

**4 Together Partnership
Minutes of the Board Meeting
Wednesday 8 January 2020
6:00pm at Dean Bank & Ferryhill Literary Institute**



PRESENT: **Partner Representatives**
Mark Booth – Clinical Commissioning Group
Paul Darby – DCC Head of Finance & Transactional Services
Justin Parry – Fire Service

Public Representatives
Tony Cutmore
Nicola Dexter
Rita Jacobs
Len Potts
Dennis Ramsey (**Vice Chair**)

Elected Members
Cllr Brian Avery – DCC (**Vice Chair**)
Cllr Julie Cairns – Chilton Town Council
Cllr Pauline Crathorne – DCC
Cllr Alan Hodgson – Cornforth Parish Council
Cllr Joe Makepeace – DCC
Cllr Christine Potts – DCC

OFFICER
ATTENDANCE: Lee Copeland – Principal AAP Coordinator
Paula Nixon – AAP Community Development Project Officer
Paula Stockport – AAP Support Officer

APOLOGIES: Cllr Peter Atkinson, Carole Atkinson, Chris Cairns, Nigel Jones,
David Stothard

PRESENTERS: Steve White (Acting Police, Crime & Victims' Commissioner)
Vicki Booth (Office of the Police, Crime & Victims' Commissioner)

OBSERVERS: n/a

Standard Board Meeting

A1. Introductions & Apologies

DR chaired the meeting in the absence of David Stothard. Apologies for absence were noted, as above.

Board members held a minute's silence to mark the recent passing of Mr Ron Hogg (Police, Crime & Victims' Commissioner).

A2. Agreement of Minutes from Previous Meeting (6.11.19) - Matters Arising

LC reviewed the previous minutes for matters arising, actions and accuracy. The following points were noted:

- There had been an action for LC to arrange for a rep from DCC Housing Solutions to attend a future meeting to give an update; LC confirmed that this evening's agenda was already full and so an approach will be made for an update at the next meeting (**Action 1: LC**).

There were no other matters arising; Board members **AGREED** the minutes as a true and accurate record, and DR signed a copy of the minutes before the Board.

[ND joined the meeting]

A3. Countywide Partner Issues

A3.1 Police, Crime & Victims' Commissioner Precept Update (Steve White)

Mr White informed Board members that the PCVC office would usually be carrying out consultation at this time of year in relation to the council tax precept, however as a result of the recent general election, details of the government grant have not been confirmed as yet, and therefore the relevant calculations/planning etc cannot be determined at this stage. Mr White explained that he hopes to have the relevant financial detail in the near future, so that firm proposals can be drawn up and meaningful consultation can take place, and highlighted that a final decision will need to be reached no later than 1 February 2020. There will essentially be three options to consider; decreasing the precept, staying the same, or imposing an increase. The Government have pledged to fund an additional 20,000 police officers nationally, which will probably mean a further 220 officers for Durham Constabulary, although specific detail around timescales etc are still not clear. Mr White explained that there is a great deal of 'unseen' work which takes place beyond the frontline policing that members of the public see, all of which requires significant investment. The ultimate aim for Durham Constabulary has been to protect frontline services and neighbourhood policing teams as far as reasonably possible, and this has resulted in lack of previous investment to infrastructure, estates, back office functions etc, all of which will need to be taken into consideration when determining next year's precept.

Mr White thanked Board members for the opportunity to give an update, and full details of the consultation will be circulated in due course.

A brief Q&A took place, with the following points noted:

- Cllr JM asked whether PCSOs fall within the scope of the proposed additional officer numbers. Mr White explained that the additional resource will be in the form of Police Officers and it's not envisaged that PCSO numbers will increase.
- Cllr JM stated that Mr Hogg had previously attended a PACT meeting in Ferryhill where he had pledged to work alongside DCC in relation to improved regulation of private landlords, and asked whether any progress had been made on this issue. PD explained that the Selective Licencing Policy will be going to DCC Cabinet next week for consideration.
- Cllr PC commended the work of Mr Hogg and the Office of the PCVC for County Durham, for the significant work done to maintain Durham Constabulary's 'outstanding' rating for the last three years in the face of significant challenges and ongoing austerity.

DR thanked Mr White for his update, and he left the meeting.

[JP left the meeting – meeting no longer quorate, and any decisions made beyond this point taken in principle only]

A3.2 Primary Care Networks (Mark Booth)

Board members received an update presentation in relation to the recently formed Primary Care Networks (PCNs). These are made up from groups of GP practices working together with other health and care providers, led by an accountable Clinical Director (usually a GP), and grouped around populations of 30-50,000. The PCNs aim to focus on their population's health needs, providing more personalised care and better prevention of illness – helping people to stay well. The PCNs work together to make best use of collective resources from a wide range of health professionals, providing easier access for patients. The PCN for the 4 Together area is known as 'Sedgefield 2' and is at the higher end of the population figures (56,188).

A brief Q&A took place, and the following points were noted:

- Cllr JM commented that transport can be a major issue for patients trying to access services which are not directly within their own locality, as well as waiting times for some hospital services. MB acknowledged that, being a relatively rural area, transport can be an issue for some people, however the PCNs aim to bring care services closer to people's homes as far as possible. Issues with poor communication between departments and better sharing of information and resources will also aim to improve services.
- Cllr JM asked whether the ambulance service falls within the remit of the PCN. MB clarified that they aren't part of the PCN, but a separate Urgent & Emergency Care Network, which includes local Patient Transport Services.
- Cllr JC commented that communication must be better if services are to improve – often patients don't know who to contact, or how to access services etc, and so better promotion and communication is required. MB acknowledged this, adding that the PCNs are being rolled out nationally. Clinicians are working as part of a contract and will be monitored and held accountable accordingly.
- Cllr PC raised the upcoming Stroke Services/Ward 6 consultations being run by the CCGs, pointing out that our board meetings will fall outside of the consultation period and therefore no formal presentation will be received. Cllr PC commented that these are both extremely important consultations, and requested that all relevant information be circulated by the AAP team once the consultation window opens. LC agreed to also circulate information to the wider AAP forum database as well as posting via social media etc (**Action 2: LC**).

[JP re-joined the meeting – meeting now quorate for decision-making]

LC highlighted that information was recently circulated to Board members by email in relation to the DCC Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy consultation, and the DCC Safe Durham Partnership consultation. Both consultations will be open until 14 February 2020 and Board members were encouraged to have their say. Further information is available via the website:

www.durham.gov.uk/consultation

PD briefly updated Board members in relation to DCC's forward budget-setting being delayed as a result of the recent general election, and details of the government's financial grant settlement not being finalised yet. The government

have confirmed some additional funding for local authorities for 2020-21, but there are no guarantees beyond that date. The outcome of the comprehensive spending review is also awaited.

PD highlighted that the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and the Long-Term Empty Property Premium proposals have both recently been approved by DCC.

[ND left the meeting]

JP highlighted that there have been recent staffing changes to fire stations in Spennymoor and Newton Aycliffe, and will give a more detailed update at a future meeting (**Action 3: JP**).

A4. Local Neighbourhood Issues

A4.1 Neighbourhood Policing Update

Item deferred.

LC informed Board members that she has recently been approached by Mike Cherrington (Red Supported Living), offering a service update. Board members suggested that a written update would be welcomed in the first instance; LC will contact Mike to arrange (**Action 4: LC**).

A5. Priorities & Action Plans

A5.1 Area Budget Update

PN circulated an update to Board members. This confirms details of the 9 x successful projects funded through AB for 2019-20, all of which have been signed off by our Funding Team. PN highlighted that all projects will be monitored on a quarterly basis as they progress.

PN briefly outlined the process followed for AB allocation this year (2019-20):

- one overall pot of funding (£100k) for applicants to apply to
- grant limits:
 - revenue only projects: £5k - £10k
 - capital only projects: £5k - £20k
 - mixed capital/revenue: min £5k - £10k revenue and up to £10k capital
- applicants must provide at least 5% match funding (in-kind or financial)
- a subgroup of Board members with no project Declarations of Interest to carry out the project ranking process, reaching a consensus decision
- use of an initial 'Expression of Interest' form for applicants, with only successful projects transferring to a full AB application form.

PN added that from the AAP team perspective, this process worked really well – providing an open, transparent and thorough method of allocation, with some fantastic and diverse projects supported.

A5.2 Neighbourhood Budget Update

PN confirmed that some 50+ NB projects have been coordinated and signed off to date in the current financial year. PN highlighted that NB allocations for 2020-21 have not been confirmed yet, and asked that Cllrs don't verbally pledge any funding to local groups before the new financial year. PN thanked Cllrs for their continued efforts in reinforcing the message to groups potentially applying for funding that all relevant paperwork will be required in order for projects to progress. PN has started to specify a deadline to applicants for provision of

relevant paperwork, so as to avoid potential problems where a project may not come to fruition.

PN added that if any Cllr would like to discuss remaining balances or potential future projects, please book an appointment with PN.

A5.3 Older Persons Social Isolation Fund (OPSIF) Update

LC confirmed that our 2018-19 OPSIF funding allocation (£25k) had previously supported the 'Healthy Communities' project, run by Cornforth Partnership. LC recently pulled together a countywide report in relation to DCC's OPSIF funding across all AAPs, which was really well received. The Healthy Communities project had been highlighted in the report as a case study, and DCC's Head of Commissioning, Denise Elliott, had commended the project. LC invited TC to give Board members an update on the project, with a view to potentially agreeing a further £25k funding from our 2019-20 allocation.

TC confirmed that a written project update had been circulated to board members by email, for information. The project aims to tackle inequalities faced by residents aged 50+ across the 4 Together Partnership area, helping to reduce their social isolation and increase participation in health-related activities, in line with the 5 ways to better health model. To date 253 residents have been engaged (the original target was 130) across the four AAP settlement areas. A wide range of classes and activities have been offered, from craft groups, to fitness classes, social trips, volunteer training courses, ceramics and much more.

A number of local community venues have been involved with the project, as well as input from Supportive to provide transport. Part of the project also includes recruiting and training volunteers, helping the project ultimately to become self-sustaining in future. There's currently a waiting list of people seeking befriending services, and this is something the Partnership would be looking to develop in future, should the project be funded again.

The project has been really well received, right across the AAP area, and Cornforth Partnership have recently been approached by East Durham Rural Corridor AAP to potentially look at delivering the same project in that area.

LC asked for Board members' views on potentially extending the project with further OPSIF funding (£25k) from our 2019-20 allocation.

Cllr PC and Cllr AH both declared an interest in the project and offered to leave the room for any decision-making if the Chair deemed this appropriate. Board members were happy for both to be present during the discussion.

Cllr BA commented that he was really impressed with the project outcomes, and particularly given the fact that the project covers the whole AAP area, and moved to continue with further funding.

PN asked if the potential of delivering the project in another AAP area would impact on capacity at Cornforth Partnership. TC confirmed that additional staff would be brought on board should the project be extended to another area, using the same delivery model as 4 Together.

LC asked whether the project would aim to address the male/female engagement ratio. TC confirmed that further links with Endeavour Woodcrafts will be made, and there is also a shed available via Cornforth House not currently in use. Consultation would take place with a view to increasing the number of males taking part in the project. TC explained that the project also has links to local GP practices to engage participants, as well as working with Age UK.

Board members **AGREED** to support the project with a further £25k OPSIF funding (2019-20 allocation), and PN will progress this with the Funding Team.

A5.4 2020-21 Funding Allocations

LC briefly recapped the information presented by PN at Item 5.1 in relation to the process for allocation of Area Budget for 2019-20, asking if Board members were happy to follow the same process for 2020-21. PN added that she has already started working with local groups and service providers to pull together relevant consultation information and data etc in relation to gaps in provision around the agreed priorities.

Board members **AGREED** to follow the same process for AB allocation in the coming year 2020-21.

A6. Date & Time of Next Meeting:

Wed 4 March 2020, 6:00pm at Dean Bank & Ferryhill Literary Institute

LC confirmed that she will be in touch shortly by email to coordinate Chair/Vice Chair arrangements in advance of the next meeting (**Action 5: LC**).

DR thanked everyone for their attendance, and the meeting was closed.