

Durham Area Action Partnership Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Board Meeting

Wednesday 27 April 2022

Durham Town Hall, Market Place, Durham, DH1 3NJ

Board Members

Attendance: Parish Cllr Maureen Boettcher, Sam Humble, Dave Clarke, Cllr Eric Mavin, Sarah Burns, Rebecca Ashby, Cllr Liz Brown, Ian Moore, Cllr Lesley Mavin, Gary Tidbury, Cllr Richard Ormerod, Paul Howard, Victoria Ashfield, Chris Tindale

AAP Officer

Attendance: Craig Morgan – AAP Co-ordinator
Wendy Lavelle – Community Development Project Officer
Lyndsey Hunter – Community Development Project Officer
Marie Ainscough – AAP Support Officer

Presenter: Jane Cane, Alliance Manager

Forum Members: 11 forum members attended the meeting

Apologies Board: Cllr Lucy Hovvels, Rebecca Eves, Lee Alexander, Cllr Christine Fletcher, Alice Wilkes, Matthew Mills, Colin Stephenson, Rev Joanne Thorns

Apologies Forum: Alan Troupe

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Ian Moore, Chair welcomed everyone to the first face to face AAP meeting since February 2020. Board members introduced themselves.

Apologies for absence, [as above].

2 Presentation: 2021/22 Annual Report

The Durham AAP 2021/22 Annual Report was shared with the meeting and Craig highlighted some of the key points covered within it.

On behalf of the Board, the Chair thanked Craig for his presentation.

3 Confirmation of Chair and Vice Chairs

No other nominations for these posts had been received.

The three current Vice Chairs can remain if they wish to do so.

- Ian Moore – Vice Chair (Partners)
- Chris Tindale – Vice Chair (Public)
- Cllr Liz Brown – Vice Chair (Cllrs)

It is the Councillors turn to take the Chair for 2022/23.

Cllr Liz Brown was appointed Chair of Durham AAP for 2022/23.

The Board agreed to these appointments.

4 Comments from the Chair

Ian Moore, the outgoing Chair expressed his thanks to all Board members and the AAP staffing team for their hard work and support; and handed over to the new Chair.

[Cllr Liz Brown took the chair]

She thanked Ian for his commitment to the Board, and for his role as a Board Champion.

BOARD MEETING

5 Presentation: Mental Health Alliance

Jane Cane delivered a presentation on the Durham Mental Wellbeing Alliance that will play a pivotal role in improving mental health and wellbeing across the county.

In April 2021 Durham County Council re-tendered 21 of their mental health and wellbeing services and developed a new collaborative approach to a range of support services.

The meeting was open for questions/comments –

- Is there a reason why you refer to it as mental wellbeing?
- Are you ready for a storm due to the cost-of-living crisis?
- Hub of Wishes (sub-contractor) – can you explain please?
- What age range do you cover?

- How are you going to make unanimous decisions when there are seven providers?
- How does the finance work?
- Is Durham University linked to anything you do?

A copy of the presentation will be forwarded to those forum members present.

The Chair thanked Julie for her presentation.

6 Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The Chair reviewed the previous minutes for matters arising, actions and accuracy.

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

The deadline for responses to the Public Space Protection Order ends on 29 April.

A neighbourhood question had been submitted in relation to Claypath surgery and the development in the area. Craig had received a response from Colin Stephenson, the health representative on the Board; and he agreed to email the response to the forum member who had submitted the neighbourhood question.

Craig welcomed Sam Humble who had replaced Simon Bartlett, the housing representative on the Board.

7 AAP Funding Update

Area Budget

- £144,902
- £25,000 to be allocated to projects tackling social isolation
- Minimum grant of £5000
- Expectation of match funding
- Initial proposal to task group
- Full application to Board
- Up to an 8 week turn around
- Quarterly monitoring
- To be fully allocated by the 31st March 2023

Neighbourhood Budget

- £19,400 per County Councillor
- Speak to your Councillor first
- Main grants over £1000

- Small grants £999 and under
- Capital focused with limited revenue (£5400)
- Up to an 8 week turn around on main grants
- To be fully allocated by the 31st March 2023

Towns and Villages

- £210,000 to be spent over 3 years
- To support the 'Towns and Villages' Programme
- £10,000 minimum grant
- 30% match needed
- £30,000 maximum on feasibility work
- Up to an 8 week turn around

Small Grants

- Managed by the County Durham Community Foundation
- Grants of between £500 and £2000
- Apply via CDCF
- Additional funding was provided for 2021/22

Fun and Food

- Support for holiday activities for children and young people
- Funding from DCC and the Department for Education
- Looking to support needy children
- Amounts for half terms to be decided

Healthy Relationships

- £10,000 per AAP
- Children and Young People aged 12-18 (up to 25 for SEND / Care Leavers, Etc)
- £2000 minimum grant
- Focus on equipping young people with skills and knowledge regarding healthy relationships

8 [Board Workshop Report and Recommendations / Confirmation of Task Group Chair\(s\) / Priorities](#)

A Board workshop was held on 14 April to give Board members the opportunity to reflect on the key functions of the Board and how we approach them as an AAP. A report had been prepared setting out some areas for discussion on how the Board / AAP operates during 2022/23.

Craig highlighted some of the key points contained within his report, which Board members had previously received for information.

The paper covered several key areas -

Board Meetings

Questions to the Board

- **How often do we hold our meetings?**
- **At what times do we hold our meetings?**
- **Where do we hold our meetings?**

The consensus was that we work towards holding hybrid monthly meetings; some face-to-face meetings to be held in Durham Town Hall during the winter months; some face-to-face meetings to be held in community buildings in the Durham AAP area and others to be held online.

Funding

Questions to the Board

- **Do we stick with our current approach or look at something different like a call for projects?**
- **Do we want to run a PB event this year?**

Craig proposed that an online meeting be arranged for Board members to discuss the AAP priorities and how we allocate the funding. The AAP priorities have not yet been set as the data needs to be analysed/collated.

Priorities/Task Groups

Discussion ensued around whether it was practical to hold task group meetings in Durham Town Hall or whether they continue to be held virtually. This is something the AAP team would explore with Durham Town Hall staff.

The Board was happy for task group meetings to be held online. A decision will be reviewed if it doesn't work.

A forum member highlighted that there was a room above the Gala Theatre that she thought would be a suitable venue to hold task group meetings. This will also be explored.

Project Monitoring

Board champions will be aligned to various projects. Project leads will be invited to come along to Board meetings to showcase their project.

9 [Neighbourhood Questions](#)

There were no neighbourhood questions.

10 [Task Group Updates](#)

Covid Recovery and Emerging Issues

Project Approvals

- Sherburn Hill Café Worker

Amount of funding applied for: £5,000.00 (Neighbourhood Budget) / £17,171.02 (Area Budget)

The former school at Sherburn Hill has recently re-opened as a community hub. As part of their provision, they are providing a community café. This is starting to establish itself but has limited opening.

The funding will allow them to employ an additional member of staff and increase opening hours. This will allow them to increase their revenue as they develop the service over the year leading to a more sustainable model of working.

The centre is developing a number of activities that will benefit from having the café on site. The centre also has a couple of unique features such as a 'pirate play area' and a 'changing space'.

The task and finish group had raised several questions in relation to this project; however satisfactory responses had been received and the project was approved.

[Cllr Liz Brown declared an interest in the following item of business]

- Lowes Barn Community Centre

Amount of funding applied for: £13,000.00 (Area Budget) / £15,000.00 (AAP Towns and Villages Funding)

Plans are in place to build a brand-new community centre for the Neville's Cross community. There is currently no community centre for the area and local people have been working for a number of years to achieve this. Much of the funding is now in place but there is still a gap to fill. The funding will contribute towards the overall build costs.

Jennifer Thompson gave a verbal update on the outcomes of the community survey and a comprehensive interim report had been prepared and brought to the Board for consideration.

The Board was happy to support this project and it was approved.

Improving Our Villages and City

- Rothbury Road Multi Use Path

Amount of funding applied for: £10,000.00 (AAP Town and Villages Fund) / £9,291.00 (Neighbourhood Budget) / £15,000.00 (Section 106 funding)

This project will improve a pathway that runs through the heart of Newton Hall. Currently the path is in a state of disrepair with parts of it overgrown. The project will make improvements along the length of the path making it suitable for walking and cycling.

This project was originally discussed in the Autumn and was recommended to the Board on the premise that ownership and maintenance was resolved. This has now been done and the process of the path being adopted, and a public right of way has started. This means ongoing maintenance of the path will be picked up by the Public Rights of Way team.

A map showing the proposed new cycleway link was included in the papers for information.

The Board was happy to support this project and it was approved.

11 Budget Updates

Neighbourhood Budgets

The following neighbourhood budget projects were shared with the Board -

Name of Scheme: Defibs All Saints Church and Framwellgate Pavilion
Councillor(s): Wilkes / Hopgood / Simmons
Interest Declared: Yes - One of the buildings is owned by the Parish Council and all Cllrs are Parish Cllrs
Amount: £2,797.00

Name of Scheme: Sherburn Hill Community Cafe & Play Area
Councillor(s): Hall
Interest Declared: Yes - Cllr Hall is a member of the management committee of the hub
Amount: £5,000.00

Name of Scheme: Moving on Durham Web and Design
Councillor(s): Wilkes / Hopgood / Simmons
Interest Declared: No
Amount: £2,500.00

Name of Scheme: Rothbury Road Cycle Way
Councillor(s): Wilkes / Hopgood / Simmons
Interest Declared: No
Amount: £9,391.00

Name of Scheme: Sherburn Community Centre Running Costs
Councillor(s): Kellett
Interest Declared: No
Amount: £6,000.00

Name of Scheme: Display Board - Shincliffe WI Hut
Councillor(s): Stoker
Interest Declared: No
Amount: £1,300.00

Name of Scheme: Tidy up of St Mary Magdalene
Councillor(s): Freeman / Ormerod (Towns and Villages Funding)
Interest Declared: No
Amount: £21,100.00

Name of Scheme: Shincliffe Newsletter
Councillor(s): Stoker
Interest Declared: No
Amount: £1,500.00

The Board was happy to approve the projects and the interest as declared.

Fun and Food (Holiday Activities with Healthy Food)

Feedback on the Holiday Activities with Healthy Food projects for Easter 2022 will be brought to another meeting.

We received 8 Holiday Activities with Healthy Food applications for Summer/Christmas 2022. A meeting will be arranged for Board members to go through the applications.

CDCF Small Grants Fund

No update.

12 [Co-ordinators / Chairs Update](#)

Co-ordinator's Update

Craig had attended the Northeast Youth Conference. They are looking to develop a youth worker network back in County Durham.

Craig had been doing a lot of work around Social Value and rebuilding Belmont School. Cllrs Eric Mavin, Lesley Mavin, Christine Fletcher and the local community were involved.

Craig continues to work with Ludworth Community Centre.

Chair's Update

There was no update from the Chair.

13 Partner Updates

Durham University

- Spring Congregation saw 17 ceremonies take place from 28th March to 1st April, celebrating the achievements of 3600 students who had been awarded their degrees in absentia during the pandemic.
- We are working with the Culture Durham Partnership and DCC to help support the City of Culture 2025 bid.
- We are also supporting County Durham's bid for the Great British Railways headquarters.
- Our MoU with DCC, first signed in 2017, has been refreshed and strengthened.
- Since the implementation of the Anti-Social Noise Procedure, DCC have issued 135 Community Protection Warnings and 8 Community Protection Notices.
- A drop-in Covid-19 vaccination and booster clinic has been held today (27.04) for staff and students.

Fire Update

- There had been an uptake in the number of deliberate fires (no stats at present)
- There had been no major incidents in the last month

Believe Housing Update

- There had been an increase in demand for housing stock. The housing department were receiving 200 applications per week.
- Humanitarian support for the Ukraine continues. Property inspections are being carried out.
- The 9% inflation rate by September will affect hardship for their customers. Putting more money aside for these concerning times.

Police Update

- Work continues to support the Ukraine
- Safer Streets funding – working ongoing re street lighting, improvement/monitoring of CCTV etc
- May approach the AAP for funding towards Street Friends

Health Update

- NHS remains very busy
- High number of patients with Covid
- Expecting a busy bank holiday weekend

Durham BID Update

- Night-time footfall was strong
- A number of new businesses will open within the city in the next 6 months

14 [Any Other Business](#)

Nothing had been submitted.

15 [Date and time of next meeting](#)

Now that the Board had agreed the format of board meetings, dates will be set.

Everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting closed.