

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

**14th September 2017 at Durham Dales
Centre, Stanhope**



PRESENT

Board Members

Public Representatives: Joan Warriner (JW)
Phil Chatfield (PC)
Tom Nattrass (TN)
Tony Griffin (TG)

Partner Representatives: Damian Pearson – County Durham Housing Group (DP)
David Taylor-Gooby - Clinical Commissioning Group (DT-G)
Peter Maddison – County Durham and Darlington Fire and
Rescue Service (PM)
Yvonne Probert – Durham Community Action (YP)
Stuart Timmiss – Durham County Council (ST)
Inspector Kevin Tuck – Durham Constabulary (KT)

Elected Members: Cllr Brian Thompson – Stanhope (BT)
Cllr Helen Barrass - Muggleswick (HB)
Cllr Olive Wilson - Witton-le-Wear (OW)
Trish Chapman – Hunstanworth (TC)

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

Presenters: Jill Cole, Northern Heartlands (JC)
Anna Caygill, Environment Agency (AC)

Apologies

Public Representatives: Chris Powell
Frances O'Riley
Paul Stockdale

Elected Members: Cllr Anita Savory
Cllr David Sugden – Wolsingham
Cllr Jane Henderson – Wolsingham

1. Introductions, Apologies and Declarations of Interest

The Chair, DT-G, thanked everyone for attending the Board meeting.

Introductions were made and apologies are recorded above.

The Chair requested that any Declarations of Interest be raised at the appropriate points in the meeting.

2. Presentations:

1) Jill Cole, Northern Heartlands.

JC gave a presentation to introduce the Northern Heartlands project. Northern Heartlands grew out of the 'Heart of Teesdale' project. It is one of 16 'Great Place' schemes across England designed to help areas put culture at the heart of their history.

There are 5 team members and the total project cost will be £1.8 million. The targeted areas to work in are the top of the dales and former coalfield towns. There is £275,000 available in a community fund for community groups to apply for funding of between £2,000 and £10,000. The project will also be running high level discussions for community leaders to help influence policy and decision makers.

DT-G thanked JC for her presentation. He commented that it was good to see money being spent on culture outside of London. He asked whether the funding brought in by Northern Heartlands would attract more high profile groups to come and perform in the area so that more people could participate. JC advised that not only would links with Lumiere, BRASS and the Book Festival be pursued, but they were going to make amazing things happen in Weardale.

AM asked how the Northern Heartlands project could work with the agricultural aspect of culture and draw upon the success of the three successful Weardale agricultural shows. She also advised that the Weardale Action Partnership has experience of delivering cultural projects e.g. "We Are Weardale". AM also stressed that it was important to look at all aspects of culture not just mines and pits. JC confirmed that this type of work was scripted into the bid and therefore will be part of the project.

ST queried what the legacy would be of the project. JC stated that the aspect of the project which looks at influencing decision and policy making will hopefully play a part in developing that legacy. Northern Heartlands is the legacy of the Heart of Teesdale and it is hoped that it will generate its own legacy in time.

The community fund is available for projects which encourage a celebration of 'our place' / 'sense of place'. The Northern Heartlands team is available to help the groups if they are unsure whether their idea fits the criteria.

ST suggested that the label 'Culture and the Arts' can be off-putting to some people. He queried how this idea will be disseminated to all in the community. JC confirmed that this consideration will be taken into account when planning their engagement with the community.

2) **Anna Caygill, Environment Agency**

AC gave a presentation entitled 'Weardale Flood Risk Engagement'. (A copy of the presentation is held on file at the WAP office. Please contact the team if you would like a copy.)

The aim of the engagement work being undertaken by the Environment Agency is to increase the resilience of communities to flooding within flood risk areas. It is also aiming to help increase the link with local authorities, first responder services, the Environment Agency and local communities.

AC provided Board members with a map of the affected areas and asked for comments to be made in regard to the potential flooding risk.

AC advised that there is a community event due to be held at Stanhope Community Centre on Monday 18th September to look at flood memories – what's happened before; what did people do?

AC advised that there are services available that issue flood alerts and flood warnings. Part of this scheme is to ensure that more people are signed up to these schemes.

DP queried whether there has been any engagement with landlords. There can be a high turnover of tenants and landlords can play a role in making their tenants aware. AC advised that there has been a meeting with Durham Housing and they are looking to develop ways to make tenants aware as well as looking into the issue of storm drainage.

PC asked whether there is a system in place whereby residents of the upper dale can monitor situation and issue a warning to those living in the lower dale. AC advised that this is something they could look into as gauges are not always reliable.

PC noted that preparedness is key. Having a register of those living in vulnerable areas who themselves are vulnerable for reasons of disability; pregnancy; mobility would be advantageous. AC advised that there could be problems with maintaining such a register due to who assumes responsibility for collating and updating the information.

TN advised that the river changed course because of flooding – bridges and weirs have gone and new embankments have been created. It is therefore important to look at the historical picture of what has happened with the River Wear. JW asked if consideration is being given to the side rivers which flow into the river which are prone to flooding themselves. AC advised that the Natural Flood Management aspect will look at the flow of water – trying to slow the flow or change the course.

Action: WAP team to meet with AC to discuss the project.

DT-G thanked AC for her presentation.

3) **Citizen's Advice Service Home Visiting Service**

AM gave a brief presentation in Linda Pearson's absence.

This project was funded through the Welfare Reform money last year. The Home Visiting Service enables Linda to meet people in their own home to preserve confidentiality. She works in Weardale 1 day per week and up to the

end of June she has carried out 12 home visits and worked with people to claim £19,121 of unclaimed benefits.

3. Local Neighbourhood Issues

PACT – Inspector Kevin Tuck

It has been quiet over the summer months in relation to crime in Weardale however Teesdale has seen a spate of burglaries in recent weeks. During a recent Farmwatch operation an individual was arrested in connection with these crimes.

KT advised that the 3 ANPR cameras yield good intelligence and would be invaluable should Weardale suffer similar crime problems to Teesdale.

With regard to road traffic, speeding and motorbike fatalities it is hard to know what has been prevented but a number of speed initiatives have taken place over the summer months and these will be evaluated shortly. PM advised that the Fire Service will be getting involved in these issues next year.

The next PACT meeting will take place on Wednesday 27th September, 7:00pm at Ireshopeburn Institute.

DT-G thanked KT for his update.

4. Agreement of Notes from Board Meeting held on 17th August 2017, and Matters Arising

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

5. Feedback from Weardale Shows

AM reported that the WAP team had attended all three Weardale Shows. She presented a report to Board Members which gave an overview of what took place at each show. AM advised that visitors to the show were particularly interested in the work of the WAP in relation to Slitt Wood, We Are Weardale and the Home Visiting Service.

PC queried the similarities in the number of conversations at St John's Chapel and Wolsingham given the vastly different number of attendees to both events. AM suggested that it was due to the location of the WAP stall and that the majority of visitors to St John's Chapel were local and very interested in the work at Slitt Wood.

DT-G noted that the Wolsingham Show had run a successful publicity campaign with posters all over the county. He asked if the Wolsingham Show had more money than the other two to be able to allow them to do this. DP & TG advised that Wolsingham Show had more money but had also obtained sponsors and a new marketing team. It is also a significantly bigger show.

Board Decision: **The Board ACCEPTED the report**
 The Board AGREED that the WAP team should continue
 to attend the shows to promote the work of the WAP
 The Board AGREED that the WAP team should continue
 to promote the shows widely.

KT advised that from a policing perspective the shows had been peaceful this year. However there had been one accident on the rides which is being investigated by the Health and Safety Executive.

6. November Forum

AM advised that a date has been set for the November Forum – Wednesday 1st November at St Thomas' Church Hall, Stanhope.

The usual format is for a number of short presentations showcasing the work of the WAP alongside a voting exercise to help set the priorities for the coming year. AM asked Board members what they would like to see in terms of format and content.

Suggestions for presentations include:

- Linda Pearson, Home Visit Service
- Wellness Coordinator
- Weardale Tub
- Young Firefighters / Police Cadets
- Northern Heartlands
- Slitt Wood
- Altogether Archaeology

AM suggested that there would be a need for a strong compere for the event – BT assumed this role.

AM encouraged all Board Members to attend and to bring people with them.

AM also advised that there will be a presence with regard to Durham County Council's Mid Term Financial Plan but this will be by questionnaire not presentation.

7. Countywide Partner Issues

DT-G advised that there are plans to hold a meeting in Weardale to inform local residents should there be any reorganisation within the NHS.

AM advised Board members of a project entitled 'Helen's Forest' where people will knit Christmas trees to be sold by the Forestry Commission. The money raised will then go towards saplings which will be planted in memory of a colleague. AM provided Board members with a copy of the pattern should anyone wish to participate or to pass on to anyone who may be interested.

8. Timings of Board Meetings

The WAP team suggested trialling a change of timing for Board Meetings during the winter months.

Board Decision: The Board AGREED to change the times of the November, February and March meetings to 2:00pm – 4:00pm

9. Date and Time of Next Meetings

Forum – Wednesday 1st November, 5:30pm – 8:00pm – St Thomas' Church Hall, Stanhope

Board - Thursday 23rd September, 2:00pm, 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