



## STANLEY AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP (AAP)

### BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 5.00pm

#### **Councillors:**

Cllr Carole Hampson  
Cllr Joan Nicholson  
Cllr Joyce Charlton

#### **Partner Organisations:**

Martyn Stenton (Durham County Council)  
Sgt Terry Archbold (Durham Constabulary)  
Suzanne Jobson (Karbon Homes) (Chair)  
Barbara Edmundson (Integrated Care Board, NHS)

#### **Public Representatives:**

John Ullathorne (Vice Chair)  
Linda Tyman  
Frankie Ward

#### **Officer Attendance:**

Daniel O'Brien (AAP Coordinator)  
Lesley Lines (AAP Support Officer)  
Sarah Welsh (Strategic Manager, Customer Relations)

#### **Apologies:**

Cllr Angela Hanson, Cllr Gordon Binney, Carl Gippert, Darren McMahon, Cllr Jeanette Stephenson (Vice Chair), Olga Milburn, Dan Hodgson (Fire Service), Vicky Walton, Cllr Carl Marshall, and N Insp Dave Stewart (Durham Constabulary).

#### **Public Attendance:**

Five members of the Forum/Public attended the meeting.

#### **1. Introductions and Apologies:**

Suzanne welcomed everyone to Stanley AAP's hybrid Board Meeting at Morrison Busty. Apologies are noted above.

## 2. Customer Access Points Consultation Presentation:

Daniel introduced Sarah Welsh, Strategic Manager Customer Relations at Durham County Council who gave an update on the current Customer Access Points service.

The current face to face service:

- Customer Access Points (CAPs) support residents who need help accessing our services if they are having difficulty completing their transactions online or over the phone.
- We currently have eight CAPs across the county located in Barnard Castle, Stanley, Seaham, Spennymoor, Durham City, Crook, Chester-Le-Street, and Consett.
- Demand for face-to-face services in our CAPs has been decreasing over a number of years with 90% of resident contact now received by phone, email or online.

Demand in Stanley:

- Usually when people come into the CAP in your area, they are looking for support with bus pass applications or blue badge support.
- Over the last 6 months (data to 31 March 24) around 52% of available appointment slots go unused across the whole CAP estate.
- In Stanley CAP the unused appointment slots are around 55%.
- Our aim now is to develop a more responsive offer which delivers customer service support to the places it is most needed and reduces the time we spend in our current locations to better reflect the demand.
- This would mean adjusting the days we have appointments available in your closest CAP from Monday, Tuesday, and Friday to Tuesdays.
- The aim is to benefit residents with increased choice, reduced travel requirements.

Get Involved:

Go to our consultation website for more information and to complete the survey online. <https://www.durham.gov.uk/consultation> or visit one of our libraries or CAPs to complete a paper survey.

Consultation Next Steps:

- The deadline for feedback is 5.00pm Sunday 28 July 2024.
- Analysis of feedback will be carried out in August and September 2024.
- Decision making report scheduled to be presented to Cabinet by December 2024.

The Chair thanked Sarah on behalf of the Board for the presentation and encouraged members to go online to fill in the questionnaire.

The Chair opened the floor to questions. There were no questions from the Board.

Sarah highlighted the need for the consultation to help understand more about where all face-to-face services are needed. Feedback will be analysed across August and September and a plan will then be developed and presented to our Cabinet no later than December.

## 3. Declaration of Interest:

AAP Board Members were asked to declare any interest in the seven projects to be approved in Item 7.

Cllr Carole Hampson declared an interest in Stanley Area Youth Consortium, and PACT House.

#### 4. Agreement of the Minutes – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and matters arising not covered on this agenda:

The Minutes of Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

#### 5. Neighbourhood Issues and Locality Policing Issues:

Sgt Terry Archbold gave the Policing update.

#### 6. Local Network Boundary Consultation Presentation

Daniel advised this consultation went live on Friday and Stanley AAP was the second AAP to receive this presentation.

- AAP Reform an early Cabinet priority
- March 2022 – April 2023 – Review of council's main community engagement function (AAPs) including countywide consultation on review's findings and recommendations.
- July 2023 – Cabinet approves new community engagement model for new Local Networks (LN) to replace AAPs.
- November 2023 – New electoral boundaries for County Durham published.
- February 2024 – Council agrees review of the LN boundaries to achieve Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) savings (2025/26 – 2026/27)
- May 2024 – AAP service transfers to Regeneration, Economy & Growth Development

The current AAP boundaries whilst they align to town and parish councils, do not fully align to the current electoral divisions and therefore some AAP boundaries cut through electoral divisions.

This means some County Councillors have more than one AAP covering their electoral division, and there is also currently an imbalance in the population size for each AAP.

#### **Stanley AAP**

4 electoral divisions

8 County Councillor representation

Estimated population – 33,304

#### **Aims for Local Networks (LN)**

- Commitment by Cabinet to review LN boundaries following publication of Local Government Boundary Commissions new electoral division boundaries.
- Proposals aim to:
  - Align LNs fully to the new electoral division boundaries.
  - Facilitate increased use of available data.
  - Provide more consistent population size.
  - Provide more consistent county councillor representation within LNs
  - Align county councillors to one LN only.
- Contribute towards achieving MTFP savings of £500K.

The proposals are that the County should be made up of 12 Local Networks (LNs), and unlike the current AAP boundaries, the LN boundaries will be aligned fully to electoral division boundaries. This will mean County Councillors are aligned to one LN only and their local priorities and commitments can be concentrated to one LN area.

Aligning LNs to electoral boundaries will help inform the development of unique and robust local profiles. These profiles will facilitate the increased use of local empirical data along with opportunities to hold more localised events and activities, to enable LNs to adopt a more strategic approach to their work and outcomes via the development and delivery of a 4-year local plan.

The LN boundaries have been designed to achieve more consistent population size and county councillor representation, with the exception of our more rural areas, where joining more electoral divisions onto these would create large geographic areas and the increased pressures on resources associated with administering and providing community development support in such large areas.

Moving to 12 LNs from 14 AAPs will contribute towards MTFP savings with less grant funding required for 12 LNs and a reduced staffing compliment of the current AAP team.

Population data has been calculated using 2021 census population data matching postcode level data for the new electoral division boundaries which come into effect in May 2025.

### **Summary Changes**

- Main differences between Stanley AAP and LN J:
- Pelton communities move into LN J from Chester-le-Street & District AAP and area around Maiden Law from Mid Durham AAP.
- Estimated population increase from 33,304 to 48,400.
- Electoral divisions remain at four.
- 8 County Councillors to 9 County Councillors.

Regardless of any changes to AAP/LN boundaries - the number of electoral divisions will reduce from 63 to 51 and the number of county councillors reduce from 126 to 98 in May 2025

### **Next Steps:**

- General comments and questions from AAP board discussions captured and fed into the consultation findings.
- AAP Board members still encouraged to submit individual (or group) responses by 18 August 2024 via the survey at: <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/LocalNetworks> or by email to: [cer@durham.gov.uk](mailto:cer@durham.gov.uk)
- All feedback will be considered, and update our boundary proposals if necessary - proposals will then be finalised and considered by our Cabinet before implementation in April 2025
- Once established, LNs will have the opportunity to agree on a suitable name for their LN.

Daniel asked for any comments:

What support has the Pelton Division received from Chester-le-Street AAP over the years in terms of funding support, VCS organisations that are active in the Pelton area, Cllr support for such organisations? Would Stanley area being weakened with the addition of Pelton, and the potential vying for ground/position that would ensue after the establishment of Local Networks.

Daniel and Suzanne stated that the Pelton area has a strong voluntary and community sector and have received extensive funding support from their AAP and County Councillors.

Daniel asked that everyone went online to Local Network Boundaries Consultation Survey.

## 7. AAP Coordinator Update:

Daniel updated on a range of initiatives that the AAP had been working on.

The Board was asked to approve the following applications which had been endorsed by the Board's Appraisal Panel:

### **Burnside Primary School – Burnside Community Hub**

This project is to provide the local community with access to a range of services beyond education to improve outcomes for children in the local area and their families. The project aims to decrease the increase of social isolation and improve employability through supporting parents and carers holistically. We are applying for funding to extend the school to create a Community Hub area. The hub area will be used for families to access internal and external support services both within and outside of school hours. The hub will be a building canopy extension area to the school premises to ensure a collaborative approach integrating services enabling much easier access for the community. The hub area will be accessed via external doors and be separate to the Early Years area or used in addition to it for larger events and community projects. The school is located within quintile 1 of the deprivation index, therefore one of the main priorities is to facilitate and encourage work which strengthens families and ultimately communities. The hub would offer a welcoming space for hard-to-reach families, improving relationships with services and creating a robust network of support. Families would be able to access much needed services which they currently may not be able or reluctant to access. This would support not just families connected to our School but have a much wider reach across the area.

The hub will support:

- emotional and mental wellbeing of children, families, and the wider community
- closing the gap between disadvantage and access to services  
reducing social isolation
- parents to understand developmental milestones and be empowered to seek support.
- upskilling of adults within the community to increase employability.
- raising aspirations across children and their families whilst setting achievable goals

Daniel asked for any comments.

It was questioned whether this school was an Academy?

Daniel advised they had been asked this question and had advised they were not part of the Academy structure and still part of Durham County Council.

**The Board approved the project. Total Requested £25,650.**

### **Foundation of Light – Stanley Little Dribblers**

Project Description: 'Little Dribblers' sessions will provide physical literacy for those aged 18 months - seven years, which are accessible in terms of cost and location. The sessions have been designed to ensure that children are physically active for 60 minutes and accommodates the Early Years and/or KS1 curriculum for movement skills. Sessions will include movement and coordination skills including object control - throwing, catching, kicking, and hitting, - travelling with a ball, locomotion such as rolling, jumping, running, and changing direction. Children will leave with increased self-esteem through our rewards system, receiving recognition for demonstrate our session values: Be ambitious, Be Inspiring, Be connected and Be fair.

We have identified East Stanley, Catchgate, Tanfield Lea, St Mary's Catholic Primary School and The Louisa Centre as prime locations for delivery. Primary School delivery will take

place between Monday-Thursday, 09:30-11:30, term time only. Football is the theme that runs through the curriculum and delivery staff will encourage lifelong participation in physical activity and sport. Community Centre sessions will take place on Thursdays, 16:30-19:30, term time only. Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be encouraged to take part, with the dual aim of increasing their physical activity, whilst tackling social isolation. Funding will cover Foundation of Light coaching staff costs; management costs and facility hire. While the funding will allow Foundation of Light to deliver the project at zero cost, we intend to charge a small fee of £2 per child, per session during the evening community sessions. The intention of charging this fee is to ensure that the parents/guardians place some value on attending and feel missing sessions is unacceptable. This will either support the long-term sustainability of the project or support be used to provide provision during the school holiday periods.

Daniel asked for any comments. There were no comments.

### **The Board approved the project. Total Requested £14,737.38**

#### **Just for Women – Living Wall**

Just for Women would like to install a Living Wall to be enjoyed, tended to, and nurtured by our clients and the wider community. Bringing nature into our towns is a vital component for a sustainable future. Our connection to the natural world is often overlooked in this increasingly urban world. Green infrastructure such as living walls, can be targeted to bring plants to the very places where we need them and where they can add value. Outdoor living walls reach into the heart of our towns where space is literally and financially at a premium. The benefits of living walls include removal of air pollutants, reduce urban temperatures, thermal benefits to buildings, improve biodiversity, attenuate rainwater, reduce noise, increase productivity & creativity, reduce stress, improve sense of well-being, and wider health benefits. Just for Women ensures every woman, child and their family in our community has the support, tools, and opportunities they need to live safely, gain financial stability, and lead enriched lives. Our mission is to work in partnership with the community of Stanley to provide a service that empowers and supports women, children, and their families to move beyond the constraints of mental health, poverty, domestic violence and worklessness. The Living Wall will be another vital tool in our armory to improve mental health and wellbeing. The Living Wall will also be used as a key element to our entry into Northumbria in Bloom that we work on in partnership with Stanley Town Council.

Daniel asked for comments.

It was highlighted that the number of individual beneficiaries 375 seemed quite high. It was suggested that this figure be reduced.

### **The Board approved the project. Total Requested £5,000**

#### **Learning Library – Sustaining Support in Stanley**

Project Description: What we do - We support 66 individuals with additional needs as well as offering a subscription to professional settings in the Stanley AAP area by providing a loan service of specialist resources all aimed at learning new skills, providing greater opportunity to interact with others, improving confidence and self-esteem, well-being and developing new interests/hobbies whilst having fun. Our service provides items which are often expensive and may fall outside the average family budget therefore assisting with the cost-of-living crisis.

How we do it - Our free service to families is provided by Outreach Workers who visit members' homes, taking out equipment which will best benefit and support our members specific needs thereby encouraging physical and emotional development as well as meeting sensory needs. Our visits are flexible to accommodate individual circumstances. Outreach workers visit and consult with members wherever possible allowing them to make their own

decisions as to the items they would like to borrow and give their views on items loaned. The exchanging of items on a regular basis proves extremely valuable as many members can have low attention spans and can easily become bored.

We have provided successful sensory pop up sessions within Durham and would like to bring some to Stanley, to bring larger resources to families. We find this brings together our members and their families in an inclusive, non-judgmental environment. This will form part of our upcoming project. Travel can be an issue for many of our members, and having the opportunity to have resources brought to the comfort of their home is an invaluable part of our service. Spending - As members in the Stanley AAP area form 11% of our overall current membership we would utilise this funding to sustain our core services in the area.

Daniel asked for comment. There were no comments.

**The Board approved the project. Total Requested £12,677.97**

#### **South Stanley Partnership – Seated exercise and wellbeing activities**

We aim to run a seated exercise group one morning each week to help elderly people and people with mobility problems to stay active. Part of the funding will be used to pay a tutor to run the class. We will have a break for lunch, then we will run some enriching activities in the afternoon such as flower arranging, cake decorating, sketching, a copper rose workshop and a blacksmiths workshop. The remaining funding will be used to pay for these courses and for admin and advertising.

Daniel asked for comment. There were no comments.

**The Board approved the project. Total Requested £5,000.**

#### **Stanley Area Youth Consortium – Re-activate**

**Daniel advised that Cllr. Carole Hampson had declared an interest in Stanley Area Youth Consortium due to being a Trustee for the organisation.**

**Daniel advised the Chair that she could use their powers of dispensation to allow Cllr Hampson to take part in the Board decision. Suzanne, the Chair, and fellow Board Members agreed to use the power to allow Cllr Hampson to take part and for it to be noted in the meeting minutes.**

This project is to provide a direct access route for young people at risk of engaging in antisocial behavior by providing two weekend open access sessions offering diversionary and positive activities. Sessions will include a mix of outreach and centre-based activities focusing on sexual health, positive mental health, and well-being, promoting a healthy lifestyle with an aim of identifying the dangers of using drugs, smoking and alcohol, risky behaviour and personal safety. An element of helping young people to understand how anti-social behavior can affect a community and specific elements, such as old people.

Young people will be given the opportunity to engage in volunteering via the Youth Consortiums 'Know Your Neighbourhood' project as well as being allowed to express their own views and made to feel part of their community and good citizens. Sessions will be delivered with a flexibility but will take place on Friday, Saturday and or Sunday depending on local intelligence and the needs of young people. Youth workers will contribute to 120 additional youth work sessions over a 15-month period offering 2 sessions a week over the life of the project. Sessions will be up to 4 hours in duration with 30 minutes preparation / clear away time either side of the main delivery. Lead workers paid at £14.00 per hour and support workers at £12.00 per hour.

Young people will be encouraged to manage their behavior and work towards gaining a place on a weekend residential, taking part in challenging outdoor activities. The project will also support young people in referrals to outside organisations as required that will aid in supporting mental health, employment, and education.

**Daniel asked for comment.**

A discussion took place around Duke of Edinburgh Awards. It was highlighted that these children were not looking to become involved in that kind of strict discipline.

**The Board Approved the project. Total Requested £23,475.00**

**The Activity Den – Den Sustainability**

The Activity Den is going through a period of change and growth both as a charity and societally within the wider community. We need to ensure we can rise to challenge and grow to serve the needs of our members and the community. The Activity Den recently enlisted help from NE Youth's Chief executive with over 30 years' experience in Youth work within the North East, to assist us in carrying out the consultation work required for us to create a three-year strategy and plan which would create growth and sustainability for our charity but in doing so put us in a stronger position to increase our presence and value within the local community.

We have also entered discussions about recruiting a volunteer consultant from the Cranfield Trust for 12 months to help us streamline all of our financial recording and monitoring processes and procedures as we are aware that we are a victim of our own success in that our growth has superseded the systems that we currently have in place. In order to manage this project, we will need to ensure robust financial systems and goals are in place. We are requesting funding towards the salary costs of the three staff team members who will be driving this project forward alongside a small contribution towards core costs, publicity, and volunteer consultant expenses which we would incur to undertake the financial systems element of this project. With the financial support of this grant, we would be able to dedicate the initial time, resources and focus within the first year whilst communicating our efforts to get more key stakeholders on board and the wheels in motion to ensure long term sustainability and create the greatest value for the community.

Daniel asked for comments. There were no comments.

**The Board approved the project. Total Requested £15,393.18**

**The Big Arts Project Funding 2024 (£10,000 in total)**

Daniel advised he had received four applications each requesting different amounts. He advised he had gone back to each applicant requesting they tweaked their applications to all apply for £2,500 without affecting delivery.

**Daniel advised that Cllr. Carole Hampson had declared an interest in Stanley Area Youth Consortium, and PACT House due to being a Trustee for both organisations.**

**The Chair, and fellow Board Members agreed to use the dispensation power to allow Cllr Hampson to take part in the Big Arts funding decisions and for it to be noted in the meeting minutes.**

**The Venue Open Art Studio – Durham County Council**

Weekly art and craft session based within the community led by a professional artist who specialises in art and wellbeing. Regular group of 8-12 adults who will experience new art skills including: printing, collage, mark making, mixed media. The aim of the project is to provide opportunities for individuals to increase their art and craft skills whilst developing friendships and reducing social isolation. The sessions will raise aspirations and develop



self-worth as work is exhibited in the local community.

**The Board Approved the project - Project Amount: £2,500**

**Created Reflections – Just for Women**

Through guided writing sessions, participants will explore the cathartic power of storytelling and poetry, finding solace and strength in articulating their experiences. To offer a safe environment where participants can express and process complex emotions through writing. Participants will engage in personal narrative exercises, group storytelling workshops, poetry and creative writing tasks, and reflective journaling.

**The Board Approved the project - Project Amount: £2,500**

**5 Steps – Stanley Youth Consortium**

The funding will be used in 5 youth work settings to create 5 pieces of 1 x 1 metre artworks on canvas that represent the 5 steps to well-being (Connect with other people, Be physically active, Learn new skills, Give to others, Pay attention to the present). Each youth group will be given one of the 5 steps to well-being as their theme, a large canvas and a selection of art supplies in order to allow young people to collaboratively create a piece of collage-based artwork over a number of weeks based a one of the themes.

**The Board Approved the project - Project Amount: £2,500**

**Seeing Reel, Being Real – Think Positive PACT House**

The “Seeing Reel, Being Real” project is aimed at those with lived experience of negative mental health who have either progressed through the therapeutic process or who have recently started their journey, providing a way to externalise their experiences. Each individual will be given personal tuition on how to use a DSLR camera so they can explore their own private thoughts and experiences whilst working with a qualified tutor to find their best way to express personal experiences and emotions.

**The Board Approved the project - Project Amount: £2,500**

**Fun & Food 2024 – Summer Projects**

Daniel advised nine projects had received Fun & Food Funding for Summer 2024 School Holiday delivery.

**Annual Report 2023/24:**

Daniel advised the report was now available to be viewed online. If anyone wanted a printed copy, please get in touch with the office.

**8. Partner Work Update / Stanley specific items of interest:**

Karbon Homes – Suzanne advised she had not had the chance to catch up with colleagues regarding the Board School but would bring an update to the next meeting.

Skills Bootcamp – Construction Suppliers are creating roles for people aged 19 plus.

**9. Neighbourhood Budget Summaries:**

**Neighbourhood Budgets**

**Tantobie Community Centre – Roof Refurbishment**

The Neighbourhood Budget funding from the County Councillors will enable the Community Centre to acquire the services of a local contractor to repair their roof. Old timber barge boards, timber box ends, and old plastic end caps will all be removed and replaced. The

works apply to both gable ends of the building and scaffolding will be required to carry out the work.

**Project Cost: £4,250.00**

**Councillor Joyce Charlton Contribution: £2,125.00**

**Councillor Gordon Binney Contribution: £2,125.00**

**Clean & Green, Durham County Council – Tanfield Lea War Memorial**

The funding is to be used to provide a lasting War Memorial in the village to commemorate fallen and serving armed forces personnel.

**Project Cost: £28,000.00**

**Former Councillor Olga Milburn Contribution: £5,000.00**

**Councillor Joyce Charlton Contribution: £5,000.00**

**Councillor Gordon Binney Contribution: £18,000.00**

**Small Grants:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annfield Plain Scout Group – Scout Summer Camp**

**Project Brief:** The funding is to be used to contribute towards transport costs for 2<sup>nd</sup> Annfield Plain Scout Group's Summer Camp 2024 that will be held at Kielder Water.

**Total Cost: £500.00**

**Councillor Joan Nicholson Contribution £250.00**

**Councillor Christine Bell Contribution: £250.00**

**Durham County Council – Loud Bank, Greencroft Speed Survey Request**

**Project Brief:** The funding is to be used to carry out a speed survey on Loud Bank.

**Total Cost: £500.00**

**Councillor Joan Nicholson Contribution £250.00**

**Councillor Christine Bell Contribution: £250.00**

**10. Pre-Notified Any Other Business:**

No pre-notified any other business had been received.

**11. Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday 3rd September – Morrison Busty Depot fully Hybrid.**

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