

Mid Durham Area Action Partnership **Annual Report**



Altogether
better
Durham

Mid Durham
Area Action Partnership

2019/20

Mid Durham Area Action Partnership 2019/20 Key Information

FUNDING



£147,045

of AAP funding allocated to 15 projects

£284,630

of match funding generated

£97,839

of County Councillor Neighbourhood Budget funding allocated to 21 local groups

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



51

local groups receiving support from AAP small grants programme

1,010

local people as AAP Forum members



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

42,777

engagement with the community through social media

33,000

Heads Up Newsletters delivered informing communities of local activity, support and information



COMMUNICATION

Mid Durham Area Action Partnership

Established in 2009 Mid Durham AAP brings together local people and partners to take action on local issues. Mid Durham, due to its range of villages and larger settlements, is a mix of both rural and urban communities in its make-up.

Over the last year the key focus has been on 'Children, Young People and Families', Older People (including health), 'Crime and Community Safety'. Over £145,000 has been allocated to local organisations to help them take action on these local priorities.

Welcome from the Chair

Janet Box (public representative)

As the Chair of the Mid-Durham Area Action Partnership I am very happy to be associated with the many successes of this AAP over the last year, particularly where we have targeted projects at both the elderly and the young.

Thank you to the officers of this AAP who have worked tirelessly to support the local community and elected members to make a real difference to local lives and the environment of Mid-Durham; working closely with local people on projects that matter like the Welcoming Lanchester Loneliness Guide which obtained regional TV coverage of its launch.

This year saw the 10th anniversary of AAPs marked appropriately with key projects being recognised for their contribution to community life. This year has also seen another key and dedicated member of the AAP team depart, our longstanding Community Development Officer Pam Sinclair, however we welcomed Helen Pinkney as the new development worker to the team.

Finally, at the end of this financial year saw the arrival of the Coronavirus to the UK which obviously has impacted on the AAPs operations but more importantly on residents and the community as a whole. As an AAP we have had to react to this and see where we play a role and how best we can support our communities. I look forward to seeing how the AAP can help impact positively on our communities in 2020 in these unprecedented and most challenging of times.



Area Action Partnerships have been working with local communities and partners in County Durham for ten years now making a real difference to people's lives. Over 6000 local projects have been supported and each year the AAPs help myself and the other County Councillors allocate our Neighbourhood Budgets to address community issues and sustain the valuable work of voluntary and community groups across Durham. It has also been good to see that the work of AAPs have been recognised nationally as we have been commended in a number of awards and we have been visited by several other local authorities who were interested in what we are doing. I would like to thank all those

involved with AAPs; the staff, Board Members, most importantly, the members of the public who regularly support the work of the AAPs through their input on the AAP Forums and Task Groups.

Councillor Brian Stephens, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Local Partnerships

Our People

Anyone who lives, works, studies or volunteers in the area can get involved with the Area Action Partnership. We currently have 1,010 people who are part of our wider Forum who receive regular updates and E-bulletins as well as being 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 David Bell
Cllr Jude Considine (Vice Chair)
Cllr Jean Chaplow
Cllr John Turnbull
Cllr Paul Taylor
Cllr Bev Coult
Cllr Anne Bonner (Parish Council Rep)
Janet Box (Public Representative and Chair)
Lesley Baxter (Public Representative)
Peter Aitkin (Public Representative)
Ellen Wilson (Public Representative)
Mary Tribe (Public Representative)
Peter Ray (Public Representative)
Alison Gray (Public Representative)
Paul Moralee (Karbon homes)
Peter Mackie (NE First Credit Union)
Lee Brown (Fire and Rescue Service)
Mark Mallatratt/James Gray (Durham Constabulary)

Juliet Carling (North Durham CCG and Vice Chair)
Amanda Healy/Helen Lynch (Durham County Council)
Tina McClellan (Voluntary and Community Sector)
Co-opted: Rachel Edmunds (Believe Housing), Sophie Marston (Young Person).

Thanks go to Cllr Ossie Johnson (as 'stand in' councillor). We'd also like to thank former Board members Jason Mole (Police Rep), Freda Dawson and Martin Walker (Public Reps) who stepped down from the Board this year, whilst welcoming new replacements, Neighbourhood Inspector James Gray and Public Representatives Alison Gray and Peter Ray.

2019/20 Funding Allocation

<p>Area Budget</p>	<p>Social Isolation Fund</p>	<p>£300 Open Water Safety Campaign.</p>
<p>£11,062 Summer Holiday Activities 2019/20 This scheme is to deliver summer play activities across 5 weeks of the summer holiday period in 6 communities, combining both environmental and sporting activities.</p>	<p>£5,613 Wag & Company. A befriending service of a dog and owner for older people who are elderly and isolated to help improve mental health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>£2,000 Lanchester Loneliness Project.</p>
<p>£10,000 Community Centre Coordinator. The funding will be used to partially fund a centre coordinator/development officer in Burnhope Community Association to assist with the management and operations of the project, particularly in relation to young people's activities.</p>	<p>£7,000 Supportive. Volunteer Driver Transport Scheme to assist older people without transport to access local facilities, medical appointments and social visits and activity.</p>	<p>£200 Durham Music Big Play.</p>
<p>£10,296 Young Carers Charter. This project is to work with schools and community settings to help both identify, support and put in steps towards ensuring young carers are supported appropriately and given opportunity to have their particular needs met.</p>	<p>£4,800 Welcoming Lanchester Guide. A guide for people in the Lanchester parish area to use in tackling issues of isolation.</p>	<p>£1,500 Durham BRASS Lanchester Ceilidh.</p>
<p>£14,000 Outdoor Play. To help create a natural outdoor play space for children within the grounds of Ushaw, encouraging more local families to utilise the facilities of Ushaw as a local asset.</p>	<p>£10,009 Silver Talk (Karbon Homes). A telephone befriending service to help keep a connection for those older people living alone or isolated in the community.</p>	<p>£14,008.36 Langley Park and Witton Gilbert Speed Reduction Schemes.</p>
<p>£25,000 Gym Refurbishment (Brandon Carrside Y&CC). To replace the Gym flooring, add in solar energy provision and renew the gym for use by members and the wider community for sporting and social activities.</p>	<p>Welfare Reform</p>	<p>£3,000 Esh Play Area New Equipment.</p>
<p>£20,000 Small Grants Fund. This scheme awarded 51 grants to community groups across the Mid Durham AAP area.</p>	<p>£10,000 Foodbank Debt advice sessions. To fund debt advice sessions for those who are struggling to meet their personal and family basic financial needs.</p>	<p>£20,000 Witton Play Park Equipment (DCTY PROJECT).</p>
<p>£9,566 Peer Support Programme (Investing in Children). This project is to assist secondary school aged children in addressing issues of mental health through an accredited programme developed for pupils and young people to help support each other in times of need.</p>	<p>Youth Fund</p>	<p>£2,491.32 St Andrew's Youth Group.</p>
<p>£5,000 Ushaw Moor Cricket Club – Fencing. To help secure the cricket club grounds in order they can further develop their offer and include more young peoples and family orientated cricket and non-cricket community activity.</p>	<p>£2,989 Brandon Carrside Summer programme. Delivered in 4 x villages across the Brandon and Byshottles parish area.</p>	<p>£3,000 Meadowfield Cemetery Road Resurfacing.</p>
	<p>£3,902 Peer support Programme (As Area Budget project).</p>	
	<p>Neighbourhood Budget</p>	
	<p>£7,724.19 New Brancepeth Christmas Tree Lights.</p>	
	<p>£2,700 Summer Holiday Activities 2019 Year 4.</p>	
	<p>£5,000 Esh Winning FC Disabled Ramp.</p>	
	<p>£17,394.84 Parking Bays Whitehouse Court, Ushaw Moor.</p>	
	<p>£200 Care Leavers Christmas Lunch.</p>	
	<p>£4,978.48 Cochrane Mews, Ushaw Moor – Birdsmouth Fencing and Road Linings.</p>	
	<p>£1,000 Bearpark Primary School Bikes (DCTY PROJECT).</p>	
	<p>£1,180 Bearpark Benches (DCTY PROJECT).</p>	
	<p>£3,821.10 High View Ushaw Moor Birdsmouth Fencing.</p>	
	<p>£5,146.77 C17 Victor Terrace, Bearpark Bollards (DCTY PROJECT).</p>	
	<p>£1,000 Deric Bus Project Staffing (DCTY PROJECT).</p>	

Neighbourhood Budget 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: Derek Snaith (AAP Coordinator), Helen Pinkney (Community Development/Project Officer), Lynn Cummings (Support Officer)

The projects listed above have been supported by County Councillors: David Bell, Jean Chaplow, Jude Considine, Bev Coult, Ossie Johnson, Arnie Simpson, Paul Taylor, John Turnbull, Marion Wilson.

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

The Difference We Have Made



Welcoming Lanchester Guide

Is a community initiative led by the Patient Participation Group (PPG) at Lanchester Medical practice on the subject of 'loneliness in the village'. The guide provides information and aims to engage everybody in the community. We hope to encourage everyone to make a difference by starting conversations and to attempt to tackle Lanchester's loneliness.

The Guide is a tool, enabling you to 'dip in and dip out' as the need arises. It provides information to help you befriend, support and engage with people who are lonely, or at risk of becoming lonely. It should be a catalyst and signposts readers to other resources where you can find more information. There are useful tips to consider, details about volunteering opportunities, questions and lists of things to think about, as well as useful hints to help get the most out of the Guide. The guide also outlines opportunities within the village itself to get involved. The guide has been distributed to the community and health professionals who may find it of value in working with individuals and groups on the subject of loneliness and isolation.



Summer Play Programme

Our Summer play programme is a regular feature within the AAP area in which we operate. With financial support from Parish Councils, County Councillors and ourselves, OASES which is an environmental educational charity alongside Durham County Councils Leisure team deliver a comprehensive programme of outdoor environmental and sporting activities for children of primary school age. This is a daily, 5-week programme in 6 villages across the Mid Durham AAP area in the summer holidays. 587 children of primary school age attended the sessions with 239 adults accompanying them. Feedback from attendees was positive and they appreciated the fact it was local and free.

It is recognised that the summer holiday period can be a challenge for families both financially and in terms of accessing local provision which helps engage children in fun, healthy activity. These sessions were all free and included a healthy snack contributing to a growing campaign around 'holiday hunger' when some children may require more sustenance in the holiday periods, when not receiving regular school meals.



Silver Talk

Silver Talk was founded to counter the prevailing issues of loneliness and social isolation across North West and Mid-Durham. The propensity for loneliness within the county has been exacerbated by the outward migration of younger people and higher levels of deprivation and ill-health. The service is as pertinent to local need as it was when launched, evidenced by our Stakeholder Perception Survey where 100% of respondents agreed that telephone befriending is effective at tackling loneliness. Offering structure and routine, one service user noted, "Just knowing somebody is going to ring for a chat makes such a difference."

Silver Talk is a free-to-use, volunteer-led telephone befriending service which targets adults aged 50+. The service is an effective antidote to loneliness, reducing social isolation, improving confidence and resourcing the individual with services that will help them cope with everyday life. Managed with the support of Karbon Homes. Regular volunteers arrange weekly calls lasting a maximum of 45 minutes, where the discussion is guided by the service users' everyday activities, interests and concerns. At the point Coronavirus hit in March referrals for the Silver Talk service increased exponentially.

The Difference We Have Made



Brandon Foodbank Drop in and Debt Advice Worker

The Brandon foodbank drop-in and debt advice service have been operating for several years. In the last 12 months enough food to feed 486 people (186 children) in Brandon and 248 (112 children) in Esh Winning has been supplied through the respective locations' foodbanks. This represents 734 out of 1158 of the total numbers of people from Mid Durham AAP area who have been through the foodbank. Our debt advisers are currently working with 29 clients from the Mid Durham AAP area with combined debts of over £200k.

The debt service is provided by Community Money Advice County Durham. The service works with clients until they are either debt free or are comfortable with a debt repayment plan. The typical client has £10,000 of debt and many have these written off as part of a Debt Relief Order. Clients also receive budgeting advice and comprehensive benefits support to ensure they get their proper entitlements. The project could yield approximately £250k of debt relief if only 25 clients through full debt resolution. 50 users will access the service and 100 users will get some benefit from the overall project.

Front cover image: Brancepeth Castle courtesy of Castleside & District Photography club.



Wag & Company

WAG and Company are a north east charity enabling visiting dog teams to build meaningful new friendships with older dog lovers across the North East of England. We enable professionally assessed volunteers and their special dogs – Visiting Wag Teams – to regularly and safely visit older dog lovers in their own homes or in care and medical establishments across the 12 unitary authorities of the North East of England.

We are the only visiting dog charity to visit people in their own homes and we do so on referral from professional agencies such as NHS Trusts, Adult Social Services, Dementia Services, GP practices, AGE UK, the Hospice Movement or the British Red Cross etc. Wag & Company have very little connections established in county Durham and only a few volunteer teams established so were keen to start in the mid Durham AAP area to help establish a larger service here for our residents' benefit.



Wag & Co have developed 12 local volunteer (with dogs) teams and have been visiting individual isolated older people and care homes to help bring companionship and help boost mobility and confidence in those ex-dog owners who no longer are able to benefit from dog ownership. The impact of Coronavirus has had an obvious impact on this service towards the end of the financial year.

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