

PENISTONE AREA COUNCIL

Performance Report

January – May 2016



Introduction

Penistone Area Council Priorities



Table 1 below shows the providers that have been appointed to deliver services that address the priorities and deliver the outcomes and social value objectives for the Penistone Area Council.

In addition to the following contracts the performance report will in future report on any outcomes achieved through future Working Together Fund applications and the DIAL drop in sessions.

	Service	Provider	Contract Value	Contract start date
The Local Economy including tourism Environment	Countryside Skills & Training	Growforest	£100,00 + £54,600	October 2014 + Sept 2015 Contract now ended
Environment	Clean and Tidy Team	Environmental Services, BMBC	£160,000 18months	1 st November 2015
Health and Well Being	DIAL Drop in Service	DIAL	£5570	2015/16
Activities for Young People Health and Well Being Environment	Working Together Fund	Penistone Scouts Penistone Round Table TPT Volunteers	£8050 £11,660 £6630	TBC

PART A - OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE

The Penistone Area Council commissions and funds contribute to the Councils overall priorities of thriving vibrant economy, stronger resilient communities and citizens achieving their potential. The achievement of the combined outcomes are listed in table's below:

Thriving and Vibrant Economy

Outcome Indicators / target	Achieved to date
No. of FTE jobs created and recruited to	2
No. of apprentice and placement created and recruited to	1
No of clean & tidy activities which involve businesses	5
Local spend (average across all contracts)	80%

Strong & resilient communities

Outcome Indicators Target	Achieved to date
No. of adult volunteers engaged	
No. of young people engaged in volunteering	14
No. of new volunteers	19
No. of community groups supported	18
No. of new community groups supported	
Volunteer hours contributed (£ value)	
No. of volunteer opportunities created	8

Citizens achieving their potential

Outcome Indicators Target	Achieved to date
No. people achieving a qualification	29
No. of residents receiving advice and support	
No. of residents referred to health advice	
No. of young people making a positive contribution to the design/ maintenance of their local environment	10

PART B - SUMMARY PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR EACH SERVICE/ PROJECT

Countryside Skills and training

The Local Economy including tourism		RAG
	Satisfactory quarterly monitoring report and contract management meeting.	
	Milestones achieved	
Environment	Outcome indicator targets met	
	Social value targets met	
	Satisfactory spend and financial information	
	Overall satisfaction with delivery against contract	

A final monitoring meeting was held between Elaine Slater, the Penistone Area Council Manager and Tom Handley of Growforest. The projects achievements, successes and struggles were discussed in detail as was the projects exit strategy. It was agreed that the project, although not achieving what it set out to do initially, which was to give practical skills in stone walling and hedge laying to 16 – 24 year olds from the Penistone area, has achieved much more by opening up the green environment and offering skills training to people from the wider Barnsley area and from a wider age group. Clients recovering from substance misuse, struggling to succeed in the academic and employment environment, or suffering from stress disorders after having served in the armed forces have benefitted from the project. A social return on investment analysis was completed for this project. The overall value of the social impacts delivered by the programme comes out at: £746,311 This gives a Social Return on Investment of: £747,744/£100,000 = £7.47 for every £1.00 invested

Milestones and targets below:

Milestone/Target/Output	Target	Achieved	Comments
Learners Recruited	24	32	Not all stayed the full cohort.
Learners Achieving Stage 1 Qualification in Dry Stone Walling	24	19	
No of Learning Hours Delivered	230	182	
No of Learners Achieving 85% or higher attendance	24	19	
People perceiving traditional countryside skills as a viable enterprise	24	3	Only 3 expressed a wish,
People being happier and healthier by being connected to the natural environment.	24	24	Case studies used

The Clean & Tidy team

The Local Economy including tourism		RAG
	Satisfactory quarterly monitoring report and contract management meeting.	
Environment	Milestones achieved	
	Outcome indicator targets met	
Environment	Social value targets met	
	Satisfactory spend and financial information	
	Overall satisfaction with delivery against contract	

The quarter 2 performance management meeting has been rescheduled and will take place in June 2016. As such the RAG rating is red to reflect this has not been completed.

(Q2) – Case studies submitted by Clean and Tidy team

1. Annat Royd Nature Reserve (Ingbirchworth)

A small but wonderfully varied area of former quarry owned by the Parish Council and a designated Local Nature Reserve. But the Council Biodiversity officer had identified the site to be at risk in terms of the heather vegetation covering the site being overrun with scrub and bracken with a negative impact on all the biodiversity that lives in the area.

Discussions with the Parish Council in December confirmed their small team who used to look after the site and still occasionally litter pick it are getting older and find it more difficult. So work was agreed and a volunteer date set for 21 March.

Works requested by Gunthwaite & Ingbirchworth Parish Council, Trevor Mayne, BMBC Biodiversity Officer.

Task outline

The plan was to clear some of the scrub growing in the Nature Reserve to encourage heather regeneration and coverage, and tidy up the place, with volunteers and Penistone Clean and Tidy team. This was supported by the Countryside Ranger Team with tea and coffee facilities and chainsaw qualified for larger trees

4 volunteers, Penistone Clean and Tidy Team, 1 countryside Ranger and 1 PROW officer made a start on improving this site, including litter picking, removing bracken, dead hedging with removed scrub.



One of the recent but now regular volunteers David M passed on his knowledge of repairing dry stone walls, to repair 5 year old damage to the boundary wall from an old car accident leaving access gap for walkers and wildlife.



Diane and a different David put into practice their recent training in dead hedging - creating food source and hiding place habitats

They are TPT volunteer rangers.



Richard, John and Adam C create a slightly bigger dead hedge deeper into the site, overlooked by the windmills.

Three things our volunteers taught us:

- Newly quarried stone rings when tapped, old stone doesn't (& can fall apart when tapped too hard)
- One of the site ponds is known locally as the Blue Lagoon (it isn't either at the minute)
- Luxury habitat piles and dead hedging takes time to create but is well worth the effort.

Volunteer feedback forms:

They picked this event to attend because:

- love being in the outdoors, will benefit first hand from work carried out as live locally, today's tasks looked interesting

Things they most enjoyed about the day:

- the hot drinks and homemade cake, relaxed and social atmosphere, spent time in a lovely locations, learnt new skills

Future Projects.

The day raised a series of questions and possible future projects for C&T team and volunteers. With the Parish Council's consent further works are planned,

- repair at least two other damaged sections of the dry stone wall boundary and finish main section
- clearing out vegetation growth from 1 (possibly 2) of the 3 ponds on site at an appropriate time of year
- clearing bramble and bracken from site
- managing some of the woody heather and grassland to create new heather growth

2. Cawthorne Museum,

After discussions with the partnership of tourism related businesses in the Penistone Area, Cawthorne Museum requested the team's help to improve the frontage of their site.

The historical attractive stone wall was being overrun with ivy, but the less mobile managers were unable to carry out the work and removal would have multiple benefits.

- visual improvement for local residents and visitors passing by,
- open up the views of the museum and war memorial, encouraging more visitors
- uncover the footway making it safe for users to access the site and through the village.



It was important to take the utmost care to cut all the stems before removing the ivy, to ensure the supporting historical wall was protected. This was a substantial job with ivy growth approaching 2 feet thick in places. Careful parking of the vehicle to protect the team, coning off some of the road width and wearing Hi vis vests were a must on this reactive task. Good Practice when working with old structures adjacent to a road.



As the photo shows, the difference is amazing.

A thank you email was received from the parish clerk.

Fewer requests than expected have been coming from the parish councils and community groups despite regular reminders. A large number of those reactive requests are restricted to certain times of year – e.g. additional cutting of public open space, wildflower meadow management cutting, pond clearance, tree planting etc. so these have been scheduled in for the appropriate time of year and will be recorded in those quarters even through requested in Q4 or earlier.

As a result the team have carried out more proactive tasks in terms of litter picking, and removing detritus that make a big difference in the area. Rather than identifying each individual road/layby that is done, they have been counted simply as villages or road number (e.g. A616) so raw figures look lower.

Need to engage with more groups and run/co-ordinate more community events to increase activity hours, winter is never a great time to encourage groups/volunteers to get out and about, but there are twice as many events scheduled in for Q1 already. Several young people targeted projects are planned for holidays and summer period. Businesses are also proving more difficult to engage as many are small scale with limited resources to get involved.