposals to around £3k
- Youth Fund – to undertake an open call out for project proposals
- OPSIF - to undertake an open call out for project proposals amounting to £25k or to split the £25k between the 3 task groups as per last year.

Cllr Shield said the Board should look very carefully at project proposals, particularly around expenditure and referred to the Consett Advice Hub project which the Board agreed to fund from the 2018/19 Welfare Reform monies. The advice hub aims to provide 30 hours per week for an advisor for £20k and this can only be done if it is run by a volunteer or someone is paid under the minimum wage. He did not pick this up until later on and is not sure if this project can proceed.

Andrew Megginson, Principal AAP Coordinator for the northern area in attendance at the meeting mentioned that all proposals that have been agreed by the Board go through an appraisal process by the Funding Team. They will scrutinise the proposals and look at charity commission returns, accounts, business plans and what proportion of volunteers versus staff, etc so there is that back up process.

Rachel Rooney asked if there is a time lag from when the application is made to when the money is drawn down. Corinne said after the full application is received, it goes through a thorough technical appraisal and then payment is issued to the deliverer subject to any queries/concerns being addressed. There is no pressure for the deliverer to deliver within a particular timescale as some projects may be seasonal or linked to school terms for example.

Corinne asked the Board for their thoughts on the following timetable for the DVP to launch the various budgets during 2019/20:

- Youth Fund – April 2019
- Area Budget – June 2019
- Welfare Reform – July 2019
- OPSIF – September 2019

Cllr Shield said he is happy for the task groups to continue to develop projects and allocate funding as appropriate. With regards to the budgets he agrees with splitting the AB equitably between the 3 task groups and to have an open call out for Welfare Reform and the Youth Fund. However, he would prefer that the OPSIF is split between the 3 task groups, similar to 2018/19, rather than have an open call out.

Cllr Temple concurs with Cllr Shield and also said for those budgets that do not go through the task groups there needs to be a clear process for reviewing and recommending applications.

The Board AGREED to allocate the above budgets for 2019/20 as per Cllr Shield's comments and AGREED to the above timetable.

Corinne said a number of proposals went to the Board in 2018, but no funding was allocated to them. These proposals are listed below, along with a funding request from the 2019/20 AB:

- *Christmas in Consett* (as the Board agreed to hold Party in Park and Christmas in Consett in alternative years) with a funding request of £5k.
- *Derwent Valley News* - the cost of producing this has increased and it is proposed to reduce the number of copies per year from 3 editions to 2. A funding request of £10k.
- *Consett Cycle Festival* - £5k was allocated to the event from the 2018/19 AB and the Board agreed to ring fence a further £5k from the 2019/20 AB.

The Board AGREED to the above proposals with a total request of £20k from the 2019/20 AB.

6. Partner updates

Police update by Insp Keith Wardle

Keith briefly covered the Police report which he said highlights crime trends, but it does not reflect the work his team deals with on a daily basis. He said one of the biggest problems they deal with is theft from motor vehicles. There is a cohort of 6-8 people committing these crimes who steal to fund their drug habit. Keith said he does not have the resources to patrol the streets when these crimes take place, mainly between 12 midnight and 5am and he urged everyone to lock their vehicles.

Keith said anyone who commits a minor crime is unlikely to be sent to prison as short prison sentences i.e. 6 months or less could be abolished. For example, someone with a 6-month sentence could take an early plea at court which will reduce their sentence and with good behaviour in prison, they could end up 6-8 weeks in prison. This short time in prison will not wean someone off their drug addiction.

Those offenders with drug/alcohol issues, the Police have 2 schemes to help them combat their addiction – the ‘Offender Management Unit’ which works with offenders and signposts them to services and treatments and ‘Checkpoint’ where offenders who admit their offence, sign up to a programme and are referred to the relevant service to address their addiction and offending. They will get the intervention they need over a much longer period of time, however, failure to engage with these schemes will result in the offender being sent to court.

Cllr Watson asked about offenders who are not sentenced, would they do community work. Keith said they would have to get that order through the courts. If someone goes to court and gets a community service order for litter picking for example, it does not address their drug addiction. Their aim is to tackle the root cause of the problem.

Cllr Shield mentioned drug mules and County Lines, where there has been a lot of publicity about this in the Midlands and asked if there is anything heading up this way. Keith said it is moving up the country and in the Darlington area and is likely to move into this area. They target vulnerable people who already use drugs.

Cllr Shield said it is worrying that they could target school children and asked if they have started raising awareness / educating pupils. Keith said Durham Agency Against Crime (DAAC) has taken this over from the police, but he has PCSOs and Police Officers trained to deal with this who go into schools and give information about drug/alcohol use and misuse as well as about County Lines.

Cllr Watson thanked Keith for the update.

7. DVP Task Group meeting schedules

Corinne asked the Board to note the dates of the 3 task groups for 2019/20 financial year, which are as follows:

Environment (Tuesday)

2 April 2019	14 May 2019	25 June 2019
10 September 2019	22 October 2019	3 December 2019
21 January 2020	3 March 2020	

The venue for the Environment Task Group meetings has been confirmed retrospectively and will be held in the Music Room, St Patrick’s Church Hall, Consett, 6.00pm – 7.30pm.

Health and wellbeing (Wednesday)

3 April 2019	15 May 2019	10 July 2019
18 September 2019	6 November 2019	15 January 2020
26 February 2020		

The venue for the Health and wellbeing Task Group meetings has been confirmed retrospectively and will be held in the Music Room, St Patrick's Church Hall, Consett, 6.00pm – 7.30pm.

Employment, enterprise and training (Thursday)

2 May 2019	20 June 2019	5 September 2019
17 October 2019	28 November 2019	23 January 2020
19 March 2020		

The venue for the Employment, enterprise and training Task Group meetings has been confirmed retrospectively and will be held in the Training Room, Derwentside Business Centre, Consett, 5.30pm – 7.00pm, with the exception of 2 May and 5 September – 5.00pm – 6.30pm as these coincide with the Benfieldside, Blackhill, Bridgehill and Shotley Bridge Partnership meetings.

The Board AGREED to the above dates and times.

8. Shotley Bridge Hospital

Rachel Rooney gave a presentation on Shotley Bridge Hospital (SBH) and the Public Engagement Phase (a copy of the presentation is available upon request).

Rachel said they will be starting the engagement phase around SBH on 27 March and this will last for 8 weeks, ending on 22 May 2019. However, they will use this meeting as part of the formal engagement and any feedback from this evening will feed into the engagement process.

Health provision has changed and transformed since SBH was built. There have been advances in technology and medicine, specialist services are located at specific sites, local and national staffing pressures and changes in clinical standards. Therefore, the vision is to look at having a community-based provision that is fit for purpose. An initial capital funding application has been approved for £16.9m and they are keen to progress the scheme.

The engagement exercise will seek the public's views on what services are currently available at SBH and what services they would like to see.

They have a number of local venues booked in April and May for people to attend, which Rachel gave details about. She also asked if any community group is holding an event/meeting and they would like them to attend; please get in touch with Rachel.

Rachel said they will be starting their staff engagement at SBH on 14 March with those staff who work there as it is important that they get their point of view.

Following the engagement process, the information will be collated into a report and will be used to develop options that they will formally consult on. The consultation period should start at the end of July/beginning of August with everything finalised by the end of the year, ready to make a decision going forward.

More information about the public engagement and to access the online questionnaire is available at <https://northdurhamccg.nhs.uk/modernising-health-services-in-north-west-durham/>

Cllr Watson asked if there will be response forms in libraries and community centres. Rachel said they will be in community venues and in GP surgeries and said she can send online links and/or hard copies for any community groups who would like them.

Rachel said she will be sending the information to all the AAPs and Corinne confirmed the public engagement will be promoted on the DVP's website: www.derwentvalleylife.co.uk.

Cllr Shield said the most cost-effective bed provision is 16 and said that information should be made absolutely clear in this process.

Cllr Temple said 19 out of 20 outpatient appointments for people in this area happen elsewhere and asked how realistic it is that routine outpatient appointments can happen in the new facility and that we can gain extra outpatient provision even though we may lose other services. Rachel said it is very realistic and said they will be working with County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust and looking at the types of outpatient appointments that can be done locally as they need to maximise their investment.

Donna Summerson asked if the Derwent Clinic (mental health services) at SBH is incorporated in the new facility. Rachel said they are not part of this although they have been approached. The mental health provider owns those buildings and will continue to provide the service from there.

Donna also mentioned that some operations, i.e. Rheumatology, consultants are going to Newcastle hospitals rather than Durham and as there are always issues with transport and people accessing services, she asked if they will be considering the provision of some services with respect to transport. Rachel said transport is always an issue and said that those people who access services at an acute hospital will continue to do so. As part of the engagement, we would like to hear about what is important to people and the criteria for good accessibility, so it can be built into the consultation, however, we cannot talk about location of any new facility at the moment. Once the consultation is underway we can start to look at a preferred site.

John Shaw (Forum) asked where the £16.9m figure came from as services would normally be identified first then a cost would be determined. Rachel said a project initiation document is developed which is based on best estimates, e.g. what we currently have, and this would determine how much we would need. The figure required is over £17m but £0.5m of that is to be used for additional equipment; some equipment will be transferred from the current site. However, this was agreed 2 years ago, and costs will have increased and the money may not go as far as envisioned back then.

Rachel added that we are very fortunate we have been given initial approval for the money as all capital money has been halted.

John O (Forum) said as we have an increasing and aging population he is concerned that historical data is being used and as demand is likely to increase would hope the data is future proofed. He also said as partnership working is encouraged, he would like to see in the engagement process that there is the possibility to engage with other providers/associates who could enhance the project.

Rachel said they will be having discussions with other providers during engagement to look at all possibilities. Regarding demand, this has been built into the document and information received from Public Health suggests there is an increase in population. However, we have been told there will be a decrease in the level of people requiring hospital-based services and we will need to change the way we deliver care to a more community based model and not necessarily within a hospital based site.

Cllr Peter Oliver asked if the CCG own the SBH site and also asked about X-ray services. Rachel said it is the Local Authority's land and the CCG own the building through NHS Property Services. If the property is sold, any money from the sale goes back into NHS England. Regarding X-ray and ultrasound, they want to continue with diagnostic services in the new facility as Urgent Care needs that service.

Mike Clark (Forum) said the engagement seems to be about those services which are delivered through the CCG and asked about non-CCG services, where there may be an opportunity for the private sector to deliver health related services such as chiropody and physiotherapy as well as housing providers offering extra care housing. He would like to see something in the engagement process to reflect this as there are various health/social care hubs around the county with different service providers.

Rachel said it could be added as part of the engagement as it has not been published yet. She also said they have scheduled meetings with the local authority to discuss what else could potentially be on that site.

Cllr Watson thanked Rachel for her presentation and input at the meeting. Board and Forum members were encouraged to take part in the engagement process moving forward.

9. Any Other Business

As the last item finished at 8.00pm, there was no time to discuss any other business.

10. Meeting Close and Date of Next Meeting

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

The next Board meeting (AGM) will be held on Wednesday 22 May 2019 at 6pm in the Salvation Army Hall, Consett.

Signed as a correct record:

Date: