



Better for everyone

4 Together Partnership Annual Report

2022/23

Introduction



Councillor Elizabeth Scott

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.



Approach Too - Bush Craft Skills



Cornforth Partnership - Youth Club 66



Mainsforth Sports Complex Parking Improvements



4 Together Partnership 2022/23 Key Information



FUNDING

£179,271

Community Recovery Area Budget funding allocated to 16 projects, with £164,459 in match funding

£126,186

of Councillor Neighbourhood Budget allocated to 18 local projects, with £154,054 in match funding

£833,944

overall total investment, including match, for all programmes (Area Budget, Neighbourhood Budget, Towns & Villages, and Fun & Food)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

800+

local Forum members, regularly receiving updates on the work of the AAP

17

countywide consultations supported



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

18 community groups and organisations supported with an AAP grant this year

10 Fun & Food initiatives supported

4 Together Area Action Partnership

Established in 2009, 4 Together Partnership brings together local people and partners to take action on local issues. Our Partnership covers the four main settlements of Ferryhill, Chilton, West Cornforth and Bishop Middleham.

Over the last year, the Partnership's key focus has been on an overarching 'Community Recovery' priority. More than £454k has been allocated to local organisations to help tackle local issues.

Welcome from the Chair

Councillor Julie Cairns

It has been a very busy year in the 4 Together Partnership this year, with our communities continuing to face a multitude of challenges. I am pleased to have been part of an AAP Board that has supported communities in the 4 Together AAP area to face these challenges. The work of the AAP team and the partners across the locality has been amazing and this report reflects the important impact of continued partnership working and project delivery. As Chair of the AAP I have been delighted to see the Partnership support a range of Fun and Food projects delivering much-needed activities in the school holidays. The partnership has continued to support projects under the Community Recovery priority. The allocation of £179,270 Area Budget funding has supported communities tackle a wide range of local issues. Following on from last year it has been great to see the progress made on the Towns & Villages programme with the Partnership allocating £141,695 to projects which aim is to support local regeneration in the area. As well as the funded work, the Board and AAP Forum have also engaged in some important consultations throughout the year including the Poverty Action Strategy, Community Engagement Review, Local Authorities Budget proposal and more community consultation. It has been great to work alongside AAP Board members, partners, residents and the AAP team over the last 12 months and I am excited to see how things continue to develop over the next 12 months. Thank you to everyone involved in making a positive impact in the 4 Together Partnership area.



Our People

Anyone who lives, works, studies or volunteers in the area can get involved with the Area Action Partnership. We currently have 820 people who are part of our wider Forum who receive regular updates and 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:

CLlr Peter Atkinson
CLlr Curtis Bihari
CLlr Julie Cairns - Chair
CLlr Pauline Crathorne (Parish Council rep)
CLlr Joe Makepeace (Town Council rep)
CLlr Elaine Peeke
CLlr Joe Quinn
Carole Atkinson (public representative)
Tony Cutmore (public representative)
Liam Fellows (public representative)
Susan Kirby (public representative)
Oliver Peeke (public representative)
Dennis Ramsey (public representative) – Vice Chair
Andrew Shaw (public representative)
Mark Booth (health representative)
Nigel Jones (voluntary sector representative)
Victoria Murray (Durham County Council)
Insp Mike Sammut (Police)
Becky Brown (Fire Service)
David Stothard (business representative) – Vice Chair
Vacancy (Livin Housing)

We'd also like to thank outgoing Board members Mary Readman, Chris Cairns, Angela Smurthwaite and Justin Parry.

2022/23 Funding Allocation

Community Recovery Area Budget

(includes Welfare Reform, Older Peoples Social Isolation Fund, and Youth Fund)

£7,650: Adventure Kid Bush Craft Skills Holiday Club (Approach Too CIC)
£7,289: Bishop Middleham Juniors (Bishop Middleham Juniors Football Club)
£11,025: Upgrading Village Hall Furniture & Storage (Bishop Middleham Village Hall)
£6,966: Chance Drama 2023 (Chance Drama)
£21,556: Active Communities (The Cornforth Partnership)
£6,000: Café Upgrade (Dean Bank & Ferryhill Literary Institute)
£25,000: Out of the Comfort Zone (Durham Deafened Support)
£9,134: Get Active (The Cornforth Partnership)
£5,016: Bird & Wildlife Boxes (Endeavour Woodcraft CIC)
£6,420: Youth Club 66 (The Cornforth Partnership)
£20,000: Ferryhill Football Renewables (Ferryhill Town Council)
£13,260: Supporting All (Ferryhill LADDER Centre)
£7,520: Community Support & Recovery (Lifeline Community Action)
£6,310: Support with Running Costs (Enter CIC)
£15,594: Supporting Futures (Ferryhill LADDER Centre)

Healthy Relationships

a devolved allocation of funding to support community-led initiatives that improve support to children and young people around sensitive topics such as domestic abuse and ensure that there is a greater focus on prevention and early intervention

£10,530: LADDER Youth (Ferryhill LADDER Centre)

Towns & Villages

a devolved allocation of funds to each of the 14 AAPs to deliver localised projects to revitalise and enhance towns and villages.

£48,199: Mainsforth Sports Complex Regeneration (Ferryhill Town Council)
£40,000: Village Hall Regeneration (Bishop Middleham Village Hall)
£10,000: Cornforth Memorial Park Phase 2 Improvements (Cornforth Parish Council)

Fun & Food

Funding to help ensure that as many children & young people as possible have access to food, alongside enriching activities, in particular considering those children and young people who would normally receive a Free School Meal during Term Time.

Easter 2022

£1,911: Eggciting Easter (Ferryhill LADDER Centre)
--

Summer 2022

£10,243.50: Carnival of the Animals (Enter CIC)
£5,878.20: Summer of Fun (The Cornforth Partnership)
£9,085: Summer Fun (Ferryhill LADDER Centre)
£4,716.50: Summer Fun (Deaf Hill Ward Regeneration Partnership)

October 2022

£1,975: Autumn Fun (Deaf Hill Ward Regeneration Partnership)
--

£839: Halloween Spooktacular (Ferryhill LADDER Centre)
--

Christmas 2022

£11,692: The Snowman & Friends (Enter CIC)
--

February 2023

£2,700: Active Kids (The Cornforth Partnership)
£957: February Fun (Deaf Hill Ward Regeneration Partnership)

Neighbourhood Budget

£1,500: New External Noticeboard (Cornforth Parish Council)*
£1,500: Funding for Library Activities (Cornforth Library)
£12,000: The Park Regeneration (Bishop Middleham Parish Council)
£4,000: Kitchen Refurbishment (Endeavour Woodcraft CIC)
£8,500: LADDER Stepping Up-Youth Work (Ferryhill LADDER Centre)
£9,540: Cricket Club Scoreboard (Mainsforth Cricket Club/Ferryhill Town Council)
£2,500: Goldilocks Tech (Chance Drama)
£3,549: Commemorative Jubilee Seating (Ferryhill Town Council)
£2,750: Tennis Court Lighting (Chilton Town Council)
£5,000: The Park Regeneration Phase 2 (Bishop Middleham Parish Council)

£6,000: Supporting Futures (Ferryhill LADDER Centre)
£10,000: Ferryhill Football Renewables (Ferryhill Town Council)
£250: Travel Expenses (Learning Library)
£5,600: Kitchen Refurb & WC Flooring (Chilton Community Sports & Social Club)
£2,000: New Chairs (Dean Bank & Ferryhill Literary Institute)
£4,984: IT Upgrade (Ferryhill LADDER Centre)
£1,300: Equipment & Room Hire/Chilton & Windlestone 150 Years (Capture Films)
£1,900: Litter Bins (Chilton Town Council)
£10,172: Dean Bank Football Improvements (Ferryhill Town Council)

Towns & Villages Neighbourhood Budget Funding

£20,000: Ferryhill Football Renewables (Ferryhill Town Council)
£10,000: The Park Regeneration (Bishop Middleham Parish Council)
£6,141: Dean Bank Football Improvements (Ferryhill Town Council)

Platinum Jubilee Neighbourhood Budget Funding

£600: Kirk Merrington Community Centre Jubilee Event
£300: Chilton Catholic Club Summer Jubilee Party
£150: Cornforth Parish Council Jubilee Event
£100: Ferryhill Town Council Queen Elizabeth Cut-outs

Neighbourhood Budget is an allocation of £19,400 to each County Councillor, to spend on community-led projects. For 2021-22 County Councillors were also allocated an additional £10k to their Neighbourhood Budget to support Towns & Villages schemes, which Councillors were permitted to carry forward up to 2024. The process is supported by the AAP team.

The projects listed above have been supported by County Councillors Peter Atkinson, Curtis Bihari, Julie Cairns, Joe Quinn and Elaine Peeke.

Further information on Councillor-funded projects is available on the Durham County Council website www.durham.gov.uk

(*project not signed off at the time of publication)

The Difference We Have Made



Ferryhill Town Council Football Renewables

Ferryhill Town Council secured funding to install specialist renewable technology at the Football Facility at Dean Bank Recreation Ground. The funding from 4 Together Partnership will enable the Town Council to install 124 Solar Photovoltaic modules at the facility, and the ability to store any unused energy generated by the solar panels.

The project will enable the Town Council and users of the building, Ferryhill Town Youth FC, to reduce their carbon footprint, thus having a wider impact on the local community. This has been identified as a priority for the Town Council and is expected to result in a net greenhouse gas reduction of 15.96tCO₂e, making the building more energy efficient and as such helping to alleviate the Climate Change Emergency that has been declared across County Durham. Having the ability to store the energy will also provide an economic boost for the facility, supporting the long-term sustainability of a facility that supports the physical and mental wellbeing of the many local residents and the cost of energy for its users.



Ferryhill LADDER Centre Summer of Fun

The LADDER Centre received a Fun and Food grant to run a 4-week summer holiday programme consisting of 4 days of activities for Children and Young People in particular targeting those young people in receipt of Free School meals. The sessions were engaging and packed full of positive activities, as well as each session providing a healthy meal. Alongside some of the amazing sessions which focussed on themes such as fun in the sun, art, farming and circus weeks, the young people also had opportunities to take part in day trips to places linked to the themes. This included trips to Hall Hill Farm, South Shields and Hamsterley Forest. The LADDER Centre sessions played a key role in keeping young people safe and providing a healthy meal throughout the summer holidays, as well as aiming to reduce anti-social behaviour by providing positive activities. Overall, 85 young people took part in activities with a high percentage being on Free School Meals.



The Cornforth Partnership Community Links

Last year Cornforth Partnership delivered their 'community links' project using Area Budget funding. The project has worked in partnership with local schools to directly respond to the needs of local vulnerable families. The project is designed to provide professional independent support to families facing crisis at the earliest opportunity. Given the impact on those most vulnerable due to the rise in the cost of living, the project has supported those most at need.

The project has supported residents in financial hardship with issues such as emergency food provision, and advice and guidance with benefits and housing. The project has also supported participants in the completion of recognised qualifications such as First Aid, Introduction to Nail Treatments, Level 3 Nail Technician, Level 2 Behaviours that Challenge, Level 2 Mental Health Awareness, SIA Door Supervision and Level 1 Health and Safety in Construction. Employment advice and support has been provided to a number of participants, which has resulted in them gaining a number of employment and volunteer opportunities.

The Difference We Have Made



Enter CIC

Enter Community Programme

Enter CIC received funding to support ongoing delivery of their community programme through their specialist workshop leaders. The funding has enabled the leaders to offer a range of high quality, engaging community programmes for all ages. The programmes have provided opportunities for improved mental and physical wellbeing, social interactions and a much-needed sense of community, togetherness and aspiration.

An example of what has been achieved included providing practical workshops based on the theme of remembrance and commemoration. They provided opportunities for young people to observe professional theatre works based on the theme of Remembrance and some young people had the opportunity to attend weekly workshops with professional coaches leading to a performance in the Festival of Remembrance at Durham Cathedral. This was a wonderful occasion and the biggest commemorative event outside of Westminster. It was very clear to see that those young people who engaged with this initiative felt very proud of their achievements. The project created a sense of togetherness, instilled co-operation and encouraged a sense of pride in participants.



Ferryhill LADDER Centre - Summer of Fun

Contact Details

4 Together Partnership
3-5 Haig Terrace
Dean Bank
Ferryhill
Co. Durham DL17 8NR



Tel: 03000 267210 / 07818 510369
Email: fouraap@durham.gov.uk
www.durham.gov.uk/4togetherpartnershipaap