



Minutes of the Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership Board Meeting

Thursday 20 October 2022

Civic Hall, Shildon

Present

Partner Representative

Andy Palmer (AP) – Durham County Council
Rachel Edmunds (RE) – Believe Housing
Insp Andrew Reeves (AR) - Durham Constabulary

Public Representative

Peter Quinn (PQ)
Tony Bird (TB) - Chair
Kirstie Hutchinson (KH)

Elected Members

Cllr Shirley Quinn (SQ) – Elected Member – Vice Chair
Cllr Andrew Jackson (AJ) – Elected Member
Cllr Samantha Townsend (ST) – Elected Member
Cllr Charlie Kay (CK) – Elected Member
Cllr Joanne Howey (JH) – Elected Member

Presenters

Chris Barlow (CB) - ERS Consultants Ltd
Yusuf Meah (YM) – Public Health Advanced Practitioner – DCC Adult and Health Services
Zoe Foster (ZM) - Public Health Practitioner - DCC Adult and Health Services

Officers

Andrew Walker (APW) - AAP Co-ordinator
Sheilah Metcalfe (SM) - AAP Community Development Project Officer
William Lightburn (WB) - AAP Community Development Project Officer
Peter Henderson (PH) - CDPO Towns and Villages Team - Durham County Council
Emma Walton (EW) - AAP Support Officer

Apologies

Tommy Taylor (TT)

Deborah Richardson (DR) - Community and Voluntary Sector Representative
Steven Robson (SR)
Bernadette Crooks (BC)
Philippa May (PM)
Cllr Cathy Hunt (CH) – Elected Member
Cllr David Bell (DB) – Town and Parish Rep

Public / Other Attendees – 5

A1. Introduction and apologies

Introductions and apologies were made.

Please see page 1 & 2 for attendees and apologies.

APW welcomed Board and Forum members to the meeting and introduced the following:

- Chris Barlow (CB) - ERS Consultants Ltd
- Yusuf Meah (YM) – Public Health Advanced Practitioner – DCC Adult and Health Services
- Zoe Foster (ZM) - Public Health Practitioner - DCC Adult and Health Services
- Insp Andrew Reeves - Durham Constabulary – The Board welcomed AR back to the Board and thanked Acting Insp Peter Lonsdale for supporting the Board in AR absence.

A2. Agreement of minutes and matters arising from previous meeting held 14 July 2022

The Board agreed the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

A3. Declaring an Interest

Councillor Samantha Townsend, Councillor Shirley Quinn and Peter Quinn declared an interest in the Shildon Town Council - Replacement Litter Picking Equipment & Event Recycling project.

A4. Local Neighbourhood Issues

➤ Mental Health and Wellbeing

Board members received a presentation from Yusuf Meah – Public Health Advanced Practitioner and Zoe Foster - Public Health Practitioner - DCC Adult and Health Services on Mental Health and Wellbeing.

YM gave an overview of the 'Now You're Talking Campaign Offer' and the next steps.

YM highlighted the challenges identified in the BASH AAP area. These include:

- Poverty
- Anxiety and Depression
- Social Isolation particularly in the elderly population
- Adverse childhood experiences
- Suicide

ZF highlighted the mental health and emotional support available for Adults in County Durham in the BASH AAP area.

The Board made the following comments:

The Board discussed the rise in mental health issues during the pandemic.

AR highlighted the drain on resources mental health related issues have on the Police service.

The Board made the following suggestions:

- Wellbeing for Life training sessions for members of the public
- To receiving support, advice and guidance via text message
- Linking with the Quinns Retreat campaign and the Wellbeing for Life service
- A community café
- The work carried out at Dene Valley Men's Cree was highlighted by TB.
- A memorable number to contact as an alternative to contacting the emergency services.

APW offered the support of BASH AAP in promoting information locally. In addition, SQ offered the support of local elected members.

SQ commended the work of the AAP in promoting positive mental health.

A copy of the presentation is available by contacting a member of the BASH AAP Team on bishopshildonaap@durham.gov.uk or 03000 268663.

TB thanked YM and ZF for the presentation.

➤ **Community Engagement Review**

Board members received a presentation from Chris Barlow (CB), ERS Consultants Ltd on the Community Engagement Review.

CB gave an overview of the current review, its methodology, and the key stakeholders that will be involved. The review will work within the existing AAP structures to gain individuals views on community engagement and the AAP structure in supporting community engagement.

The review will take place between June – December 2022.

CB highlighted that a survey has been circulated to key stakeholders to seek the views on community engagement within AAP's. Board and forum members

were encouraged to submit their views through the survey. To date there has been 260 individual responses to the survey. Any further comments be submitted by contacting CB.

The Board made the following comments:

SQ highlighted the positive work of the AAP's and stressed their importance. SQ stated that she attends a number of conferences and AAPs are mentioned favourably. AAPs are able to evolve and adapt to the local needs of the community to provide vital advice, support and guidance this included emergency responses to COVID and Storm Arwen etc. SQ stated that she felt that the boundary for this AAP is correct.

JH commented positively on the support she has received from the BASH AAP team as a newly elected member.

PQ highlighted the importance of the AAP's and the funding available. BASH AAP has supported a diverse range of projects across the area to support local people and their communities.

AJ commended BASH AAP on their professionalism for non-political and joint cross-party working. He suggested this be replicated in other AAPs. This was echoed by JH.

AJ commented positively on the match funding investment in the BASH AAP.

CK stated that many organisations, groups, and local individuals aren't aware that they receive support / benefit from the work of the AAP's. APW stated that this is an ongoing issue within AAP's. However, highlighted that the organisations and groups that receive funding from the AAP help them to deliver and support individuals in their community.

RE highlighted that the projects supported through the AAP's also create social value.

APW thanked the Board for their positive responses and their input which is integral to the smooth running of the AAP. In addition, APW thanked the BASH AAP team for their ongoing work.

APW encouraged Board members to speak to CB and input into the review.

A copy of the presentation is available by contacting a member of the BASH AAP Team on bishopshildonaap@durham.gov.uk or 03000 268663.

TB thanked CB for the presentation.

A5. Priorities and Action Plans

➤ Area Budget - Community / COVID 19 Recovery

APW reported that as a result of the brief being agreed by the Board the call for projects was launched on Monday 25 July 2022 and projects were invited to submit their applications. The closing date for applications was 12pm Monday 12 September 2022. Following a call for projects 11 applications were received. Each application received, with the support of the AAP team, was assessed and considered by the funding panel. APW reported that the AAP team will continue to work with several applicants to assist them in developing their applications. These projects will be revisited at the next funding panel meeting on Thursday 3 November 2022, 1.30pm. The panel will make recommendations on which projects to support, and these will then be presented at the November Board meeting. Once the Board have approved the project applications, they will then be submitted to the DCC Funding Team for a full technical appraisal.

APW reported that applications have been submitted from a wide range of organisations.

APW thanked those Board members involved in the funding panel.

➤ **Holiday Activities with Healthy Food**

APW reported that additional funding had been secured from Durham County Council to deliver holiday activities with healthy food over the October Half term. BASH AAP was allocated £9,133 with a minimum project value of £500. Following a call for projects 9 applications were received totalling approximately £22,000. Each application received, with the support of the AAP team, was assessed and considered by the funding panel. APW reported that as we were oversubscribed, we could consider potential cost saving in projects and the use of Neighbourhood Budget small grants.

APW thanked those Elected Members who offered to step in and support projects using their Neighbourhood Budget small grants.

The following projects were supported:

- AYCC – October Half term
- Wear Rivers Trust – Bishop Auckland and Holiday Provision – APW suggested inviting KW to a future Board meeting to provide an update on the project. This was welcomed by the Board.
- King James 1 Academy – Multi Sports Course with AJ Sports
- Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre - Halloween Antics
- Big Chef Little Chef - October Half Term Breakfast Club
- ATOMS Education CIC - Half Term Spooktacular
- Spectrum Roller Skating club - Half Term Roller Bootcamps
- Shildon AFC CIC - Half Term Holiday Camp

APW stated a wide geographical spread of projects, covering all 5 wards, have been supported.

The next round of funding was available for activities for children, young people and families to deliver enriching holiday activities including healthy food during the Christmas Holidays. Applicants could apply for amounts over £500. The deadline for applications has now closed. Each application will be assessed and

considered by the funding panel who will meet on Thursday 3 November 2022, 1.30pm. An update will be provided at a future Board meeting.

APW suggested showing a video presentation of the Fun and Food projects supported Countywide throughout the Summer Holidays at a future Board meeting. This was welcomed by the Board.

➤ **Town and Village Revitalisation**

APW reminded the Board that BASH AAP has an additional £210,000 funding to address the priority of Towns and Villages over 3 years. To date the BASH Board have approved the following:

- Henknowle Community Improvement Scheme (£75,000) - Durham County Council – PH reported that this project will be launched on the 31st October 2022.
- Move @ King James Academy (£13,575) - King James 1 Academy

The task group continues to meet and have 5 projects in development which are all at various stages. The projects are geographically spread across the whole of the BASH AAP area.

APW gave a brief overview of the following project proposals:

- Oakley Cross MUGA – Application will be presented to the funding panel.
- ASB in Eldon and Dene Valley - Application will be presented to the funding panel.
- Wi-Fi in Shildon - Application is in development and awaiting final costs.
- Car Park in Escomb - Application is in development and awaiting final costs.
- Bishop Auckland Rec - Application is in development and awaiting final costs.

Once developed, applications will be submitted to the funding panel, for consideration and will then be presented to the Board for approval. APW highlighted once costs have been finalised, the T and V funding will be fully allocated.

In addition, the AAP team continue to work with Elected Members to support their budget allocation of £10,000 each.

APW thanked Cllr Joanne Howey for chairing the meetings and thanked task group members and the BASH AAP for the work taking place.

JH thanked the BASH AAP team for their support.

➤ **Neighbourhood Budget**

The Board received the following Neighbourhood Budget applications for information, comment and approval. Each project is subject to a full application and satisfactory project appraisal.

- **Shildon Town Council - Replacement Litter Picking Equipment & Event Recycling**

NB Contribution – £1,283 (£642 Cllr Samantha Townsend and £641 Cllr Matt Johnson)

Match Funding - £0

Total Cost - £1,283

Cllr Samantha Townsend and Cllr Matt Johnson both have a declaration of interest in this project.

KH commented positively on environmental benefits of the project.

AJ asked how many items of equipment will be purchased?

ACTION – WL to confirm what equipment will be purchased.

The Board were supportive of the project.

There were no further comments from The Board.

The Board received the application and **APPROVED** a recommendation of approval of £1,283.

- **South Durham Enterprise Agency - St Helens Christmas Tree & Escomb Lights**

NB Contribution – £2,500 (Cllr Rob Yorke)

Match Funding - £100

Total Cost - £2,600

Cllr Rob Yorke has a declaration of interest in this project.

There were no comments from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

The Board received the application and **APPROVED** a recommendation of approval of £2,500.

- **The Angel Trust – Community Cookery School**

NB Contribution – £13,446 (Cllr Andrew Jackson £6,446; Cllr Sam Zair £4,000; Cllr Joanne Howey £1,500; Cllr Cathy Hunt £1,500)

Match Funding - £20,000

Total Cost - £33,446

The Board suggested linking in with Wellbeing for Life, Big Chef and Little Chef and local foodbanks.

AJ commented positively on the project and recommend the Trust signpost and link with local services.

RE stated it would be useful to map provision.

TB suggested using the community bus service to transport individuals to sessions.

ACTION – BASH Team to feedback the comments from the Board meeting to the applicant via the appraisal process.

There were no further comments from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

- **Little Chefs Big Chefs CIC – LCBC Community Action Project**

NB Contribution – £2,969 (Cllr George Smith)

Match Funding - £0

Total Cost - £2,969

There were no comments from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

- **ParkPlay Limited – ParkPlay**

NB Contribution – £5,000 (Cllr Matt Johnson £1,700; Cllr Samantha Townsend £1,700; Cllr Shirley Quinn £1,600)

Match Funding - £0

Total Cost - £5,000

There were no comments from the Board.

The Board were supportive of the project.

A6. Coordinators Update

➤ **F & P Scotto Charitable Trust**

APW provided a brief overview of the work that has taken place with the F & P Charitable Scotto Trust. Several applications have been submitted to the Trust and we are currently awaiting the outcome. The Board will be updated in due course.

➤ **Review of Community Engagement**

APW encouraged Board and Forum members to submit their response to the review via CB.

➤ **AAP Board Members**

APW confirmed that Deborah Richardson has been appointed as the Community and Voluntary Sector Representative.

In addition, APW informed the Board that, public representative, Phillipa May has resigned from the BASH Board. Recruitment for a public representative will take place in the coming weeks. APW reported that Phillipa is happy to stay on the Board until recruitment is complete.

APW thanked Phillipa May for her time and dedication to the BASH Board. This was echoed by the Board who thanked and wished Phillipa well.

➤ **Durham County Council Budget Consultation**

Board Members were informed that a presentation on 2023/24 Budget Consultation is scheduled for the next Board meeting. Board members were encouraged to attend.

A7. Countywide Partner Issues

➤ **Police / PACT Update**

Insp Andy Reeves gave an update on the main priority issues for the BASH area:

- Meetings continue to take place with Councillors.
- A recruitment process for PSCO's is live. **ACTION** – BASH AAP to promote the advert through their networks.
- PACT meetings continue to take place.
- The Police website will be updated shortly.
- Off road motorbikes is an issue at Cockton Hill and Etherley Lane. Operation Endurance will take place over the weekend. Additional funding has been secured to run this operation. AJ suggested using drones to detect criminals. AR highlighted that funding opportunities to purchase drones are being explored.
- Business watch continues to take place at Tindale Retail Park and Industrial areas.
- A 'walk about' took place last week with the local MP at Eldon.
- Brief work has taken place with elected members with the issues at Newton Cap Viaduct.
- There has been a rise in thefts and vehicle crimes at West Auckland and St Helens. Work is taking with businesses to promote local food banks etc
- ASB has reduced by 23% in Bishop Auckland.
- ASB has reduced by 24% in Shildon. The PACT priority remains as ASB.

- The war memorial has been damaged at Shildon. The individual has been identified.
- Several drug warrants have taken place in the BASH AAP area.

➤ **Dene Valley Community Partnership**

TB reported that Dene Valley Community Partnership are looking to recruit a Operations Manager.

ACTION – BASH AAP team to promote the vacancy through their networks.

A8. Date / Time / Venue for next Board Meeting

TB thanked Board and Forum members for attending the meeting.

Board - **Thursday 17 November 2022, 4pm, Civic Hall, Shildon**