

**East Durham Area Action Partnership AGM & Board Meeting Minutes  
6pm on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at The Greenhills Centre, Wheatley Hill**

**PRESENT:**

**Elected Members**

Cllr Angela Surtees (AS)  
Cllr Julie Griffiths (JG)  
Cllr Jake Miller (Cllr JM)  
Cllr Ivan Cochrane (IC)  
Par Cllr Omide Deinali (OD)

**Partner Organisations**

Graham Easterlow (GE)  
Insp Phil Carter (PC)  
Insp Adam Jassat (AJ)  
Kevin Bell (KB)  
Jim Murray (JMurray)

**Public Representatives**

Rona Hardy (RH)  
Andy Cammiss (AC)  
Danny Dickinson (DD)  
Gill Rodgers (GR)

**Co-opted Members**

Amanda Moon (AM)

**Officer Attendance:**

John Murphy (JMurphy) – AAP Coordinator  
Laura Towers (LT) – AAP Support Officer  
Kaye Stephenson (KS) – Community Development/Project Officer

**Presenters:**

Andy Cammiss (AC), East Durham Veterans Trust  
Dr Kelly Rose (KR), Public Health, Durham County Council

**Public Attendance:**

1 member of the public was in attendance

**Apologies:** Cllr Kevin Shaw, Alison Paterson, Edna Connor, Ian Porter, David Blackwell, Annabelle Lumsden

**Annual General Meeting**

**1. Introductions & Apologies**

JM welcomed everyone to the meeting and ran through housekeeping and health and safety.

Apologies were noted, as above.

## **2. AGM**

### **Notification of Chairs & Vice Chairs**

JMurphy notified the Board that on the rotation system, it is the turn of the Public Representative category to hold the Chair. This was offered to Rona Hardy for 2024/25. The Board agreed and RH accepted.

JMurphy notified the Board of the expressions of interest which had been put forward for Vice Chair:

Elected Members: Cllr Angela Surtees

Partner Representatives: Graham Easterlow

The Board approved the above as Vice Chairs.

RH welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Cllr Angela Surtees as the outgoing Chair.

### **Co-option**

The Board agreed that Amanda Moon's & Edna Connor's co-option to the Board should be continued for another year if they wish to accept. AM confirmed acceptance.

**ACTION: JMurphy to confirm with EC.**

### **Priorities & Budgets**

The Board agreed that the current priorities should roll on for another year.

The Board agreed to the following Priority Group Chairs:

#### **Maintaining the Social Fabric of our Communities (MSFOOC)**

Cllr Angela Surtees – Chair

#### **Children, Young People & Families (CYPF)**

Rona Hardy – Chair

#### **Neighbourhoods & Place (N&P)**

Graham Easterlow – Chair

The Vice Chairs will be agreed at the next priority group meetings.

### **Funding**

JMurphy outlined the budget for 2024/25:

- Area Budget £100K, split into £80,000 revenue and £30,000 capital
- Big Arts Funding - £10,000
- Neighbourhood Budget – 25 x £19,400 (£5,400 revenue and £14,000 capital)
- Holiday Activities with Healthy Food - £292,000

## **Board Meeting**

### **1. Previous Minutes & Matters Arising**

ACTION: LT to check and amend who opened meeting if required.

The minutes of the East Durham AAP Board Meeting on 13th March 2024 were otherwise approved by the Board as an accurate record of the meeting.

No matters arising.

### **2. Police Report & Fire Report**

#### **Insp Phil Carter – Peterlee**

PC introduced Insp Adam Jassat to the Board who will be covering Seaham & Easington.

There have been some issues in the south of the county. Operation Mayapple is ongoing at the current time.

One cannabis grow has been found worth around £1m. A man has been remanded into custody. Another was found at the industrial estate in Peterlee worth around £2-3m.

Two women were remanded into custody for preying on vulnerable people in Horden. They were released by the court.

Work continues on off-road bikes. Two bikes were removed from some of the main offenders around Shotton.

Ellison's Bank in Peterlee has been problematic. Environmental offences and property offences are being looked at.

Shoplifting is the highest offence currently.

There have been some car fires in Wingate. Active patrols are being carried out.

There is a new security firm in Peterlee bus station. Park, walk and talk will be carried out in some of the highest risk areas.

Three initiatives will be coming soon:

- An increase in neighbourhood policing to 100% by the end of the financial year.
- Right Care Right Person will be introduced in June to ensure that when there are concerns for a person's mental health, medical or social care issues, the right person with the right skills, training and experience will respond.
- Missing from home is changing slightly.

AJ added that Right Care Right Person is a national directive where routine welfare checks will be pushed back to other services where there is no risk to life.

AS asked whether other services are aware of this and whether community centres will be involved. How will this be transitioned to?

AJ advised that it is national agreement which will be managed in the control room. An assessment will be carried out, and if the police don't attend, the right agency will be sent. This will be rolled out locally. All agencies have agreement on this. When the risk isn't there, it ensures police can deliver their service.

GE noted the concerns but is confident that this will work. The Chief Constable has the portfolio for this and is very clear that neighbourhood policing is needed.

PC added that the team has been working with the NHS and other services for around 12 months to look at community and how it fits. Familiar Faces is being disbanded.

**ACTION: It was agreed that updates on Right Care Right Person should go to the Neighbourhoods & Place Priority Group via the Police.**

### **Insp Adam Jassat – Seaham & Easington**

AJ updated on the violent disorder in the area of Malvern Field. Five suspects have been arrested and two more people have been identified. Tensions are quite high.

There were some concerns over a repeat. Two cars were set on fire at Ryton Crescent on Monday. Enquiries are ongoing. Extra funding has been secured for patrols.

Five people have been charged for shoplifting in Easington. There has now been a drop in shoplifting.

The PCSOs have been out into schools.

The Green Seat in Easington was damaged. A male was responsible for this.

Memory Lane in Seaham has a temporary closure order following a violent incident which took place. There was a lack of compliance in reporting the incident to police.

AJ offered thanks for £5,000 of funding from the AAP for suicide prevention work.

Andy's Man Club is now taking place at The Glebe Centre in Murton. Fundraising was carried out by the beat team for this. JG reported that there were over 40 men in the first Andy's Man Club in Murton. Funds were also raised from the Zumba class for this.

### **Fire Report – Kevin Bell, County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service**

KB advised that he had taken over as District Manager for Seaham.

KB referred to the violent disorder in the Malvern Field area where the Fire Service had to withdraw, responding to risk of life only. On call firefighters were also brought on site.

There has been an increase in loose refuse fires in Seaham, Peterlee and Wheatley Hill over the last month. There is a push to reduce the amount of rubbish, including Blue Routes, where fire engines drive around to deter people, and also visual audits to identify high risk areas.

Crews are undertaking deliberate fire reduction activities to teach the younger generation on the dangers of setting fires.

There have been issues in some areas of Peterlee in relation to controlled fires. Fire crews will now attend.

AS asked whether the information gets reported to the Police when a fire is put out from a 999 call. KB advised that crews would be expected to inform the police where the fire was deemed deliberate.

RH thanked PC, AJ and KB for the reports.

### **3. Presentations**

#### **East Durham Veterans Trust – Andy Cammiss, CEO**

AC gave an overview of the work of East Durham Veterans Trust (EDVT).

EDVT was founded in 2020 during the pandemic and set up as mental health charity to support veterans and their families. There was no veteran provision in East Durham and no veteran-specific mental health service in County Durham. EDVT offers mental health services, talking therapies, peer support, a vast social inclusion programme and practical support through case workers.

EDVT's achievements include supporting over 750 service users since being formed, creating one of the best counselling services for veterans in the North East, winners of the 2022 BBC Radio Newcastle Community Group Award, members of Cobseo, currently going through the Accreditation for their services for the Armed Forces Community and creating a safe place for veterans and veterans families.

RH thanked AC for the presentation.

#### **County Durham 'Healthier by 2030' – Impacting Health in our Communities – Dr Kelly Rose, Public Health, DCC**

KR outlined the County Durham Healthy Weight Plan and Action Plan Proposals which have been developed following the Healthy Weight Review. There are five ambition action areas (Healthy Workforce, Healthy Families, Healthy at Place, Sustainable, Healthy Food for all, Healthy Patient Care) which have gone through the Healthy Weight Alliance.

Clear, consistent and focused messages across settings, communities, groups and programmes are vital.

Moving Together in County Durham is a whole systems approach to improving movement across the county. There has been a significant amount of work and collaboration over the past two years to engage and bring together partners from across the system at every level, and to understand the current picture in County Durham. Over 900 people and organisations have added their voice to shaping this strategy. There are four priority action areas (Inclusive Communities, Children & Young People, Active Environments & Health & Social Care Settings).

There will be partner launch events on 24<sup>th</sup> May and 20<sup>th</sup> September.

RH thanked KR for the presentation.

### **4. Neighbourhood Issues**

None noted.

### **5. Priority Group Updates**

### **Maintaining the Social Fabric of our Communities (MSFOOC) – Cllr Angela Surtees (Chair)**

The approved minutes from the MSFOOC meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> February were circulated to the Board with the meeting papers.

### **Big Arts Project Funding Applications**

#### **Funding Available - £10,000**

The following applications were received and went before a panel on 30<sup>th</sup> April. Both applications scored the same, so the panel therefore decided that the funding should be split equally between the two applications. The applications were circulated to the Board prior to the meeting.

#### **AC declared a conflict of interest with the Dawdon Youth & Community Centre – Create, Express and Thrive application.**

#### **Dawdon Youth & Community Centre – Create, Express and Thrive**

Big Arts funding requested - £5,000

The Board approved this application.

#### **The Barn at Easington – Sanctuary**

Big Arts funding requested - £5,000

The Board approved this application.

### **Neighbourhoods & Place (N&P) – Graham Easterlow (Chair)**

The approved minutes from the Neighbourhoods & Place meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> March were circulated to the Board prior to the meeting.

GE updated that a bid has gone into the Climate Action Fund. The green agenda is huge and East Durham needs to be ready.

### **Children, Young People & Families (CYPF) – Rona Hardy (Chair)**

RH noted that there has been no CYPF meeting since the last Board Meeting.

### **6. NBs for Endorsement of a Declared Interest & AB Position**

The NB spreadsheet and AB Position were circulated to the Board prior to the meeting.

JM highlighted the following NB projects with conflicts of interest. The Board approved these projects.

#### **Project Name: Pain Management Group**

**Councillors:** Batey, Kennedy, McKenna & Shaw

**Project Cost:** £2,456

**NB Amount:** £2,456

**Description:** Dawdon Youth and Community Centre are applying for funding for room hire for one year for the pain management support group to operate out of the centre.

**Conflict of interest noted for Cllrs Shaw & Kennedy. Cllr Shaw is a trustee of Dawdon YCC and Cllr Kennedy was chair. The Board approved this project.**

**Project Name: Miners Gala and Banners**

**Councillors:** Boyes & Surtees

**Project Cost:** £1,250

**NB Amount:** £1,250

**Description:** Easington Colliery Regeneration Committee are applying for funding for transport to the Miners Gala and for new banner poles.

**Conflict of interest noted for Cllrs Boyes & Surtees. Cllr Boyes is chair and Cllr Surtees is treasurer of the group. The Board approved this project.**

**Project Name: Defibrillator & Spare 10 for Ben Chair**

**Councillors:** Boyes & Surtees

**Project Cost:** £2,384

**NB Amount:** £2,384

**Description:** Focus Easington (Charity) Ltd are applying for funding to install a community access defibrillator onto the Welcome Centre and also to install a Spare 10 for Ben chair as part of an initiative to promote positive mental health

**Conflict of interest noted for Cllrs Surtees. Cllr Surtees is secretary of Focus Easington. The Board approved this project.**

**ACTION: The Board requested that all NB projects are circulated on the spreadsheet for information for future meetings.**

## **7. Any Other Business**

GE noted that the Household Support Fund was extended, but this will end in September. This is something to which could be considered via the priority groups.

RH thanked everyone for attending.

## **8. Date and time of next meeting**

**6pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June, 6pm at Eastlea Community Centre**