



## STANLEY AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP (AAP)

### MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

Held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 5.00pm via 'Teams'

#### Councillor

Cllr Joan Nicholson  
Cllr Carole Hampson  
Cllr Angela Hanson  
Cllr Gordon Binney  
Cllr Jeanette Stephenson (Stanley Town Council)

#### Partner Organisations

Suzanne Jobson (Karbon Homes) Chair  
Helen Richardson (Stanley Town Council) Co-optee  
Martyn Stenton (Durham County Council)  
Max Wright (Business Representative)  
Barbara Edmundson (County Durham Clinical Commissioning Group),

#### Public Representatives

John Ullathorne  
Vicky Walton  
Olga Milburn  
Linda Tyman  
Darren McMahon

#### Officer Attendance

Daniel O'Brien (AAP Coordinator)  
Joanne Ashworth (AAP Town & Villages Project Officer)  
Lesley Lines (AAP Support Officer)  
Alison Clark, (Head of Culture, Sport, & Tourism, Durham County Council)

#### Apologies

Cllr Christine Bell, Cllr Carl Marshall, Sgt Terry Archbold (Durham Constabulary) Insp Dave Stewart (Durham Constabulary) Nerise Oldfield-Thompson, Michael Pearson (Fire Service)  
Helen McCaughey (Public Representative)

## Public Attendance:

Three members of the Forum/Public attended the meeting.

## Introductions and Apologies:

Suzanne Jobson, Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies are noted above.

## Poverty Action Plan – Engagement Plan Presentation:

Mary Readman, Head of Transactional and Customer Services, Durham County Council highlighted that the Poverty Action strategy and plan for County Durham has been in place since 2014 and reviewed regularly.

In 2020 the review broadened the scope to include the immediate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and deliver targeted interventions with the aim:  
“to improve the standard of living and daily lives of those residents in County Durham who are currently experiencing immediate financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic shocks; and to help alleviate long term issues that can lead households on low incomes to experience financial pressures and poverty”

She highlighted that partnership working has been key with over 200 partners working together. She advised on emerging issues and the challenges;

### **‘Cost of living crisis’:**

- Wages forecasted to fall in real terms (after inflation) this year and next
- National Insurance increase
- Highest recorded levels of inflation since 1992
- Food prices rising at quickest rate in a decade
- Increase in household energy costs as a result of increased wholesale prices and an increase in the domestic energy price cap
- Increased fuel costs for drivers and increased public transport costs
- Increases in the costs of consumer goods such as white goods and furniture due to supply chain bottlenecks and rising inflation

### Equaling

- Increased demand for financial support from the council
- Increased demand for support from partners
- New cohorts of residents requesting support for the first time

### Challenges

- Increase in levels of poverty
- Changing access to services
- Impact on volunteering
- Increased complexity of need
- Comms: Need for good, easily accessible information on provision
- Focus on areas we need to improve (customer journey)
- Improving data sharing
- Building on what's in place and innovating through collaboration
- Organisations returning pre-COVID service levels at different times
- Yet unknown post-COVID issues/'cost of living crisis' impacts

Mary then went on to highlight the Revised strategy and action plan Vision:  
To work together with communities so fewer people will be affected by poverty and

deprivation in the county.

She then invited Board Members to discuss the following objectives, asking were these the right objectives and where the Board felt the gaps were.

Objective 1: **Use intelligence and data to target support to low-income households**  
Objective 2: **Reduce the financial pressures on people facing or in poverty**  
Objective 3: **Increase individual, household and community resilience to poverty**  
Objective 4: **Reduce barriers to accessing services for those experiencing financial insecurity**

A discussion then took place

Jeanette highlighted the role that education plays in linking with unemployment. She highlighted the need to talk to young people about what skills would be needed in the future. She welcomed the links with the child poverty plan and the inclusive economic strategy and the collaboration between services.

Olga hoped more help would be available to the Homeless with specialised legal advice.

Max highlighted St James Place were offering a 6-week programme of free workshops – Value for Money and Budgeting.

Jeanette asked if there was a role for the AAP i.e., priority setting and projects.

Daniel advised he would follow up with an email to make sure AAP funding was targeted.

**Action: Daniel**

The Chair thanked Mary for the presentation.

[Strategy and action plan available online](#)

Feedback and comments before 26 August 2022 via

<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/Poverty> or

Email: [povertyaction@durham.gov.uk](mailto:povertyaction@durham.gov.uk)

## Annual General Meeting:

### Election of the AAP Chair and Vice Chairs for 2022/23

Daniel took the Chair and thanked Suzanne on behalf of the Board for her time as Chair. Daniel highlighted that Jeanette Stephenson (Stanley Town Councillor) would take over from Suzanne and be the Stanley AAP Chair for 2022/23.

Daniel highlighted he would email partners and public representatives regarding Vice Chair positions.

Action: Daniel

Declaration of Interest:

Board Members were asked to declare any personal or pecuniary interest in relation to the agenda as per the AAP Terms of Reference:

No declarations declared

## Agreement of the Minutes – 9<sup>th</sup> March and matters Arising not covered on this agenda:

The Minutes of 9th March were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

### Neighbourhood Issues and Locality Policing Issues:

Daniel advised Insp. Terry Archbold was on long term sick leave. He advised a replacement would be attending future meetings. Daniel added that the PCSOs were looking at the arrangements for PACT meetings and how to make them more interactive.

### AAP Coordinator Update:

#### Stanley AAP Priority Survey 2022/23 Report

Daniel advised that only 130 responses had been received, and from them the key message was to continue with Covid Recovery as the overarching priority

A discussion took place.

It was suggested that Community Safety and Poverty should be active priorities for 2022/23.

Martyn advised poverty was a wider issue.

Joan highlighted that people want a simple system that can be accessed now. She advised she has queues around the block, with up to 90 people daily trying to access support.

Darren highlighted he is opening 15 hours a day, he advised he is getting too busy for the size of the organisation, he also has the worry of not coping with gas and electric bills.

Daniel stated he would set up a Poverty Task Group. **Action: Daniel**

It was then highlighted that a Safer Streets Initiative was to be run by Andrea Petty. Daniel suggested asking if they want a representative to sit on the AAP's Community Safety Task Group. **Action: Daniel**

#### Stanley AAP Funding 2022/23 Report

Daniel talked to the report advising of the funding position.

#### Stanley AAP Annual Report 2021/22

Daniel asked for approval of the Annual Report. The Board gave approval for the report to be published on the AAP website.

#### Stanley Activity and Support Information Directory – New Editions

Daniel asked for comment to update and reprint the Directory. He suggested 2 editions 2022 and 2024. He advised he would bring an Area Budget application to the next meeting if Board Members were happy. £5k cost.

Olga advised this was a good resource, but Board Members must take responsibility and give the names of groups/contacts within their areas to the AAP Office

Vicky highlighted that community centres are changing what activities they have to offer all the time. She suggested an online version that could be kept up to date may be better.

Darren added an editable version would be better.

Daniel advised he would speak to IT to see if an editable online version could be produced.  
**Action: Daniel**

## Partner Work Update / Stanley specific items of interest:

### **Stanley Town Council**

Helen Richardson, Town Clerk, advised work is underway on Armed Forces Day, Party in the Park in August with a Jubilee Theme, and 75 years of a Mining Community. Installation – School children had painted stones. More schools to be included. Helen highlighted a review of the future use of the Civic Hall was underway. She added that Cinderella Pantomime would be running over Christmas.

### **Karbon Homes**

Suzanne highlighted the Skills Hub Money Course was still running. Also still running was the literacy and numeracy courses.

**She also highlighted Karbon work activities – Planning Phase was ongoing and a report would be brought to the board.**

### **Local Business Network**

Max highlighted Love Beamish & Stanley would like to invite all Board members to St. Andrews Station Tea Rooms for a future Love Beamish & Stanley Networking event.

## Neighbourhood Budget Summaries:

### **DCC Neighbourhoods – Annfield Plain Commemorative Benches**

The project will support two specially designed benches to be sited within Annfield Plain Park. This is to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee whilst giving local people a focal point and a place to rest while enjoying the surroundings of the park.

Project Cost: £2,542,00

Councillor Joan Nicholson Contribution: £1,271.00

Councillor Christine Bell Contribution: £1,271.00

### **Durham Pride – Durham Pride 2022**

The funding supported Durham Pride 2022 that took place over the last weekend of May 2022 and provided lots of entertainment for everyone attending to enjoy. It was supported by Councillors from across the County.

Project Cost: £3,150.00

Councillor Angela Hanson Contribution: £100.00

Councillor Sam McMahon Contribution: £100.00

Councillor Joyce Charlton Contribution: £100.00

### **Small Grants:**

#### **White-Le-Head Methodist Church**

Project Brief: Publicity for the Centre as well as entertainment and refreshments for a 3-day event to Celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Total Cost: £700.00

Councillor Joyce Charlton Contribution: £150.00

Councillor Gordon Binney Contribution: £150.00

**Tanfield Lea & District Association**

Project Brief: Food and mementos for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration

Total Cost: £350.00

Councillor Joyce Charlton Contribution: £350.00

**Annfield Plain Community Centre**

Project Brief: To purchase carrier bags to support food bank

Total Cost: £150.00

Councillor Joan Nicholson Contribution: £75.00

Councillor Christine Bell Contribution: £75.00

**Tanfield School**

Project Brief: To purchase bunting and materials for a Queen's Platinum Jubilee event

Total Cost: £500.00

Councillor Joyce Charlton Contribution: £500.00

**Annfield Plain Community Centre**

Project Brief: To purchase afternoon teas for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Total Cost: £200.00

Councillor Joan Nicholson Contribution: £100.00

Councillor Christine Bell Contribution: £100.00

**South Moor Juniors FC**

Project Brief: To purchase new kit and footballs

Total Cost: £435.00

Councillor Sam McMahon Contribution: £200.00

Councillor Carole Hampson Contribution: £200.00

**Shikkari Karate Kai Competition Squad**

Project Brief: To purchase Shelving to house equipment.

Total Cost: £302.00

Councillor Joan Nicholson Contribution: £151.00

Councillor Christine Bell Contribution: £151.00

**Tanfield Lea Partnership**

Project Brief: To purchase refreshments and commemorative pens for children for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Total Cost: £2200.00

Councillor Joyce Charlton Contribution: £495.00

Councillor Gordon Binney Contribution: £495.00

**Queen's Platinum Jubilee Small Grants:**

**Tantobie Association for Sport and the Community Project Brief: Platinum Jubilee Lady's Day and High Tea.**

Total Cost: £100.00

Councillor Joyce Charlton Contribution: £100.00

### **Tanfield in Bloom**

Project Brief: Operation Jubilee – Flower Beds & Tubs Planting Scheme.

Total Cost: £250.00

Councillor Joyce Charlton Contribution: £100.00

### **Craghead Village Hall**

Project Brief: Queen's Platinum Jubilee Street Party

Total Cost: £500.00

Councillor Sam McMahon Contribution: £100.00

Councillor Carol Hampson Contribution: £100.00

### **Annfield Plain Community Centre**

Project Brief: To purchase afternoon teas for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Total Cost: £600.00

Councillor Joan Nicholson Contribution: £300.00

Councillor Christine Bell Contribution: £300.00

### **Just for Women**

To pay for refreshments for a Queen's Platinum Jubilee Garden Party.

Total Cost: £2480.00

Councillor Gordon Binney Contribution: £300.00

### **Quaking Houses Village Hall**

Entertainment and commemorative items for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Total Cost: £2765.00

Councillor Sam McMahon Contribution: £100.00

Councillor Carol Hampson Contribution: £100.00

### **Stanley Young Peoples' Club**

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Family Party.

Total Cost: £200.00

Councillor Sam McMahon Contribution: £100.00

Councillor Carol Hampson Contribution: £100.00

### **PACT House**

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fun Day

Total Cost: £1190.00

Councillor Carl Marshall Contribution: £300.00

Councillor Angela Hanson Contribution: £300.00

### **Pre-Notified Any Other Business:**

Daniel advised he would send out an email invite to Board Members to join Town & Villages Task Group meeting on Monday 13th June. **Action: Daniel**

### **Next Meeting: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 5pm on Teams**

For further details about these minutes please contact Stanley AAP office,

Tel: 03000 265323 or Email: [Stanleyaap@durham.gov.uk](mailto:Stanleyaap@durham.gov.uk)