

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

**23rd November 2017 at Durham Dales
Centre, Stanhope**



PRESENT

Board Members

Public Representatives: Frances O'Riley (FO'R)
Joan Warriner (JW)
Phil Chatfield (PC)
Tom Nattrass (TN)
Tony Griffin (TG)

Partner Representatives: David Taylor-Gooby - Clinical Commissioning Group (DT-G)
Gordon Elliott – Durham County Council (GE)
Peter Maddison – County Durham and Darlington Fire and
Rescue Service (PM)
Inspector Kevin Tuck – Durham Constabulary (KT)

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

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

Presenters: Jon Carling, Office of the Police Crime and Victims
Commissioner (JC)
Linda Pearson, Rural Advice Worker, Citizen's Advice (LP)

Apologies

Public Representatives: Chris Powell
Paul Stockdale

Public Representatives: Damian Pearson – County Durham Housing Group
Yvonne Probert – Durham Community Action (YP)

1. Introductions, Apologies and Declarations of Interest

The Chair, DT-G, thanked everyone for attending the Board meeting and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Introductions were made and apologies are recorded above.

Declarations of Interest are to be raised at the appropriate points in the meeting.

2. Agreement of Notes from Board Meeting held on 14th September 2017, and Matters Arising

A typo on page 4 was identified and will be rectified by the WAP team. The notes of this meeting, as printed and circulated, were **AGREED** and confirmed as a true record by those present.

The Chair offered his thanks to the WAP team for the Forum Event which he noted was well-attended and went well.

3. Presentations:

1) **Police Funding 2018-19, Jon Carling, Head of Policy and Communication, Office of the Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner.**

JC gave a presentation on the Police Precept – the element of Council Tax that goes towards policing. A formal consultation will take place in January 2018. More information can be obtained from their website:

<http://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/Home.aspx> To take part in their survey, visit: <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3962498/Policing-Funding-for-2018-19>

Board members voiced their support for measures intended to prevent the loss of further police officers.

2) **Linda Pearson, Rural Advice Worker, Citizens Advice**

LP gave a presentation on the Rural Advice Home Visiting Service which received funding from the Welfare Reform budget in 2016/17. The Rural Advice Home Visiting Service is a confidential service to visit people in their own homes. To date, £48,000 in unpaid benefits has been identified for residents of Weardale. LP confirmed that people can self-refer to the service as well as be referred in by other agencies. She also confirmed that she can also refer her clients on to other agencies and services.

PC expressed his appreciation for LP's presentation at the Forum Event which he described as being excellent. He said that it was clear to see her sincerity, commitment and determination and that the project embodies exactly what the WAP strives to achieve in Weardale.

KT requested an electronic copy of the information provided to be placed on the Police Facebook page.

DT-G thanked LP for her presentation

3) **Active Durham**

AM advised that the Active Durham representative had sent their apologies.

4. Local Neighbourhood Issues

1) **PACT – Inspector Kevin Tuck**

Speeding in Wolsingham – The Chief Constable wants the community to be involved with speeding initiatives. The mini-police took part in a speed

awareness initiative which saw 142 cars checked with four being over the speed limit. KT advised that there is to be a meeting in December to provide training for new volunteers to participate in community speedwatch schemes in Weardale.

KT advised that the new PACT priority is parking issues at Stanhope Barrington Primary school.

KT reminded Board members to take sensible precautions such as locking cars and houses and not leaving valuables on show in their cars. He also advised that the ANPR cameras which were provided with funding from Cllr Savory's Neighbourhood Budget were proving to be a valuable source of intelligence gathering.

KT reiterated that people should ring 999 in an emergency, for a road traffic accident or when a crime is in progress. Any other calls should be directed to 101. He advised that PCSOs do follow up on calls made to the 101 number in order to help in the gathering of intelligence.

DT-G thanked KT for his update.

2) Helen's Forest

AM spoke to Board members about the Helen's Forest project which will see a number of saplings planted in memory of a colleague who passed away earlier this year.

3) Wolsingham Skate Park

AS & DS declared an interest as members of Wolsingham Parish Council. AM reminded Board members of a letter received from a young man in Wolsingham Parish with regard to the possibility of building a skate park. A public meeting was convened to explore the idea further and the idea was positively received.

AM confirmed that the Parish council have secured funding of £40,000 from Sport England and they are currently sourcing information from other funders. AM advised that the Parish Council may approach the WAP Board for funding of around £25,000.

Board members suggested that other avenues of funding be explored – e.g. crowdfunding. PC also requested that the Board look at the utilisation of previous play areas that have received funding from WAP to ensure the project is value for money. He also suggested that we should look at the usage of the Crook skate park and benefit from their experiences.

KT emphasised the importance of areas like a skate park as a place for young people to meet and socialise. He suggested that it will be inevitable that there will be some objections from neighbours but reiterated the importance of having a venue for young people to go to. He also asked whether any thought has been given with regard to lighting provision to ensure the facility can be used during the winter months. AM advised that she would contact the parish clerk, Gordon Dobson, to discuss with him the comments made by Board members.

5. Priorities and Action Plans

- 1) **Area Budget** - AM talked Board Members through the table below which depicts the current situation with regard to Area Budget funding.

Area Budget Allocation 2017 / 18			
	Area Budget	Match Funding	Total
Support to Groups in Weardale			
Small Grants Fund	£25,000	TBC	£25,000
Community Buildings Capital Fund	£20,000	TBC	£20,000
<i>Support to Groups in Weardale Total</i>	£45,000	TBC	£45,000
Health and Wellbeing			
Wellness Coordinator	£15,000	£8,499	£23,499
<i>Health and Wellbeing Total</i>	£15,000	£8,499	£23,499
Culture, Tourism and Heritage			
Altogether Archaeology	£15,000	TBC	£15,000
2 for 1 vouchers – Killhope	£5,000	TBC	£5,000
<i>Culture, Tourism and Heritage Total</i>	£20,000	TBC	£20,000
Children, Young People and Families			
Young Firefighters	£10,000	£3,800	£13,800
Weardale Tub	£10,000	£9,391	£19,391
<i>Children, Young People and Families Total</i>	£20,000	£13,191	£33,191
Total	£100,000	£41,285	£114,283

- a. **Welfare Reform** – AM advised that this funding has not yet been allocated as we awaited some outcomes of the Rural Advice Home Visiting Service.
- b. **AAP Youth Fund** – £3,000 of the funding has been allocated to a project designed to raise the issue of Domestic Violence. AM advised that the team are developing a project around transition from primary to secondary schools. When this is developed further a proposal will be brought to the Board.
- 2) **Neighbourhood Budget** – AM advised that no funding has been allocated from the Neighbourhood Budgets of either Cllr Savory or Cllr Shuttleworth. However, each councillor has allocated some of the Small Grants element of their Neighbourhood Budgets.

- 3) **Board Ambassador Reports** – CD reported on the Small Grants Funding supplied to Muggleswick Parish Community Association for new crockery and cutlery and to Stanhope Farmers Market for publicity.

Board Ambassadors were identified for the following upcoming projects

- Eastgate Quilting Group – TN
- Cowshill Quilting Group – JW
- Thornley Village Hall – BT

- 4) **Upcoming events** – The Board were invited to the following events by projects which have received funding from the WAP

- **NorthPens Book Launch ‘Talking Threads’** – Thursday 30th November, 7:00pm – Durham Dales Centre
- **NorthPens ‘Talking Threads’ exhibition** – Thursday 14th December, 2:00pm at Stanhope Community Centre
- **Muggleswick Parish Coffee Morning** – Saturday 2nd December, 10:00am – Muggleswick Parish Hall

6. Reports

- 1) **Forum Report** – AM submitted the Forum Report to Board members and asked those who had attended the event for their feedback. The MTFP presentation received a mixed response from Board members. Frustration and disappointment was expressed at both the length and manner of delivery of the presentation. Some also felt that the presentation was hardly any different in content to previous years. As the presentation overran it put pressure on the groups / projects who had been supported by the WAP when it came to their presentations. Some Board members felt that this detracted from the purpose of the Forum Event as an opportunity for interaction and encouragement from the WAP and the people we support. The timing of the refreshment break was also queried as it provided people with an opportunity to leave the meeting early. Whilst Board members like the method of voting with the ping pong balls they do not see the need for the results to be obtained and feedback on the night of the event. This activity detaches the WAP team from the rest of the meeting.

Some Board members thought that it was a good opportunity for the work of the WAP and the extent of public interest in Weardale to be showcased to the leaders of the Council.

Board members queried whether the Forum was the right event for the MTFP presentation and consultation and if a different meeting could be convened in future to look at this issue. It was confirmed that this is possible and could be looked at in the future.

- 2) **AAP Social Isolation Fund** – AM advised Board members of a new pot of funding which will be managed by WAP for the next three years from 2018/19 financial year. WAP will receive £25,000 of funding for community led initiatives that meet local needs to improve outcomes for older people who are socially isolated and to encourage participation in activities and projects that allow them to contribute positively to their local communities.

AM asked Board members to identify the issues surrounding Social Isolation, who should be involved and any types of projects we should be looking at.

Issues

- Channels of communication – how do we reach people and how do they reach us.
- Transport – not many buses especially in the evening
- Reluctance to leave local environment
- Identifying who and where they are
- Difficult to engage people who are socially isolated

Who should be involved?

- Linda Pearson, Rural Advice Worker
- Wellness Coordinator
- Women's Institute
- GP Federation
- Wheels to Meals
- Farmers and Shepherds.

7. Countywide Partner Issues

GE thanked Board members for completing the MTFP questionnaire. He also mentioned the current situation with regard to schools working with a budget deficit including Wolsingham School. He advised that Phil Hodgson, is happy to come to the AAP Board to discuss the situation. AS agreed that this would be a good idea as the recent newspaper article had caused hysteria amongst pupils, staff and parents.

JW raised the lack of communication by the Wellbeing for Life team. She has experienced sessions cancelled at short notice which then means that JW spends a lot of time ensuring that everyone gets the message. Wellbeing for Life should have their own contact list for situations such as this. Stanhope Community Centre is also having issues with payments from Wellbeing for Life. GE advised that he will raise this with Wellbeing for Life.

DT-G provided Board members with copies of the letters from The Weardale Practice with regard to the cessation of the dispensary service at St John's Chapel. He asked whether Board members would like to pursue the issue further. Board members agreed to see what develops and look at any problems should they arise.

8. Date and Time of Next Meetings

Thursday 8th February, 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