

East Durham Area Action Partnership Board Meeting
6pm on Wednesday 11th September at Eastlea Community Centre

PRESENT:

Public Representatives

Rona Hardy (RH) (Chair)
David Blackwell (DB)
Danny Dickinson (DD)
Gill Rodgers (GR)

Elected Members

Cllr Angela Surtees (AS)
Cllr Julie Griffiths (JG)
Cllr June Clark (JC) (standing in for Cllr Jake Miller)
Cllr Terry Duffy (TD)
Par Cllr Omide Deinali (OD)

Partner Organisations

Insp Phil Carter (PC)
Insp Adam Jassat (AJ)
Ian Hankin (IH)
Ian Porter (IP)

Co-opted Members

Amanda Moon
Edna Connor

Officer Attendance:

Ian Moran (IM) – AAP Coordinator
Laura Towers (LT) – AAP Support Officer

Presenters:

Sarah Welsh – Durham County Council

Public Attendance:

5 members of the public were in attendance.

Apologies:

Cllr Kevin Shaw, Cllr Jake Miller, Cllr Ivan Cochrane, Jim Murray, Susan Robinson, Graham Easterlow, Joanne Angus, Alison Paterson, Annabelle Lumsden, Andy Cammiss

1. Previous Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous Board Meeting on 10th July 2024 were approved by the Board as an accurate record of the meeting.

No matters arising.

2. Police Report & Fire Report

Police Report

Following a request for information at a previous meeting, AJ updated that Right Care Right Person had not made a difference to calls for help in relation to suicide for Seaham and Peterlee. There was a decline in the number of calls over the following months:

April – May 2024 – 280

May – June 2024 – 265

June – July 2024 – 270

July – August 2024 – 230

Insp Phil Carter – Peterlee

PC reported that it had been a busy period. There has been a decline in staffing as resources have been used in other areas due to the riots. Four PCSOs have also left.

The release of 1,700 prisoners will have a knock-on effect in the community, particularly due to the increased workload of managing this.

A new Chief Inspector has been appointed.

A male has been charged to attend court tomorrow following a series of offences.

A male was charged with a Section 18 offence following a one-punch assault at the Eden Bar.

There has been some violent disorder in the town centre involving people on e-bikes. Bricks were thrown at the police station and cars. Intelligence was gathered from the e-bikes. Eight arrests have been made and nine bikes have been seized. Nine house searches have been undertaken and the head of an OCG has been locked up. Drugs, cash and phones have been seized.

Three compounds in Horden have been searched. A bike was seized at Sea View.

A stolen vehicle was seized from Eden Hill estate.

Investigations are ongoing following a burglary at Peterlee Rugby Club.

Insp Adam Jassat – Seaham & Easington

AJ updated that Insp Joanne Eales has returned to post and will attend Board Meetings going forward.

The Co-op in Easington remains a hotspot. A male was sentenced in August to 16 weeks following over 40 incidents of shoplifting.

The fourth charity golf day was a success.

Two males have been charged and are still in custody following some crimes in the Malvern Crescent/Deneside area. A male has been charged following an Amazon van theft.

The Illegal Money Lending Team has targeted two addresses in Easington Colliery, resulting in two people being locked up.

Three XL bullies were seized last month.

A male got seven years in prison following an assault at Station Road in Easington.

A male is awaiting a court date following a burglary at Church Street.

The community fun days which took place in the summer went well.

Fire Report

Ian Hankin - County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue

Figures are not as high as last year. There have not been as many wild and grass fires.

The team are going into schools.

For the period July – September 2024, in the Peterlee area, 431 fire safety visits took place. There were 34 primary fires, 91 secondary fires and 19 deliberate car fires. There were also six road traffic collisions.

In the same period for the Seaham area, 238 home visits were undertaken. There were 14 primary fires, seven were deliberate and there were 48 deliberate secondary fires.

3. Presentation – Advice Consultation

SW had to leave the meeting, so AS gave a short overview of the consultation. The slides were circulated to the Board.

Over the last ten years, there has been a change in the types of advice that residents are asking for. DCC wants to ensure that advice services continue to meet the needs of residents and continue to provide the most effective services to make it easy to know where to look for them and get the best support to suit users' needs.

We want to know as part of the consultation about the experiences of people looking for and using advice, reasons they may not have used services when support is needed, how the existing offer could be enhanced, how they'd like to get advice in the future and the types of advice they'd like to see offered.

The closing date is 5:00pm on 20th September 2024.

4. Neighbourhood Issues

None noted.

5. Annual Report 2023-2024

The East Durham AAP Annual Report 2023-2024 was circulated to the Board for information. Paper copies were available at the meeting, and this will also be available on the webpage.

6. Neighbourhood Budget applications for notification of endorsement of a declared interest & Area Budget Update

The Neighbourhood Budget (NB) spreadsheet was circulated to the Board prior to the meeting.

IM highlighted the following NB project with a conflict of interest. The Board approved this project.

Project Name: Glebe Centre Roof

Councillors: Adcock-Forster & Griffiths

Project Cost: £58,000

NB Amount: £40,000

Description: Replace the roof on The Glebe Centre.

Conflicts of interest declared by Cllr Adcock-Forster & Cllr Griffiths. Cllr Adcock-Forster sits on the committee of Murton Welfare Association and Cllr Griffiths works for The Glebe Centre. The Board approved the project.

The Board made no comment regarding the other NBs which were presented in the spreadsheet for information only.

AB Update

IM updated that there is currently £75,000 of unallocated Area Budget available.

The call out for £30,000 of Capital Grants funding via the Neighbourhoods & Place Priority Group would go live on 12th September for grants of £5,000. The Board supported this.

7. Boundary Consultation Response

The draft Boundary Consultation response letter, based on comments in the previous meeting and the response meeting, was circulated prior to the Board prior to the meeting.

The Board approved the response letter.

ACTION: IM to forward to the consultation email address.

8. Priority Group Updates

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

No meeting since the previous Board Meeting.

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

RH reported that there had been some issues with the Fun and Food booking system. A meeting will be held to look at the issues. Visits were undertaken by the Fun and Food Team to each project. These were very thorough.

RH updated that no Fun and Food funding is available for October Half Term.

Neighbourhoods & Place (N&P) – Ian Moran

IM updated that a Connecting the Coast Subgroup Meeting would be held on 18th September 2024.

EC thanked DD for any input into the overgrown area in Horden being cut back, which EC raised at the last subgroup meeting.

9. Any Other Business

None noted.

10. Date and time of next meeting

6pm on Wednesday 23rd October at The Greenhills Centre