



Better for everyone

East Durham  
Area Action Partnership

**Annual Report**

**2023/24**

# Introduction



Councillor Elizabeth Scott

## Portfolio Holder Statement

As the Cabinet portfolio holder for Economy and Partnerships I am proud to say that the Area Action Partnerships fall within my remit.

AAPs have been supporting work in local communities for 15 years now. Funding has helped to sustain and develop numerous local organisations right across County Durham. Nearly £30m has been allocated through Area Budget grants since AAPs were created back in 2009 supporting nearly 3000 different applications.

The 14 AAPs cover the whole of the county, each with effective boards of 21 people which are made up of partners, public, councillors and agencies. The Boards work on their specific priorities that reflect the needs of the county's varied localities. Over the last year they have again allocated nearly £2M which has supported over 190 local projects.

Fellow County Councillors and I are very grateful for the support we get from the AAPs in allocating our Neighbourhood Budget. This is funding every councillor gets to support good causes and projects in the areas we represent. Since 2009 over £37m has been allocated through nearly 8000 different applications. You can imagine the difference funding via the AAPs and Councillors has made to our towns, villages and city. This year councillors have supported well over 600 projects with over £2.4M of funding.

At a time when communities and families are having to deal with ongoing financial pressures AAPs have been able to help those organisations who are helping others. The strength of the voluntary and community sector in County Durham never fails to amaze me.

I do want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who gives up their time and volunteers with local organisations. Be that with sports clubs, management committees at community centres, environmental schemes

or those people who volunteer on AAP Boards. County Durham would be a poorer place without you. However volunteering has to be supported and it's a key area that AAPs help with in terms of supporting groups with volunteer management, training and support.

There is no doubt that community organisations are struggling through the ongoing cost of living crisis so if you have ever thought about volunteering now could be the time. Local organisations give so much to their communities and they do need our help.

Since 2009 AAPs have been a feature of our communities but change is ahead. Last year the council concluded a review of its community engagement activities which included the AAPs. The outcomes of this review are now being implemented and this is going to lead to enhancements in 2025 with AAPs being replaced by new 'Local Networks'. The Local Networks will continue to bring local people, councillors and organisations together building on the legacy of the AAPs with the aim of broadening the reach within communities and developing Local Network Plans setting out the longer-term aspirations for our many towns and villages. Over the coming months we will keep people updated as we develop Local Network structures.

Prior to the launch of Local Networks in 2025, AAPs will continue to deliver over the next year which will only be possible with the hard work of all involved. So a big thank you from me to fellow councillors, AAP Board members, partner organisations, members of the public and the AAP staff. I look forward to continuing to work with you all over the next 12 months.

## Councillor Elizabeth Scott,

Cabinet portfolio holder for Economy and Partnerships.

# East Durham Area Action Partnership 2023/23 Key Information



## FUNDING

**£181,632**

of AAP funding allocated to 9 projects

**£25,161**

amount of match/external funding generated

Potentially

**1,263**

beneficiaries supported through the main AAP funding



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

**119**

community projects supported through AAP, Fun and Food, and councillor funding

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

**£237,619.20**

allocated from Fun and Food supporting 32 community projects and generating

**£41,399.92**

of match funding



## COUNCILLOR FUNDING

Processed

**£358,334.92**

of councillor Neighbourhood Budget allocated to 58 projects and amount of external match generated

**£981,690.07**



Better for everyone

# Welcome from the Chair

## Councillor Angela Surtees



I am always immensely proud to serve as the Chair of East Durham Area Action Partnership, leading an AAP that puts all and every community within our remit at the heart of our focus means we maximise on the funding available to us to ensure that everywhere benefits.

This year we have sadly seen the loss of three members of our board, Cllr Leanne Kennedy, Jim Shand, and Cllr Isabella Roberts. We will miss their contributions and we send our heartfelt condolences to their families as they were valuable members of the board.

We have a hugely diverse area with very distinct and individual communities, the CDPOs Ian, Wayne and Kaye alongside our coordinator John work tirelessly in these communities to ensure that Community Centres, organisations, groups and anyone else that needs help developing their project or completing funding forms are supported to the best of their abilities; and with Laura directing from the office EDAAP, in my opinion, are very successful.

Our communities have continued to face challenges and we don't expect this to go away overnight. Changes to funding regimes, eligibility and application have been one of the significant changes this year. Our AAP has made grants of £905,848.06. These grants have funded vital projects and activities including 126 projects from Neighbourhood and Area Budget supporting 120 community groups

We have also looked ahead in trying to address future challenges such as the climate crisis. The Green Grant support for our community buildings in making much-needed adaptations to help them with energy efficiency. Instigated by the Maintaining Social Fabric of our Community group and supported by the Towns & Villages group the grant supported eight centres with £62,000 of delivered schemes.

We have supported five organisations with capital grants totalling £25,000.

Moving into 24/25 will see the last year of AAPs. Following the independent review and despite the many highlighted strengths within the AAPs and strong responses from partners and stakeholders about the positive makeup and structure, the AAPs as we know them will be transitioned into a Community Network though the boundaries are unlikely to remain the same.

I know I have mentioned them earlier, but I want to thank the AAP team for all their continued hard work, commitment and passion throughout the last year, their dedication and hard work on behalf of our communities make a real difference in ensuring our community can meet, discuss, and take action on a range of issues that matter to them.

I would also like to thank every member of the AAP Board and its thematic groups. Each person who has attended and offered up their time has helped to ensure the AAP has fulfilled its aims and upheld the support and development of the communities of East Durham.

# Our People

Anyone who lives, works, studies or volunteers in the area can get involved with the Area Action Partnership. We currently have 900 people who are part of our wider Forum who receive regular updates and who 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 board members were:

Cllr Angela Surtees  
Cllr Leanne Kennedy  
Cllr Kevin Shaw  
Cllr Julie Griffiths  
Cllr Terry Duffy  
Cllr Ivan Cochrane  
Cllr Jake Miller  
Par Cllr Isabella Roberts  
Par Cllr Omid Deinali  
Rona Hardy (public representative)  
Andrew Cammiss (public representative)  
David Blackwell (public representative)  
Jim Shand (public representative)  
Alison Paterson (public representative)  
Danny Dickinson (public representative)  
Gill Rodgers (public representative)  
Annabelle Lumsden (public representative)  
Ian Porter  
Graham Easterlow  
Chris Williams  
Ian Hankin  
Daniel Blagdon  
Insp. Phil Carter  
Insp. Joanne Eales  
Joanne Angus  
Susan Robinson/Jim Murray  
Edna Connor (Co-optee)  
Amanda Moon (Co-optee)

The following County Councillors are attached to the East Durham AAP;

Angela Surtees, Leanne Kennedy, Julie Griffiths, Jake Miller, Stacey Deinali, Terry Duffy, Chris Hood, Rob Crute, Kevin Shaw, Rochelle Charlton-Lainé, John Purvis, David Boyes, Ian McLean, Robert Adcock-Forster, Karen Hawley, Diane Howarth, Louise Fenwick, Sue McDonnell, David McKenna, Karan Batey, Ivan Cochrane, Lucy Hovvells, Chris Varty, John Higgins, June Watson.

# 2023/24 Funding Allocation

<b>Area Budget</b>	£1,500.00, Durham Miners' Association Brass Band, Preparing for the National Finals	£1,500.00, Peterlee Town Council, Peterlee Unsung Heroes
£74,000.00, East Durham Trust, Household Finance Practitioner	£9,000.00, Edenhill People Centre, Edenhill People Centre	£15,903.00, DCC Neighbourhoods, Thornley Fencing Project
£68,432.00, NE First Credit Union, East Durham Area Business Development Officer	£8,000.00, Durham Constabulary, Community Fun Days	£7,679.00, Horden Parish Council, Heritage Cafe Flooring & Christmas Packs 2023
£5,000.00, Focus Easington (Charity), Ltd, Cover the floors @ The Welcome Centre	£6,000.00, East Durham Veterans Trust, East Durham Veterans Trust Counselling Programme	£2,049.00, Murton Welfare Association, Murton Christmas Panto
£5,000.00, Haswell Parish Council, Tommy Simpson Heritage Project	£1,800.00, The Church of Ascension PCC, New flooring	£1,543.00, DCC Neighbourhoods, Toft Crescent, Murton Boom Gate Installation
£5,000.00, Shotton Partnership 2000, Shotton Youth Hub Connected	£5,410.00, DCC Neighbourhoods, Watson Close Wheatley Hill fencing	£4,835.00, SEAHAM UNIT 299 of the Sea Cadet Corps, Seaham Sea Cadets onwards and upwards!
£5,000.00, The Hazelwell Centre, Roof Repair	£8,561.00, DCC Regeneration, Economy and Growth, C135 Wellfield Road, Wingate	£11,000.00, Wheatley Hill Banner appeal, Wheatley Hill Banner
£5,000.00, Wingate Parish Council, Making Wingate Welfare Park accessible and a better place for all	£4,500.00, DCC Regeneration, Economy and Growth, Living Memory and Garden City Futures	£2,970.00, Seaham Town Council, Memorial Seats Town Park
£7,200.00, Argus CiC, Community Learning - Bright Futures	£4,200.00, Wingate Community Association, Utility bills	£1,665.00, The Walk & Talk Trust, Shotton, Haswell and South Hetton Heritage 100 Walk and Story
£7,000.00, East Durham Veterans Trust, Talking Therapies Project	£3,000.00, Haswell Parish Council, Haswell Carnival	£1,500.00, Phoenix Productions, Microphones
<b>Neighbourhood Budget</b>	£10,000.00, DCC CYPS Wheatley Hill Community Primary School. Wheatley Hill Community Primary School Car Park	£2,500.00, Peterlee Cricket Club CIC, Peterlee Cricket Club outfield mower
£2,050.00, Groundwork North East, Seaham memorial bench	£11,344.00, Focus Easington (Charity) Limited, The Welcome Centre	£36,483.87, Eden Learning Trust Seaham High School, Seaham Artificial Grass Pitch
£2,318.00, AIMS (Active Inclusive Motivational Steps), AIMS Active Inclusive Motivational Steps	£20,000.00, Seaham Red Star Football Club, Seaham Town Park Dressing Rooms	£28,578.00, DCC Neighbourhoods, Manor Way Traffic Calming
£3,128.00, Horden Cricket Club, Horden Cricket Club facility improvement	£22,704.35, The Hazelwell Centre, The Hazelwell Centre Re-Development	£2,500.00, CALM in East Durham CIC, CALM kids phase 2
£2,000.00, South Hetton Parish Council, Ravensworth Court improvements	£1,150.00, DCC Neighbourhoods, Provision of 3no. salt bins in Haswell	£1,500.00, DCC Neighbourhoods, Balliol Close, Peterlee Tarmacking
£3,037.20, Parkside and District Community Association Boiler Replacement Phase 2	£1,700.00, Tudhoe Learning Trust (South Hetton Primary), CCTV	£1,000.00, CALM in East Durham, CALM Garden Project
£1,300.00, Wingate Parish Council, Covid Remembrance Plaque	£6,992.50, Groundwork North East & Cumbria, Seaham Youth Project	£2,000.00, Seaham Town Council, Armed Forces Day and Youth Event
£2,200.00, Durham Pride UK, Durham Pride UK	£4,000.00, Station Road Allotments, Station Road Allotment	£10,000.00, Easington Colliery Parish Council, Easington Colliery Play Park Improvements
£24,273.00, DCC Neighbourhoods, Christchurch Place, Peterlee - creation of hard-standing parking area	£1,000.00, Vane Tempest Theatre Group, Vane Tempest Theatre Group	£1,500.00, In Your Face Theatre, Seaham Room Dividers
£1,800.00, Haswell Parish Council, Haswell Pit Project	£200.00, Artichoke Trust, Lumiere Recycling Project	£1,800.00, Investing in Children CIC, Entry to Care and Care Leaver Packs
£5,000.00, Eden hill People Centre, Eden Hill People Centre Kitchen Project	£1,000.00, Easington Parochial Church Council, St Marys Church Hall Friday Afternoon at the Movies	
£2,500.00, Murton Parish Council, Ray Lonsdale Sculpture	£1,000.00, Eden Hill People Centre, Eden Hill Pensions Christmas Hamper	
£5,005.00, Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust, Let's Connect	£13,323.00, DCC Neighbourhoods, Morton Square, Peterlee - Parking Provision	
£10,333.00, DCC CYPS Howletch Lane Primary School, Howletch Lane Outdoor Gym	£3,500.00, Peterlee Town Council, Peterlee Toy Appeal (aka Santa's Wish)	
£5,000.00, Durham Constabulary, Community Garden		

# 2023/24 Funding Allocation

<b>Neighbourhood Budget Small Grant Fund</b>		
£720.00	South Hetton Parish Council, Heritage walks	
£200.00,	1st Horden Brownies, 1st Horden Guides	
£835.86,	Peterlee & Horden Rugby Club, Club T-shirts for Junior Players	
£999.00,	Creative Youth Opportunities, Creative Youth Opportunities	
£736.00,	Dalton le Dale Parish Council, Dalton le Dale Parish Hall	
£412.00,	Dawdon 2nd Seaham Scout Group, Scouting Activities & Equipment	
£999.00,	Horden Homing Society, New Baskets - pigeon transport	
£999.00,	Horden East End Homing Society, New Baskets - pigeon transport	
£400.00,	Hutton Henry and Station Town Parish Council, Family Fun Day	
£500.00,	Monk Hesleden Parish Council, Hesleden Litter Bin	
£999.00,	Seaham Park Cricket Club, Junior Equipment and Netting	
£758.99,	Wingate Community Association, IT equipment	
£200.00,	Hutton Henry Parish Council, The Kings Coronation Celebrations	
£239.00,	Dalton le Dale Parish Council, Dalton le Dale Parish Hall	
£500.00,	Shotton Community Garden, Engaging with School Children	
£500.00,	South Hetton Parish Council, South Hetton Band & Banner Association	
£350.00,	Murton Welfare Association, King's Coronation	
£200.00,	Easington Village in Bloom, Easington Village in Bloom	
£999.00,	Easington Regeneration Partnership, Garden Party Fete (Kings)	
£999.00,	Horden Banner Group, Horden Banner / Durham Miners Gala march	
£999.00,	Blackhall Banner Group, Blackhall Banner - Transport to DMG	
£999.00,	DCC Peterlee Library, Peterlee Library Fun Project	
£999.00,	Wheatley Hill Heritage Society, The Man They Named a Town After	
£800.00,	Durham City Youth Project, Bus Graphics	
£475.00,	Little Treasures Autism Charity, Room Hire	
£329.00,	Ribbon Academy Trust, Mind the Child on Barnes Road	
£999.00,	Shotton Primary School, Enrichment Activities	
£500.00,	Shotton Residents Association, Shotton Christmas 2023	
£500.00,	South Hetton & District CA, Christmas 2023	
£580.00,	The Hazelwell Centre, Summer Activities Visits	
£258.00,	DCC - Clean & Green, Edith Street Fence repair	
£945.00,	Easington Colliery Regeneration Partnership, Bus Trips	
£400.00,	Durham Constabulary, Community Golf Day - Fundraiser for Defib	
£560.00,	Monk Hesleden Parish Council, Remembrance Sunday	
£885.00,	Dawdon Welfare Park Bowls Club, Bowling Green Fees	
£50.00,	Durham Remembrance, Durham Remembrance Day Parade	
£400.00,	Horden Residents Association, Lumiere 2023	
£410.00,	DCC – Highways, TA1620 Fairbairn Road	
£720.00,	Hutton Henry & District Community Association, Hutton Henry Carpet Bowls Club	
£999.00,	Thornley FC, Winter Training Kit	
£200.00,	Wingate Community Association, Christmas Party	
£766.00,	Blackhall with Hesleden, Castle Eden PCC, Tea n Chat	
£150.00,	DCC - Wingate Library, Rhyme Time for Under 5s	
£128.00,	Focus Easington (Charity) Limited, Heaters	
£150.00,	Wingate Constitutional Club, Children's & Aged Persons Christmas Parties	
£800.00,	Eden Hill People Centre, Horden Christmas Emergency Food Packs	
£455.00,	Hesleden Residents Association, Together at Christmas	
£300.00,	Blackhall Navy Club, Get Carter Fishing Event	
£800.00,	Dalton le Dale Parish Council, Wreath Making in the Dale	
£600.00,	Seaham Harbour Cricket Club, Pitch Preparation	
£200.00,	The Church of the Ascension Hall, Christmas Lunch	
£200.00,	Creative Youth Opportunities, A Gift of Thanks	
£200.00,	Easington Colliery Band, Carol Playing Around the Paynote Café	
£250.00,	Melrose Learning Trust, Easington CofE Primary JRSO's	
£570.00,	North East Learning Trust, Duke of Edinburgh Award	
£980.00,	Murton Welfare Association, Mining / Heritage event	
£600.00,	Horden Centennial Centre, Horden Centennial Centre 10th Birthday Celebration	
<b>Members Towns and Villages Fund</b>		
£20,000.00,	Murton Parish Council, Ray Lonsdale Sculpture	
£20,000.00,	Focus Easington (Charity) Ltd, The Welcome Centre	
£2,000.00,	Wheatley Hill Community Primary School, Wheatley Hill Community Primary School Car Park	
£4,500.00,	Cotsford Primary School, Enjoying the Great Outdoors	
£4,228.00,	Durham County Council, Morton Square Peterlee Parking Provision	
£10,000.00,	Durham County Council, Wingate Chapel Street Improvements	
£4,966.00,	Believe Housing, Westlea Planters	
£9,574.54,	Durham County Council, Horden Corner Station Rd/ Sunderland Rd	
£8,837.34,	Eden Learning Trust Seaham High School, Seaham Artificial Grass Pitch	

# 2023/24 Funding Allocation

<b>Holiday Activities with Healthy Food Schemes</b>
£10,641.00, Action for Station Town
£860.00, AIMS Peterlee
£21,323.15, Creative Youth Opportunities
£26,432.00, Dawdon Youth and Community Centre
£1,920.00, Durham City Youth
£18,247.00, Easington Colliery Regeneration Partnership
£30,223.75, East Durham College
£761.00, Eastlea Community Centre
£1,360.00, Eden Hill People Centre
£7,792.50, Harbour
£13,532.92, Haswell Mencap
£523.81, Heart on the Terrace
£947.00, Horden Centennial Centre
£1,818.00, Horden Together
£3,674.00, Little House of Hope
£1,003.00, Little Stars
£625.00, Little Treasures
£1,268.00, NHS Youth Practitioners
£2,504.00, OASES
£2,734.00, Parkside Community Centre
£8,628.32, Peterlee Town Council
£23,696.50, Shotton Partnership 2000
£13,988.00, Stars CIC
£1,730.00, The Barn (Easington)
£5,632.00, The Hazelwell Centre
£3,534.00, The Ribbon Academy
£4,420.00, The Robin Todd Centre
£3,018.00, Thornley Parish Council
£1,651.00, Thornley Village Centre
£11,728.86, WHCA (Greenhills Centre)
£6,693.60, Wingate CA
£4,310.00, Wingate Parish Council

Information on what projects individual Councillors have supported can be found on the Durham County Council website on the relevant councillor's page via the link below. For further information or if you are interested in applying for about a County Councillor's Neighbourhood Budget please contact the AAP office whose details are on the last page.

[www.durham.gov.uk/councillors](http://www.durham.gov.uk/councillors)

## East Durham Area Action Partnership

Established in 2009 East Durham AAP (EDAAP) brings together local people and partners to take action on local issues. Areas covered within the AAP boundary include the towns of Peterlee & Seaham and the outlying villages.

The AAP serves a population of over 90,000 people and is the only AAP that has the whole coastline of County Durham from Crimdon to Seaham.

The area's once proud mining heritage is remembered in many memorials and pieces of art in every community and that mining heritage is demonstrated in the strong community spirit especially in the pit villages.



Coastal grassland at Easington

# The Difference We Have Made



## Seaham Youth Work Sessions

Funded by Neighbourhood Budget, Groundwork NE have been carrying out delivery to young people aged 11-16 at Seaham Youth centre.

The young people have the choice to carry out a wide range of sporting activities and team-bonding interactive exercises such as table tennis and pool. Groundwork NE have also been implementing some health and well-being advice, C-card delivery, sexual health advice and healthy relationship activities. Each week over 25 young people attend the session and each week they continue to come back. The young people also the opportunity to cook and prepare a wide range of meals for themselves and their peers, which are always nutritious.

Since January, the group have been implementing some healthy relationship activities and questioning throughout the Seaham Wednesday night youth session. All the sessions consisted of young people aged between 11-16.



## Holiday Activities with Food

Over the course of the 2023/24 period East Durham AAP administered £237,220 of funding via the Children and Young Peoples Group.

Over the period 28 unique groups and organisations were supported with over 83 individual funding applications over all holiday periods.

Over this period Children and Young People were supported by the funding from the Department for Education and Durham County Council's Poverty Action Steering Group. A range of activities and events took place right across East Durham providing Children and Young People with creative and interactive experiences to develop confidence, self-esteem and develop a healthy lifestyle.



## ED Project 50

East Durham college secured Area Budget to deliver an 18-month physical activity project aiming at the over 50's living all over the East Durham area. The college host several tailored sessions at their Peterlee site in circuit training and gym sessions specifically designed to cater for the needs of the over 50's whilst tackling social isolation issues. They also deliver out in the community and have taken the sessions to community centres in Blackhall, Wingate and South Hetton to name a few.



# The Difference We Have Made



## Shotton Youth HUB

In 2022/23 East Durham AAP supported Shotton Partnership 2000 with funding towards a feasibility study for a dedicated Youth Facility in Shotton for young people aged 11+.

In 2023/24 funding of £1.232 million was secured by both the Partnership and Shotton Parish Council to build and staff a new dedicated Youth HUB. Funding was secured from the Youth Investment Fund through DCMS and building work is almost complete with a planned opening late May 2024. Additional funding of £150k from Durham County Council's Community Resilience Fund has also enabled the expansion and redevelopment of the car park at Shotton Community Park which is currently being built and will provide 50 additional car parking spaces and enable safe drop off for children at Shotton Primary School creating a safe route to school and easing major traffic congestion on the surrounding streets.



## The Welcome Centre, Easington Colliery

Focus Easington (Charity) Ltd are a new community benefits society working in Easington Colliery.

Focus Easington have taken on the lease of the former Methodist Church and carried out extensive refurbishment to create a new community venue. The Welcome Centre opened in May 2024 and will be providing community facility to address the impact of poverty and isolation in Easington Colliery, along with a range of support services and other activities or people to access.

The refurbishment has been carried out with funding from Neighbourhood Budget, East Durham AAP Green Grant, Members' Towns and Villages NB. Other funding has also been secured by Focus Easington towards the refurbishment from a range of funders including: Believe Housing; County Durham Community Foundation; Benefact Trust/Plunkett; Methodist Circuit; Orphans Trust; and RE:GEN.



## Business Development Officer

NE First Credit Union received Area Budget funding from East Durham and East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnerships to recruit a full time Business Development Officer for a period of two years.

In providing pathways to financial resilience and wellbeing, NE First Credit Union aim to help improve the health of the diverse communities and regional organisations they serve.

Bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience in Stakeholder, Partnership and Project Management, the Business Development Officer will work to improve financial resilience in the area.

## Contact Details

East Durham AAP  
Spectrum 8  
Spectrum Business Park  
Seaham  
Co. Durham  
SR7 7TT

Tel: 03000 262054  
Email: [eastdurhamaap@durham.gov.uk](mailto:eastdurhamaap@durham.gov.uk)  
[www.durham.gov.uk/eastdurhamaap](http://www.durham.gov.uk/eastdurhamaap)

