



North Durham Community Led Local Development Newsletter – Spring 2021

Spring has finally sprung!

Welcome to the spring CLLD Newsletter. Spring is in the air and it has started to warm up a little.

In this newsletter we have a word from North Durham CLLD Local Action group (LAG) Chair and why he became a LAG member, some exciting ESF news and some heart-warming good news stories from our projects.



A word from the Chair

Hi, I'm Kevin Howe, the North Durham CLLD LAG Chair. As a local Lad working in the North Durham CLLD area, I understand the pressures and needs of residents and businesses around here. I could see what benefits CLLD would bring to people and businesses which is why I



wanted to be involved in the decision-making process. It means a lot to me that I can help bring opportunities to businesses and individuals which can then lead to more jobs and less unemployment.

If you invest in this area everything else falls into place. Business grows, poverty is reduced, wellbeing is increased, and prosperity follows.

ESF programme extension

Great news! North Durham CLLD has been approved a programme extension for its European Social Fund (ESF) call. This means new and existing ESF applicants can apply for projects delivering up to December 2022.

We have approximately £150,000 funding available for projects with public match funding that can help unemployed and inactive people aged 25+ in the North Durham CLLD area along their pathway into employment. Project activities can include:

- Education and training
- Wellbeing support; preparing for interviews
- Income maximisation e.g. money and budgeting advice
- Bringing employability support where it is most needed

For further details please visit: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/NorthDurhamCLLD>

Good news stories from our projects -

Our projects have been working hard throughout the challenges of lockdowns and rule changes as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and they've shared some of their project participant stories with us.

Handcrafted Training Kitchen:



Claire started attending the kitchen recently in December 2020. She'd just moved to the North East having lived in Cornwall for much of her adult life. She moved to the North East to try and turn her life around after living with an addiction for many years. She's now been clean for 6 months and finds the kitchen a safe space where she can talk about her difficulties. She said: "I love coming to the cooking sessions because it gives me something to do with my hands and occupies my mind. Being new to the area, it's been great to meet new people too."

North Durham Assist:



A happy client supported through lockdown was Alan from Stanley, who was unfortunately made redundant as a sheet metal worker. Alan was initially looking for factory roles when he registered on the programme but there were limited jobs available. Mentor Alison did some CV work with Alan and booked him on a CSCS course which he passed. This was added to his CV and as a result he was offered a position as a labourer working on a building site in Durham.

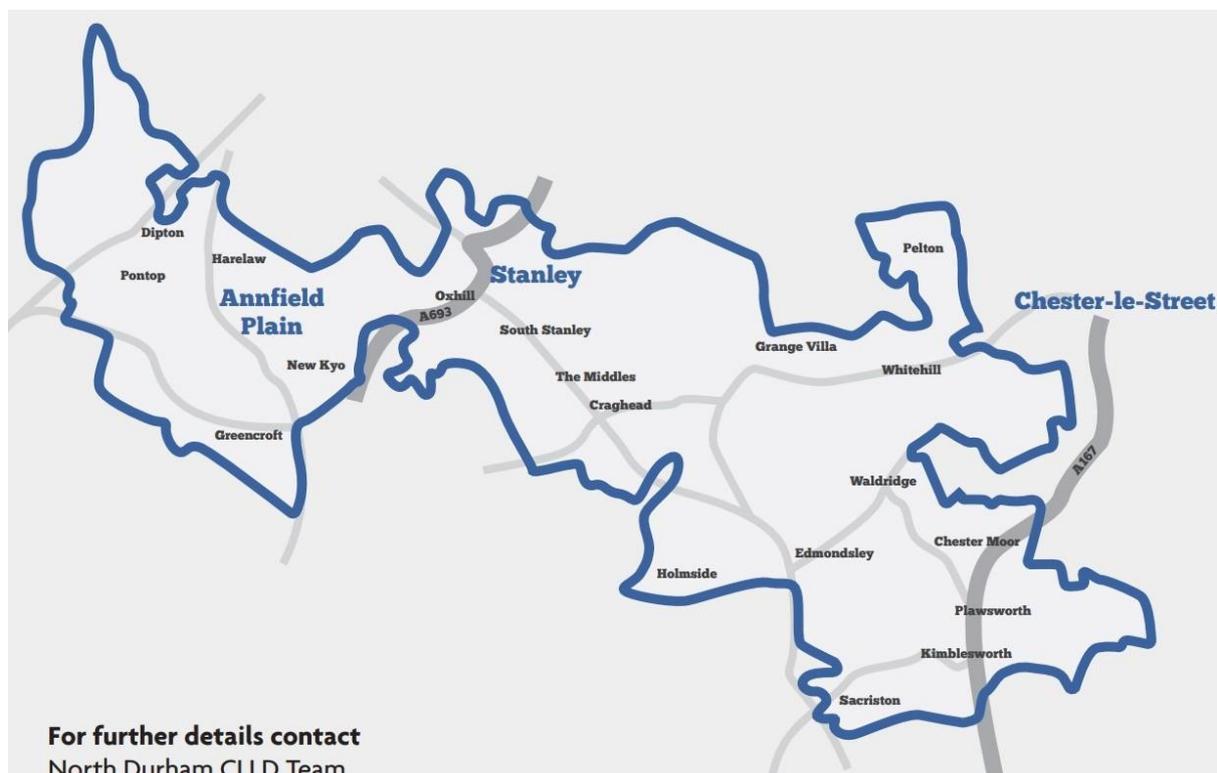
Finchale Business boost:



ASH Signs-Print-Graphics at Nettlesworth needed support with their business growth. They are a sole trader and were looking for funding to purchase a machine. Finchale Business Boost provided 12 hours business support (inclusive of three 121 masterclasses) to create a business plan and grant application, despite Covid and lockdown challenges. The business owner also successfully secured a grant from Business Boost and purchased a new machine which has enabled him to take on more work, as the machine has improved efficiencies.

North Durham CLLD Area

Our North Durham CLLD area covers Chester-le-Street, Pelton Fell, Whitehills and Pelton, Sacriston, South Stanley, Craghead around the outskirts of Annfield Plain and Harelaw, as outlined on the map below.



All projects must support individuals and/or businesses that reside or are located within the North Durham CLLD area as shown on the map. Projects must demonstrate that activity targets the most deprived areas and priority will be given to activity targeting the top 20% deprived wards

We have a detailed map on our website: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/NorthDurhamCLLD>

Our projects

Handcrafted Training Kitchen, Handcrafted

Handcrafted is running a training kitchen at their Chester-Le-Street base supporting individuals to gain confidence and reimagine what they are able to achieve through offering courses that improve their cookery skills.

From these skills, our trainees will be able to work towards Level 1 and 2 qualifications in Food Hygiene which will allow trainees to pursue passions in cooking, while looking towards employment particularly in the hospitality sector.

Trainees will be supported by the Handcrafted staff team with referrals to employment opportunities, along with advice and help with CVs and job applications.

<https://handcrafted.org.uk/locations/chester-le-street/>

North Durham Assist, Durham County Council

The North Durham Assist project has extended its delivery to 31st December 2021. This means they can help more people in the North Durham CLLD area.

The North Durham Assist project delivers a 1-2-1 mentoring service focussed on individual need. The project aims to support people to find jobs that they can do and, more importantly, jobs they want to do. Whilst recognising there may be significant support required to breakdown some complex barriers for individuals to consider employment we feel our strengths are currently in supporting individuals in securing employment. The project will have two main areas of focus. These are:

- Engaging with unemployed / inactive people & underrepresented groups - who are in receipt of benefits such as ESA, IB and Universal credit claimants. The aim will be to raise the aspirations of some under-represented groups to consider self-employment and a range of other employment opportunities available.
- Employer Engagement –work with local developments and employers to provide work and sector specific opportunities and enable effective skills matching and employment brokerage.

You can find out more at <https://www.durham.gov.uk/employability> or email the project team employability@durham.gov.uk

Foundations for Life, Karbon Homes

Foundations for Life is delivering pre-entry, functional skills training in literacy and numeracy, along with budgeting, job-seeking, and the kinds of early stage digital skills which would provide a pathway for customers to move into mainstream programmes of education and employment.

Operating mainly from The Foundations Hub in Stanley, the tutor and digital coaches offer learner-led, informal, milestone training to allow people to achieve accredited and non-accredited qualifications in their own time.

Their approach is geared towards helping those who find themselves excluded from economic activity including people with chaotic lifestyles, caring responsibilities and health concerns, in a learning culture where they can engage and succeed without the fear of failing or falling behind – a common barrier to successful adult learning.

Find out more at: <https://www.karbonhomes.co.uk/care-and-support/foundations-for-life/>

Employment in the leisure, culture and hospitality sector, Stanley Events

Stanley Events is providing a bespoke activity programme to support local people to gain confidence, qualifications, work experience which could lead into paid employment in the leisure, culture and hospitality industry.

The 12-week programme includes support in developing a participant's work ready portfolio including CV writing, job application writing, interview skills and general support in overcoming individual barriers to become employment ready, specifically in the leisure, culture and hospitality industry.

All the learning will take place in a hands-on environment, with participants gaining first-hand experience in hospitality, food preparation and bar tendering. A range of volunteer placements will be sourced from local employers such as Stanley Events, Northern Spas and Food Durham. All participants will be offered the opportunity of a work placement.

To find out more please visit: <https://stanleyevents.co.uk/>

North Durham Business Growth Grant, UMi Ltd

The North Durham Business Growth Grant is a grant scheme which businesses in the North Durham CLLD area can apply to for grants between £1,000 – £2,000 at a fixed rate of 35% of eligible expenditure.

The grants will enable businesses to make investments in sustainability and/or growth and job creation.

To find out more and to apply:

Visit: <https://durhamgrowthgrant.weareumi.co.uk/>

Or email: northandsouthdurhamgrowthgrant@weareumi.co.uk

Finchale Business Boost, Finchale Group

Finchale Business Boost is delivering flexible, tailored advice and guidance to potential entrepreneurs/existing sole traders/SME's in the CLLD area, supported by a revenue and capital small grants programme.

This is a unique programme of business support and funding to budding entrepreneurs and SMEs. It provides flexible tailored one-to-one advice and guidance in the following:

- business start-up including community/social enterprises
- business support/growth advice to existing sole traders/SME's looking to expand/grow
- grant-based investment programme (grants of between £1k and £10k) capital/revenue start-up/investment growth costs matched by applicants

For more information:

Email: businessboost@finchalegroup.co.uk

Or visit: www.finchalegroup.co.uk

Calling business support projects

North Durham CLLD has a call open for ERDF non-capital projects delivering up to 31 December 2022. If you have a project idea to provide financial or non-financial business support to new or existing businesses in the North Durham CLLD area or to help individuals in the CLLD area to become enterprise ready, please get in touch with us.

For more information and to view our current call documents, please visit: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/NorthDurhamCLLD>

You can also contact the North Durham CLLD Co-ordinator, PJ Harding, by telephone on 07384 247 356 or via email NorthDurhamCLLD@durham.gov.uk

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF)

You may have seen the acronyms ERDF and ESF when looking at CLLD funding and we thought it might be helpful to do some unravelling for you of what they mean...

ERDF

This strand covers our priority themes of Developing Growth & Enterprise, Stimulating Entrepreneurialism and Enterprising Spaces. These themes are centred around project ideas which will help support small and medium sized enterprises (SME's) in the North Durham



CLLD area such as helping them to business plan, encourage individuals to start their own business or capital projects which will develop business spaces.

ESF

The ESF strand covers Enhancing Economic Inclusion supporting projects which will help people aged 25+ in the North Durham CLLD area who are furthest from the labour market. This could be offering things such as education & training, wellbeing support or supporting those individuals into work where it is most needed.

Please bear in mind that this is a brief overview of the programme and if you would like further information, including our latest call documents, please visit our website at: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/NorthDurhamCLLD>

Local Action Group

North Durham CLLD Local Action Group has been continuing with business as usual and meeting virtually every month to discuss the programme's developments and consider applications.

Durham County Council is the Accountable Body for the North Durham CLLD programme, but the programme is also made up of a Local Action Group (LAG) who is responsible for overseeing the delivery of the North Durham CLLD programme and who make informed decisions on Expressions of Interest and Full Applications.

The LAG is made up of private and public sector representatives who bring a wealth of experience when assessing the eligibility, value for money, strategic fit, need/demand and deliverability of projects.



Social Media

Along with our main website, North Durham CLLD also has it's own Facebook page. Please feel free to give our page a like and follow. You will find updates on any calls for projects and even get to know our LAG a little better: <https://www.facebook.com/North-Durham-Community-Led-Local-Development-funding-152388398722984/>

GDPR

North Durham CLLD would like to continue to send you information about the work of the programme, the work of partner organisations and information on local events etc. however if you decide you do not wish to receive this information then please email us at NorthDurhamCLLD@durham.gov.uk

In order to access further information about how we use your personal data then please see www.durham.gov.uk/dataprivacy.

Data Protection Act 2018

Durham County Council complies with all relevant statutory obligations. Personal information processed by the Council will be handled in accordance with the Council's privacy statement, which can be accessed here www.durham.gov.uk/dataprivacy.

If you have any concerns about how your data is handled, please contact either the Data Protection Officer at DPO@durham.gov.uk or the Information Commissioner's Office casework@ico.org.uk.