

DERWENT VALLEY PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the **DERWENT VALLEY PARTNERSHIP BOARD (AGM)** was held in Consett Salvation Army Hall on Wednesday, 22 May 2019 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT:

Councillors

Derek Hicks, Ivan Jewell, Watts Stelling, Owen Temple and Alex Watson.

Partner Organisations

Mark Clelland - Derwentside Trust, Craig Farrage - Co Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service, Gary Scott - Do Business Network (DBN), Joanne Waller - Durham County Council (DCC) and Insp Keith Wardle - Durham Constabulary.

Public Representatives

Marlene Boyles, Mike Clark, Helen Marley, Susan Mellor and Donna Summerson.

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Alan Shield - Elected Representative, Lesley Duffy, Karbon Homes and Rachel Rooney, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) - Partner Representatives and Jeannette Harold and Shelley O'Brien - Public Representatives.

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

Members of the Public – 12

1. Introductions

Corinne Walton welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through housekeeping. Board members introduced themselves and apologies were noted as above. There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

16 May 2018 (AGM)

There were no issues or matters arising.

13 March 2019

Matters arising

Page 8. Regarding the discussion around partnership working and Rachel Rooney's comments that it could be added as part of the engagement process, John O'Connor said he attended an engagement event re: Shotley Bridge Community Hospital on 21 May and there was no mention of partnership working. He also added that there appears to be a lot of confusion between engagement and consultation.

Mike Clark said with the discussions he has had with Rachel, they have indicated partnership working would be included in the consultation as opposed to the engagement process.

Cllr Temple suggested that the DVP contact the CCG to get clarification partnership working will be included in the consultation process moving forward.

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

3. DVP Annual Report 2018/19, Public Representatives welcome and AGM 2019/20

Annual Report 2018/19

Corinne briefly summarised the report, which Board members had received prior to the meeting, that provides a summary of the work of the DVP and the funding allocations during the 2018/19 financial year.

Over the past 12 months, the DVP has allocated £144,902 to local projects which has generated £66,211 in match funding and has supported over 50,000 beneficiaries. The DVP has also processed over £178k of the local Councillors' Neighbourhood Budget.

Projects have been supported through the Area Budget (AB), Older Persons Social Isolation Fund (OFSIF), Welfare Reform, Youth Fund and Neighbourhood Budget (NB).

The Annual Report will be available online at <http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2595/Derwent-Valley-AAP>. Each AAP has its own Annual Report but a suggestion had been put forward to combine all 14 AAP Annual Reports into one document which will give an insight into what else is going on around the county.

Corinne said although the Annual Report gives a good idea of what has been going on in the area, it is the quarterly project monitoring returns that provide valuable information such as how projects are progressing, the impact projects have made and the beneficiaries and community groups/organisations that have been supported.

Public Representatives

There were 2 vacancies in this category and following a recent recruitment, the positions have now been filled. Corinne extended a warm welcome to Susan Mellor and Mike Clark.

AGM

As the terms of reference state, each AAP elects a new Chair and Vice Chairs at the AGM. Corinne thanked the outgoing Chair Cllr Watson and Vice Chairs Gary Scott and Jeanette Harold for doing an excellent job over the past year.

Nominations for Vice Chairs were received and AGREED as follows:

Jeanette Harold – Public Representative
Gary Scott – Partner Representative
Cllr Watts Stelling – Elected Representative

Each year the Chair of the Board rotates to the next category, which is the Public Representatives for this year, and Jeanette Harold was nominated and AGREED as the new Chair. Unfortunately due to Jeanette's absence at this meeting, it was agreed that Corinne would Chair the meeting on this occasion on her behalf.

4. DVP Coordinator update report

Corinne went through the report that gives information on what the DVP has been working on, in addition to the Task Groups.

Community Development/Project Officer (CDPO) Recruitment

Fiona Kelly is no longer the CDPO for the DVP and Chester le Street AAPs as she was appointed as the Principal CDPO for the Northern AAPs in March and is now based permanently at Chester le Street. Following an internal recruitment, Peter Garrod was successfully appointed to the role of CDPO and will be working across the 2 AAPs; he will be joining us towards the end of June.

Youth Fund (£9,902)

The Youth Fund, which is for youth-based activities for young people aged between 11 and 19 years, was launched on 2 April with a closing date of 30 April. The DVP received 6 applications totalling £12,958.15.

Although the Board agreed to an open call out for project proposals, there was no agreement made on the process for reviewing the applications. Corinne asked the Board which option they would prefer from the below:

- All Youth Fund applications to be presented to the Board for consideration
- A dedicated Youth Panel to be created who would review and decide which projects receive funding (delegated decision making on behalf of the Board)
- A Youth Panel is created to review the applications and subsequently make recommendations to the Board for their final decision.

Gary said the Youth Panel worked very well last time and recommended a Youth Panel is set up again with delegated decision-making responsibilities.

There were no further comments and the Board AGREED to set up a Youth Panel as per Gary's suggestion.

Corinne advised that an email would be sent to all Board members asking if they wish to sit on the Panel and said it would be good to have a representative from each of the 3 Board categories.

Older Person Social Isolation Fund (OPSIF) Environment Small Grant Fund

Following the Board's agreement in March for the Environment Task Group to create a small grant fund using OPSIF monies, the Task Group would like to set up an Environmental Sub Group to review applications. The Board were asked which option they would prefer:

- A dedicated sub group is created who would review the funding applications and decide which projects should receive funding (delegated decision making on behalf of the Board)
- A sub group is created who would simply review the funding applications and make recommendations to the Board for a final decision.

John O'Connor (Forum) who is Chair of the Health & Wellbeing (HAWB) Task Group, thinks that Task Group members should be given authority to make decisions.

Cllr Jewell said there was some concern last year regarding the Environmental sub group when membership seemed to increase when groups/organisations wanted to apply for funding.

John O'Connor (Forum) said in the HAWB Task Group, those who were applying for funding were encouraged to give a presentation, so any questions raised could be answered. However, they were not part of the actual decision-making process in terms of recommendations.

Corinne said there is a difference between the sub group for the small grants fund which is for minimal amounts of money and the Area Budget when representatives attend the task groups to review project proposals submitted as part of the call out. Applicants can attend the task group meeting to provide an overview of their project but are not involved in the decision making element.

The Board AGREED to set up an Environmental Sub Group who would review the applications and decide which projects to fund.

AAP 10 Year Celebration Event

The AAPs recently celebrated their 10th Anniversary and to mark this milestone DCC staff, AAP staff, Board members, residents and community groups attended an event on 24 April at Hardwick Hall Hotel which was supported by a number of sponsors from across the county.

Since 2009, the 14 AAPs have delivered over 6,000 community projects, engaged with over 30,000 people and secured funding in excess of £100m.

Each AAP nominated a project they felt was an example of good practice and had a positive impact on people in the community. The DVP nominated Age UK County Durham's 'Beat the Scammers' project and representatives from the project came along to the event to receive an award.

Christine Fletcher from Age UK and volunteers from the project were invited to this evening's Board meeting and were presented with the award.

Christine thanked the DVP and the Older People's task group, who developed the project, for helping to make the project a success. She said they were assessed last year and achieved the Mentoring and Befriending Approved Provider Standard which is a national standard that has very stringent criteria. They are still delivering the call blockers in the DVP area and are being asked by community groups to give a talk about them.

Corinne thanked Christine and the volunteers for attending the meeting and congratulated them on their success.

Consett Cycle Festival

This will be taking place on Sunday 23 June in Consett Town Centre from 10am – 5pm. It is a free family event, organised through Alan Hillary Events Ltd on behalf of Project Genesis Trust (PGT), and includes a community marquee – which the DVP will be attending - music, entertainment and activities as well as the main cycle race which starts and finishes in Consett Town Centre.

John O'Connor (Forum and PGT) said parking restrictions will be lifted on the day at Hermiston Retail Park and at Tesco. Derwentside College car park will be open as well as the college being open on the day. It will be televised on Eurosport and they have had a lot of interest from local media. It was noted that the DVP was a sponsor of the event alongside all eleven local Councillors.

He said this will give us an opportunity to show what Consett has to offer and as this event is planned to take place over 2 years, next year it will coincide with the 40th anniversary of the closure of Consett Steel Works.

5. DVP Task Group action plans 2019/20

Corinne went through the Action Plans for each Task Group, which the Board had received copies of prior to the meeting, that will form the basis of the work of the DVP over the next 1 - 2 years.

The budget for each task group will be £35k for one financial year (2019-20) and made up of £26,667 Area Budget (AB) with a proportion of this allocated to capital projects and £8,333 for Older Persons Social Isolation Fund (OPSIF).

Employment, education and training (EET) (Chair - Gary Scott)

The action plan will run over 2 years (2019-21) and includes Children, young people and families as a cross cutting theme. The key themes they will be looking at are:

- developing partnership working to improve employment, education and training opportunities within the Derwent Valley area
- develop STEM skills/qualifications in young people

The group is looking at different ways to support project deliverers and have suggested that the task group consider being the match funder. For example, if a group/organisation is a little bit short of funding to get their project to fruition, the task group could contribute to that 'little bit'.

OPSIF

The OPSIF will run for one year (2019-20) and will look at projects that must be employment, education and training related to tackle social isolation in the over 50s.

Gary said they would like to hold task group meetings in local businesses as well as encourage more engagement from local employers to find out what skills they need and then the skills providers to take this onboard and develop a project around this.

Environment (Enviro) (Chair - Ann English)

The Action Plan will run for one year (2019-20) but this may be reviewed at the end of the year for continuation into the next year. Included in the action plan are Children, young people and families, Older People, Community safety and Transport, traffic and roads as cross cutting themes. The key themes they will be looking at are:

- Resource efficiency, reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality

OPSIF

The OPSIF for 2019/20 will look at projects that must be environmental related to tackle social isolation in the over 50s.

The OPSIF Environmental Small Grant Fund (2018/19) which was agreed last year, has not yet been delivered but it is in the Action Plan as it is part of the work of the task group for this coming year.

The Environment Competition (2017/18) has yet to be delivered and will be launched shortly. We are currently working on the criteria and publicity for the competition and as soon as this is finalised, the Board will receive an update.

Mike Clark said a lot of waste comes from people who buy goods from shops, fast food takeaways, etc and said there are no retailers on the list of potential partners in the Action Plan. He said there are some good retail initiatives around and suggested looking at partners who could contribute at the source of the problem.

Health and wellbeing (HAWB) (Chair John O'Connor)

The action plan will run over 2 years (2019-21) and includes Children, young people and families as a cross cutting theme. The key themes they will be looking at are:

- Improving mental wellbeing for all ages including suicide prevention and reducing social isolation

OPSIF

The OPSIF will run for one year (2019-20) and will look at projects that must be health and wellbeing related to tackle social isolation in the over 50s.

Corinne added that Joy Evans from Public Health who is a member of the task group has supplied data and statistics to give context around the themes in the action plan.

John O (Forum) said the group decided to include suicide prevention as it is a major issue in this area and there's a national strategy to reduce suicide by 10%. However, finding data on suicides is difficult. The group will work with Public Health and the CCG, as they can add extra resources, and develop an integrated plan that fits in with strategies nationally. He also said they are focusing on fewer objectives this year, so they can be more achievable.

The Board AGREED with the contents in the above Action Plans which would now form part of the main project call out.

6. Partner updates

Insp Keith Wardle gave a brief update on the Police report for May.

There were 2 fatal road collisions - one in Leadgate and the other on the A68 at Castleside. Following investigations of both incidents, several arrests for 'causing death by dangerous driving' have been made and enquiries are on-going.

To deter thefts from vehicles, the Police set up a 'rat trap' vehicle with a camera inside and various valuables on display. As a result of this 2 people were arrested and charged and since that operation, thefts from vehicles in Consett town centre have dropped slightly.

Over the last few months, the Police have executed several warrants and have been successful in retrieving Class A drugs. However, it is a lengthy process to get it to court as they need

forensic drug testing, statements on how much a drug is worth, evidence of a supply chain (i.e. checking phones) and getting charging authorisation from the CPS.

There has been an increase in home burglaries, around the Villa Real area, which is unusual at this time of the year.

Generally, the Police deal with around 35-40 incidents per day, that are reported to the station, but there are many more that come in via partner agencies such as Social Services and Mental Health teams.

Keith said he is available to talk to anyone after the meeting.

Corinne thanked Keith for the update.

Craig Farrage gave a presentation on the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (a copy of the presentation is available upon request).

Craig gave an update on what is going on in the area, what the operational incident numbers are and a comparison between this area and similar areas in the county.

In the Derwent Valley area, the number of incidents they attend are low, partly driven by some of the measures they engage in such as activities and partnership working, that helps keep those down.

For the Derwent Valley area, statistics for 2018-19 were:

- Accidental dwelling Fire 13
- Deliberate (Own Property) 1
- Deliberate (Others Property) 1
- Injuries 2 (both slight)
- Vehicle Fire Crime 8

As a comparison between this area and a similar size ward in another part of the county the above figures would be double.

Regarding vehicle fire crime, for a neighbouring (smallest) ward their figure was 58 compared to 8 in this area.

Kitchens tend to be the biggest problem for fires in homes, predominately caused by distraction for example, working families at teatime distracted by their children. Of the 13 kitchen fires in this area, 8 were cooking related.

Cllr Jewell said the role of the fire service is much wider than just attending fires and wondered what percentage of their work is fire related. Craig thinks they account for just over 50% but he could get those figures and let him know. The biggest resource use is fires as they tend to draw in more appliances than those supplied in a service area. Road traffic accidents and water incidents, for example are dealt with within an own service area. However, the fire prevention work they have done is helping to reduce numbers.

Cllr Watson asked if they attend health related issues. Craig said they do as part of their safe and wellbeing role. Regarding the Emergency Medical Response Trial that was carried out, that was put on hold as there were some issues but there is still work going on around that. He said it may come back in the future and be better resourced with NEAS providing more training.

Craig added that if anyone has an event, the Cadet Teams that operate from Consett would be happy to come along. They do a fantastic job, are very proactive and great ambassadors for the service.

Cllr Jewell wondered why there is no representation from the Ambulance Service on our Board. Corinne said the CCG rep covers the health aspect. When the AAPs were set up that was the structure at the time. However, we could invite someone from the service to provide an update/information about them.

Craig said the NEAS management structure may be more regional (e.g. covering multiple counties) rather than covering the local area which could be an issue for them.

Corinne thanked Craig for his presentation and input at the meeting.

7. The Big BRASS Bash and BRASS on a Bus

The 2019 BRASS Festival will be coming to Durham again in July and all AAPs are being asked if they would like to host a BRASS event locally.

This year the programme will include 'Big BRASS Bash' performances at a cost of £6k each and lasts for 3 hours. This will be delivered by DCC's Events Team and requires a large open space such as a park capable of holding a large audience.

'Brass on a Bus' is a 2 hour show and can be held in smaller communities and villages at a cost of £2k.

Chester le Street and Mid Durham AAPs are interested in holding one of the Brass events and should the DVP also wish to contribute to an event, then the cost for each AAP will be less than the costs quoted above.

The Board were asked if they would like to contribute to a Brass event, bearing in mind that the AB has been allocated to the task groups. It may be something the Elected Members would like to contribute to out of their NB.

Cllr Stelling said in previous years he and Cllr Shield have supported Brass in local schools and asked if this is still available. Corinne said we have not received any information about Brass in schools, but we can ask the Durham Brass Team.

Further discussions took place around the high cost of Brass and what other events will be supported by the DVP already such as the Consett Cycle Festival and Christmas in Consett. The DVP Team agreed to approach the Events Team about Brass in schools.

8. Any Other Business

Vera Parnaby (Forum) said in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of D-Day, there will be an event at The Demi, Consett on 8 June from 7pm with entertainment, tickets cost £3. Vera asked if anyone knows of any D-Day veterans, please get in touch with her or contact Corinne at the DVP.

Corinne asked Vera for any publicity that we could promote on Derwent Valley Life as well as sending it electronically to Board, Forum and Task Group members. Vera stated she would provide a poster to the DVP Team.

9. Meeting Close and Date of Next Meeting

Corinne thanked everyone for their attendance.

The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday 17 July 2019 at 6pm in the Salvation Army Hall, Consett.

Signed as a correct record:

Date: