

Notes of the Weardale Area Action Partnership Board Meeting – 11th July 2024

St Thomas Centre, Wolsingham



ATTENDEES

Board Members

Public Representatives: Richard Lawrie (RL)
Will Wearmouth (WW)
Adrian Holden (AH)
Alison Humble (AHu)
Stephen Thomas (ST)

Partner Representatives: Damian Pearson (DP) – Believe Housing
David Welsh (DW) – Fire & Rescue Service
Julian Haynes (JH) – Voluntary Sector
Jeff Bell (JB) – Business Representative

Elected Members: Cllr Anita Savory (AS) – **CHAIR**
Cllr Helen Barrass (HB) – Muggleswick Parish Council
Cllr David Sugden (DS) – Wolsingham Parish Council
Cllr Joan Carrick (JC) (Stanhope Parish Council)

Officers Angelina Maddison (AM)
Fiona Barber (FB)

APOLOGIES

Public Representatives: Kevin Roddam
Caroline Ford

Elected Representatives: Cllr John Shuttleworth
Cllr Olive Wilson – Witton-le-Wear Parish Council

Partner Representatives: Michael Laing - Durham County Council
Sarah Lee - Health
Insp. Michael Sammut – Durham Constabulary

Officers: Tracy Edwards

BOARD MEETING

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

She welcomed David Welsh (Fire Service) who joins the Board following a change of role for Billy McAloon.

Introductions were made and apologies recorded as above.

2. Declaration of Interest

The Chair asked that Board members declare any interests now or as they arise on the agenda.

3. Presentations:

- Customer Access Points Consultation – Durham County Council
 - Paul Davies gave a presentation regarding changes to the Council's Customer Access Points. The consultation is live until 28th July and can be found at [Proposed changes to face to face customer services - Durham County Council](#)
 - Questions were welcomed from Board members.
 - Q: What do staff do when appointments are unattended?
A: Some can take on duties from the online / digital side of the team, sometimes they will see customers on an ad hoc basis (assuming it is a simple query and not one that requires a specific appointment) and sometimes they unfortunately have nothing to do.
 - Q: If someone attends a CAP without an appointment what happens?
A: An appointment is made for another time (assuming it is not straightforward). Acknowledged it is important to be accessible at short notice but also acknowledged that the right level of support should be provided, and this would inevitably require a return appointment.
 - Q: Could there be a pop-up service to help those in rural isolated communities such as Upper Weardale – some of whom also struggle with IT ability and access to reliable internet service?
A: Most issues seen at CAPs concern issues pertinent to older residents. The council has a responsibility to ensure that their services are accessible to all. This consultation aims to find out where residents think the services should be located and asks for clarity as to where people feel pockets of inaccessibility are.
 - Q: Will and Equality Impact Assessment be carried out as part of the consultation?
A: Yes.
 - The Board thanked Paul for attending the meeting and for his presentation. She encouraged Board members to spread the message in their communities and encourage people to take part in the consultation.
- Local Network Boundary Consultation – Durham County Council

- AM gave a presentation to the Board detailing the current consultation regarding the proposals for new Local Network boundary areas. Board members offered the following observations:
 - The suggested boundary seems a sensible suggestion and aligns with new electoral boundaries.
 - Concern that as the smallest area there is the possibility of being merged into another area.
 - Allocation of funds in alignment with current indices of deprivation will see changes within Local Network areas.
 - Tow Law and Weardale have differing demographics and it will be interesting to see how that can work together.
 - Concern over the similarities and connections between the residents of Upper Weardale and those in Tow Law. Each have different needs and unsure how these can both be addressed.
 - AAPs are not an essential / statutory service – the proposed outcome could have been a lot worse for Weardale and the county.
 - Recent realignment to Regeneration could be very positive for the future work undertaken in the area.
 - Recognition of Cllr Savory's endeavours to keep the rural identity and ensuring it is understood that the area needs fair and equal treatment and services.

To participate in the consultation visit

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/31535/Proposals-for-new-Local-Network-boundary-areas>

- Weardale AAP Play Area Funding Consultation - Durham County Council
 - AM gave a presentation to the Board regarding the proposals for refurbishment of Frosterley Play area and additional play areas in Weardale should funding allow. A copy of the presentation is held on file please email weardaleaap@durham.gov.uk if you would like further information. AM asked Board members if they would be happy to ringfence any remaining AB funding to the provision of play areas in Weardale.
Board Decision: The Board AGREED to ringfence all remaining unallocated AB funding for the refurbishment and renovation of play areas in Weardale.

4. Agreement of Notes from AGM & Board Meeting held on 9th May 2024 and Matters Arising

The notes of this meeting, as circulated, were **AGREED** and confirmed as a true record by those present.

There were no matters arising.

5. Weardale Action Partnership Update

- Weardale Open Air Swimming Pool – Developments and Progress to Date
 - **JH declared an interest.**
 - JH updated the Board. He advised that progress was being made albeit slowly. The pool is a listed community asset and an application is underway to the Community Asset Transfer Fund. Applications had been on hold due to the General Election which had given the Pool committee

more time to reflect and write the application. JH stated that both AM and other DCC officers had been very helpful. The committee are awaiting an update from the new government as to whether the fund will still exist.

- The Chair asked if there has been any progress on the lease. JH replied that the preferred option is to agree a sale. The Chair stated that the pool is an asset that is missed greatly by residents and visitors alike.
- B4RN
 - AM spoke about a project coming to Weardale which uses a social model for the provision of fibre optic lines to Weardale. The model has been used successfully in other areas. The model includes a Community Ownership Fund which it is asking the public to invest in. AM stressed that this is not something the AAP can advise residents to do. It is up to the public and landowners to get involved. It is intended to hold four public meetings in the coming months. Any queries the WAP team receive will be directed straight to B4RN.
 - AM advised that there is the potential for free fibre optic provision for community buildings if they allow cabinets to be sited on their property.
 - AM asked whether the Board would like a representative of the project to be invited to the next Board meeting.

Board Decision: The Board AGREED they would welcome a presentation at September's meeting. Action: WAP Team to organise.

6. 2024/25 Area Budget Overview

2024/25 Available Budgets

Area Budget (AB)	£90,000	(£60,000 – Revenue; £30,000 – Capital)
Youth Fund (YF)	£10,000	
Big Arts Project (Revenue)	£10,000	
Poverty Action Fund (PAF)	<u>£10,000</u>	
Total	£120,000	

Area Budget Projects

All applications being considered by Board members at this meeting have been circulated in advance for their information and scrutiny.

Frosterley Play Area

£50,000 ringfenced at Board meeting 09/05/24. Update as per earlier presentation.

Status: Awaiting submission of full application

Westgate Village Hall – Kitchen Refurbishment

At meeting on 20/06/24, Board members agreed to offer £5,000 AB funding. Full application has been submitted.

Status: Recommended for Board Approval.

Board Decision: Board APPROVED

Renovation – Stanhope Silver Band

At meeting on 20/06/24, Board members agreed to offer £5,000 AB funding.

Status: Awaiting submission of full application

Weardale Warblers

At meeting on 20/06/24, Board members agreed to offer £5,000 AB funding. AM advised that the applicant was extremely grateful for the additional funding and has asked that their thanks be passed on to Board members.

Status: Recommended for Board Approval.

Board Decision: Board APPROVED

Westgate Youth Club

WW – Declaration of Interest

At meeting on 20/06/24, Board members agreed to offer £5,000 AB funding alongside £5,000 YF. AM explained that the applicant has removed all salary costs.

Status: Recommended for Board Approval.

Board Decision: Board APPROVED

Save Our Sandwich

At meeting on 20/06/24, Board members agreed to offer £10,000 AB funding.

Status: Recommended for Board Approval.

Board Decision: Board APPROVED

Weardale Show

At meeting on 20/06/24, Board members agreed to offer £5,000 AB funding.

Status: Recommended for Board Approval.

Board Decision: Board APPROVED

Frosterley Youth Club

At meeting on 20/06/24, Board members agreed to offer £5,000 AB funding alongside £5,000 YF.

Status: Recommended for Board Approval.

Board Decision: Board APPROVED

7. Update on Other WAP funding streams:

Poverty Action Fund - £10,000

Weardale Rural Training 2024 - UTASS

At meeting on 20/06/24, Board members agreed to offer £10,000 PAF.

Status: Recommended for Board Approval.

Board Decision: Board APPROVED

Youth Fund - £10,000

Westgate Youth Club & Frosterley Youth Club

At meeting on 20/06/24, Board members agreed to offer £5,000 AB funding alongside £5,000 YF to both Youth Clubs. Applications have been considered under item 5 of this agenda.

Big Arts Fund - £10,000

Board members agreed to the sole application to the Big Arts Fund.

Status: Board members requested to ratify this decision to ensure accurate records.

Board Decision: Board RATIFIED previous decision.

Fun & Food - £9,725

This year's funding allocation of £9,725 consists of:

- DFE allocation - £4,830 to cover Easter, Summer and Christmas 2024
- UK Prosperity Fund Funding - £4,895 to support non-DFE places. (Note: for every 2 DFE places and application can be made for 1 additional place for a vulnerable child. Vulnerabilities include SEND, Social Worker involvement and rural isolation.)

Fun & Food Summer 2024

Wolsingham School

AS & DP Declaration of Interest

Transition activities:

£2,306.66 DFE

£1,153.20 UK SP Funding

(**Note:** this spend will be reduced by approximately 20% due to a reduction in days of provision from five to four. Awaiting final confirmation of allocation.)

Wolsingham Leisure Centre

Gladiator Event – 28th August 2024

Funded centrally.

Small Grants Fund 2022/23

Total Funding Available - £555

- Two projects were unable to deliver fully as hoped.
- £555 has been returned to the fund.
- Suggested on 20/06/24 that this money be used to help the 1st Stanhope Scouts to stabilise before releasing ring-fenced Area Budget funding of £2,630.
- Application circulated to Board members in advance of meeting for information and scrutiny.

Status: SGF application for £555 for venue hire and badges submitted for Board approval on 11/07/24.

Board Decision: Board APPROVED

8. Neighbourhood Budget 2024/25

Cllr Savory - Neighbourhood Budget

- Lydgate Lane Educational Aspect (in development)

Cllr Shuttleworth - Neighbourhood Budget

- Stanhope Agricultural Society – Bandstand Renewal
- The Weardale Show

AM advised that any Neighbourhood Budget which is unspent and not earmarked for a project by 31 December 2024 will be lost.

9. Neighbourhood Issues

The Chair advised that she had spoken with a member of the Wolsingham Toddler Group yesterday. They need volunteers as they do not want the group to fold. They are in particular need of someone willing to take on the role of Treasurer. She asked that Board members share this opportunity with anyone who may be interested.

10. Countywide Partner Issues

Durham County Council – Volunteers needed to join Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees

General – The Chair encouraged Board members to share what happens in our Board meetings with members of the community – particularly opportunities to participate in consultations and have their voices heard.

11. Dates and Times of Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Weardale Action Partnership Board will take place on Thursday **5th September at 6:00pm – venue TBC.**

The Chair thanked everyone for their input and attendance this evening and wished everyone a safe journey home.