



STANLEY AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP (AAP)

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

Held on Tuesday 20th December 2022 at 5.00pm via 'Teams'

Councillor

Cllr Joan Nicholson
Cllr Gordon Binney
Cllr Carole Hampson

Partner Organisations

Suzanne Jobson (Karbon Homes)
Jonathan Smith (Fire Service)

Public Representatives

Linda Tyman
Helen McCaughey
John Ullathorne

Officer Attendance

Daniel O'Brien (AAP Coordinator)
Andrea Boyd (AAP Community Development Project Officer)
Lesley Lines (AAP Support Officer)

Apologies

Cllr Jeanette Stephenson (Stanley Town Council), Barbara Edmundson (Integrated Care Board, NHS), Cllr Christine Bell, Cllr Angela Hanson, Cllr Carl Marshall, N Insp Dave Stewart (Durham Constabulary), Max Wright (Business Representative), Vicky Walton (Public Representative), Martyn Stenton (Durham County Council), Helen Richardson (Stanley Town Council) Co-optee, Nerise Oldfield-Thompson (Voluntary & Community Sector) Olga Milburn (Public Representative).

Public Attendance:

Two members of the Forum/Public attended the meeting.

Introduction:

Suzanne Jobson, Vice Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies are noted above.

Declaration of Interest:

Item 6 - Karbon Homes – Silver Talk Project – Suzanne Jobson declared an interest.

Agreement of the Minutes – 1st November 2022 and matters arising not covered on this agenda:

The Minutes of 1st November were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

Neighbourhood Issues and Locality Policing Issues:

Daniel asked if Board Members had any issues they would like to highlight at the meeting. There were no issues.

AAP Coordinator Update:

Daniel updated on the projects that the task groups had been working on.

Stanley Assistance Scheme – This project is now signed off. The project will be delivered by Stanley Town Council. With six main delivers coming together – PACT House, Annfield Plain Community Centre, South Stanley Partnership (St Stephen's), Tanfield Lea & District Community Centre, Craghead Village Hall, and Quaking Houses Village Hall, all will meet in the New Year to utilise this funding for the benefit of the area.

Warm Spaces – A range of venues are now open Monday to Saturday offering a warm space for residents struggling to heat their homes.

Fun & Food – February Half Term 2023 – The application window is now live – closing date 11th January. All groups have already been contacted to apply for this funding. Daniel to send out another reminder.

Town & Village Task Group – Once again the Leveling Up Bid has been delayed. The Group will meet in the New Year to discuss the outcome of the Levelling Up Bid and potential projects.

2nd Community Recovery Area Budget 2022/23 Applications for approval:

Daniel highlighted that the following applications had been brought to the Board for approval after being appraised by the panel. He noted that the Board was not quorate and asked for approval in principle. This will be followed up with an email.

Annfield Plain Cricket Club – Refurbishment Project – Annfield Plain Cricket Club would like to carry out some essential works to the Clubhouse to ensure the future sustainability of the Club and many Cricket Teams. The works will include a full new boiler, central heating, and hot water system. The current system is out of date and not fit purpose. Currently they have three Senior teams and four Junior Teams that compete during the Summer Months in the Northumberland and Tyneside Cricket League. All players, their families, and supporters use the Clubhouse to watch matches, hold fundraising events, Presentation Nights, and to socialise. The Clubhouse is also used for Community Activities, as a Polling Station, by the NHS for Mental Health Lectures, local Businesses for work functions, and the wider community for Christenings, Wakes, and Marriage celebrations.

Installing a new full boiler, central heating, and hot water system will ensure that the Club can continue to function for

the local community and will sustain it for many years to come.

The Board Agreed to Support the Project in Principal

Just for Women – Healthy Relationships Project – Supporting families and young people working in schools. The project will be for 6 months. From Feb-July working with 3 local schools (Burnside, Tanfield Comprehensive, North Durham Academy) in a variety of ways: Burnside School Year 6 group and their families, (30 young people) holding workshops with them to discuss healthy relationships, including abuse.

Burnside School below Year 6 and their families (20 young people) holding workshops to discuss relationships, emotional resilience; managing anxieties etc. For Burnside School, we'll support young people and their families through group sessions, one to one sessions, and one to one sessions with parents. (186 hours in total across Burnside School, with 36 hours volunteer time)

Tanfield School and North Durham Academy (32 young people in total) holding workshops over a 4-week period, for 2 hrs per week for 4 people at a time. One group am, one group pm. These workshops will be to discuss healthy relationships and abuse etc and aim to be a preventative measure to educate the young people about abuse.

All the workshops will be interactive and will include using creative writing, arts and crafts to support covering the topics, as we know these topics are difficult and sensitive to discuss with young people. We will also require resources for the workshops. For Tanfield School and North Durham Academy we will also use one of our Counsellors as well as the Project Manager. For Burnside School we will be using the Project Co-ordinator and a trained volunteer to support the workshops.

Overall management of the project will be equivalent to 30 hours and administrative support of 50 hours for the project. There's also travel costs for all 4 elements of the project.

The Board Agreed to Support the Project in Principle

Karbon Homes – Silver Talk Project – Silver Talk provides a free-to-use telephone befriending service which alleviates loneliness in adults aged 50+ living. Operating in County Durham, Tyne & Wear and Northumberland's most isolated towns and villages, the service is home to a large-scale volunteer community who provide a weekly one-to-one phone-call to their allocated service user(s). As well as social chat, service-users are connected to local support services to increase their resilience and independence.

Each volunteer is given a phone loaded with our Volunteer Portal; the portal includes Silver Talk News, a chat-forum, and regular co-produced Silver Talk articles. The concept that volunteers are beneficiaries as well as service users, is very much at the heart of what Silver Talk is about, engaging volunteers in a purpose and community of its own.

Volunteers deliver the service supported by two salaried roles. We have secured additional internal funding for staffing to manage the project – pre-pandemic/ previous to last AAP bid – staffing costs were roughly £26k whereas they're now close to £63k for two full time members of staff. We have secured additional internal funding but still have a deficit of £10k to secure one of the posts for the next financial year.

Additionally, we are looking to expand our face to face offering and also secure Kitemark for our volunteering service. Service improvements we feel require additional resource to carry out. Our proposal for that is to link in with our employability team's New Start programme to employ a local person on a 12-month work placement.

Securing this funding will allow consolidation of the outcomes achieved during previous funding by protecting a post whilst also allowing growth in service through face to face

delivery, in turn creating an opportunity for a local resident through work placement.

The Board Agreed to Support the Project in Principle

Stanley Events – Employability Support Project – The project would be to create 2 part time mentor positions within the organisation. The mentors would support the local community's hardest to reach. Including: long term unemployed, inactive, socially isolated, disabled people, ex-offenders, homeless, low confidence/ low self-esteem, deprivation.

Having two dedicated people to support the community will enable real outcomes to be achieved. Attending courses is one thing but actually taking the time to listen to people is another. Time to listen and support allows people to feel confident in what you do and to understand the barriers that people face. This could be people living within a domestic abuse relationship, people living in poverty and many other members of the community where people are faced with barriers that prevent them from getting on in life.

Stanley Events support people by removing these barriers, supporting them into our community learning programme, providing voluntary opportunities, paid employment and helping them move into employment. We have vast experience and knowledge within Stanley Events to link people with the relevant agencies to help them. We will provide intense support to individuals who need it the most. Spending time 'hand holding' allows confidence to grow and trust to build. These very small steps have huge impacts of people's lives.

People who we have previously worked with have went on to gain full time employment because of the wider support, which isn't always quantifiable. We want to make a real difference and meet so many people that could achieve more if we had the resources and time to do this. Having two dedicated staff members would make this achievable. This work is not funded through our existing projects or contracts and without the funding support this work will not take place.

The Board posed several queries prior to approval.

The Activity Den – Covid Recovery Grant Project – This funding will enable us to carry out our Den Bounce Back project. We want to continue our current core delivery and add new strands incorporating our members' suggestions and solutions to aid our young people and their families through difficult times.

Our Sound Hub music project is a popular project offering low-cost tuition for young people aged 10+ to learn how to play the guitar and drums. Members have opportunities to perform at live events, they recently performed at the NE Youth's Projects with Pride awards and internal fundraisers for The Den. Parent and member feedback highlights the need for more project funding, to gain further momentum, providing more live performance opportunities. We want to organise shows at local community events.

This project will also cover provisions to introduce a new group 'Den Dance' which will provide a fun, energetic way for children and young people to participate in physical activities through a variety of traditional and contemporary dance styles such as street, hip hop, jazz, Latin and ballroom. Dance and music are renowned for improving mental health alongside physical health and providing a wealth of extra benefits such as lowering anxiety levels through boosting endorphins. This device-free time in sessions allows our members to immerse themselves in therapeutic activities.

This project includes funding for professional tutors to provide expert tuition for both Sound Hub and new Den Dance. We would also like a contribution to our core costs to enable us to continue our current groups for children and young people whilst supporting families through difficult times in expanding our group offering and accommodate sub reductions. This grant contribution will allow us to meet our current and new commitments and increased core

costs such as electricity and other costs needed to maintain our community building.

A discussion took place. It was highlighted that this was a good opportunity to add value to the project by showcasing the group at community events.

The Board Agreed to Support the Project in Principle

Think Positive (PACT House) – Community Wellbeing Project – The Community Wellbeing Project is a new project to help support the people of Stanley as they recover from the experiences of the pandemic and lockdown and face the new challenges of higher living costs and growing uncertainty regarding future aims. The project will care for the wellbeing of an individual's mental health, whilst empowering them to maximise their skills by adding to their personal toolkit of emotional resilience, mindfulness, mental wellbeing and reducing suicidal ideation. The approach will be through not only making them aware of resources and assets they currently have, but also what's available to them in the wider community and through this they will be able to stay well, connect to activities and resources that they consider meaningful and so improve their resilience to trauma and change, whilst planning for a future that will bring about mental stability. The Community Wellbeing project will achieve this through a range of services supporting and empowering individuals, from a dedicated Listening Ear service to Mindfulness and therapeutic photography, all linked to the existing range of services on offer from Think Positive PACT House and its link to PACT House, to provide a greater support network that will support more people and save more lives.

A discussion took place. It was highlighted that 13–16-year-old may need support as there are long waiting lists. It was further highlighted that Veterans also needed support.

The Board Agreed to Support the Project in Principle

Partner Work Update / Stanley specific items of interest:

Karbon Homes – Suzanne advised that this week all front-line services were available at the Front Street Hub. The Hub was a Warm Space on a Thursday where residents can get a hot drink and access to the foodbank. The Toy appeal is running until Thursday 22nd December, any gifts left will be donated to PACT House. Karbon will be closed over Christmas from 12.30 Friday 23rd December and reopen Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

Neighbourhood Budget Summaries:

Neighbourhood Budgets

Catchgate Primary School – Pantomime

The project will support the Primary School to arrange a trip to the theatre to watch a pantomime before Christmas. All children at the school will attend the trip. There is no cost to the trip for any pupils, so that it doesn't discriminate against those who can't afford to pay.

Project Cost: £2,941

Councillor Joan Nicholson Contribution: £1,470.50

Councillor Christine Bell Contribution: £1,470.50

Annfield Plain Football Club – Wrap Around Fencing

The project will allow the club to renew and update the perimeter fence, so that they can make sure that the club and all its assets are safe from trespassers, who have been vandalising the property, despite all their efforts including the use of CCTV. Without secure perimeter fencing it is easy access for vandals into the grounds.

Project Cost: £17,903.00

Councillor Joan Nicholson Contribution: £8,701.50

Councillor Christine Bell Contribution: £8,701.50

Small Grants:

Beamish Football Club - Beamish Boca Juniors

Project Brief: To Purchase Winter Clothing/Strips

Total Cost: £650.00

Councillor Carl Marshall Contribution: £250.00

Councillor Angela Hanson Contribution: £250.00

Tanfield Lea Community Primary School – Dialogic Reading

Project Brief: To help Purchase books to support the reading project.

Total Cost: £700.00

Councillor Gordon Binney Contribution: £250.00

Councillor Joyce Charlton Contribution: £250.00

Pre-Notified Any Other Business:

Daniel advised that he had met with Simon Green, who had worked with Stanley Town Council in 2016. Simon has a passion for Stanley and wants to do a follow up film about the lives of local residents. It was highlighted the film he produced in 2016 was superb. This time he wants to also work with the young people of Stanley and use community photography within the film.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday 7th February 2023 at 5pm Venue to be confirmed.

For further details about these minutes please contact Stanley AAP office,
Tel: 03000 265323 or Email: Stanleyaap@durham.gov.uk