



Durham
Area Action
Partnership

Better for everyone

Durham
Area Action 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 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 centre 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.

Durham Area Action Partnership 2023/24 Key Information



FUNDING

£127,784

of AAP funding allocated to 11 projects, helping to generate **£261,796** of match funding

£273,860

of councillor Neighbourhood Budget allocated to 38 projects generating **£342,000** of match funding

Final **£100,088**

of Towns and Villages funding allocated supporting a further 6 projects

£74,984

given to support 31 schemes providing children with holiday activities with healthy food



HEALTH

1,115

people supported by schemes that improve mental health



VOLUNTEERING

343

people supported to volunteer

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

69

voluntary and community groups supported

7,986

individuals benefitted from AAP supported projects



Durham Area Action Partnership

Established in 2009 Durham Area Action Partnership (AAP) brings together local people and partners to take action on local issues. Areas covered include Durham city centre and the outlying villages. Over the last year the focus for the AAP has been to help and support 'Healthy and Resilient Communities'. Over 50 local organisations have been supported with AAP and Councillor funding to help them take action on local issues.

As well as supporting local projects the AAP Board has also been involved in several local consultations and has responded to any issues that people may have had.

Welcome from the Chair Jen Straughan-Hawley (Public Representative)



As we come to the end of the financial year for 2023-2024 I would like to reflect on some of the fantastic accomplishments delivered by Durham AAP.

The allocation of over £120,000 of Area Budget has supported 11 local community organisations. I am sure you will agree that this had a positive impact on a wide range of projects who support youth work, mental health, improvements to community buildings, older people, and families in need. Board and AAP forum members along with the AAP team have attended task groups which scrutinise project applications. Thanks should be given to my fellow Board members who make the sometimes, difficult decisions on where this funding goes.

Feedback from AAP Board and forum members following presentations and consultations at Board meetings has helped the council make decisions on areas such as budget savings. Another consultation the AAP supported looked at proposals on the clean air zone in Durham City.

The Towns and Villages Funding which over the past three years has granted £210,000 to projects that improve our communities has now been fully allocated. Thanks, must be given to PJ and the rest of the team, Craig, Wendy, Lyndsey and Marie for their hard work and involvement in making this happen. They have continued to work with the successful organisations who were allocated funding but they also support those who were not successful by signposting them to alternate funding streams.

One of the things I have had to do as the Durham AAP chair has been to attend the County Durham Partnership Forums. This brings the 14 AAPs together alongside strategic partners to look at the big issues facing the county. It has been really good to hear the perspectives from other AAPs and know that Durham AAP is contributing to wider work across County Durham.

Our People

Anyone who lives, works, studies or volunteers in the area can get involved with the Area Action Partnership. We currently have nearly 600 people who are part of our wider Forum who receive regular updates and who 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 Lesley Mavin (Durham County Council)

CLlr Bill Kellett (Durham County Council)

CLlr Eric Mavin (Durham County Council)

CLlr Lucy Hovvels (Durham County Council)

CLlr Richard Ormerod (Durham County Council)

CLlr Liz Brown (Durham County Council) – AAP Vice Chair

CLlr Maureen Boettcher (Parish Council Representative)

Gary Tidbury (Public Representative)

Paul Lysaght (Public Representative)

Victoria Ashfield (Public Representative)

Rebecca Ashby (Public Representative)

Chris Tindale (Public Representative)

Jen Straughan-Hawley (Public Representative) – AAP Chair

Georgia Donohue (Public Representative)

Paul Howard (Business Representative / Durham BID)

Gary Tough (Fire and Rescue Service)

Dave Clarke (Police)

Colin Stephenson (Health)

Sarah Burns / Lee Alexander (Durham County Council)

Hannah Shepherd (Durham University)

Sam Humble (Housing)

Sheela Bell (Voluntary and Community Sector)

Dan Lonsdale (Durham Students' Union)

We'd also like to thank former Board members Joanne Thorns, Tony Hockey, Alice Wilkes, Mick Henderson and Joe McGarry who stepped down from the Board this year.

2023/24 Funding Allocation

Area Budget	£5,000, Durham City Cricket Club new windows and doors	£575, Shadforth Community Association pantomime
£9,970, County Durham Learning Library	£2,000, Merryoaks Community Hall, electric vehicle charging point	£950, Pitlington Play Group
£18,460, Durham Area Youth Future Leaders Project	£10,724, Laurel Avenue Community Association internal doors	£980, Pitlington Community Association 'Pans Pandas'
£10,000, Durham Cricket Club building improvements,	£1,500, Heritage Walk Brasside	£612, Gilesgate Foodbank
£16,888, St Margaret's Centre co-ordinator & café manager	£3,504, Crossgate Triange bollards	£100, Witton Gilbert Football Club
£13,000, Waddington Street Centre support worker	£1,000, Durham Area Youth Belmont youth work	£525, Durham City Baptist Church 'Stitches' project
£5,000, Lumiere 2023 community outreach	£700, Luminiere, community outreach project	£650, Durham City Remembrance parade
£5,393, Kings Church Durham older people's work	£1,350, Northern Learning Trust, Pelaw View 'Learning Hive'	£313, Gilesgate Residents Association slow cooker project
£12,680, Northern Learning Trust Pelaw View 'Learning Hive'	£55,000, Whinney Hill public realm improvements	£724, Ludworth playing field fencing
£19,297, Move the Masses 'Move Mates' wellbeing project	£4,595, Durham City Gymnastics Club running costs	£667, Framwellgate Moor Parish Council tennis courts
£7,500, Durham Boxing Club competition standard boxing ring	£2,627, Merryoaks Community Hall, running costs and footpath work	£600, Durham Community Association new curtains
£9,596, 4th Durham Scouts equipment for activities and camping	£17,507, Shincliffe High Street resurfacing	£200, Emmanuel Church community Christmas activities
Towns and Villages Funding	£4,000, Shincliffe School reading shed and garden,	£300, Bearpark Banner Group
£28,250, St Nicolas' Churchyard improvements	£8,000, Shadforth road safety scheme	£100, Durham Constabulary Sherburn Road Christmas activities
£10,000, Framwellgate Moor memorial Garden	£8,976, Belmont, Moorfield path improvements	£500, Ludworth Community Centre support for families
£12,144, Belmont Recreation Ground disabled play equipment	£9,434, Hastings Ave 20mph zone, Neville's Cross	£500, All Saints Church community Christmas lights
£10,000, West Rainton outdoor gym equipment	£1,000, Laurel Ave and Belmont Youth Project	£300, St Oswald's Church 'Tuesday Club'
£19,694, Peskies Park improvements	£2,250, Shincliffe community newsletter	£828, Friends of Belmont War Memorial
£20,000, Whinney Hill public realm improvements	£2,700, Abbey Sports Centre, sessions for young people	£900, Bede Lodge Social Club, Abbey 30th anniversary
Towns and Villages Funding can be used to support initiatives to improve local communities. The AAP had £210,000 to allocate over a three-year period. This funding has now been fully allocated.	£3,000, Durham City Youth Project, 'We are Family'	£550, Durham Army Cadet Force
Neighbourhood Budget	£1,000, 4th Durham Scouts, Beavers, Scouts & Cubs	Fun and Food Holiday Activities
£3,646, City of Durham Parish Council, King's Coronation event,	£5,651, East Side Avenue, Bearpark, footpath improvements	£10,404, Laurel Avenue Community Association
£9,750, Durham PRIDE 2023	£3,650, Sidegate Bank environmental improvements	14,780, Go the Distance
£4,000, Shincliffe Parish Council, park equipment/repairs,	£48,886, Resurfacing of rear of Front Street, Pity Me	£12,088, Durham Area Youth
£3,700, Shadforth Community Association, rendering	£17,290, St Cuthbert's Church path improvements	£9835, Harbour Support Services
£5,000, St Nicholas Churchyard improvements	Neighbourhood Budget Small Grants	£2393, Cheesy Waffles Project
£1,094, Parking bays West Rainton	£500, St John's Church newsletter	£760, Durham City Youth Project
£5,754, Verge hardening, The Crescent, West Rainton	£550, Gilesgate Primary School allotment	£1222, Noo Noo's Experience CIC
£8,081, Belmont Parish Council, disabled play equipment	£999, Gilesgate Primary School cooking project	£1003, Pelaw View Centre
£5,000, Sherburn Hill Community Hub, replacement boiler,	£950, Ludworth Community Centre events	£1518, Learning a New Way CIC
£4,400, Mistletoe Street, Durham City, new fencing	£450, Witton Gilbert Village Hall holiday activities	£1500, Durham University
£3,000, Durham Area Youth staffing costs	£500, NEPACS toiletries	£9341, MK Youth Sports
	£999, Laurel Avenue Community Association Coronation trip	£863, Witton Gilbert Village Hall
	£950, Pitlington Community Association wellbeing group	£2300, Merryoaks Community Hall

2023/24 Funding Allocation

Neighbourhood Budget / Neighbourhood Budget Small Grants is an allocation of £19,400 that each County Councillor gets each year to spend on Community Projects. The process is supported by the AAP team.

The projects listed above have been supported by County Councillors; Christine Fletcher, Eric Mavin, Lesley Mavin, David Hall, Bill Kellett, Amanda Hopgood, Mark Wilkes, Mamie Simmons, David Freeman, Richard Ormerod, Marion Wilson, David Stoker, Liz Brown, Elizabeth Scott, Lucy Hovvels, Arnold Simpson, Bev Coult, Jake Miller and Chris Varty.

For further information on what projects individual Councillors have supported contact your local AAP.



Durham AAP covers the area around the city centre



Durham AAP Board Meeting



Durham Area Youth arts



Durham AAP also covers a number of the villages surrounding Durham City such as Ludworth



Towns and Villages funding has supported a project led by Wear Rivers Trust to tackle invasive species along the River Wear in Durham

The Difference We Have Made



Community Wellbeing

The key focus for the AAP over the last 12 months has very much been about 'Healthy and Resilient Communities' and a number of projects have been supported that are delivering on this. The Singing Elf used creative activities and singing to bring people together in communities across the area. This work brought together people of all ages and included monthly relaxation sessions and a singing walk.

St Margaret's Centre in Durham City provides a wide range of activities to support people living with mental health issues. Funding from the AAP has helped them to revamp their café area and employ a café manager. The café is open to all and offers volunteering opportunities for centre users. Over the last year the AAP has also supported some amazing work done by the Waddington Street Centre.



Developing Skills – Empowering Future Females

Empowering Future Females was a project that was delivered by Beauty Training North East CIC. By the time the project is complete it will have delivered three courses that are giving young women skills and qualifications that they can use to gain employment in the beauty industry. All of the young women involved are recent or expectant mothers and the specific skills will allow them to work flexibly around their family commitments. As well as learning practical skills the scheme also teaches skills around business planning and promotes individual wellbeing.



Fun and Food

The AAP has supported over 30 schemes that have provided children and young people 'fun and food' over school holidays. Part funded by the Department for Education projects had to target children on free school meals or who had other issues in their lives. All schemes must provide a range of healthy activities for the children as well as a nutritional meal. The AAP team visited a number of the schemes and were impressed with how children with different abilities and needs had been brought together and were all enjoying the same activities.

The Difference We Have Made



Supporting Community Facilities

Local community facilities provide so much to our villages and city. Durham AAP and local county councillors have supported numerous community centres and village halls over the last year. One highlight was the opening of Merryoaks Community Hall, a brand new centre for local people to use and enjoy. The AAP has been supporting the trustees over several years to help them make this a reality.

Other examples of support include funding to provide new windows at Durham Cricket Club and money was contributed to support Shadforth Village Hall with rendering work. Laurel Avenue Community Association also received funding that has allowed them to replace all of their internal doors.



Empowering Young People

A key focus over the years for Durham AAP has been supporting work with young people and 2023/24 has been no different. The youth council run by Laurel Avenue Community Association has brought together young people from the Sherburn Road and Belmont areas to plan and implement youth work sessions. AAP funding has been supporting their monthly meetings and a teambuilding residential in the Lake District.

Durham Area Youth work with hundreds of young people every week and a grant from the AAP is helping to create the leaders of tomorrow. Young people are being given the skills to volunteer with DAY and in their community through a series of activities overseen by DAY staff. This has included leading on local fundraising and planning events for the local community.



Wider World Project

The 'Skills for Life' project works with young adults with additional needs teaching them practical skills and engages them in exciting and stimulating activities. Utilising the 'Skills House' which is owned by the Cheesy Waffles Project the young adults have been gaining practical skills in running a household. These include, cooking, laundry, planning the shopping and basic skills such as changing a plug. The AAP team visited the project and were shown what people had been doing and achieving, including accredited work. The space is regularly used for social get togethers including movie nights and sleepovers.

Contact Details

Durham Area Action Partnership
Durham Town Hall
Market Place
Durham
DH1 3NJ

Tel: 03000 264991
Email: dcaap@durham.gov.uk
www.durham.gov.uk/durhamaap

