

DATE:	Monday 11 September 2023
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

AGENDA

- 1 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Minutes

- 2 Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 10 July 2023
(Nac.11.09.2023/2) *(Pages 3 - 10)*

Items for Information

- 3 Family Hubs Consultation - Sam Cunningham/Tracey Fitzgibbon (15 minutes)
(Nac.11.09.2023/3)
- 4 Cultural Strategy Update - Jon Finch and Coby Walsh (15 minutes)
(Nac.11.09.2023/4) *(Pages 11 - 34)*

Items for Discussion

- 5 10 Year Celebration Event - Area Governance Model - Verbal Update
- 6 Performance Report - 2023/24 - Q1 (Nac.11.09.2023/6) *(Pages 35 - 94)*

Items for Decision

- 7 Connecting Communities Grant Review Report (Nac.11.09.2023/7) *(Pages 95 - 108)*
- 8 Priorities, Commissioning, Project Development and Finance (Nac.11.09.2023/8)
(Pages 109 - 118)

Ward Alliances

- 9 Report of the Ward Alliance Fund (Nac.11.09.2023/9) *(Pages 119 - 126)*
- 10 Notes from the Area's Ward Alliances (Nac.11.09.2023/10) *(Pages 127 - 146)*
Darton East – held on 13 June and 11 July 2023
Darton West – held on 17 July 2023
Old Town – held on 8 June and 13 July 2023
St Helen's – held on 1 June and 13 July 2023

To: Chair and Members of North Area Council:-

Councillors Leech (Chair), A. Cave, T. Cave, Crisp, Denton, Howard, Hunt, Lofts, Newing, Pickering, Tattersall and N. Wright

Area Council Support Officers:

Tom Smith, North Area Council Senior Management Link Officer
Rosie Adams, North Area Council Manager
Rachel Payling, Head of Service, Stronger Communities
Cath Bedford, Public Health Principal - Communities

Please contact Melanie Bray on email governance@barnsley.gov.uk

Friday 1 September 2023



MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday 10 July 2023
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room 1 - Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Leech (Chair), A. Cave, T. Cave, Denton, Howard, Hunt, Lofts, Newing, Pickering, Tattersall and N. Wright

60 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest.

60 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest.

61 Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 22 May 2023 (Nac.10.07.2023/2)

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 May 2023.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 22 May 2023 be approved as a true and correct record.

62 Connecting Communities Grant Delivery Update - Reds in the Community (Sean Margison and Vikki Prendergast) (Nac.10.07.2023/3)

Members were provided with a presentation from S Margison and V Prendergast of Reds in the Community, which provided an update on the grant delivery for connecting communities which was funded through the North Area Council budget.

Through Reds Connect, residents within the North Area had the opportunity to engage, participate and connect, with a mission to inspire, improve and positively change lives within the community. A range of projects and activities were delivered that were aimed at encouraging active healthy lifestyles, improving physical and emotional health and wellbeing, improving learning, skills and life chances, increasing participation in sport/exercise and to tackle social isolation and loneliness. It was undertaken through an all age approach, over weekly day and evening sessions, which were facilitated by coaches and held at New Lodge Community Centre, St Helens Church and Staincross Methodist Church. The initiative was undertaken through a wide ranging partnership approach which included NHS Health and Wellbeing Coaches, Ad Astra, Barnsley Samaritans and Public Health Barnsley.

To date, total engagement had been made with 48 unique participants, Exercise with 32 registered participants, Team Talk with 10 registered participants and

1 volunteer, and the Extra Time Hub which had engaged with 6 registered participants and 1 volunteer. Members noted that a number of participants had extended their social circle since joining the initiative.

Councillor Howard requested that Members be provided with the numbers of participants from each area.

Chair based exercises and other activities would be offered to any participants with disabilities, which would be tailored to individual requirements.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Howard regarding the Reds in the Community Walking Football, S Margison commented that the sessions were now ran at Oakwell on Mondays and Wednesdays as part of the Central Connect Programme.

Team Talk sessions had been ran at Oakwell for a number of years with visits from a number of services which included the Samaritans.

Councillor Leech expressed his thanks for an interesting and informative presentation. He hoped that the initiative continued to grow stronger.

RESOLVED that Members noted the presentation.

63 Neighbourhood Warden and Community Safety Update (Cath Fairweather - Community Safety Coordinator) (Nac.10.07.2023/4)

Members were provided with a presentation from C Fairweather, Community Safety Officer, which provided an update on joining forces for a safer Barnsley by creating a safe and welcoming place for all.

It was noted that changes had been made to the working arrangements for wardens in August/September 2022, who now operate centrally from Barnsley Police Station and go out into their respective areas. Town centre wardens continued to operate, and plans were underway to recruit additional wardens to provide for 12 wardens out in the neighbourhoods.

Following a number of queries received by Members, C Fairweather would provide feedback to Members via the North Area Manager in relation to:-

- To determine whether the wardens' working times had changed.
- To provide a warden structure chart.
- To ascertain whether the wardens contacted the RSPCA regarding the individuals that were begging with dogs at Asda, Old Mill Lane, Barnsley.
- To provide further information on the off-road bikes that were ridden on Harry Road Park, Barnsley.

During Quarter 1 2023, Op Voyager had ran in Athersley and New Lodge with the wardens alongside South Yorkshire Police Officers from the North Area Team. This had resulted in a total of 70 plus vehicles having been stopped and checked for speeding and other offences, and a total of 10 waste carrier license checks having been conducted.

Wardens carried out a range of duties which included addressing the begging issue at Asda, Old Mill Lane, Barnsley. They also undertook collaborative working with the homeless team and South Yorkshire Police to ensure better outcomes for victims, shoppers and staff, and patrolled the rivers and reservoirs daily following reports of children swimming. Targeted patrols continued at Darton Park with the CCTV van and anti-social behaviour surveys were completed. Approximately 42 hours of patrol and engagement had been undertaken at Mapplewell Park following reports of anti-social behaviour. Patrols at the park would continue to provide reassurance to the community.

During Quarter 1 2023:-

- 20 fixed penalty notices had been issued.
- 20 South Yorkshire Police incidents had been responded to.
- 13 environmental investigations/prosecutions had been undertaken.
- 3 vehicles had been seized for fly tipping.
- 70 anti-social behaviour targeted patrols had been undertaken.
- 6 abandoned vehicles had been removed.

Councillor Hunt suggested that it would be beneficial to Members for future reports to contain targets to enable comparisons to be made.

On numerous occasions Councillor Lofts had reported criminality and anti-social behaviour at the bottom of Woodstock Road and under the bridge to Tinkers Pond. He suggested that a presence from the wardens was required at those locations.

Councillor Leech advised Members to contact C Fairweather directly via email with any additional questions. He expressed his thanks for an interesting and informative presentation.

RESOLVED that Members noted the presentation.

64 10 Year Celebration - Area Governance Model (Nac.10.07.2023/5)

Members were provided with an update on the 10 Year Celebration event which would be held on Friday 29 September 2023 at Staincross Working Men's Club, Barnsley commencing at 7.00pm.

The North Area Manager had recently attended a working group meeting where the arrangements for the event had been discussed which would include a karaoke machine and performances from the Café Coffee Choir, Debbie Angel and Daniel Price, and the Angel Voices Community Choir which would be introduced by Councillor T Cave. Save the date invitations had now been sent to existing and historical Ward Alliance members. Long standing members of the voluntary community sector would also be invited to the event to thank them for the work provided.

The Ward Alliance projects to be showcased on the display boards at the event had now been confirmed by Members.

A raffle would be held on the evening, with one ticket issued to each attendee. Members were requested to each supply one raffle prize or more; all contributions would be gratefully received. Councillors A Cave and Lofts would coordinate gathering the raffle prizes. Members were requested to take the raffle prizes to the Cabinet Secretary's Office in the Town Hall, which would be transferred into Councillor A Cave's office. Councillors Howard and Tattersall had volunteered to call out the raffle prize numbers on the night.

Councillors Leech and Denton had volunteered to introduce the Ward Alliances showcase presentations.

The North Area Manager and her team would set up the room from 4.30pm, and clear it down at the conclusion of the event at 11.00pm. Councillor Leech requested Members to provide assistance wherever possible.

RESOLVED that Members noted the update.

65 Priorities, Commissioning, Project Development and Finance - Workshop Outcomes (Nac.10.07.2023/6)

The North Area Manager presented a report which provided Members with a financial position and forecast for expenditure based on the projects that had been proposed. The report also highlighted the need to agree a clear plan for commissioning against the priorities.

In relation to the Clean and Green Service, Members were requested to inform the North Area Manager by 14 July 2023 of any jobs to be prioritised during August 2023. Consideration was required for key performance indicators, and a record would be kept of the number of groups and dedicated hours that the Environmental Community Caretaker dedicated to supporting the volunteering activity.

The Environmental Caretaker Team Leader G6 had commenced in post on 3 July 2023 to work with an apprentice in the north area. The North Area Manager expressed her thanks to those Members that had arranged meet and greet sessions with the individuals. A total of 4/5 applications had been received for the driver post G4. Following a shortlisting process, the interviews would be held on 21 July 2023.

In response to a question received from Councillor A Cave, the North Area Manager would ascertain whether the Environmental Community Caretaker Team could meet with the women at Springfields estate / Dayhouse Court in July 2023.

Councillor Hunt suggested that given the Environmental Community Caretaker Model would be 80% scheduled maintenance with priorities identified by the Ward Alliances, it would be helpful for the reporting to be percentage based on the performance schedule by ward.

Members were referred to the health and wellbeing connecting communities grant. It was noted that the Age UK Barnsley project would conclude in December 2023, and the DIAL Barnsley and Reds in the Community projects would conclude at the end of March 2024. A decision would be sought at the North Area Council meeting on

11 September 2023 to determine whether there should be a continuation of the programmes. The North Area Manager would schedule for Members to meet with the Grants Panel to review the performance information to ascertain whether value for money was being achieved.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Members noted the progress on the Environmental Community Caretaker Service recruitment.
- (ii) The North Area Council noted the existing budget position and the existing funding commitments. At Section 4 of the report.
- (iii) Members noted Section 5 of the report following the Priorities, Budget and Commissioning workshop held on the 23 June 2023.
- (iv) That the Connecting Communities Grant Panel meet to review the outcomes of the grant delivery projects and consider the continuation of the funding from January/April 2024.
- (v) That the priority working group for Young People meet with the Area Manager and Senior Link Officer to review the Youth Resilience Grant.

66 Priority Working Group - Member Representation (Nac.10.07.2023/7)

A report was presented which highlighted the purpose and function of the Priority Working Groups and to ensure that each ward was represented on each of the working groups.

Through the working groups, each ward was represented in the planning, development and delivery of Area Council services and projects which were designed to benefit the North Area as a whole, and enabled information sharing to all North Area Council Members to increase understanding and ownership.

Councillor Leech requested Members to contact the North Area Manager if they wished to swap their representations from any of the Priority Working Groups as detailed within the report.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the North Area Council Members adopt at least one priority or project per Member;
- (ii) in doing so the representative agrees to participate in priority working groups to ensure that each ward is represented in planning, development and delivery of projects that benefit the North Area as a whole.

67 North Area Cost of Living - Connectivity Support (Nac.10.07.2023/8)

The North Area Manager presented a report which appraised Members of the proposed response that would be available to provide cost of living support for residents during winter 2023. Following the May Area Council Meeting, Members

had requested that the North Area Manager work with the existing Connecting Communities Grant providers to enhance food access provision.

The report provided a summary of the workshops that had ran since July 2022. The most recent workshop had been held at Roundhouse Library on 10 May 2023 which had discussed a range of matters including the household support grant, food access, healthy activities and food, and sport and recreation. At the North Area Council Meeting held in May 2023, Members had agreed that the Sport Van would be funded with the aim to secure Ramp Up sessions to run across the area during the summer holiday period, and that a micro grant opportunity working with the Connecting Communities Grant providers would be utilised from the £10,000 identified, to deliver communal eating opportunities for communities during winter 2023/24.

In relation to DIAL providing fortnightly sessions for existing Connect Together and new members at Emmanuel Church and Kexborough Community Centre, Councillor Lofts considered that whilst Emmanuel Church is an excellent facility, it was located in the wrong area in terms of accessibility. He suggested that consideration should be given to St Paul's Church and Honeywell Community Centre.

Councillor Hunt expressed concern that the priority working groups were all based within two locations, which would essentially result in the Darton East Ward missing out on all three proposals and the St Helen's Ward not being well represented.

In response, the North Area Manager would make enquiries with a view to spreading the provision to include the Darton East and St Helen's Wards, and to ascertain whether the DIAL priority working group would be able to extend the offer to the Parish Church of St John the Evangelist.

Councillor Leech requested if possible, for a couple of options to be made available for Members' consideration under the existing £10,000 budget.

The North Area Manager would provide Members with a revised version in due course.

In relation to the recommendations highlighted within the report, Councillor Leech suggested that the decision in relation to the cost of living be devolved to the working group, rather than to be brought to the next North Area Council meeting.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Members confirmed that they wished to commit £10,000 to provide communal eating opportunities for residents experiencing social isolation and financial hardship during the winter months 2023/24.
- (ii) Members referred to the proposals submitted by the Connecting Communities providers, Appendix 1, and agreed to commit the funding to realise the proposals.

68 Report of the Ward Alliance Fund (Nac.10.07.2023/9)

A report was presented which provided an update on the financial position of the Ward Alliance budget for each ward for the 2023/24 period.

RESOLVED that each Ward in the North Area Council area prioritises the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds 2023/24, in line with the guidance on spend.

69 Notes from Ward Alliances (Nac.10.07.2023/10)

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 9 May 2023; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 24 May 2023 and 21 June 2023; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 13 April 2023 and 11 May 2023; and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 20 April 2023 and 1 June 2023.

Councillor Denton referred to the work undertaken by the Darton East Ward Alliance which included updates on resolving the anti-social behaviour in Darton Park and grants issues including funding for a children's film club at Darton Village Hall over the summer holiday period.

Councillor T Cave referred to the work undertaken by the Darton West Ward Alliance. He was pleased to observe the developing relationship between the Gawber History Group and Gawber Primary School. Work continued to make improvements around Darton Park. Unfortunately, a long respected member of the Ward Alliance had recently passed away, and new members were actively being sought.

Councillor Lofts provided an update as the Chair of the Old Town Ward Alliance. The last meeting had been held as an informal Members update due to no community members being present, and a discussion had ensued regarding increasing the membership.

Councillor Wright provided an update on the St Helen's Ward Alliance. Planning arrangements were coming together for the upcoming gala.

Councillor Tattersall referred to the email received from the North Area Manager regarding refreshing the logos for the Ward Alliances, and she queried when the rebranding would be undertaken.

In response, the North Area Manager commented that there was not a timeline in place. There was an opportunity to consider whether more uniform logos were required for the Ward Alliances.

Councillor Leech commented that the St Helen's Ward Alliance Secretary had recently resigned. It was hoped to recruit into the vacancy as soon as possible.

RESOLVED that the notes of the respective Ward Alliances be noted.

Chair

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BARNSLEY



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BARNSLEY'S CULTURAL STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

Briefing

Area Council

August 2023

Culture and the arts in Barnsley: Our Strengths

- **Very strong Council museum/events offer**
- **Range of wider strengths e.g. music (Barnsley Youth Choir), performing arts (Barnsley Civic), interactive arts (Invisible Flock)**
- **National funders focusing on Barnsley**
- **Arts Council England Priority Place**
- **Also some gaps: Studio space, performance space, freelancers for example**
- **Limited understanding of grassroots activity**
- **Currently no strategic framework**



Challenges Faced By Our Communities

- **Low levels of engagement & participation in community life in certain areas**
- **Some isolated and disenfranchised communities feeling ‘left behind’ by economic growth and the pandemic**
- **Significant wellbeing and mental health inequalities and lower life expectancy exacerbated by the impacts of COVID**
- **Barriers to accessing employment which need understanding and alleviating**
- **Challenges particularly acute in Principal Towns**
- **Significant deprivation challenges and a worsening gap in incomes and livelihoods, further emphasised by Cost of Living Crisis**



What does this mean for culture in Barnsley?

- **Play a crucial role in delivering Barnsley 2030**
- **Focus on enriching our communities from within**
- **Democratic, co-created, Community-led**
- **It must help reduce inequality and improve life-chances**
- **Genuinely Borough wide**
- **Innovative engagement approaches**
- **Asset-based model**



Barnsley's Cultural Strategy

- **Culture for Everyone**
- **Must be rooted in the needs and expectations of local people**
- **Make every effort to represent all the Borough and be truly diverse**
- **Build on existing successful Area structures**
- **Working with teams across BMBC**
- **Additional engagement with key community groups**
- **Process as important as final product**
- **Focusing on wider challenges...health & wellbeing, tackling poverty, skills & employability, social & cultural capital**



Timetable for Barnsley's Cultural Strategy Development

Phase	August - Oct 23	Oct – November 23	Nov – Feb 24	Feb - March 23
Phase 1 : Research and development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Project Governance ➤ Creative Engagement workshops with Area Councils and Ward Alliances ➤ Stakeholder Engagement ➤ Sector mapping ➤ Sector Engagement 				
Phase 2: Review and next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review by Project Board ➤ Gaps identified for further engagement ➤ Report produced 				
Phase 3 – Further Engagement with communities and stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Further Stakeholder Engagement ➤ Creative Community Engagement 				
Phase 4 – Strategy Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Priorities identified ➤ Strategic directions identified ➤ Workshop stakeholders and Cllrs ➤ Strategy online and published 				

Barnsley's Cultural Strategy progress

- **Cultural Strategy development paper agreed by Cabinet late spring;**
- **Phase 1 starting now: Engage key stakeholders, Barnsley 2030 Boards etc;**
- **Creative engagement across Borough**
- **Sector mapping almost complete;**
- **Setting up Steering group;**
- **KEY - Briefings with Area Councils**
and then engagement with Ward Alliances;



Area Councils and Ward Alliances

- **Provide initial briefings to all Area Councils to ensure they are aware;**
- **Set up in depth sessions, one for each Area, inviting members, and all ward alliances representatives;**
- **The sessions will be half day each and be facilitated by a creative organisation;**
- **One additional session to cover who cannot attend their original session**



Purpose of Ward Alliance Events

To gain an understanding of

- What cultural activity is taking place in the locality;
- Who is participating:
- What is important to members of Ward Alliances:
- What role can culture and creativity play in improving the locality?

This information will then be used to shape future development of the cultural strategy.



Any Questions or comments



BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GROWTH & SUSTAINABILITY

TITLE: A CULTURAL STRATEGY FOR BARNSLEY

REPORT TO:	CABINET
Date of Meeting	22 March 2023
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Regeneration and Culture
Key Decision	Yes
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

To outline the reasons why Barnsley needs a Cultural Strategy to ensure its work around participation and engagement with culture & heritage and its contribution to the visitor economy is strategically aligned to the Barnsley 2030 priorities of the borough and B2030 outcomes.

Council Plan priority

This links to the Council's and borough's vision of Barnsley as a 'place of possibilities' and our ambitions to be a 'Creative Barnsley'

Recommendations

That Cabinet:-

1. That the Council adopt the proposed approach for the development of Barnsley's Cultural Strategy.
2. Endorse the involvement process with the diverse residents and communities of Barnsley as laid out in the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

Why a cultural strategy for Barnsley?

- 1.1 We experience culture every day. It intersects across different parts of our lives in a myriad of ways. Through the food we prepare and eat. The language we speak and hear. The tables we gather around. The environment we encounter and shape. The stories we share. The art we make or come into contact with.

The faith or rituals we observe. Culture is nuanced and is constantly shifting. It has no singular source: it is not mine, it is not yours, it is ours.

- 1.2 Kathy McArdle, **Service Director for Regeneration and Culture** in Barnsley, has said “We’re huge supporters of Culture in Barnsley, we see the benefits and positive impacts on both wellbeing and the economy. There’s a real buzz around our borough as we continue to push boundaries and raise the bar when it comes to culture and heritage.” In recent years, while museums around the country have been struggling, Barnsley has been opening new museums to the public. It is not just people who live or work in Barnsley who recognise the cultural possibilities of the borough: Arts Council England has selected Barnsley as one of its 15 Priority Places in the North opening up the potential for new investment while the Cultural Development Fund recently awarded almost £4million to Barnsley to create new studios and galleries, foster cultural hubs and support creative networks across the borough.
- 1.3 In this context, Barnsley Council has an exceptional opportunity to use culture as a key driver to help deliver its Barnsley 2030 strategy. However, whilst culture is embedded into Barnsley’s future plans there is currently no distinct borough-wide strategy to illustrate how culture and creativity can contribute to a good life for everyone in the borough. Having a cultural strategy in place will open up new partnerships, both in and out of the borough, while strengthening existing ones. An effective cultural strategy will also increase investment and funding opportunities for Barnsley because the borough will be able to demonstrate its strategic commitment to culture.
- 1.4 Given the strength of Barnsley’s strategic framework (including Healthy Barnsley, Learning Barnsley, Growing Barnsley and Sustainable Barnsley) and the increased levels of support provided to the locality by Arts Council England (ACE) in the recent National Portfolio announcements the borough is well placed to facilitate the development of a cultural strategy that will not sit in its own silo but that will be an effective driver for positive change across the borough. A cultural strategy for Barnsley will create a shared vision and identity for the area which builds on its history, grows its economy, supports community led activities, improves health and wellbeing and which contributes to a good life for all Barnsley’s citizens.

What are the key questions for Barnsley’s cultural strategy to answer?

- 1.5 The cultural strategy will need to explore and understand the creative and cultural ecology of Barnsley. The process of discovering and defining Barnsley’s homegrown creativity and culture will be essential if the strategy is to successfully use its cultural assets to create social and economic impact across the borough, as well as ensuring all parts of the community can access a high quality cultural offer. While there are multiple questions for the cultural strategy to explore, three core questions are fundamental and must be at the centre of the strategy:
 - a) What is the current creative and cultural ecology of Barnsley?
 - b) What are the ways in which culture can contribute to a good and healthy life in Barnsley?
 - c) What needs to happen to make this a reality for everyone in Barnsley?

- 1.6 This proposal lays out in detail how we will engage with our residents and communities and Elected members to explore these questions in the Cultural Strategy Development process.

2. PROPOSAL

Who should explore these questions and shape the strategy?

- 2.1 In light of societal shifts that have taken place in recent years, in particular the covid pandemic and the current cost of living crisis, it is important that the development and delivery of Barnsley's cultural strategy is a democratic and inclusive process. This is not just a political and moral imperative, it is also a strategic one. In order to create a high value and high impact strategy, that will enrich and strengthen Barnsley's 2030 plan, the process of creating the cultural strategy must draw from diverse experiences of culture from across the whole borough.
- 2.2 This means that while it is important to incorporate strong input from Barnsley's existing and visible cultural organisations and practitioners, the strategy must go further. It must include input from less visible, recognised or celebrated aspects of the borough's creative and cultural ecology. This is because the strategy will be more meaningful if it encompasses the whole of Barnsley's story, not just the aspects that we are already good at telling. This means we need to engage and involve people of all ages, those from our BME communities, those who are disabled or have special needs, vulnerable people, our LGBTQI communities and people from various parts of the borough, urban and rural.
- 2.3 A democratic and inclusive approach would also be a good fit with ACE's new ten-year strategy, [Let's Create](#). Like Barnsley's overall strategy, this new ACE funding plan runs to 2030. It was developed through conversations with more than 5,000 people nationwide and marks a significant shift in funding policy for culture. *Let's Create* sets out a more inclusive and relevant model for the cultural sector; representing a move away from the provision of a cultural offer towards more collaborative and co-created ways of working. *Let's Create* is not just about putting on a show and hoping people come; it is about everyone's creativity and culture and how we can all contribute towards a more place-based and inclusive model for culture.
- 2.4 This new national policy and funding framework is relevant to consider in terms of how best to shape and develop local cultural strategies. The time is ripe for co-developing and co-creating plans in partnership with citizens. A cultural strategy that is co-created by citizens will position Barnsley at the forefront of this practice nationally. The approach would follow in the footsteps of Barnsley Council's democratic opening up of the Town Hall as a new museum for everyone to share and would align with the idea that, in Barnsley, we want everyone to have a good life.
- 2.5 The proposed project approach, the process and activities we use to develop the cultural strategy in Barnsley, are as important as the cultural strategy we end up with. If the cultural strategy development process is done well and is

really inclusive handing power to our communities, we can create new and powerful links with a wider range of our communities, empowering them and ensuring local people are at the heart of what we do across the cultural and creative sector in the future. Barnsley is very well positioned to begin this work. Barnsley MBC already has in place an innovative democratic system which enables local communities and Councillors to work together. The development phase of the cultural strategy will engage with Area Council and Ward Alliance members (local residents) as a starting point for engaging with communities, members and partners across the Borough. Area Councils and Ward Alliances will help identify who needs to be involved and how we can best engage them. Once the existing structures have been tapped into, we will then deliver targeted and creative engagement will be undertaken with parts of the local community that have been identified as requiring further consultation or being underrepresented within these existing structures.

2.6 Below we have mapped out the timeline for the Strategy Development process.

Arts Council England are supportive of the process but have also advised that it may end up being delivered across a shorter timeframe to concentrate and focus the engagement work. This timeline will therefore have some built-in flexibility to enable it to respond to the themes and ideas coming through the engagement process. The timeline might also change if some of the phases are delivered in parallel.

2.7 **Phase One – Development and research (c.10 - 12 weeks)**

When considering a democratic approach to the development of a cultural strategy, it is good practice for the first step to be a period of development and research; exploring options and engaging in dialogue with stakeholders. This process will be led by Barnsley MBC, working with local creative practitioners. The creative practitioners will lead the engagement and consultative aspects of this phase and will be appointed early in Phase 1.

There will be four key areas of work, these are described below

One: Project Governance

A project Board will be put into place to oversee the development of the cultural strategy. The board will consist of representatives of the cultural sector in the Borough, relevant Council officers, key funders, members of the Youth Council and the community and voluntary sector.

The Project Board will ensure that Senior officers and members with Barnsley MBC are kept briefed on progress, and it will also take a lead in ensuring there is an effective communication plan in place.

Key aspects of the communications and engagement plan here in Barnsley would include:

Stakeholder communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing a regular and updated narrative about the process which illustrates its legitimacy • shared online space for keeping records of meetings, tracking the development of ideas
Cultural sector communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a regular news bulletin for cultural sector organisations and practitioners to encourage feedback and dialogue • An invitation for the sector to submit ideas or evidence for the strategy

Two: Creative Engagement with Members, Area Councils and Ward Alliances

This is a crucial aspect of the development of the strategy. An introductory workshop will be held with Members and key partners (such as Arts Council England) to help shape the engagement process and the areas of focus.

The appointed creative practitioners, working with the Council's Communities team, will engage with all the Area Councils and a representative sample of the Ward Alliances, as well as other key representative fora associated with BMBC such as the Youth Council. The exact detail of the consultation will be shaped by the creative practitioners appointed but will focus on discussing the three broad questions outlined in the introduction.

- A) What is the current creative and cultural ecology of Barnsley?
- B) What are the ways in which culture can contribute to a good and healthy life in Barnsley?
- C) What needs to happen to make this a reality for everyone in Barnsley?

Three: Stakeholder Engagement

The engagement with stakeholders as part of Step one and future phases will be driven by the four headline themes in Barnsley 2030: Barnsley A Place of Possibilities. These are:

- Healthy Barnsley
- Learning Barnsley
- Growing Barnsley
- Sustainable Barnsley

During Step One initial conversations will take place with the Chairs and a small number of key members of each of the theme boards.

The fifth area of stakeholder engagement will be with the cultural and creative sector across Barnsley. Naturally this will include ACE funded National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs), including those organisations recently added to the portfolio and the larger organisations in the Borough such as Yorkshire Sculpture Park and the Civic, well as Fusion the Local Cultural Education Partnership (LCEP). However the consultation will focus on the many individual artists and makers that are such a crucial part of the creative ecology in the Borough.

Four: Sector Mapping

The scale and size of the existing culture and creative sector in the borough needs to be understood if the strategy is to be developed and delivered successfully.

Some progress has been made in this area recently at both a Borough and regional level. The SYMCA Cultural and Creative Industries Data research and mapping project completed earlier this year by Fifth Sector, provides a range of useful information concerning the size and scale of the sector across the region.

However further work needs to be done in phases one and two to drill down and develop a thorough understanding of what cultural activity is already going on across Barnsley. The feedback from SYMCA's parallel piece of work the Culture, Arts & Heritage Engagement Report demonstrates that the sector perceives that there is a distinct lack of knowledge at a Local Authority level, particularly about the self-employed and small businesses that make up much of the cultural and creative sector in South Yorkshire.

The Forging Elsecar Cultural Development Fund (CDF) project Principal Towns strand also includes a focus, and some available resource for sector mapping. This has been aligned with the Cultural Strategy development process to maximise the impact of the work and mapping has begun. It will consider the outputs of the SYMCA funded Bounceback programme and what that has initiated in the Borough - <https://www.barnsley-museums.com/projects/supporting-artists-the-covid-bounce-back-programme>

2.8 Phase two – Review and identification of next steps (c. 4-6 weeks)

Once the results of Phase One have been gathered, a review process will take place led by the Project Board. A summary note outlining the key findings from the initial work will be produced for key stakeholders. This note will consider the work undertaken with Area councils and Ward Alliances, identifying the key themes emerging, and will also identify the preferred way forward for the development of the Cultural Strategy.

There will be a particular focus on assessing whether Phase One has been able to engage with a representative sample of Barnsley's communities and identify any gaps for further engagement.

When agreement is reached on the further work required, we will then move onto Phase Three.

2.9 Phase three: Further Engagement with Communities and Stakeholders (c10 – 12 weeks)

Whilst the exact content of Phase three will only be decided once Phases One and Two have been undertaken, it is likely that further conversations with key stakeholders will be required, as well as targeted engagement with key parts of the community. Therefore, the phase will include at least the two areas of work

outlined below which again will be facilitated and delivered by cultural organisations and creative practitioners.

One: Further Stakeholder Engagement

The engagement with stakeholders as part of Phase Three will again be driven by the four headline themes in Barnsley 2030: Barnsley A Place of Possibilities. These are:

- Healthy Barnsley
- Learning Barnsley
- Growing Barnsley
- Sustainable Barnsley

During Phase Three Focus groups will be held for each of the Barnsley 2030, the Focus Groups will be facilitated by local cultural organisations and creative practitioners. themes, we will ensure a broad representation of key voluntary and community groups and organisations.

The fifth area of stakeholder engagement will be with the cultural and creative sector across Barnsley. We will consult widely with the cultural sector throughout the development of the strategy and actively use creative practitioners to support and help deliver the citizens led approach.

Two: Creative Community Engagement

This phase of the work will take place after the workshops with Area Councils and Ward Alliances. From their input, a gap analysis will be undertaken to assess which parts of the Borough's community needs further engagement. This analysis will look at several factors including:

- Age
- Geography
- Background
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Socio-economic status

Once priorities for further engagement have been identified, local cultural and creative practitioners will be commissioned to seek out, approach and work with relevant parts of the community to gather their ideas of culture and where it should sit in their lives.

The particular engagement approach will be explored and agreed during Phase 3 and will be influenced by the nature of the community group we are looking to engage with, and the creative practitioner involved. However, it will be important to ensure that the process is suitably in depth and iterative. It is vital that groups, community members and creative practitioners with different kinds of perspective and lived experience feed into the conversations about Barnsley's cultural strategy. A 'Creative Barnsley' is a diverse Barnsley and the

rich fabric of our creative communities will underpin the future cultural life of the borough

This phase will also include further conversations with Project Board and key partners to test the themes emerging from the wider community engagement.

2.10 Phase Four – Strategy Development

Once Phase 3 has been completed and broad and deep wider community and stakeholder engagement has been progressed, the findings of that work will be gathered together in a creative report. The emerging priorities identified in the summary note produced in Phase two will be reviewed.

The Project Board will work together to draft a short and focussed strategy based on the feedback and contributions received from the discussions with Area Councils, Ward Alliances, local communities and stakeholders.

Prior to finalising the outline strategy, a session between key participants in the strategy development process, key funders, creative organisations and relevant Councillors will be held to explore and discuss the report. This meeting will also cover the final composition of the cultural strategy and agreeing follow-up actions.

Suitable resources will be allocation for a small print run of the finalised strategy so that it can be distributed to key stakeholders.

2.11 Timetable for Barnsley’s Cultural Strategy Development

A suggested timetable for the delivery of the above steps is outlined below.

	Apr- July 23	July – August 23	Sept – November 23	November - December 23
Phase 1 – research and development				
Phase 2 – Review and identification of next steps				
Phase 3 – Further Engagement with communities and stakeholders				
Phase 4 – strategy development				

This will be subject to change with the potential for some phases to overlap, but illustrates the direction of travel.

2.12 Potential priorities for the Cultural Strategy

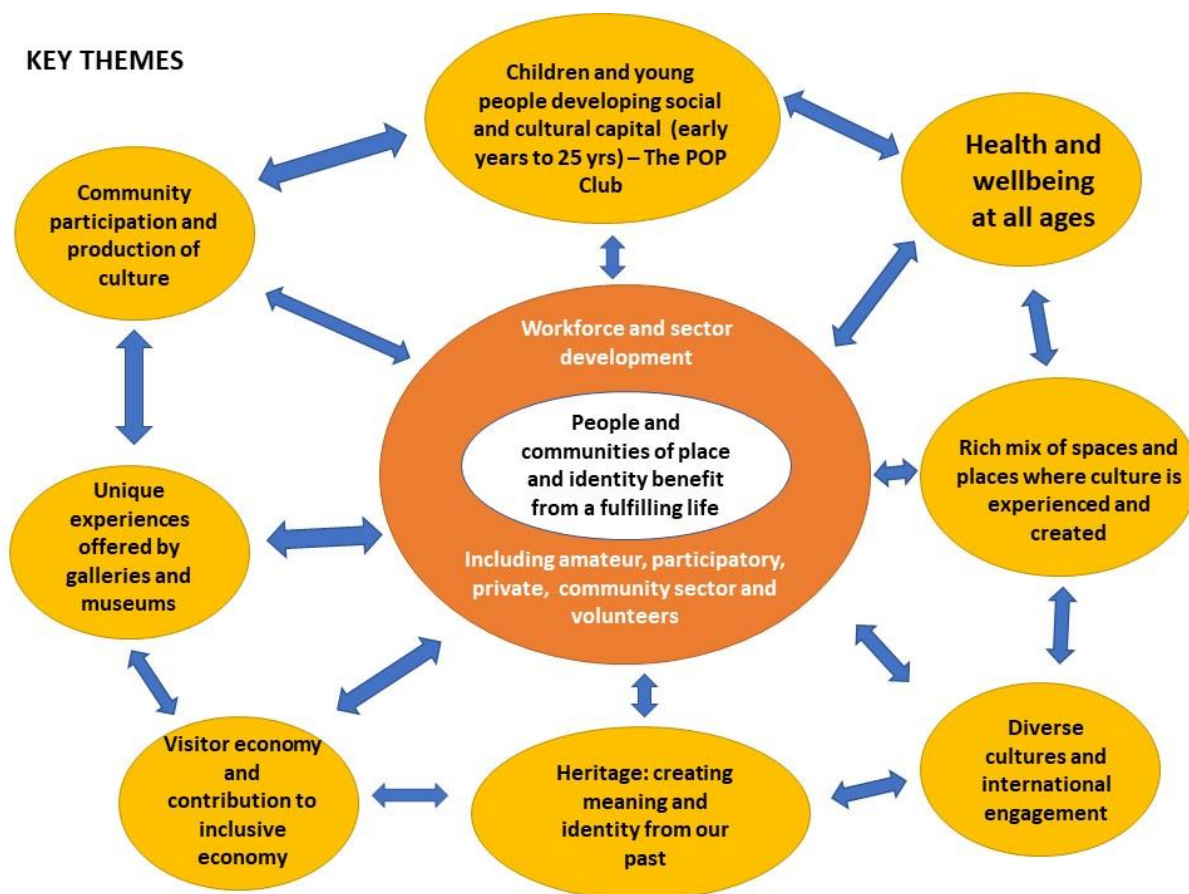
Whilst the priorities and ambitions for Barnsley’s cultural strategy will be shaped

by the engagement with the borough's communities, cultural sector and other partners, the current understanding of the sector, previous research and conversations have indicated that some or all of the following areas may well be represented as the research progresses:

- Community participation and production of culture
- Children and young people developing social and cultural capital
- Tackling health inequalities and improving health and wellbeing outcomes
- Developing and using a rich mix of spaces and places where culture is experienced and created
- Embracing diverse cultures and international engagement
- Heritage: creating meaning and identity from our past
- Visitor economy and its contribution to inclusive economy
- Creating unique experiences offered by galleries, museums and engagement with culture in our outdoor and public spaces

When a creative ecology is working successfully these themes interact together to ensure people and communities of place and identity benefit from a fulfilling life. The diagram on the next page illustrates how this could happen.

KEY THEMES



2.13 What would Barnsley's Cultural sector's role be?

It is essential that people and organisations which will be set to gain from the existence of a dynamic cultural strategy are involved in its development. This includes people and organisations who already count themselves as part of Barnsley's cultural ecology. This could include cultural organisations and venues, creative practitioners, artists and creative businesses, faith groups, privately run organisations, e.g. dance schools, youth services, local charities, voluntary sector, health care organisations, sports and other relevant interest groups, schools and colleges.

Cultural organisations and creative practitioners will be front and centre of the development of the strategy. They will lead the consultation and engagement process in all phases of the strategy development.

As well as encouraging the participation of specific individuals and organisations from the sector in Barnsley, there are also project collaborations and work streams that need to connect with the cultural strategy development process. These include:

- SYMCA's Culture, Arts & Heritage Engagement Report
- Barnsley MBC Community Listening work
- Barnsley MBC Principal Towns work
- The development of a Borough Creativity and Wellbeing plan

- South Yorkshire Integrated Care Strategy

The Barnsley Connects network development strand of the Cultural Development Fund project currently being delivered in the Borough is a timely opportunity to broaden the reach of the development of the cultural strategy. Barnsley Connects is planned as an impactful programme of activities, connections and exchange, through face-to-face interaction and digital engagement. The first phase, which will draw on the skills and energy of emerging creative practitioners and place-leaders and is described below, is planned to run during the same period as the cultural strategy development, so this work will be closely aligned to help the development of the strategy. Key strands of the work include:

- Identify existing creative activity taking place and spaces
- ‘Storying Barnsley’: creative place-based story-telling workshops, facilitated by University of Sheffield
- Conversations with businesses, community leaders & voluntary sector organisations engaged in cultural activity to understand barriers and the role culture plays in their work
- Map existing creative industries businesses at a Borough level.
- Bring together practitioners, creative industries businesses & place-leader locally to nurture an informal borough-wide Creative Barnsley Network

We will ensure close connection with the Barnsley Connects creative network to add value to each other’s work and closely coordinate our research to ensure best value from both programmes.

3 IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

3.1.1 Costs for the development of Barnsley’s Cultural Strategy

The costs for developing the cultural strategy depend very much on the level of engagement with local communities. An initial budget has been developed based on a model that assumes engagement with all Area Councils and a selection of Ward Alliances in Phase one, as well as other key networks such as Barnsley’s Youth Council. It also assumes up to four in depth pieces of engagement in phase three. This would provide sufficient resource for a robust community led development process and gives an overall cost to the strategy development process of in the region of £50k.

Phase	Cost
Phase One – Development and research	£15k
Phase two – Review and identification of next steps	£5k
Phase three – Further Engagement with Communities and Stakeholders	£20k

Phase	Cost
Phase 4 – Strategy Development	£5k
Total cost	£50k

3.1.2 Arts Council England has already committed £10K towards this process, with a matched contribution coming from the Culture team’s own resources. ACE have also indicated that they would be comfortable with the additional resource required coming from the Cultural Development Fund resources already secured.

3.1.3 ACE have also indicated that the development of a Cultural Strategy would be a requirement for a future bid to the Place Partnership Funding pot. Together we have identified that this would be a positive funding programme to bid to in order to progress some of the work involved in delivering the Cultural Strategy. We see this as a key element of our ‘Priority Place’ work with ACE.

3.1.4 Cabinet are asked to approve the BMBC £10K contribution to the Cultural Strategy Development process and the use of £30K CDF funds for this purpose

3.2 Legal

3.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

3.3 Equality

3.3.1 The principles of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion will be at the heart of the Cultural Strategy Development process. A Full Equality Impact Assessment would be completed in advance of any public consultation and before the final Strategy is produced to ensure the Strategy genuinely engages diverse communities and populations, is equitable and inclusive and recognises the value of diversity as a creative force in the cultural life of the borough

3.4 Sustainability

3.4.1 The zero carbon Decision-making wheel will be completed once the consultation on the strategy has been concluded

3.5 Employee

3.5.1 There are no employee implications associated with this work

3.6 Communications

3.6.1 A comprehensive communications strategy and plan will be developed to support the wide and deep engagement that will contribute to and shape the cultural strategy with the Comms lead in Culture and Visitor Economy, working collaboratively with all Comms officers working across the Council and with Comms partners across the borough.

3.6.2 Digital engagement, which was a key feature of the work of our CVE team, will also feature heavily.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 Consultation has taken place with Growth and Sustainability DMT, SMT Executive members, Cabinet spokesperson for Regeneration and Culture and Cabinet spokesperson for Transport and Environment. We have also consulted our Partners Arts Council England on the development process as they would be a key partner in supporting the strategy development process.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 The option of not to develop a Cultural strategy was considered but this has been identified as a significant strategic gap for Barnsley by Arts Council England through our work as a priority place. It is therefore essential we get this in place as it will enable us to have a more strategic relationship with our residents, communities and funders

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Our Culture and Visitor Economy work has been hugely successful in the last ten years and seen extraordinary growth and achievements in that period. In order to build on this, it is essential to develop a more strategic framework for the work of the service, moving from a more citizen and community led model, which focusses on the Council having a key role in supporting workforce development and sector development as well as offering a high-quality museums, heritage and archive service.

7. GLOSSARY

Not required

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

Not applicable

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

10. REPORT SIGN OFF

Financial consultation & sign off	Senior Financial Services officer consulted and date <i>Steve Loach, 16 Feb 2023</i>
Legal consultation & sign off	Legal Services officer consulted and date <i>Sukdave Ghuman, 16 Feb 2023</i>

Report Author: Jon Finch
Post: Head of Culture and Visitor Economy
Date: 10 March 2023

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:

11th September 2023

Agenda item: 6

Report of
North Area Council Manager

North Area Council – 2023/24 Quarter 1 (April – June 2023)
Performance Management Cover Report for Commissioned Projects and
Stronger Communities Projects

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 1. Members note the contents of the Performance Management Report Attached, Appendix 1.**

Background

A comprehensive North Area Council Performance Report for the period October - December (2023/24 Quarter 1) has been produced and is attached, Appendix 1.

Performance Management Report (attached at Appendix 1)

The North Council Performance report provides North Council members with an aggregate picture of how all the North Council contracted services contribute to the achievement of each of the North Area Council's agreed outcomes and social value objectives.

The information provided reflects information gathered from each contract for the period April – June 2023.

Contracted Service Providers:

- CAB & DIAL – Community Outreach Project

Extended Grant – Youth Resilience Grant

- YMCA
- Ad Astra

Extended Grant – Connecting Communities Grant

- DIAL
- Reds In The Community
- Age UK

Area Council Funded – Service Level Agreements

- Housing and Cohesion Officer

- Environmental Caretaker Service

A summary of the performance management report for each of the contracted services for 2023/24 Quarter 1 (April – June). The report provides RAG ratings plus updated information from all North Area Council Providers, following submission of their quarterly reports and subsequent quarterly contract monitoring/management meetings.

The report provides a link between the commissioned services and the Public Health Outcomes: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/public-health-outcomes-framework>

In addition to the information provided in the summary reports, more detailed information is available on request, including case studies with photographs for each contracted service, and some performance data on a ward basis.

For your convenience and to help promote the work of our providers, the North Area's Project Officer has compiled the Promotional Material document, Appendix 2.

Performance Report –Issues

The CAB and DIAL contract is consistently running over capacity. This is a risk considering the current cost of living challenges.

The Housing and Cohesion Officer post remained vacant until the 15th May 2023.

A delay in recruitment meant that the Environmental Caretaker SLA was delayed. The service commenced on the 3rd July 2023. Therefore there is no performance data for Q1 2023/24.

The commencement of the Reds In The Community project was delayed due to recruitment challenges. As a result, the project will run into 2024/25 Q1.

Appendices

Appendix 1: North Council Performance Management Report - Quarter 1 2023/24 (April – June) – prepared by North Area's Project Officer, Katy Ashworth.

Appendix 2: Commissioned provision - Promotional Material

Officer Contact:
RosemarieAdams@barnsley.gov.uk

Date:
30th August 2023

Project Performance Report

Q1 - 2023/24 (April - June 2023)

Support for raising costs of living

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North Area
Council Priorities

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Grants Summary
Performance
Management
Report

April 2023 -
March 2024



North Area Council Priorities



Anti Poverty



Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing



Economic Regeneration



Opportunities for young people



Changing the relationship

Contributing to the following Corporate Priorities and Outcomes:

Barnsley - the place of possibilities





















Healthy Barnsley	Learning Barnsley	Growing Barnsley	Sustainable Barnsley
People are safe and feel safe	People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills including access to apprenticeships	Business start ups and existing local businesses are supported to grow and attract new investment, providing opportunities	People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community.
People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible	Children and young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement and attainment	People have a welcoming safe and enjoyable town centre and physical towns as destinations for work, shopping leisure and culture	Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people to enjoy
We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough	People have access to early help and support	People are supported to have safe, warm sustainable homes	Fossil fuels are being replaced by affordable and sustainable energy and people are able to enjoy more cycling and walking

Enabling Barnsley

We are a modern, inclusive, efficient, productive and high-performing council

Contractual Overview

Table 1 below shows the Providers that have now been appointed to deliver a series of services that address the priorities and deliver the outcomes and social value objectives for the North Area Council.

Service	Priorities	Provider	Contract Value (per year)	Start Date	Updates
Anti Poverty Outreach Page 8	 Economic Regeneration  Health & Wellbeing  Anti Poverty	 	£215,00 2 years (+1 year)	1st July 2023	Contract Live Contract extended
Environmental Caretakers Page 13	 Improving the environment  Health & Wellbeing  Young People		£100,803 Continuity £20,160.60	1st July 2023	Contract Live
Economic Regeneration	 Improving the local economy				Current gap in provision
Housing & Cohesion Officer Page 14	 Improving the environment  Changing the Relationship  Economic Regeneration  Anti Poverty  Health & Wellbeing		£35,500 12 month contract	15th May 2023	New Officer Appointed 15/05/23
Youth Resilience Page 17	 Improving the environment  Health & Wellbeing  Young People		£90,000 2 years (+1yr)	1st November 2020	Funding confirmed until 31/10/2024

**Our Council Plan
2021 -2024**

COMMISSIONS

Anti-Poverty
Outreach

Environmental
Caretaker

Connecting
Communities

Housing &
Cohesion &
Officer

Social
Inclusion &
Cold Homes

Youth
Resilience

**Healthy
Barnsley**

People are safe and feel safe



People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible



We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough



**Growing
Barnsley**

Business start ups and existing local businesses are supported to grow and attract new investment, providing opportunities



People have a welcoming safe and enjoyable town centre and physical towns as destinations for work, shopping leisure and culture



People are supported to have safe, warm sustainable homes



**Learning
Barnsley**

People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills including access to apprenticeships



Children and young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement and attainment



People have access to early help and support



**Sustainable
Barnsley**

People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community.



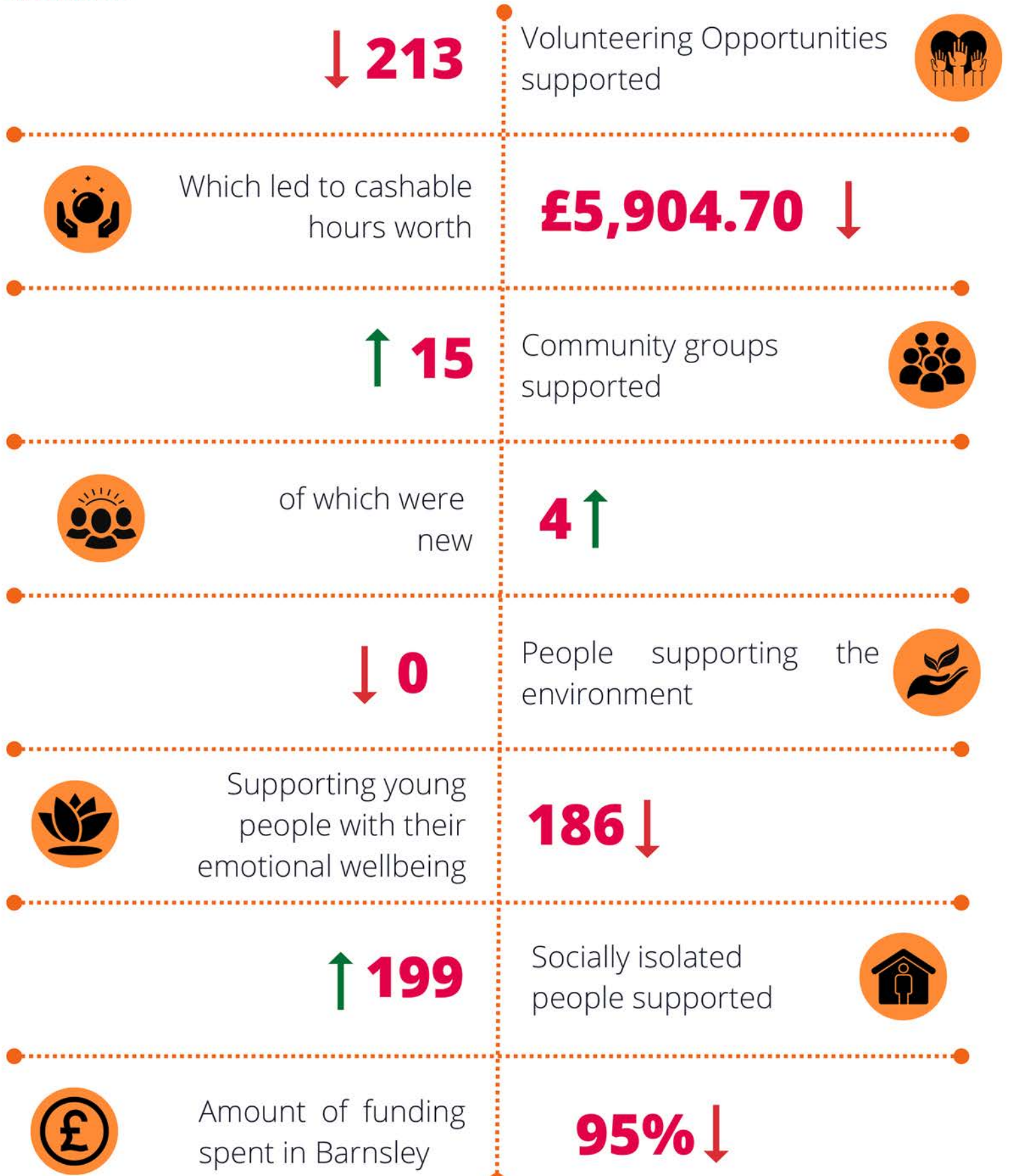
Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people to enjoy



Fossil fuels are being replaced by affordable and sustainable energy and people are able to enjoy more cycling and walking

Stronger Communities Key Performance Indicators

Table 2 below shows the Providers contribute towards the Key Performance Indicators and deliver the outcomes and social value objectives for the Stronger Communities directorate



Part A: Overview of performance

3 contracts have formally completed their contract monitoring/contract management reporting for Q3 2022/23. The following tables, therefore, reflect the overview of the performance of **2 live contracts** only.

These contracts are:



CAB & DIAL
Third Contract
Year 6
Q3

Anti - Poverty



Contract started
in July

Environmental
Caretaker

Two providers are currently delivering the Youth Resilience Grant



Ad Astra
YMCA

Youth Resilience
Fund

The North Area also funds contracted posts:



New Officer
Appointed
in May

Housing and
Cohesion Officer

Three providers are delivering the connecting communities grant



Age UK
DIAL
Reds in the
Community

Connecting
Communities



Economic
Regeneration



Health &
Wellbeing



Anti Poverty

Anti-Poverty Outreach



783 ↑

Number of clients this
quarter

85% ↑

Local people feel more
able to manage their own
affairs

83%

Local residents
experienced improved
health and wellbeing

- Satisfactory quarterly monitoring report and contract management meeting.
- Milestones achieved
- Outcome indicator targets met
- Social value targets met
- Satisfactory spend and financial information
- Overall satisfaction with delivery against contract

Service Outline

Delivered by Citizens Advice Barnsley and DIAL Barnsley, the NAC Outreach service advises local people on all the issues they face. Their services are free, confidential, impartial & available to everyone.

Both providers deliver AQS quality marked advice that is independently and externally audited. They advise on all categories of law, including debt and money worries, in-work, out-of-work and disability benefits; housing and homelessness; employment, relationship and consumer issues. This breadth of knowledge means they are uniquely qualified to provide wrap-around services to support people with multiple interlinked issues. They help clients sort out problems before they reach a crisis point, and through income maximisation & debt management, they help stabilise people's finances to prevent and reduce the impact of poverty. The client feedback they gather shows that this advice helps improve health and wellbeing and reduces stress.



Economic
Regeneration



Health &
Wellbeing



Anti Poverty

Anti-Poverty Outreach



£315,078 ↑

Overall benefit gain (in £)

£7,123 ↓

Amount of debt managed

£13 ↓

Return on investment (for
every pound spent)

Extract from performance report

In the period 1st April to 30th June 2023, advisers from both organisations have provided information and advice to **783** client contacts, supported clients to claim **£315,078** of welfare benefits and managed **£7,123** of debt. Included in this figure, CAB has provided fuel and food vouchers to a total of **£540** for 9 clients, an average of £60.

As in previous reports, the majority of clients for both organisations accessed the service for help with benefit-related issues. The generalist adviser from CAB has also supported clients with a range of other issues, including debt, housing, employment, legal, relationship and family issues, consumer, utilities & communication, financial services & capabilities, charitable support & foodbanks, education, health & community care, travel and transport, immigration & asylum, tax and other issues.

Of the **783** client contacts this quarter, **276** have required help with form filling – a total of **35%** of the clients, the majority of which are related to the benefits system. DIAL forms are completed face-to-face with the clients and not over the telephone.

Citizen's Advice Barnsley

Case Study



Supporting people
to know their
employment rights

Background

William* was concerned about his chronic health issues and their impact on his employment. He had worked for the same employer for over two years but was absent from work for several months due to ill health. He had been receiving Statutory Sick Pay, which had now run out.

William had been in touch with his employer during his absence, but their communications had been sporadic. However, HR had been in touch, suggesting that he might want to hand in his notice if he could not return to his job.

That's when William decided he needed reliable, impartial information and advice from Citizens Advice Barnsley. He was relieved to be able to attend an outreach close to where he lived. He wanted to know whether his employers could oblige him to hand in his notice; they had not explored with him whether there were other roles to which he could return or whether part-time work might be a solution. In fact, his employer had not really investigated his situation at all.

The adviser explained that an employer should investigate the circumstances of the employee's absence, get their written permission if they want a medical report, and should also keep the employee fully informed of any risk to their job. He added that an employer couldn't arbitrarily limit the length of an absence before dismissing an employee. Even if they have their own policy, then such a decision could be subject to a tribunal.

The adviser also explained that some of the health issues William had disclosed - of which his employers were aware - might be regarded as disabilities, and therefore dismissal or failure to allow more time off might be disability discrimination. The requirement to make reasonable adjustments for disability might be relevant to his situation, and his employer's failure to do so could be taken to an employment tribunal. The adviser explained the time constraints and procedures to follow and gave William the contact number for ACAS.

* All client Storytellers have been given different names, and certain details have been omitted or changed to preserve their anonymity.

DIAL

Case Study



“DIAL talked me through the process of what to claim and how to go about it. They explained things clearly as we went along and were only too happy to answer any questions and concerns that I had, I would highly recommend them”.

Mr G



Before DIAL

Mr G is a 48-year-old man who lives with his adult daughter. He became a widow on June 2020 when his wife passed away. He has subsequently developed severe anxiety and depression and has found himself unable to work for the first time in 30 years. He has been experiencing disturbed sleep patterns, panic attacks and is currently receiving help from Barnsley Mental Health Services.

Advice provided by DIAL

Finding himself with no income, Mr G attended an outreach for assistance. We undertook a benefits check for Mr G and advised him to make claims for Universal Credit, Council Tax Support and Personal Independence Payment. Mr G returned to outreach with his PIP2 form, which we helped him complete. He also brought a UC50, which we helped him complete, and an online application for Council Tax Support.

After DIAL

The application for Personal Independence Payment was successful. Mr G was awarded the enhanced rate of daily living of £101.75 and the standard rate of mobility of £26.90. His Universal Credit was awarded, and Mr G received £368.74 standard component and limited capability for work and work-related activity component of £390.06, giving him a total award of £758.80 a month. Universal Credit is also helping Mr G with his housing costs. The application for Council Tax Support was also successful, and Mr G only has to pay a minimal amount towards this.

We also completed a PIP2 form for his daughter Miss G and a UC50 capability for work questionnaire, both of which were successful, and Miss G received a standard rate of daily living of £68.10 a week and a standard rate of mobility of £26.90 a week and £292.11 a week universal credit. While Mr G continues to experience low mood because of his loss, his mental wellbeing has improved dramatically, and he now feels more optimistic for the future. His daughter has noticed a change in his outlook as well. He is now going out of the house more on [Page 47](#) mowing the garden.



Economic
Regeneration



Health &
Wellbeing



Anti Poverty

Anti-Poverty Outreach



How does the commission meets the Council Plan?

Our Council Plan
2021 -2024

Healthy Barnsley

- People are safe and feel safe
- People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible
- We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough

Learning Barnsley

- People have access to early help and support

Sustainable Barnsley

- People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community.

Growing Barnsley

- People are supported to have safe, warm sustainable homes

*CAB & DIAL contribution to public health outcomes

Improving the wider determinants of health

Objective 1: improvements against wider factors which affect health & wellbeing and health inequalities

1.09 | Sickness absence rate

1.15 | Statutory homelessness

Health improvement

Objective 2: people are helped to live healthy lifestyles, make healthy choices and reduce health inequalities

2.23 | Self-reporting wellbeing

Health public health and preventing premature mortality

Objective 4: reduce numbers of people living with preventable ill health and people dying prematurely, whilst reducing the gap between communities

4.13 | Health related quality of life for older people

4.15 | Excess winter deaths

Environmental Caretakers



How the commission meets the Council Plan?

Our Council Plan
2021 -2024

Learning Barnsley

- People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills including access to apprenticeships.

Sustainable Barnsley

- People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community.
- Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people to enjoy.

Update

Contract commenced in the 1st July

Purpose and Function Overview

Service delivery will focus on a programme devised by the North Area Council and four Ward Alliance: including proactive maintenance, reactive work, and support for volunteer groups. This work will require the provider to:

- Maintain a clean, green, well-presented, and welcoming physical environment in the North Area. Include proactive approaches to the issues of littering, grass cutting, untidy areas, shrub bed maintenance, cutting back, scraping etc.
- Respond to reactive requests for service in response to local need as directed by the North Area Council and Ward Alliances.
- Undertake environmental improvements alongside Ward Alliances and community groups
- Working with existing community groups, as directed by the Ward Alliances.
- Support the Ward Alliances and North Area Team to develop new environmentally focussed community groups

*Environmental Caretakers contribution to public health outcomes

Improving the wider determinants of health

Objective 1: improvements against wider factors which affect health & wellbeing and health inequalities

1.16 Utilising outdoor space for exercises and health reasons

Health improvement

Objective 2: people are helped to live healthy lifestyles, make healthy choices and reduce health inequalities

2.13 Proportion of physically active and inactive adults

2.13 Self-reported wellbeing



Improving the environment



Changing the Relationship



Improving the economy



Anti Poverty



Health & Wellbeing

Housing Cohesion Officer



BARNSELY
Metropolitan Borough Council

How the Housing Officer post meets the council plan?

Our Council Plan 2021 -2024

Healthy Barnsley

- People are safe and feel safe
- People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible
- We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough

Learning Barnsley

- People have access to early help and support

Sustainable Barnsley

- People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community.

Growing Barnsley

- People are supported to have safe, warm sustainable homes

- Satisfactory quarterly monitoring report and contract management meeting.
- Milestones achieved
- Outcome indicator targets met
- Social value targets met
- Satisfactory spend and financial information
- Overall satisfaction with delivery against contract

Purpose of Post

To ensure compliance with the legislation and statutory obligations of the Council dealing with poor housing and environmental conditions in the Private Rented Sector, ensuring effective regulation with a balanced proactive and reactive approach through the discharging of informal, formal and legal actions. Contribute to improved standards in the local private rented sector and stability for both tenants and landlords.

- Provide advice, guidance and support in accordance with approved Council policies, procedures and statutory responsibilities pertaining to private sector housing and the environment.
- To pro-actively engage and liaise with internal and external stakeholders including tenants, landlords, members of the public and partners, developing strong and cohesive working relationships.
- Respond to requests for service, investigate complaints and provide advice on sub-standard housing conditions in the private rented sector.
- Contribute to the development and delivery of a highly visible proactive approach to raising standards of poor-quality private sector housing across the Borough.



Honeywell Street

Fly tip case



22

Fly tipping incidents referred to Neighbourhood Services



2

Referrals for graffiti clearance

I visited the property that was referred to me by one of the Councillors due to its poor state of repair. My observations were, the gardens are clearly not being maintained, the wood frame windows are rotting, and the dilapidated garage is open to the elements. There is a mattress and a bed base in the garage. There was no answer to knocking, so I did some research on the property and found that the ex-occupant was deceased. It appeared that control of the property had passed to his son, who also resides in Barnsley. I visited his home address, but nobody was home. I then informed the Empty Homes Programme Manager who manages 'empty homes', and due to the property being an ex-owner occupied property, the case was re-allocated to a Community Safety Officer.



15

Waste in garden letters



Honeywell

Litter Pick



2

Community litter picks in Honeywell





Improving the environment



Changing the Relationship



Improving the economy



Anti Poverty



Health & Wellbeing

Housing Cohesion Officer



How the Housing Officer post meets the council plan?

Our Council Plan
2021 -2024

Healthy Barnsley

- People are safe and feel safe
- People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible
- We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough

Learning Barnsley

- People have access to early help and support

Sustainable Barnsley

- People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community.

Growing Barnsley

- People are supported to have safe, warm sustainable homes

*Housing Cohesion Officer's contribution to public health outcomes

Improving the wider determinants of health

Objective 1: improvements against wider factors which affect health & wellbeing and health inequalities

- 1.01i Children in low-income families (all dependent children under 20)
- 1.06ii Adults in contact with secondary mental health services who live in stable appropriate accommodation
- 1.15 Statutory homelessness
- 1.17 Fuel Poverty
- 1.18i Social isolation: Percentage of adult social care users who have as much social contact as they would like

Health improvement

Objective 2: people are helped to live healthy lifestyles, make healthy choices and reduce health inequalities

- 2.23 Children in low-income families (all dependent children under 20)

Health public health and preventing premature mortality

Objective 4: reduce numbers of people living with preventable ill health and people dying prematurely, whilst reducing the gap between communities

- 4.13 Health related quality of life for older people
- 4.15 Excess winter deaths



Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing



Opportunities for young people

Youth Resilience Fund



YMCA
(Supporting Kexborough Primary, Wellgate Primary and Delta Academy Darton.)

The schools work in the North Area is now all fully implemented and running weekly with lots of positive feedback from the participants and school staff.



(Supporting Laithes Primary, Athersley South and Outwood Academy Carlton.)

- Satisfactory quarterly monitoring report and contract management meeting.
- Milestones achieved
- Outcome indicator targets met
- Social value targets met
- Satisfactory spend and financial information
- Overall satisfaction with delivery against contract

Purpose of the Youth Resilience Grant

The North Area Council Youth Resilience Fund has been established by North Area Council for the academic year 2020/2021, to support the delivery of a range of positive after school and holiday provisions (interventions/ projects/ activities/ sessions) that will contribute to building the emotional resilience and wellbeing of children and young people (aged 8-13). This resilience-building will prepare children in years 5 and 6, who are displaying additional emotional support needs, with extra skills that will prepare them to successfully transition to senior school.

The grant opportunity is currently delivered by two different providers: YMCA and Ad Astra. Below is an extract from the performance reports:



Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing



Opportunities for young people

Youth Resilience Fund



72

Total number of sessions (including in-school, holiday provision & YMCA Youth Clubs)

31

Number of new unique individuals engaged

8

Number of peer support sessions delivered

5

Number of school holiday sessions delivered

2

Number of family members engaged in the project

3

Number of young volunteers

Context:

The project is commissioned primarily as an 'out of school hours' programme, and delivery takes place after school, twilight, evenings, weekends and school holidays with one schools' session and some transition support taking place in curriculum times. However, the delivery model will remain flexible to maintain support for participants and respond to local needs.

Outcomes:

- Improvement in the subjective wellbeing of children & young people.
- Increased confidence, self-esteem, attitudes and aspirations of children & young people.
- Increase in the emotional resilience of children & young people.
- Strengthened protective factors for wellbeing in children & young people.
- Supporting young people to take ownership of their lives and make positive life choices.

Darton Academy Peer Support Training Programme

Transition support and Peer Support Training for Y7 Pupils.

The school's Leadership Team identified this group. The young people were chosen for their needs, interest, maturity and the Primary School that they had previously attended to ensure a broad representation of the school's feeder primaries and that the young people were familiar with the Primary School that they would then support as part of the next Year 6 transition process.

The training programme and transition processes in the school have both been updated in response to feedback from the previous cohort. This included more information about schools' expectations, transition events and having early access to the dates of the events Peer Supporters were expected to attend as part of their role.



Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing



Opportunities for young people

Youth Resilience Fund



Supporting



Kexborough Primary



Wellgate Primary



Delta Academy Darton



Summer Lane Primary

Darton Academy Peer Support Training Programme (continued)

The recent cohort has recently completed their training, and the Youth Workers are confident that the changes in the schools' processes have impacted the levels of motivation and engagement of the young people as they were aware of the level of commitment that was expected of them. This was evidenced by their **enthusiasm and engagement in the Peer Support Programme** and their eagerness to contribute to discussions which were on a very high level this year.

The transition from primary to secondary is a daunting and uncertain time in a young person's journey, and having a Peer Supporter to reassure and support the transition is valuable as they have the experience to relate to the Year 6's. This programme builds the young people's confidence and well-being as they are empowered by being chosen to fill such a worthwhile role.

This year's Peer Supporters and the Youth Workers also were sad to see the programme come to an end, and the young people were reassured that they would be **invited to join wider activities and peer support opportunities as well as the Summer North Area activities.**

In previous weeks, they had been part of the project consultation about the type of peer support activities they would enjoy and wish to participate in and the summer programme. This allows our Peer Supporters the space to develop their ability to lead and to demonstrate the skills that make them positive role models, but it also allows us to reach young people who may initially be distrusting of any intervention by adults. Our Peer Supporter programme will continue to **encourage young people to take care of one another**, increasing the support networks that young people have access to and ensuring that young people are able to develop as both individuals and as mentors.





Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing



Opportunities for young people

Youth Resilience Fund



Supporting



Kexborough Primary



Wellgate Primary



Delta Academy Darton



Summer Lane Primary

Darton Academy After School Sessions:

Targeted & open access after-school sessions for Y7 & 8 students, using arts/games/themed projects/group discussion and activities to engage participants and build relationships and specific activities to encourage the development of key resilience and personal and social skills. Providing access and opportunities for participants to engage in positive activities in a safe space with access to skilled and experienced youth workers who can provide additional emotional and mental health support.

We've seen an influx of new young people attending our sessions, which has positively impacted the work we can do with them. We continue to focus on empowering young people to have a voice in the decisions that are made both within their school and their wider community. Our focus within this group has been to **build a safe and trusting environment** where young people feel accepted, and as a result, we have been able to work with a wide range of young people on an individual basis. We strive to **create a relaxed environment** where young people feel as though they belong. When there have been challenges within this group, **young people feel safe enough to speak** to their youth workers about it, who have been able to work with young people to establish solutions. The theme for this quarter has been wellbeing, with targeted mindfulness activities such as making self-care kits, which young people have thoroughly enjoyed and have also provided feedback on how they have been used. During this last quarter, it has become incredibly obvious how much young people value this session, particularly as a safe space. Continuing on from the discussions held around identity in the last quarter, we have delivered sessions themed on Pride Month, which has allowed young people to have conversations around their identity, allowing them to explore this with the **support of trusted adults**.





Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing



Opportunities for young people

Youth Resilience Fund



Supporting



Kexborough Primary



Wellgate Primary



Delta Academy Darton



Summer Lane Primary

Wellgate Primary:

The youth work team have continued delivery of the targeted model supporting children within the year 6 group who have been identified as those who would most benefit from the project.

The club continues to be delivered on a Monday afternoon to meet the needs of the school. **The school and the YMCA have a great working balance and fully support each other in the delivery of the club.** The school continues to signpost the young people they believed would benefit the most from attending this club due to their confidence and low emotional self-esteem. The activities are the tools that allow the conversations between the youth workers and the young people to start, which help them to understand the young people's needs and what areas they need to work on to improve their confidence and social skills. A programme of **positive and empowering activities** is offered to the young people who attend these sessions, including themed activities around Earth Day in which the group made their own flower bombs, World Laughter Day with a focus on the value of having a **positive outlook when possible** is key to our mental health & wellbeing, **celebrating the completion of the Year 6 SATS** with the young people reflecting on their skills and completing a Star Qualities booklet and receiving achievement rosettes. Young people attending Wellgate will see a move to focus on transition-themed activities that will allow them to explore their worries and concerns about moving to high school in the new quarter. We will also provide an opportunity for the **young people who attend Wellgate to have any questions answered that they may have by linking up with the young people we work with at Darton Academy.**





Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing



Opportunities for young people

Youth Resilience Fund



Supporting



Kexborough Primary



Wellgate Primary



Delta Academy Darton



Summer Lane Primary

Summer Lane Primary

Weekly targeted support for Y6 children open access but targeted for some pupils the school has identified as those who would most benefit from additional support.

This bespoke weekly club continues to be popular with young people. Participants are **referred by the wellbeing contact in school** who continues to signpost young people who she feels would benefit from our work, ensuring that there is a team of workers around each young person who attends. As we approach the final term, the theme of these sessions has been focussed on **building self-esteem in anticipation of their transition to secondary school**. We initially continued to rotate both the Year 5 and 6 cohorts, but after Spring Bank we began working solely with the Year 6 group to work specifically on their transition to secondary school.

We are also able to maintain our **support for project participants who are transitioning to Darton Academy and Horizon Community College** with a familiar face and support from a trusted and consistent youth worker they already know and access to pre-established relationships with other peers. This quarter we have delivered targeted activities around bullying, addressing worries, and healthy eating, which young people have found incredibly beneficial and have given us great feedback on how it has made them feel for going to high school.





Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing



Opportunities for young people

Youth Resilience Fund



Supporting



Kexborough Primary



Wellgate Primary



Delta Academy Darton



Summer Lane Primary

Kexborough Primary

Weekly after-school sessions with all of Y6 children at some point having the opportunity to work with the YMCA youth work team, who will then remain a consistent person within their transition experience to Darton Academy.

From September, the group of young people were a specific group of Y6 pupils identified as those who would most benefit from the project and improve their emotional resilience and wellbeing.

The YMCA after-school club continues to be a popular session with young people proven by the number of participants. This club aims to **build the group's emotional resilience and confidence** by gently coaxing them to participate in team-building games and **providing them with different opportunities each week** to develop their interpersonal skills, with our youth workers ensuring that every voice within the group is heard.

We continue to work in Kexborough Primary School, offering an after-school club to a mixed cohort of 13 young people. Our working relationship with the school means that the school, including the Headteacher and family support worker, are able to identify a group of young people who would benefit by participating in a club that focuses on building emotional resilience and wellbeing. The support of the school this quarter and **the Headteacher has been exceptional**, with the Headteacher stepping in to support the session when a YMCA member of staff is on annual leave. As this group of young people is signposted to us, it allows us to **spend time establishing the needs of each participant**, enabling the development of core skills, increasing self-esteem and confidence and being able to **provide 1:2:1 support** as and when needed. The rotation of the group at each term enables the YMCA to reach as many young people as possible and raise their aspirations and confidence in their preparation for secondary school.



Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing



Opportunities for young people

Youth Resilience Fund

Holiday provision:

Over the Easter Holidays, young people from the North Area were again invited to a borough-wide event where we took them to Lazer Tag at Xscape Castleford. This was a very well-attended event, with nearly 1/3 of attendees being from the North Area, and again, it allowed young people to meet new people in a safe environment. This event got **very positive feedback from both young people and their parents/guardians**, and we have requested that we run something similar in the future. We also ran an Easter Egg Hunt in Mapplewell Park and a **Shop/Cook and Eat session** at St John's Church in Mapplewell. A number of young people informed us that they would be unable to make it due to family holidays, but both events were still incredibly positive. We will continue to consult with young people regarding their wishes for future holiday provisions in their area.

Over the Spring Bank Holidays, Young people from the North Area were invited to a **Den Building** and **Pond Dipping event** we ran at Dearne Valley Country Park, which saw young people working together while learning new skills. We also held a 'team challenge' event, where young people were to complete various challenges to develop their teamwork abilities.

Throughout our holiday provision, young people are supported by familiar workers they know and trust. They were also allowed to socialise with young people from across the project who may attend the same school as them. It is important to the **YMCA Barnsley team that the relationships with youth workers that have developed during the school sessions are maintained during the holiday provision** to provide that consistent person in the young person's journey.





Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing



Opportunities for young people

Youth Resilience Fund

Street-Based Youth Work:

Our team continue to deliver weekly sessions in the north area. Working chiefly in Kexborough with a core group of young people. We also maintain a presence in estates and parks across the locality.

In recent weeks we have moved our provision with the core group outdoors as the weather has become kinder and evenings lighter. The transition outdoors has meant we are more visible to residents, and we have had many conversations about our work and that of the broader YMCA.

Our team have also **engaged with a number of young people not previously known to YMCA Barnsley**. Often times with new faces, the initial engagement is quite brief; however, some have stuck around and got involved with games and craft sessions. Our team is hopeful that these new relationships can be nurtured and maintained throughout the summer.

The **core group plan their sessions with guidance from our staff team**, including team games and arts and crafts, which have all been received enthusiastically. As previously reported, drama has been a key feature of our sessions. It has proven to be an invaluable medium for **exploring issues and challenges that young people face on a day-to-day basis**. In conversation with the core group about further exploring drama, they have suggested that they are not ready to 'perform' outdoors and are not in full control of their environment. Whilst drama remains a favourite activity, the group have decided to put the 'acting' on hold whilst still considering and researching topics for future productions.

As the summer progresses, the group will revisit activities and crafts previously enjoyed. The group are keen to make gifts for elderly residents, one suggestion being soft pots (potted plants with a difference). In April, **the core group put together wellbeing packs for local elderly residents**. They were delivered door to door whereby the young people could meet residents and discuss their involvement with YMCA Barnsley. Staff and the core group of young people are keen to maintain and build further on these relationships. Making and delivering gifts will help facilitate this.

Recently staff have witnessed what appeared to be illicit substance use by some older young people. Bongs were evident, as were clouds of smoke. Whilst the small group of young men were making attempts to be discreet, it was noticed and recognised by younger people in the vicinity. The situation opened up a conversation about cannabis use, and those present talked about their experiences. It was obvious that those expressing their views were anti-cannabis, and their exposure to cannabis was very minimal. Staff will continue to monitor and report accordingly. Whilst staff have no concerns about the core group, we remain mindful that young people's views can and do change as they transition through school and into adulthood.



After-School Project

Case Study



Building confidence
and resilience

Background & Context

Louis is 11 years old and attends our after-school session at Kexborough primary school. He enjoys the socialisation aspect of the session and having free time with his friends.

The focus of the wider session he attends is mainly around developing group work, communication and social and emotional skills, specifically with Louis, the focus is on building his confidence, but we also do 1-1 support within the group work to sit and talk to him. The group is quite loud, so sometimes his voice can be missed, so it's important for us to capture what Louis is thinking and feeling.

Initially, Louis didn't initiate any conversations with staff but would respond when staff spoke with him. Louis also struggled with taking the lead within activities but would engage well after some encouragement from the staff. After a targeted intervention with Louis that identified the barriers to his participation, we noticed that Louis began to volunteer for activities far more frequently. Louis now comfortably initiates conversation with us more regularly, showing he feels more confident talking to us and his peers.

We noticed that Louis appeared to be far more social when he felt comfortable but often withdrew from the group when there were people present whom he didn't know or an activity he wasn't familiar with. This was a challenge as Louis' social life was limited compared to his peers because he lived far from school. We identified that this could negatively influence his social development if we couldn't find a way to increase Louis' resilience to new situations and challenges.

Intervention/Process

Our priority when working with Louis was to ensure that he could face new challenges with confidence, which we planned to achieve by introducing low-risk team activities to our sessions that would allow Louis the opportunity to fail without consequences. It also gave Louis the space to explore being out of his comfort zone while being supported by trusted adults and his peers.



School-based Provision

Case Study

“

Louis likes to come to YMCA because it is fun and give him the chance to do fun stuff with friends that he otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity to.

Feedback from Louis's Youth Workers

”

Intervention/Process (continued)

We also introduced targeted activities themed on positivity and kindness, prompting young people to support each other and creating a network of peers around Louis, limiting Louis' instinct to withdraw from them when he feels uncomfortable. Louis has steadily built his confidence through these activities, which has been supported by positive reinforcement and encouragement from his youth workers. Reflection has also been a key tool in ensuring Louis understands why we are completing certain activities and offering him an opportunity to think about his learning.

We have offered a safe space for Louis, letting him know that it doesn't matter if something doesn't go the way he expected it to and offering him the support to ensure that next time he tries it, he will know what he needs to do better. We also offer Louis the opportunity to come along to our holiday provision, giving him more space to socialise with other young people and step out of his comfort zone. Each week we have continued to chat to Louis 1 to 1 to ensure that he feels valued within the group and that he understands that his voice is important. We made sure we made time for Louis in each session so he could express himself and be a stronger part of the team, which means that he is able to develop his confidence.

Louis is now far more confident speaking to new people and facing challenges, which will be key skills for his transition to secondary school. Louis is also more comfortable accepting when things don't go the way he planned, demonstrating the development of his emotional resilience.

What's next?

Our plan for the future Louis is to continue working on his social skills to ensure he is equipped to move to high school. We have signposted Louis to our holiday provision to ensure that he doesn't lose contact with us through the summer and will ensure that the support he receives there will continue to strengthen his resilience.



Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing



Opportunities for young people

Youth Resilience Fund



Ad Astra

(Supporting Laithes Primary, Athersley South and Outwood Academy Carlton.)

186

Number of unique individuals engaged

25

Number of young people attending conflict resolution workshops

53

Number of young people consistently attending Youth Club Sessions

93

Number of children /Young People reporting an improvement in their emotional wellbeing.

Project Summary:

Working in three primary schools in the St Helens Ward, we work with the schools and students to build a flexible programme that meets their needs. Alongside the work in the schools, we offer a youth club session for up to 13-year-olds to participate, and we will also offer volunteer placements for older young people. We have lunchtime referral and drop-in sessions for Y7 pupils at Outwood Carlton. During the school holidays, we offer activities that include a healthy meal.

Buddy Training

Afterschool sessions will allow us to offer creative ways for the young people to put into practice the skills they have learnt in their Buddy Training session. Some of the areas we cover in our Buddy training are as follows:

- Buddy Rules and skills it takes to become a buddy
- Listening and Communication skills
- Confidentiality and who to turn to if you need help (signposting)
- Anti-Bullying workshops

Transitions Work

For Y6 Pupils, we will offer the same time scales of 3 x 6-week sessions with a transitional theme of working with schools for groups and individuals. The themes will cover :

- Social Adjustments – Relationships /making new friends, etc
- Institutional adjustments – getting used to a new school and new routines
- Curriculum interest – favourite topics and what will be new

Year 7

For Outwood pupils, the lunchtime period is classed as their free time, and although it is still within school hours, afterschool sessions are often a problem for secondary pupils due to transport/ getting home etc. and if we were in school, staff could refer and any issues, the young people had could be dealt with much quicker.



Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing



Opportunities for young people

Youth Resilience Fund



(Supporting Laithes Primary, Athersley South and Outwood Academy Carlton.)

186

Number of unique individuals engaged

25

Number of young people attending conflict resolution workshops

53

Number of young people consistently attending Youth Club Sessions

93

Number of children /Young People reporting an improvement in their emotional wellbeing.

Youth Club

From New Lodge Community Centre, we will offer Youth Club session for children and young people aged up to 13 offering a wide range of creative and educational activities with opportunities for young people to become Peer Supporters for Ad Astra.

Extract from Performance Report

In **Athersley North** this term, we completed the Conflict Resolution Workshops with their Year 3 and 4.

They have asked because these two years are struggling with their emotions, and as a result, they are arguing to the extreme, with some cases getting aggressive.

Whilst planning for the next academic year, Athersley North has also asked us to provide additional workshops again as part of the ongoing programme with their Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils, who they have found to be getting involved with anti-social behaviour both in and out of school.

As previously reported, Athersley North decided to change the classes this last academic year, which they hoped would help the Y6 group achieve better SAT results, and due to the number of pupils in Y6, there would have been large classes.

For next year they are going back to One Y5, one Y6 and one mixed class of Y5 and Y6 pupils.

This term, we completed the Conflict Resolution Workshops with the Y4 pupils who will be joining us next year for their Buddy Training. This group was the most involved group of all the classes. Hopefully, they will be able to transfer their current knowledge into their Buddy Training – The emotional side of bullying was a good topic of discussion for the group, and they showed great empathy.

The splitting of the Y6 transition workshops did not work as well as the school had hoped. There was too long in between the first three workshops and the final three, which meant the recap session took much longer than anticipated.



Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing



Opportunities for young people

Youth Resilience Fund



Supporting



Athersley North (continued)

The majority of the pupils got the school of their choice, although three were going to appeal – one young woman was thrilled as she had passed the entry exam to go to QUEGS in Wakefield

Again, the issues the young people had more concerns with were based on them getting lost in school – the amount of homework they will receive making new friends and consequences.

As we had split the groups this year, all the young people had had their transition visit to the school of their choice, so the concerns about making new friends had been lifted for many of them.

In Athensley South, this term was all Transition workshops. There have been no issues this term, and the program has run well.

Many of the young people in these groups were very mature and ready to move up into their secondary schools – there seemed to be more pupils going to either Darton or Horizon than Carlton this year.

Getting the young people prepped for school took a major role in the discussions, so trying on school uniforms and learning what to pack in their school bags were the best sessions for several of the young people.

Again, the issues the young people had more concerns with were based on them getting lost in school – the amount of homework they will receive making new friends and consequences as it is most years.

Maps and Planners, alongside being prepared for school, always show the group how different primary is to secondary school.



Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing



Opportunities for young people

Youth Resilience Fund



Supporting



Carlton with Year 7

This term has been more productive than the last term, as the team took a slightly different approach to delivering the sessions.

The focus of the work was based on Vaping – Alcohol – Knife crime and the legal ages young people can find themselves getting into trouble with the law.

There was some aggression in the group again this term, but this was resolved fairly quickly. The group had much bravado, and the dynamics were often challenging.

There has been some disruption this term with bank holidays and staffing in school.

Again, following on from the earlier topics the young people were having, the team decided to use role play with different scenarios that the young people could act out and use the knowledge we shared with them about the legal ages for the CJS (Criminal Justice System) CPS (Crown Prosecution Services) The young people themselves 'acted out' acts that they were experiencing and how they thought the law should deal with them.

The conversations that followed these sessions seemed to be more beneficial than just a 'round the table' discussion

We hope the empowerment given will help them make more positive decisions and actions.



Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing



Opportunities for young people

Youth Resilience Fund



Supporting



Youth Club

The youth club has been extremely busy that last term – often this term drops off as the weather is better and the young people enjoy being outside

The young people have been heavily involved with the decision-making and the programme for the term.

There has been a selection of arts and crafts, but one activity has been asked to be repeated more than others – our stress and relaxation – making stress balls from orbeez and balloons were very popular, and the young people wanted to repeat this session. *(An Orbeez is a water-absorbent bead that expands into a soft, dewy, bouncy ball after submerging in water).*

Food has also played a big part in the session – this term, the young people have been coming to us hungry.

The young people who were getting ready for transition last term have managed to move up to the senior club smoothly – The only issue we have had is that they want to attend both sessions.

We offered a few of them an alternative, which was to attend our Monday evening session, which we are incorporating Peer Support Training into 3 young people who have now started their Peer Support Training with us, which will enable them to become one of our invaluable young volunteers.

May Spring Bank Holiday Provision

Two busy days in May Spring bank with our Spring Watch program. We made bird feeders and grass heads, making insect models, and did insect crafts. With all the models and insect art, we made a large display of a Bug Hotel, which the young people and staff put together alongside our young volunteers. We played Insect Bingo and Beetle Drive and used a magnifying glass to take a closer look at insects.



Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing



Opportunities for young people

Youth Resilience Fund

How does the commission meets the council plan?

Our Council Plan 2021 -2024

Healthy Barnsley

- People are safe and feel safe
- People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible
- We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough

Learning Barnsley

- Children and young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement and attainment.
- People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills including access to apprenticeships.
- People have access to early help and support

Growing Barnsley

- People have a welcoming, safe and enjoyable town centre and principal towns as destinations for work, shopping, leisure and culture.

Sustainable Barnsley

- People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community.

*YMCA & Ad Astra's contribution to public health outcomes

Improving the wider determinants of health

Objective 1: improvements against wider factors which affect health & wellbeing and health inequalities

- 1.01ii Children in low-income families (all dependent children under 20)
- 1.03 Pupil Absence
- 1.04 First time entrants to the youth justice system
- 1.16 Utilising outdoor space for exercise and health reasons

Health improvement

Objective 2: people are helped to live healthy lifestyles, make healthy choices and reduce health inequalities

- 2.07 Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children (0 - 14 years)
- 2.08ii Percentage of children where there is cause for concern
- 1.04 Self-reporting well-being

Community Grants Summary Performance Management Report

April 2023 – March 2024

Service	Priorities	Provider	Contract Value (per year)	Start Date	End Date	Reports
Connecting Communities Page 36	 Health & Wellbeing	 North Area Social Inclusion Service	£79,600.20	April 2021	March 2024	Quarter 1 Received
Connecting Communities Page 43	 Health & Wellbeing	 Connections Hub	£66,450.00	April 2021	March 2022	Quarter 3 Received
Connecting Communities Page 47	 Health & Wellbeing	 Reds Connect	£41,472.21	April 2021	March 2022	Quarter 3 Received

**Our Council Plan
2021 -2024
GRANTS**

Connections
Hub

North Area
Social Inclusion
Service

Reds
Connect

Children's
Cycle Path

Strong Mums

Healthy Barnsley	People are safe and feel safe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible	✓	✓	✓		✓
	We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Growing Barnsley	Business start ups and existing local businesses are supported to grow and attract new investment, providing opportunities	✓	✓	✓		
	People have a welcoming safe and enjoyable town centre and physical towns as destinations for work, shopping leisure and culture	✓	✓	✓		
	People are supported to have safe, warm sustainable homes	✓	✓			
Learning Barnsley	People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills including access to apprenticeships	✓	✓	✓		
	Children and young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement and attainment				✓	✓
	People have access to early help and support	✓	✓	✓		
Sustainable Barnsley	People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community.				✓	✓
	Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people to enjoy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Fossil fuels are being replaced by affordable and sustainable energy and people are able to enjoy more cycling and walking				✓	



Changing the Relationship



Health & Wellbeing

Connecting Communities



North Area Social Inclusion Service

20

New referrals

10

Volunteers

9

Existing Volunteers

How does the commission meets the council plan?

Our Council Plan
2021 -2024

Healthy Barnsley

- People are safe and feel safe
- People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible
- We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough

Learning Barnsley

- People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills including access to apprenticeships.
- People have access to early help and support

- Satisfactory quarterly monitoring report and contract management meeting.
- Project milestones achieved
- Project outcome indicator targets met
- Overall project progress & achievements

Project Aims

Age UK Barnsley are a local charity that works only for the benefit of the people of Barnsley Borough and our Resource Centre/Head Office is based within the Town Centre. We have been providing successful, innovative, area-wide services addressing social isolation in Barnsley for more than 5 years. Age UK Barnsley work with older people with a wide range of needs and health conditions including dementia, mental health problems, physical health conditions and limited mobility.

Project Summary

This quarter the North area has benefitted from the recruitment of 2 new, part-time Social Inclusion Officers, Ellie Price and Mark Hible, in order to support a caseload of 36 older people to develop their own personal support plans to ensure that the support that they receive is meeting their individual needs. They made contact with all SUs identified in their area to enquire about ongoing support. This resulted in the closure of several files. Alongside the Social Inclusion Officers, we also have a team of volunteers who have provided face-to-face befriending, telephone befriending as well as providing support to the community groups.

“Thanks so much for taking him. I am away on holiday at the moment, so it's nice to know that he's getting out”





Changing the
Relationship



Health &
Wellbeing

Connecting Communities

Achievements this quarter - April 2023 - June 2023

This quarter the North area has benefitted from **2 part time Social Inclusion Officer (SIO)** hours which has enabled us to work with and provide support to **86** older people. **20** of these were new referrals which have been received this quarter. By working one-to-one with these service users, SIOs have been able to work together with them to develop personalised action plans to ensure that support from the service is individualised. **Volunteer befrienders** have supported the project by spending time with the most isolated service users in the community who may be unable to access groups.

- **9 volunteers** have provided to the project by providing befriending and/or group volunteering. Unfortunately, we have lost 1 volunteer due to work commitments. There have been **234 volunteer hours** this quarter.
- When delivering one to one support, we have been **able to signpost service users to services** such as information and advice, Romeros, Alzheimer's society, fire service, Equipment & Adaptions, Mental Health Team, Memory Team, Butterflies and Adult Social Care, digital champions, Age UK Barnsley Shopping service, handyman service and gardening service, as well as the new Therapist and hairdressing service launched at the Elizabeth Activity and daycare centre. We have also supported 4 older people to register for dial-a-ride and some service users have been referred to access lifeline pendants.
- This quarter we have received referrals from the mental health team, social prescribers, information and advice, self-referrals, and family and from specialist occupational therapy such as the reablement team and South Yorkshire police.
- The **Darton Wellbeing Group** has continued to be attended each month by a Tai-Chi instructor, which has enabled group members to participate in **chair-based Tai-Chi**. The same group has also had a **talk about scam awareness**, and this person will return later in the year to follow up with the group.



Changing the Relationship



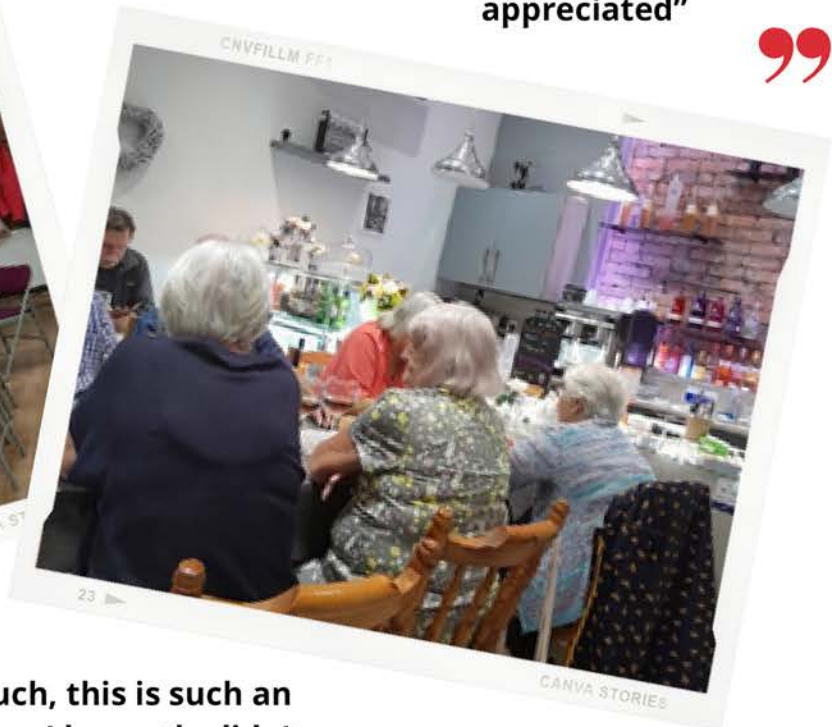
Health & Wellbeing

Connecting Communities

Eastfield Arms Lunch



“Thank you so much for taking him, it’s really appreciated”



“Thank you so much, this is such an amazing help to me. I honestly didn’t expect you would be able to help and I am so very grateful”.





Changing the
Relationship



Health &
Wellbeing

Connecting Communities

Achievements this quarter - April 2023 - June 2023

- During this quarter we also **celebrated a very special birthday** within the **Darton Wellbeing group**. One of our members turned 94, and we as a group celebrated with a birthday cake, bacon sandwiches and a song. The session ended with a beautiful poem written by the group member himself.
- We also **celebrated the coronation of King Charles** at the Darton Wellbeing group, with tea & homemade scones made by our fantastic volunteer. A wonderful buffet and a beautiful homemade Sponge decorated with the union jack, which was brought in by a group member.
- We celebrated **dementia awareness week** with a special 'forget me not' cake, and the group enjoyed memory games, a memory quiz and reminisced about their earlier days, during the war, and working in the mines.
- The **Eastfield Arms Lunch** with company continues to be a success and takes places once a fortnight.
- The **dementia café at Emmanuel Church** has gone from strength to strength, welcoming new members, with a regular attendance of 12 members. For some members this has become a lifeline, a chance to come out of their comfort zone and try something new.
- A **new lunch club 'Chatty Tuesdays @ The Ginnel'** was launched in June of this quarter, with 6 members at the initial meeting, we hope this will grow to include more members of the community in weeks and months to come. This was supported by the North Area team which was very much appreciated.
- **Sugdens Bowls club** was launched in April and had the attendance of 2 Members at the initial meeting. We had hoped to entice more members of the community to this group, however after the full quarter we still only had 2 members and therefore the bowling club and SIOs decided to stop the group until a time that there is more interest.





Changing the Relationship



Health & Wellbeing

Connecting Communities

Celebrating Dementia Awareness Week



Birthday cake for one of the member **94th** Birthday celebration



“Thankyou, I don't know what I'd do without you”



Darton Wellbeing Group Celebration of King Charles's Coronation



Changing the Relationship



Health & Wellbeing

Connecting Communities

Achievements this quarter - April 2023 - June 2023

A **volunteer event** was held at The Elizabeth Activity & Daycare Centre, Age UK Barnsley, Queens Road. This event was to celebrate the great work of every volunteer within our organisation. With **40 volunteers attending** on the day, it was an invaluable opportunity to showcase their great contributions to their role within Age UK Barnsley. Each volunteer left with a thank you gift. It also gave the individuals a chance to meet other volunteers, network and give feedback on their experience so far. What we learned from this event, is that many volunteers felt that **a chance to 'get together more often'** would be hugely beneficial to their role. As a result, we aim to organise a **Volunteer Support Group** in the coming months, where volunteers can come together with organisation staff, managers, and leaders, and where they can pass on their feedback, feelings, and any ideas they may have.

Added Value



86

People supported this quarter



27

New Community Care Journeys



83

Helped to return home from a hospital stay



82

People being given personal hygiene and household cleaning kits to prevent **Hygiene Poverty**



600

Volunteering Hours comes from the Men in Sheds project



3

New referrals to the Digital Champions to receive digital device support

North Area Social Inclusion Service

Case Study

Background

Lady was referred to our services to help check she is in receipt of correct benefits.

Any unplanned outcomes (Good or Bad)

British gas had not received payments since last Sept and wanted to set up an unaffordable payment plan £174 month. We are still in contact with these while we sort out her financial situation.

A Memory test is now ongoing for J, outcome pending.

Who was involved

- Daughter
- Sky
- Yorkshire Water
- British Gas
- DWP
- GP
- Virgin Media
- Hospital services
- Age UK Barnsley
- Pensions Scheme
- Co-op Bank
- Barnsley Council

Outcomes of Project

Bills now set up in her name. Due to limited capability to work had a good outcome, fit notes no longer needed, meaning much less stress for the on this subject.

Still waiting on letter to say what her income will be now.

Virgin Media bill reduced from £89 month to £60 month.

Water meter reading given, and water payment cards sent but she misplaced them both.

Direct debits are now set up to reduce risk of going into debt.

Summary

A lady was referred to Age UK Barnsley by a family member

This lady has poor memory, and when I first visited, she said there wasn't any issues with her finances. Upon commencement of our 1-1 visits, it became apparent that many bills had gone unpaid as they were still in her deceased husband's name.

Some bills had also gone to a previous address, which she hadn't lived at for 8 years. Over a period and several visits, various companies have been contacted and the bills are now in J's name. J agreed to have a password put in place so I can speak on her behalf if she is not with me, as J cannot remember specifics of conversations to relay to companies calling her.

She was nominated as a person to receive a coronation afternoon tea. Recently had the outcome of her 'limited capability to work assessment' as a result she no longer must send fit notes.

Her daughter attended for a home assessment on this lady's memory and was also assisting at a CT scan for the same thing. Depending on outcome of the assessment and scan we discussed possibility of applying for PIP.

I had a discussion with her daughter and J regarding the possibility of getting a power of attorney in place, should the results of memory test and scan show anything.

What could have been done better?

Difficult to judge as lady has memory issues and if I'd asked her to keep paperwork together, she may well have tried to but then misplaced it before my visit.

Next Steps

Collect paperwork together and try to get her to keep it in one place. Once she receives letter from DWP re her work capability assessment and we know her new income, we can contact B.Gas to set up an affordable payment plan.

Possibly look to apply for PIP. Look at getting a power of attorney set up if needed.

Once her financial and medical affairs are in order, we can then move on to look at combatting her social isolation through possibility of social groups in her area.



Changing the Relationship



Health & Wellbeing

Connecting Communities



Connection Hub

Quarter 3 data

63

People more engaged in activities

1

New Volunteers

5

Existing Volunteers

- Satisfactory quarterly monitoring report and contract management meeting.
- Project milestones achieved
- Project outcome indicator targets met
- Overall project progress & achievements

Aim of the Connections Hubs

We wish to support individuals, especially those with long-term health conditions or disabilities, to recover from the longer-term impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic by re-connecting them with their community through the creation of a weekly hub providing opportunities for people to meet, share and learn.

How does the commission meets the council plan?

Our Council Plan
2021 -2024

Healthy Barnsley

- People are safe and feel safe
- People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible
- We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough

Learning Barnsley

- People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills including access to apprenticeships.
- People have access to early help and support

Building on the proven successful Happy Café model (both nationally and in the north area), the hub will deliver a varied programme of activities and events and provide opportunities for increasing social capital through volunteering and establishing a concept of membership amongst participants.

The gaps

Loneliness and isolation are not new challenges for disabled people, particularly those living in deprived areas.

Some will need support and assurance to overcome the seclusion they have experienced and to enable them to re-engage with the life they enjoyed pre-covid. Others will have reassessed their lives and taken the decision to improve their future lives. Some will have lost their job or volunteering roles and want to improve their opportunities by improving their skills.

The hub will offer the opportunity to meet like-minded people, share experiences and learn new or improve existing skills, thus developing a community spirit and sense of belonging.



Changing the Relationship



Health & Wellbeing

Connecting Communities

Darton East

The ward's first spring/summer events were a success, with 11 members attending and receiving a **free spring clean pack** and tips booklet and **8 members** attending our **Green-fingered giveaway**. The group's numbers had dwindled over the last couple of months. Hopefully, this will kickstart the group again.

Darton West

We have been continuing with the weekly **social group sessions** at **Priestley Avenue Community Centre**. We have a new 'Hot Topic' each week to give the group a more structured discussion/debate. The first spring/summer events for the ward and the tip booklet provided with the cleaning hamper went down a storm. **10 members attended** our Green fingered giveaway. We will continue to promote the social group and monthly events in the ward to recruit more members.

St Helens

The fortnightly bingo sessions at New Lodge Community Centre continue to succeed, with new members signing up and attending. New Lodge Community Centre hosted our Spring Clean event, the first of the spring/summer events for the ward. **14 members** received their free Spring Clean packs, and **3 new members** signed up at this event. Our **Green fingered giveaway** event had 22 attendees.

We have also been attending **Athersley Community Shop** on a weekly basis for the **games morning**. However, attendance has been low, and we will look at other activity options in the next quarter.

Old Town

Our first spring clean event was held at **McLintocks on Summer Lane** due to continuing difficulties with a venue, but we had no attendees and no attendees for our Green-fingered giveaway. It should be noted that residents from **Old Town continue to attend other venues**. We are currently in discussions with Asda at Old Mill Lane for a weekly drop-in. Most members from Old Town are happy to travel to other wards at the moment.



Connection Hub
Quarter 1

22

Members signed up to
Connect Together

16

Members signed up to
Connect Together

41

Members signed up to
Connect Together

22

Members signed up to
Connect Together



**Changing the
Relationship**



**Health &
Wellbeing**

Connecting Communities



Connection Hub

Quarter 1

Volunteer Week

Our volunteers were celebrated at our Volunteers Week event at the Carers Garden, where they were provided with cream tea and a live choir!

Jumble Sale

We had many local residents donating to our jumble sale to be held at the beginning of July, and local businesses have donated tombola prizes, including Brook Office Supplies, Reds in the Community, Barnsley Bowl, The Copper Pot and The Witches Brew.

Household Support Grant

We have received funding from the Household Support Grant to provide free small measures to residents struggling with their fuel bills. Our Warm Connections team will deliver the service, including a home assessment and the provision of small measures, e.g. tap aerators, draft excluders and radiator reflectors. All members will be encouraged to request a home visit..

Connection Hubs

Case Study



Before Connect Together

Mrs D is a 65-year-old married lady who has diabetes and has had a stroke. Since having a stroke, she has become more reliant on her husband and has become increasingly isolated, as she has to use a mobility scooter to get about. Mrs D feels that becoming isolated has had a negative impact on her confidence and mental wellbeing.

Mrs D self-referred to Connect Together in October 2022, signing up for and attending the Crisis Support sessions.

Intervention

Mrs D even participated in the Get Fit session despite struggling with her mobility. Since the Crisis Support sessions finished, Mrs D has been attending the weekly social group and has become a valued member. She has been supported by our Warm Connections Team and our Benefits Advisor, as well as receiving a free underwear pack through our Pants to Poverty project.

After Connect Together

Since joining Connect Together, Mrs D has highlighted the importance of having such groups by saying, "I'm going to keep coming as it gets me out the house for an hour, and it's good for the community, and I don't want to lose it". She has also built lasting relationships with other members of the group.

Outcomes

- Feels less isolated
- Feels more connected to the community
- More confident
- Improved well-being
- Made new friends





Changing the Relationship



Health & Wellbeing

Connecting Communities



Programme Aims

- Beneficiaries have improved emotional and physical wellbeing
- Beneficiaries are connecting, interacting, and forging new friendships
- Beneficiaries are regularly participating in the activities in their local area
- Beneficiaries are adopting and maintaining more active lifestyles

- Satisfactory quarterly monitoring report and contract management meeting.
- Project milestones achieved
- Project outcome indicator targets met
- Overall project progress & achievements

Performance Narrative Report

We have continued to promote the project through various avenues, including a presentation for the North Area Council. As mentioned in the last report, we have engaged in numerous promotional events in the area and across Barnsley, including the Open Day at Oakwell and a recent Town Hall event.

Unfortunately, this hasn't led to the increased participation we were hoping for. I will be having some meetings in the local area with the Health and Wellbeing coaches to try and boost the numbers across all 3 strands of the project.

We are also looking at moving the exercise session away from Tuesday evening. Our Community Engagement Officer has consulted with parents in the local area, and the feedback has been that a number of children's activities run on Tuesday evenings, which are their priority. We want to move the exercise to a different evening but remain at the same venue. This will also help as Barnsley FC fixtures are on Tuesday nights, and we normally see a drop-off in numbers when this happens.

We would appreciate support in further developing the opportunities, and our community engagement officer Vikki will be making contact to identify new ways of driving engagement and linking into current community groups.



Changing the Relationship



Health & Wellbeing

Connecting Communities



Reds Connect

42

Number of people adopting and maintaining healthy lifestyles

1

Number of volunteers supporting activities

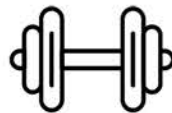
How the Area Council can support this provision?

Promote and advocate for the provision

Exercise Session

This session now takes place at St Helens Church Laithes Lane Athersley on Tuesdays 5.45-6.45 pm.

We have signed up a few new faces, although we have been disappointed that we haven't seen participants return to the session who had previously attended. We are still working on this and pushing the session to eligible participants in our other sessions, such as Fit Red Ladies. Our current course runs on Mondays, so we are giving participants from the North area the chance to attend the Tuesday session. This will then give them an extra weekly session and the opportunity to continue their exercise once the Fit Red Ladies course has finished. We hope they have made connections with staff and participants, which will aid this.



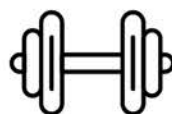
33

Total participants engaged

The Extra Time Hub

The Extra Time Hub has continued to be regularly attended by participants. They continue to enjoy various games of their choice, including board games, quiz games and cards. Our volunteer continues to promote the sessions to other groups he is involved with.

The group have formed a tight bond and continues to meet away from the session for lunch and other activities.



6

Total participants engaged



Changing the Relationship



Health & Wellbeing

Connecting Communities



Team Talk

The sessions continue to be relaxed, with participants engaging in numerous activities and games to help with their mental wellbeing. This low-key approach seems to work well with the current group, although we do discuss specific issues when needed.

Vikki has been creative in this by designing activities to help create conversation and encourage the participants to feel free to be able to open up and also support each other.



11

Total participants engaged

Partnerships

We are also looking at working with **17** partners, such as Mind, Humankind and YGAM, to discuss different mental health topics.

To further promote the sessions, we have worked with partners to share and promote the programmes to mental health specialists. In a number of instances, we are also meeting with the same partners to support the delivery and wider impact of the activities.

This partnership engagement will continue to grow and develop as time progresses in order to ensure we can promote, enhance and develop the activities we deliver.



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Promotional Material

Provision
Commissioned
by North Area
Council

**Q1 - 2023/24
(April - June
2023)**



Community Caretakers

North Area Council will like to introduce an additional service to help keep the north area clean, green and well-presented.



Longfields, Darton. Photo taken by Leyla Nayeri
© The Story of You

Have an idea or need help with an environmental project?

Request support by contacting the North Area Team

 northteam@barnsley.gov.uk

 @NorthAreaTeam

 Roundhouse Library
Laithes Crescent
Athersley
Barnsley
S71 3AE

Projects are directed by one of the four ward alliances.



St Helens Ward Alliance





Ward Alliances are made up of community representatives and Elected Members. They work together to identify and fund solutions to local challenges.

Do you live or work in the North Area?

Do you need advice?

We can help with Debt & Money Worries, Benefits, Housing, Employment, Relationship, Consumer & Energy issues

Our advisers will be providing free, impartial and confidential advice at the following times:

Emmanuel Church, Huddersfield Road, S75 1DT

Every Monday, 9am - 1pm

Mapplewell Village Hall, Darton Lane, S75 6AL

1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month, 4.30pm - 7.00pm

Roundhouse Lifelong Learning Centre, Laithes Crescent, S71 3AE

2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month, 2.30pm - 5.00pm

Mapplewell Village Hall, Darton Lane, S75 6AL

Every Wednesday 1.00pm - 5.00pm

The Darton Centre, Huddersfield Road, S75 5ND

Every Thursday 9.00am - 1.00pm

Roundhouse Lifelong Learning Centre, Laithes Crescent, S71 3AE

Every Friday 9.00am - 1.00pm

No appointment needed
You can just drop-in!



North Area Council

Darton East, Darton West, Old Town, St Helens





**Passionate
about
possibilities.**

Connect Together

- bring your community spirit alive

Bingo!

Come along to Connect Together for some bingo fun! There'll be prizes for the first line and full house, as well as refreshments. It's only £1 per card, including a bonus game!

Interested? Get in touch with Aimi at aimi.fitzpatrick@dialbarnsley.org.uk or on 07716 139110.

When: Every other Thursday

Time: 1-3pm

Where: New Lodge Community Centre, New Lodge, S71 1SH



Thanks to funding from



North Area Council
Darton East, Darton West, Old Town, St Helens



Passionate
about
possibilities.

Connect Together

- bring your community spirit alive

Social Club

Come and join us for a cuppa and to make new friends. Each week we will have a 'Hot Topic' to discuss, such as Holiday Destinations, Hobbies, Recipes, Books, Movies, and Childhood Memories!

Interested? Get in touch with Aimi at aimi.fitzpatrick@dialbarnsley.org.uk or on 07716 139110.

When: Every Tuesday

Time: 1-3pm

Where: Priestley Avenue
Community Centre,
Kexbrough, S75 5LG



Thanks to funding from



North Area Council

Darton East, Darton West, Old Town, St Helens

REDS CONNECT EXERCISE

FREE EXERCISE SESSION FOR ALL 16+

**NORTH AREA RESIDENTS
ACTIVITIES INCLUDE CIRCUITS,
BOXING EXERCISE AND MUCH
MORE**



**COME ALONG CONNECT,
SOCIALISE AND EXERCISE!**

**TUESDAYS
5:45PM - 6:45PM**

**ST HELEN'S CHURCH, LAITHES LANE,
ATHERSLEY SOUTH, S71 3AF**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT US ON 01226 211333
OR EMAIL COMMUNITY@BARNSELEYFC.CO.UK

**FREE TO
ATTEND**



@bfccommunity



@redsinthecommunity



@reds

REDS CONNECT

EXTRA TIME HUB

LOOKING TO SOCIALISE AND TAKE PART IN ACTIVITIES YOU DECIDE ON?

AT OUR EXTRA TIME HUB, IT'S YOUR TIME SO YOU DECIDE WHAT TO DO! EXERCISE, MUSIC, BOARD GAMES, OR JUST HAVING A CATCH UP AND A BREW.

**FREE TO
ATTEND**



THURSDAYS
1:30PM - 3PM

**STAINCROSS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP,
CHURCH, MAPPLEWELL, S75 6AA**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT US ON 01226 211333
OR EMAIL COMMUNITY@BARNSLEYFC.CO.UK

Page 93



@bfccommunity



@redsinthecommunity



@redsinthecommunity

TALK

TEAM

SUPPORTING MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Get involved in our weekly #TeamTalk at New Lodge Community Centre. With opportunities to socialise and take part in a range of activities including, exercise sessions, pool, table tennis, darts and more!

EVERY THURSDAY
NEW LODGE COMMUNITY CENTRE, S71
1SH 6PM - 7:30PM

FREE TO ATTEND

For further information contact us on **01226 211333** alternatively email **community@barnsleyfc.co.uk**



@bfccommunity



@redsinthecommunity

Page 94



@redsinthecommunity

BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:

11th September 2023

Agenda Item: 7

**Report of North Area Council
Manager**

North Area Council Connecting Communities Grant Review

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update members on the delivery of the Stronger Communities Grant funded programmes.
- 1.2 Review delivery of the providers and their funded projects.
- 1.3 Evaluate if the providers are delivering good value for money
- 1.4 Deliver the priority working groups recommendation on if the grant programme should revive further investment from the Area Council.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Members of the Connecting Communities Grant panel provide an update to the Area Council on the discussion that took place at the review workshop in the 31st August. Sections 7 & 8 of this report.**
- 2.2 The Grant Panel Representatives recommended 8.5.3. as the preferred option to help address social isolation in the community for an extension period of 12 months for two of the providers.**
- 2.3 The Grant Panel Representatives recommend a total funding of £75,000 for a period of 12 months from April 2024.**

3. Background

Having noted the success of the Stronger Communities Grant funded projects which have been delivered throughout 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21; but reviewing the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic it was agreed it was agreed at the Area Council Meeting on the 19th July 2021 that the North Area would run a new grant opportunity Connecting Communities Grant for the project delivery from December 2021 to March 2024.

The NAC Connecting Communities Grant was established as a grants programme totalling £100,000 per annum, initially for a two-year period to address loneliness and isolation in the North Area. Applicants can bid for up to £40,000 per annum.

The grant is aimed at developing the capacity of community groups and organisations, social enterprises and not for profit organisations, with a strong emphasis on legacy. This build on the Stronger Communities Grant 2021/22, where the Panel particularly welcomed bids that supported communities with recovery from Covid-19.

Aims and Objectives of the Connecting Communities Grant Fund:

- Reduce loneliness and isolation
- Increase the confidence of individuals
- Improve the physical and mental wellbeing of individuals
- Re-connect communities

Following a market engagement event that helped to shape the final grant criteria, the grant opportunity was advertised at the end of September 2021 and the final date for submission was the 22nd October 2021. A total of 9 applications were received before the deadline totalling £615,710.39.

Stage one moderation took place on the 1st November and 4 organisations were invited back to present their projects on the 8th November.

The Wards were represented by the following Councillors.

Darton East	Cllr Steve Hunt
Darton West	Cllr Trevor Cave
Old Town	Cllr Clive Pickering (no evaluation scores received)
St Helen's	Cllr Jenny Platts

4. Recommended Projects

The scoring evaluation matrix provided a robust qualitative and quantitative basis upon which to identify suitable applications. The panel was independently chaired by the Category Manager Tim Witham and Procurement Officer Kerry Dalby-Wyatt and supported by the North Area's Senior Link Officer, Area Manager and the Area Team.

3 applications were recommended for funding. At the time of writing the providers have not been notified. The total allocated amount for these 3 projects was £186,766.44.

The recommended projects are as follows (they are in no particular order):

Age UK Barnsley – North Area Social Inclusion Service - £79,600.20

Age UK Barnsley are a local charity that works only for the benefit of the people of Barnsley Borough and our Resource Centre/Head Office is based within the Town Centre. We have been providing successful, innovative, area-wide services addressing social isolation in Barnsley for more than 5 years. Age UK Barnsley work with older people with a wide range of needs and health conditions including dementia, mental health problems, physical health conditions and limited mobility.

The Team- The team will consist of 1 FTE Social Inclusion Worker, 1 day weekly of a designated, accredited Information and Advice Worker, 40 volunteers, local management, administration support, and support from a Volunteer Coordinator.

Our Aim

Our overall aim is to reduce the current level of social isolation and loneliness in people aged over 50 in the North Area. We will do this by:

- Developing and supporting personalised plans and support to enable individuals to tackle their social isolation.
- Developing community responses to provide innovative solutions to barriers to inclusion and involving local volunteers.
- Working with a wide range of partner agencies to increase the number of sustainable community activity opportunities available within the North Area
- Apply Age Friendly principles to increase involvement of older people in community development and ensuring their full social value is appreciated.

Gaps that We Will Address.

- 1:1 Person Centred Planning and support from a Social Inclusion Worker
- A range of interventions that will support socially isolated older people to overcome the barriers to involvement e.g., transport, money, confidence, health problems etc.
- Mapping, promotion and support for Community Groups and Activities
- Developing new sustainable Community Activities through consultation and partnership working post-Covid. Especially those activities where gaps have been identified such as groups for men and Digital Inclusion projects as well as those activities that promote mental and physical wellbeing e.g. Tai Chi.
- Enable older people to come together and have a voice in community developments.
- Bring Community Groups together for mutual support, clear pathways and sharing resources.

DIAL Barnsley – Connection Hubs - £66,450.00

Aim of the Connections Hub

We wish to support individuals, especially those with long term health conditions or disabilities, to recover from the longer-term impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic by re connecting them with their community through the creation of a weekly hub providing opportunities for people to meet, share and learn.

Building on the proven successful Happy Café model (both national and in the north area) the hub will deliver a varied programme of activities and events and provide opportunities for increasing social capital through volunteering and establishing a concept of membership amongst participants.

The Team- The team will consist of 1 FTE Social Inclusion Worker, and DIAL aim to recruit and train 10 new volunteers.

The gaps we will address:

Loneliness and isolation is not a new challenge for disabled people particularly for those who live in areas of deprivation.

As far back as 2016/ 2017 the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport in their Community Life Survey, identified that people at particular risk from loneliness were unmarried middle-agers with long-term health conditions.

The Community Life Survey 2018/19 found that 14% of people with a limiting long term illness (LLTI)/disability reported feelings of loneliness compared to 4% of those with no LLTI/disability.

The majority of adults whom DIAL works with have particular complex and/or challenging needs due to long-term ill health or disability including physical disability, mental ill health, sensory impairments and terminal illness.

Examples of activities and interventions to be delivered:

Based on the Happy café model the hub will run weekly across the 4 wards in the north area and offer a rolling programme of events based on past experience in the NAC Happy Café, feedback from participants and ongoing consultation.

Reds in the Community – Reds Connect - £40,716.24

Our projects help to improve wellbeing and alleviate social isolation and loneliness by providing opportunities for people to get active, make friends and connect.

Aims

- Reduce social isolation and loneliness among local people
- Increase the number of local people participating in local activities
- Improve physical and emotional wellbeing
- Increase confidence and self esteem

The Team

A dedicated Project Coordinator, Sean Margison, will be responsible for monitoring and reporting with monthly updates provided to Head of Health & Participation, Kieron Campbell.

Activities

Reds Connect will create new opportunities for local people in the North Area to get active, take part and make friends. It combines physical, recreational and wellbeing activities with peer support and group socials to help address social isolation and loneliness, engender new relationships and encourage local people to get active and involved.

We will deliver 3 sessions per week for the 2-year period. Each session will involve a different activity and be aimed at a different target audience. We will engage 60 unique users per activity (180 total) with an anticipated throughput of 3,960 attendances based on 15 participants per session (264 total sessions). Sessions will be:

- Team Talk (Men all ages) – Relaxed environment for informal conversation
- Extra Time Hub (Older People) - varied social interaction sessions for retired/semi-retired people to combat loneliness and inactivity
- Exercise Classes (open to all) – varied activities to reduce inactivity

5. Lessons Learned

5.1. The process was coordinated by BMBC Procurement colleagues. The evaluation process required panel members to complete additional information compared to the stronger communities grant paperwork. This created additional complexity and required a greater time commitment for panel member.

5.2. The inclusion of the Five Ways to Wellbeing in the scoring criteria helped the Grant Panel understand how the North Area Funding contributes to the wider determinants of health and wellbeing.

5.3. The fund was heavily oversubscribed.

5.4. This situation shows the growth financial pressures that the voluntary and community sector continue to face.

6. Grant Awards and Performance Monitoring/Management

All applicants submitted a monitoring/performance framework and quarterly payment schedule as part of their application. Where a quarterly payment is agreed the payments will only be released once the North Area Council Manager is satisfied that monitoring/performance targets for the previous quarter have been met, or if not met, a satisfactory reason is given as to why this is the case and revised targets for the following quarters agreed.

7. Provider Delivery: Outcomes, Outputs and Added Value

7.1. Overview

The grant programme has been operational since April 2022 (Age UK commenced in the January to enable the origination to maintain contact with people they had supported during Covid-19 lockdowns).

During the period total delivery period the three providers have supported 778 people who were socially isolated.

The current delivery programme includes a mixture of: brunch and lunch clubs, wellbeing group / gentle exercise, moderate exercise, games clubs, bingo and a mens' mental health support group. This totals 9 weekly support sessions in the North Area, one delivered fortnightly and one delivered once a month.

7.2. Provider Case Studies

Please refer to Appendix 1 of this report for the provider case studies which help to demonstrate the qualitative impact of this grant funded programme.

8. Grant Panel Recommendations

8.1. At the Grant Review Workshop on the 31st August 2023 the grant panel reviewed the providers delivery; their performance and considered if the North Area was receiving good value for money. The Area Manager highlighted that it would not be possible to continue to commission the whole programme currently funded by the North Area Council during 2024/25 because this would exceed the budget available. Therefore decisions are needed to reduce expenditure.

8.2. Due to a change in elected member representation the composition of the panel now includes the following members:

Darton East	Cllr Steve Hunt
Darton West	Cllr Trevor Cave
Old Town	Cllr Clive Pickering
St Helen's	Cllr Neil Wright

In addition, the following Councillors attended:

Cllr Leech (Area Chair), Cllr Newing, Cllr Lofts, Cllr Tattersall

8.3. In summary the Grant Panel expressed that they:

- Would like to see more numerical data from the monitoring reports.

- Wished to see more demographic information provided for each project.
- Requested the KPI information for the three projects
- Liked the weekly timetable which provides an overview of engagement opportunity and would like to use it to help promote the provision (the Area Manager intends to double check the information with the providers prior to wider distribution)
- Requested that a Steering Group is introduced, similar to the Anti-Poverty Steering Group.

8.4. The Grant Panel concluded that they are receiving good value for money from two providers. For one of the providers, they requested that the provider adapt their offer for the remainder of the grant period to attract additional participants.

8.5. A discussion took place regarding the continuation of the grant opportunity. Options discussed:

- 8.5.1. Discontinue the grant funding opportunity.
- 8.5.2. Extend the existing grant agreements
- 8.5.3. Extend the grant agreements of the providers who have delivered best value for money
- 8.5.4. Re-advertise the grant opportunity with existing aims and objectives.
- 8.5.5. Re-advertise the grant opportunity with revised aims and objectives.

8.6. The preferred option was option 8.5.3. The grant envelope cannot be increased at this time. Provider would need to be requested to adapt provision accordingly.

8.7. It is recommended that a commitment of £75,000 per annum is agreed to allow for a further 12 months of intervention by the two providers.

8.8. Due to the delayed start at the beginning of the programme the third provider will continue to deliver until the end of June 2024.

8.9. The Panel advised that they re-evaluate early in 2024/25 when the financial position was updated and decide if option 8.5.5 was viable dependant on the needs of the community.

9. Next steps

9.1. Members agree the recommendations proposed by the Grant Panel.

9.2. Members devolved responsibility for procuring the grant extension to the Area Council Manager to progress, with regular updates to the Grant Panel.

Officer Contact:
RosemarieAdams@barnsley.gov.uk

Date:
01/09/2023

Appendix 1:

Connecting Communities Grant Review

Provider Case Studies

Age UK - Case Study 1

Case Study July 22 – September 22

Title – Individual case study

Date – 28/09/2022

Ward Area- North

Summary:

Ms M was referred to Age UK Barnsley in August 2022 by her daughter. She was initially referred to the service for a volunteer befriender. When social inclusion officers visited Ms M on an initial home visit, it was apparent that it would be more suitable for Ms M to be supported to get out to groups in the community for more social interaction.

Key Learning Points:

- **Ms M was undergoing assessments by the memory team when social inclusion officers made an initial visit which has since resulted in a diagnosis of dementia.**
- **Ms M was referred by her daughter who is also currently caring for her husband who has cancer.**
- **Ms M was not getting out to have social contact.**

Background:

Ms M was referred to Age UK Barnsley in August 2022 by her daughter who stated that she was not having much social interaction and would like a befriender to visit her. On the receipt of the referral a social inclusion officer called Ms M's daughter in order to gather further information about the circumstances. On this telephone call Ms M's daughter explained that Ms M was undergoing memory assessments with the memory team as there were concerns about her. Ms M's daughter said that she was providing support to her mum by helping with shopping but that she was also going through a hard time herself as her husband had cancer. A home visit was arranged at Ms M's house and her daughter also agreed to be there at the first visit.

At the first visit to Ms M two social inclusion officers attended to discuss with her what support she would like to receive from us at Age UK Barnsley. Ms M said that she was able to get out to the shops as her mobility is good but that she didn't feel confident to attend groups in the community alone and that at times she did feel lonely despite seeing her daughter for practical support.

Following this visit a social inclusion officer contacted Ms M's daughter in September to arrange another visit with Ms M to get more details and to create a personalised plan to get her involved in community groups. On this second visit the social inclusion officer spent time getting to know what hobbies Ms M has had in the past and whether there were any new hobbies she would like to take up. A plan was devised with the ultimate goal of getting Ms M to feel more confident to attend social

groups which are currently running in the community. Ms M is going to be assisted to a lunch group for the first time by a social inclusion officer.

Ms M has now received a diagnosis of dementia by the memory team. When speaking to Ms M's daughter the social inclusion officer has provided information and details about an MCST group that may be suitable for Ms M to attend alongside other social groups.

Who was involved:

2 x Social inclusion officers

Outcomes of Project:

With the support of Age UK Barnsley social inclusion officers Ms M has developed a personalised plan which will result in her getting out into more community groups. She also has the opportunity to attend MCST groups.

Any unplanned outcomes (good or bad):

None

What could have been done better:

Nothing

Next steps:

A social inclusion officer will support Ms M to a group in the next fortnight and over the coming weeks and months she will feel more confident to attend other groups.

Age UK - Case Study 2

Title- Individual Case Study

Date- 10/04/2023

Ward Area- Darton East

Summary:

Mr R was referred to Age UK Barnsley in April by his Daughter, as she felt he was isolated. He lives alone and is unable get out alone as he is registered partially sighted and has also has Parkinsons which has limited his mobility. He wanted the support of Age UK Barnsley to register to Dial a Ride and to assist him in getting out to groups.

Key Learning Points:

- **Mr R lives alone and was socially isolated.**
- **He has health issues which makes it very difficult for him to get out into the community.**
- **Mr R started attending groups with the support of the SIO.**

Background:

Mr R lives alone and was referred to Age UK Barnsley by his daughter by phoning into the office and speaking with a member of staff. During the phone call Mr R's daughter stated that he attends doesn't get out much as he has no family in the immediate vicinity.

This self-referral was passed over to one of the Social Inclusion Officers at Age UK Barnsley, who contacted Mr R to arrange a face-to-face visit at Mr R's home. During this visit, Mr R's daughter was present who was a big support for him with looking after his financial affairs and checking in on him regularly via telephone. The SIO introduced themselves and gave Mr R information about the services that are provided by Age UK Barnsley. The SIO gave information about the groups in the local area and a plan was made for Mr R to attend the Darton Darby & Joan group on Monday the following week for the first time with the SIO.

The SIO also planned to return to Mr R's house prior to the Darton group to complete the application for the Dial a Ride service, to ensure that Mr R can continue to attend the group independently in future.

On the morning of the group in Darton, the SIO picked up Mr R and assisted him to attend the group. Mr R joined in with conversation, knew lots of the existing members from the community, took part in the bingo with assistance from the SIO, and sang along to the older songs that the act on stage covered that week. He seemed to really enjoy himself. On the way back home Mr R stated that he really enjoyed the group and would like to attend again the following week. The SIO then made arrangement to assist Mr R to book transport for the following week, however this wasn't needed, as A friend of Mr R contacted him after the first group to offer him a ride there and back with him each week.

After this initial success, the SIO continued to pop in to see Mr R on a weekly basis. One week he revealed that he had received a bill from TV Licencing for over £160. After conferring with a colleague within Information and Advice, the SIO suggested a referral to I&A would be a good option to investigate any concession he may be eligible for regarding his sight issues.

Mr R was nominated and received a coronation celebration afternoon tea box, organised by the wonderful Rebecca from the social prescribing team. He was thrilled to receive the box, and happily shared it with his neighbour on coronation day.

Who was involved:

1 x SIO Information & Advice Social Prescribing & Information & Advice

Outcomes of project:

With the support of the SIO, Mr R attended a group in the community for the first time. He really enjoyed being out at a group and socialising with others and therefore the SIO supported Mr R to register and book Dial a Ride transport so that he can continue to access the group independently. This support has enabled Mr R to stay independent and access groups in the community, despite him having mobility issues and being registered partially blind.

Any unplanned outcomes (good or bad):

None.

What could have been done better:

None.

Next steps:

The Social Inclusion Officer will stay in touch with Mr R to ensure that he is able to continue attending the social groups in the local area. He will also be informed of any new groups and events closer to his home. He is on the waiting list for a befriender. The SIO will continue to visit until a befriender can be put in place.

DIAL

Case Study 1 (2022/23 Q3 Report)

Mr Z is a male in his 50's. He has mobility issues, a speech impairment, and lost his wife during the COVID- 19 pandemic. Mr Z was referred to Connect Together by his telephone befriender, as he was concerned that Mr Z had become extremely isolated since losing his wife.

We contacted Mr Z and discussed with him that since his wife had died he hadn't left his home or socialised with many people. He explained that he gets his shopping delivered to his door and that he had fallen out with other organisations that had previously been involved with him. Mr Z stated that he was feeling fed up and wanted to be more involved in the local community. We talked to him about Connect Together and invited him to come along. Mr Z agreed and sounded excited about joining.

The day before Mr Z was meant to be attending the group, he contacted us by email to say that he would not be attending as he didn't have support in getting to the venue. We discussed options with him, and he said he would think about getting a taxi. He arrived the next day in a taxi and one of our members helped him in and out of the taxi and welcomed him.

The theme of the first session that Mr Z attended was all about wellbeing and how it could be improved. This gave Mr Z the opportunity to think and discuss his own wellbeing; he concluded that his own personal wellbeing was poor. Mr Z continued to attend the group on a regular basis, until the school holidays started. Mr Z explained that he did not wish to attend during the holidays as there were children running round other parts of the venue and he did not want any of them to knock in to him while he was walking through to get to our room as he felt that this may cause him to fall. During this time, we continued to keep in touch with Mr Z via telephone so that he was kept up to date with the group. Mr Z said that he was very grateful for these calls as it made him feel like he was still being included with the group.

We have developed a trusting working relationship with Mr Z and because of this relationship Mr Z agreed to a referral to Adult Social Care for a needs assessment. Mr Z has since been referred to Occupational Therapy who are supporting him with his mobility issues.

Mr Z has now expressed an interest in volunteering as a Group Helper and continues to attend when he is able.

DIAL Case Study 2 (2022/23 – Q4 Report)

Before Connect Together

Mrs L is a 69-year-old lady who has several health conditions which she takes medication for including pain relief and steroids. Apart from going to the gym by herself on a regular basis Mrs L does not go anywhere else, leaving her feeling quite isolated. She feels that the lack of socialisation has impacted on her confidence, self-esteem, and mental well-being.

Intervention

Mrs L was referred to Connect Together by Ad Astra in September 2022. She signed up to Connect Together, attended the first of DIALs crisis support sessions and received a free slow cooker. Although Mrs L did not attend the next couple of support sessions, contact was made on a regular basis, to inform her of the up-and-coming sessions, find out why she wasn't attending, and to see what kind of activities she would like to see in the area. From these check-ins with Mrs L, we found that the reason she had not been attending support sessions was that the themes did not interest her. We also discovered that Mrs L had enjoyed playing Bingo at one of the local community centres, but it had stopped several months earlier. Knowing this, we started providing fortnightly Bingo sessions at one of our sessions.

After Connect Together

Since the Bingo started Mrs L has attended all the sessions and she has become a valuable member of the group. Not only does she enjoy winning, but she also enjoys checking the cards of other players and congratulates them when they win. Mrs L says the Bingo session gives her something exciting to look forward to.

Outcomes

Feels less isolated
Feels more connected to the community
More confident
Improved well-being
Made new friends

Reds in the Community (2022/23- Q2 report)

EXTRA TIME HUB – Mr M.

The following case study has been developed during our Extra Time Hub activity. The activity is aimed at reducing social isolation in adults across the North Area of Barnsley. The delivery model of the activity is flexible and adaptable to ensure we can accommodate the needs of all in attendance. The activity enables continuous consultation with people to direct and shape delivery with participants identifying games, exercise or themes they would like the next week to be around.

The current participants identified that they were more interested in light exercise and board games, so that is how the sessions are running at the moment.

One of our participants is Mr M lives alone and is 82 years old, with his only remaining family living abroad. This limits the number of personal connections he has on a regular basis. Due to this, Mr M identified the session as something he was interested in and over the last quarter he has attended on 11 separate occasions. Mr M has participated in a number of activities and enjoys the variety on offer. This includes taking part in badminton, bocchia, quoits and numerous board games.

Mr M had this to say about the session;

‘The games on a Thursday afternoon are a great chance to meet new friends and enjoy a good time. It has a very positive effect on my life. The games keep my brain active and make me think. Being 82 and living alone I look forward to it very much’

Due to attending the activities at Mapplewell and Staincross Village Hall, Mr M has now extended his social circle and is actively joining in with other RitC initiatives.

Sean Margison our Health & Wellbeing Officer added:

‘It has been great to see Mr M come out of his shell and engage in the activities here. You can see his confidence growing weekly and it has been fantastic to see him join further activities to widen his social circle. I think the most impactful part of the activities has been the opportunity for Mr M to communicate and find connections with others.

Mr M is now a key part of the group dynamic and is often the member of the group that begins communication, and he is someone who is very welcoming of new attendees.

Mr M will continue to attend and shape the activities on offer, and we would like to support Mr M to become a volunteer as well as a participant of the session to further support him.

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:
11th September 2023

Agenda Item: 8

Report of North Area Council
Manager

Commissioning, Project Development and Financial Update

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides the Area Council with a financial position and forecast for expenditure based on the projects that have been proposed.
- 1.2 It highlights the need agree a clear plan for commissioning against the priorities.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. **Members note the progress on the Environmental Community Caretaker Service recruitment.**
- 2.2. **Note the recommendations of the Connecting Communities Grant Review conducted by the Grant Panel and agree regarding further investment in this grant stream or an alternative project. Full details agenda item 7. This requires and investment of £75,000 to enable two grant providers to continue provision for a 12month period, concluding March 2025.**
- 2.3. **The Youth Resilience Fund requires a review. It is recommended that this takes place in October with a decision on the continuation of the grant to be agreed at the January meeting of the Area Council.**
- 2.4. **The North Area Council should note the existing budget position the existing the funding commitments. Section 4 of this report.**

3. Background highlighting all significant financial commitment

- 3.0 The Anti-Poverty Community Outreach Project
Contract 1 commenced on the 14th September 2015. This is a one-year (plus one year) contract valued at £149,000 in total. The initial contract has now concluded.

Contract 2 commenced on the 14th September 2017 for a two-year term at a contract value of approximately £95,000 per annum. On the 25th March 2019 the Area Council took the decision to utilise the contract extension clause and extend the contract until the 13th September 2020.

The Area Council agreed to continue to fund this project during the Covid-19 Pandemic and subsequently during the Cost of Living Crisis.

CURRENT POSITION: At the Area Council meeting on the 13th March further funding was agreed for two years July 2023 – June 2025. A waiver has been submitted with the option to extend for a further 12 months to June 2026. A maximum budget of £107,500 has been agreed for the initial two years, totalling £215,000.

3.1 The Clean and Green Service

Contract one was delivered by Forge Community Partnership commenced on the 14th September 2015. Prior to the end of the contract the tender opportunity was advertised.

The second environmental contract commenced on the 2nd October 2017 at a value of £85,000 per annum. The provider, Twiggs Grounds Maintenance Ltd, commenced service delivery on the 2nd October 2017. Twiggs continued to provide an environmental education contract in the North Area from 2019 to March 2023.

From April 2023 the North Area Council entered into an SLA with BMBC Neighbourhood Services, introducing a Environmental Community Caretaker Model.

Neighbourhood services proposal costings = £120,963 to include:

- Team Leader (G6)
- Development and Demand Team (G4)
- Apprentice
- Vehicle, training, fuel, waste license, tools and contingency budget.

The contingency budget is £21,160.60 (20% of the resource requirement £100,803.00).

The service will be 80% scheduled maintenance, with priorities identified by the Ward Alliances. 20% will provide volunteering and community engagements support. Volunteering activities will be identified by the Ward Alliances and programmed into the Caretaker Team's schedule.

Update:

The Environmental Caretaker Team Leader G6 and apprentice commenced in post from 3rd July 2023.

The driver role was filled from the 14th August.

Regrettably the Team Leader has sustained an injury on the 31st July which resulted in a significant recovery period. The post been backfilled by a BMBC employee on secondment for up to three months. This has implications for the contingency budget.

3.2 Housing and Cohesion Officer (Private Sector Housing) – At the November meeting 2017 it was agreed that the North Area would fund a private sector housing officer post at Grade 6 for 12 months fixed term. The successful candidate started on the 22nd January 2018 and proved to be a great asset to the

area. The officer left the North Area council at the end of June 2019 for a promotion within BMBC.

The current Housing and Cohesion Officer started in post on Monday 19th October 2020. The officer now has a permanent contract and the role forms part of the Safer Communities structure.

In addition to the salary fees the Area Council agreed to fund uniform, PPE including IT, phone and bodycam, plus a £5k annual working budget.

The current post holder commenced their duties in the North Area on the 15th May 2023.

N.B.: Contractually the position is covered by a permanent contract to ensure employment rights for individuals. If the Area Council agreed to cease funding the position a 6-month notice period will be required.

3.3 Health and Wellbeing – Connecting Communities Grant

At a series of workshops in 2021 the Area Council discussed the loneliness and isolation and the impact of Covid-19. In July 2021 it was agreed to fund a grant program for two years with a budget of £100,000 per annum.

The grant opportunity was advertised at the end of September 2021 and the final date for submission was the 22nd October 2021. A total of 9 applications were received before the deadline totalling £615,710.39.

Stage one moderation took place on the 1st November and 4 organisations were invited back to present their projects on the 8th November. 3 applications were recommended for funding. The total allocated amount for these 3 projects was £186,766.44. ***£13,233.56 remained unallocated and has been recirculated into the main Area Council budget for forthcoming delivery allocation.***

Successful Projects:

- Age UK Barnsley – North Area Social Inclusion Service - £79,600.20
- DIAL Barnsley – Connection Hubs - £66,450.00
- Reds in the Community – Reds Connect - £40,716.24

UPDATE: The Connecting Communities Grant Panel met to review the providers delivery; their performance and consider if the North Area was receiving good value for money. Following which they recommended that two of the provider grant agreements are extended for a period of 12 months, to the maximum value of £75,000. This would mean that all the current provision would conclude by March 2025.

N.B. The Grant Panel will review the performance and budget availability again in early 2024/25 to establish if additional funding can be identified to advertise a similar grant opportunity with revised aims and objectives, dependant on local need.

3.4 Devolved Funding to Ward Alliances

The Area Council has profiled £20,000 to be devolved to Ward Alliances during 2022. This means a £5,000 allocation per ward where the end of year balance is less than £10,000.

N.B. The decision was taken in 2020/21 that the funding devolved to Ward Alliances by the North Area Council would cease from 2022/23.

3.5 Health and Wellbeing – focus on Young People

In November 2019 the North Area Council agreed to fund a project for up to three years. The project entitled 'An Empowerment Programme Enabling Resilient Transitions for Children and Young People Aged 8-14 Years' was advertised as a competitive grant in early 2020. The process was unsuccessful. It was agreed in on the 16th March that the opportunity should be chunked down to allow the VCS to respond.

N.B. This opportunity has been tailored to help address the fall out of COVID-19 lockdown and aid in the delivery of the COVID-19 Recovery Strategy. The grants went live on the 1st November 2020, delivered by YMCA and Ad Astra.

The Area Council has committed to fund this work for up to three years. Covid-19 Lockdown restrictions caused delays and for a time schools would not permit external partners into schools. The providers are now working within 5 schools.

The grant funding originally ran from November 2020 to October 2022.

Current Position: At the March 2022 meeting the Area Council agree to fund the project for a further 2 years, until October 2024, at £90,000p.a. Providers received a 3% financial uplift which was feasible within the current financial envelope. This security will enabling the existing providers to support students adversely affected by Covid-19 and support them in their educational transitions, primarily the move to senior school.

N.B. It will be necessary to confirm if this funding stream will continue beyond October 2024 at the January 2024 Area Council meeting. A workshop is recommended in October.

3.6 Cost of Living Crisis – North Area Support

Due to the unspent Housing and Cohesion allocation whilst the post has been vacant it is possible to reallocate this funding. £10,000 was earmarked for a Cost of Living based project. As a result, a workshop was held on 10th May to explore opportunities. At the area Council meeting in May 2023 it was agreed that the funding would be used to enable the Connecting Communities Grant providers to provide communal eating opportunities during autumn/winter 2023/24.

3.7 Sports Van 2023

The North Area has benefitted from the Sports Van for the past two summers. At the May 2023 meeting the Area Council agreed funding of £2,700 for fund the sports van and purchase refreshments for summer activities.

4. Financial Position

- 4.1. **The forecast for 2022/23 showed that the underspend** (including underspend from previous years) **was profiled to reduce to £76,259**. This is because the in-year balance is projected to exceed the annual budget by approximately £27,653.

However, this was not the case, the amount profiled for the Housing and Cohesion post was £35,000 however the internal recharge was £27,695 due to the post being vacant for several months.

- 4.2. Outlined annual commitments for 2023/24:

Contract	Proposed Spend 2023/24
Anti- Poverty – Community Outreach	£104,720
Environmental Community Caretaker Contingency	£100,803 £21,160.60
Housing Cohesion Officer – Grade 6 (+laptop and phone)	£40,000
Children and Youth People Resilience Grant	£90,000
Connecting Communities Grant 2021-2024 £100,000 per annum for 2 years	£82,500
Summer Sports Van	£2,700
Cost of Living – Communal Eating	£10,000
TOTAL	£451,883.60

- 4.3. Provided that the Area Council continues to commit funding as outlined in Appendix 1, the total spend profiled for 2023/24 is predicted to be £451,883.60. This includes the contingency budget for Neighbourhood Services which will have to be reviewed to the need for cover staffing for the delivery programme.
- 4.4. The underspend at the end of 2023/24 was projected to be £25,451 at the beginning of the year. However this includes the annual charge for both Environmental Caretaker Team and Housing and Cohesion which will not have been filled for the whole financial year. This may result in savings of up to £23,100.

5. Commissioning Programme from April 2024 – Workshop Outcomes

- 5.1. A workshop was held on Friday the 23rd June. Attended by Cllr Leech, Cllr T Cave, Cllr Lofts, Cllr Denton, Cllr Tattersall and Cllr Wright.
- 5.2. Attendees were briefed on the current priorities & link with Barnsley 2030, timeline for existing commissioning and the current financial position.
- 5.3. A discussion took place regarding the future commissioning, assessment of need and measuring impact of early intervention and prevention models.
- 5.4. The Area Manager explained that the current level of investment into services is not sustainable. It may be possible to maintain current provision during 2024/25 due to the points identified in 4.4 of this report. However, the commissioning commitments would need to be reduced in line with budget constraints for 2025/26.

5.5. The group also considered the two grant funding streams:

5.6. Youth Resilience Grant

Members questioned whether the Area Council should be funding provision in schools. The Area Council Manager advised this funding stream had been developed in order to help reduce anti-social behaviour and risk-taking behaviour in the community. Workshop participants advised working with young people between the ages of 8 and 13, with attention to the transition to senior schools. The providers have been working with young people on: emotional intelligence and improving children's ability to communicate effectively, building confidence and self-esteem, advising them on where to go should they need help, relationships and choosing healthy friendships, discussing the importance of consequences and the impact of sound decision making. The providers use buddy training and/or peer support models to build resilient networks and improve outcomes.

The Area Council Manager also stressed that it has taken the providers considerable time to build positive working relationships with schools, particularly during the pandemic and subsequent recovery period.

This grant commitment will be reviewed with the help of scrutiny from Education, Early Start and Prevention colleagues.

NOTE: A decision on if this grant funding stream continues will be required in January 2024.

5.7. Connecting Communities Grant

This grant was devised to help support the communities of the North Area to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic by reducing isolation and encouraging social interaction. Designed to facilitate the building of strong, resilient, and cohesive communities so that the health impacts associated with being lonely and less mobile during the pandemic can be addressed through positive engagement at in neighbourhood settings.

This funding provision is delivered by three providers currently. It delivers some very valuable soft outcomes for local residents. Often supporting people who do not meet the threshold for statutory support but are still in need of social connection and enriching activities; whilst managing a on a tight budget. This grant programme comes to an end at the end of March 2024. Age UK's provision will come to an end at the end of December 2023. Due to the delayed start at the beginning of the programme Reds in the Community will continue to deliver until the end of June 2024.

NOTE: The Connecting Communities Grant Panel met for a review workshop on the 31st August 2023. Please refer to section 3.3 for a brief update and Item 7 for today's agenda for a comprehensive update. In summary it was recommended that agreed that a commitment of £75,000 per annum is agreed to allow for a further 12 months of intervention by the two providers.

Please refer to Item 7 for full details.

- 5.8. The Area Manager urged the workshop participants to refer back to a couple of earlier performance reports which will provide greater insight regarding project delivery for both grant funding streams.

North Area Council 2022/23 Q1 Performance Report:

<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s99738/Item%207b%20-%20Performance%20Report%202022%20-%202023%20Q1.pdf>

North Area Council 2022/23 Q4 Performance Report:

<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s106702/20230522%20Q4%20-%20NAT%20Performance%20Report%202022%20-%202023.pdf>

6. Risks

- 6.1. The proposed budget would take the Area Council approximately £51,883 over budget per annum for 2023/24. However taking into account the current under spend, the investment profiled in Appendix 1 has been feasible.

7. Next Steps

- 7.1. Ensure that the Area Manager is alerted to any proposed commissioning profile variations so that feasibility considerations can be made at the earliest opportunity.
- 7.2. Based on current delivery by the providers, the Connecting Communities Grant Panel have recommended that the funding continues for a period of 12 months until March 2025 for two providers. Total value £75,000. With delegated responsibility to the Area Manager to progress.
- 7.3. It is recommended that the priority working group for Young People meet with the Area Manager and Senior Link Officer to review the Youth Resilience Grant in October 2023.

Officer Contact:
RosemarieAdams@barnsley.gov.uk

Date:
1st September 2023

Appendix 1: North Area Council - Proposed expenditure April 2022-March 2025

Project / Service	2023/24	2024/25
Anti- Poverty – Community Outreach <i>Retender Anti- Poverty - Waiver in place Sept 2021 - June 2023 (9 Months)</i>	104,720.00	106,750.00
Environmental Contract	100,803.00	105,850.00
Envrionmental Contingency	21,160.00	21,170.00
Housing and Cohesion Officer – Grade 6 (+laptop and phone)	40,000.00	42,500.00
Stronger Communities Grant Reduced to £20,000 in 2022/23	-	-
outh Resilience Fund (November 2022 - October 2024 - YMCA & Ad Astra)	90,000.00	45,000.00
Connecting Communities Social Isolation Grant (£100,000 pa for 2 years)	82,500.00	100,000.00
Sports Van 2023	2,700.00	
Cost of Living - Communal Eating	10,000.00	
Devolved funding to Ward Alliances (<i>where March 2019 balance is less than £10,000</i>)		-
TOTAL	451,883.00	421,270.00

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BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**North Area Council:
11th September 2023**

Agenda Item: 9

**Report of the
North Area Council Manager**

Devolved Ward Budget and Ward Alliance Funds

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report updates the North Area Council on financial position the Ward Alliance budget for each ward for the 2023/24 period.

2. Recommendation

2.2 That each Ward in the North Area Council area prioritises the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds 2023/24, in line with the guidance on spend.

3.0 Introduction

3.1 As part of the decisions made by the Council's Cabinet in 2013 each Ward was allocated an annual Ward Alliance Fund of £10,000. In addition, the Area Council has devolved £10,000 to the Ward Alliances between 2014/15 and 2019/20; no additional funding was devolved in 2020/21 and a reduced amount of £5,000 was devolved in 2021/22. The £5,000 devolved funding from the Area Council was been agreed for 2022/23. At this time no additional funding has been identified for devolution to Ward Alliances during 2023/24.

3.2 All funding decisions must meet with Ward Alliance approval and be allocated with in accordance with the ward Alliance Funding 2016/17 – Briefing Note. This requires half of the fund to be allocated to projects where there is match funding.

3.3 In considering projects for the use of the Devolved Ward Budget, Members will need to be satisfied that:

- it meets a recognised need for the Ward,
- it is in the wider public interest (i.e. the whole community can potentially benefit),
- it represents value for money.

4.0 2023/24 Financial Position

4.1 The carry-forward of remaining balances of the 2022/23 Ward Alliance Fund was added to the 2023/24 allocation, to be managed as a single budget with the conditions of the ward alliance budget allocation.

4.2 Budget allocations for 2022/23

Ward	Base Allocation	Carried forward from 2022/23	Total available
Darton East	£10,000	£1,243.20	£11,243.20
Darton West	£10,000	£6,011.02	£16,011.02
Old Town	£10,000	£8,664.33	£18,664.33
St Helen's	£10,000	£7,795.22	£17,795.22

4.3 All decisions on the use of this funding need to be approved through the Ward Alliance.

4.4 Please refer to Appendix 1 for a full breakdown.

5.0 Challenges and Opportunities

5.1 All wards should take an opportunity to consult on their ward plan early during the financial year 2023/24. This will help the Ward Alliances to review the existing plans, reaffirm their ward priorities and plan projects and initiatives that will address the ward centric priorities.

5.2 Any projects requiring a long lead in time will require the involvement of the Area Team as early as possible.

5.3 Proactive promotion of the Ward Alliance Fund to local not for profit groups and organisations is highly recommended to ensure efficient expenditure over the financial year.

Officer Contact:
RosemarieAdams@barnsley.gov.uk

Date:
30th August 2023

Appendix 1:

2023-24 Ward Funding Allocations

For 2023/24, each Ward will have an allocation of £10,000 for the Ward Alliance Fund.

All decisions on the use of this funding need to be approved through the Ward Alliance.

The carry-forward of remaining balances of the 2022/23 Ward Alliance Fund will be combined and added to the 2023/24 Allocation, to be managed as a single budget with the above conditions.

50% of the funding requires a match-funding element of volunteer time that directly relates to the project in question, or other match funding resources (such as free room hire or donations of goods and equipment). This reflects the fact that the fund is intended to support volunteering and social action in our communities.

50% can be used for initiatives that have no volunteer element – such as the purchase and installation of benches, hanging baskets or other street furniture.

Area Councils have the option to allocate up to £20,000 from the Area Council budget to each of their Ward Alliances. This is discretionary to each Area Council.

2023-24 Ward Funding Allocations

DARTON EAST WARD ALLIANCE

For the financial year 2023-24, the Ward Alliance has the following available budget.

Income / Return Grant	£0.00
Base Allocation	£10,000.00
Devolved from area Council (discretionary)	£0.00
Carried forward from FY 2022-23	£1,243.20

Total Available Funding	£11,243.20
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	Project Details	Allocation	Match Funding (£) Element of allocation	Non-Match Funding (£) Allocation remaining	Allocation (£) Remaining Total Available Funding
1	Crafts and Chat Group	£470.00	£2,630.40	£5,621.60	£10,773.20
2	Secretary Payment Q1	£125.00	£0.00	£5,496.60	£10,648.20
3	Mapplewell & Staincross Village Hall 'Film' Club	£1,050.00	£0.00	£4,446.60	£9,598.20
4	Holiday Hunger Club	£500.00	£1,233.00	£4,446.60	£9,098.20

2023-24 Ward Funding Allocations

DARTON WEST WARD ALLIANCE

For the financial year 2023-24, the Ward Alliance has the following available budget.

Income / Return Grant	£0.00
Base Allocation	£10,000.00
Devolved from area Council (discretionary)	£0.00
Carried forward from FY 2022-23	£6,011.02

Total Available Funding	£16,011.02
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	Project Details	Allocation	Match Funding (£) Element of allocation	Non-Match Funding (£) Allocation remaining	Allocation (£) Remaining Total Available Funding
1	Q4 Secretary Payment - DW (2022/23)	£125.00	£0.00	£7,880.51	£15,886.02
2	Summer Activity Provision	£1,750.00	£1,233.00	£6,130.51	£14,136.02
3	No Parking Signs	£99.52	£68.50	£6,030.99	£14,036.50
4	Gawber History Trail - Interpretation Board	£2,365.00	£986.40	£3,665.99	£11,671.50

2023-24 Ward Funding Allocations

OLD TOWN WARD ALLIANCE

For the financial year 2023-24 the Ward Alliance has the following available budget.

Income / Return Grant	£0.00
Base Allocation	£10,000.00
Devolved from area Council (discretionary)	£0.00
Carried forward from FY 2022-23	£8,664.33

Total Available Funding	£18,664.33
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	Project Details	Allocation	Match Funding (£) Element of allocation	Non-Match Funding (£) Allocation remaining	Allocation (£) Remaining 'Total Available Funding'

2023-24 Ward Funding Allocations

ST HELEN'S WARD ALLIANCE

For the financial year 2023-24, the Ward Alliance has the following available budget.

Income / Return Grant	£0.00
Base Allocation	£10,000.00
Devolved from area Council (discretionary)	£0.00
Carried forward from FY 2022-23	£7,531.12

Total Available Funding	£17,531.12
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	Project Details	Allocation	Match Funding (£) Element of allocation	Non-Match Funding (£) Allocation remaining	Allocation (£) Remaining Total Available Funding
1	Health and Wellbeing Garden	£785.00	£794.60	£8,765.56	£16,746.12
2	St Helens Gala	£1,200.00	£0.00	£7,565.56	£15,546.12
3	Hanging Baskets 2023	£2,000.00	£0.00	£5,565.56	£13,546.12
4	Caterpillar Playgroup	£870.00	£5,918.40	£5,565.56	£12,676.12
5	Secretary Payment	£125.00	£0.00	£5,440.56	£12,551.12
6	Athersley Community Bonfire	£1,000.00	£4,110.00	£5,440.56	£11,551.12
7	Container for equipment	£1,000.00	£1,027.50	£5,440.56	£10,551.12

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BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**North Area Council Meeting:
Monday 11th September 2023**

Agenda Item: 10

**Report of North Area Council
Manager**

North Area Ward Alliance – Operational Updates

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report appraises the North Area Council of the progress made by each Ward in relation Ward Alliance implementation.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the North Area Council receives an update on the progress of the Darton East, Darton West, Old Town and St Helens Ward Alliances for information purposes. Members are reminded of requirement for Ward Alliance minutes to the received by the Area Council.

3.0 Introduction

3.1 This report is set within the context of decisions made on the way the Council is structured to conduct business at Area, Ward and Neighbourhood levels (Cab21.11.2012/6), Devolved Budget arrangements (Cab16.1.2013/10.3), Officer Support (Cab13.2.2013/9) and Communities and Area Governance Documentation (Cab.8.5.2013/7.1). This report is submitted on that basis.

4.0 Ward Alliance Meetings

4.1 This report includes all notes of North Area Ward Alliances, received by the North Area Team, that were held during June and July 2023.

Appendices:

Darton East Ward Alliance Meeting:	Appendix One
Darton West Ward Alliance Meeting:	Appendix Two
Old Town Ward Alliance Meeting:	Appendix Three
St Helens Alliance Meeting:	Appendix Four

The reporting into the North Area Council, of the Ward Alliance notes is in line with the approved Council protocols. The notes are for information only.

Officer Contact:
RosemarieAdams@barnsley.gov.uk

Date:
18th August 2023

Appendix One:

Darton East Ward Alliance
Tuesday 13th June 2023 – 6 PM
Face to face meeting.

Present:

Cllr Richard Denton – Darton East Ward Councillor
Cllr Steve Hunt – Darton East Ward Councillor
Nick Hibberd - Mapplewell Village Hall Manager
Caroline Hague – Village Hall Assistant Manager
Paul Marsh – Local Business Man
Rebecca Battye - North Area Team
Gerard Morrall- Local Business Man
Teresa Wilcockson – Local resident
David Lockwood – Local Business Man
David Hilton – Green space
Helen Altun – Secretary

1. Apologies

Cllr Matthew Crisp - Darton East Ward Councillor

2. Declarations of Interest.

Three members had a declaration of interest.

3. Minutes of previous meeting.

Rosie Marshall to be changed to Rosie Adams. Take out the car parking situation is being reviewed as there are new areas available. Also, the photoshoot was with Barnsley Youth Theatre.

4. Matters Arising.

The racking needs to be put up in the container in the park. Two members agreed to chase this up.

The Darton East ward alliance 10-year event will now be on the 29/09/23 at Staincross working Men's club at 7pm till 11pm Invites will be sent out. The previous event date clashed with the Mayor's ball.

A member had spoken to Paul Brannan who's team will visit the One Stop shop on Spark Lane on a couple of occasion and speak to the tenant about the state of the outside area and enforce if necessary.

5. Financial Update

No change from the last meeting £10,743.20

£5621.60 match funding

£5121.60 non match funding

Working budgets are separate to this.

6. Applications for Funding

Barnsley opal women's institute - £470.00 – craft and chat group - Approved
It will be held at Staincross WMC.

Darton East and Darton West were mentioned on the application, but Darton West could have been put in error.

It is a very well attended group.

Village Hall film club - £1050.00 – approved with conditions.

The event was held last year.

Members asked how successful it was. Number of attendees read out for each session.

They will be doing activities in each session as well.

Members discussed the application. No volunteer hours at present.

Marketing is key for it. It could be advertised in the school's newsletter and Darton Arrow.

A condition of the funding was to charge £1 minimum charge per child to attend the event and to make sure it is marketed well and make simple refreshments available.

This charge could go forward to make the event partly sustainable and to keep it going every year.

Marketing and attendance need to be good, and if attendance does not show an increase funding may not be available next year.

7. Ward Action Plan

All members need to think about projects that we want to support over the next few months.

It was agreed during the 6-week holiday we would hold the park activities once a week in the park on a Wednesday. Volunteers would be required to support this activity.

A sports van funded by the North area will also be coming into Mapplewell park three times in the school holidays on a Friday 11-1pm on the first, third and fifth week.

Ramp it up portable skate ramps and scooter hire will also be in Mapplewell park three times over the holidays on a Monday. Dates are to be confirmed. It was agreed to try and avoid the Village hall sessions if possible as a rota is still to be confirmed.

There will also be a summer party one Friday night during the school holidays at the village hall. The village hall will look for a date in their diary and confirm.

The hanging baskets should be up this week, but it could be by the end of next week due to the hot weather. Signs will come down if no longer sponsored when the baskets go up.

Members stated that sponsors may not choose to sponsor going forward if hanging baskets are going to be put up late.

A member explained that planters in the village are looking tatty, and they have been trying to find a solution for the planters. They will see if they can get in the

contract for neighbourhood services to look after and adopt the planters, but the ward alliance would have to fund the bedding plants etc. They also need to be maintained and watered. A couple of planters look amazing that have been looked after by business owners and volunteers.

8. Environmental Contract

At the North Area Council briefing Rosie provided an update about the environmental contract which requires a team leader, driver, and apprentice. The team leader has been recruited subject to them accepting the position. A driver has not yet been recruited through the interview process, but they may recruit someone working through an agency at the moment, and they are looking at the apprentice route.

The Public rights of way team have been in the area.

A member sent an email to Rosie regarding the green space in the railway station, that is being littered a lot from fountain square to the train station, with picnic and barbeque rubbish.

Green space and Voice for Darton usually do litter picks in this area. There is grass at the side of the seating area and the member asked Rosie for the path and around the seating area to be tidied.

Bloomhouse lane is also bad at the moment.

Swallow hill road edges are quite overgrown.

A member reported Ibberson garden's hedge growing into the footpath and was told it was going to be cut back.

A member asked what the council policy on weeding is at the side of the road and footpaths and footpath edge. There is a weed control programme.

9. Summer Event

An event which could have been planned between the ward alliance and the council and fomas. (Friends of Mapplewell and Staincross).

The input from the council will depend on the type and size of the event we put on and insurance would need exploring.

The summer event needs to be on the agenda in October 2023 ready for next year.

Father Tim is wanting to raise money and an event is planned to take place in Darton park.

A new community interest company are doing a soft launch. A meeting will be held in the parish hall this Saturday.

Members discussed who might be involved in a subcommittee for a summer event, Steve, Richard, and Helen agreed they would join a subcommittee and plan a joint event with FOMAS.

10.AOB

Incidents have been occurring in Mapplewell Park with anti-social behaviour.

A member asked if we have had any convictions?

We have still had wheelie bin fires and trees broken down and goal posts taken down.

Two other incidents also took place over the weekend.

A council officer is to review the camera footage, but the offences may not be caught on camera. It does seem to be acting as a deterrent in the MUGA area.

A member explained they had been in touch with the police and the neighbourhood team and asked them to increase patrols. There will also be a car with a CCTV camera on parked around the area.

The actual camera in Mapplewell Park was paid to be there for three months and it is currently still there.

On Saturday there was another incident where a dog was killed and a women robbed. The culprits were arrested and released on bail. They are not allowed in Mapplewell anymore.

Members discussed if additional cameras could be installed for extra security, and could we support it and legally where do we stand. Is there any other funding available for CCTV?

The camera's location is sending people into other areas of the park or elsewhere.

People who are doing the vandalism are coming from Greenside Avenue so could we have a camera there? Does Mapplewell manor have a camera? What about the developer at the top of the park, could we work in conjunction with the developer to put cameras around the top of the field.

A member will talk to the safer neighbourhood team regarding these questions. Could a neighbourhood watch scheme help? Certain streets have them, but there are no active groups.

A member was asked if they wanted to join a neighbourhood watch scheme and they were just added to a what's app group.

We are currently in a good place with the number of people in our group, but we do need to look at regenerating the group and getting new members. This will go on to the agenda. We need to look at various groups in place already and gather our ideas together of where to look for future members.

We also need to adopt best practices by getting the chairs of the ward alliance together.

A member did ask about this but as received no response up to now about a meeting.

A member explained in March 23 they had a briefing with Matt Oldroyd about funding for litter bins in the local area some locations were put forward and it is being progressed now, so by the time of the next meeting there should be more to say on this. We may be able to have one on Spark Lane near the football field. A member asked if there could be one for Woolley Colliery, but it had currently not been a location mentioned. The bins were supposed to have been monitored and a report made.

Delivery vehicle outside Pachino's every night, were also discussed this makes the junction dangerous and now we have a new takeaway coming on Towngate, could a condition be put in that if you open a takeaway, you must supply an outside bin.

Meeting closed

Next meeting Tuesday 11th July 2023 at 6pm.

Darton East Ward Alliance
Tuesday 11th July 2023 – 6 PM
Face to face meeting.

Present:

Cllr Richard Denton – Darton East Ward Councillor
Cllr Steve Hunt – Darton East Ward Councillor
Nick Hibberd - Mapplewell Village Hall Manager
Paul Marsh – Local Business Man
Rebecca Battye - North Area Team
Gerard Morrall- Local Business Man
Teresa Wilcockson – Local resident
David Lockwood – Local Business Man
David Hilton – Green space
Helen Altun – Secretary

11. Apologies

Caroline Hague – Village Hall Assistant Manager

12. Declarations of Interest.

None

13. Minutes of previous meeting.

Approved.

14. Matters Arising.

Point 8 of the previous minutes. The meeting with the environmental caretaker is on 19th July with 2 members, and 2 members will be meeting them on Monday.

15. Financial Update

£9223.20 none match funding.

£5151.60 match funding.

16. Applications for Funding

Holiday hunger club £500 total.

A few points raised were:

- how would they advertise and who would be the recipients who will benefit from it.
- how will we see if it has been beneficial.
- Rebecca met the new deacon she is very community orientated, and she's been to look around the area. The club is open to anyone from any religion.
- The area team is supporting them to deliver this programme. It will be publicised well over Facebook and through other outlets.

- It's a community building not just a church. It will be once a week to provide a meal for people who might need a meal.
- Have they approached co-op or co-op funding to get a grant. It's too late for a grant from the co-op, but if they approached the co-op and spoke to the manager Steve, they might be able to help them with surplus food.
- It's to benefit the local community for families that are struggling.
- The church will be giving the room hire and volunteer time.
- Could fruit or vegetable be added to it for nutrition.
- There will be a £500 working budget. Any money left would have to be given back to the ward alliance.
- People interested would have to sign up for the event.
- We don't have a vast number of providers of these services in our area.
- It is a positive step.
- It is used as a food bank so they may have some suggestions from the food bank.

Grant approved.

17. CCTV Update.

The group had a long conversation at the last meeting and some members went away and spoke to safer neighbourhoods. They are meeting with them on Thursday morning and will do a review of the park.

Partnership funding could be available with the council or new developer or the nursing home.

The developer would be willing to meet to see if he could put the top end of the park under his camera cover. They will put this in to the conversation with them on Thursday.

An update via email after the meeting.

18. Health and wellbeing event.

Organisations have approached a member to ask if we are putting on another event in the hall. If we are doing it, will it be part of the ward alliance or just using the village hall as a building.

The events have been good previously and were run through the ward alliance.

We have some money left over at the last event.

The voucher for the meal was a good idea.

£463.00 in the ward alliance fund and £551.00 in the community funds.

Tuesday 14th November looks to be the best day. Gerard Morrell to lead on the event.

19. Ward Action Plan

Facebook and website ongoing. The village hall is paying for the host and the domain name monthly. Someone tried to email Steve Hunt from the website, and it went to Harry Spence. It has since been updated.

Summer activities in the park. An email was sent out for volunteers. We need more volunteers for this to go ahead. £253.00 is left from last year funding. We will purchase some more equipment and some snacks and drinks. Any volunteers can email northteam@barnsley.gov.uk or call Rebecca Battye. A member agreed to put a post out on Facebook asking for volunteers.

More activities are also happening in the park. The sports van and ramp up are coming.

A member asked for the racking to be put up asap in the park container.

The next kids' disco will be on Friday 01/09/23 at the Village hall. The village hall will advertise and sell tickets. There is £279.00 left in the budget.

The library is doing a job club on a Friday 12pm-2pm for 16 to 24 year olds.

Environment - 400 bags and 300 volunteer hours have been logged since January and the village planters have been planted up and hopefully will be looked after by the new caretaker.

Litter pick will be going ahead with schools.

Lots of clubs are running from the Village hall.

Christmas needs to be on the agenda for the September meeting.

Community gala needs to be on the agenda for the October meeting.

St Helen's ward are having a gala on 26/07/23. The North Area team will get more information about this event.

The church was looking at having a community gala in Darton park on 20/08/23.

A member went to the meeting, and it was suggested for us to do one next year and take alternate years. Green notes CIC are supporting groups and going out speaking about the environment.

20. Environmental contract

Various meetings have taken place and some members have met with leader Michael and apprentice Cian. They are still recruiting for a driver but hope to have them in place by the end of August.

They have work scheduled but it will evolve over time. A member asked to pass on an open invitation to the greenspace meeting the 3rd Monday of each month.

The contract started on the 1st of July.

We will get a report on what they have done on a monthly basis.

It's a north area council contract and KPI's are discussed at the north area meeting. Members would like to know the percentage of the schedule completed.

This will be an ongoing agenda item and with a new contract there may be teething issue.

Two members of the ward alliance have agreed to meet up with them twice a month on a Wednesday and help.
Feedback can be given to the group.

21. New Members of the Ward Alliance.

A member asked when the last time was the ward alliance asked for new members. It's not been advertised. A post can go out on facebook and on the ward alliance facebook page.

There is a application process in place for new members.

It could be promoted to groups who the ward alliance have helped with funding in the last few years.

We are currently in a strong position at the moment.

You cannot be on two different ward alliance boards.

22. AOB

A member asked about hanging baskets a joint email was read out that was sent out to all councillors on the 5th of July. They should be up by the end of July. There will be a 50 percent discount off the hanging baskets due to them not being up by the end of June. It will be going to procurement and each area will have their own procurement. It's not just about creating the baskets it's hanging them and watering them too.

The ramp up event and sport's van adverts which are taking place around the area were handed out to members. This will be funded through the North Area council.

They need to register for the ramp up sessions.

Christmas needs to be put on the agenda for September. There will be limited funds from the ward alliance and from a fomas point of view they may need a contribution from the ward alliance.

A member asked if a music event was going ahead in the pubs in September. It was mentioned but nothing in place yet.

Funds will be needed for the Christmas event.

The Village hall is due to have a business club on Friday 1st September 9am.

In Mapplewell park on Sunday at 1pm, Barnsley Youth theatre will be putting an event on.

This theatre group have provided some wonderful events.so this could be a real winner in Mapplewell Park.

A member also mentioned reds in the community are launching a fit men club at Athersley Rec on Thursday nights 5.30pm – 7.30pm.

Meeting closed

Next meeting Tuesday 12th September 2023 at 6pm.

Appendix Two:

Darton West Ward Alliance
Minutes of Meeting
Monday 17th July 2023

Attendees: Cllr Alice Cave (Chair), Cllr Trevor Cave, Cllr Sharon Howard, John Ryan, Christina Carroll, Ann Carroll, Shelly Jepson, Richard Haigh.

Apologies: None to Report.

North Area Team: Rebecca Battye.

1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 The minutes of the meeting Wednesday 21st June 2023 were reviewed and agreed as a true record.

N.B. John Ryan gave his apologies for meeting 21st June 2023 this was not recorded and now duly amended.

N.B. Cllr Alice Cave (Chair) declared a personal interest when discussing any matters relating to Hanging Baskets across the Ward.

Matters Arising

Rebecca to send email to Cllrs A Cave, T Cave, S Howard and sponsors of summer hanging baskets to update of the current situation.

Rebecca to contact Rachel Paling about the wider contract of summer hanging baskets across the authority.

Rebecca to look at the notice boards across the Ward. Cllr A Cave, Christina Carroll, John Ryan offered their assistance with this matter.

Rebecca to investigate any progress made with litter bins at Ripley Grove (bus stop) and Vets for Pets (bus Stop).

Rebecca to follow up restoration of milestones at Redbrook, Barugh Green and Medina Way with relevant department.

Rebecca to send Summer School Activities to Richard for circulation to all Ward members.

Rebecca to look at the 2 planters' situation at Redbrook and update.

Rebecca to send email to Core Service Services to have the grass cutting at the planter at Wilbrook Rise put on their schedule.

Rebecca to look at costing for Christmas 2023 (Sept Agenda Item).

Cllr Trevor Cave to contact Matt Bell (Chair), Barugh Green School to investigate if Ward Alliance can offer any assistance with future ventures.

Cllr Trevor Cave to contact Rachel Knox Deputy Head Gawber Primary re: future Christmas Event.

Cllr Alice Cave to contact Sharon at Wilthorpe Community Centre re: future Christmas Event.

Cllr Alice Cave and Cllr Sharon Howard to contact Kexbrough Social Club to discuss a plan and ways forward.

Christina to send possible date to Cllrs for Christmas event at Darton.

Shelly to contact contractor re: work to be undertaken at the Memorial Garden.

3 Ward Action Plan

Cllr Trevor Cave presented the Ward Action Plan this was discussed and updated.

4 Active Travel Update

Nothing to Report

5 WAF Budget

This was presented by Rebecca

Remaining Budget £10,071,50.

6 WAF applications.

None

7 Summer School Events Programme Update

This was discussed and programme of all events supplied.

8 Darton West Asset List/Key Locations and Events Update

This was discussed and feature as an Agenda Item

A.O.B.

Shelly to inform Rebecca of Dance Teacher Provision and Programme at Darton Academy

Ann raised issue of photograph from Roy Humphrys for Darton History Board.

Date and Time of next meeting **Wednesday 13th September 2023 at 4.30 pm,
venue The Darton Centre.**

Appendix Three:

Old Town Ward Alliance
Communities in Monk Bretton, Smithies, Wilthorpe, Honeywell, Old Town and
Pogmoor
Notes of 8th June 2023 5pm Room 5, Town Hall

In attendance
Cllr P.Lofts (Ch)
Cllr J. Newing (Sec)
L Swift.

Apologies
Cllr Pickering (Off sick)

Ward Plan

Those present reviewed the potential people to approach for Ward Alliance membership application.

It was agreed to move further meeting dates to Honeywell Community Centre at 6pm in light of community representatives stating they do not wish to pay for parking and the meeting time makes attendance difficult.

No further decisions were made, due to not enough present.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 13th July, 6pm at Honeywell Community Centre

Old Town Ward Alliance
Communities in Monk Bretton, Smithies, Wilthorpe, Honeywell, Old Town and
Pogmoor
Notes of 13th July 2023 6pm Honeywell Community Centre

In attendance

Cllr P.Lofts (Ch)

Cllr J. Newing (Sec)

L Swift.

Apologies

Cllr Pickering (Off sick)

Ward Plan

Those present reviewed the plan and made a number of changes/additions.

Agreed action points. LS to amend and circulate at the next meeting.

No further decisions were made, due to not enough present.

Agreed not to have a meeting in August, the next meeting to be on the 12th September at 6.30 venue to be confirmed.

Appendix Four:



St. Helen's Ward Alliance Minutes of Meeting Thursday 1st June 2023, 4pm, Roundhouse Library

Present : Cllr Leech, Cllr Tattersall (Chair), Cllr Wright, Rebecca Leech, Lee Swift, Madge Busby, Michelle Cooper, Kath Bostwick

Apologies : Tony Lowe, Dawn Bailey, John Hallows, Freda Stenton.

By Invitation: Amanda Hardcastle, Karen Thompson (Caterpillar Club)

Welcome and Introductions: Introductions were given. Everyone was thanked for their attendance.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The minutes were checked by the members and passed as a true record.

Funding Applications:

Caterpillar club - Pre School Playgroup. This bid is for £870 and is to help support the group for the next 12 months with rent, insurance and resources. Amanda and Karen attended the meeting to discuss their bid. Amanda explained that this group has been running for a very long time but has recently had to relocate. They are needing new equipment due to water damage and also new storage containers. Amanda explained that they will fundraise, etc, to match the funding for this bid. The Ward alliance offered to advertise this group to attract new members. Amanda and Karen left the meeting, and the members discussed the bid. Cllr Leech declared an interest.

The members agreed to the full amount. Secretary to email Amanda to let her know.

Events:

St Helens Gala - All the planning is coming together. Lee to chase contact information for another birds of prey team. The free packed lunches were discussed. It was discussed the money it will take to supply these, that they will have to be prepared and stored properly, allergies have to be taken into account, and Kath is fully prepared to ensure there will be packed lunches at the gala for the first 100 children. She agreed she will accept all responsibility for obtaining and distributing these packed lunches. Lee to help Kath in sourcing quotes.

Ward Plan: A meeting is needed to just discuss the Ward Plan. Lee to look at dates and send out an email asap. Refreshments will be provided.

Hanging Baskets - The council have checked all the lamp posts and we have been given the go ahead to put up the hanging baskets. We are looking at the end of June, early July for installation depending on the company.

There will be 30 baskets installed with 15 of those being sponsored. All plaques will stay on the lamp posts after the hanging baskets have been taken down.

Treasurers Report: Lee reported a total of £13, 052.72 as of 1st June 2023.

Forthcoming Projects and Bids: Lee to speak to Pete Goodlad to discuss the fireworks bid and to explain that the budget for the Ward Alliance has been cut so we won't be able to provide the same amount of funding as other years.

Cllr Wright offered to speak to community groups about ways to organise fundraising events to be able to raise their own funds.

Any other business: It was discussed that the Ward Alliance needs new members. Application forms have been sent out to potential new members but they haven't been returned.

Jenny Platts is unable to return for 12 months after her retirement from the Council.

Cllr Leech asked that, due to the budget being cut, we discuss lowering the amount that community groups can apply for. It was suggested the limit be lowered from £1,500 to £1,000 with groups only allowed to submit 1 application form per year. Members discussed and agreed.

Notice boards report - Cllr Tattersall asked how, we, as a Ward Alliance repair the notice boards in the ward. Cllr Leech said that for an outside company to do the repairs is very expensive so he proposed that Cllr Wright and himself would carry out the repairs. It was discussed and agreed. Cllr Leech and Cllr Wright will do a visit of the notice boards and obtain costings for the repairs.

Lee Swift discussed the up coming 10 year celebration of the Ward Alliances. This will be a big party taking place in September in Mapplewell, which all are invited to. The members were asked to think of a project that the Ward Alliance has funded to go to the celebration and discuss how they have used the funding and what differences in the community that bid has made.

A few suggestions were given but the members agreed on Michelle Cooper on behalf of Ad Astra. Michell is happy to do it.

Environmental contract - Twiggs contract has now finished and Neighbourhood services have taken over. Any work needing doing will come through the ward alliance and Cllr Leech will take it to the Steering group working party.

New Defibrillator - it was discussed at a previous meeting that a new defib would be fitted in the ward. This defib will be installed at Lindhurst Lodge.

Date and Time of Next Meeting: Meeting closed at 17.30pm

The next meeting is on Thursday 13th July, 4pm, Roundhouse Library.



**St. Helen's Ward Alliance
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday 13th July 2023, 4pm, Roundhouse Library**

Present : Cllr Wright (Chair) Cllr Leech, Lee Swift, Madge Busby, Michelle Cooper, Kath Bostwick, Tony Lowe, Sally Goodier

Apologies : Cllr Tattersall, Dawn Bailey, John Hallows

By Invitation: Terry Spence (Junior Tykes)

1. Welcome and Introductions:

- Introductions were given. Everyone was thanked for their attendance and Sally was welcomed for her first official meeting as a Ward Alliance Member.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- The bid for the Caterpillar club at the previous meeting was signed off, but a request was given to send quotes in. These have now come in, so this will be processed.
- Cllr Wirght said he'd spoken to the shed company that is based on Wakefield Rd. They would be willing to look at donating a shed to the group. Michelle and Cllr Wright agreed to speak to the group.
- The group were updated on the current situations with Freda and John Hallows. Freda is hoping to come along to the Gala
- The defibrillator in St Helens has been delivered to the North Area office and will be installed at Lindhurst Lodge once the casing is ready.

3. Treasurers Report

- Lee reported a total of £12, 551.12 as of 13th July 2023.

4. Funding Applications

Junior Tykes - Container

- This bid is for £1,000 towards a storage container that will be used to store equipment for the Tykes girls football teams.
- This group have had a similar container supported by the Ward Alliance previously and they needed planning permission.
- Cllr Leech previously helped the group through this process and has begun a similar approach for this bid.
- The total cost of the container is more than this bid, but the group will fund raise / apply elsewhere for the shortfall.

- After clarifications on usage (primarily for storage), the Ward Alliance agreed to support this bid on the proviso that planning permission is granted.

Athersley Rec FC – Fireworks

- This bid is for £1,000 towards fireworks at the annual community bonfire held at Athersley Rec FC.
- Whilst most agreed that many people in the community support this event, it was noted that the group really need to ensure that St Helens Ward Alliance logos are on the posters when it's advertised.
- A vote was taken, and Michelle Cooper abstained, but the majority were in favour of supporting this bid.

5. Forthcoming Bids

- The Ten Pin Bowling club for young people will be applying to the Ward Alliance for money towards training
- There will also be the forthcoming bid for Christmas activities that will need to be looked at

6. Refreshment of Ward Alliance Guidance Framework

- Lee handed out packs to every Ward Alliance member and went through the guidance framework and ground rules for the meetings. The pack also included the Ward Plan within it.

7. Ward Alliance Secretary

- Lee explained that following the previous Ward Alliance meeting, Rebecca Leech made the decision to step away from the Ward Alliance. Everyone expressed thanks to Rebecca for being such a wonderful secretary and giving her time up over the years and wished her all the best in her future endeavours.
- This meant however that a new secretary was needed.
- Both Lee and the Councillors stated that this role is better served by a community representative.
- After a brief discussion, Michelle Cooper agreed to take on this role in the short term, but did highlight the fact that she may not be available for all Ward Alliance meetings.
- The Ward Alliance thanked Michelle and agreed to continue to look for a willing member to become secretary in the long term

8. Ward Alliance Membership

- Lee explained that following Rebecca's resignation, but Sally's joining, there are currently six Ward Alliance members in the group. However, Tony and Madge announced that once the St Helens Gala had taken place, they would also be resigning from the Ward Alliance. They felt compelled to stand beside Rebecca in this.
- This would mean there are only four community members and therefore the St Helens Ward Alliance will not be able to recommend any community groups for funding or make any official decisions until such a time when they have six members again.
- It was agreed to use the opportunity to recruit at the St Helens Gala.

- Lee also agreed to produce a recruitment advert that would go out with the flyers for the Gala. It could also be placed on relevant social media with the help of the Ward Alliance members.
 - Sally agreed to take some around the shops in Athersley.

9. Events

St Helens Gala

- The preparation for the Gala has been handed over to Lee, and Madge and Tony.
- The stallholders have been contacted and confirmed.
- The keys for the site are being delivered by Berneslai Homes next week.
- The banners have been sent off for re-wording and will be put up by the end of this week
- Leaflets have been prepared and will be sent to schools
- A revised site map has been created to encourage more people to go on the “pan handle” section of the site rather than isolating it
- The Gazebos from the Ward Alliance will be used for:
 - 1x TARA / Berneslai Homes
 - 2x Ad Astra (Tony’s relative can share with this)
 - 1x Ward Alliance stall / Face painter
- There are currently 4 hampers that will be raffled off, and Madge has agreed to help sell tickets
- Cllr Leech agreed to arrange the grass cutting the day before and Tony would very kindly agree to look at going round the day before to pick up any dog fouling in the area.
- Lee agreed to check with the Mayor’s office and Tony agreed to meet the mayor with Madge opening the Gala.
- Cllr Wright agreed to close the Gala.
- All Ward Alliance members were asked to be on site around 9.30am on the day to help put stalls up.
- Kath had re-evaluated the food provision and has costed up pop and crisps rather than sandwiches to a total of £75.36. Lee to make arrangements to reimburse Kath.

Halloween

- Cllr Wright approached the New Lodge Environmental Group and asked if they were willing to do another Halloween event this year.
- The group said they were willing to do this, but not to run it on themselves.
- Cllr Wright agreed with them to host the event in Athersley South as there are currently no activities held around there. Monsall Crescent was felt to be possible.

11. Environmental Caretakers

- The new Environmental Caretaker team is now in place and will be working in the area.
- Their work will be partially directed by this Ward Alliance and the equivalent of 3 days per year will be set aside for weekend working in the Ward.
- Discussion on their area of focus will be handled at future meetings

12. 10 Year Celebration

- Invitations for the 10 year celebrations will be going out shortly to Ward Alliance members, past and present.

13. Hanging Baskets

- The current situation is that the company dealing with the hanging baskets have assured BMBC they will be up by the end of July
- Because of the significant delay, those in St Helens who have sponsored will receive a 50% discount on the cost of their basket.

14. Ward Plan

- Because of the length of the meeting, this Ward Plan was deferred until the next meeting.

15. Any Other Business

- Madge and Tony were thanked for their many years of service on this Ward Alliance and there is no doubt that they will be sorely missed.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting

- Meeting closed at 17.40pm
- The next meeting is on Thursday 7th September, 4pm, Roundhouse Library.