



Better for everyone

Durham Area Action Partnership **Annual Report**

2022/23



Councillor Elizabeth Scott

Introduction

Portfolio Holder Statement

As the Cabinet portfolio holder for Economy and Partnerships I am happy to say that the overview of the Area Action Partnerships falls under my remit.

Over the last 13 years AAPs have helped local community organisations to thrive through practical support and funding. 2022/23 has been no different. The 14 AAPs across County Durham have helped to fund over 230 projects through their Area Budgets allocating £2.6m to these good causes. This is making a massive difference when like the rest of us, local organisations are being adversely impacted by the continued long term impacts of the Covid pandemic and the cost of living crisis.

County Durham is a diverse place, and each AAP is led and directed by local people, councillors, and partners. This means they can adapt to local circumstances whether they be in Wingate or Westgate, Castleside or Coxhoe. This local engagement means AAPs are firmly rooted in, and valued by their communities.

Throughout County Durham AAP funding has supported a wide variety of projects including, youth work, mental health support, environmental projects, activities for older people, sports clubs, children's play, village halls and community centres, parish councils, community safety initiatives and employment schemes, just to name a few.

The AAPs also support myself and my fellow councillors in allocating our annual Neighbourhood Budget. The 126 County Councillors have allocated over £2.2m to over 820 local projects in County Durham over the past year, again supporting a wide range of local schemes.

As with any service, it is always good practice to consider if any improvements can be made. Having remained largely unchanged for the last 14 years, the need for an independent view as to how the service might be enhanced led to the recently completed community engagement review. While consultation is still ongoing on the proposals contained in the review, it comes as no surprise that the consultants found many strengths of the AAPs that we could build upon in the future.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of AAP Boards, fellow councillors, partner organisations, members of the public and the AAP staff. So, thank you one and all. The AAPs would not be the success they have been without your continued support.

Councillor Elizabeth Scott,

Cabinet portfolio holder for Economy and Partnerships.



Durham Regatta



Durham City Youth Project's Parachute Games

Durham Area Action Partnership 2022/23 Key Information



FUNDING

£205,036

of AAP funding allocated to 23 projects, helping to generate **£1.6 million** of match funding

£265,843

of councillor Neighbourhood Budget allocated to 48 projects generating **£147,154** of match funding

£74,984

given to support 31 schemes providing children with holiday activities with healthy food

£99,814

allocated through Towns and villages funding



HEALTH

1,677

people supported by schemes that improve mental health



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

356

volunteers have been supported

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

78

voluntary and community groups supported

8,577

individuals benefitted from AAP supported projects



EMPLOYMENT

78 jobs safeguarded

6 jobs created



Durham Area Action Partnership

Established in 2009 Durham Area Action Partnership (AAP) brings together local people and partners to take action on local issues. Areas covered include Durham city centre and the outlying villages. Over the last year the key focus has been on supporting local communities who are still dealing with the impact of Covid and the cost of living crisis. Over 50 local organisations have been supported with AAP and Councillor funding to help them take action on local issues.

As well as supporting local projects the AAP Board has also been involved in several local consultations and has responded to any issues that people may have had.

Welcome from the Chair

Councillor Liz Brown

Another year, another annual report. Looking back it appears to have been a curates egg – good in parts. I shall try to dwell on the good bits.

One of the good bits was chairing the AAP Board. It was and is a privilege to do so and thank you to everyone involved.

This year we have discussed many projects. These have included school holiday activities, future proofing village halls and community centres, bringing playing fields back into full use, youth work and mental health support, among others. I like to think each one has made a difference and we have tried to alleviate the effects of the cost of living crisis and support our area's many communities.

This year we have said goodbye to several Board members and welcomed their replacements. I should like to thank those who have left for their work on the Board and say to those who are joining us you have very large shoes to fill. However, I know you will be just as effective.

I am going to single out a couple of ex board members however. News reached us at the beginning of March of the sad passing of Eileen Finlay. Although ill health forced her resignation from the Board she contributed a great deal during her membership. Our condolences go to her family and friends.

Secondly I must mention Ian Moore, my predecessor as Chair. Ian had to leave the Board in December as he retired from the Fire Service of which he was the Board representative. He was a brilliant Chair and kept us all in order with a light hand.

Finally it falls on me to thank Craig and the team, Wendy, Lyndsey, Marie and PJ for all the work they do behind the scenes. As board members we don't get to see the half of it! At the moment the future for AAPs under review but the work they do has to carry on whatever form it may take. We will continue to support the community through the allocation of funds to worthwhile local projects.



Our People

Anyone who lives, works, studies or volunteers in the area can get involved with the Area Action Partnership. We currently have over 600 people who are part of our wider Forum who receive regular updates and who are invited to get involved in the work of the AAP.

Our Board is the decision-making body of the AAP. It is made up of local people, elected councillors and representatives from partner organisations. Our current board members are

CLlr Lesley Mavin (Durham County Council)

CLlr Bill Kellett (Durham County Council)

CLlr Eric Mavin (Durham County Council)

CLlr Lucy Hovvels (Durham County Council)

CLlr Richard Ormerod (Durham County Council)

CLlr Liz Brown (Durham County Council)

CLlr Maureen Boettcher (Parish Council Representative)

Gary Tidbury (Public Representative)

Alice Wilkes (Public Representative)

Victoria Ashfield (Public Representative)

Rebecca Ashby (Public Representative)

Chris Tindale (Public Representative)

Jen Straughan-Hawley (Public Representative)

Georgia Donohue (Public Representative)

Paul Howard (Business Representative / Durham BID)

Mick Henderson (Fire and Rescue Service)

Dave Clarke (Police)

Tony Hockey (Health)

Sarah Burns / Lee Alexander (Durham County Council)

Hannah Shepherd (Durham University)

Sam Humble (Housing)

Joanne Thorns (Voluntary and Community Sector)

Joe McGarry (Durham Students' Union)

We'd also like to thank former Board members CLlr Christine Fletcher, Veronica Freitas, Ian Moore, Colin Stephenson, Rebecca Eves and Simon Bartlett who stepped down from the Board this year.

2022/23 Funding Allocation

Area Budget		
£17,171, Sherburn Hill Community Café		
£13,000, Merryoaks Community Hall New Build		
£9,020, Harbour Support Summer Holiday Scheme		
£6,942, Durham City Youth Project Counselling Service		
£5,000, St Margaret's Centre IT System		
£12,666, Empowering Future Females Alternative Education		
£5,500, Framwellgate Moor YCC Wellbeing Project		
£12,400, Walk and Talk Trust Heritage Walks		
£6,000, St Aidan's Church Hall Windows and Doors		
£5,873, Fun & Food Small Grant		
£8,848, Durham City Youth Project Youth Clubs		
£10,000, Sherburn Hill Play Area		
£6,792, Wider World Project Skills for Life		
£11,110, Pelaw View Centre		
£14,330, Durham Action on Single Housing Volunteer Co-ordinator		
£8,000, Framwellgate Moor YCC Solar Panels		
£13,705, Repairs to Shadforth Village Hall		
£5,000, St Nicolas' Churchyard Improvements		
£5,000, County Durham Community Clothing Bank		
£7,230, Laurel Avenue Youth Council		
£6,216, DERIC Project Young Mums Group (Bearpark)		
£12,000, Durham City Night Hub		
£2821, Move the Masses Wellbeing Project		
Healthy Relationships Funding		
£10,000, Respect- A healthy relationship program for young people		
Towns and Villages Funding		
£15,000, Merryoaks Community Hall New Build		
£10,000, Hudspeth Crescent Play Area Surfacing Improvement		
£20,255, Sherburn Hill Hub Car Park Extension		
£15,000, Wear Rivers Trust Invasive Species Project		
£12,549, Sherburn Cemetery Footpath Improvements		
£17,000, Sherburn Hill Play Area		
£10,000, Belmont Recreation Ground Improvements		
Towns and Villages Funding can be used to support initiatives to improve local communities. The AAP has £210,000 to allocate over a three-year period.		
Neighbourhood Budget		
£2,500, West Rainton School Steel Band		
£4,620, Tree Planting at Belmont		
£5,075, Tree Planting at Pity Me		
£1,000, Cheesy Waffles Project Support		
£8,000, City of Durham Parish Council Jubilee Events		
£2,796, Defibrillators at Newton Hall and Framwellgate Moor		
£2,500, Moving On Durham Website Improvements		
£1,650, Ludworth Community Events		
£9,391, Multi Use Path Newton Hall		
£5,000, Sherburn Hill Hub Community Café		
£3,150, Durham Pride		
£1,500, Shincliffe Village Newsletter		
£21,828, Shincliffe School Grounds Improvements		
£5,596, Sheraton Park Playing Field Improvements		
£1,980, Durham Area Youth, Youth Worker Support		
£7,132, Rennys Lane Underpass Approach Works		
£6,688, Belmont Sports Clubs Containers		
£1,200, Durham Area Youth Belmont Outreach		
£26,568, Neville's Cross Railway Bridge Barrier Painting		
£6,127, Ludworth Playing Field Fencing		
£2,200, St Cuthbert's Churchyard Project		
£2,000, Investing in Children Artstop Project		
£6,000, St Aidan's Church Hall Building Improvements		
£1,735, Framwellgate Moor Parish Council Land Transfer Fees		
£1,985, Durham Alliance for Community Care IT Equipment		
£2,997, Belmont Community Safety Event		
£2,238, Go the Distance Business Development		
£7,250, Durham City Youth Project Youth Clubs		
£1,300, Laurel Avenue Community Association Running Costs		
£3,930, Sherburn Community Association Toilet Refurbishment		
£6,054, Heatherdale Crescent, Belmont - Ramped Footway		
£1,000, Littletown Cricket Club Facilities Feasibility Study		
£1,950, Shincliffe Park Access		
£21,247, Briar Road / Coronation Avenue, Carrville, Verge Hardening		
£1,150, Pitlington Village Hall Running Costs		
£2,572, Speed Humps, Kirkstone Drive, Belmont		
£3,800, Witton Gilbert Road Safety Improvements		
£6,000, Sherburn Community Association Fire Doors		
£4,925, All Saints Newton Hall Dishwasher		
£1,150, Jubilee Hall, West Rainton, Running Costs		
£924, Shadforth Village Hall Kitchen Equipment		
£8,940, Merryoaks Community Hall Car Park		
£2,517, Belmont Football Pitches Improvements		
£10,876, Belmont Recreation Ground Improvements		
Neighbourhood Budget Small Grants		
£750, Durham Markets Children's Book Festival		
£911, Durham Junior Park Run Defibrillator		
£614, Durham Community Boxing Club		
£500, Bearpark Community Football Club		
£185, Mount Oswald Residents Association Jubilee Event		
£999, Durham Johnson School Girls Work		
£999, EMPOWHer, Women's Activities		
£300, Gilesgate Primary School Community Allotment		
£340, Gilesgate Duckponds Planters		
£300, Durham Action on Single Housing 50th Anniversary		
£600, Salvation Army Sleeping Bags and Underwear		
£950, Phoenix Badminton Club		
£999, Laurel Avenue Community Association Toddler Trip		
£100, Witton Gilbert Football Club		
£999, Belmont Community Safety Event		
£500, Durham Community Clothes Bank		
£999, West Rainton Football Club		
£100, DERIC Project (Bearpark) Breakfast Club		
£999, Durham Remembrance Day Parade		
£900, Bearpark and Esh Brass Band		

2022/23 Funding Allocation

Neighbourhood Budget Small Grants *continued*

£400, Friends of Belmont Library
£819, Ludworth Community Centre Equipment
£999, RT Projects Running Costs
£700, Durham Hospital Radio
£240, Durham Police Community Christmas Tree
£300, Durham City Baptist Church Winter Activities
£100, Pitlington Village Hall Poppy Display
£492, Pelaw View Centre Activities
£500, Brandon Table Tennis Club School Activities
£930, School of Dance Sherburn Hill
£744, Sherburn School Farm and Theatre Visits
£200, Pitlington Parish Council Christmas Activities
£942, St Oswald's Residents Group Notice Boards
£425, Durham Community Clothes Bank Christmas Pyjamas
£500, Sherburn Community Association Older People's Christmas Meals
£160, School of Dance Sherburn Hill Presentation Evening
£184, NEPACS Departure Lounge
£350, All Saints Church Community Christmas Tree
£550, Durham City Access for All Website Updates
£887, Belmont School Shetland Trip
£999, Bearpark School After School Club Equipment
£218, Bearpark Allotments Sustainable Water Project
£800, Pitlington Village Hall New Tabletops
£515, Neville's Cross Salt Bin Refills

Fun and Food Holiday Activities

£11,200, Cheesy Waffles Project
£1,300, Growing Health
£13,006, Go the Distance / Durham Community Boxing Club
£15,198, Laurel Avenue Community Association
£2,140, Witton Gilbert Village Hall
£9,640, Harbour Support Services (Women's Refuge)
£16,234, Durham Area Youth
£1,730, Durham University Holiday Scheme
£2,268, Pelaw View Centre



St Aidans Hall users



Durham City Youth Project's University Art Group



DASH Volunteering with St Margaret's Quilters

Neighbourhood Budget / Neighbourhood Budget Small Grants is an allocation of £19,400 that each County Councillor gets each year to spend on Community Projects. The process is supported by the AAP team.

The projects listed have been supported by County Councillors; Christine Fletcher, Eric Mavin, Lesley Mavin, David Hall, Bill Kellett, Amanda Hopgood, Mark Wilkes, Mamie Simmons, David Freeman, Richard Ormerod, Marion Wilson, David Stoker, Liz Brown, Elizabeth Scott, Lucy Hovvels, Arnold Simpson, Bev Coult, Jake Miller and Chris Varty

For further information on what projects individual Councillors have supported contact your local AAP.



Durham City Youth Project's Archery

The Difference We Have Made



Young People's Wellbeing

Growing up in today's world can be challenging for many young people and can impact on their physical and emotional wellbeing. Two projects funded by Durham AAP this year are helping to address these issues. Durham City Youth Project's 'Health Minds' service offers free one to one counselling for young people living with mental health issues.

'Healthy Hearts, Healthy Minds' is a programme of activities run by Durham Area Youth in the villages to the east of Durham City. Young people can take part in a range of exciting and stimulating activities designed to improve their physical and mental health. One young person commented that *"It's been great to attend a mixture of sports sessions with my friends and understand how they can help me feel good about myself."* This was echoed by one of the youth workers who said, *"We have seen changes with our young people in their understanding of what wellbeing is. The project has taught valuable skills that all children should learn to allow them to grow and become more resilient"*



Durham Action on Single Housing Volunteering and Wellbeing

Durham Action on Single Housing (DASH) has been providing support to people with housing issues for over 50 years. Many of the young people they work with have had chaotic lives and the staff and volunteers at DASH offer a range of services to help them with their long term housing needs.

Volunteers support so many local projects and DASH is no different. Funding over the past two years from Durham AAP has helped DASH employ a volunteering development manager. Their role is to attract more people and organisations to volunteer with DASH but also to get DASH tenants volunteering in the local community. Organisations such as Durham University and New Collage Durham have had staff and students volunteering and DASH tenants have been helping organisations such as Feeding Families.

Durham AAP is also supporting a number of wellbeing workshop that are being run for residents from DASH's vulnerable women's project. They have taken part in activities such as boxing and quilt making as well as social visits to the cinema or local cafes.



Fun and Food

The AAP has supported over 30 schemes that have provided children and young people 'fun and food' over school holidays. Part funded by the Department for Education projects had to target children on free school means or who had other issues in their lives. All schemes must provide a range of healthy activities for the children as well as a nutritional meal,

Organisations supported include the Cheesy Waffles Project who provide activities for children with additional needs, Durham Community Boxing Club, Laurel Avenue Community Association, Witton Gilbert Community Association, Harbour Support (Women's Refuge) and Durham Area Youth (DAY).

The AAP team visited one of the schemes ran by DAY and were impressed with how children with different abilities and needs had been brought together and were all enjoying the same activities. It was also brilliant to see a lot of the older young people volunteering and helping out with the younger ones.

The Difference We Have Made



Healthy Relationships Funding

Navigating relationships can sometimes be challenging for young people in a world of social media and peer pressure. Durham AAP was given additional funding this year to support organisations working with young people to help address the issue of healthy relationships.

The AAP team brought a number of local youth work organisations together to discuss the issues and the outcome was a coordinated approach between them. Durham City Youth Project led on the application as they had previous experience but Durham Area Youth, Laurel Avenue Community Association and the Cheesy Waffles Project are also involved.

The funding is being used to train youth workers from all of the organisations so they will be able to deliver age appropriate sessions on healthy relationships to the young people they support. This is a great collaborative piece of work from organisations in the area.



Community Support

The AAP team engages with communities right across the area. Much of the work is supporting the development of funding applications and as you can see in the report there are a lot of those. However, support can also happen in other ways. For example AAP staff have been working with a group of residents at Merryoaks to support their efforts to build a brand new community hall which will hopefully be opening in May 2023. In Ludworth the AAP facilitated discussions that brought local residents, councillors and the police together to look at how anti-social behaviour in the village could be resolved. One result has been the erecting of a fence to stop off road vehicles gaining access and damaging playing fields. The work at Merryoaks and Ludworth have both been supported by funding from the local County Councillors.

The AAP is part of Durham University's 'Community Engagement Task Force' which brings local people and partners together to help the University better engage with the wider community and the AAP team have also been involved with the university's student and staff volunteering awards.

If there is an issue in your area or your organisation needs support then the AAP may be able to help.



Improving Our Villages and City

Durham AAP has been lucky enough to receive additional funding from the County Councils 'Towns and Villages Programme'. The funding has been used to support a number of schemes that have improved local facilities such as playgrounds, sports pitches and community centres.

Sherburn Parish Council benefitted from a grant that was used to upgrade worn and dangerous paths in the village cemetery. The Wear Rivers Trust have been supported with a grant that will help them engage and train local volunteers who will assist with controlling invasive plant species on Durham's riverbanks.

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