

MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday 13 March 2023
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room 1 - Barnsley Town Hall

AGENDA

- 1 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Minutes

- 2 Notes of the North Area Council meeting held on 16 January 2023 and to approve the recommendations contained therein (Nac.13.03.2023/2) (*Pages 3 - 8*)

Items for Discussion

- 3 Area Governance 10 Year Celebration - Rachel Payling (Nac. 13.03.2023/3) (*Verbal Report*)
- 4 Environmental Priority Transition to Community Caretaker SLA - Matt Holdroyd (Nac. 13.03.2023/4) (*Pages 9 - 12*)
- 5 Update on the 10 Year Celebration Planning for the North Area (Nac. 13.03.2023/5) (*Pages 13 - 14*)
- 6 Project Performance Update (Nac. 13.03.2023/6) (*Pages 15 - 76*)

Items for Decision

- 7 Anti-Poverty Priority (Nac. 13.03.2023/7) (*Pages 77 - 78*)
- 8 Commissioning and Procurement Update including the Financial Position (Nac.13.03.2023/8) (*Pages 79 - 86*)

Ward Alliances

- 9 Report on the use of Ward Alliance Funds (Nac. 13.03.2023/9) (*Pages 87 - 94*)
- 10 Notes from the Ward Alliances (Nac. 13.03.2023/10) (*Pages 95 - 110*)
Darton East – held on 13 December 2022 and 10 January 2023
Darton West – held on 9 January 2023
Old Town – The Old Town Ward Alliance has not met during 2023 due to extenuating circumstances
St Helen's – held on 26 January 2023

To: Chair and Members of North Area Council:-

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

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 Mel Bray on email melaniebray@barnsley.gov.uk

Friday 3 March 2023

MEETING:	North Area Council – Inquorate meeting
DATE:	Monday 16 January 2023
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Meeting Room 1 - Barnsley Town Hall

Notes of a meeting of North Area Councillors

Present Councillors Leech (Chair), A. Cave, T. Cave, Crisp, Denton, Howard, Hunt, Platts and Tattersall

32 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

33 Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 14 November 2022 (Nac.16.01.2023/2)

The North Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 November 2022.

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 14 November 2022 be approved as a true and correct record.

34 Age UK - Grant Delivery Update - Natalie Stokes (Nac.16.01.2023/3)

Members received a presentation from the social inclusion officers at Age UK which provided an overview of the work undertaken over the past year, the key milestones, the next steps which included training and development for volunteers, digital inclusion, the facilitation and support provided to additional community groups, together with continuing to support individuals during the cost of living crisis.

Age UK was linked to both the local food and clothing banks, where it would make referrals on behalf of individuals where deemed necessary. The foodbank had devised a package for older individuals.

Members were pleased to observe the work undertaken by Age UK to attract and engage with new/existing members through a variety of different methods which included attendance at the local Derby and Joan Club, Butterfly Dementia Group, Darton Wellbeing Group and through making house calls.

RECOMMENDED that Members receive the presentation.

35 10 Year Celebration - Area Governance Model (Nac.16.01.2023/4)

The Area Manager presented a report which informed Members of the intention to hold celebration events to mark 10 years of Area Council, which included a North Area 10 Year Celebration event and the opportunity to participate in the planning.

The following Members volunteered to form part of a planning group in preparation for the celebration event:-

Darton West Ward Alliance – Councillor A Cave.

Darton East Ward Alliance – Councillor Denton.

Old Town Ward Alliance – To be confirmed. Councillor Howard offered to provide assistance in the event that a volunteer from the Old Town Ward Alliance could not be identified.

St Helens Ward Alliance – Mayor, Councillor Tattersall.

A discussion ensued which identified the positive benefits of holding the event in June 2023, which would be the national volunteering month, verses a date later in the year. With consideration to be given for the event to be held on a Saturday which would attract a wider family audience. An external provider would be utilised to produce a video to showcase the good work undertaken by the volunteers within the various ward alliances, which would be used in a variety of different environments.

RECOMMENDED –

- (i) that Members note the report.
- (ii) that Councillors A Cave, Denton, Tattersall and one Old Town Councillor take part in the planning of the celebration event on behalf of their Ward.
- (iii) that Members identify Ward Alliance funded projects to showcase.

36 Environmental Workshop - Future Direction (Nac.16.01.2023/5)

A report was presented which appraised Members of the discussions that had taken place at a recent workshop which reflected on the current Environmental commissioning and considered the options available.

The current environmental contract with Twiggs GM Ltd will conclude on 31 March 2023. A discussion ensued to discuss the pro's and con's of the future options available. The preference of the Members present was to proceed with Option 1 to work with BMBC Neighbourhood Services to develop a Service Level Agreement (SLA) based upon the costs as detailed within the report. As not all Members were in attendance, an email would be sent out to all Members of the North Area Council to seek their support to progress Option 1 within a specified timeframe. Should the continued absence of Old Town Ward Members create a delay, it was suggested that a formal decision via the Cabinet Spokesperson for Public Health and Communities would be reached within the next few weeks which would enable the SLA to be signed off by the end of February 2023. In the meanwhile, the Area Manager would make the relevant provisions. This option

would involve performance management meetings with the operational supervisors of the internal partner for the first 6 month period to address any issues.

The Area Manager was asked to produce a timeline document for internal use, to show the key dates and determination which would provide an understanding of how Members had reached the selection Option 1. It was explained that the decision making timeline could be understood by referring to the previous North Area Council report, which document discussions and workshop outcomes.

In relation to the maximum contract value for the new service provision for a value of £125,000 p.a. over a two year duration, it was suggested that the SLA would be in place for a duration of 12 months, with an option to extend for a further year. Consideration would also be given to ascertain future providers in the event that the current providers did not wish to proceed beyond years 1 or 2.

Recommended -

- (i) that Members note the current position, section 4 of the report;
- (ii) that the discussion that took place at the workshop on 20 December 2022, at section 6 of the report be noted;
- (iii) that the draft specification as at Appendix 2 of the report be approved;
- (iv) that robust Clean and Green Agreements be developed with each of the Ward Alliances, to mitigate duplication risk, as detailed in section 7 of the report;
- (v) that the Environmental Priority and how value will be added to BMBC's core offer, as detailed in section 8 of the report be approved;
- (vi) that the proposed BMBC Neighbourhood Service's Community Caretaker model be noted;
- (vii) that approval be given for a Service Level Agreement with Neighbourhood Services, based on the Community Caretaker Model, and specification at Appendix 2, at a contract value of £100,803 per annum for an initial period of one year with an option to extend for a further year, with a £24,197 per annum contingency, the use of which to be approved by the Service Director Communities following consultation with the North Area Councillors.

37 Commissioning, Project Development and Financial Update (Nac.16.01.2023/6)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, which provided Members with the financial position and forecast for expenditure based on the projects that had been proposed.

The Anti-Poverty Community Outreach Project had received approval for a contract extension to the existing waiver until 30 June 2023. Members would be provided with an update at the next meeting.

At the last meeting held in November 2022, B Beatson, Housing and Cohesion Officer had announced that he would depart the Housing and Cohesion position in December 2022. Following an unsuccessful recruitment round, an advertisement for the vacant North and Central Housing and Cohesion Officer posts would shortly be readvertised.

In relation to the Stronger Communities Grant 2022/23, the financial position would form a key point for discussion at the next Area Council meeting due to the cost of living crisis, inflation increase and the impacts this could have on the contract prices. At the Area Chairs Meeting scheduled to be held on 18 January 2023, Councillor Leech would ascertain whether any of the other Area Chairs had encountered an increase in the contract prices.

The Area Manager confirmed that Appendix 1 to the report, which provided a proposed expenditure for the North Area Council from April 2022 to March 2024, would be reconfigured for the next meeting to provide an understanding of the surplus budget and the profiled projects/services.

RECOMMENDED:-

- (i) that the existing budget position and the existing funding commitments be noted;
- (ii) that the discussion regarding the Clean and Green Contract, section 3.1 be noted. Full details were available in Item 5 of the agenda.
- (iii) that the update regarding the recruitment for the Housing and Cohesion Officer role be noted.
- (iv) that it be noted that following two workshops in October, the North Area's Cost of Living Crisis response was on hold, section 5.2.
- (v) that the updated projected spend at Appendix 1 be noted.

38 Report on the use of Ward Alliance Funds (Nac.16.01.2023/7)

A report was presented which provided an update on the financial position of the Ward Alliance budget for each ward for the 2022/23 period.

RECOMMENDED that each Ward in the North Area Council area prioritises the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds 2022/23, in line with the guidance on spend.

39 Notes from the Ward Alliances (Nac.16.01.2023/8)

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 8 November 2022; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 7 November 2022; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 7 November 2022; and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 3 November 2022.

Councillor Hunt referred to the work of the Darton East Ward Alliance which had a very good year in terms of spend on various projects; a small amount of funding remained to be spent by the end of the current financial year. A number of events had been held across the ward during the Christmas period which had been well attended by the local community.

In relation to the Darton West Ward Alliance, Councillor T Cave provided an update on the busy pre-Christmas period, where residents had shown an increased interest in the community events post the Covid-19 pandemic. The events had included the opening of the Christmas trees across the ward, together with other successful events that had been held in collaboration with the local community groups and schools.

Councillor Platts referred to the work of the St Helen's Ward Alliance. Three Christmas events had been held within the ward which had been well attended by the community. A Memory tree would be planted within the grounds of St Helen's Church. Pending approval, it was envisaged that the St Helens More Money in Your Pocket Roadshow would be held at Laithes Primary School. A working group had been established to plan for the summer gala in 2023.

RECOMMENDED that the notes and feedback from the respective Ward Alliances be received.

Chair

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Item 4

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:
13th March 2023

Agenda Item: 4

Report of North Area Council
Manager

Environmental Priority – Community Caretaker

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To appraise Members of the current position regarding future Environmental commissioning.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. **Members note the current position, section 4.**
- 2.2. **That Ward Members work with the Area Manager to develop the Clean and Green Agreements for each Ward.**

3. Background

- 3.1. The North Area currently has 5 priorities: Anti-Poverty, Environment, Health and Wellbeing, Economic Regeneration, Young People; plus an overarching priority of Enabling Barnsley.
- 3.2. To address the Environment priority the North Area has historically commissioned a provider to work with the community. “Working in Partnership with Local People to Deliver a Cleaner, Greener North Area” and more latterly “Environmental Education Service”.
- 3.3. Contract one was delivered by Forge Community Partnership commenced on the 14th September 2015. This had a two-year duration.
- 3.4. 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. On the 25th March 2019 the Area Council took the decision to utilise the contract extension clause and extend the contract until the end of September 2020.
- 3.5. The current contract was tendered in autumn 2020. Twiggs Grounds Maintenance Ltd secured a two-year contract with the opportunity for a final one-year extension. The contract commenced on 1st April 2021 and is now in it's second year of delivery.

4. Current Position (In brief)

- 4.1. Both parties (Twiggs GM Ltd and North Area Council) have agreed that the current contract will conclude on the 31st March 2023.
- 4.2. At the North Area Council meeting on the 16th January 2023, Councillors made the decision to change direction and work with BMBC Neighbourhood Service to develop a Community Caretaker model.
- 4.3. A budget envelope of £125,000p.a. has been agreed for a two-year duration from April 2023.
- 4.4. An SLA has been drafted by the North Area Council manager and Neighbourhood Services service manager. The aim was to have the SLA in place by the 1st April 2023. Running till 31st March 2024 as a 12-month trial.
- 4.5. However, the time of writing there is likely to be a delay. Until TUPE implications are fully understood it is not recommended to commence recruitment. This is the advice from BMBC Legal, Procurement and Human Resources. It is not recommended to use agency staff to bridge the gap. The Community Caretaker model is intended to enable staff to build up an effective and efficient, asset based, operational working knowledge of the geographic area. It would be preferable to recruit staff to the role who are more likely to remain in post and deliver the service over a number of years.
- 4.6. The monthly Environmental Steering Group is attended by one elected Councillors from each ward. The representatives will work with the Area Manager and Ward Alliances to develop Clean and Green Agreements for each ward, these will form the basis of a schedule of work for the Community Caretaker model to deliver.

5. Environmental Priority – Adding Value:

- 5.1. Based on the conversations that have taken place at the with the Environmental Working Group, the added value of the new contract/service can be explained by the following points:
 - What the Area Council wants to achieve?
Enhance community greenspaces, public footpaths, and village centres. Ensuring that local people have a sense of pride for where they live and work. Contributing to Barnsley 2030.
 - What will change?
Working with the ward alliances, we aim to deliver a model that encourages community participation in determining the service delivery of localised environmental maintenance and creates volunteering opportunities for residents to actively support improvement of public green spaces.
 - Who will the provision benefit?
Everyone who lives in and works within and visits the North Area.

- How will success be measured?
Each Ward Alliance will review their Clean and Green Agreements to ensure that the new service is adding value to BMBC's core service provision.
- How will success be reported and celebrated?
Monthly updates will be required for each ward, accounting for time and demonstrating the outcomes achieved. It is recommended that this is a short narrative document with supplementary photos.

6. Neighbourhood Services – Community Caretake Model

- 6.1. 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.
- 6.2. The contingency budget is £20,160 (20% of the resource requirement £100,803.00). The Area Manager recommends that this amount is committed by the Area Council, if this option is selected, but only released when an exceptions report is received by the Communities Assistant Director, detailing the requirements.
- 6.3. To ensure adequate cover over weekends as per the specification, a five days in seven working pattern has been discussed and identified as the preferred option.

7. Recommended Next Steps

- 7.1. The Area Manager will continue to work with Neighbourhood Services to ensure the SLA is fit for purpose and the posts are recruited to as soon as practicable.

Officer Contact:
RosemarieAdams@barnsley.gov.uk

Date:
28th February 2023

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Item 5

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:
13th March 2023

Agenda Item: 5

Report of North Area Council
Manager

Area Governance – North Area 10 Year Celebration

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To ensure that Members are aware of the intention to hold a North Area 10 Year Celebration event and the opportunity to participate in the planning.

2. Recommendation

2.1. **Members note the report.**

2.2. **Members are requested to identify Ward Alliance funded projects to showcase.**

3. Background

3.1. The current Area Governance arrangements were introduced in 2013.

3.2. Following the Covid Pandemic as part of the recovery steps the Stronger Communities have been working through a plan to re-connect with communities and promote the contributions of everyone involved in the local area arrangements.

3.3. 10 years is a significant milestone and an excellent opportunity to reflect on the significant contributions of the Ward Alliances and the wider voluntary and community sector.

3.4. Objectives

- To celebrate and inform residents about our unique structure of Area Councils and Ward Alliances and to celebrate the last 10 years, when the model was first introduced. Showcasing the great work that has taken place in the last ten years.
- Raise awareness of Area Councils and Ward Alliances and the positive work they have done over the last 10 years to contribute to the Barnsley 2030 priorities
- Encourage more people to get involved in their local community and promote how they can do that

3.5. There will be a series of centralised events and engagement opportunities.

3.6. There is also a requirement to deliver an area-based Volunteer Celebration Event. With a focus on recognition of significant contributions.

4. Proposals for the North Area's Celebration

- 4.1. The North Area has a history of celebrating success and community contribution at Ward level but it is many years since the last North Area Commissioning and Ward Alliance networking event was held.
- 4.2. Councillors have been consulted on potential dates. Dates being considered are (save the date invites have been shared with Councillors):
Friday 8th September
Friday 15th September
- 4.3. A date is required to ensure that a venue can be identified. It is recommended that this is a community venue, rather than a town centre venue.

5. Shaping the Celebration

- 5.1. The North Area Team has been tasked with arranging the event. To ensure that Members are empowered to contribute in their Community Leadership role, an elected Councillor from each ward and the Area Chair have volunteered to assist with event planning:
Chair: Cllr Dave Leech
Darton East Cllr Dickie Denton
Darton West Cllr Alice Cave
Old Town TBC
St. Helen's Cllr Sarah Tattersall
- 5.2. The planning group will work collaboratively to agree key considerations: date, time, venue, catering and entertainment.
- 5.3. Ward Alliances are also requested to identify projects they have funded to be showcased. It is intended to invite a short presentation for each project. Support is available from the North Team to ensure that any barriers are overcome.

6. Cost Implications

- 6.1. There are no budget implications to the North Area Council at this time. A budget of £1,500 has been allocated to each locality to host an event.
- 6.2. Event shaping may lead to increased costs.

7. Recommended Next Steps

- 7.1. The Area Manager will arrange to meet with the working group monthly to work through the planning and preparation of the event. An update will be provided at Area Council meetings.

Officer Contact:
RosemarieAdans@barnsley.gov.uk

Date:
27th February 2023

Item 6

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:

13th March 2023

Agenda item: 6

Report of
North Area Council Manager

North Area Council – 2022/23 Quarter 3 (October – December 2022) 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 (2022/23 Quarter 3) 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 October – December 2022.

Contracted Service Providers:

- CAB & DIAL – Community Outreach Project
- Twiggs Grounds Maintenance – Creating a cleaner, greener environment in partnership with local people

Extended Grant – Youth Resilience Grant

- YMCA
- Ad Astra

Extended Grant – Connecting Communities Grant

- DIAL
- Reds In The Community
- Age UK

Area Council Funded Posts

- Housing and Cohesion Officer

A summary of the performance management report for each of the contracted services for 2022/23 Quarter 3 (October - December). 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>

The report also provides a summary of performance information from the 12-month grants - Stronger Communities Grants Projects.

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.

Performance Report –Issues

Two of the North Area Council contracts continue to perform well. The CAB and DIAL contract is consistently running over capacity. This is a risk considering the current cost of living challenges.

There has been a slight delay in the start of the Reds In The Community project due to recruitment challenges. As a result, the project will run into 2024/25 Q1.

Appendices

Appendix 1: North Council Performance Management Report - Quarter 3 2022/23 (October – December) – prepared by North Area’s Project Officer.

Officer Contact:
RosemarieAdams@barnsley.gov.uk

Date:
28th February 2023



BARNSELY
Metropolitan Borough Council

North Area Council

Darton East, Darton West, Old Town, St Helens

Project Performance Report

Q3 - 2022/23 (October - December 2022)

Support for raising costs of living

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Council Priorities

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Community
Grants Summary
Performance
Management
Report

April 2022 -
March 2023

Front cover and photo to the left taken by
Leyla Nayeri
thestoryofyou.co.uk



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	 	£190,000 2 years (+1 year)	14th September 2017	Contract Live Contract extended
Environmental Education Page 14	 Improving the environment  Health & Wellbeing  Young People		£169,932 2 years (+1 year)	1st April 2021	Contract Live - Year 2 milestones updated
Economic Regeneration	 Improving the local economy				Current gap in provision
Housing & Cohesion Officer Page 28	 Improving the environment  Changing the Relationship  Economic Regeneration  Anti Poverty  Health & Wellbeing		£35,500 12 month contract	19th October 2020	Post currently vacant
Youth Resilience Page 30	 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
Education

Connecting
Communities

Housing &
Cohesion
Officer

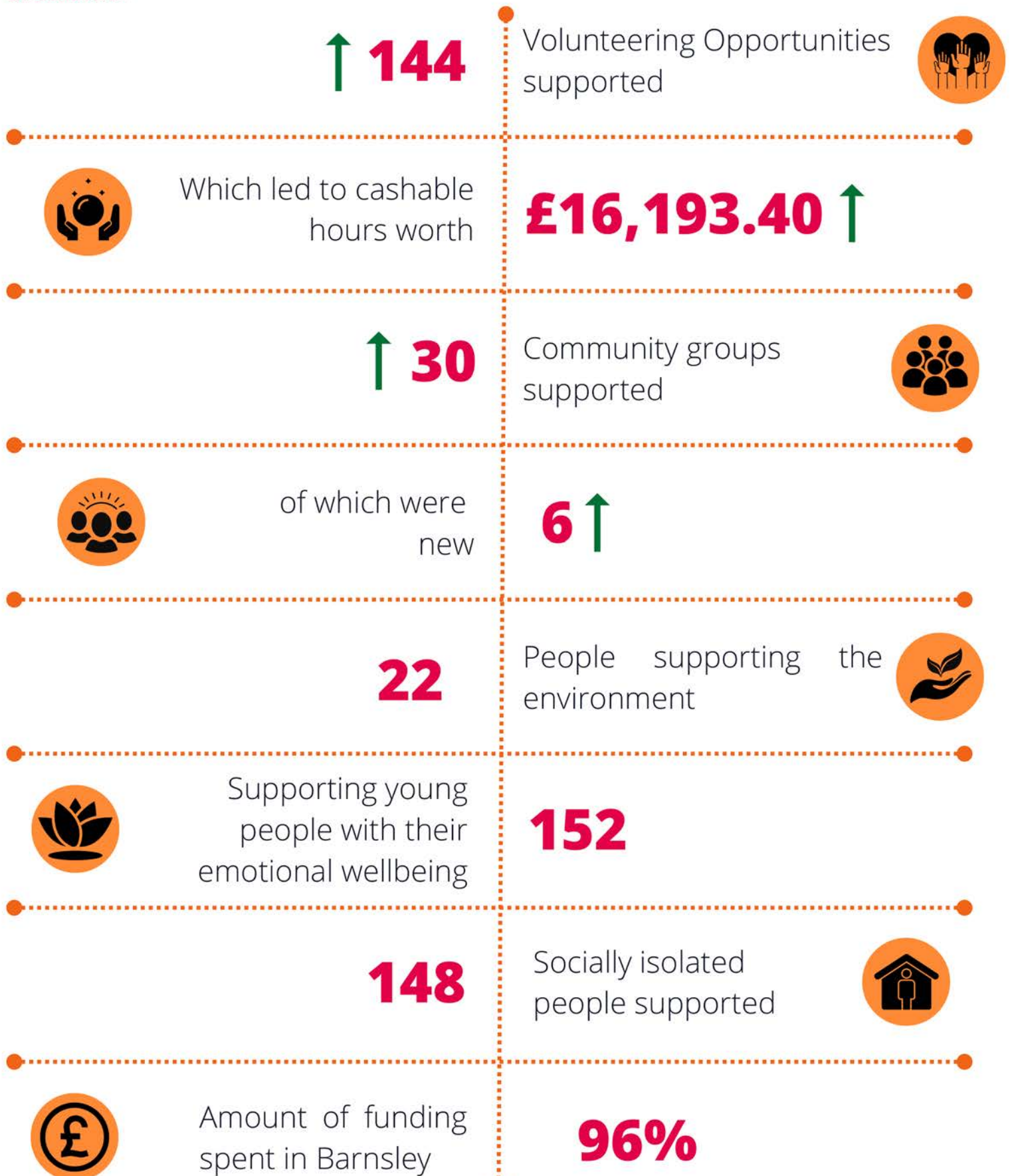
Social
Inclusion &
Cold Homes

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 **3 live contracts** only.

These contracts are:



CAB & DIAL
Second Contract
Year 8
Q1

Anti - Poverty



Twiggs
Second Contract
Year 2
Q3

Environmental
Education

Two providers are currently delivering the Youth Resilience Grant



Ad Astra
YMCA

Youth Resilience
Fund

The North Area also funds contracted posts:



The post is
currently vacant

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



606

Number of clients this
quarter

82%

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 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 this advice work helps to improve health and wellbeing and reduces stress.



Economic
Regeneration



Health &
Wellbeing



Anti Poverty

Anti-Poverty Outreach



£183,572

Overall benefit gain (in £)

£9,756

Amount of debt managed

£21

Return on investment (for
every pound spent)

Extract from performance report

In the period 1st October to 23rd December 2022, advisers from both organisations have provided information and advice to 606 client contacts, supported clients to claim £183,572 of welfare benefits and managed £ 9,756 of debt.

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

Of the 606 client contacts this quarter, 154 have required help with form filling – a total of 25% of the clients, most of which are related to the benefits system. The forms completed by DIAL are carried out face-to-face with the clients and not over the telephone.

Citizen's Advice Barnsley

Case Study



Background

Sometimes, not life's greatest sadness drives us to breaking point, but the smaller problems that creep up in their wake...

Aidan* had been devastated by the death of his brother, Michael, and that loss left a gaping hole in his daily living. After the funeral, Aidan took Michael's dogs to live with him. After all, he knew Michael would have wanted to know that they were cared for, they were good company, and they were a constant reminder of his brother. Aidan had never realised, however, the cost of feeding two large and hungry four-legged friends.

Aidan had always coped financially with his benefits, carefully managing his budget and planning his shopping. Now, however, he realised that with almost two weeks to go before his Universal Credit was due, neither he nor the dogs had sufficient food or money to last until then. He needed a food bank...

When Aidan contacted Citizens Advice Barnsley to enquire about a referral to a food bank, his first concern was whether he could get food for the dogs. The adviser discussed Aidan's situation with him to ensure that they had all of the relevant facts and was then able to refer him to his local food bank. She reassured him that it was usually possible to request pet food also.

The adviser ensured that Aidan had the means to contact both Citizens Advice Barnsley and other agencies who could refer him to a foodbank if he needed future help. She also gave him website links to check his benefits in case he was unaware of any changes and outlined other areas in which Citizens Advice Barnsley could advise him to increase his financial security.

DIAL

Case Study



“

“When I got the news, I didn’t believe it, to go from nothing to high on both and so near to Christmas with all the extra costs that brings. Thanks to DIAL I am able to afford more than before and am not as worried when I have to do less hours”.

Miss N

”

Acknowledged outcome

- Benefit Awarded
- Increased Income
- Less Stress
- More Confidence
- Improved Health and Well Being

Before DIAL

Miss N is a single mother of 2 with a degenerative spinal condition. She works full-time for a telephone call handling site but has been working from home due to her condition. She had been advised to apply for Personal Independence Payment by her local GP surgery and following her telephone assessment had been refused.

Advice provided by DIAL

Miss N contacted DIAL and we advised her to attend outreach with as much information about her condition as she had (reports) etc, and a copy of her application for Personal Independence Payment. At outreach, the advisor conducted a case review of Miss N’s application and completed a Mandatory Reconsideration on her behalf. She works from home and has had Occupational Therapy assessments to make reasonable adjustments for her to continue in her employment, so we advised her to request copies of the assessments and to forward copies to the Personal Independence Payment department. The Mandatory Reconsideration was unsuccessful, and the argument used stated that she is able to maintain a full-time job despite her condition suggesting she was able to perform the PIP tasks in a reasonable manner. It was apparent that they had not paid attention to the Occupational Therapy assessments and recommendations in these reports. We applied to the first-tier tribunal for an appeal arguing that the assessor’s report carried out without sight of Miss N was not accurate. We argued that the assessments from her Occupational Therapist were in great detail, an account of her problems and difficulties with upper and lower body motor function and why she was unable to complete the required activities relevant to a Personal Independence Assessment.

After DIAL

The Tribunal agreed and overturned the decision awarding Miss N enhanced rate help with personal care (£92.40 a week) and enhanced rate help with getting around (£64.50 a week). We also helped her to apply for her Blue Badge.



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

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





**Improving the
local
environment**



**Health &
Wellbeing**



**Opportunities
for young
people**

Environmental Education

TWIGGS
Grounds Maintenance LTD



How the commission meets the Council Plan?

**Our Council Plan
2021 -2024**

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.

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.

- 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 and Function Overview

The North Area Clean and Tidy Team's focus is on building independence and increasing resilience within communities. Working with residents, schools and local businesses. The Clean and Tidy Team's performance is measured on the work that they do with volunteers and attracting new people to help keep the North Area clean, green and tidy for many years to come.

There is a strong emphasis on proactive work and transfer of horticultural skills to volunteers. This is an educational based contract. N.B. Twiggs do not have a maintenance contract for North Area. BMBC Neighbourhood Services retain this function and every effort must be made to prevent duplication.

Overview of quarter

This quarter was shorter due to the Christmas period, and a lot of December was dedicated to installing Christmas Trees. Therefore the targets have less time to be accumulated but are still achieved.

During this quarter, a new apprentice was recruited and the previous one decided to pursue a different career leaving on good terms for all that was involved.



**Improving the
local
environment**



**Health &
Wellbeing**



**Opportunities
for young
people**

Environmental Education

Performance Indicator	Yr 1 Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Cumulative
Number of community clean-ups	40	69	65	59	60	253
Twiggs social action events	10	0	-	-	-	8
New community groups supported	4	4	2	0	4	10
No. of sustained volunteers (recruited and retained)	80	63	134	144	129	470
Number of new volunteers at Twiggs events	120	6	8	151	24	189
Areas of blight targeted	100	42	48	21	95	206
Local business engagement	50	8	16	30	22	76
Number of volunteers trained (6 week active volunteer course)	40	30	27	6	10	73
Local spend	90%	90%	/	95%	95%	93.3%

Performance Indicator	Yr 2 Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Cumulative
Number of community clean-ups	40	94	61	68		223
Twiggs social action events	10	0	0	22		22
New community groups supported	4	0	1	1		2
No. of sustained volunteers (recruited and retained)	80	172	28	88		288
Number of new volunteers at Twiggs events	80	146	53	12		211
Areas of blight targeted	10	119	59	62		240
Local business engagement	50	0	6	4		10
Number of volunteers trained (6 week active volunteer course)	38	38	46	28		108
Local spend	90%	95%	95%	95%		95%



**Improving the
local
environment**



**Health &
Wellbeing**



**Opportunities
for young
people**

Environmental Education

Update for each ward: 2 priorities by Steering Group



We have had lots of volunteer engagement in the Darton East ward. We have constructed a very positive working relationship with GXO/ASOS, who regularly get involved in the volunteer sessions in the ward and will do so until the contract finishes. GXO helped with the work we undertook in Mapplewell Park, tidying around the tennis courts and also supported us in helping the bowling club members in the Bowling Green. We also had support from Ancala Water Services, during which most of the work was in Mapplewell Park, Ibberson Gardens, and the war memorial.



During the time between the priority areas, we have given support to Louise Oxley and Voice for Darton and Kexborough. Following on from this we also set up future engagement with Darton Astrea Academy to support the school with the Memorial Gardens Project up until the contract finishes.



During this quarter we concentrated all our efforts on the footpaths and ginnels/PROW which are priorities for the ward. All pathways were given a really good clean and reinstated where required.



Old Quarry - during the quarter, we worked with volunteers to re-plant the five fruit trees uprooted last summer by anti-social behaviour. We also planted 2 more fruit trees that Twiggs had received via donations. We had support from Barnsley Stop Smoking Service and local volunteers from the Quarry Group. We also several visits the area and worked on the footpaths because this was a priority area.

West Road - the team have visited the area numerous times, but volunteers have not taken the opportunity to work beside the team. However, the team kept the site in a respectable condition and actioned the priority area requests from the environmental steering group.





Mapplewell Park

Darton East

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

Learning Barnsley

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

Growing Barnsley

- People have a welcoming safe and enjoyable town centre and principle 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
- Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people to enjoy

Background

During this quarter, our team carried out numerous sessions at Mapplewell Park, during which we supported several groups. Our first session this quarter occurred on 11/10/2022, during which we supported amazing volunteers from GXO. We reinstated the footpaths and cleared litter and leaves around the whole park area, including the litter that was in the vegetation. To proceed, we cleared under the benches, trimmed back the overgrowth and reinstated the curb edges in the play area and near the fenced area, leaving the area presentable and inviting. The next session was on 18/10/2022, during which we supported Ancala Water Services and CVS. Our team and 5 fantastic volunteers cleared the area around the tennis court by removing leaves, trimming back the shrubs to give them a face-lift, and we trimmed back the overgrowth that was encroaching onto the footpath, therefore, widening the walkway. We trimmed back the tree shoots that were overhanging the footpath. Upon completion of the session, we left the area tidy, presentable, and safe for the public. To further improve the parking area, we carried out another maintenance session on 25/10/2022 with the Green Space Group. During the session, we trimmed back the hedges and pruned the shrubs and branches that were overhanging the footpaths. Consequently, we left the area inviting, presentable and eye-pleasing.

On 17/11/2022, our team completed another maintenance session in the park, during which we pruned back the overgrown trees, cleared leaves, debris and litter from the stairs and trimmed back the overgrowth near the stairs, therefore opening up the walkway. All green waste was mulched and reintroduced into the environment to utilise the nutrients. We carried out the next session on 22/11/2022, during which we reinstated the footpath between the benches and the play area by clearing leaves and other litter. To proceed, we trimmed back the overgrowth near the play area, making it safer for the users. The last session of the quarter occurred on 30/11/2022, during which our team reinstated a footpath by removing the encroaching overgrowth and redefining the footpath edges.

Mapplewell Park & War Memorial

Darton East

At a glance



13

Number of volunteers



55

Total volunteering hours



£753.50

Cashable value of
volunteering hours



45

Total staffing hours



13

Bags of Rubbish

How did this activity come about?

Our team generated the ideas and sessions, therefore, building a strong long-term relationship with GXO Logistics.

Apprentice Involvement

An apprentice is present during all sessions, this allows them to develop their skills in the use of power tools and other community engagement activities.

What went well?

The volunteers were trained in the appropriate use of tools, the correct pruning technique and the importance of reintroducing green waste back into the environment.

What still needs further development and what is the next steps?

The Bowling Club needs more support in dealing with the green waste and upkeep of the grounds due to the members being of age.



Dedicated Volunteer - Lousie Oxley's Story

Darton West

Our Council Plan 2021 -2024

Healthy Barnsley

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Working with volunteers

Louise is a dedicated volunteer who approached Twiggs during the Covid-19 pandemic. She lives locally in the Darton West area and has been an active and effective volunteer. She has worked closely with Twiggs to identify areas needing regeneration and reinstatement.

Our first contact with Louise was in **February 2021**, during the Covid-19 pandemic. Louise contacted the Twiggs team to enquire about litter picking in her local area. Unfortunately, we could not physically support her due to government guidelines, but we provided her with equipment to complete activities and remained in contact with Louise throughout this period.

Louise, with her sister and their children, completed a litter pick from the North area boundary right up to the Engineers Public House in Higham. Twiggs further supported Louise by removing **five bags** of litter which had been collected by Louise and her family.

With the lifting of restrictions, we could arrange an event with Louise on **27/04/2021**. Louise had identified an area within Darton Park which had been the subject of anti-social behaviour. The team worked alongside Louise to scrape all weeds, soil and glass on the skate park, making the area much safer for families and children.

To continue the support Twiggs provided, Louise, the Pogmoor Pickers, and the Twiggs North Area Team started on the tennis courts in Darton Park on **05/05/21**. The volunteers scraped the perimeter of the tennis courts, collected 5 bags of litter and swept the area. The collected green waste and soil were reintroduced to the woodland area next to the park.

Part of Louise's vision for her local area is to free parks and green spaces from dangerous objects/materials left by acts of anti-social behaviour.

Despite the best efforts of the team and volunteers who attended Darton Park previously, Louise discovered yet more broken glass, a large volume of tab ends and other dangerous items when they returned on **18/05/21**.

The team with Louise worked tirelessly to clear the area and continued their efforts to improve the aesthetics by scraping and strimming the perimeter of the play equipment and benches in the middle of the park. The team discussed with Louise further areas for development.

On **20/05/21**, the team met with Louise and her son to complete a 'litter walk' where they walked around Barugh Green; litter picking and identifying areas which required development/reinstating. Mainly the areas of interest were well-used footpaths and ginnels which were being abused.

Further attention was given to the curb and the gullies; mud and dirt were scraped from the curb edges, which in turn aided the unlocking of nearby drains and grates.

Dedicated Volunteer - Lousie Oxley's Story

Darton West

Continuing the previous event with Louise, the team joined her on **25/05/21**. The event's focus on this day was to reinstate a footpath on Barnsley Rd, Barugh Green (next to the recreational ground) leading to Medina Way, which had been identified on the previous 'litter walk'. This is a notorious hot spot.

The footpath was swept and cleared of leaves, moss and silt. Hedges and overhanging trees were cut back, making the area more accessible to users. Whilst there, many dog walkers approached the team to express their gratitude. All green waste was reintroduced into the environment.

The next event held with Louise on **15/06/2021** occurred on Barnsley Rd, Barugh Green. The team and Louise attended to reinstating the footpath, primarily outside Tutor Rose Nursery. The encroaching grass and brambles were cut back, and **2 bags of litter** were collected.

Having made good headway in the Barugh Green area, Louise was interested in getting involved in further areas within her locality. To facilitate this, the team arranged an event at Mapplewell Village Hall on **29/06/2021**. The group made a good start on the Incredible Edibles beds with two members from the Prince's Trust and Louise's young son. Extensive works in the area included strimming to gain access to the overgrown beds, and the beds were then dug over with green waste being reintroduced into the area to form a border. A small barricade was also created to help prevent anti-social behaviour.

Returning to Barugh Green, the team with Louise focused on making the football facilities at Barugh Green Recreational Ground more accessible. They all worked tirelessly to remove moss from around the MUGA on **05/08/2021**.

On **13/10/2021**, in preparation for an upcoming event with Louise, the North Area Team collected 1000 bulbs from the North Area Team.

As part of Louise's vision for the Barugh Green area, the team met with her on **02/11/2021** and planted **700 bulbs** near the footpath behind Barugh Green Rec. Prior to this, the group prepared the area by removing weeds and leaves to allow the bulbs to thrive and improve the aesthetics of the footpath for users.

The further **300 daffodil bulbs** supplied by the NAT were planted on **24/11/2021** with Louise along Medina Way. Between them, they also completed a litter pick, collecting 2 bags.

As part of the wider vision, the Twiggs North Area Team and Louise completed maintenance works on Medina Way, Barugh Green and surrounding areas. Over two hours, the group focused on reclaiming the footpath from the overgrowth, trimming overgrown hedges and troublesome thistles from the path before collecting two bags of litter.

After the Christmas break, the team resumed their efforts with Louise on **12/01/22**. A new location on Higham Common Road was highlighted as requiring attention. Louise had previously reported to the team that the high accumulation of fallen leaves was becoming extremely slippery and posed a health and safety risk to attendees and other members of the public. To begin, the team with Louise lifted and cut back the hedges to allow access to hard-to-reach fallen leaves and widen the path for pedestrians. The collected leaves were mulched and reintroduced back into the environment to provide nutrients to other plants.



Dedicated Volunteer - Lousie Oxley's Story

Darton West

The team with Louise returned to Medina Way, Barugh Green, on **25/01/2022**. A well-used path was widened, and **two bags of litter** were collected leading to the Rec. The area looked much better for the team's efforts.

Louise emailed the office on **28/01/22**, signposting the team to one of the well-known footpaths near Barugh Green Primary school, which they had previously attended to clear from fallen leaves. It was reported that this area had become treacherous again and needed urgent attention.

Following Louise's email, the team attended Higham Common Rd on **01/02/2022**. Louise supported the event by completing a litter pick of the area before the team collected as many leaves as possible, given the weather conditions. Thus, making the path more accessible to users.

On **03/02/2022**, the team re-joined with Louise in Barugh Green at Barugh Green Recreational Ground. The entire area was cleared of litter, and **2 bags** were removed. The group continued their efforts to scrape around the play area, removing weeds and reinstating the borders.

A great morning was had once again at Barugh Green Recreational Ground on **23/02/2022**. The team and Louise litter-picked the area and collected **one bag of litter**. Following this, the footpath was widened to allow more room for walkers while giving the site a more polished look.

As part of our ongoing support to Louise, the team delivered some wildflower seeds sourced from a local business. The seeds will be used to add some colour to the village on **17/03/2022**.

On **06/04/2022**, the Twiggs North Area Team joined Louise at Barugh Green Rec and collected **5 bags of litter** and a small amount of fly-tipping from the park and the road leading to the local primary school. Following this, a number of overgrown brambles were cleared that were covering litter were cut back, leaving the area looking much more attractive.

Continuing the previous efforts made by the team and Louise, the group returned to Barugh Green Rec and focused on the walkway at the rear of the park. Louise kindly donated several homegrown sunflowers and shrubs to the area, which were planted regularly along the path. Overhanging shrubs and trees which were encroaching onto the path were also cut back, and **1 bag of litter** was collected. All green waste was reintroduced into the environment to create habitat piles. **25/05/2022**.

A donation of roses (donated by The Range) was delivered to Louise's home address. These shall be used to enhance the path further worked on previously. **31/05/2022**.

The Twiggs North Area Team and Louise's attention was redirected to another well-used footpath close to Medina Way, Barugh Green. The group began a small project to improve the aesthetics of the area. A number of small plants were added to the footpath, which had been donated by The Range. Louise also provided more additional plants, which she had grown on **15/06/2022**.



Dedicated Volunteer - Lousie Oxley's Story

Darton West



Dedicated Volunteer - Lousie Oxley's Story

Darton West

At a glance



44

Total volunteering hours



£602.80

Cashable value of
volunteering hours



96

Total staffing hours



23

Bags of Rubbish

The team delivered a plant donation from Emmanuel's Church to Louise on **28/06/2022**. They will make a great addition to the footpath targeted in Barugh Green. Proceeded to book dates for upcoming work.

The team joined Louise on Merdena Way to plant wildflower seeds on **29/06/2022**. To begin, we prepared the ground by removing weeds and digging over the soil to allow the seeds to bed in. To proceed, we planted the seeds and gave them water. Great work done. I can't wait for the results!

To continue the process made from previous events, we joined Louise again on Merdena Way to focus on reinstating the footpath and planting some further varieties of plants to add colour and vibrancy to the area on **06/07/2022**.

15/09/2022 Next session Merdena Way with Louise, we blew off leaves and scrapped up weeds and silt from the footpath edges. Louise had a few plants spare from her garden, so she kindly offered them to us. We thanked her for this and supported her planting them in the footpath planter. Finished off by trimming the hedges and reintroducing the green waste. Any litter on the footpath was collected during the session and bagged up (x8 bags).

Dropped off a supply of 40 purple sacks to Louise on **08/11/2022**.



What do you believe are the benefits of volunteering?

For me, I continue to volunteer as it improves my mental health. I like getting out of the house and meeting new people from my area. I have met many residents whom have complimented and thanked me for the work I and the Twiggs team have done. I like giving back and seeing my area improve.

How has communication and support been with the Twiggs team?

They've been really helpful. They have been quick to respond to my emails and to arrange events. Aron and his team are extremely friendly and strive to do more. No job is too big/small and they are really happy to help...

And lastly, how has volunteering made a positive impact on your area?

It took a while to see an improvement but after continued work and efforts together, we have seen a massive uplift in the area. Especially along Merdena Way after multiple sessions it was great to see our activities having such a positive impact.

Feedback from Louise Oxley



4T's Project

Old Town

Our Council Plan 2021 -2024

Healthy Barnsley

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

Learning Barnsley

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Growing Barnsley

- People have a welcoming safe and enjoyable town centre and principle 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
- Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people to enjoy

At a glance



6

Number of volunteers



12

Total volunteering hours



£164.40

Cashable value of
volunteering hours



21

Total staffing hours

Background

During this quarter, we worked with Barnsley Youth Council on the 4T's project. We met with the volunteers from the Youth Council on 27/10/2022 at the site for our first session of the quarter. We strimmed back the overgrowth preparing the area for the instalment of a bench. We also strimmed around the trees, therefore, opening up the area. All green waste was mulched and utilised to make habitat piles. To proceed, we created a natural border using 'green waste' to deter anti-social behaviour. To complete the session, we cleared leaves from the footpath to reduce the hazard of slips, trips and falls. Our next session occurred on 17/11/2022, during which our team performed further general maintenance at the site and on West Road. We cut the grass and strimmed back the overgrowth to widen the walkway room on the footpath. To proceed, we trimmed the shrubs near the playing field entrance to make the entrance safer for the public. To complete the session, we cleared leaves from the footpaths and the drains to open up the access for any excess water after long periods of rainfall, making the area safer.

The last quarter session occurred on 01/12/2022, during which we cut the grass in the area where the bench will be installed in the future. To complete the session, we cleared the leaves from the footpaths making the community area safer for the public.

How did this activity come about?

It was generated by the BMBC Youth Participation and Twiggs facilitated the sessions.

Apprentice Involvement

An apprentice is present during all sessions, this allows them to develop their skills in the use of power tools and other community engagement activities.

What went well?

The sessions with the young volunteers from the previous quarters had great success. In addition, the footpaths were maintained for safe public use. The site on West Road was covered as well, which comes under the ward priority areas.

What still needs further development and what is the next steps?

The fruit trees will require formative pruning in the future.

Wingfield Road

St Helens

Our Council Plan 2021 -2024

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At a glance



3

Number of volunteers



5½

Total volunteering hours



£75.35

Cashable value of
volunteering hours



18

Total staffing hours

Background

During October, we carried out multiple sessions on Wingfield Road to give it a blitz. The first session occurred on 10/10/2022, during which we cleaned the entrance to the footpath by removing silt and detritus, making it more inviting, strimming back the excessive vegetation encroaching onto the entrance, cut back the overgrown grass. While we targeted the overgrowth, volunteer Mayor Tattershall cleared litter, removing 6 bags of litter. To follow up on the previous session, we attended on 24/10/22, during which we joined Mayor Tattershall and Cllr Leach. We cleared litter, strimmed back the overgrown grass, cleared fallen leaves to reduce the slip hazard and scraped up the moss from the footpath. The last session of the quarter occurred on 31/10/2022. To proceed with our work at the site, we strimmed back the overgrowth that was encroaching onto the footpath, making it safer for the students of Laithe's Primary School and other members of the public. Other activities included litter clearance and removal of fallen leaves, leaving the area more aesthetically pleasing and safer for the use of children.

All 'green waste' from the sessions was mulched and reintroduced back into the environment, utilising the nutrients.

How did this activity come about?

This is a priority area identified by the Environmental Steering Group.

Apprentice Involvement

An apprentice is present during all sessions, this allows them to develop their skills in the use of power tools and other community engagement activities.

What went well?

The area is now more accessible for the children and adults that are frequently using the footpath in order to get to school.

What still needs further development and what is the next steps?

Further volunteer engagement to keep the footpath safe and presentable.

Wingfield Road

St Helen's

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Background

During October we carried out multiple sessions on Wingfield Road to give it a blitz. The first session occurred on 10/10/2022 during which we cleaned the entrance to the footpath by removing silt and detritus, making it more inviting, strimmed back the excessive vegetation that was encroaching onto the entrance and cut back the overgrown grass. While we targeted the overgrowth, volunteer Mayor Tattershall cleared litter, removing 6 bags of litter. To follow up on our the previous session we attended on 24/10/22 during which we joined Mayor Tattershall and Cllr Leach. We cleared litter, strimmed back the overgrown grass, cleared fallen leaves to reduce the slip hazard and scraped up the moss from the footpath. The last session of the quarter occurred on 31/10/2022. To proceed our work at the site we strimmed back the overgrowth that was encroaching onto the footpath, making it safer for the students of Laithes Primary School and other members of the public. Other activities included litter clearance and removal of fallen leaves, leaving the area more aesthetically pleasing and safer for the use of children.

All 'green waste' from the sessions was mulched and reintroduced back into the environment therefore utilising the nutrients.

How did this activity come about?

This is a priority area identified by the Environmental Steering Group.

Apprentice Involvement

An apprentice is present during all sessions, this allows them to develop their skills in the use of power tools and other community engagement activities.

What went well?

The area is now more accessible for the children and adults that are frequently using the footpath in order to get to school.

What still needs further development and what is the next steps?

Targeting different parts of the area and increasing the number of sessions.



Improving the
local
environment



Health &
Wellbeing



Opportunities
for young
people

Environmental Education

*TWIGGS contribution to public health outcomes

Improving the wider determinants of health

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

- 1.04 First time entrants to the youth justice system
- 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

TWIGGS
Grounds Maintenance LTD



Public Spaces

	Target	Achieved to date
Number of local businesses supported at planned events	100	86
Number of new groups formed with support of Twiggs	8	12
Number of hours of volunteering generated	N/A	5,751
Number of volunteers trained in horticultural skills	80	108



Improving the environment



Changing the Relationship



Improving the economy



Anti Poverty



Health & Wellbeing

Housing Cohesion Officer



- 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.



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

*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



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.

YMCA Youth work offers young people safe spaces to explore their identity, increase their confidence and think through the consequences of their actions. We use the specific approaches from the well-being index and resilience framework to enable young people to explore and develop their knowledge, understanding and skills in the areas of belonging, learning, coping and core self.

All of the projects continue to enable the participants to develop core skills from the checklist for positive mental health and well-being, particularly in the areas of communication, working with others and problem-solving, building their self-esteem and confidence and their understanding of themselves, their social networks and relationships with others and sense of place and belonging not only in their schools but also as YMCA participants.

Darton Academy Peer Support Training Programme

Transition support and Peer Support Training for Y7 Pupils.

This group was identified by the school's Leadership Team. 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.

Some of the Peer Supporters continue engaging with the wider North Area project and YMCA youth work programmes during holiday provision and term time sessions as peer supporters and participants. 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



YMCA

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.

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. There has been a focus on mental health and wellbeing this quarter, spending time 'checking in' with young people at the start of each session. Sessions have been themed to reflect this, with young people participating in mindfulness activities and team games to aid in socialisation.

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, including conversation cubes and the encouragement to participate in friendly debates. This strengthens the young people's ability to manage differences of opinions within a safe setting which are transferable skills for their life journeys.

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
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feedback from
the participants
and school staff.



Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing



Opportunities for young people

Youth Resilience Fund



666

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

11

Number of new unique individuals engaged

3

Number of peer support sessions delivered

9

Number of school holiday sessions delivered

2

Number of family members engaged in the project

4

Number of young volunteers

Kexborough Primary (continued)

We continue to work in Kexborough Primary School, offering an after-school club to a mixed cohort of 16 young people. Our working relationship with the school means that the school, including the headteacher and family support worker, can identify a group of young people who would benefit by participating in a club that focuses on building emotional resilience and wellbeing. 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. These young people have different abilities and needs, which are managed by the youth workers who facilitate the session and ensure that the quieter members of the group are included and encouraged to participate. 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.

Wellgate Primary

Weekly targeted support project for some Y6 children identified as those who would most benefit from the project.

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 school's needs. 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 relevant cultural activities, problem-solving sessions, and mindfulness crafts, all serving to create a space where young people are comfortable developing their sense of self and belonging.



Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing



Opportunities for young people

Youth Resilience Fund



Summer Lane Primary Pilot

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.

“I enjoyed the suncatchers because when I look at it, I think of how nervous I was for everything going on but now I feel a lot better and less nervous because of the other times we were here on a Wednesday. I enjoyed it here and it made me feel a lot better about high school and the play that we were doing in front of the whole school and parents.”

Amelia
Year 6

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. The sessions at Summer Lane are themed to prepare young people for their transition to secondary school, employing various methods such as mindfulness crafts and, recently, ‘kindness books’ where young people complete tasks that are focussed on self-worth, their identity, and how they act towards others. We work with Year 5 and Year 6 on rotation, which ensures that the young people who need the support can access it while also allowing us to intervene early with young people who have more complex needs regarding their resilience and interpersonal skills would require a long-term programme. We continue to see a great deal of improvement regarding these skills, and the young people within this session are able to articulate this growth and demonstrate their resilience in everyday situations within the session.

The project delivery in the schools has enabled the children to form positive relationships with the youth workers from YMCA Barnsley and to develop their social networks building positive relationships with other young people both in their school-based sessions and through accessing wider project delivery with holiday provision and the detached youth work sessions.

We can also maintain our support for project participants 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 peers. The youth workers have enjoyed reconnecting with young people as they continue their journeys in secondary school. They have seen many of them access the after-school clubs at Horizon and Darton Academy. Seeing and reflecting on their transformation from timid year 6’s to confident year 7’s in their secondary school environment is a proud moment for the participants and their youth workers.



Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing



Opportunities for young people

Youth Resilience Fund

Holiday provision:

During October Half Term, young people from the North Area had access to two different activities. The first of which was an engaging session delivered by imagination gaming, which saw young people work together to complete team challenges. The second activity was our Shop, Cook and Eat session held at the Parish Church of St John the Evangelist, which required young people to work together to shop for the ingredients needed to prepare a meal for everyone. These activities, while fun for the young people, also demonstrated important life skills, such as responsibility, navigating team dynamics, exploring leadership and demonstrating patience and empathy when things don't go to plan. The young people who attended these sessions gave very positive feedback and were able to support us in the planning of future provision.

At the end of December, young people were invited to an area-wide Roller-skating Party at Penistone Leisure Centre with food and music. Young people from the North Area were able to socialise with young people from other areas, and transport arrangements were made so that no young person was excluded due to their inability to get there. The event was a huge success, and young people thoroughly enjoyed the chance to build their resilience by trying something new with people they hadn't previously met. This event proved that the skills and confidence young people have developed are not limited to the sessions they attend and that they are able to translate this development to unknown situations. Young people were supported by familiar workers whom they knew and trusted. They were also given the opportunity to socialise with young people from across the project which may attend the same school as them in the future. 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.

Detached Project:

Our team have continued to work on a weekly basis within the north area, with a regular programme that continues through the summer focussing primarily on Kexborough whilst maintaining relationships with existing contacts in Darton.

As darker nights and colder weather have become the norm on the streets, our focus has been centred around the Berneslai Homes facility on Priestly Avenue.

A core group of young people with differing needs meet on a weekly basis. The group are currently focused on developing a piece of drama that explores the issue of bullying and family relationships.



Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing



Opportunities for young people

Youth Resilience Fund

Detached Project (continued)

Accommodating different needs and finding appropriate and meaningful roles within a drama context is quite challenging. However, through careful negotiation and encouragement, individuals have stepped into their roles enthusiastically. Some in acting and script writing roles, others in technical roles, i.e. photography and filming.

Each session is reviewed with the group, and learning is drawn from their experience in the evening. One young person reported that they found it challenging to act as a bully as it wasn't in their nature. Our reviews and debriefs go some way into exploring these issues and allow the young person to adjust from their character back to themselves. Often a fun activity but also an invaluable one for young people and teams alike.

The programme is very much led by the group, there is no timescale as such, but an agreement that, at some point, they might have something to show to others, whether live or via video. However, they are keen to remind our team that 'they are not promising owt!'

In recent weeks, we have welcomed back one of the mums who has been busy on Tuesday evenings through the summer. Her encouragement of the group and the ideas she contributes are fantastic. Being part of the community and knowing the young people and families far longer than our team, she brings a quality that often teases out the best ideas and engagement from the young people. (see feedback in evidence)

The group planned their own Christmas fuddle and engaged in Christmas crafts. Many of their creations were left hanging on the Christmas Tree at Berneslai Homes premises as a thank you to Ann and the broader team for allowing us to work in their space.

As we approached the Christmas break, our team set out on a Christmas treasure hunt around the streets of Kexborough. If a young person is lucky enough to find one of our clues, they contact YMCA Barnsley direct to register their find and arrange to be presented with a New Year treat. Our team are very much looking forward to 2023.



School-based Provision

Case Study

Background & Context

The young person in this case study is 11 years old and was initially accessing the project as they were chosen by school. Violet was identified as a young person who could potentially need support with building confidence, self-esteem and social skills. The model at Violet's school is a long-term group-work model centred around building relationships with young people so they feel comfortable enough to develop in their social and emotional skills. Although this is a group work model, staff make space within these sessions for 1-1 work with the Violet and other young people who may need it. Violet was initially resistant to engage with the activities and with other young people who attended the sessions, which had the potential to become a challenge. Violet was incredibly quiet within sessions, and was reluctant to start conversations or even make eye contact with her peers. However, through the consistency of our model and our ability to support her sense of belonging, Violet's confidence has improved massively.

Intervention/Process

Staff delivered a varied programme of crafts, games, and targeted activities to support the development of resilience. These activities required young people to build their teamwork skills, step out of their comfort zone, and develop their ability to problem-solve, which is proven to support with their social-emotional development. Activities were engaging and influenced by consultation with the young people themselves, allowing young people to take ownership over the sessions that were delivered.

Other sessions were delivered around reinforcing positivity and kindness so that Violet knew that her and her peers were all working towards a common goal, and again supported her in feeling like she belonged. Staff slowly managed to build Violet's confidence through encouraging her to participate and displaying unconditional positive regard.

Violet's youth workers continued to let her know that we are a safe space and helping her to understand that it doesn't matter if she gets something wrong and they commented that they 'could see that her confidence was slowly growing week by week'. This was achieved by creating activities that would allow young people to fail without consequences so that Violet could understand that her understanding of what went wrong was more important than the task itself. We were intentional about giving feedback to Violet, and made sure to give her encouragement and positive reinforcement when she would develop new skills to ensure that she was being recognised.

School-based Provision

Case Study



“Violet used to be very quiet, we could never hear what she was saying, sometimes she wouldn’t speak to us at all and only smile slightly, over the weeks as we would ask her to participate in games she would say no that she didn’t want to, however at the end of December, Violet would put her hand up to answer questions in games, participating and even standing at the front of the classroom to join in with our activities. Violet now engages in conversation with us, showing she feels more confident in actually talking to us. Recently violet has spoken to us about her hobby of gymnastics and going to visit a family-member’s kennels.”

**Feedback from
Violet’s Youth
Workers**

Intervention/Process (continued)

We ensured that there was always time made available for Violet to speak to the youth workers, while also encouraging her to participate in the group work elements of the sessions such as team skills, challenges and games. Making time to work with Violet 1-1 allowed her the space to express herself without her peers listening, and ensuring that her voice isn’t being lost in the group. The group activities were to enable Violet to feel as though she is safe around her peers and to develop her socialisation.

Impact of work with the individual:

Violet now feels far more comfortable in group settings, and is able to engage with activities and conversations far better than she was able to prior to our work with her. The intervention from staff has allowed Violet to flourish into a young person who knows that there are people who want to listen to her, and there are spaces where she can express herself without fear of being ridiculed.

Violet is far more comfortable with eye contact, and is growing in her interpersonal skills each week, displayed by the feedback from her youth workers below. She now enjoys speaking to staff about her future plans, and the things she enjoys doing, which all go towards developing her ideas around her core self and her ability to cope with difficult situations. Violet is able to articulate her development and has commented on her ability to socialise with others within the group, stating that this is far easier for her now.



What’s next?

Violet continues to engage with our sessions, and our staff continue to build relationships with her. In the future, more targeted work will be done with Violet to continue her development so that she continues to feel more confident around trying new things. We are looking forward to seeing how she continues to build on her sense of belonging within the group and her ability to cope with unknown situations.



Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing



Opportunities for young people

Youth Resilience Fund



Ad Astra

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

157

Number of unique individuals engaged

80

Number of young people consistently attending Buddy Training and after school sessions at school

27

Number of young people consistently attending Youth Club Sessions

107

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

Extract from Performance Report

Another busy term from September to December for two of our primary schools.

Athersley North and Athersley South were ready and fully prepped for our September start – we had all the required information from the schools in the first week of term ready for us to start the program in the second week of term.

This term has been Buddy Training – again, we have made a slight tweak to the delivery of the program, which enables the flow of learning to be smoother – the one bit of the program the young people struggle with is ‘confidentiality’, so we have moved that later on in the program. We discussed resilience more as both schools have picked up on this and use it in other lessons, so the young people seem to have a clearer understanding of building resilience – in their words – ‘never giving up,’ ‘building your confidence,’ and always ‘trying your hardest.’

The Anti Bullying workshops and the Communication workshops have been a great success, and we have put more of an emphasis on teamwork and being a good friend.

What we have had this term in Athersley North is last year’s Y6 pupils coming back to us in our afterschool sessions and telling us all about their journey into secondary and what the schools are like – what they like – what they don’t like – we always ask them if they have made new friends – to date we have a 100% affirmative on that topic and this makes their transition so much easier.

We started the term with a new baseline assessment questionnaire and finished the term with a follow-up evaluation.

This worked alright but when we evaluated it as a staff team, we’re not 100% happy with this, so we have tweaked it for the new term January to Easter, making it simpler and more relevant to our program



Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing



Opportunities for young people

Youth Resilience Fund



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

In Athersley North, they have changed their classes around for this term – they now have two year 5 and two year 6 classes so this means they have reduced the numbers within the classes to around 20 in each one – the academic levels appear to be lower for several of the young people and they have done this to try and raise the academic levels for the SATS.

This term, we have done the 2 Year 5 classes and their Buddy Training –

Next half term, we will start the Transition programme for the 2 Year 6 classes, BUT we will only complete this program in the Summer term as this will allow the Year 6 groups to concentrate on their SATS prep. We will return after the May half-term to complete their Transition Workshops.

The Buddies trained will be helping out with Playground duties and in Foundation 1 and 2

In Athersley South, we have completed two-thirds of the Year 5 pupils for their Buddy Training and will finish the remaining pupils in the January term.

Again, this has been really successful, and the trained Buddies will be doing Dinner Hall Duties and Playground Duties and some reading practice with lower-aged pupils.

Laithes Primary – this has been the only issue. We have been unable to get into school at all – There have been several emails and phone calls and a small intervention from one of their governors in the hope we could open dialogue, but unfortunately, this has not happened. This is rather disappointing as the pupils and parents have really enjoyed our program, and some who were due to start this year have questioned us as to why we are not in.

We hope to arrange meetings with Holy Trinity this new term to see if we can support pupils there.



Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing



Opportunities for young people

Youth Resilience Fund



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

Our work in Carlton with Year 7 pupils has gone well again this term – we have really good communication with the Safe Guarding lead and Head of Year 7

The 16 young people we have supported this year have all grown in confidence this term

Several of the young people who came to us over the last two half terms have a diagnosis of SEND – Tourette’s – Epilepsy – ASD, so this involved us discussing the various abilities that the young people have and how this impacted their daily lives as well as their time in school.

We worked through issues of Social awareness and social integration. Emotional Bingo worked extremely well for this group

Topics covered in this period

- Social and emotional resilience
- Confidentiality
- Ambitions
- Peer concerns – friendship groups – disagreements
- Gender Identity
- Body Image – perceptions
- Young People's Mental Health
- Coping strategies
- Personal good Qualities

One young person openly discussed their gender identity and how this had an impact on their primary education and how they felt it was going to impact their secondary education.

Youth Club – after splitting our youth club session due to the enhanced numbers we decided in September to try another tact as the younger ones were now of youth club age so we extended our times on our Tuesday evening session rather than running two separate groups this has worked well this term although the immaturity of some of the younger ones leads to clashes with the top age group of that session – In January we will be transitioning some of the 13-year-olds on to the Senior youth group.



Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing



Opportunities for young people

Youth Resilience Fund

They have a wide and varied programme throughout the two half terms.

October Holiday Provision

We had three sessions during the October Half term break.

On the Tuesday, we had an Autumnal Walk – well we caught the bus from Athersley to the Dearne Valley, where we collected goodies for our Autumn crafts. We had a picnic, and as the weather was good we walked back from the Dearne Valley to the centre at New Lodge – the young people were exhausted but loved every minute (well most of them...)

On the Wednesday, we did a Cook and Eat Session and a Halloween activity session where we made Autumn Wreaths and played Halloween-themed games and did a variety of Halloween crafts each family took home a large parcel of food to recreate the Veggie Pasta

For the evening session, the young people asked if they could have a Halloween Film Night – PJs and Blankets, so the young people all came in PJs with sleeping bags or blankets – Adult Education loaned us their IT equipment so we had a big screen to watch the movie on and they all got comfy watching the film with Hotdogs Popcorn and treats.

Additional Outcomes

In Athersley North, because there are now four classes we are delivering to full classes so this year's programme is as follows

- September to December – Two Year 5 Classes Buddy Training
- January to February Half Term – First Half of Transition Workshops for Y6
- February to April plus the first Half Term after Easter – Conflict Management for Year 4
- In the final half term of the year, we will complete all the Transition workshops with Y6 pupils

Additional Information

- We still deliver food parcels to parents from all three of the schools on a weekly basis – we are now delivering 40 parcels each week.
- We will be providing sanitary products to three schools again this term
- We provided 40 Christmas Hampers – many were families with children at the local schools
- We have regular parent volunteers from Laithes Primary
- The Maths group hosted on a Thursday for this term has 4 local parents whose children also come to Ad Astra Sessions
- We provided Afternoon Tea and Winter Warmer packs to local people who are elderly or isolated
- We've also worked in partnership with our Thursday Morning Community Cafes with Dial SEND Parent Partnership and Berneslai Homes



Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing



Opportunities for young people

Youth Resilience Fund





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 2022 – March 2023

Service	Priorities	Provider	Contract Value (per year)	Start Date	End Date	Reports
Connecting Communities Page 47	 Health & Wellbeing	 North Area Social Inclusion Service	£79,600.20	April 2021	March 2024	Quarter 3 Received
Connecting Communities Page 52	 Health & Wellbeing	 Connections Hub	£66,450.00	April 2021	March 2022	Quarter 3 Received
Connecting Communities Page 54	 Health & Wellbeing	 Reds Connect	£41,472.21	April 2021	March 2022	Quarter 3 Received
Stronger Communities Page 58	 Health & Wellbeing	Mapplewell & Staincross Greenspace & Recreation Group Children's Cycle Path	£8,761.00	October 2021	March 2022	Report due after the opening ceremony
Stronger Communities Page 59	 Health & Wellbeing	 Stronger Mums	£9,950.00	April 2021	March 2022	Project due at the end of the contract

**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

13

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.

“Getting out to this group today is the best thing I have done since I lost my husband. I am so thankful for your support”





Changing the
Relationship



Health &
Wellbeing

Connecting Communities

Achievements this quarter - October 2022 to December 2022

This quarter the North area has benefitted from 2 part-time Social Inclusion Officers, ensuring every day is covered to support a caseload of 50 older people to develop their own personal support plans. Therefore ensuring that the support that they receive meets their individual needs. Alongside the Social Inclusion Officers, we also have a team of volunteers who have provided face-to-face befriending, telephone befriending, and support to the community groups.

10 Volunteers have provided support with befriending and group support. We lost 1x volunteers from our previous rota but gained **3** new volunteers. Their roles include telephone befriending, home visits, shopping and medication delivery (this has been limited due to time constraints of volunteers), and shopping trips accompanying the service user. There have been **126** volunteer hours this quarter.

A group of volunteers at Men in Sheds have provided a space for men across the Borough to get together and chat with each other while also learning new woodwork skills. There have been **660** volunteer hours this quarter at Men in Sheds, which supports older people in the North area along with the other areas of Barnsley.

We have been able to signpost and support older people to specialist services such as Alzheimer's Society and Housing and Cohesion. We have also supported older people registering for dial-a-ride and referred people to access lifeline pendants.

New referrals have come to us via Social Prescribing, family and friends, social services and Housing and Cohesion, memory services

The Darton Wellbeing Group was attended by guests who gave the group participants blood pressure checks.

The Darton Wellbeing Group had a Christmas trip to Wentworth Garden Centre, where they enjoyed lunch in the restaurant and looked around the shops.





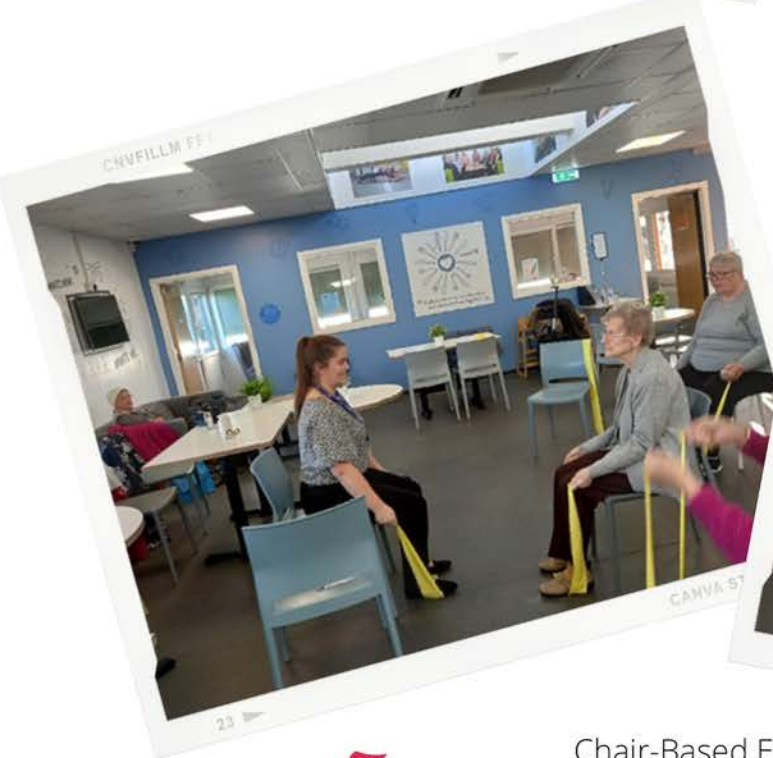
Changing the Relationship



Health & Wellbeing

Connecting Communities

Darton Health & Wellbeing Groups Trip



Chair-Based Exercise
Athersley Community Shop

North Area Social Inclusion Service

Case Study

Key Learning Points

● Ms F was socially isolated following the death of her husband the previous year.

● Ms F started attending a group with the support of SIO and has now

● Ms F had a very low mood due to not getting out to see anyone.

Summary

Ms F was referred to Age UK Barnsley in September 2022 by social prescribing as she has been very socially isolated since her husband died last year. She has no family nearby and only sees her son once a fortnight when they go shop together. She has some health issues, which makes it difficult for her to walk to groups and social events. A social inclusion officer visited Ms F at home and created an action plan to enable her to get out to groups.

Outcomes of Project

With the support of an Age UK social inclusion officer Ms F created an individualised action plan which resulted in her getting out to a group with the support of an SIO and then later alone. She has made meaningful friendships and has gone out for lunch and to other groups with her new friends. Her mood has increased since she has had more social contact and has become less isolated.

Background

Ms F lives alone and was referred to Age UK Barnsley in September 2022 by social prescribing as she was not getting out of her house at all, except by seeing her son once a fortnight. Concerns were also raised by Ms F's son and grandson as she had a very low mood in the summer, which was made worse as she was not getting out of the house since her husband died last year. On receipt of the referral, a social inclusion officer contacted Ms F to arrange an initial visit at home.

At the first visit to Ms F, she explained to the social inclusion officer that she had been feeling very low in mood as she had not seen anybody for two weeks at a time. She said that she was doing fortnightly food shops with her son, but other than that, she wasn't seeing anybody, and her neighbours weren't chatty and don't speak to her if they saw her outside. The social inclusion officer discussed the local groups in the area, and Ms F said that she had seen the health and wellbeing group advertised but didn't feel confident enough to attend on her own. Ms F agreed that the SIO could pick her up and take her to the group for the first time that week. A personalised action plan was created so that Ms F could feel more confident about getting out to groups independently in the future.

At the group, Ms F quickly made a friend who was in a similar situation and had lost her husband the previous year too. The following week Ms F returned to the health and wellbeing group and was really enjoying socialising with the other attendees. She had swapped numbers with one of the group attendees, and they had made plans to go out to lunch together after the group had finished.

Ms F booked herself a taxi to attend the North area Christmas party and said to the SIO that she was so pleased that she made the leap to get to the party herself and felt so much better that she was getting out independently to socialise with others. She said that she was feeling so much happier and settled as she was no longer stuck in the house alone all of the time.

The SIO has regular contact with Ms F, and she has recently tried a few other groups with her friend from the group, and they often go out for lunch together.

Next Steps

The social inclusion officer will keep in touch with Ms F to encourage her to spread her wings and create new friendships with different people.



Changing the Relationship



Health & Wellbeing

Connecting Communities

Xmas Party at Gawber Social Club



Bowls Taster Session at Sugdens



Winter Warm Events



Changing the Relationship



Health & Wellbeing

Connecting Communities



Connection Hub

Quarter 3 data

42

People more engaged in activities

0

New Volunteers

4

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

We have continued to deliver weekly sessions in the four wards and tried out new activities at different venues. In addition to coffee mornings, we have been getting people to try out new crafts, and in response to members' requests, we will be holding fortnightly bingo sessions.

We have also delivered our monthly theme sessions in each ward. In November, we held our gift swaps with free chocolates, and in December, we gave members free Christmas Goodie bags, which included cards and gift tags, Christmas puddings etc. All events attract new members and are a good way to get people to engage. We will continue our themed sessions in the New Year, starting off with Getting Fit and giving away free exercise bands and DVD, which has been funded by Sport England.

We have recognised that most of our members are ladies, so we will be doing some promotions specifically aimed at men, including a planned Facebook Poll and going out into community venues to get feedback on the type of activities we could include in our sessions.

Our volunteers continue to support the sessions, and we also have volunteers helping out with filling goodie bags etc back in the office.



Stanley and Pearl were an unmarried couple, both in their 60s. Stanley had several health conditions and mobility issues, meaning he relied heavily on Pearl to provide care and take him out to appointments. As well as providing care for Stanley, Pearl has her own health issues and works part-time in a market stall. All these factors impacted their ability to socialise, making them more socially isolated.

We contacted the couple and arranged a home visit to discuss Connect Together in more detail. At the home visit, the couple were very open and honest about how isolated they felt, especially since Covid. We explained that Connect Together aimed to help those who are socially isolated feel more included in their community, provide a safe place to meet new people and make friends, learn new skills, and share experiences. They both signed up to be members, and we gave them details of the next get-together.

After attending their first session, the couple stated that they had never been to the venue before, despite living so close to it. They both really enjoyed the session and engaged well. Stanley said that he felt in touch with many feelings. However, before the next session, Pearl told us Stanley had died suddenly at home. We told Pearl to take her time before returning to the group. We kept in touch with Pearl over the telephone. In these conversations, Pearl disclosed that she was struggling for money, as she had not received any SSP from her employer, was not claiming any form of benefits, and was struggling to pay her rent and bills. We informed Pearl of our outreach in her area and referred her to a benefits advisor. A couple of weeks after Stanley's funeral, Pearl said she would like to start attending the group again. We gave her the details of a Cost-of-Living support event that Connect Together was running. Pearl attended the event and reconnected with old friends, despite being nervous about it being a larger group.

Since then, Pearl has returned to work part-time, continues to engage well with Connect Together and other group members, and regularly attends coffee mornings. By attending Connect Together, Pearl has made new friends and reconnected with old ones. She has felt supported and valued, gained the confidence to attend a bereavement support café that she had found at a local funeral director, and feels less isolated. Pearl has asked us to update her with times and dates of future coffee mornings and events.

*Pictures are not of Stanley & Pearl



Changing the Relationship



Health & Wellbeing

Connecting Communities



Reds Connect

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

Interim Performance Narrative Report

Our Community Engagement Officer, Vikki Prendergast, started her role in early January. She has been busy promoting the programme throughout the local area, and we have continued to advertise the sessions through our regular avenues.

We relaunched both the exercise and Team Talk sessions on the 24th and 26th January, respectively. The Extra Time Hub has been running every week as normal.

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 are hoping they have made connections with both staff and participants which will aid this.



28

Total participants engaged



5

New participants engaged after venue change



Changing the Relationship



Health & Wellbeing

Connecting Communities



Reds Connect

42

Number of people adopting and maintaining healthy lifestyles

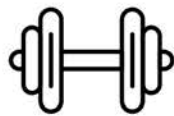
1

Number of volunteers supporting activities

Extra Time Hub

This session occurs at Staincross Christian Fellowship Church, Spark Lane, on Thursdays from **1.30 - 3 pm.**

We have a regular group of 5 or 6 who attend every week to play games. We were hoping to add participants from the venues other groups, but this hasn't happened so far. We have changed the flyer to try and clarify what the session is all about, as some of the feedback was that the original one was a little vague. Hopefully, the promotional push since January will see numbers on this and the other sessions increase over the next quarter.



6

Total participants engaged



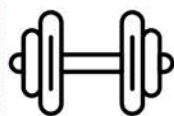
18

Volunteering hours

Team Talk

This session now takes place at New Lodge Community Centre on Thursdays **6 -7.30 pm.**

This session has also been slow in picking up participants. We have had 2 new members so far and 1 previous participant return. We have had several enquiries through the venue, so we hope to build the group over the next few weeks. The venue has been very proactive in promoting the course and helpful during the session. I have recently done a presentation at Carlton Council Depot on some of our projects and mental health in particular so we are hopeful that numbers will increase.



8

Total participants engaged



2

New participants engaged after venue change

How the Area Council can support this provision?

Promote and advocate for the provision

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**

**FREE TO
ATTEND**

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



@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

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@bfccommunity



@redsinthecommunity



@redsinthecommunity



Changing the Relationship



Health & Wellbeing

Stronger Communities

Mapplewell & Staincross Greenspace & Recreation Group

Mapplewell Park Cycle Track

Programme Aims

- Increase the amount of exercise for children between 2 - 10
- Children become more confident as they develop a new skill
- The children gain a sense of ownership of their environment
- Children socialise with different children in the neighbourhood

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

Narrative Update

The cycle path is completed and Greenspace is waiting for the spring when they will have a grand opening.





Changing the Relationship



Health & Wellbeing

Stronger Communities



Strong Mums

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

Project Summary

Strong Mums gives women living in North Barnsley the motivation, support and encouragement to complete the Couch to the 5K programme.

Mother Runners continues to be a free club, and all our new members have commented on how important that is in the current financial climate.

The end-of-year report will be included in Quarter 4's Project Performance Report.

Programme Aims

- Improved mental and physical health of mums
- Decreasing social isolation
- Addressing financial hardship
- Encouraging mums to be active



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Item 7

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:
13th March 2023

Agenda Item: 7

Report of North Area Council
Manager

Anti-Poverty Project – Information, Advice and Guidance Service Budget Commitment

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To ensure that Members are aware of the budgetary implications of funding an Information, Advice and Guidance Service beyond June 2023 and are informed in their decision to commit further funding for this priority area.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. **Members note the report.**
- 2.2. **Members make a decision regarding which service delivery option they prefer, reference section 4. Delegating responsibility to the Area Council Manager to oversee the procurement of the service.**
- 2.3. **That Members commit a budget of £107,500.00 p.a. for a period of two years from July 2023 – June 2025, with the option to extend for a further year.**

3. Background

- 3.1. The current Area Governance arrangements were introduced in 2013. Devolution of funding to Area Councils was intended to enable needs-based commissioning that would address inequality within specific geographic areas.
- 3.2. Commissioning began in 2014 and the North Area was quick to recognise that additional Information, Advice and Guidance provision would benefit local people. The North Area council was clear that this provision should be easily accessible in local community buildings.
- 3.3. From September 2015 the North Area have commissioned CAB And DIAL to deliver provision tailored to the needs of the North Area.
- 3.4. On the 14th March 2022 David Andy, CAB Operations Manager attended the North Area Council. He shared the results of the project September 2015 – December 2021:
- 10,481 client contacts
 - In excess of £11.82m of additional welfare benefits gain
 - In excess of £1.74m of debt managed
 - A return on investment of £20 per £ spent (SROI)

- 3.5. Residents of the North Area have continued to benefit from the service provision to the continued investment by the North Area Council.
- 3.6. Due to the Welfare Review the current contract with Barnsley CAB and DIAL Barnsley end on the 30th June 2023. It is therefore essential that the Area Council utilised this opportunity to agree on the budgetary commitment from July 2023 for this service provision.

4. **Options Appraisal**

- 4.1. The Anti-Poverty Steering Group, represented by Councillors from each Ward meets quarterly to review the performance of the contract and assess local need.
- 4.2. Councillors have made it clear that they value this service very highly and can see the great benefit that it delivers to individuals and the wider community in terms of socioeconomic impact.
- 4.3. There are currently two service delivery options available to the Area Council, costing are for a 12 month period:

Variation	Service Implications	Cost
EXISTING FULL SERVICE	EQUAL DELIVERY FROM CAB and DIAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 x daytime drop-in sessions per week (Emmanuel, Darton, Athersley, Mapplewell) • PLUS 4 x twilight sessions per month (2x Mapplewell, 2x Athersley) 	£105,000
FOUR F2F SESSIONS PLUS ad hoc TELEPHONE/ DIGITAL	EQUAL DELIVERY FROM CAB and DIAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 x daytime sessions per week (Emmanuel, Darton, Athersley, Mapplewell) • PLUS ad hoc telephone/digital advice per week if capacity allows • (NO TWILIGHT) 	£90,000

- 4.4. Members are requested to indicate which option they wish to take.

5. **Budget Commitment**

- 5.1. The current contract value stands at: £97,850 p.a.
- 5.2. **Due to inflation and real time project costs, it is recommended that the budget envelope for this service is increased to: £107,500 for two years if Councillor which to retain the service provision at it's existing level. This ensures a budget of £105,000 for 2023/24 and £110,000 for 2024/25.**

6. **Recommended Next Steps**

- 6.1. Following the recommendations of this meeting the Area Manager will work with procurement colleagues regarding the most appropriate from of contract for this provision.

Officer Contact:
RosemarieAdams@barnsley.gov.uk

Date:
1st March 2023

Item 8

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:
13th March 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.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. **The North Area Council should note the existing budget position the existing the funding commitments.**
- 2.2. **Councillors note the discussion recommendations regarding the Anti-Poverty Outreach Provision Service. Full details are available in Item 7 of the agenda.**
- 2.3. **Councillors note the update regarding the recruitment for the Housing and Cohesion Officer role.**
- 2.4. **Members agree to devolve £2,500 to each Ward Alliance to enable Cost of Living Support events / projects to be delivered during 2023/24.**
- 2.5. **Hold a North Area priority, budget and commissioning workshop.**
- 2.6. **Councillors are requested to note the updated projected spend, appendix 1.**

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 in September 2019. Due to procurement pressures during Covid-19 the decision was taken to submit a waiver in the summer of 2020 and extend the existing contract by 12 months until 13th September 2021.

CURRENT POSITION: The Area Manager requested a contract extension to the existing waiver. This has been approved but only for 10 months at this stage until the 30th June 2023. Value £79,033.

DECISION: Item 7 of this agenda gives Councillors the opportunity to select the preferred level of service provision. The highest value option has been included in Appendix 1, proposed expenditure.

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. On the 25th March 2019 the Area Council took the decision to utilise the contract extension clause and extend the contract until the end of September 2020.

CURRENT POSITION: The current contract was tendered in autumn 2020. Twiggs Grounds Maintenance Ltd secured a two-year contract with the opportunity for a final one-year extension. The contract commenced on 1st April 2021 and is now in it's second year of delivery.

To help manage the expectations of this contract and tailor delivery to the needs of individual wards a steering group will meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month to help programme delivery. Each ward prioritise two work streams for delivery:

- *Working with existing voluntary group*
- *Generating new active volunteers*
- *Aiming to form new community groups*
- *Working with businesses*
- *Working with schools*

The Steering Group has devised a process for requesting work. All Twiggs work is now required to be considered at the Steering Group prior to inclusion in the calendar / work programme. All persons requesting work are requested to submit their request to the North Team for collation: northteam@barnsley.gov.uk

Update: At the North Area Council meeting on the 16th January 2023, Councillors made the decision to change direction and work with BMBC Neighbourhood Service to develop a Community Caretaker model.

It has not been possible to recruit to new posts at this time. This will mean a gap in provision for this priority, rather than a break in service, due to the change in direction. Full details are included in Item 4.

- 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.

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.

UPDATE: The position is currently vacant. Bradley Beatson the previous officer is assisting with urgent enquiries whilst there is a vacancy. The post has been advertised. The interview process conducted on the 22nd December proved to be unsatisfactory and the post has been readvertised. The post was readvertised in January, shortlisting has been conducted and interviews are scheduled for the 14th and 17th March.

- 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.

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

N.B.: £13,233.56 remained unallocated and has been recirculated into the main Area Council budget for forthcoming delivery allocation. If the grant is to be re-advertised for 2024/25 the opportunity will need to be agreed in September 2023 for advertising autumn 2023.

3.4 Stronger Communities Grant 2022/23

The total funding allocated for 2022/23 is £40,000. Each grant has an upper limit of £10,000. A total of 4 applications were received, totalling £23,716.34.

At the Grant Panel on Thursday 17th February 2022, two projects were recommended for funding. Pending receipt of further information the applications have been approved.

Successful projects:

- Mother Runners – Stronger Mums – £9,950.00
- Mapplewell and Staincross Greenspace and Recreation Group – Mapplewell Park – Children’s Cycle Path – £8,761.00

3.5 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.

However, due to the unspent Housing and Cohesion allocation whilst the post has been vacant it is possible to reallocate this funding. It is recommended that each Ward Alliance receives £2,500 devolved funds in 2023/24 to enable Ward Alliances to deliver Cost of Living projects or events.

3.6 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.

4. Financial Position

- 4.1. At the end of 2021/22 there was a significant **underspend**. **The budget was varied considerably during Covid-19, period 2020/21-2021/22.**
- 4.2. **The forecast for 2022/23 shows 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 will not be the case due to the vacant Housing and Cohesion post.

- 4.3. Outlined annual commitments from April 2022:

Contract	Proposed Spend 2022/23
Anti- Poverty – Community Outreach	£97,850
Creating a Cleaner, Greener Environment in Partnership with Local People	£85,000
Housing Cohesion Officer – Grade 6 (+laptop and phone)	£33,000
Stronger Communities Grant	£20,000
Children and Youth People Resilience Grant	£90,000
Devolved funds to Ward Alliances (£5k per WA)	£20,000
Connecting Communities Grant 2021-2024 £100,000 per annum for 2 years	£92,000
Summer Sports Van	£2,000
TOTAL	£439,850

- 4.4. Provided that the Area Council continues to commit funding as outlined in Appendix 1, the total spend profiled for 2022/23 is predicted to be £427,653.
- 4.5. The underspend at the end of 2022/23 is projected to be £76,259, including monies originally allocated to the Housing and Cohesion post for 2022/23.

5. Commissioning Programme from April 2023

- 5.1. Appendix 1 lays out the proposed spend. The Area Council is asked to note the proposed spend for 2023/24 and 2024/25. The Area Manager has re-profiled due to the cost of living crisis. Ensuring that allowances are made due to inflation, for the current contacts at the point of renewal / retender.
- 5.2. **Please note only the agreed contract period, up to October 2024 has been projected for the Youth Resilience project. This would require a further 7 months funding to complete delivery in the financial year 2024/25, this is calculated at approximately £41,667.**
- 5.3. It is recommended that a priority workshop is held to ensure that Members are fully appraised of the current priorities and associated projects. Providing an opportunity to address any underspend.

6. Risks

- 6.1. The proposed budget would take the Area Council approximately £37,850.00 over budget per annum for 2022/23. 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. Hold a workshop to ensure that Members are fully committed to the 2023/24 and 2024/25 commissioning programme.

Officer Contact:
RosemarieAdams@barnsley.gov.uk

Date:
2nd March 2023

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

Project / Service	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Anti- Poverty – Community Outreach <i>Retender Anti- Poverty - Waiver in place Sept 2021 - June 2023 (9 Months)</i>	97,850.00	105,000.00	110,000.00
Creating a Cleaner, Greener Environment in Partnership with Local <i>People Contract Start - April 2021 (Retender Sept 2023)</i>	85,000.00	121,000.00	125,000.00
Housing and Cohesion Officer – Grade 6 (+laptop and phone)	33,000.00	33,000.00	35,000.00
Stronger Communities Grant Reduced to £20,000 in 2022/23	20,000.00	-	-
outh Resilience Fund (November 2022 - October 2024 - YMCA & Ad Astra)	90,000.00	90,000.00	45,000.00
Connecting Communities Social Isolation Grant (£100,000 pa for 2 years)	92,000.00	82,500.00	100,000.00
Devolved funding to Ward Alliances (<i>where March 2019 balance is less than £10,000</i>)	20,000.00	10,000.00	-
TOTAL	437,850.00	441,500.00	415,000.00

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Item 9

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council:
13th March 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 2022/23 period.

2. Recommendation

- 2.2 **That each Ward in the North Area Council area prioritises the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds 2022/23, 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 has been agreed for 2022/23.
- 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 2022/23 Financial Position

- 4.1 The carry-forward of remaining balances of the 2021/22 Ward Alliance Fund was added to the 2022/23 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 2020/21	Additional DWB (Announced 09/2020)	Total available
Darton East	£10,000	£5,863.75	£5,000	£20,863.75
Darton West	£10,000	£966.24	£5,000	£15,966.24
Old Town	£10,000	£8,664.33	£5,000	£24,871.83
St Helen's	£10,000	£6,540.47	£5,000	£22,108.27

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 2022/23. 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:
27th February 2023

Appendix 1:

2022-23 Ward Funding Allocations

For 2022/23, each Ward will have an allocation of £10,000 for the Ward Alliance Fund, and an £5,000 has been devolved from the Area Council Budget.

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

The carry-forward of remaining balances of the 2021/22 Ward Alliance Fund will be combined and added to the 2021/22 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.

DARTON EAST WARD ALLIANCE

For the financial year 2022-23, the Ward Alliance has the following available budget.

Income / Return Grant	£0.00
Base Allocation	£10,000.00
Devolved from Area Council (discretionary)	£5,000.00
Carried forward from FY 2021-22	£5,863.75

Total Available Funding £20,863.75

	Project Details	Allocation	Match Funding (£) Element of allocation	Non-Match Funding (£) Allocation remaining	Allocation (£) Remaining 'Total Available Funding'
1	Mapplewell & Staincross Village Hall 'Film Club'	£1,890.00	£0.00	£8,541.88	£18,973.75
2	Mapplewell & Staincross Village Hall 'Pop-in' Club	£950.00	£1,507.00	£8,541.88	£18,023.75
3	Environmental Working Budget	£250.00	£0.00	£8,291.88	£17,773.75
4	North Gawber Colliery FC Medical / Football upgrade 2022	£1,274.79	£13,152.00	£8,291.88	£16,498.96
5	Mapplewell Platinum Jubilee Celebration	£383.04	£0.00	£7,908.84	£16,115.92
6	Darton East Community Awards 2022	£2,000.00	£0.00	£5,908.84	£14,115.92
7	Mapplewell Brunch Club	£150.00	£4,808.70	£5,908.84	£13,965.92
8	Secretary Payment Q1 - DE	£125.00	£0.00	£5,908.84	£13,840.92
9	Hanging Baskets - DE	£1,000.00	£0.00	£4,783.84	£12,840.92
10	Refurbished Swing Set for Bluebell Road Playground	£875.00	£0.00	£3,908.84	£11,965.92
11	Mapplewell & Staincross Village Hall 'Pop-in' Club (2)	£700.00	£452.10	£3,908.84	£11,265.92
12	Christmas Lights for Mapplewell - Xmas Celebration	£2,250.00	£274.00	£3,908.84	£9,015.92
13	Beauty & the Beast, Community Pantomime 2023	£454.00	£10,960.00	£3,908.84	£8,561.92
14	Darton East Working Budget	£330.00	£1,479.60	£3,908.84	£8,231.92
15	Grassroots Sports FC	£754.86	£3,205.80	£3,908.84	£7,477.06
16	Secretary Payment Q2	£125.00	£0.00	£3,783.84	£7,352.06
17	Christmas in Darton East 2022	£900.00	£0.00	£2,883.84	£6,452.06
18	DEWA Health Event	£1,500.00	£383.60	£2,883.84	£4,952.06
19	Spring Bulbs 2022 - DE	£817.50	£411.00	£2,883.84	£4,134.56
20	Mapplewell Park CCTV Cameras	£900.00	£0.00	£1,983.84	£3,234.56
21	Darton East Working Budget - Increase	£450.00	£1,315.20	£1,983.84	£2,784.56
22	Secretary Payment Q3 -DE	£125.00	£0.00	£1,858.84	£2,659.56
23	Children's Discos	£200.00	£493.20	£1,858.84	£2,459.56

DARTON WEST WARD ALLIANCE

For the financial year 2022-23, the Ward Alliance has the following available budget.

Income / Return Grant	£0.00
Base Allocation	£10,000.00
Devolved from Area Council (discretionary)	£5,000.00
Carried forward from FY 2021-22	£966.24

Total Available Funding **£15,966.24**

	Project Details	Allocation	Match Funding (£) Element of allocation	Non-Match Funding (£) Allocation remaining	Allocation (£) Remaining 'Total Available Funding'
1	Celebrating Easter & the Queen's Jubilee	£600.00	£328.80	£7,983.12	£15,366.24
2	Darton West Noticeboard Refresh	£1,700.00	£0.00	£6,283.12	£13,666.24
3	Hanging Baskets - DW	£2,000.00	£0.00	£4,283.12	£11,666.24
4	Kexborough Lunch Club	£150.00	£4,808.70	£4,283.12	£11,516.24
5	Secretary Payment Q1 - DW	£125.00	£0.00	£4,158.12	£11,391.24
6	Summer Activities	£1,000.00	£0.00	£3,158.12	£10,391.24
7	Remembrance Project	£726.85	£0.00	£2,431.27	£9,664.39
8	Spring Bulbs 2022 - DW	£935.00	£411.00	£2,431.27	£8,729.39
9	Secretary Payment Q2 -DW	£125.00	£0.00	£2,306.27	£8,604.39
10	Christmas in Kexborough	£358.37	£452.10	£2,306.27	£8,246.02
11	Stars of Darton West Awards 2023 – Working Budget	£1,200.00	£0.00	£1,106.27	£7,046.02
12	Secretary Payment Q3 -DW	£125.00	£0.00	£981.27	£6,921.02
13	Strength & Balance Exercises for the Elderly to Minimise Falls	£480.00	£0.00	£501.27	£6,441.02

OLD TOWN WARD ALLIANCE

For the financial year 2022-23, the Ward Alliance has the following available budget.

Income / Return Grant	£1,207.50
Base Allocation	£10,000.00
Devolved from Area Council (discretionary)	£5,000.00
Carried forward from FY 2021-22	£8,664.33

Total Available Funding **£24,871.83**

	Project Details	Allocation	Match Funding (£) Element of allocation	Non-Match Funding (£) Allocation remaining	Allocation (£) Remaining 'Total Available Funding'
1	Gazebos and Tables	£2,111.54	£137.00	£12,435.92	£22,760.29
2	Hanging Baskets Old Town	£2,100.00	£0.00	£10,335.92	£20,660.29
3	St Paul's Afterschool Club	£720.00	£4,110.00	£10,335.92	£19,940.29
4	The 'Completion' Project (Rose Garden)	£468.73	£657.60	£10,335.92	£19,471.56
5	Spring Bulbs 2022	£2,303.34	£0.00	£8,032.58	£17,168.22
6	Christmas Working Budget 2022 - OT	£4,110.00	£0.00	£3,922.58	£13,058.22
7	Halloween Spooktacular	£500.00	£657.60	£3,922.58	£12,558.22
8	Pogmoor Xmas Lights Switch On event	£150.00	£232.90	£3,922.58	£12,408.22
9	Defibrillator for Brettas Park	£999.00	£0.00	£2,923.58	£11,409.22
10	Information Board for Brettas Park	£1,535.00	£0.00	£1,388.58	£9,874.22
11	Change of Use - Halloween Event	£50.00	£0.00	£1,338.58	£9,824.22

ST HELEN'S WARD ALLIANCE

For the financial year 2022-23, the Ward Alliance has the following available budget.

Income / Return Grant	£567.80
Base Allocation	£10,000.00
Devolved from Area Council (discretionary)	£5,000.00
Carried forward from FY 2021-22	£6,540.47

Total Available Funding £22,108.27

	Project Details	Allocation	Match Funding (£) Element of allocation	Non-Match Funding (£) Allocation remaining	Allocation (£) Remaining 'Total Available Funding'
1	New Bin Installation at Smithies Rec	£300.00	£0.00	£10,754.14	£21,808.27
2	Jubilee Event Working Budget	£1,500.00	£0.00	£9,254.14	£20,308.27
3	Hanging Baskets	£1,800.00	£0.00	£7,454.14	£18,508.27
4	St Helen's Summer Gala Working Budget	£1,500.00	£493.20	£7,454.14	£17,008.27
5	Personal Safety Items	£1,000.00	£0.00	£6,454.14	£16,008.27
6	Secretary Payment Q1 - StH	£125.00	£0.00	£6,329.14	£15,883.27
7	Training for Community Volunteers	£1,300.00	£3,288.00	£6,329.14	£14,583.27
8	Smithies Rec Youth Shelter re-paint	£210.35	£0.00	£6,118.79	£14,372.92
9	Memorial Bench Unveiling	£500.00	£0.00	£5,618.79	£13,872.92
10	Resolute Women's Support Group	£1,500.00	£3,945.60	£5,618.79	£12,372.92
11	Christmas Working Budget 2022 -StH	£1,200.00	£0.00	£4,418.79	£11,172.92
12	Jolly Boys Group	£600.00	£0.00	£3,818.79	£10,572.92
13	Secretary Payment Q2 -StH	£125.00	£0.00	£3,693.79	£10,447.92
14	Fireworks Display	£1,500.00	£2,137.20	£3,693.79	£8,947.92
15	Cost of Living Event Working Budget	£700.00	£0.00	£2,993.79	£8,247.92
16	Secretary Payment Q3 -StH	£125.00	£0.00	£3,754.27	£9,893.88
17	Stars of St Helens	£2,070.00	£411.00	£3,754.27	£7,823.88
18	Installation of Christmas Trees	£1,196.25	£0.00	£2,558.02	£6,627.63

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Item 10

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:
Monday 13th March 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 December 2022 and January 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:
27th February 2023

Appendix One:

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

Present:

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

1.Apologies:

Cllr Matthew Crisp - Darton East Ward Councillor
David Lockwood – Local Business Man
Paul Marsh - Local Business Man
Nick Hibberd - Mapplewell Village Hall Manager

2. Declarations of Interest None.

3. Minutes of previous meeting Approved.

4. Matters Arising

The CCTV cameras were installed in Mapplewell park. The group had not heard of any incidents for approximately one month.

At a pact meeting two weeks ago, the police said the cameras were much better quality than they expected, and if there is any more trouble in Mapplewell park they should be able to identify people from clothes etc and the cameras should act as a deterrent. They also confirmed letters had been sent out to parents and door to door enquiries had been completed to see parents whose children may have been involved in the incidents in the park at their homes or at Royston Police station. Sargent Hepplestone had received a phone call from a parent thanking the police for getting in touch with them as they had no idea their child was potentially part of the incidents happening in the park.

5. Financial Update

£1461.60 available with match funding and just over £1000 available with none match funding.

Anything left may be carried over, but this is not guaranteed as the council are currently in a difficult financial position.

It would be nice to spend it.

A member suggested that the ward alliance could fund another project at Alder Close. Age UK normally do something on a Tuesday, but it would be a good idea to do something at Alder Close on a different day. A member explained they

would investigate it as some residents who can't get to the village hall might be able to get to Alder Close. They will contact Bernalsai homes to see if there would be a charge for using the building.

The library is also available when it is open as a warm space and the church is available on a Thursday.

A member explained they may request some extra funding for the kid's discos.

A member also suggested that if required the cameras could potentially be funded for another three months.

6. Applications for Funding - None

7. Ward Action Plan

Ears and voice of the community – Regular Facebook posts are put on to the Ward Alliance Facebook page. Other groups are also sharing the page.

Young People – The children's Christmas disco went very well on the 9th of December. All the children enjoyed it and there was a special guest appearance from Maple Bear the Darton East mascot.

Environment – A member went out with Darton eco council and planted some daffodils and crocus bulbs in Darton around the top of Dearne Street and Bridge street. They will look lovely in Spring.

A litter pick will take place in Mapplewell on Saturday 17th December and the bulbs are yet to be planted.

We have secured dates for our area with Twiggs the dates are as follows:

17th January 8.30am – 12pm Plantings footpath/ Redland Grove

24th January 9.30am – 1.30pm Bride/Dearne/School Street

31st January 9.30pm – 1.30pm Mapplewell village hall

7th February 9.30am – 1.30pm Woolley Colliery village

28th February 9.30am – 1.30pm Mapplewell village hall

21st March 9.30am – 1.30pm Mapplewell village hall.

Older people – The pop in club continues to be successful. The pop in club Christmas party is on Friday 23/12/22. It is an afternoon tea for 120 people.

Another health and wellbeing event may run in March so some funding may be required for that.

8. Twiggs

Twiggs had made a statement on Facebook recently. The statement was read out:

To all the volunteers, partners, and community supporters.

We have made a decision to step away from the North area environmental and education contract as of the 31/03/2023.

Unfortunately, the increase in products, materials and general inflation has made the contract financially unviable in its current format this as been looked at over the last six months to see what can be done to allow changes. As you can imagine the increases seen has far surpassed the budget set back in 2013.

There have been recent changes made at BMBC's contract management level which has seen the support being taken away from the valued volunteers in the area, which is regrettably beyond our control. This along with the view to totally remove the volunteer support aspect of the contract (as of April 2023) is something we can not get behind and support so has ultimately made our decision easier.

It is though a time to celebrate all the good work of the volunteers past and present and for the future. We hope you all continue your endeavours and please know that we will continue our support for you all in whatever way we can beyond this date.

We will continue to host and monitor this dedicated Facebook page to allow residents to see upcoming volunteer opportunities across the wider Barnsley community.

We will continue to welcome enquiries via our community inbox:

community@twiggsuk.co.uk all correspondence will be forwarded onto the correct departments, and direct links shared.

We will continue to be a host for volunteers to pick up purple bags at our centrally located office.

We will be available for help and advice on volunteering within Barnsley.

It has been our absolute pleasure to service the North area wards of BARNSELEY, and we wish everyone the best with the future environmental activities.

The North area team then posted to Twiggs the following:

We want to thank Twiggs for all their work in the North area, delivering our environmental education contract since 2017. During this time, they have cleaned, tidied, and transformed parts of the area, helping people feel better about where they live and making the local area look it's best. They have also worked with volunteers to establish groups, help people with qualifications and learn new skills.

The Twiggs north team will no longer be delivering their service from March 2023: the North area council are taking time to develop a new service delivery model that will continue to enhance community greenspaces, public footpaths, and village centres. Working with the ward alliances, we aim to deliver a model that encourages community participation in determining service delivery and creating volunteering opportunities for residents. We thank Twiggs once again for this work, and we look forward to working with residents to continue to feel proud of their borough and look after the environment.

The contract will be led by Rosie working with councillors to work through a new contract to tender and we need to identify areas in Darton East that will form part of the schedule of works. 80% of the contract will be from a work schedule and 20% will be working with volunteers and schools.

We are moving away from a volunteer led contract.

The areas could be a public space, parks etc. The focus areas up to now are Bridge street, Dearne street, George street, school street, Church street, Braithwaite street, the paths that runs from Sackup lane to Kingsway.

A member asked for Woolley Colliery village and the path behind Fosters. to be put on the list.

We are mindful and thankful of the work that Teresa and Gez have completed with Twiggs in recent months. The new contract will see work going ahead without volunteers always having to be present and needs to be a planned programme.

The contract goes out to tender in January.

Four forms have gone in to Twiggs for work to be completed coming out of winter. A member said Royd Avenue and Kingsway would be good areas to focus on. Forms will need to be filled in by 17th January.

The North area council will fund the new contract. The environmental sub committee will come with recommendations and the North area council will decide.

A member asked if there would be weekend working. A member explained it had been discussed and they would check this at next week's meeting.

9. Christmas

A member explained the Santa's sleigh that went round Mapplewell Staincross and Darton received a good turnout. Teresa was thanked for organising it and members also wanted to thank the rotary club and Santa and Mrs Claus. The donation bucket will be added up and members will be advised what's been raised for the foodbank.

It was suggested that maybe next year they could stop at certain points like car parks, and could it potentially be the same date as the light switch on although it was agreed it was nice to have it near Christmas.

The Christmas light switch on at Mapplewell and Staincross village hall went well and was better than last year but still there are lessons to be learned.

The surge for the selection boxes was not good and a member explained that they could not hear the choir singing.

It was agreed that the village hall could do with a better sound system, and the queue for the beer festival and the café being cornered off was not great.

A member explained they thought it had been agreed to have the beer festival attendees going through another entrance rather than the main entrance.

Another member said the Wi-Fi was not good and this caused some problems, but the queue wasn't there for long.

A member said it would be nice for all businesses to link in with the light switch on if they wished to participate.

The beer festival went very well, and it was busier than previous years. The café was also very busy from the beer festival and due to the beer festival more people are aware of the village hall.

Hopefully by the time the beer festival runs again the village hall will have been redecorated.

A member also explained the Christmas lights on the village hall Christmas tree looked very dim, so they need to be checked.

The final figures from the beer festival are not yet available but they would like to have enough funds to put up and take down the Christmas lights.

A big thank you to FOMAS friends of Mapplewell and Staincross for organising the beer festival.

The Woolley colliery light switch on went well.

10.AOB

A member explained they had nearly knocked off two children on motorbikes on Greenside, they had rung PC Jameson but got no answer. A member said he was no longer involved in this area and the member should ring 101.

All issues need to be reported in the area. The police may respond to everything but they are aware of issues.

A member asked if anyone else had received the council questionnaire regarding footpaths from the Eastfield Arms onto Bar Lane to Darton Train station then Darton longfields to the Sculpture park. Other members said they had received it and completed it.

A member explained the litter bin across from the village hall needed to be changed to a bigger bin and Mapplewell park is always full to overflowing.

A bin is also needed at Woolley Colliery.

Steve explained he had been in touch with James Higginbottom the council officer running the project and he is currently off on long term sick. There is no mechanism to order a larger bin or a new bin with is frustrating and not satisfactory.

A member asked if they could have a key for the container in the park to store equipment they are currently storing at home. Rebecca said she would chase Karl Snowden about a key and about the racking to be installed in the container.

A member stated in August James Higginbottom came out to look at the footpaths in Mapplewell but no report as been received yet.

The bollards have also been removed in the village centre and now vans are parked all over the place.

The member contacted James to see why the bollards had been removed and received a reply from Damon Brown which was not satisfactory.

The member copied Dan Jarvis into the emails and Dan is keen to find out why they have been removed.

The whole point in the village improvements was to make the village safer and it says in the email that Ward members have been consulted.

Steve went on to explain that there have been numerous instances where the bollards have been struck leaving them missing or damaged.

The council cannot afford the maintenance of replacing them, so a decision was made with councillors, local businesses and the traffic department to remove the bollards and see how things go.

A member explained there is a fundamental problem with the junction which needs to be solved.

The member had done a survey on social media and 83% of people said bollards should be on the junction. A member explained safety needs taking into account and we have now removed a safety barrier.

The situation will be monitored. The member was asked what they would have done differently. The member said they would have looked at a different stronger type of bollard and had it placed deeper into the ground.

The original village plan said they would remain there, but it was a poorly designed plan.

It is certain vehicles causing the damage so they should pay for the replacement of the bollards and certain sizes of wagons should be stopped from coming through the village centre.

A member asked what the period of monitoring was. It was confirmed there is no period of monitoring.

A member explained that residents and pedestrians are struggling, and businesses should take more responsibility.

A member then went on to talk about rewilding. The council are carrying out a trial across 13 sites across the borough, none in Darton East if the trial is successful, they will ask for areas in Darton East that could be potential rewilding sites. The rewilding presentation was read through, and it was explained that wild flowers would not be planted they would just be letting the grass grow in the areas chosen.

The potential areas in Darton East could be Windhill Lane, The top of Ibberson memorial gardens, Bloomhouse Lane and Woolley colliery and the entrance on Oakwood Drive.

A member stated that lots of litter collects around Windhill lane and coming out from Oakwood drive it could block the vision for drivers.

Steve will send the re wilding pack out and ask for any feedback.

A member explained there were lots of photos taken at the community awards, but none have been posted. It was agreed that the group would post them in the new year.

Meeting closed.

11. Time and date of next meeting Tuesday 10/01/23 at 6pm.

Darton East Ward Alliance
Tuesday 10th January 2023 – 6 PM
Face to face meeting.

Present:

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

12. Apologies None.

13. Declarations of Interest None.

14. Minutes of previous meeting Approved.

15. Matters Arising

A member asked for photos taken on our awards night to be posted onto the Darton East Ward Alliance Facebook page. It was agreed that this would start to be done on a weekly basis.

16. Financial Update

£1461.60 available with match funding.
£1098.00 None match funding.

17. Applications for Funding –

Children’s activities £200 working budget – Approved

One application came in too late so will be deferred to the next meeting in February.

A member explained they had been contacted about Greenspace running out of litter pickers and hoops and there is an ongoing need to replenish them. These can be bought from the working budget we have for the environment.

The hanging baskets will be going out for tender from next year.
First impressions have already got the plants for this year.

There were 48 hanging baskets last year and 43 were sponsored. New sponsors for hanging baskets would be charged £93 and existing sponsors would be charged £63. The working budget would be £1000 maximum. The group agreed with the budget, and it was agreed the sponsored hanging baskets would be advertised on social media and via email to existing sponsors.

A member explained that approx. 18 months ago a sign was approved at the ward alliance for Woolley Colliery village.

The sign now is currently at an angle. The quote received to replace the damaged post is £265.00.

The original post and sign were £295.00. It needs digging out and putting back in straight.

A member explained that Greenspace Group may be able to do this, and members of the Ward Alliance were also happy to help. A member of the group is also the chair for Greenspace so they will mention it to that group.

A new plastic sheet is also required for the noticeboard outside the Mapplewell and Staincross village hall and the Woolley Colliery notice board also needs one. It was agreed by the group for a member to look online as it is very cheap to replace the plastic when bought online.

18. Ward Action Plan

Ears and voice of the community – No update.

Young People – Disco's will continue to go ahead this year when volunteers and the village hall is available.

Environment – In 2022 600 bags of litter and 700 volunteer hours were recorded as conservative figures through Greenspace.

Lots of other litter picking gets completed that isn't recorded.

The purple bags are available to pick up from the village hall and a member is also happy to have some bags to pick up at The Wentworth.

Greenspace also give out the purple bags for litter picking.

The North Area team also have bags for litter picking.

The places where bags are available needs to be posted on Facebook etc.

A member asked if records were kept on who is given litter pickers and hoops etc. Currently there is no record, but one could be started for litter pickers and hoops given out.

Litter pickers are normally bought in packs of 10 or 12.

The cost of the purple bags for our area is taken out of our environment budget.

There was a campaign in Autumn and bags and litter pickers were given out then from the North area team.

Older people – The afternoon tea and Christmas party went very well. It was appreciated and a big thank you was given to the ward alliance for the help in funding the event.

Health and wellbeing – At the previous event there were a 57% uptake on the meal vouchers, which meant the total amount spent on food for the event was £313.50.

It was agreed it would be nice to do something through February half term due to the cost-of-living crisis.

The Dearne area did an event and over 1000 people turned up through the October half term school holidays.

30 different services were at the event, and it would be nice to put something on for our area as currently we have £1500 left from the last two health events.

It was agreed it would have to be on the Tuesday of the February school holidays.

The community fridge has had a very good take-up but is at capacity. The money for the fridge was from the council but with the groups help it may be possible to purchase another fridge depending on space available. Our area was the first area to have a fridge and the plan was to roll it out afterwards to other areas in Barnsley.

A summer event was then discussed, and it was agreed that the member of FOMAS on this group would take this to their next meeting and come back with thoughts and ideas at the next Ward Alliance meeting.

A member said they had spoken to Jill Barker regarding Alder Court, and it was Berneslai homes that ran an event on Tuesday not Age UK.

It is not well attended but also it as not been well marketed.

The member had agreed to meet up with Michelle O Connor the manager to discuss any ideas from the ward alliance and how to take them forward.

It would be good for people in the area who may not be able to get to the village hall and members from the ward alliance could work with Berneslai homes on a Tuesday or put on an event on another day of the week.

The event would need to be advertised by social media but also by leaflets and talking to people in the area about it.

19. Twiggs

Some members had been out this afternoon with Twiggs and there are a series of events going forward for the next six weeks. At the steering group next week more forms will be submitted for our area.

20. AOB

The minutes of the meeting will go to the chair person before being sent out to the group.

A member asked why individual names were not mentioned on the minutes and it had been agreed to do this from previous suggestions in the group.

The chair will review this and speak about it at a future meeting.

The secretary is unavailable at the next meeting. Another member agreed to take the minutes.

Meeting closed.

21. Time and date of next meeting Tuesday 14/02/23 at 6pm.

Appendix Two:

Darton West Ward Alliance

Minutes of Meeting

Monday 9th January 2023

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

Apologies: Cllr Trevor Cave.

North Area Team: Rebecca Battye.

1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 The minutes of the meeting 7th November 2023 were reviewed and agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Rebecca to promote summer hanging baskets across the Ward immediately and update.

Rebecca to supply information leaflet for promotion of summer hanging baskets for Redbrook business for Richard to collect.

Richard to drop leaflets to Cllr Alice Cave and also deliver leaflets to local business across Redbrook.

Rebecca to look at costing for larger litter bin and installation and update.

Rebecca to send out promotional information for Star Awards.

Cllrs Alice Cave, Cllr Sharon Howard, Cllr Trevor Cave to attend next meeting of Redbrook/Wilthorpe Centre and update of any issues.

Cllr Alice Cave informed that Parks had agreed for Tree planting on the bank of Wood View Gawber. Cllr Trevor Cave to update of any future progress.

Richard updated on behalf of Cllr Trevor Cave that the trees had been planted at Kexbrough Recreational Ground. Cllr Trevor Cave to update as required.

Cllr Sharon Howard informed of Twiggs involvement at the Memorial Garden and Longfields for Feb and March 2023.

Cllr Sharon Howard to update as required.

Ward Alliance members and Cllrs to inform Neighbourhood Team of Dog fouling issues at BBIC at the next possible meeting.

Shelly and Richard to liaise re: possible History/ Geography students visiting Gawber History Trail. (Pending).

Shelly to involve School Group in discussions re: Local parks litter and any other associated issues. (Pending).

Christina to update VFD Group re: developments at Longfields car park. (Ongoing).

3 Ward Action Plan

Cllr Alice Cave and Cllr Sharon Howard on behalf of Cllr Trevor Cave presented the Ward Action Plan this was discussed and updated.

Following updates suggested:

Gawber:

4th History Board now sited and in place at Gawber Community Centre as part of the Gawber History Trail.

Gawber School developing the 5th History Board for 2023 completion.

Darton:

Issues re: motorbike misuse in Darton Park, possible official notice boards to inform non use of motorbikes in the park area.

Redbrook:

Larger litter bin needed at the bus stop at the junction of Ripley Grove and Wilthorpe Road.

Consideration for a litter/dog fouling bin to be placed at the bus stop on Wilthorpe Road/ Innovation Way, due to issues being caused by usage of Vet for Pets customers.

Kexbrough:

New seating bench to be sited at the Memorial Garden (Jan/Feb 2023).

Whole Ward:

Ward Notice Boards need to be checked for damage and tidied.

4 Active Travel Update

Cllr Trevor Cave to update of any developments next meeting.

5 WAF Budget

This was presented by Rebecca

Remaining Budget £7,996.02

5b WAF applications.

Barnsley Old Canal Group Application. (Unfortunately rejected).

It was agreed that £2700 be allocated for Summer Hanging Basket provision across the Ward. (Financial Year 2023).

It was agreed a budget of £1200 for the Stars of Darton West Awards.

6 Christmas Events Review

All members agreed that the Christmas events and lights across the Ward had been very successful.

7 Safer Neighbourhood Team Update

The team will be invited to the Feb or March 2023 Ward Alliance meeting to discuss Ward issues and concerns.

8 Stars Awards 2023 update

This was discussed and events organised, will feature as an Agenda item at the February Stars Meeting and Ward Alliance Meeting

(See below for all dates and times).

9 A.O.B

Nothing to Report.

Date and time of next meetings

Star Awards Sub group Monday 6th February, 4.00 pm. (Darton Centre)

Darton West Ward Alliance Meeting Monday 6th February 5.00 pm. at the Darton centre.

March 2023 Darton West Ward Alliance Meeting

Monday, 6th March 2023, 5.00 pm (Darton Centre)

Stars Awards Event.

Friday 10th March 2023 at Barnsley Town Hall.

Arrival 5.30 pm (light refreshments).

Choir recital commences 6.00 pm

Awards Ceremony Commences 6.45 pm.

Appendix Three:

The Old Town Ward Alliance has not met during 2023 due to extenuating circumstances.

Appendix Four:



St. Helen's Ward Alliance Minutes of Meeting

Thursday 26th January 2023, 4pm, Roundhouse Library

Present : Cllr Leech, Cllr Platts, Cllr Tattersall (Chair), Rebecca Leech, Lee Swift, Madge Busby, Tony Lowe, Neil Wright, Ruth Gammon, Michelle Cooper

Apologies : Kath Bostwick, Freda Stenton, Dawn Bailey

By Invitation : Emma Hudson - Stop Smoking Service

Welcome and Introductions: Everyone was thanked for their attendance.

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

Cllr Leech told the members that he was still working on the memorial bench event. He is awaiting times for the blessing which will hopefully be before the Election. He will keep everyone updated.

Memory tree - Lee is awaiting costings for trees before a decision can be made.

Christmas events - All events went very well and were all well attended.

Emails to be sent to schools for their choirs attendance.

Funding Applications:

Installation of Christmas trees - All the trees were installed prior to the Christmas events. All members agreed to the bid of £1,196.

Stars of St Helens - This is a working budget of £2,000, which will be volunteer matched. This bid is to provide a celebration event for the ward to celebrate all the Stars of St Helens. The members discussed the bid and agreed to the working budget.

Stop smoking service - Emma Hudson joined the meeting to discuss her work with the service. She is currently the Community advisor and they are a NHS organisation. They work in the North Area and run a stop smoking service. They will be running clinics at the Library, Community Shop and possibly the Darton centre.

They provide stop smoking support either face to face, online or over the phone for people that want to stop smoking. They will also be attending the St Helens Summer Gala.

Barnsley Hospital Trust Governors Meeting - this is to increase membership at the hospital and to appoint new governors. Lee to sort.

Stars of St Helens - Lee has sent out the nomination forms for the different awards. It has been advertised on Facebook and other social media platforms. Posters have also been put in the notice boards in the ward.

Another meeting has been scheduled for the 17th February at 1pm to sort out the nomination forms that have been returned.

Twiggs contract - The Twiggs contract will come to an end at the end of March and will not be renewed due to the company ceasing business.

Events:

St Helens Gala - All the planning is coming together. The planning group have met and agreed for the Gala to be held on New Lodge Village Green again. All emails have been sent out and we are just waiting for replies and costings ready to put the funding bid together.

Ward Plan: The Ward Plan will be discussed at a future meeting.

Treasurers Report: Lee reported a total of £3,876.57 as of 5th December if all bids are approved.

A working budget will need to be submitted for the Gala.

Forthcoming Projects and Bids:

There are no forthcoming projects/bids at this current time.

Lee did discuss the Hanging Baskets as there hasn't been many baskets that have been sponsored. More leaflets will be distributed to businesses in the area to try and get more interest in the project. Cllr Leech offered to deliver these leaflets.

Lee to keep the members updated.

Any other business:

Lee had some exciting news for the members. This year marks the 10 year birthday celebrations of Area Councils and Ward Alliances and there will be a series of celebratory events to acknowledge this. All the ward alliance members have a formal invite from Cllr Makinson to attend the Town Hall on 1st March to be presented with an award and lunch to celebrate this.

An email with all the details will be sent out in due course.

Date and Time of Next Meeting: Meeting closed at 17.00pm
The next meeting is on Thursday 9th March, 4pm, location TBC.

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