

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL

Working together for a brighter
future, a better Barnsley.



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Our Vision

Barnsley Council is working together for a brighter future, a better Barnsley. We will achieve this vision by driving change and improvements to achieve the following positive outcomes, including:

- A brighter future where people achieve their potential
- A better Barnsley where our residents think and feel we are making a difference together
- Working together with our partners and communities

Our three priorities to help us reach our vision are:

- Growing the economy
- Improving people's potential and achievement
- Changing the relationship between the council and community

The strength of every community in Barnsley lies in the commitment of the people who live there to make it a special place that everyone can feel proud of and part of. Our aim is to unlock the capacity in our communities and optimise one of the resources still in great supply: the willingness of people to help each other. We aim to mobilise citizens more effectively around locally agreed priorities and to achieve measurable impact through volunteering.

Our Area Governance arrangements are the framework to enable this to happen at a community level. Our structure incorporates:

- 6 Area Councils – our councillors responding to strategic priorities on an area basis and commissioning services with a strong social value ethos to meet these challenges.
- 21 Ward Alliances – our councillors working alongside community representatives to mobilise and enable community responses to local challenges.
- Neighbourhood Networks – support to the 'virtual' networks that exist in our communities – the community organisations, committed individuals, businesses, faith groups, residents associations and all the other representatives that make our communities thrive.
- Our 'Love Where You Live' campaign to inspire people to get involved in volunteering locally to make in difference in their community.

This update document lets you know what we've been doing in this respect in the Dearne Area. We hope you enjoy reading about our progress and if you'd like to know more on how you can get involved you'll find our contact details at the back of this document.

Dearne Area Council



The Dearne area covers 16 Km², has a population of 22,387 (9.7% of borough total), and covers the two electoral wards of Dearne North and Dearne South.

The Dearne Area Council is made up of six elected members (from the two wards mentioned above) and a Clinical Commissioning Group representative. It is Chaired by Councillor May Noble and supported by the Dearne Area Council Manager and a Barnsley Council senior link officer.

The Dearne Area Council has met formally on a regular basis throughout the year with good attendance. There has also been good take-up and attendance by Dearne Council members at additional workshops and task and finish groups.

In determining the priorities of the Dearne Area Council the elected members received a number of presentations from services and

agencies who provided up to date data about the Dearne area during 2013. This included the results of the research conducted by local people under the contract with Turning Point, a national charitable organisation.

Following consideration of the above it was agreed at the Dearne Area Council on 18 November 2013 that the priorities for the Dearne Area would be as follows:

- Improving the economy
- Young people
- Debt and benefit advice
- Community involvement
- Skills and learning for work

At a meeting held in January 2014 it was also agreed that improving the environment would be added as a priority.

Meeting Dearne Council Priorities

Procuring services and contracts awarded

Since January 2014 and in response to its identified priorities, the Central Area Council has focussed its' efforts on the procurement of a range of services to address these priorities. Table 1 provides an overview of the procurements undertaken to date and the resulting contracts awarded:

Table one

Priority	Tender	Contractor Appointed	Value	Status
Skills and learning for work, young people and improving the economy	Training for Employment	Voluntary Action Barnsley	144,381 (1 year)	Contract Live
Environment	Environmental enforcement	Kingdom Security	£35,000	Contract Live
Environment	Housing management/enforcement	BMBC Service Level Agreement	£35,000	Contract Live

Dearne Area Council members have been involved throughout the procurement process for each of the contracts. This has included leading and attending workshop groups to develop the specification of requirements and being part of the evaluation panels for each procurement exercise. Service specialists from the council have also been part of this process.

The importance of social value has been highlighted as part of each procurement. All successful organisations have effectively demonstrated how they will create local jobs, use local supply chains, ensure local spend, use volunteers, and create new volunteering and work experience opportunities. Social value indicators and targets have been agreed for each contract and will be reported into Dearne Area Council as part of the agreed contract and performance management arrangements.

Commissioning services to address priorities

Skills and learning for work

Young People

Improving the economy

Environment

The Dearne Area Council agreed that as unemployment is one of the biggest issues for the Dearne Area and the first commission should be around 'Skills for Work Training'. It would follow on from a successful pilot project run by Dearne Electronic Community Village during 2013 and funded by the Dearne North Devolved Ward Budget.

Following a procurement process the contract to deliver the bespoke skills for work training course geared to the needs of individuals and local existing/future employers was awarded to Voluntary Action Barnsley working in partnership with the Dearne Electronic Community Village. The training will be provided in both the Dearne North and Dearne South. It is designed to work with 40 unemployed people over a 12 month period from 1 October 2014.

The Dearne area and Goldthorpe in particular has historically suffered from littering, dog fouling and fly tipping to the point where the disgraceful state of the railway embankment made local and national news coverage. The members of the Dearne Area Council agreed that as this gives a detrimental image to the area. They decided that as well as working with the local community to address small scale littering problems in certain streets (see Goldthorpe Development Group below) they would also commission additional enforcement to work alongside the existing policing provision to try to address the issues.

A joint commissioning exercise with Dearne Area Council awarded the contract to Kingdom Security for the provision of one additional generic enforcement officer. In addition the Dearne Area Council provided funding for a Housing Enforcement Officer and another Housing Enforcement Officer was funded from the Economic Strategy – making three additional officers for the area. The new officers started work on 11 August 2014 and are already making an impact. At the Dearne Area Council on 22 September the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Tasking Officer reported that between 11 August and 1 September 20 fixed penalty tickets had been issued for littering and five fixed penalty tickets for dog fouling.



Overview of Ward Alliances operating within the Dearne Area

The Dearne North and Dearne South Ward Alliances are operating effectively with priorities agreed for each ward and Action Plans for delivery developed. The priorities were identified following community consultation by Ward Alliance members and from information gathered through Community Research undertaken in the area. With support from the Dearne Area Team, a significant number of successful events and projects addressing the identified priorities of the ward alliances have been effectively delivered over the past six months with many more projects currently being developed.

The focus for Dearne Ward Alliances in developing projects and events has been on ensuring that sustainability is built into the planning and delivery. There has also been an emphasis on developing volunteering, social action and building community resilience as part of these projects.

This has paid off with the establishment of new community groups across the area, investment in existing groups to strengthen capacity projects being developed, led and delivered by local volunteers, with minimal support from the Area Team. Social action delivered in the Dearne is wide ranging and relevant to public services, from volunteering at the local community allotment to giving informal help to a vulnerable person.

The ward alliances have jointly funded a number of projects to support members to work together and share best practice across different parts of their individual wards and maximise available funding. This has enabled groups and individuals to work together, maximise the use of local assets and share experiences and talents.

Dearne South Community Board (Ward Alliance)

Pride in Dearne South

Consultation was undertaken with the local community to ensure the priorities were relevant to the area and to also prioritise them. The ward alliance also considered the findings undertaken by the community researchers in the area linked to the Dearne Approach project.

Dearne South Community Board has a total of 12 members including the 3 councillors, 2 faith representatives, 1 business representative and 6 Community members. The alliance has recruited three new members over the last two months following efforts to improve engagement from groups across the area. This has provided a different dynamic to the group as the new members include a business representative, young person's worker and a representative from the Salvation Army. The board is now working well towards the Ward Plan priorities and is focussing on the priorities of pride in Dearne South and quality of life.

Jobs training and life skills

Quality of life

Information and support

Youth provision

The regeneration of St Andrews Square was a main priority in the original plan. It has been captured within the pride in Dearne South priority following further consultation.

The board has also formed a sub group to draw down funding to hold into its own account enabling the opportunity to pay for its own projects. This has enabled match funding to be attracted to the ward alliance funds and groups to develop their own funding streams, through fundraising, sponsorship and external grants.

The Dearne South Community Board has funded a number of projects over the previous six months aimed at building strong and resilient communities, through encouraging volunteering and social action. A selection of these projects is captured in the following case studies.

Developing community assets through community action

B.O.D.Y Carnegie

B.O.D.Y a local community group made up of volunteers who are all in full time employment have taken over the Carnegie building which is in great need of restoration. The improvements to the building have been extensive and involved the replacement of windows, floors, electrics and walls over a period of eight months.

The group's goal is to provide a martial arts training centre and gym. One of the volunteers working on the project is a Warden at a Youth Offending establishment and is passionate about the rehabilitation of young people. His vision is to use martial art training to help instil self-discipline and give the young people pride in their achievements, increasing their self-worth. The project has brought back into use a valuable community asset and provided a local facility for young people to use who may otherwise have been involved in anti-social behaviour.

Funding was approved by the Dearne South Community Board which paid for plaster boards, plaster, paint and floor boards. The funding was matched easily with voluntary hours to do works to the building. At the present time this passionate group of volunteers have restored half the building, resulting in the martial arts part of the building being open with excellent membership, some of which consist of the more hard to reach young people in the Dearne area. 425 volunteer hours have been provided on the project matching local funding provided through the Community Board.



Renovation of St Andrews Square through social action

Dearne South Community Board have developed a working group element into its structure enabling it to fund one off projects. St Andrew's Square revamp is one of these projects. The aim of the project is to bring together a group of local business people to help maintain the square.

To enhance this project councillors agreed to fund a street cleaner that would improve the upkeep of the local area. They also funded the probation service and purchase of materials to enable them to repaint benches, bollards and lamp posts. The flower beds were emptied to make way for fresh planting of bulbs involving local volunteers. Elected member is also planning workshops with an NHS user group, craft groups and children from the local schools to develop wider community

engagement and ownership of the area and ensure the improvements are sustainable. A further aim is to make Christmas decorations and hold a Christmas market in St Andrews Square where the goods will be sold by the user group.

It is hoped the above activities will increase footfall in St Andrews Square and promote the local businesses.

Funding = £52.00
Volunteer Hours – 16 - equating to an economic value of £176.00
Funded £1,100 – From Devolved Ward Budget



Dearne Memorial Group

Dearne Memorial Group required £30,000 to install a memorial in remembrance of all who died in World War 1 and 2. The group of volunteers raised the majority of funds themselves by producing information booklets and selling them, holding coffee mornings, raffles etc.

The Chair of the group keeps an up to date database of all graves he has located. Additional volunteers from the wider community and elected members are engaged to help out on larger projects taken on by the group.

In addition to the fund raising for the memorial this group also locates lost graves for relatives from all over the world. Some of whom regularly fly over from other parts of the world to visit the graves of their relatives. This activity helps to raise the profile of the Dearne and also delivers to the economic priorities of the Area Plan.

Amount Funded	= £1,500
In kind Contributions	- £4,100
Donations	- £14,000
Volunteer hours	- 300 equating to £3,300



Improving health and wellbeing through social action and partnership working

Identified as a key Love Where You and Live Let's Grow project the Dearne Community Allotment is a joint Dearne North and South project, where 6 allotment plots have been secured on a five year lease. A service level agreement has been established between the Dearne Area Council and Parks Services. Both wards have funded the project, from the alliance funding and the Devolved Ward Budget. The aim of the project is to provide a community asset where adults with learning difficulties can carry out therapeutic work to improve their health and wellbeing. The intention is for the produce grown to be given to the local Foodbank, community shop and those less fortunate in the community. Members of the allotment will also be able to use the fresh produce themselves helping to contribute to healthy diet and lifestyles. Anyone living in the Dearne Area is able to access and volunteer on the site and this is now widening out to provide a service Borough wide.

The project is working in partnership with, Public Health, Business in the Community, VAB, Probation Service and council. 20 staff from these agencies recently held an Employee Supported Volunteering day at the site helping to prepare the allotment - developing raised beds, erecting perimeter fencing and a new poly-tunnel.

Two volunteers working on the allotment have found employment. One volunteer with learning difficulties is now integrated with the allotment holders and has obtained an allotment of his own, which he tends on a daily basis. He has also received additional help and support to find more adequate housing.

Future plans for the allotment site involve providing the people that work the land with produce and to use cook and eat sessions to show them how to provide a healthy meal using the produce they have grown. This will help contribute to better diets and healthier lifestyles through volunteers undertaking physical activity

Local businesses have agreed to provide paid work to people that have worked on the allotments and

regained the work ethic, enhancing that persons pride and improving their employability options. 515 volunteer hours have already taken place on the site reflecting £5,711 of economic value. A key feature of the social action within this project has been the creation of shared value. The benefits accrue not only to those that have given time, money and resources, but to beneficiaries and service users, professionals and agencies that have been able to have greater impact in the way they work.



Case study one

Dearne resident, Mr X has lived in Thurnscoe for most of his adult life. In recent years he has been suffering from depression, panic attacks and anxiety due to anti-social neighbours causing him lots of distress. He became a recluse in his own home, isolated from everyone around him. Eighteen months ago, at the age of 58, he had a visit from the local PCSO who encouraged him to visit the local doctors and health visitors at the medical centre. They enlisted him onto the Health Training Scheme, and with the help of their Health Trainers and the Recovery in the Community Programme. Mr X is recovering well and taking regular exercise at the local fitness centre which is improving his overall health and wellbeing.

He was also encouraged to look into volunteering locally, and with a passion for the outdoors he became involved in the local park. He was tasked with weeding, planting new seeds, digging over the flowerbeds, and pulling out overgrown shrubs. This has helped Mr X to overcome his anxieties, and built up his confidence, further improving his own health and wellbeing.

On a volunteer planting day he was invited to the Dearne Neighbourhood Network event where local community groups and service providers in the area all came together to showcase their work and share their information with the local residents. Mr X spoke about his passion for allotments and growing his own produce that he currently likes to do at home, he was invited to come down and help with a 'volunteering in the community' day being held with a newly formed group at Highgate, 'The Dearne Community Allotments'. He came for a look round, helped with planting of the orchard and hasn't looked back since. Mr X has proven to be a valued member of the group, working on the allotment every day, and through his passion for the environment he has gone from

strength to strength. He has become a truly valued volunteer that is an inspiration to many others around.

With support from the Dearne Area Team, Mr X is now looking to be re-housed to another area in Thurnscoe near local shops and friendly neighbours. Through his involvement in volunteering, Mr X has managed to improve his quality of life and his mental state, and is now a true asset to the community rather than having escalating health and wellbeing needs.

Mr X said, "I've been welcomed at the allotments and I love it, the friendliness of all the other allotment holders has been fantastic. I love being part of a group and volunteering helped me be stress free and build up my confidence too. It's given me a new lease of life and something to get up for every-day"

Mr Y has volunteered with community allotments in order to provide him with skills and experience and to help him back into work. He was volunteering twice a week and attending the meetings with a look at getting back into full time employment. By volunteering for the group this enabled him to get into the mind-set of a working pattern and gave him increased confidence which enabled him to enrol with the job centre. He attended his first interview in 3 years and was awarded a permanent position as a HGV driver for Next. Mr Y is over the moon, through volunteering he has been able to secure a secure future for his family and given him his dream job.

Mr X said, "I've loved volunteering it's been great, good luck to the allotment group as I think it's a great idea that's needed around here"

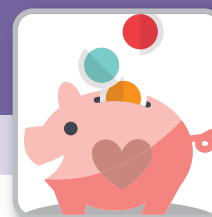
Number of volunteers
180



Volunteer hours
1,256



Economic value
£13,816



Dearne North Ward Alliance

Pride in Dearne North

Jobs training and life skills

Quality of life

Information and support

Youth provision

Dearne North Ward Alliance has a total of 10 members including the 3 councillors, 1 faith representative, 1 business representative, 2 children and young people representatives and 3 community members. The alliance has recently recruited new members to enhance their knowledge and skill set. The new members include the post master, a salvation army representative and a volunteer that maintains Thurnscoe Flower Park which won silver in this year's Britain in Bloom competition. Dearne North Alliance has worked in partnership with Dearne South on projects and has jointly funded a number of initiatives.

The members of the ward alliance are involved in various community groups and all have a desire to create and shape opportunities that will improve the Dearne. The alliance has met frequently throughout

the year and has been proactive in setting its priorities and supporting the delivery of the projects that will address these. The Alliance's key area of focus this year will be pride in Dearne North, reflecting the growing community action locally.

The Love Where You Live campaign has provided an excellent opportunity to engage the wider community in community action. A series of Love Where You Live projects were undertaken to mark the launch of the campaign in June – volunteers month in Barnsley. These included the volunteers day at the Dearne Community Allotment, planting and renovation days at Thurnscoe Park and community clean ups. Some of these projects and others supported through the Ward Alliance are outlined in the remainder of the report:

The Rainbow Centre spreading a little magic

The Rainbow Centre is community centre in Thurnscoe which is completely run, managed and maintained by volunteers. It is host to a number of community groups one of which is the local history group with over twenty members. There is a luncheon club for older people held each week which is helping to reduce the feelings of loneliness and isolation felt by older people, through building social contact and a healthy lunch. However, volunteers were concerned that the centre was becoming run down, so applied for Ward Alliance funding to tidy the grounds and paint the walls inside the centre. With a small grant of £349 local volunteers clocked up 35 hours of

community action and have had some immediate impact improving the grounds and centre interior.

The centre is a good example of a community organisation providing informal social action, people simply helping each other out and building social networks, which is providing a wider network of support for vulnerable people and helping to tackle big issues such as isolation and loneliness.

Amount funded = £349.99

Volunteer hours = 35 equating to a social value of £386

Thurnscoe East Angling Club – Managing a Community Asset

The Angling Club will restock the fish to its capacity, and clean the pond with an inhibitor for the next five year. This will encourage more fishermen and families around the Dearne to enjoy this fun sport. The group are taking ownership of the surrounding area, ensuring that it is cleaned up every week. All work to clear the ponds and surrounding area's are carried out completely by volunteers who also offer the chance to learn how to fish and the disciplines and skills needed, to local young people by engaging with the local schools. There is a small feeder pond located very close to the reservoir which the fishing club are trying to reclaim. This would be used solely for the junior fishermen as a teaching and practice pond.

This is an excellent example of how local volunteers through community action have developed a valuable community asset alongside the surrounding environment. Through providing a

spirit of local volunteerism a long term plan to ensure the facility is sustained is now in place, truly reflecting 'pride in the local environment'.

Amount funded - £2,190.00

Cash donations – Asda - £200

Volunteer hours – 511 – equates to £5,545



Thurnscoe History Group

Thurnscoe History Group wanted to enlighten and show individuals of the sacrifices people made in Thurnscoe and throughout the Dearne visually, to achieve this they used photographs and displays. There are 26 active members who continuously work hard carrying out research and consultation with local residents, libraries, and schools to gather personal memorabilia of the soldiers that lived in the area. This takes hours of work not only researching but building and re-enacting scenario's the exhibition. The Local elected members agreed to pay through the Devolved Ward Budget (DWB) £732.00 contribution for the exhibition to go ahead.

£732.00

- Information and support
- Youth provision

They also produced a calendar with photographs and a booklet naming each casualty in World War 1 in the area. They are selling both items to help keep sustainable the group. Primary schools are using the materials to help keep the membership of soldiers and their families alive.



Thurnscoe Institute Cricket Club mobilising the community to get fit

Thurnscoe Cricket Club offers training for all ages on a voluntary basis every day. Founded in 1929, the club is open daily to children, young people and adults of any age to come along and train or play for a local friendly team. They hold many fundraising activities throughout the year which helps them keep the club sustainable.

At present they have two senior teams, which play in the Ponterfract and District Cricket League. Their under 15's are

currently leaders in the Barnsley Junior League. They asked for a contribution for water mains to their pavilion to match fund against Yorkshire Crickets Boards donation for their community works programme. The manual work was all carried out through local volunteers.

Amount funded = £1,000
Other funding gained = £3,306.62
Volunteer hours = 1,872 equating

Community action cleaning up the neighbourhood

The Goldthorpe Development Group is a passionate group of volunteers involved in numerous community action projects across Goldthorpe. The group were really upset and annoyed about the condition of their streets, and with the support of a local businesses decided to carry out a comprehensive community clean up and stewardship scheme in the area to improve the environmental condition of local streets.

Goldthorpe Development Group is now care taking and litter picking eight streets in Goldthorpe. They asked for £5,000 funding from the Devolved Ward Budget for equipment and skips. £3,000 was paid in advance with the remaining £2,000 paid in quarterly amounts upon completion of monitoring sheets. The initial clean up involved door knocking house to house asking for people to help clean up their own streets. Officers from the enforcement team joined the volunteers on their first visit. This resulted in engaging 25 resident volunteers who removed 27 bags of street litter over a 5 hour period.

Building on the impact of the community action undertaken by local volunteers and to ensure the improvements are maintained, enforcement officers commissioned through the Dearne Area Council, will target the area at specific times of day and are working alongside the group. This has already seen an improvement to the local area with less litter being dropped and a change in behaviour by residents. The streets will also be litter picked on a fortnightly basis by local people reflecting 125 hours of community action per fortnight equalling £1,325 of economic value. This project is seen as a 'Community Stewardship' pilot which could be rolled out across other areas.

In addition to this the Goldthorpe Development Group and its new volunteers will be taking a major role in the clean-up of the local railway embankment in partnership with the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT). This has been ongoing problem over the past few years. Once permission is gained the group plan to cut down the trees, and clear the waste to enable clear sight of the area. The plans are to seed the cleared land with wild flowers to create a more environmentally friendly area.

A local businessman said:

"We have had a fantastic response and we feel as though we have achieved something for ourselves, after all it is our neighbourhood and we do live here"

Enforcement Officer said:

"It's a pleasure to walk round the streets now, wow! What a difference they've made"

A resident in their mid 20s said:

"More residents should come out and help, not sit watching us pick their rubbish up. Our action has made a real difference, but more residents need to take responsibility themselves".

Funding	= £5,000 for a year
Volunteer hours	- 125 - equating to
	£1,325 per fortnight -
	£33,800 per annum



Social action improving Thurnscoe Park

Previously overgrown and underused, a group of local residents have come together to improve Thurnscoe park and involve the wider community. Following a series of clean up days and culminating with a beach party in the park, the community group were recent winners of a 'Yorkshire in Bloom' Silver Award for Public Open spaces.

Derek Bramham a local volunteer who has led the initiative said: "The Park was totally overgrown and underused, but thanks to the efforts of local volunteers it has been brought back into use and is now being enjoyed by the community. We were delighted to receive the Silver Award, reflecting so much being achieved through community action"

Thurnscoe Flower Park in bloom now has four regular volunteers who often put in 27 hours a week volunteering in the park. The park is maintained and managed by the group and they are involved in weeding, pruning, digging, raking, planning and plant flower beds, wild flower meadows. Plans are already underway for a Christmas event under the stars. This is a great example of local volunteers helping to manage and maintain a valuable community asset that had fallen into disrepair.



Goldthorpe car park clean-up initiative

The Dearne Area Team, Goldthorpe library staff and the probation service assisted in cleaning up the car park after several of the residents complained of the dangers lack of cleanliness and litter that had been thrown around, encouraging rats which were been seen on a daily basis. The shrubbery was cut down opening the area

up for clear vision, broken benches were removed and the paths were swept. To compliment this action the environmental team treated the area for vermin, to address the issues. Library staff in their spare time planted winter plants to the front of the library, giving the whole area a face lift.



Spar Field Clean up

The Dearne Area Team and Eco-vision often work in partnership to improve the local environment. One of the projects was a clean-up of a local field that is used out of school hours by the local school. Incorporated into the clean-up was the recycling message. After several meetings a clean-up day was planned and 48 people turned up on the day. The school children were taught how to separate items of waste and what could be recycled, a total of 13 bags of litter were collected. This included 2 bags of aluminium cans and 3 bags of glass bottles. Three schools took part in the day and are all working towards gaining their green flag, an environmental award.

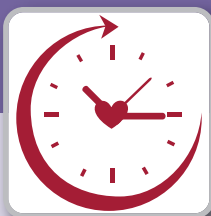
Number of Volunteers – 48 x 3 hours - equates to - £1,584
Amount funded – £150.00 - Devolved Ward Budget



Number of volunteers
80



Volunteer hours
1,548



Economic value
£17,028



The Dearne Approach

Strong and resilient communities - changing the relationship

Dearne Area Council is at the forefront of working with many partner agencies/organisations and the local community under the umbrella of 'the Dearne Approach'. This unique and innovative way of joint working harnesses strengths and abilities from within the local community to identify and address priority issues in the most cost effective way.

Examples of how the Dearne Approach is working

Turning Point a national charitable organisation working in partnership with the council has recruited and trained 22 local residents from Dearne North and Dearne South as researchers. They asked people living in Thurnscoe, Goldthorpe, Bolton-upon-Dearne and Highgate what their priorities are and how they thought they could address them in an innovative and cost saving way. The findings of the research highlighted the following issues – access to GPs; housing, debt and benefit advice; unemployment and training needs, anti-social behaviour and gangs; dog mess and dog nuisance.

Dearne Approach Local Researchers

During the last six months the Dearne Area Council has responded by:

- Funding additional advice sessions through the Dearne North and South Devolved Ward Budget using a local Barnsley organisation DIAL.
- Commissioned additional enforcement officers to address anti-social behaviour, dog mess and dog nuisance.
- Commissioned skills for work training to be delivered locally from venues in Dearne North and South.

The Dearne Area Council recognises that some issues i.e. access to GP's cannot be addressed directly, but by working with other partners through the Dearne Approach it can have positive influence on how these services are delivered in the future.

The Dearne Approach has, during the last six months, also held workshops with the local community to look at how services could be delivered differently and explore the possibility of a Community Led Enterprise approach. This work continues to progress within the Dearne Approach Community Led Enterprise Steering Group which draws on the expertise of residents, members from the agencies and community organisations who can make a difference to issues identified by local people. There are currently two task and finish groups looking for solutions for the identified issues relating to private landlords, housing, jobs, enterprise and training.

The Dearne Approach is constantly evolving bringing in partners as and when needed to work with the local community on finding the best solutions to improve the Dearne area.



Making a difference – Community Shop

Profile of a Dearne Approach Partner



The introduction of the highly successful and award winning Community Shop to the Dearne area has given a different dimension to addressing the issue of food poverty, unemployment and confidence building.

The Community Interest Company subsidiary of a private company, (Company Shop Ltd) offers low cost food, debt advice, cookery classes, skills training and mentoring as well as signposting to people on benefits or low incomes to other services. The members-only store is designed to give a helping hand to people who are feeling the effects of living on a low income.

The organisation has also fully embraced the ethos of partnership working attending Dearne Area Council and Dearne Approach meetings to keep local people and elected members, as well as other organisations updated on and investigate ways of complementing rather than duplicating what is already happening or being planned by others. The Area Team has worked closely and successfully with Community Shop from the offset advertising the facility throughout the Dearne community network and helping out at recruitment days which were held in Goldthorpe Library.

Discussions between the Area Manager and Community Shop CEO have also taken place regarding how the training and mentoring work of Community Shop can complement the skills for work training being funded by the Dearne Area Council and vice versa. The CEO of Community Shop is also a member of the Dearne Approach Task and Finish group looking at jobs, enterprise and training issues. The organisation also works with other committed Dearne partners, such as the Salvation Army Goldthorpe Food bank. Community shop provides a 'step up' for people on their journey to financial independence.

Working with Big Local in the Dearne Area through the Dearne Approach

Another major partner of the Dearne Approach working with local people to identify and address local issues is the lottery funded Big Local. Big Local representatives have been working with the community in Thurnscoe since 2012 to design a 10 year Community Plan and the first draft was completed in August 2014. The Big Local vision for Thurnscoe is parallel to what all of the other organisations under the Dearne Approach are working towards in some way or another. A united, fully integrated community working with each other to provide a safe respectful healthy place to live "A Strong and Supportive Community that Works Together". Thurnscoe was awarded £1 million to help achieve this vision but any decision on the spending of this money must be made by residents.

More recently Big Local representatives have begun work with local people in Highgate, Goldthorpe and Bolton-upon-Deerne and they too are presently working towards the creation of a Community Plan.

The wish list created by the community in Thurnscoe and incorporated into the Thurnscoe Community Plan is similar to the results of the Turning Point research and other known needs and wants of the communities of the Dearne. It is not expected that the Bolton, Highgate and Goldthorpe plan will be drastically different.

Going forward

The above examples are just a snap shot of some of the work being undertaken by partners to make improvements and address issues in the Dearne area. The aim of the Dearne Area Council and Dearne Approach is to continue to work towards providing the connections and communication between the partners and the local community, which will in turn help to streamline the regeneration approach and provide a more cost effective way of providing services.

For more information about Dearne Area Council
Visit: www.barnsley.gov.uk/dearneareacouncil
Email: dearneteam@barnsley.gov.uk
Call: 01226 775106

Alternatively, follow the Dearne Area Team on Facebook.

Nëse j'u nevojitet ndihmë për të kuptuar këtë dokument, j'u lutemi n'a kontaktoni.

若您需要幫助來理解本檔，請與我們聯繫。

यदि आप को इस दस्तावेज़ को समझने के लिए सहायता की आवश्यकता है तो कृपया हम से संपर्क करें

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Обратитесь к нам, если для того, чтобы понять этот документ, вам нужна помощь

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