

# Notes of the Weardale Area Action Partnership AGM & Board Meeting

20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at Durham Dales Centre, Stanhope



## PRESENT

### Board Members

**Public Representatives:** Tom Nattrass (TN) - **CHAIR**  
Chris Powell (CP)  
Josephine Hayes (JH)  
Phil Chatfield (PC)

**Partner Representatives:** Adam Hall – County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (AH)  
Julian Haynes – Voluntary Sector (JuH)  
Damian Pearson - County Durham Housing Group (DP)  
Stuart Timmiss – Durham County Council (ST)  
Inspector Ed Turner – Durham Constabulary (ET)

**Elected Members:** Cllr Anita Savory (AS)  
Cllr Helen Barrass – Muggleswick Parish Council (HB)  
Cllr Olive Wilson - Witton-le-Wear (OW)

**Officers:** Angelina Maddison (AM)  
Tracy Edwards (TE)

## Apologies

**Public Representatives:** Joan Warriner  
Tony Griffin  
Dawn Gregory

**Partner Representatives:** Catherine Findlay - Clinical Commissioning Group  
Paul Smissen – Business Sector

**Elected Representatives:** Trish Chapman (Hunstanworth)  
David Ellwood – County Durham Association of Local Councils  
Cllr David Sugden – Wolsingham  
Cllr Brian Thompson – Stanhope

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made around the table. Apologies recorded above.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

The Chair asked that any Declarations of Interest be raised at the appropriate time on the agenda.

## 3. Agreement of Notes from Board Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and Matters Arising

The notes of this meeting, as printed and circulated, were **AGREED** and confirmed as a true record by those present.

There were no identified Matters Arising.

## 4. Presentations

### **Police Crime and Victims' Commissioner Rural Policing Statement – Ron Hogg (RH) – Police & Crime Commissioner**

A copy of the Rural Policing Statement was circulated to Board members and is available either via the website at <https://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/Home.aspx> or by email to [general.enquiries@durham.pcc.pnn.gov.uk](mailto:general.enquiries@durham.pcc.pnn.gov.uk) or by telephone 0191 375 2001.

In the presentation, RH gave an overview of policing, providing statistics for crime across County Durham. He also stressed his commitment to working in rural communities.

Questions were taken from Board members. PC asked about the results with the increase in Speedwatch groups. RH informed the group that Speedwatch was an advisory system which was addressed through a process, first letter, second letter and then a visit by an officer where necessary. The road traffic police team take this very seriously.

JH asked about attendance at the agricultural shows. Attending the Weardale Agricultural Show is important for the upper Weardale community who experience issues around parking, speeding and recent crimes. RH said he has attended 3-4 times in last 6 years and that other staff were also present; and that Cllr Shuttleworth had raised concerns at a meeting yesterday and action was ongoing in the matter. JH added her positive experience to previous reporting with a response within 20 minutes.

AS asked for recognition of the work of the police force in the area who cover vast miles, alongside operations and ongoing cases to work on behind the scenes which people may not be aware of.

DP stated that the police do a good job. He has seen volunteers out and wondered if it was possible to adjust their times as he felt that speeding around school time was an issue but understood this may relate to volunteer availability. This was confirmed.

OW advised in Witton-le-Wear, heavy lorries were an issue, as were young people speeding through the village. She asked about getting on board with Speedwatch. ET said he would get in touch about this and RH said he would be pleased to come out to the launch of the scheme.

TN praised the Community Safety Responders who do a fabulous job, have great training and can save lives. However, they only have a one year contract and would like to see this continue. RH explained this was a joint police and fire contribution and subject to the annual funding system.

PC asked if there were opportunities to save money through joint procurement between forces. RH said this already occurs but it is not always the most cost effective solution. He advised that he is keen to use local providers where possible.

AM raised a query from Cllr Shuttleworth some of which had been discussed in the meeting. The loss of officers across the dales is 3, RH said that Cllr Shuttleworth was correct but this is not just in the dales it is 25% across the force.

### **Mid Term Financial Plan (MTFP) – Stuart Timmiss - Durham County Council**

Stuart gave a presentation on the County Durham Plan. A copy of the presentation is held on file. If you would like a copy of this please email the WAP team at [weardaleaap@durham.gov.uk](mailto:weardaleaap@durham.gov.uk)

PC expressed appreciation for successfully providing information succinctly and clearly to the group.

## **5. Local Neighbourhood Issues and PACT**

AM explained that queries raised were forwarded to appropriate people and answers provided. The Board agreed previously that this would be reported on only by exception, e.g. Eastgate speeding lorries and the Speedwatch action with ET.

ET clarified the statistics discussed by RH in his presentation. There is only ½ a crime per day in the area as opposed to the 5-6 crimes across the force area. ET explained that the Neighbourhood team works proactively and flexibly. Tri-responders is very proactive initiative and the hub in Barnard Castle is seen as a best practice model and so looking at options for Stanhope Station.

Trends on speeding can be difficult as some speeding is inappropriate as opposed to not driving with legal limit. With inappropriate speeding this can be to do with conditions or circumstances and police do stop drivers and give advice on this. Community speed checks can be a reality check with volunteers and if this is seen to be a problem the police enforcement team can come with cameras. AH asked if there were a particular number of volunteers or areas they cover. ET explained that most volunteers cover their village and just need the grab bag to set up. AS said the PCSO's worked with the mini police in Wolsingham and this was well received. CP asked if this was where children have smiley faces. This was confirmed.

A Forum member asked if VOSA or police could follow up on quarry traffic - ET said they are not able to do this officially.

JuH asked if speeding was inappropriate could there be 20mph zones, ET explained this would be through DCC traffic management team.

## **6. Weardale Action Partnership Reports**

### **i. Community Engagement – Summer 2018**

The report details the events attended by the WAP team as part of the community engagement strategy. The Community Day on 4<sup>th</sup> August was supported through

Cllr Savory's Neighbourhood Budget. The day was well attended and helped by the good weather. Very positive feedback and very good value for money with other services and community groups supporting the day. AS said that it was very positively received and she had received a letter from a member of the community who said "thank you for a great day in the park", AS confirmed that there had been some interest by the community to do this again and fundraising had started.

AM felt it is important to attend shows and staff had attended all days, the report showed the contact made and some feedback from members of the community.

Over 200 signatures were obtained for the Walkers are Welcome initiative and there was a lot of interest in the project. An idea for a further project was proposed to look at improving and promoting the Weardale Way and other walking routes in Weardale.

AM said that in discussions about social isolation some people felt that the term was offensive and views on support were polarised: for some it was to go out and others have someone visit.

The information shared included on the show days that provided by partners ranging from the agricultural training with UTASS (which was positively received) to information on Weardale Wordfest – a celebration of Weardale writing.

TN said that the figures demonstrate that attendance at the shows is beneficial. AS asked that appreciation of the staff team was recorded in networking and engaging in the shows.

## 7. Priorities 2018/19 Financial Year

### Social Isolation – Confidential Report

AM explained that this was a difficult subject to be succinct with as there was much information and discussions with Denise Elliott (DE) (Head of Commissioning, Durham County Council). This meant that there needs to be a clarity of outcomes. DE was very pleased with the plan developed, however, she asked for more financial input to be sought from DDHF.

AM explained that the plan to work with medical services means that there is access to contact patients more easily. The worker works with GP practice staff and conducts home visits to complete a health check where questions on social and wellbeing issues are asked, with plans made to support the individual. Barriers can be addressed through a buddy system and referrals can be made from any source. It is anticipated that information on gaps and trends can support the planning of local services.

The worker will have a base in the AAP office but will have mobile working facilities so that their time can be spent seeing people and meet with partners to find out about their services.

PC stated that pages 1&2 explain the project well and this is a commendable project.

AM advised that it is anticipated that this project will run over three years.

**The Board APPROVED the project and allocated £25,000 of Social Isolation Fund Budget (subject to annual monitoring, funding was allocated for the next three years).**

## **Culture, Tourism and Heritage**

### **Slitt Wood/Groverake/ Rookhope Arch**

Board members looked at the summary report provided by the North Pennines AONB. PC commented that the language used is not helpful when trying to understand what they are requesting.

Board members raised a number of queries regarding the project. **Action: ST** to ask AONB rep to attend the next working group and explain the plans in more detail.

**The Board APPROVED in principle and were positive about the project. The Board requested that the task and finish group meet with AONB representatives to confirm the detail of the project.**

## **8. Budget Overview and Decision making**

Board members were asked to consider the following projects for approval of funding from the Area Budget. (\*Items were previously circulated electronically and approved.)

### **\*Witton le Wear Breakfast Club**

**The Board APPROVED the project subject to the identified Terms and Conditions and allocated £4,000 of Area Budget.**

### **\*Weardale Tub**

**The Board APPROVED the project subject to the identified Terms and Conditions and allocated £3,000 of Youth Fund.**

### **Witton le Wear Youth Provision**

#### **OW declared an interest**

PC asked for confirmation that the company was not for profit. AM explained that DCC had funded Youth Services and that the Witton le Wear community centre had previously received a grant and had workers provided by Durham County Council.

It was raised that the room hire was high and the Board felt this should be reduced further and asked that AM send a letter to the group. JH and AS felt that every centre may then ask for this and many centres did support groups with nominal or no room hire to provide opportunities in their area. It was agreed that some further discussion with Witton le Wear community centre committee would take place to consider additional room hire reduction.

**The Board APPROVED the project subject to the identified Terms and Conditions and allocated £5,000 from Area Budget & Youth Fund.**

### **Stanhope Play Area**

The programme was further discussed. Some Neighbourhood Budget of Cllr Savory and Cllr Shuttleworth may be available to support this project.

**The Board APPROVED the project subject to the identified Terms and Conditions and allocated £20,000 of Area Budget.**

### **Small Grant Fund**

The Board are happy to receive the information in this format in future.

CP asked if the small grants application could be put on line as most organisations do this, she feels it may put people off from applying. AM explained that these are sent out as it was found that most issues arose when the team had not had the chance to talk through the process, CP thought the guidelines would help. DP confirmed that he saw the same thing happen in his organisation when applications are completed without staff discussion as the application tends to take longer.

Board Ambassadors were agreed for the following projects:

- Mini Police – Wolsingham Primary- Ed Turner
- Stanhope Community Garden Olive Wilson
- Little Friends of Crosshill – Chris Powell
- Wearhead Matting Club –Josephine Hayes
- Chimney Stack Removal, Barrington Hall- (tbc)
- Roof Repair, Thornley Village Hall- (tbc)

PC asked about the litter picking project and was advised we were awaiting confirmation from the group.

### **9. 2018/19 Neighbourhood Budget**

AM advised the Board of the current spend of Cllr Savory and Cllr Shuttleworth. (See Appendix) Following on from the discussion at the Board Meeting held in July, AM informed the group that allocation of budget was being looked at by Gordon Elliott as this had also been raised in other areas.

### **10. Forum**

AM asked if the forum should be held in the same way as in previous years and this was agreed. After some discussion, the location was agreed to be St Johns Chapel. The group felt the ping pong balls were very visual and would continue. Date to be planned.

### **11. Countywide Partner Issues and Updates**

#### **County Durham Partnership**

TN reported on his attendance at the County Durham Partnership Meeting. The main issue was in relation to the environment and the illegal dumping of waste.

### **12. Dates and Times of Future Meetings**

The Chair highlighted the change to winter meetings schedule would commence from the next meeting reminding everyone of the 2pm start.

**Next meeting – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2:00pm – 4:00pm in Durham Dales Centre.**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

## Appendix

### **Cllr Anita Savory**

Centenary Outdoor Room – Wolsingham Primary School - **£2,525**

Community Day - **£4,500**

Allocations made from Small Grants element of Neighbourhood Budget:

- Planters for Wolsingham, Cornerstone- **£150**
- Wearhead Clippy Mat Group – new boiler- **£100**
- Weardale Flower & Garden Club – bulb planting - **£200**
- Wolsingham Adult Football Team - **£200**
- Stanhope Silver Band March - **£150**

Leaving **£29,175** to allocate



### **Cllr John Shuttleworth**

Weardale Agricultural Show - **£2,000**

Allocations made from Small Grants element of Neighbourhood Budget:

- Barrington Bites Luncheon Club - **£150**
- Cowshill Leek Show - **£200**

Leaving **£36,100** to allocate

