



Better for everyone

# 4 Together Partnership Annual Report

# 2023/24

# Introduction



Councillor Elizabeth Scott

## Portfolio Holder Statement

As the Cabinet portfolio holder for Economy and Partnerships I am proud to say that the Area Action Partnerships fall within my remit.

AAPs have been supporting work in local communities for 15 years now. Funding has helped to sustain and develop numerous local organisations right across County Durham. Nearly £30m has been allocated through Area Budget grants since AAPs were created back in 2009 supporting nearly 3000 different applications.

The 14 AAPs cover the whole of the county, each with effective boards of 21 people which are made up of partners, public, councillors and agencies. The Boards work on their specific priorities that reflect the needs of the county's varied localities. Over the last year they have again allocated nearly £2M which has supported over 190 local projects.

Fellow County Councillors and I are very grateful for the support we get from the AAPs in allocating our Neighbourhood Budget. This is funding every councillor gets to support good causes and projects in the areas we represent. Since 2009 over £37m has been allocated through nearly 8000 different applications. You can imagine the difference funding via the AAPs and Councillors has made to our towns, villages and city. This year councillors have supported well over 600 projects with over £2.4M of funding.

At a time when communities and families are having to deal with ongoing financial pressures AAPs have been able to help those organisations who are helping others. The strength of the voluntary and community sector in County Durham never fails to amaze me.

I do want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who gives up their time and volunteers with local organisations. Be that with sports clubs, management committees at community centres, environmental schemes

or those people who volunteer on AAP Boards. County Durham would be a poorer place without you. However volunteering has to be supported and it's a key area that AAPs help with in terms of supporting groups with volunteer management, training and support.

There is no doubt that community organisations are struggling through the ongoing cost of living crisis so if you have ever thought about volunteering now could be the time. Local organisations give so much to their communities and they do need our help.

Since 2009 AAPs have been a feature of our communities but change is ahead. Last year the council concluded a review of its community engagement activities which included the AAPs. The outcomes of this review are now being implemented and this is going to lead to enhancements in 2025 with AAPs being replaced by new 'Local Networks'. The Local Networks will continue to bring local people, councillors and organisations together building on the legacy of the AAPs with the aim of broadening the reach within communities and developing Local Network Plans setting out the longer-term aspirations for our many towns and villages. Over the coming months we will keep people updated as we develop Local Network structures.

Prior to the launch of Local Networks in 2025, AAPs will continue to deliver over the next year which will only be possible with the hard work of all involved. So a big thank you from me to fellow councillors, AAP Board members, partner organisations, members of the public and the AAP staff. I look forward to continuing to work with you all over the next 12 months.

## Councillor Elizabeth Scott,

Cabinet portfolio holder for Economy and Partnerships.

# 4 Together Partnership 2023/24 Key Information



## FUNDING

**£112,160**

Community Recovery Area Budget funding allocated to 8 local projects, with £43,953 in match funding

**£110,524**

of Councillor Neighbourhood Budget allocated to 25 local projects, with £156,082 in match funding

**£615,093**

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

**8** countywide consultations supported



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

**20** community groups and organisations supported with an AAP grant this year

**19** 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 £330k has been allocated to local organisations to help tackle local issues.

## Welcome from the Chair

### Dennis Ramsey

It has been a pleasure to be a part of the 4 Together Partnership Board as Chair, and to witness the good work taking place to support our communities during the 2023-2024 financial year.

Community Recovery has continued to be a key priority for the Partnership, and we have supported a variety of valuable projects aimed to meet the needs of the locality. Our Area Budget allocation of £119,902.00 funded 8 projects over the year. We have also been able to support the much-needed school holiday projects funded through the Holiday Activities with Healthy Food (Fun and Food) scheme.

This year saw the Towns and Villages programme come to an end, with 7 projects supported overall by the £210,000.00 allocation, the core aim of this was to support local regeneration in the area.

Both the Board and Forum have also engaged with several consultations throughout the year including the Housing Strategy Consultation, Council Budget Consultation and County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service's Community Risk Management Plan Consultation.

This year is our final year as an AAP, and I look forward to seeing some great project development within our community before we begin to make the transition to Local Networks in 2025. Thank you, to all the members of the Board and Forum as well as the AAP team for their positive contribution towards 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 800+ 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

Vacancy (Parish Council rep)

CLlr Joe Makepeace (Town Council rep) – Vice Chair

CLlr Elaine Peeke

CLlr Joe Quinn

Carole Atkinson (public representative)

Tony Cutmore (public representative)

Susan Kirby (public representative)

Oliver Peeke (public representative)

Dennis Ramsey (public representative) – Chair

Mark Booth (health representative)

Nigel Jones (voluntary sector representative) – Vice Chair

Victoria Murray (Durham County Council)

Insp Mike Sammut (Police)

Richard Morgan (Fire Service)

Vacancy (business representative)

Joanne Burnip (Livin Housing)

We'd also like to thank outgoing Board members Liam Fellows, Anne Hall, David Stothard and CLlr Pauline Crathorne



# 2023/24 Funding Allocation

## Community Recovery Area Budget

£18,800: Carlton Street Play Area (Ferryhill Town Council)

£5,170: Craft Café (Endeavour Woodcrafts CIC)

£19,836: Youth Network (The Cornforth Partnership)

£10,648: Goals & Shelters (Chilton Juniors FC)

£11,300: LADDER Kids (Ferryhill LADDER Centre)

£18,594: Recovering Futures (Ferryhill LADDER Centre)

£8,312: Ferryhill Unique Ninjas (Deaf Hill Ward Regeneration Partnership)

£19,500: The Secret to Happiness (The Cornforth Partnership)

## Towns & Villages

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

£25,000: Dean Bank Dog Walking Park Improvements (Ferryhill Town Council)

£8,791: The Secret to Happiness (The Cornforth Partnership)

£34,514: Sensory Garden (Dean Bank Early Years Nursery)

## 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 2023

£3,738: Get Active Easter (The Cornforth Partnership)

£2,098.50: Easter Eating (Ferryhill LADDER Centre)

£2,162: Easter Fun (Deaf Hill Ward Regeneration Partnership)

### May 2023

£1,820: May Fun (Deaf Hill Ward Regeneration Partnership)

### Summer 2023

£5,262: Ladder Summer Fun (Ferryhill LADDER Centre)

£1,900: Summer Fun & Food Camp (Mainsforth Amateur Boxing Club)

£5,262: Summer of Fun (The Cornforth Partnership)

£699.93: Open to Try Session (1st Chilton Scout Group)

£2,820.50: Nature Explorers (OASES)

£4,055: Summer Fun (Deaf Hill Ward Regeneration Partnership)

### October 2023

£1,974: October Fun (Deaf Hill Ward Regeneration Partnership)

£1,429: Hungry Halloween (Ferryhill LADDER Centre)

£608: October Half Term Programme (Little Treasures)

£1,030: Mainsforth Boxing Fun & Food (Mainsforth Amateur Boxing Club)

### Christmas 2023

£2,722: Christmas Cracker (Ferryhill LADDER Centre)

### February 2024

£770: Mainsforth Boxing Fun & Food (Mainsforth Amateur Boxing Club)

£552: Come & Try (1st Chilton Scout Group)

£1,984: February Fun (Deaf Hill Ward Regeneration Partnership)

£598: February Half Term Project (Little Treasures)

## Neighbourhood Budget

£1,000: Sensory Play Equipment (Broom Cottages Primary School)

£4,290: Outdoor Gym Equipment (Dean Bank Primary School)

£5,000: Outdoor Learning in Early Years (Kirk Merrington Primary School)

£9,706: Kiln Crescent Parking Improvements (DCC Highways)

£1,500: Cornforth Library Activities (DCC)

£4,987: Positive Change Through Sport – IT Equipment (Seconds Out Boxing)

£250: Durham Pride Event (Durham Pride)

£1,500: Senior Citizens Bus Trip (Ferryhill Town Council)

£1,777: Duncombe Cemetery Seating (Ferryhill Town Council)

£5,987: Goals (Chilton Juniors FC)

£1,223: Mainsforth Sports Complex Defibrillator (Ferryhill Town Council)

£2,368: Christmas Production (Chance Drama)

£200: Entry into Care Packs (Investing in Children)

£15,500: Cornforth Open Spaces & Parking Improvements (Livin Housing)

£7,835: Wood Lane Speed Visor (DCC Highways)

£3,000: Recovering Futures (Ferryhill LADDER Centre)

£6,645: Ferryhill Aesthetic Improvements (Ferryhill Town Council)

£6,500: Electronic Scoring Equipment (Ferryhill Warriors Taekwondo Club)

£1,200: Sports Equipment (Broom Cottages Primary School)

£1,000: Bench Replacement (Ferryhill Town Council)

£10,000: Dean Bank Dog Walking Park Improvements (Ferryhill Town Council)

£2,000: Raised Beds for All – Planters (Ferryhill LADDER Centre)

£1,697: Technology Boost (Land of Adventures CIC)

£1,500: Windlestone Parish Council Website Development (Ferryhill Town Council)

## Towns & Villages Neighbourhood Budget Funding

£10,000: Chilton Miners Welfare Youth Hub (Chilton Town Council)

£3,859: Wood Lane Speed Visor (DCC Highways)

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](http://www.durham.gov.uk)

# The Difference We Have Made



## Chilton Juniors Football Club Chilton Juniors FC Shelters

Chilton Juniors Football Club secured funding from the 4 Together Partnership's Area Budget to purchase two mobile shelters and the associated equipment.

This project enabled the football team to provide shelter for spectators and players alike, including ensuring the walking football group, which is aimed at the older generation and works towards reducing social isolation, could take place even during inclement weather.

By ensuring the provision of better facilities the club can encourage participation and member growth, this supports one of the core values of the club to encourage football engagement to reduce anti-social behaviour and encourage social value.



## Endeavour Woodcrafts CIC Crafts Café

This project was developed by Endeavour Woodcrafts CIC, to deliver a Craft Café over a period of twelve months, focusing on providing a welcoming space for people to gain social interaction and express their creativity.

Each fortnightly Craft Café session which is delivered by local artists and craft tutors, provides an opportunity to socialise, gain friendly support and guidance and to take part in different crafts, painting, sculpture and sewing activities, which participants can then take home.

The funding secured from the 4 Together Partnership covers all the materials and tuition costs, whilst match funding covers volunteer hours and marketing. As the project progresses there is an aspiration for participants to explore volunteering roles within the community.



## Ferryhill Town Council Carlton Street Play Area

Funding was secured by Ferryhill Town Council from 4 Together Partnership to upgrade existing play equipment at Carlton Street in Ferryhill Station. The original equipment was over 20 years old, and there was no safety surfacing, so it didn't meet current safety standards.

The project included replacing the equipment and resurfacing the park area. The new equipment is bright and engaging for the children of Ferryhill.



# The Difference We Have Made



## Cornforth Partnership Summer of Fun

The Cornforth Partnership received funding through the Holiday Activities with Healthy Food programme. This was for a holistic programme of summer fun for children, young people and families living in Cornforth and surrounding communities.

The project saw the provision of weekly sessions for children and young people, that included bushcraft, cookery, multi-sports and crafts, as well as some off-site visits.

Community action activities were also delivered, encouraging children and young people to get involved in inter-generational litter picks, bulb planting and other activities to regenerate the area and encourage a sense of local pride.

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