

Area Action Partnerships

Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) are the new system that Durham County Council as our unitary authority, has put in place to consult with local communities and to deliver local action that will benefit the community.

There has been a broad consultation process to allow people to input into the development of the AAPs. In April/May each AAP held a launch event that was widely publicised. These events discussed and prioritised the actions for each AAP to take forward on behalf of the area they cover.

The former Sedgefield Borough area is covered by 5 Area Action Partnerships:

- **Great Aycliffe & Middridge AAP** - covering the Newton Aycliffe & Middridge area. The AAP Coordinator for this area is Brian Riley
- **The 4 Together Partnership** – covering Chilton, Cornforth, Ferryhill & Bishop Middleham. AAP coordinator - Lee Stephenson
- **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP** – covering Sedgefield, Fishburn & the Trimdons. AAP Coordinator - Jane Bellis
- **Spennymoor AAP** – covering Spennymoor, Tudhoe, Byers Green and Kirk Merrington. AAP Coordinator - Michael Wilkes
- **Bishop Auckland & Shildon AAP**. AAP Coordinator – Angelina Maddison.

Each AAP will be managed by a Coordinator who will work on behalf of the AAP Board. The AAP Boards are made up of 21 people:

- 7 elected members from the County Council and the relevant Parish / Town Councils.
- 7 Public representatives
- 7 partner representatives from: Police, Fire service, NHS, Local Business, Social housing, a Durham County Council head of service, Voluntary and Community sector.

As the Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) for the former Sedgefield Borough, CAVOS will be the Voluntary and Community Sector representative on 4 of these AAPs (Not Bishop Auckland – 2D, the CVS covering Wear Valley will be the representative on this AAP)

The role of CAVOS in the Area Action Partnerships

The CAVOS role will be to input the perspective of the VCS where appropriate to support the delivery of local services through the AAP. CAVOS will be putting several systems in place that will allow us to consult with Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups and organisations with the aim of putting your views and issues forward to the AAP. These new consultation systems will include:

- An AAP and consultation newsletter which will be sent out quarterly with our current newsletter (or whenever relevant in addition). This new green consultation newsletter will be developed in addition to our blue newsletter and pink funding update.
- Locally based coffee mornings / drop in sessions within each AAP for any VCS groups and organisations to come along to and discuss any issues for us to feed into the AAP.
- A VCS consultation panel. People who sign up to be part of this panel will be contacted and consulted on issues and topics that they have an interest in. These issues and topics will usually be related to the sector however, we may occasionally consult you on some general community issues. A green consultation panel sign-up sheet is enclosed with this newsletter. If you are interested in getting involved with the panel, complete this form and send it back to us in the freepost envelope provided.

Don't forget that anyone wanting to discuss any VCS concerns can ring CAVOS at any time.

The Public Representatives

At the 4 AAP launch events, people were asked to submit an expression of interest if they wished to be considered for one of the 7 public representative places. Throughout June and July, short-listing and interview processes have taken place to select the 7 public representatives for the AAPs. It is intended that where possible, the first meetings of each AAP will be held toward the end of July.

The role of the public representatives will be to act as a 'critical friend' to the relevant AAP Board on behalf of the community, to input any perspectives or views of the community and to support the work of the Board.

Members of the public can have input into the AAPs by being able to attend the AAP Board meetings, although any issues that people wish to bring up must be given to the relevant AAP Coordinator 7 days prior to the Board meeting. Contact details for each AAP Coordinator will be publicised in due course. Each AAP will also hold a forum meeting twice a year that will involve members of the public and key stakeholders in developing priorities for the AAP

For further information on the Area Action Partnerships and how the Voluntary and Community Sector will be affected, contact CAVOS on 01388 811115 or via the form on the 'Contact Us' page of the website