



Better for everyone

Great Aycliffe & Middridge  
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.



Newton Aycliffe Gardeners Guild volunteers



Hub of Wishes - Creative Voice Art Group



Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club - new xmas trailer

# Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership 2022/23 Key Information



## FUNDING

**£146,652**

AAP Community Recovery Area Budget funding allocated to 14 projects, with £112,808 match funding generated

**£170k**

of Councillor Neighbourhood Budget allocated to 19 local projects, with £46k in match funding

**£611,927**

of total investment, including match, for all programmes (Area Budget, Neighbourhood Budget, Towns & Villages, and Fun & Food)

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

**1,100+**

local Forum members, regularly receiving updates on the work of the AAP

**17,000+**

engagements with the community through social media

**17** countywide consultations supported



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

**12** Holiday Activities with Healthy Food initiatives supported





# Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership

Established in 2009, Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership brings together local people and partners to take action on local issues. Areas covered include the whole of Great Aycliffe, Middridge and the villages of Woodham, Aycliffe Village and School Aycliffe.

Over the last year, the key focus has been on an overarching 'Community Recovery' priority. Over £315k has been allocated to local organisations to help tackle local issues.

## Welcome from the Chair

### Councillor James Atkinson (Elected Member)

It has been my great pleasure to be Chair of the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership Board for 2022/23.

I would like to thank my fellow Elected Members for trusting and electing me for this role, and the full membership of the wider Board for making the job interesting and enjoyable.

I always looked forward to the informal pre-meetings which were particularly enriched with interesting content and humorous delivery. I would like to thank the GAMP team, Brian, Victoria and Paula, for keeping me right and their light-hearted endurance.

The year has flown over and been a great success. The GAMP Board, with the support of the staff team have worked hard this year to enrich civic pride whilst adding generously to popular community assets. We have turned public funding into some really worthwhile projects, which have all been developed and implemented by spirited and dedicated volunteers for the benefit and pride of the GAMP area.

Being Chair of GAMP has been a great honour for me, and I am now delighted to hand over to Andy Coulthard (Partner Representative), who I am sure will do a fantastic job in the coming year.



## Our People

Anyone who lives, works, studies or volunteers in the area can get involved with the Area Action Partnership. We currently have 1,300+ 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 Eddy Adam

Cllr James Atkinson – Chair

Cllr Neville Jones

Cllr Tony Towers (Parish Council Representative)

Cllr Ken Robson

Cllr Tony Stubbs

Cllr David Sutton-Lloyd

Sue Cooke (public representative)

Julie Dudley (public representative)

Simon Hocking (public representative)

Sue Hughes (public representative)

Chris Hutchinson (public representative)

Peter Shovlin (public representative)

Natalie Whitworth (public representative) – Vice Chair

Daniel Blagdon (health representative)

Andy Coulthard (housing representative) – Vice Chair

Carol Gaskarth (voluntary & community sector representative)

Inspector Sarah Honeyman (Police)

Andy Kerr (Durham County Council)

Oliver Sherratt (Durham County Council)

Malcolm Woodward (Fire Service)

Rosie Woodward (business representative)

Thanks also to outgoing Board members this year: Kate Hopper (public representative), Peter Gallone (business representative).

# 2022/23 Funding Allocation

<p><b>Community Recovery Area Budget</b> (total allocation £144,902 – includes Welfare Reform, Older Persons Social Isolation Fund and Youth Fund)</p> <p>£8,863: Let's Perform at NAYCC (Newton Aycliffe Youth &amp; Community Centre)</p> <p>£20,000: Community Speedwatch Van (Newton Aycliffe Police)</p> <p>£14,942: Community Hub (Lifeline Community Action)</p> <p>£5,000: Glow Cares (Glow Church)</p> <p>£10,639: Creative Voice (The Hub of Wishes)</p> <p>£6,705: Aycliffe Youth Club! (North East Autism Society)</p> <p>£5,010: Duke of Edinburgh Equipment (Woodham Academy)</p> <p>£6,750: Uniform Fund (Greenfield School)</p> <p>£14,250: Toilet Refurbishment (St Clare's Church)</p> <p>£5,000: Social Isolation &amp; Lifestyle Improvement (The Friendship Club)</p> <p>£14,917: New Horizons (The Cornforth Partnership)</p> <p>£14,394: Emotional &amp; Mental Health Supporting Young People (If U Care Share)</p> <p>£9,480: Autism Awareness &amp; Emotional Positivity (Eric Knows CIC)</p> <p>£10,702: Community Support Programme (Lifeline Community Action)</p>
<p><b>Healthy Relationships</b> A devolved allocation of funding to support community-led initiatives that improve support to children and young people around sensitive topics such as domestic abuse and ensure that there is a greater focus on prevention and early intervention</p> <p>£10,000 – Rabbits in the Headlights (Changing Relations CIC)</p>
<p><b>Towns &amp; Villages Area Budget Funding</b></p> <p>£22,867: Byerley Park Footpath Improvements (DCC Highways)</p> <p>£29,680: The Moor Local Nature Reserve Improvements (DCC)</p>

£24,769: Western Area Footbridge Replacement (DCC)
£35,633: Gardeners Guild (Gardeners Guild)
<p><b>Fun &amp; Food Funding</b> Funding to help ensure that as many children &amp; 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</p>
<p><b>Easter 2022</b></p> <p>£770: Environmentally Friendly (Junction 7)</p>
<p><b>Summer 2022</b></p> <p>£4,785: Western Area Summer Programme 2022 (Junction 7)</p> <p>£3,750: Dramalicious (Greenfield School)</p> <p>£1,115: Wellbeing Wins (Learning a New Way CIC)</p>
<p><b>October 2022</b></p> <p>£1,410: October Half Term Holiday Club (Vane Road Primary)</p> <p>£1,440: October Half Term Holiday Club (Woodham Burn Primary)</p> <p>£895: Wellbeing for All (Learning a New Way CIC)</p> <p>£1,290: October Half Term (Groundwork North East)</p>
<p><b>February 2023</b></p> <p>£2,420: February Half Term Holiday Club (Vane Road Primary)</p> <p>£2,720: October Out of Hours Club (Woodham Burn Primary)</p> <p>£529: Wellbeing for All (Learning a New Way CIC)</p> <p>£1,114: February Half Term Crafts &amp; Sensory Work (Eric Knows CIC)</p>

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 Eddy Adam, James Atkinson, Neville Jones, Ken Robson, Michael Stead, David Sutton-Lloyd, Tony Stubbs

Further information on Councillor-funded projects is available on the Durham County Council website [www.durham.gov.uk](http://www.durham.gov.uk)

<p><b>Neighbourhood Budget</b></p> <p>£1,500: Supporting Additional Needs Children (Learning Library)</p> <p>£2,179: LED Lighting Upgrade (Newton Aycliffe &amp; District Bus Preservation Society)</p> <p>£2,500: Craft Activities (Newton Aycliffe Library)</p> <p>£200: Durham Pride Event (Durham Pride)</p> <p>£14,466: Club Development (Newton Aycliffe Football Club)</p> <p>£5,190: Western Area Footbridge Replacement (DCC)</p> <p>£15,000: Western Area Development Worker (Livin Housing)</p> <p>£2,590: Camping Equipment (1st Baden Powell Scout Group)</p> <p>£1,400: New Trailer (Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club)</p> <p>£6,499: Malham Crescent Disabled Access Ramps (DCC)</p> <p>£5,280: Aycliffe Amateur Boxing Project (Aycliffe Amateur Boxing Club)</p> <p>£1,740: Community Christmas Event (Newton Aycliffe Police)</p> <p>£10,934: The Moor Local Nature Reserve Improvements (DCC)</p> <p>£48,000: Clarence Chare Highway Improvements (DCC)</p> <p>£1,183: New Carpets (School Aycliffe Community Centre)</p> <p>£7,773: Greenfield School 20mph Zone (DCC)</p> <p>£7,803: Cricket Club Changing Room Access Ramp &amp; Fencing (Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club)</p> <p>£18,380: Horndale School Access Improvements (DCC)</p>
<p><b>Towns &amp; Villages Neighbourhood Budget</b></p> <p>£10,194: Western Area Footbridge Replacement (DCC)</p> <p>£5,616: Gardeners Guild (Newton Aycliffe Gardeners Guild)</p> <p>£14,384: Clarence Chare Highway Improvements (DCC)</p> <p>£3,750: The Moor Local Nature Reserve Improvements (DCC)</p>

# The Difference We Have Made



## Community Hub Lifeline Community Action

Lifeline Community Action secured a grant to support the organisation to open their existing Community Hub for an additional 2 days per week.

This project builds upon previously funded projects, providing support to individuals and families in the local area. The Hub offers support in the form of activity sessions, as well as advice and guidance for support services.

The funding also supports the employment of a package supervisor. This role allows the organisation to support more people, recruit more volunteers and provide stability for the organisation structure and react quickly to the needs of the local community, whilst continuing to provide care packages on a needs-basis in the local community.

Service users can be referred from organisations such as DCC Community Hub, Home Group, Families First, Local Schools, Livin Housing etc.



## Greenfield Community College Greenfield Community College Uniform Fund

Greenfield School has benefitted from £6,750 for their Uniform Fund project. Due to the increasing cost-of-living crisis an emerging community issue has seen families struggling to provide school uniform, an issue we are keen to help with. The school increasingly noticed children attending school wearing wrong items of clothing and wanted to help.

The school have purchased a variety of items and as many full school uniforms as they can. The fund runs on an application basis, each application is needs assessed and once approved items are offered and given to students on a loan basis.

The project helps support other loan schemes funded by the school themselves, which include, a free breakfast club and loan of electronic devices such as I-pads.



## Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Policing Team Newton Aycliffe Community Speedwatch Van

Newton Aycliffe Police have been awarded £20,000 for a Community Speedwatch Van project, which will see the purchase of a small van for use by speedwatch volunteers and members of the Neighbourhood Policing team.

The van will be used to deploy volunteers in target locations and will display suitable hazard graphics as a speeding deterrent. The van will also have its own bespoke automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) camera fitted to gather accurate vehicle data.

It will also provide a seating area, plug sockets and WiFi capability to act as a mobile office.



# The Difference We Have Made



## Learning a New Way CIC Wellbeing for All

Fun & Food funding was awarded to Learning a New Way CIC to deliver school holiday provision, including mindful craft activities, and a relax kids/ mindfulness session, along with healthy food.

The sessions give children a much-needed break from screen-time and an opportunity to socialise and be creative. The mindful craft activities give the children a hands-on experience as to how creativity can positively benefit their mood and overall wellbeing.

The Relax Kids/Mindfulness sessions introduce the children to strategies they can use to feel calmer and more confident. Techniques such as 'magic breathing', stretches, relaxation/meditation and positive affirmations are included.

Healthy food is provided at all sessions, ensuring the children have a nutritious meal - which is especially important in light of the increased cost of living and energy bill increases experienced by all families.

## Glow Cares Glow Church UK

Glow Church UK secured a grant through GAMP's Area Budget to help fund their 'Glow Cares' project - an older people's social afternoon club for local residents.

The group provides a monthly vintage afternoon tea, in an effort to tackle social isolation and loneliness post-pandemic. The group offers free transport for participants who may otherwise be unable to attend.

Whilst attending the monthly event participants can also be signposted to other services such as financial agencies, housing-related support, welfare rights, and health services, with a view to providing advice and guidance. Wellbeing/ Befriending telephone calls are made in between events, potentially identifying and preventing crisis situations with early intervention.

## Feedback from the Glow Cares project

*"What I love about coming here is there's no agenda," remarked one attendee, "I can sit and talk with friends about whatever comes up." People of all ages, both men and women, are attending sessions. The atmosphere is relaxed and the conversation flows freely. Volunteers are on hand to mix and mingle, and the team has a range of experience to bring to the conversation should it be needed, medical, social care, advocacy, recovery.*

The project coordinator Glenis said, *"I believe friendship has the power to enrich life. And making life better is what Coffee & Connect is all about."*

## Contact Details

Great Aycliffe & Middridge Area Action Partnership  
Pioneering Care Centre  
Cobblers Hall  
Newton Aycliffe  
Co Durham  
DL5 4SF



Tel: 01325 327441 / 07818 510362  
Email: [gampaap@durham.gov.uk](mailto:gampaap@durham.gov.uk)  
[www.durham.gov.uk/gampaap](http://www.durham.gov.uk/gampaap)