



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

Intergenerational event hailed a success by young and older people

The event organised by Durham Police Authority and New Friends, New Places community group has been hailed as a great success. Sponsored by Great Aycliffe and Middridge Area Action Partnership (GAMP), the intergenerational event was aimed at bridging the age gaps between young and older people by addressing mutual areas of concern for both age groups.

A mix of around 35 young and 35 older people attended the event held at the Youth Centre in Newton Aycliffe. Also involved in the event was Age Concern County Durham, Youth Independent Advisory Group, Durham Constabulary and Councillor Dorothy Bowman, the new mayor of Great Aycliffe Town Council. Brian Riley from GAMP said:

"This is one of the most successful activity projects the GAMP have funded. The event was very well attended and broke down some of the barriers between young and old. We gained a lot of valuable information on the needs and concerns of both age groups which will help us to understand what projects will benefit people in the future".

PC Andy Bustin opened the event with a Human bingo icebreaker session and PC Ingrid Wolfe's myth buster session was a huge success with audience participation.

Young people from BATH (Bishop Auckland Theatre Hooligans) did a special 'tongue in cheek' performance addressing the age barriers and how misconceptions can form between older and younger generations. They did an excellent job at highlighting these issues in a performance that was entertaining and enjoyable to all.

Durham Police Authority has a statutory duty to engage with local people about policing in their communities. This is the second intergenerational event organised by the authority and positive feedback from participants shows the hard work put into the event helped make this a great success.

Whilst addressing serious issues, a fun-filled day was had by all. When asked what positive outcomes can be taken from the event an older resident from Newton Aycliffe said: **"To be more tolerant with young people and to know**

there is a good community spirit in Newton Aycliffe. I found it useful to learn how to interact with young ones and enjoyed every minute of the day. I also thought the BATH performance was superb” whilst a younger person commented **“I didn’t know that working in a team with older people could be so much fun!”**

Elsie Davies, Deputy Chair of Durham Police Authority said:

“We were delighted to have a high number of attendees; with a good mix of young and older people the event was a great opportunity for people to learn new skills. Participants had the chance to play a variety of traditional games, modern activities using a Wii console with a large screen, dance mats, giant snakes and ladders, craft making activities and even had the opportunity to learn to play the spoons with Bert Draycott, the international spoon playing champion”.

Further details and pictures are available on the Police Authority’s website: www.durham-pa.gov.uk. Elsie Davies said:

“I am so pleased that local people can take positive messages away from this event about how they perceive different generations. I would like to thank all of our volunteers for their hard work and helpful contributions. We will be looking forward to continuing with the good work with future intergeneration events planned during the year”.

Durham Police Authority would like to thank their sponsor and partners for making this event a fabulous and productive day and thank each attendee for contributing and making the event such a success.

Notes to Editors

Durham Police Authority is an independent body responsible for ensuring Durham Constabulary delivers an efficient and effective police service. It is made up of 17 local people who include 9 councillors, 8 members of the public who are the independent members.

The Authority ensures that the Constabulary is accountable to the people of County Durham and Darlington and ensures that citizens have a say in how they are policed.

The Authority is responsible, amongst other matters, for setting the budget for the Constabulary and, following consultation with local communities, mapping out the strategic direction of policing. This includes agreeing policing priorities and setting the Constabulary challenging targets to drive performance higher.

The Authority’s Vision

“To ensure that policing in County Durham and Darlington is fair, effective and visible”

The Authority’s Mission

“To be the effective voice of our communities in securing the delivery of high quality policing by:

- Exercising strong & effective leadership
- Engaging positively with communities to build confidence in local policing
- Strengthening partnership working
- Promoting equality, tolerance & respect for human rights
- Scrutinising and challenging police performance to secure continuous improvement
- Scrutinising and challenging business systems and processes to ensure effective use of resources

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