



Better for everyone

Derwent Valley
Area Action Partnership

Annual Report

2022/23



Councillor Elizabeth Scott

Introduction

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.



Community garden programme in Blackhill and Consett Park



Rock garden at Crookhall Community Centre

Derwent Valley Area Action Partnership 2022/23 Key Information



FUNDING

£121,460

AAP funding allocated to local projects

81

community projects supported through AAP and Councillor funding

£210,725

of Councillor Neighbourhood Budget allocated



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

60

local businesses/self-employed individuals supported



HEALTH

2,000

people involved in initiatives to improve their mental health and wellbeing

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

4,962

people benefitted from projects across the Partnership area



COMMUNICATION

19,561

engagements with the community through social media

Approximately

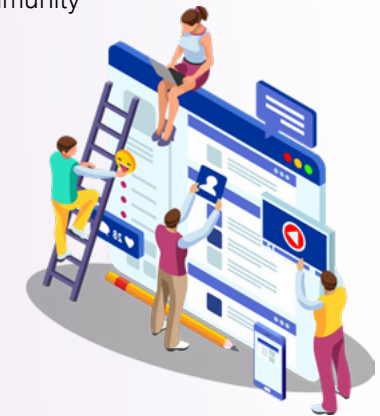
1.8k

Facebook followers

Around

920

Forum members regularly receive information about the DVP



Derwent Valley Area Action Partnership

Established in 2009 Derwent Valley AAP (DVP) brings together local people and partners to act on local issues. Areas covered by the DVP include Consett town centre and the outlying villages of Benfieldside, Blackhill, Bridgehill, Burnopfield, Crookhall, Delves Lane, Dipton, Ebchester, Flint Hill, Hamsterley, High Westwood, Iveston, Leadgate, Medomsley, Moorside, Shotley Bridge, Templetown and The Grove.

During 2022/23, the key focus for the partnership was around four priorities: Employment, Enterprise and Training; Environment; Health and Wellbeing and Towns and Villages.

Through the work of the DVP and our budgets, over £200,000 was allocated to local organisations for project delivery, with some funds remaining (£44,500 from the Towns and Villages Improvement Fund) to be allocated as we head in to the 2023/24 financial year.

Welcome from the DVP Coordinator

Corinne Walton

I am pleased to present the fourteenth DVP annual report. Back in 2009 none of us knew how AAPs would develop and what their impact would be, but it is safe to say that the DVP has and continues to make a difference in the Derwent Valley area.

2022/23 was a busy year for the DVP Board and staff team with over 40 projects to a value of nearly £200,000 having been approved.

The DVP staff team have continued to support the 11 local County Councillors in allocating their Neighbourhood Budget with 70 projects having been delivered with help from the Councillors budgets.

DVP is not just about funding and as a Board we have been engaged and consulted on some key issues such as the County Durham Plan, the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan, Policing precept, the Big E-Conversation, and proposed changes to our local library services. The Board also hosted another successful 'Christmas in Consett' event.

So, as we end another successful year, I would like to say a big thank you to the Board members who gave up their time to attend meetings, to the DVP staff team who worked really hard behind the scenes to bring projects to fruition, and finally to our task group members who come along to our meetings to help us explore the local issues and tackle them.

I look forward to working with everyone in 2023/24.

Our People

Anyone who lives, works, studies or volunteers in the area can get involved with the Area Action Partnership. We currently have around 920 people who are part of our wider Forum who receive regular updates and who are invited to get involved in the work of the DVP.

Our Board is the decision-making body of the DVP and is made up of local people (public representatives), elected councillors and representatives from partner organisations. Our Board members for 2022/23 were:

Susan Mellor (Vice Chair)

Linda Acres

Helen Marley

Lea McConnell

Fraser Neill

2 x Vacancies

Cllr Stephen Robinson (Vice Chair)

Cllr Veronica Andrews

Cllr Kevin Earley

Cllr Kathryn Rooney

Cllr Alan Shield

Cllr Michelle Walton

Cllr Alex Watson

Mark Clelland (Derwentside Trust, Chair)

Craig Farrage (Fire and Rescue Service)

Philip Pollard (Karbon Homes)

Rachel Rooney (Integrated Care Board)

Inspector Dave Stewart (Police)

Joanne Waller/Alison Lazazzera (Durham County Council)

Business Representative vacancy

2022/23 Funding Allocation

<p>Area Budget</p>	<p>£4,225 allocated to the Towns and Villages Improvement Fund for Consett Town Centre events and marketing.ional activities for the community to get involved with.</p>	<p>£72,260 Traffic Assets, DCC: Traffic and Speed Management Project. Traffic calming and speeding reduction measures (part time 20mph speed limit signs, speed indicating device (SID), Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS), signage and road markings) across the Derwent Valley area.</p>
<p>The Area Budget is a funding allocation that the DVP receives annually, also includes Youth Fund and Welfare Reform funding, to support projects linked to the DVP's priorities.</p>	<p>Older People's Social Isolation Fund</p>	<p>£56,000, Low Carbon Economy Team, DCC: Derwent Valley Zero Carbon. Recruitment of an apprentice, who will work alongside the Business Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP) team, to offer businesses in the Derwent Valley area support and advice on energy consumption/reduction.</p>
<p>£9,126, 1409 (Consett) Air Training Corps: Air Cadets STEM Project. IT equipment to deliver STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) related activities.</p>	<p>The DVP received an allocation of £25,000 to support local projects relating to social isolation and health and wellbeing for older people aged 50 years+</p>	<p>Holiday Activities with Healthy Food Fund</p>
<p>£10,670, DurhamWorks. Training and equipment budget to help reduce barriers for unemployed young people, living in the Consett area, to enable them to start work, college or training.</p>	<p>£9,000, The Rotary Club of Consett: Dementia Friendly Choir. A dementia friendly choir in Consett open to people with dementia, their carers, friends and family and anyone over 50 who feels socially isolated.</p>	<p>Funding was allocated to the DVP to support the provision of holiday activities with healthy food for as many children and young people as possible during the school holidays, with particular consideration for those who would normally receive free school meals.</p>
<p>£12,000, CDC Enterprise Agency: Emboss Derwent Valley Support for small businesses/self-employed individuals through weekly drop in sessions that includes group coaching, networking and access to additional business support services, with specific support to those claiming Universal Credit from Consett Job Centre.</p>	<p>£12,450, Crookhall Community Association: Meet at the Seat. A safe outdoor space for people to meet, make friends and develop a support network that will include communal seating, paving, raised beds and a memory garden.</p>	<p>£1,205, ATOMS Education CIC: An Easter Extravaganza</p>
<p>£6,500, Derwent Valley Partnership: Christmas in Consett Christmas event in Middle Street with music, entertainment, Christmas jumper competition and ending with the Christmas tree lights switched on.</p>	<p>£5,000 (includes £1,450 from Area Budget), SportWorks: Health and Happiness Hubs. A mental and physical health programme held at Consett Leisure Centre that includes seated exercises, stretch and flex, dance, bowls and fun/interactive games.</p>	<p>£2,590, Derwentside Trust (Glenroyd House): Easter Activities with Healthy Food, Recipes & Activity Packs</p>
<p>£5,000, Continuum CIC: I am ME. The 'I am ME' programme (Independent, Assertive, Mature, Motivated and Empowered) will deliver themed workshops targeting young people (11-16 year olds) at risk of entering into a cycle of disengagement. A celebration event will be held at the end of the programme.</p>	<p>Healthy Relationships Fund</p>	<p>£5,018, Random's Retreat CIC: Easter Fun, Food, Friends and Furrries</p>
<p>£7,000, Friends of Blackhill and Consett Park: Community Garden Wellbeing Programme. Skilled tutors to develop the community garden for activities that can help address social isolation and improve mental and physical health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>The DVP received an allocation of £10,000 to support projects that promote healthy relationships in the 11 – 18 year old age group.</p>	<p>£3,644, Stomping Grounds Forest School North East: Forest School Fun, Food and Discovery in the Easter Holidays</p>
<p>£17,982, The Just Love Project: We've Got You! Providing home and hygiene products via schools, foodbanks and other community settings to people in hygiene poverty.</p>	<p>£10,000, Continuum CIC: I am ME – Power Up. Workshops for young people, aged 11 – 14, to help develop and improve skills around communication and resolving conflict with family members and others with the aim of building healthy relationships.</p>	<p>£6,160, Derwentside Trust (Glenroyd House): Summer of Fun</p>
<p>£9,986, Learning for Life: Sensory, Sound and Vision. To enhance the multi-use sensory garden for its learners through walkways, rest areas and planting and to participate in outdoor activities.</p>	<p>Towns and Villages Improvement Fund</p>	<p>£1,160, ATOMS Education CIC: Super Summer Project</p>
<p>£7,200, Random's Retreat: Rewilding Together. Community rewilding project designed to encourage natural habitats for wildlife on Random's Retreat's site at Medomsley.</p>	<p>The Towns and Villages Improvement Fund of £210,000 was allocated to the DVP (to be spent over a 3 year period 2021-24) to support local schemes to enhance Towns and Villages in the area. So far, funding has been allocated to the following projects:</p>	<p>£18,195, Random's Retreat CIC: Summer Fun, Food, Friends and Furrries</p>
<p>£30,321, OASES: Derwent Valley Climate Friendly Schools. Climate education and guidance for whole school communities to facilitate and enable climate action.</p>	<p>£37,740, Durham Constabulary: Community Speedwatch Vehicle. Vehicle to assist the Neighbourhood Policing Team and the work of the Speedwatch volunteers in tackling speeding issues. The vehicle would be deployed around the Partnership area.</p>	<p>£8,660, Stomping Grounds Forest School North East: Forest School Holiday Clubs</p>
		<p>£1,485, Crookhall Community Centre: Half Term Fun at Crookhall</p>
		<p>£1,965, Stomping Grounds Forest School North East: Wild Half Term</p>
		<p>£1,544, Learning a New Way: Wellbeing Wins</p>
		<p>£656, Derwentside Trust (Glenroyd House): Glenroyd Fiendish Fun</p>
		<p>£1,000, ATOMS Education CIC: Christmas Family Fun</p>
		<p>£3,354, Random's Retreat CIC: Christmas Fun, Food and Furrries</p>
		<p>£7,600, Derwentside Trust (Glenroyd House): Grotto with Fun, Food and Activities</p>

2022/23 Funding Allocation

£1,296, ATOMS Education CIC: Fascinating February Fun
£800, Collierley Nursery and Primary School: Forest School
£645, Derwentside Trust (Glenroyd House): Glenroyd Half Term Fun and Activities
£1,260, The Friends of St Patrick's: Half Term Fun and Food at St Patrick's
£1,735, Mad Alice Theatre Company: Drama Days with Fun and Food
£1,863, Stomping Grounds Forest School North East: Into The Wild with Stomping Grounds
Neighbourhood Budget
Neighbourhood Budget is an allocation of £19,400 that each County Councillor gets each year to spend on Community Projects. The process is supported by the DVP team.
The projects listed below have been supported by County Councillors: Veronica Andrews, Kevin Earley, Dominic Haney, Declan Mulholland, Stephen Robinson, Kathryn Rooney, Alan Shield, Watts Stelling, Angela Sterling, Michelle Walton and Alex Watson.
Neighbourhood Budget Main Grant
Ebchester Community Association Health and Wellbeing Activities for the Over 50s, £3,980
Low Westwood and Hamsterley Play Areas, £25,700
Eden Miners Centre Improvements, £4,500
Little Learners Playgroup, Derwentside College, £4,000
FFG Foundation, Smart Whiteboard, £2,668
Toy Appeal, £2,000
Villa Real Road, Parking Provisions, £21,262
Enhance Disability Access to Consett Town Centre, £8,000
Glenroyd House New Oven, £4,500
Delta North Roof Repairs, £3,600
Food and Fitness at Crookhall, £5,250
49 Pitch Scheme, Crookhall, £8,608
St Mary's Primary School, Consett Link Footpath Improvements, £14,350
North East Horticultural Society Annual Show 2022, £2,905
Shotley Bridge Village Trust Tubs and Replanting, £2,000
Shotley Bridge Christmas Tree, £4,368
St Mary's Blackhill, Christmas Tree, £1,839

Blackhill and Consett Park, Car Park Design, £2,950
Thornfield Road, New Lighting Column, £3,904
Consett Rotary Club, Defibrillators, £2,796
Burnopfield and Dipton Christmas Trees, £4,422
Burnopfield and Flint Hill Play Areas, £30,628
Lintz and Bute Park Playing Pitches, £20,071
Community Hall Windows, Gospel Fellowship Church, Burnopfield, £2,500
Neighbourhood Budget Small Grants (including Queen's Platinum Jubilee and King's Coronation Funds)
Hamsterley Jubilee Fayre, £500
Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, Medomsley, £200
Durham Pride, £300
Medomsley Community Action Group Update, £900
Benches in Medomsley and Ebchester, £990
Learning for Life, Christmas Party, £250
Hamsterley and Low West Wood Community Association Senior Residents Christmas Party, £100
Jubilee Tree, Leadgate, £200
Art Resources, Villa Real School, £500
Rosemount Home Garden Furniture, £600
Keep Moving, Keep Cost Low, £650
Blackfyne Walking Football Club Portable Defibrillator, £872
Canny Crafters, Craft Resources, £306
Christ Church Consett, Baby and Toddler Group Equipment, £500
NHS Practitioners, Moor House Adventure Centre Visit, £500
David Jackson Memorial Artwork Seat, £990
Benfieldside, Blackhill, Bridgehill and Shotley Bridge Jubilee Fun Day, £900
St Patrick's Hall Jubilee Street Party, £300
Red Dust Company Choir, £1,049
Medomsley Cricket Club, Women & Girl's Cricket Development, £400
Consett and Vale of Derwent Naturalist Field Club, £400
Canny Crafters, Artists Workshops, £608
Jubilee Celebrations, Delves Lane Methodist Friendship Group, £600

Summer Trip, Delves Lane Methodist Friendship Group, £600
Crookhall Community Association, Summer Festival, £900
Delves Lane Primary School End of Year 6 Celebration, £300
Messy Church, Delves Lane Methodist Church, £900
Free Community Christmas Meals, Salvation Army Consett, £998
Delves Lane Lunch Club Christmas Party, £300
Delves Lane Friendship Group, £1,000
Coronation Celebrations, Delves Lane Friendship Group, £200
Delves Lane Lunch Club Coronation Christmas Party, £200
Coronation Celebrations, Crookhall Community Centre, £200
St Mary's Church Summer Fete, £400
Canny Crafters Insurance, £491
Shotley Bridge Village Trust Jubilee Street Party, £300
Beamish Trip, £300
Miners Association Brass Band, £400
NHS Youth Practitioners, £300
Derwentside Angling Association, £400
Moorside Primary School, Community Garden, £300
The Grove Primary School Sensory Jubilee Garden, £300
Moorside Salt Bins, £996
Jubilee Celebrations Dancing Queen, £300
St Patrick's Equine Assisted Learning Project, £930
Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Burnopfield, £300
Councillor's Towns and Villages Fund
Each Councillor was awarded a Towns and Villages Fund of £10,000 (in addition to their Neighbourhood Budget) to deliver localised projects with the aim of making a real difference and a significant impact to beneficiaries within their communities.
Burnopfield and Flint Hill Play Areas, £20,000
Low Westwood and Hamsterley Play Improvements, £20,000
49 Pitch Scheme, Crookhall £8,744
Templetown and Delves Lane Play Area Improvements, £11,256
Enhance Disability Access to Consett Town Centre, £10,000
Moorside Play Park Relocation and Renewal, £10,000
Blackfyne Playing Pitch improvements, £4,963.50

The Difference We Have Made



Christmas in Consett

Area Budget

The DVP's 'Christmas in Consett' brought a little sparkle and Christmas joy to Middle Street one Thursday evening in December. Around 300 people attended the event and many sang along as the Consett Salvation Army Band opened up by playing Christmas Carols. On stage the crowd were entertained by Alex Winters with fun and games and live music was performed by girl duo Khalysis. Young and old alike were captivated as children's Frozen characters and Santa and his elves entertained the audience. A Christmas jumper competition was held during the event and the winner received a family ticket to the Christmas pantomime, Aladdin, at the Empire Theatre. The event ended with the winner of the jumper competition switching on the Christmas tree lights.



Air Cadets STEM Project

Area Budget (via our Employment, Enterprise and Training Priority Task Group)

Funding from the DVP has helped the 1409 (Consett) Air Training Corps to update their IT equipment to run STEM related activities. The equipment will be capable of running Microsoft's Flight Simulator, alongside their already purpose built simulator, which can train up to 11 cadets at the same time to simulate flying in the same space/area. It will provide current cadets, future cadets and volunteer staff the opportunity to improve their cyber skills using a variety of software applications. As part of a cadet's development they will undertake Classification Training in aviation and military based subjects which will feed into the STEM agenda which aims to improve and broaden their IT skills.



We've Got You!

Area Budget (via our Health and Wellbeing Priority Task Group)

The DVP has funded the Just Love Project to provide home and hygiene packs to people in hygiene poverty. In 2022, Just Love piloted a project, using local Councillor funding, for care packs containing sanitary and hygiene products that were provided to secondary school age children and those who used the Foodbanks in Consett. Funding from the DVP will allow Just Love to extend the care packs to include a range of products that will be tailored to meet the needs of specific age groups and gender. The packs will be delivered via schools, foodbanks and other community settings.

The Difference We Have Made



Holiday Activities with Healthy Food Programme

The DVP supported 21 organisations through its Fun and Food Fund to deliver a wide range of schemes during each of the school holidays. With part funding received from the Department of Education, children and young people engaged in a variety of fun and engaging activities that also included a healthy meal.

The children participated in activities that included:

- holiday themed crafts
- campfire cooking and den making
- animal care
- gardening activities
- science experiments such as making vicious volcanoes
- mindfulness activities through magic breathing and relaxation techniques
- drama days
- pumpkin carving
- healthy cooking
- physical activities and many more.

The sessions provided an opportunity for the children to socialise in a different environment, learn new things, make new friends and help improve their confidence, self-esteem and mental wellbeing.



Dementia Friendly Choir

Older People's Social Isolation Fund

Consett Rotary Club received funding from the DVP to host a weekly Dementia friendly choir in Citizens House. The mixed choirs are inter-generational, inclusive, relaxed and fun for all. People with dementia, their carers, friends and family and anyone over 50 who feel socially isolated are welcome to join.

On 16 May the first session got underway and everyone joined in with gusto and happily banged, rattled or tapped along with musical instruments!

Contact Details

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