

**GREAT AYCLIFFE & MIDDRIDGE PARTNERSHIP (GAMP)
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2020, 2:00PM (via Microsoft Teams)**



PRESENT: **Elected Members**
Cllr Eddy Adam – DCC
Cllr James Atkinson – DCC (Vice Chair)
Cllr Kate Hopper – DCC
Cllr Paul Howell – DCC

Public Representatives
Sean Barnett
Sue Cooke (Vice Chair)
Chris Hutchinson
Alan Jordan
Carl Robinson
David Sutton-Lloyd
Natalie Whitworth

Partner Representatives
Daniel Blagdon – Health Representative
Andy Coulthard – Livin Housing
Insp Sarah Honeyman – Police (**Chair**)
Sharon Hutchinson – Business Representative
Oliver Sherratt – Durham County Council
Malcolm Woodward – Fire Service

OFFICER

ATTENDANCE: Brian Riley – GAMP Coordinator
Victoria Grieves – GAMP Comm Development Project Officer
Paula Stockport – GAMP Support Officer

APOLOGIES: Cllr John Clare, Carol Gaskarth, Richard Crane

1. Introductions & Apologies

Insp SH welcomed everyone to the first virtual meeting of the GAMP Board and handed over to BR for an outline of 'house rules/etiquette' for the meeting. BR asked Board members to be aware that the GAMP team weren't recording the meeting but couldn't guarantee that other attendees wouldn't be making their own recording. BR was pleased to see such a good attendance at the first virtual meeting and thanked Board members for their well wishes following his recent absence. BR also thanked VG and PS for their work during this time.

BR reminded Board members of the standard Declaration of Interest item on the agenda.

BR confirmed that apologies for absence had been received, as noted above.

2. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 28.1.20 – Matters Arising

The draft minutes from the Board meeting held on 28.1.20 had been circulated in advance with the meeting papers. BR confirmed there were no outstanding actions. There were no matters arising, and the minutes of the last meeting were **AGREED** by the Board as a true and accurate record.

Cllr EA asked if there had been any further update in relation to the three consultation presentations given at the last meeting (Police & Crime Commissioner Precept, CCG Stroke Rehab/Ward 6, and the Fire Service Integrated Risk Management Plan).

Insp SH clarified that the recruitment process for the 220 additional Police Officers highlighted previously by Steve White (P&CC) had been slightly delayed due to COVID but this is currently underway and ongoing.

Cllr EA highlighted, for information, that a previous scheme supported via his and Cllr Hopper's Neighbourhood Budgets (Stephenson Way School 20mph Zone) had been delayed as a result of COVID.

3. Area Budget Update

3.1 COVID Response Funding Update

BR confirmed that a list of the projects supported through the GAMP COVID Response emergency funding had been circulated to Board members in advance, for information. BR confirmed that the uptake for this funding in the GAMP area had been lower than other areas of the County, largely due to the number of groups who were still able to operate safely during the early stages of the pandemic. Predominant areas of support included food banks, care packages and activity packs, and beneficiaries ranged in age from children and young people at a local scout group, right through to isolated elderly residents receiving packs delivered by the PCP. The funding was well received, and all projects will be monitored in due course.

BR highlighted that any underspend from the AAP emergency response funding had been allocated to a countywide pot – there is still a small balance remaining of this funding and if Board members are aware of any potential schemes, please signpost them to the GAMP team for further information. All AAP Chairs are members of the assessment panel for this countywide funding, and Insp SH attended the first meeting recently. SC is attending the next meeting on behalf of GAMP, where the first set of applications will be considered.

AC thanked the Board for the emergency response grant that Livin had received (which was also funded by 4 other AAPs), to host their work and training grant project – so far 10 GAMP beneficiaries have been supported.

DSL thanked DCC for the speed with which they processed the business support grant, which had been a huge help to Woodham Community Centre and many others.

3.2 2020-21 COVID Recovery Project Callout

BR confirmed that the 2020-21 project callout was launched last week, with the overarching 'COVID Recovery' priority theme. There's been a fairly good response, with 15 application packs sent out, and 4 submissions received to date.

BR confirmed that following the recent request for volunteers to join the ranking panel, we have sufficient members and BR will be in touch shortly to arrange the first panel meeting.

SB asked whether groups who have been in receipt of previous GAMP funding would be permitted to submit an Expression of Interest if they still have a balance of funding; lots of groups have had no option but to pause their delivery which has resulted in projects not being completed in line with the original planned targets and deadlines. BR clarified that groups would not be permitted to apply for funding to deliver a project they still have outstanding funding for, but they would be able to apply if their proposal is for a different project. All submissions will be checked by the GAMP team to see if there is previous outstanding funding or monitoring for the applicant group, and the panel would be made aware at the point of assessment.

4. Neighbourhood Budget Update

4.1 Neville Community Centre Improvements

NB request = £1,500

Cllrs Atkinson & Iveson – no declarations of interest

VG gave an outline of the project; funding will be used to replace the existing stage curtains and sound system as they do not comply with current standards. With the new equipment Trustees can continue to increase provision of this type of activity. This will hopefully increase usage of the centre and provide opportunities for new groups, as well as offering additional amenities for existing groups and activities.

There were no comments or queries and Board members **APPROVED** the application.

4.2 Acle COVID-19 Ready

NB request = £1,200

Cllrs Atkinson & Iveson – no declarations of interest

VG gave an outline of the project; Acle Scout Group have been impacted by the recent Coronavirus, with meetings cancelled, trips and expeditions postponed etc. To support with landscaping the current scout field to make it useable for all sections to meet, funding will be used to purchase hand-wash stations. Funding will also be used to purchase hammocks for use during future expeditions (instead of tents) to help young people feel safe and happy.

There were no comments or queries and Board members **APPROVED** the application.

BR will forward the above NB applications to the Funding Team for technical appraisal (**Action 1: BR**).

Cllr EA commented that there are currently significant delays with the DCC Highways Department being able to support with planning of potential NB schemes, e.g. costings, design etc, as a result of the impacts of COVID, as well as delays to schemes that were already in the pipeline. OS agreed to take this point back to DCC colleagues; there is a large backlog due to the knock-on effects of all works ceasing at the start of lockdown. OS will ask the relevant officers to look at the current workload and provide Elected Members with a draft timeline/schedule of works (**Action 2: OS**).

SB asked if it would be possible for Board members to have a running list of NB schemes supported by Cllrs over the previous 12 months, and details of their

balances. BR clarified that Cllrs are regularly updated by VG in relation to spend/balances, but this information is subject to frequent change. In addition, the GAMP team wouldn't be happy to share this information, this would need to be at the Cllr's discretion. BR added that all NB projects are circulated to Board members for information and approval, either at a meeting or via email, and details of all previously funded NB (and AB) schemes are included in our Annual Reports.

AC asked whether specific background checks will be made into organisations applying for funding in terms of their financial stability, in light of the ongoing impacts from COVID, particularly in terms of capital expenditure, to safeguard GAMP funding should groups fold. BR confirmed that groups must supply up-to-date financial information with their application, and all projects are subject to robust technical appraisal by our Funding Team. VG further clarified that all groups receiving AAP funding must have a dissolution clause in their governing document, which addresses the issue of them ceasing to operate in future – any equipment purchased with an AAP grant must be returned to DCC. Without such a dissolution clause, groups would be ineligible to receive funding.

5. Neighbourhood Issues

5.1 Neighbourhood Policing Update

Insp SH updated Board members in relation to neighbourhood policing activity since the pandemic began. In terms of the newly introduced COVID regulations, the police stance is to engage, encourage, educate and then enforce. It's acknowledged that the new restrictions will pose challenges, for everyone, but the initial approach will be to engage with members of the public around the restrictions.

There was an understandable reduction in terms of crime rates initially with lockdown, and things are starting to return to their pre-COVID levels. The true figures are difficult to quantify currently, as all calls relating to COVID have been categorised as antisocial behaviour. The current PACT priorities are around off-road bikes and problems with speeding, and there is ongoing community engagement taking place around these issues. PACT meetings are taking place virtually and have been well attended. Going forward, it could be considered to potentially host a mix of virtual and community-based PACT meetings.

Insp SH highlighted the recent community safety week (14 September), this also included a speedwatch exercise, which proved really successful. More members of the community are currently undergoing training so they can carry out future speedwatch exercises.

CR highlighted that the Aycliffe Village speedwatch group is now up and running and passed on his thanks to PCSO Matt Walls for his support.

Insp SH highlighted there have been a number of staffing changes within the team, with officers and PCSOs leaving. Insp SH will circulate relevant details of the new team members as soon as possible. Cllr EA passed on this thanks to PCSOs Christine and Matt for their work in the community, and wished them well in their new roles.

DSL commented that local community venues are keen to engage and help with morale by providing a limited number of activities where it is safe and practical to do so, but the rules around what can and cannot take place, and what is required

of community buildings to operate safely, can be confusing. Is there a comprehensive list of 'dos and don'ts' that could be available to assist centres? OS acknowledged that DCC share the same challenges as the police in terms of compliance and enforcement. DCC will be looking to appoint COVID Compliance Officers over the coming weeks, whose role will be to assist with reporting and enforcement. DCC and Public Health colleagues will also be looking to provide further education and support over the coming weeks in relation to the changing restrictions.

SB asked whether there was any feedback in relation to the GAMP-funded ANPR camera project and how successful this has been. Insp SH confirmed that the cameras have been well received, and there have been a number of good results for the area. The cameras are being used by CID and traffic colleagues as well as the local neighbourhood policing teams.

A copy of Insp SH's full update report will be circulated with the minutes, for information (**Action 3: BR**).

6. Countywide Partner Issues

BR invited partner reps to give a brief service update, given the length of time since our last meeting.

- BR briefly outlined some of the work the GAMP team, and AAPs, have been involved with since the start of the pandemic. Initially we were tasked with pulling together all relevant local information for those groups who were providing emergency support in our respective areas, so the information could be uploaded to the Durham Locate website. Alongside this, AAPs played a huge role in setting up the Community Support Hubs, alongside health colleagues. This work was very intensive, and the GAMP team covered the Hubs for the first three weeks, including weekends. We were proud to be involved with this work, which made a huge difference to so many peoples' lives during what was an incredibly difficult and unsettling period of time. The Hub work has now been handed over to Leisure Services staff, and the Hubs continue to provide much needed support to our communities. The GAMP team are still all working from home and likely to be for the foreseeable future, so please contact us by email or mobile if you need us.
- AC updated on behalf of Livin. Lots of work took place at the start of lockdown to support the approximately 2,000 Livin tenants who were classed as vulnerable. AC thanked Junction 7, Cllrs EA and KH, and the DCC Community Hubs in particular for their support during this time. AC highlighted ongoing issues with antisocial behaviour around the Western area, and Livin are currently working on ways to help mitigate this, with some planned youth work being delivered by Cornforth Partnership in that area. Livin are considering a potential funding application to GAMP/countywide AAP funding for a project around providing support to isolated Syrian families; BR suggested that AC contact Callum Aitchinson (DCC) as soon as possible to look at potential countywide funding.
- NW updated on behalf of Groundwork. The Wise Owls project, previously funded through an 'Older Persons Social Isolation' grant will shortly be able to commence delivery, providing activity/support packs to older people. NW is working with partners including local foodbanks and Livin to identify referrals. BR suggested that NW liaise with the PCP as well.
- DB gave an update on behalf of the CCG. A number of staff were redeployed to various roles within the NHS early in the pandemic, dealing with issues such

as provision of PPE etc. Work is ongoing now to look at service backlogs and waiting times, as well as safety in terms of accessing appointments, and making best use of available resources. DB highlighted the need for people to take up their offer of a flu jab, which will be even more important this year in protecting the population from flu and to try and help prevent a knock-on effect to capacity should COVID cases also increase. DB also highlighted that the two consultations previously brought to the Board in January (stroke rehab/Ward 6) were both stopped in February. No changes have been implemented, and the period of lockdown has provided further opportunity for a review of facilities/estates and capacity, which will continue to be reviewed going forward.

- DSL updated Board members in relation to the defibrillator project he coordinates. DSL thanked Livin for their support over the last few months. A new unit will be sited in Silverdale next week, with a further unit funded by Livin at Simpasture Care Home. DSL will be arranging a memorial to Honest John at the Town Centre unit as an acknowledgement of his donation. There is around £1,000 still to raise to complete the current plans. DSL commented that a spare unit had previously been purchased as part of the original project, which is available as a back-up should this be needed – DSL has made an offer that this could be donated to the Police for use with their ebike scheme (if successful), on the proviso that it could be ‘borrowed’ back if needed.

Items Not on the Agenda

BR highlighted that all AAPs will be hosting virtual events (via Teams) during October/November, with a standardised format. There will be an introduction from Cllr Simon Henig in relation to the Council Vision and response to the COVID pandemic. Public Health will give a COVID update from their perspective. There will also be an update from DCC Planning officers in relation to the Council’s Town & Villages Regeneration work. The final part of each event will be localised to the AAP, where each Coordinator will give an update on COVID response and recovery work, as well as partner links and community feedback. The planned date for the GAMP event is Thursday 12 November, 6.00-7.30pm and BR will forward confirmation and further detail as soon as possible. Board members will be asked to help promote the event widely.

**7. Date & Time of Next Meeting:
Tuesday 24 November 2020, 2:00pm (via Microsoft Teams)**

BR/Insp SH thanked all attendees and the meeting was closed.