

Durham Area Action Partnership Minutes of the Board Meeting

Tuesday 12 July 2022

(Virtual Meeting - held via Microsoft Teams)

Board Members

Attendance: Chris Tindale, Cllr Liz Brown, Cllr Eric Mavin, Alice Wilkes, Parish Cllr Maureen Boettcher, Ian Moore, Jen Straughan-Hawley, Rebecca Ashby, Sam Humble, Cllr Bill Kellett, Rebecca Eves, Dave Clarke, Paul Howard, Cllr Lesley Mavin, Colin Stephenson

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
PJ Harding – Towns and Villages Team

Presenter: David Tinmouth, Durham County Council

Apologies Board: Gary Tidbury, Cllr Lucy Hovvels, Cllr Richard Ormerod, Rev Joanne Thorns, Victoria Ashfield

Forum Members: 8 forum members attended the meeting

1 [Welcome, Introductions and Apologies](#)

Cllr Liz Brown, Chair welcomed everyone to the Durham AAP Board Meeting.

Apologies for absence, [as above].

Everyone was reminded of the Teams meeting etiquette and participation.

2 [Presentation: Financial Ability](#)

David Tinmouth delivered a presentation on the Averting Household financial crisis and what was on offer to help households. They aim to help families keep costs down due to the rising cost of living prices.

Online training sessions are available to businesses, schools, community groups, DWP job centres and community groups; they aim to reach as many families in County Durham as they can, DCC staff can attend these sessions to help them with financial support and offer advice.

Further information can be found on the Durham County Council website
<https://www.durham.gov.uk/financialability>

Everyone was encouraged to attend the sessions if they felt they would benefit from it.

The meeting was opened for questions –

- In terms of capacity to deliver this, how many sessions can be run/per month?
- How do you link with organisations such as the Welfare Rights Team, the foodbanks, Citizens Advice Bureau? David confirmed that they are all part of the Advice in Durham Partnership.

3 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 16 June 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

- St Margaret's Centre - ICT Updates – the project had been approved.
- Harbour Support (Women's Refuge) - Holiday Home Families in Refuge – the applicant had received their offer letter.
- EMPOWHer – Alternative Education Project – the Board was happy to support this project.

The Chair highlighted that it was important that Board members attend both online and face to face meetings to avoid the meetings not being quorate and she hoped to see a good turnout at the August meeting.

4 Task and Finish Group Feedback and Project Approvals

Covid Recovery

At the Covid Recovery Task Group meeting held on 28 June 2022, it was recommended that the following application be brought to the Board for wider consideration.

Proposal – Durham City Youth Project Healthy Minds

Amount of funding applied for: £6,941.96

Total project cost: £7,941.96

Durham City Youth Project aims to continue to offer a much-needed holistic psychological package of support for young people living in Durham who are experiencing difficulties with their mental health. The project, Durham Healthy Minds, will break down barriers reducing stigmatisation and provide early help and intervention.

The counsellor will offer 6 weeks of face-to-face sessions providing support to young people who are experiencing mild to moderate mental health and wellbeing difficulties. This can include anxiety, low mood, anger, stress, bereavement, and low self-esteem or confidence.

The funding will provide salaries for a counsellor and admin work. Their admin worker is now working as a counsellor having qualified in 2020 so in addition to counselling hours, they would like to apply for admin hours too.

The meeting was opened for discussion -

- How many young people is this project going to benefit?

The Board agreed that this project be approved.

5 Neighbourhood Questions

The following neighbourhood budget projects were shared with the Board -

Name of Scheme: Installation of Storage Containers - Belmont Cricket Club

Councillor(s): E Mavin / L Mavin / Fletcher

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £6,688.00

Name of Scheme: St Aidan's Building Improvements

Councillor(s): Hopgood / Simmons / Wilkes

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £6,000.00

Name of Scheme: Installation of Fencing

Councillor(s): Hovvels / Miller / Varty

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £18,381.00

The Board was happy to approve the projects.

6 AAP Funding Update

- Durham AAP had £190,000 Area Budget to allocate this financial year; this included £50,000 carried over from last year. So far, £63,000 had been allocated and there is approximately £30,000 of pipeline projects.
- Towns and Villages Funding – PJ Harding who was present at the meeting had taken over the support role from Bill Lightburn. £22,000 of Towns and Villages funding had been allocated and there are 12 pipeline projects, two of which we hope to take to the August Board meeting.
- £210,000 of Neighbourhood Budget had been allocated to date.

7 Project Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2022/23

Durham AAP is required to monitor projects it has funded on a quarterly basis. The quarterly monitoring report for the period April – June 2022 had previously been circulated. Craig ran through the comprehensive report in detail.

8 Chair and Coordinators Update

The Chair had nothing to update on since the last Board meeting.

- Craig attended the Durham University Volunteer Awards and had been asked to present some awards. He asked Rebecca to pass on his thanks.
- Craig attended the County Durham Partnership Forum. The main agenda item was the Review of Community Engagement and the review/functions of the AAPs. ERS are the consultants; and they will be making recommendations in the New Year. There was also a discussion on Levelling Up.
- Craig visited Dragon Park; the children from Laurel Avenue School were there too. Craig shared some photographs with the meeting and sadly reported that the Park had been vandalised.

9 Partner Updates

Ian Moore – Fire Update

- Secondary fires reach a 12-year high, and crews are busy due to the warm weather.
- Durham Gymnastics Club, Sherburn Village – the area is attracting secondary fires.
- Back Western Hill - there are a range of unsecure buildings which young people are setting fire to, working with Durham County Council on this issue.

Dave Clarke – Police Update

- Dave said he would speak to the local county councillors in relation to the vandalism in Dragon Park.
- There had been 3 minor arrests at the Miners Gala.
- Safer Streets funding – no further update.
- The PubWatch pilot scheme will be starting shortly.

Paul Howard – Durham BID Update

- The Miner's Gala was very good for businesses in the city.
- Durham BID ballot will open in August.
- Focussing on making people feel safe in Durham City.
- Independent Campaign - £3,000 worth of vouchers to be won.
- Relaunching restaurant week.
- Starting to think about Christmas.

Rebecca Eves – Durham University Update

- Holding Green Move Out this year. Further information can be found here: <https://www.dur.ac.uk/greenspace/greenmoveout/>
Email: greenspace.students@durham.ac.uk
- Holiday Camps will take place from 25 July – 2 September; £16 per day. Further information can be found here: [Holiday Camps - Durham University](#)
- [Community Newsletter Sign-Up](#)
- Volunteers Awards – if anyone knew of any organisations in need of volunteers; they were asked to let Rebecca know. Further information can be found here: [Durham University Volunteering](#)
- This was Rebecca's last board meeting; Hannah Shepherd will be back for the August Board meeting.

Rebecca was thanked for her attendance at the board meetings whilst covering for Hannah.

Sam Humble – Believe Housing

- There had been an increase in neighbour feuds due to the warm weather which was bringing people outdoors; Believe Housing will try to resolve the issues through mediation.
- Maintenance/weed spraying working with Durham County Council on this.

10 [Any other Business](#)

None.

11 Date and time of next meeting

24th August, 6:00pm, Sherburn Hill Hub

Subsequent Meetings

- 29th September, 2:00pm, Online
- 26th October, 6:00pm, Newton Hall Community Centre
- 24th November, 2:00pm, Online
- 13th December, 6:00pm, Durham Town Hall
- 26th January 2023, 2:00pm, Online
- 21st February 2023, 6:00pm, Durham Town Hall
- 29th March 2023, 2:00pm, Online

Everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting closed.