



Better for everyone

Spennymoor
Area Action Partnership

Annual Report

2022/23

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.



Councillor Elizabeth Scott



Clyde Terrace Community Garden: Meeting Room roof refurbishment



Moors in the Community – Doorstep delivery and warm hub project

Spennymoor Area Action Partnership 2022/23 Key Information

FUNDING

£160,088

of AAP Area budgets to address Community Recovery and Covid 19 impact and issues on the Spennymoor AAP community and its effects, allocated to 10 projects

£77,882

of match funding generated for Area Budget projects

£93,804

of AAP Towns and Villages Fund allocated to 4 localised projects

£402,844

match funding secured for Towns and Villages Fund projects

£81,369

of councillor Neighbourhood Budget allocated to 38 projects including Small Grants, Towns and Villages and Jubilee projects which supported 24 local groups/communities



£753,253

match funding secured for Neighbourhood Budget projects

£9,539.60

Healthy Relationship Fund Projects

£22,152

allocated to 16 Fun and Food projects

£3,531

match funding secured Fun and Food projects



LOCAL INFORMATION

Over **23,000**

people are predicted to be supported through Area Budget, Neighbourhood Budget and Fun and Food projects



COMMUNICATION

12,468

social media engagements

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

68

projects developed and supported through Spennymoor Area Action Partnership



Spennymoor Area Action Partnership

Established in 2009 Spennymoor Area Action Partnership (AAP) brings together local people and partners to take action on local issues. Areas covered include the town centre and the outlying villages.

Over the last year the key focus has been on Community Recovery. Over £160,000 has been allocated to local organisations to support them through the Covid pandemic.

The partnership continued its work throughout the pandemic with the team and Board members adapting to the changing environment to support our local communities ensuring meetings took place virtually and project leads and community groups were informed of relevant information.

We also ensured communication to the Spennymoor AAP forum and community lines stayed open through the use of social media and emails.

Welcome from the Chair

De Hickson (Partner Representative)

I have been proud this year of the numerous and varied projects funded by our AAP.

The AAP Board and staff team have responded well and worked hard to spread resources in areas where they are most needed.

I have personally watched many projects come to fruition and witnessed the benefits for the local community.

It has been a pleasure and privilege to chair Spennymoor AAP and I look forward to our future achievement under the guidance of our new chair.



Our People

Anyone who lives, works, studies or volunteers in the area can get involved with the Area Action Partnership. We currently have over 2,500 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:

De Hickson (Chair) (Voluntary and Community Sector)
Agnes Armstrong (Vice Chair) (Public Representative)
Cllr Luke Holmes (Vice Chair)

Geoff Darkes (Public Representative)
Hugh Stephenson (Public Representative)
Paul Davison (Public Representative)
George Morgan-Watson (Public Representative)
Ron Heighley (Public Representative)
Vacant (Public Representative)

Cllr Liz Maddison (County Councillor)
Cllr Mark Abley (County Councillor)
Cllr Peter Malloy (County Councillor)
Cllr Billy McAloon (County Councillor)
Cllr Rachael Riches (Spennymoor Town Council)
Cllr Neil Foster (Spennymoor Town Council)

Helen Johnson (Livin)
Inspector Mike Sammut (Police)
John Trowell (Fire and Rescue Service)
Helen Bell (NHS)
Darren Knowd (Durham County Council)
Gary Thompson (Business Rep)

We'd also like to thank former Board Members Pat Lawton, Barbara Harker, Ian Walker, Cllr Andrew Anderson for their service to the Area Action Partnership.

2022/23 Funding Allocation

Area Budget
(Which includes Social Isolation Funding, Welfare Reform funding and Young Peoples Fund)
St Paul's Centre, A Warm Welcome, £17,244
Learning Library, Continue to Care, £18,027
Durham deafened Support, Life after Deaf, £18,500
Aspire Learning Support – Spennymoor Sisters, £15,880
Walk and Talk Trust – Spennymoor AAP heritage walks, £6,750
Spennymoor Youth and Community Centre- A 7-day centre for the whole community, £6,112
Cornforth Partnership – Helping Hands, £24,946
Moors in the Community – More than Football, Community Support, £29,342
Cruse Bereavement Support, Bereavement Support, £14,902
Stage and Song – The Addams Family, £8,335
Towns and Villages Fund
DCC, Spennymoor Market Place, £45,000
Kirk Merrington Primary School, Keep Positive Motivated Outside Gym, £21,908
North Park Primary School, Forest School Development, £10,000
Byers Green Village Hall, Male Female Toilet Update and Improvement, £16,896
Health Relationships Fund
Spennymoor Youth and Community centre, Better Together, £5,178
Cornforth partnership, Baby Ready or Not, £4,361
Neighbourhood Budget
St Andrews Parish Church, Kitchen and Toilet Facility, £6,000
DCC Neighbourhoods, School Flagpole Project, £3,245
Spennymoor Gala, Spennymoor Gala 2022, £1,500

Cleves Cross Learning Trust (Rosa Street), £2,000
Croxdale & Hett Parish Council, Replacement Defibrillator – Croxdale £1,591
Croxdale & Hett Parish Council, Cemetery Fencing, £2,000
DCC Neighbourhoods, Middlestone Moor Play Area, £1,933
Clyde Terrace Community Garden, Roofing Improvements, £3,000
Durham Hospitals Radio, Technical Upgrades, £1,000
Ox Close Nursery, Wraparound Provision Enhancements, £2,785
Spennymoor Gala, Spennymoor Gala 2023 Entertainers, £2,720
Learning Library, Transport Costs, £1,250
Tudhoe Cricket, Cylinder Mower, £2,169
Spennymoor Youth and Community Association, Youth Festival, £1,826
Fun and Food
The Fun and Food programme continued to provide access to a range of Holiday Activities with Healthy Food to children, young people and families from across the Spennymoor AAP area. Projects were developed in partnership with the voluntary and community sector and Durham County Councils Children and Young Peoples Services.
Spennymoor Youth and Community Centre - Relax, learn, Create and Celebrate: Summer 2022, £3,183
Trinity Methodist - Messy Summer Along, £2,070
St Paul's Centre – Running Wild, £2,160
Byers Village Hall - Activities, Sport and Crafts, £1,860.00
Learning a New Way - Wellbeing For All, £902.00
Byers Village Hall - Craft/Fun Day, £500.00
Eric Knows CIC - Autism Friendly Sensory Sessions, £902.00
Groundwork - Autumn Half Term Holiday Provision, £902.00
Byers Village Hall – Craft and Fun Day, £1,014.00
Eric Knows CIC - Autism Friendly Sensory Sessions, £1,050.00

Stars Community Learning CIC - An Enchanted Experience, £2,792.00
Learning a New Way - Well-Being For All, £830.00
Byers Village Hall - Pan cake making and fun day, £500.00
Spennymoor Youth and Community Centre - Sports and Craft Sessions, £564.80
Learning a New Way CIC -Wellbeing For All, £560.00
Stars Community Learning CIC - Eat Well, Keep Fit, £2,362.00



Spennymoor Stage and Song – The Addams Family

Neighbourhood Budget is an allocation of £19,400 that each County Councillor receives each year to spend on community projects. This process is supported by the AAP team. The projects above have been supported by County Councillors Liz Maddison, Mark Abley, Luke Holmes, Peter Malloy, Billy McAloon, Cllr Maura McKeon, Cllr Jan Blakey and Cllr Joe Quinn.

The Difference We Have Made



Durham County Council Spennymoor Market Place

Spennymoor AAP allocated Towns and Village Funding towards the regeneration of Spennymoor Market Place. The funding contributed to the installation of a new bespoke lighting scheme which included the installation of four twin arm illuminated lighting columns. Four projectors have been installed in these bespoke columns.

These project images onto the paved area that has been created as an event space onto the gable of an adjoining building. The projectors are linked to timers initially programmed to operate between dusk and midnight.

The lighting columns have been constructed to a detailed specification which will ensure that they can accommodate any additional requirement to support the roll out of Town Centre Wi-Fi while also supporting the Councils Energy Reduction Policy.

The lighting columns have recently been used to mark the Kings Coronation and Armistice Day.



St Andrews Parish Church Kitchen and toilet facility

The AAP has provided Area Budget funding (2021/22) and Neighbourhood Budget funding (2022/23) to support with the development of a new kitchen and disabled toilet facility at Saint Andrews Church. The extra Neighbourhood Budget funding was allocated due to the increased costs of materials for the project following the Covid pandemic.

Prior to the funding being allocated users of the Church needed to access an alternate building to access toilet facilities and this was proving problematic for people who were less mobile or had young children.

The development of the new kitchen facility has supported Saint Andrews Church by making the building more welcoming and people can move easily from services to refreshments and socialising.

The church has also developed a range of community activities in the church hall. This has included developing a range of children's activities that have included the regular messy church group which offers a free breakfast and now has 30 members; along with one off activities such as the holiday club which operated during the summer holidays.



Whitworth Park Academy Artificial 3G Pitch

The AAP have allocated Neighbourhood Budget (Town and Villages) Funding towards the construction costs of a full size floodlit artificial grass pitch at Whitworth Park Academy.

The pitch will be used by the community at evenings (up to 10pm), weekends and school holidays.

The flexible pitch configuration will allow up to 4 different users at the same time. The surface is suitable for a range of different sports and physical activities and can be used in all weathers.

The pricing policy will ensure everyone can access the pitch. The costs to hire will be comparable to existing Durham County Council managed facilities. All Spennymoor based football/sports and community clubs will have access for training and matches. Community-based youth clubs, associations and groups will have access to slots with subsidised funding to ensure the project is accessible to all residents.

The Difference We Have Made



Cornforth Partnership Helping Hands

This project is to provide a support service to vulnerable individuals and families, affected by the current cost of living crisis.

The project will provide dedicated and qualified mentoring staff to work with individuals who are facing financial hardship which unfortunately could be potentially having a negative impact on their health and well-being, issues including housing, debt, benefits, employment, and poverty. Through the use of Outcome Star, the partnership will help individuals create client led action plans that indicate solutions to the barriers which individuals may be facing.

Alongside meeting people in their own homes, the team will also work in partnership with community venues and organisations to provide community led drop-in sessions. During these sessions there will be opportunities to access IT equipment.

The project will ensure individuals have direct access to other avenues of support including Domestic Abuse, Family Mentoring and Employment and Training. It will be accessible to all and will be linked to the Durham Works Provision.



Learning a New Way CIC HAHF Project

Holiday Activities with Healthy Food is a scheme that helps to support local community groups and organisations based in the Spennymoor area to deliver Holiday Activities with Healthy Food during the holidays.

This project rolled out by Learning a New Way CIC provided activities at Spennymoor Youth Centre based on a theme of "how to be happy!".

The sessions included an opportunity to engage with the practice of mindfulness and learning about strategies that support us to feel calmer and more confident. Children were provided with an opportunity to engage with team games and sporting activities in an informal and relaxed way. Healthy food was provided during each session.

During the final session children were given the opportunity to take part in an interactive 'Dino' session which was a unique and exciting experience for the children involved. They were given an overview of the Mesozoic period and were able to handle artefacts, learn about fossils, create artwork and build a dinosaur.

They were able to discuss key points such as, hunting methods, self defence and competing with other dinosaurs. The facilitator was also able to speak about Climate Change, it's impact on the dinosaurs and how this is relevant today.



Learning Library Fuelling Van

The Learning Library offers specialist equipment to develop and support children and adults with additional needs in Spennymoor and the surrounding areas.

Through the provision of Spennymoor AAP funding to cover the running costs of the van this project will support one of the crucial elements of the Learning Library's core aims which is to provide valuable outreach support and equipment to their members.

By ensuring the organisation remains mobile during the current financial climate the members of the Learning Library will continue to have access to the specialist resources in their own homes, the visits by outreach workers supplying the equipment will also provide opportunities for social engagement with members reducing feelings of isolation and loneliness.

Contact Details

Spennymoor Area Action Partnership
Green Lane
Spennymoor
County Durham
DL16 6JQ

Tel: 03000 262 062
Email: spennyaap@durham.gov.uk
www.durham.gov.uk/spennymooraap

