

County Durham Partnership newsletter



September 2011

Introduction

Welcome to the County Durham Partnership (CDP) newsletter. You can find more information about many of the articles in our newsletter on [our website](#). You can also [contact us](#) for further information. Our contact details are printed at the end of this newsletter.

If you have any partnership news or issues that you would like us to cover in future newsletters or on our website please [let us know](#). We look forward to hearing from you.

Get to the heart of your community

Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) in the county are running a recruitment campaign to encourage more people to get involved in their local community – and now they're looking for your help.

If you've heard someone say "if I was in charge, I'd do this (or that)" could you encourage them to do something about it?



Everyone that lives or works in County Durham can help to shape their area by joining their local AAP. There are 14 AAPs which cover the whole of County Durham. By joining, people can get to the heart of their community and get involved in a range of activities to improve where they live.

For more details visit www.durham.gov.uk/aap or call 0191 383 4964.

Planning a stronger future for community buildings

Over the past year we have been carefully looking at Durham County Council owned community buildings within the county. We have explored different options which will be discussed by Cabinet on 14 September 2011. As part of our three month consultation, we are organising a Stakeholder event for partners from the voluntary and public sector at 2pm on 23 September 2011.

More information about the consultation will be available following the Cabinet meeting at www.durham.gov.uk/consultation. You can also email cbconsultations@durham.gov.uk or call 0191 383 4341 if you would like to find out further information or book a place for the event. As places for the event are limited booking is essential.



Spotlight on Safe Durham

Durham Police Authority Community Awards 2011

Durham Police Authority has launched a Community Awards scheme which aims to celebrate the good work of local people which often goes unrecognised and/or unrewarded.

You can nominate any individual or group if they have gone 'above and beyond' to help keep their communities safe, whether they are a member of the public or work in public services.

You can find out more information about the awards on the [Durham Police Authority](http://www.durham.gov.uk) website, or by calling 0191 3835511. The closing date for nominations is 16 October 2011.

ID4U - Proof of age scheme

The Safe Durham Partnership has launched a Proof of Age Scheme called ID4U.

Many places such as shops, pubs and clubs ask for ID if you appear to be under the age of 25. ID4U allows you to prove your age for goods and services with an ID card from a recognised accredited scheme, without using other ID such as your driving licence or passport. It's free to sign up and the ID card you'll receive is free too!



You can find out more at www.durham.gov.uk/ID4U

Stanley Community Alcohol Partnership



As part of the on-going strategy to reduce alcohol related harm across County Durham, Durham County Council, the Police and other partners who make up the Safe Durham Partnership have joined forces with the Retail of Alcohol Standards Group to form a Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) in the Stanley area.

The CAP aims to reduce under age drinking and to reduce young people's access to alcohol. We will be working with young people, their parents, the people who sell alcohol and everyone who lives in Stanley to help reduce the harm caused by alcohol.

If you want more information about the Community Alcohol Partnership you can contact West Durham Safer Neighbourhood Unit on 0191 375 2650.

Updated news

Please see below for updates on articles that we've recently covered in our newsletters.

- The **'See it, report it' campaign** was developed by the County Durham Safeguarding Adults Partnership, to encourage people to report neglect and abuse. The campaign has now received national recognition by winning an award at the Good Communication Awards. You can find further information on 'See it, report it' at www.safeguardingadultsne.com
- The [Safe Durham Partnership Plan](#) has now been published and is available through our website.

- **The Total Home Safety project** received a high commendation for Public Protection Achievement of the Year at the MJ Achievement Awards 2011. The project, which was launched through the Safe Durham Partnership, allows people with limited income to have home safety and security devices supplied and fitted free of charge. Information on home safety and security can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/homesecurity

County Durham Partnership board

Representatives of the [Area Action Partnerships](#) (AAPs) and [County Durham Association of Local Councils](#) (CDALC) joined the [CDP board](#) members for the CDP Forum in June.

The forum centred on the following issues:-

- New AAP chairs were introduced. Outgoing chairs were thanked for their contributions.
- A review of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) action plan has taken place. Thematic partnership and board member's views were considered.
- Partners signed up to the County Durham Compact (please see information on next page).
- AAPs gave information about their successful participatory budget exercises.
- AAPs are doing a pilot of engaging young people through social media. Attendees provided information on how they thought their organisations could find this useful.
- The County Durham Plan was discussed. Comments were fed into the consultation.

One year on

It's now over a year since [our website](#) went live and visits to the site continue to increase. The website, which is regularly updated, contains information about the CDP and our five thematic partnerships:- Economic Partnership; Children's Trust; Health and Wellbeing Partnership; Safe Durham Partnership and Environment Partnership.

Since the website went live:

- We've had more than 11,800 visits to the site
- An average of 4,235 pages are viewed every month
- The most visited pages are the CDP and Economic Partnership home pages, followed by CDP newsletters and the Sustainable Community Strategy
- Although most of the visits to our site are from the UK we've had visitors from 47 other countries, with USA topping the list.



New visitor centre

A new World Heritage Site Visitor Centre has opened in the former Durham University Almshouses on Owengate, Durham City. The centre will provide a central point of information about places to visit on the World Heritage Site. Visitors will also be able to access wider information about other local attractions.

Information on Durham World Heritage Site can be found at www.durhamworldheritagesite.com

New local 'Compact' launched

All public sector organisations and their partners have signed up to a new local 'Compact' with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS).

The Compact outlines the principles for a working relationship between the public sector and the VCS. It is designed to allow us to work together more effectively to strengthen communities and improve the lives of local people.

The County Durham Compact is based on the new national Compact. It is very user friendly and should help all partners to embed Compact principles within our organisations.

The Compact recognises that both sectors have distinct but complementary roles and reflects a fair balance of commitments for each sector. It also offers advice to both sectors on how to make the Compact work.

The Compact is available through the [documents](#) section of our website.

European Year of Volunteering

2011 is the [European Year of Volunteering](#) and Europe Direct North East (hosted by Durham County Council's International Relations Team) is promoting this, together with volunteering opportunities available with European Commission funding.

Do you know a young person between 18-30 years who would benefit from a free overseas voluntary placement or a voluntary or training organisation interested in exchanging adult volunteers with a European partner?

Would you be interested in a free one or two week workshop programme with opportunities such as scuba diving in Lithuania or bird watching in Denmark? Adult learner workshops, many of which are targeted at volunteers or people interested in volunteering, are available across Europe.

If you would to know more about these opportunities and an information event that is taking place at Durham Town Hall on 13th October, please visit the [News and Events](#) section of our website.

New Publications

Check out our website for links to the following documents that we've recently added.

- [County Durham Economic Partnership Annual Review](#)
- [County Durham Economic Assessment](#)
- [Altogether Wealthier Delivery Plan](#)
- [Altogether Wealthier Performance Framework](#)
- [Altogether Healthier Delivery Plan](#)
- [Securing lives and shaping futures](#) (a study evaluating secondary gains of lifelong learning projects)