

**Notes of the Weardale Area Action  
Partnership Board Meeting**

**17<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at Durham Dales  
Centre, Stanhope**



**PRESENT**

**Board Members**

**Public Representatives:** Chris Powell (CP)  
Frances O'Riley (FO'R)  
Paul Stockdale (PS)  
Phil Chatfield (PC)  
Tom Natrass (TN)

**Partner Representatives:** Adam Hall – County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (AH)  
Damian Pearson – County Durham Housing Group (DP)  
David Taylor-Gooby - Clinical Commissioning Group (DT-G)  
Yvonne Probert – Durham Community Action (YP)

**Elected Members:** Cllr Anita Savory (AS)  
Cllr Brian Thompson – Stanhope (BT)  
Cllr Helen Barrass - Muggleswick (HB)  
Cllr David Sugden – Wolsingham (DS)  
Cllr Olive Wilson - Witton-le-Wear (OW)

**Officers:** Angelina Maddison (AM)  
Christine Davison (CD)  
Fiona Barber (FB)

**Presenters:** Debbie Connell - Durham County Council (DC)

**Apologies**

**Public Representatives:** Joan Warriner  
Tony Griffin

**Elected Members:** None received

**Partner Representatives:** Stuart Timmiss – Durham County Council  
Inspector Kevin Tuck – Durham Constabulary

## 1. Introductions, Apologies and Declarations of Interest

The Chair, DT-G, thanked everyone for attending this additional meeting of the Board. Introductions were made around the table and apologies as given are recorded above.

**TN declared an interest in Item 3 – Young Firefighters Project.** The Chair requested that any further Declarations of Interest be raised at the appropriate points in the meeting.

## 2. Agreement of Notes from Board Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and Matters Arising

The notes of this meeting, as printed and circulated, were **AGREED** and confirmed as a true record by those present.

## 3. Area Budget Applications

AM explained that this additional Board meeting was necessary to be able to get the Area Budget application process back on schedule following a period of double purdah earlier in the year. She drew the Board's attention to an overview document which detailed the proposed projects requiring Area Budget funding.

### Support to Groups in Weardale

The Support to Groups in Weardale Task group have proposed that the Small Grants Fund be continued for the coming year and administered by the WAP team. They have also proposed a separate fund for capital repairs to community buildings.

### **Small Grants Fund**

PC queried the total beneficiaries detailed in the Performance Indicator section. CD confirmed that this should read 1,200 total beneficiaries. WAP team to update the summary sheet. CD explained that this figure was an informed guess based on years of experience of running the fund.

CD advised that some changes have been made to the criteria for applications and to the application form to make the process even simpler. Examples include extending the processing time from six weeks to eight weeks and ensuring that the information regarding VAT exclusion is at the top of the exclusion list.

**Board Decision: The Board APPROVED the Small Grants Fund project and AGREED to allocate £25,000 Area Budget to it.**

### **Community Buildings Capital Fund**

AM reminded the Board of the need for there to be a Capital / Revenue split for Area budget projects. A Community Buildings Fund will help to address this issue.

The Task Group have suggested a fund to be solely used for capital projects for community buildings. The original proposal was for Durham Community Action (DCA) to manage this project on our behalf but the WAP team have since received instruction internally that this project should be managed by the WAP team. AM assured the Board that the WAP team would continue to work closely with DCA to ensure all community groups who apply are fit for purpose.

**YP declared an interest as an employee of Durham Community Action.**

PS asked how the figure of £20,000 was reached. CD advised that the Task Group had taken information from past applications to the Small Grants Fund for capital projects into account when deciding on the figure.

AH queried what the application process would be. AM advised that the WAP team will write to every community building to make them aware of the funding.

AM also explained that the proposal today was to ring-fence funding of £20,000 with individual Area Budget applications to be worked up as required. The minimum spend for a project within this fund will be £5,000 which is driven by the criteria set for Area Budget projects. AM advised that other funding can be sourced where necessary from other agencies, Small Grants Fund etc. should a project come in for between £1,500 - £5,000

**Board Decision: The Board APPROVED the Community Buildings Capital Fund and AGREED to ring-fence £20,000 Area Budget.**

### **Children, Young People and Families**

#### **Young Firefighters**

**Declarations of Interest were made by the following people: TN and AH for their involvement in the Fire Service; AS as a governor of Wolsingham School**

DT-G expressed his opinion that this is an impressive scheme. AH gave some additional background information to the project. He advised that the hose that will be purchased is shorter and therefore lighter so is not subject to the same manual handling risks of a standard hose. The project will see the young firefighters perform drills, use simulated breathing apparatus, help to build confidence and give them leadership experience.

PS asked whether the scheme is limited to pupils from Wolsingham School. AS advised some of the training takes place during school hours. AH advised that a similar scheme runs in Bishop Auckland therefore children who live in Weardale but attend school elsewhere will still have the opportunity to participate in a Young Firefighters scheme in their school's catchment area. AM also suggested that liability and insurance concerns would also be a driving factor in who can participate in the scheme. AM confirmed that we would always work to ensure that there is a way to accommodate anyone who would like to participate.

**TN, AH and AS all left the room whilst the Board made a decision.** The remaining Board members felt that no further discussion was needed and unanimously reached a decision.

**Board Decision: The Board APPROVED the Young Firefighters project and AGREED to allocate £10,000 Area Budget to it.**

TN, AH and AS returned to the room

#### **The Weardale Tub**

DC gave a presentation to the Board.

The Weardale Tub project follows on from the successful 'We Are Weardale' project. The project is a visual arts programme working with glass artists from the National Glass Centre in Sunderland. A tub will be created in workshops by primary schools, the secondary school, community groups and visitors.

The tub will consist of amber glass bricks – each brick will say something about Weardale history, heritage, culture and landscape – which together will create a lasting piece of heritage. The finished piece will be able to be illuminated but will not interfere with the Dark Skies.

It is hoped that this installation will also help to increase the footfall at Killhope as participants visit and bring their family and friends along too.

The project consists of 35 workshops of 15 people to create 500 bricks. Each workshop will concentrate on the heritage of the local area e.g. workshops in Wolsingham will concentrate on the history of the Wolsingham area.

DT-G expressed concern at the strength of the finished piece – will it be able to withstand vandalism? DC advised that the tub will be constructed of powder coated steel and fused glass which will be very strong and should be resistant to vandalism. The structure will also be looked after by Durham County Council staff at Killhope and Killhope itself is a secure site.

**Board Decision:           The Board APPROVED the Weardale Tub project and AGREED to allocate £10,000 Area Budget to it.**

#### **Ps**

Three cast iron Ps have been commissioned and are currently sited at Nose's Point, Seaham. They will then travel to Wharton Park, Durham; Bishop Auckland Market Place and Hamsterley Forest.

The proposed project is for an education package for Weardale schools. The project supports and enhances the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum in schools. It aims to explore the theme of individuals being the same and different.

The project offers each school a series of 5 workshops with visiting artists and practitioners as well as site visits to both Bishop Auckland Market Place and Hamsterley Forest.

TN asked if children of all abilities would be participating in the project. DC confirmed that the project is aimed at children age 7-11 (Keystage 2). She also advised that people of any age can participate in community groups.

TN queried whether all the children will understand the concept. DC advised that often some find it hard to grasp the concept at the beginning of the project but by the end an understanding has been achieved. She also advised that schools continue to develop work from the workshops to cement the understanding.

The group felt that this was a means of encouraging discussion, questioning and a way of getting children to think.

PS queried the breakdown of the £3,000. DC confirmed that it covers 5 workshops for each of the four participating schools as well as visits to the sculptures in situ.

CP expressed her opinion that anything that brings these kind of cultural activities into schools is to be welcomed.

AM advised that the Task Group originally thought that this project sits nicely in the AAP Youth Fund. However, it was later discovered that the criteria for the fund was set to projects which work with children 11+. Due to Area Budget minimum spend we

are unable to fund it through Area Budget either. AM advised that she can work with partners to find the required funding to enable the project to go ahead.

YP queried who would be the project applicant when approaching other funders – she advised that DCC as the applicant would prevent the project from accessing certain funds. The suggestion is for individual schools to apply for funding.

**Board Decision: The Board AGREED that AM should work with the project to find other ways to fund this project.**

### **Health and Wellbeing**

#### **Community Wellness Coordinator**

A Community Wellness Coordinator has been in post since September 2016 (it was previously funded with money from DDES CCG). Her role is to work with people who may be vulnerable and ensure that they get the help and support that they need.

Durham Dales Health Federation have approached WAP to run this project for a further year. They are contributing funding to the project and will run a research project to assess the value of the project.

The Task Group felt that it was important that not all money for this post comes from Health in order to maintain the focus on the community.

**Board Decision: The Board APPROVED the Community Wellness Coordinator project and AGREED to allocate £15,000 Area Budget to it.**

#### **Games for the Brain**

The Alzheimer's Society is now working with HomeGroup to provide this programme. Consequently it may not require WAP funding. The Task Group will keep the Board updated.

### **Culture, Tourism and Heritage**

#### **CP declared an interest as a member of the Altogether Archaeology project**

In the absence of the Task Group lead (TG), PC provided an overview of the most recent meeting of the Task Group.

#### **Altogether Archaeology – Interpreting the Medieval Heritage of Weardale**

This project looks specifically at 2 historically significant archaeological sites in Weardale that have been largely unnoticed and unrecognised. PC explained that this project is to take these two sites from obscurity into visibility in two ways.

1. By erecting information displays on the boundaries of the site locations to provide details of what once existed.
2. Displaying artefacts from the previous archaeological digs in the Weardale museum. A contractor to be employed to create new display facilities to house new and existing artefacts.

PC explained that both sites are located on private property and therefore any display boards would be on the boundaries of the sites – PC requested that paragraph 2 of the application form be amended to remove the description 'on site' to avoid confusion.

PC also suggested that the Performance Indicators be amended to read that 3 Tourism Initiatives are supported – the two archaeologically significant sites and the Weardale Museum.

AM explained that the project proposal under consideration consisted of the following:

- £11,000 for the refurbishment of cabinets to a high quality
- £4,000 for a feasibility study which will lead on to a scheme of work for an upcoming Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid. She advised that Altogether Archaeology will have a greater chance of securing HLF funding with a feasibility study.

At the Board's request the wording of the application will be amended to make this clearer.

After discussion with Altogether Archaeology the proposal is to ring-fence the money for this project and roll it over to next year.

DT-G queried who would look after the boards and accept liability. AM advised that Altogether Archaeology have a substantial number of volunteers and would be able to assume this role.

PS queried whether the sites were still active digs. CP confirmed that they were no longer active. She explained where each site is in Weardale. PS suggested that £11,000 seems a lot of money for some cabinets. AM confirmed that any quotes would be seen by the WAP team. CP stated that the costs include not just the cabinets but changes to lighting, carpeting and decoration which would result from the installation of the new cabinets. CD also confirmed that a full breakdown of costs would be supplied in the future Area Budget application to show where the funding will be spent. The Board also felt that it would be a good idea to invite Altogether Archaeology to a Board meeting to give a presentation and allow Board members to gain a fuller understanding of the project.

AH asked what would happen if the HLF bid was unsuccessful? AM advised that they would have cabinets and a completed feasibility study which would be advantageous when trying to secure further funding.

TN asked whether these sites could potentially be built on in the future or whether the site is protected. CP advised that there are protections in place. AM advised that the feasibility study would look into such issues.

**Board Decision:           The Board AGREED to ring-fence £15,000 Area Budget to the Altogether Archaeology – Interpreting the Medieval Heritage of Weardale project subject to further details.**

## **2 for 1 vouchers – Killhope and the Weardale Museum**

AM advised that a scheme ran a couple of years ago offering 2 for 1 vouchers for both Killhope and the Weardale Museum. Both attractions have requested a repetition of this project. No application form has yet been submitted.

**Board Decision:           The Board requested further information before making a decision with regard to funding. They particularly would like to see a demonstration of how successful the previous project was.**

#### **4. AAP Youth Funding Application**

##### **Changing Relations – Make Do and Mend**

##### **AS declared an interest as a governor of Wolsingham School**

AS shared with the Board her views on this project since seeing the play which highlights the issue of domestic abuse. She felt that it was both powerful and thought provoking. She shared her opinion that there will be people who watch the play / film being completely unaware that they are living in a domestic violence situation. There will also be children who think that what happens within their home is normal. She felt that the play is a fantastic way of raising awareness and beginning to have a discussion about the issue of domestic abuse.

**Board Decision:**            **The Board APPROVED the Changing Relations – Make Do and Mend project and AGREED to allocate £3,000 of the AAP Youth Fund to it.**

#### **5. Welfare Reform Funding**

AM advised that we await an update concerning the work of the Rural Advice Worker before determining how to allocate this pot of funding.

#### **6. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 6:00pm, Durham Dales Centre, Stanhope, DL13 2FJ

Note: If you would like any further information or supporting documentation please contact a member of the WAP team