

April to June
2022

Dearne Area Council Performance Report



Barnsley - the place
of possibilities.



Dearne Area Council
Dearne North, Dearne South

Area Council Priorities

Health and Wellbeing
Young People
Local Economy
Skills for Work
Our Environment

Barnsley 2030 priorities

Barnsley 2030 Sustainable
Barnsley 2030 Growing
Barnsley 2030 Healthy
Barnsley 2030 Learning

The providers listed have been appointed to deliver a series of services that address the priorities and deliver the outcomes and social value objectives for the Dearne Area Council.

Provider	Service	Contract Value/length	Contract end date	Priority	2030
Twiggs	Environmental, volunteering and education service	£85,000 per annum	Funded until end of March 2023		
B:friend	Social connectivity	£28,000 per annum	Funded until end of July 2025		
Dearne electronic community village	Employability	£34,000 per annum	Funded until end of March 2025		
BMBC	Private Sector Housing Enforcement	£33,227 per annum	Funded until end of March 2025		

Commissions

TWIGGS
Grounds Maintenance LTD



The quarter started with The Great British Spring Clean which along with the good weather helped increase volunteer numbers and participation. The work that took place had a positive impact on the environment and the social interaction also an impact on physical and mental health, helping to address public health priorities. Community efforts were boosted with work in the lead up to Easter events and celebration for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with volunteer groups, and community organisations.

Twiggs



286 volunteers worked with on events

53 new volunteers

1140 volunteer hours at Twiggs events

366 rubbish bags filled

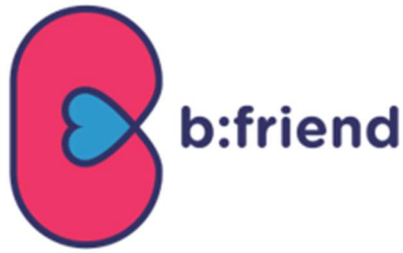
12 areas targeted in proactive and reactive work

4 fly tipping cases reported



Carrfield Primary Academy

Pupils were taught how to create habitat piles to encourage wildlife, horticulture management as well as general grounds management. The upskilling sessions ran throughout the spring and summer terms on the school grounds and also in the community. In total 13 sessions took place with between 20-30 pupils attending each and volunteers helping out on the bigger projects. As well as the skills learnt the sessions 77 sacks of rubbish were also collected and removed.



The social clubs in Thurnscoe and Bolton are now stable for the first time in a couple of year with around 20 attending each session. The new group aimed at providing for men is now on the way to becoming established with most of the meetings taking place at the Snap Tin but the location will continue to be flexible to encourage more men to join. There's has been a dip in the number of in volunteers coming forward this has been noticed in the other areas b:friend work so is not only a Dearne issue. Work has started to address this including an advertising feature in the Weekender. Work continued with existing community groups. A new link has been built with Robert Ogden with students helping in Bolton as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. B:friend's work was also recognised with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in this quarter.

b:friend



98 isolating older neighbours supported

418 hours of 1:1 befriender interactions

65 hours of staff visits/calls

48 volunteers

8 new volunteers

52 hours of group social activities





Muriel



Muriel used to attend the Thurnscoe Social club in 2019, but had to stop coming as her mobility was declining. She wasn't initially sure if she wanted a befriender but after experiencing isolation during the first lockdowns she changed her mind. Muriel was paired with Lisa over the telephone and they met in person after a few weeks. The pair hit it off straight away and have been friends for a year now. Muriel has said that 1:1 befriending has made such a difference to her as it has given her a new friend and something to look forward to each week. Muriel admits that she is quite a shy person and that she wasn't sure if this would work for her but she is so glad she gave it a chance. Muriel says "it's a lovely relationship we've got. She's so genuine It really has made a difference to me"



The three days a week of class learning is fully booked, those unable to attend in person due to health issues have dedicated phone/internet support. The number of new enrolments continues to increase, as footfall in the library returns and the DWP start to return to face to face with clients. All learners are signed up for the Learn My Way and Make it Click resources in partnership with the in partnership with Good Things Foundation to provide extra employability skills. Due to the close nature of learning additional help with PIP/Council tax/Housing advice is provided and referral made to other services for example DIAL

Barnsley. In the autumn, OCR will no longer offer an ICT qualification all learners currently on the course will complete the qualification suitable alternatives are being explored at the equivalent level 1 and 2.

DECV



24 people learning

6 learner achieving qualifications

6 learners into employment

6 learners into further training



Paul

Paul worked in a factory/warehouse for the past 30 years doing physical work. After he was made redundant through ill health he can no longer do those demanding tasks.

He knew that his very basic IT skills would need to be improved and qualifications would be key to securing work in the future. Paul was initially quite nervous when he enrolled, this was the first learning he had done in quite some time and he had bad learning experience in the past.

He is now working towards a level 2 qualification has created a CV and using all the major job sites to search and apply for roles. His new skills also allow him to report on his journal on the DWP website.

Paul says: "I didn't really think I needed that much help as I know a few basics. After an hour with Rory I realised there's so much more to learn, especially as I'd like employment which may use computers in the future. I am about to start my Level 2 and job search is now going well and I can also do this at home. Brill, thanks Rory and all at the library."



Private Sector Housing Enforcement

A new officer came into post part way through this quarter. As such this has been the start of a learning period but whole range of issues such as Anti-Social Behaviour, Environmental, Private Sector Housing, Fly tipping and Littering have been dealt with in this quarter. There has been a particular issues with waste on permises, fly tipping. Some of these were dealt on an informal basis, either speaking to the tenant/occupier or just sending a general advice. A monthly drop in session at the Salvation Army in Goldthorpe has been established to assist on issues work will continue to build relationships with residents, the community and partners.

Housing Enforcement



66 reports made

7 properties improved

12 people helped into positive changes

95 fly tipping reported

10 houses supported to responsibly recycle or dispose waste

12 houses making improvements after first contact

Case Study

A proactive walkabout in Bolton upon Dearne revealed a rear garden that was badly overgrown with items of furniture dumped and a large amount of loosely bagged household waste. Rats and other vermin had already been reported and this property was likely one of the biggest contributors to the issue.

Investigations from the Private Sector Housing & Environment Officer showed that, on balance, the tenant was the stumbling block to the issue being resolved. Following negotiations and appropriate time an enforcement order was placed on the tenant which was followed soon after resulting in the waste being removed. This helped build a good relationship with the landlord who thanked the officer for helping solve the issues.

Waste on Premises



Dearne Development Fund



The advice service has supported clients with a variety of different issues, but as in previous years, the most common are Benefits and Tax Credits, Debt, and Universal Credit. As well as improved financial outcomes the support provided by the advice service also helps to improve health and wellbeing, reduces client stress, and improve resilience by increasing the client's ability to cope through self-help. Most advice has is still being delivered by Adviceline and email services.

Barnsley Citizens Advice

137 people supported

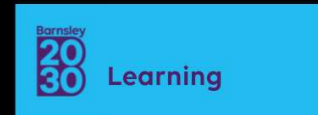
269 issues raised

£4,488 of benefits claimed

£7,825 of debt managed in last 3
quarters



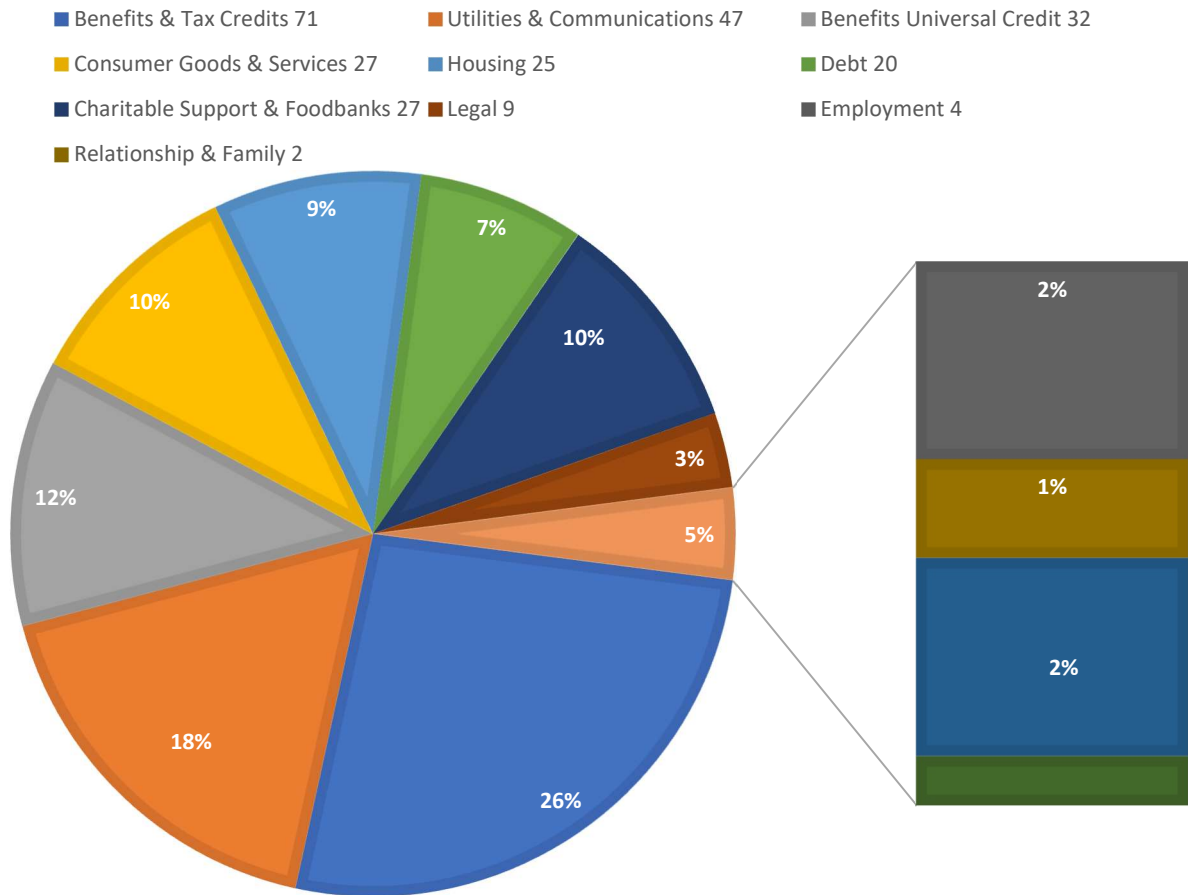
Supporting



Case study

Sandra employed some contractors to complete a couple of jobs in her house but there was a nagging sense of doubt that these workmen weren't legitimate. She feared that they were fabricating difficulties and extra tasks to demand more money from her. She decided to contact Citizens Advice Barnsley to see if they could suggest ways to remedy her situation. The adviser reassured Sandra that raising concerns and reporting work that might be unsafe was the right thing to do - particularly items like gas appliances, where there could be real danger resulting from poor standards of workmanship. He also offered her help in reporting them to Trading Standards if that became necessary. This advice and support gave Sandra the confidence to go back to the contractors with the knowledge that she knew the legal situation and able to return to Citizens Advice Barnsley if needed.

CAB ISSUES DELT WITH



DIAL reduces the financial exclusion of residents and work towards lowering anxiety. During the last quarter, they concentrated on telephone appointments for form completion and advice along with reintroducing face to face outreach sessions which started in June. 63 people received comprehensive telephone advice 26 were helped to fill in forms over the phone and 22 people were seen in person. DIAL also introduced safe and well checks to support vulnerable residents who were either shielding or self-isolating. Since start of project each £1 spent has returned £23 into the Deane.

DIAL

Barnsley



111 enquires made this quarter

201 people reported reduced anxiety as a result of using the service

£91,790 benefits claims supported

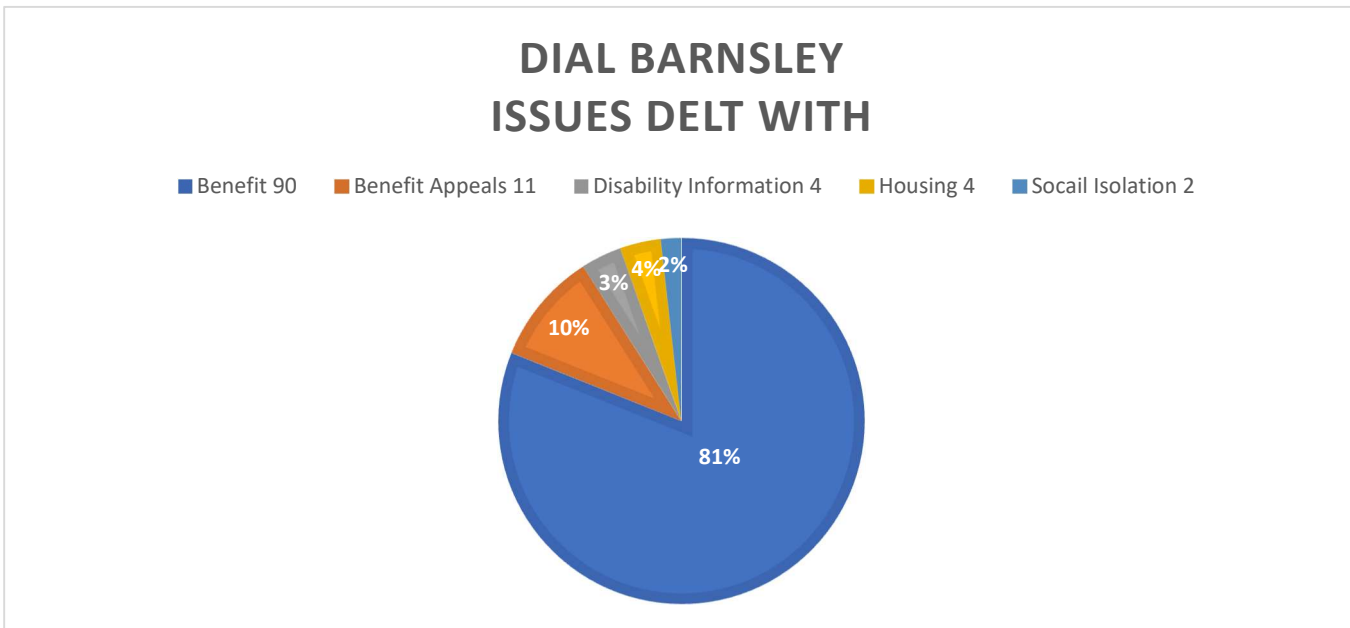
Supporting



Case study

Mrs S is 55 years old has multiple physical illnesses and mental health issues. Her daughter is her care giver as she struggles with mobility. She had been through the PIP process but was only awarded a small amount with the assessor not fully understanding her conditions she felt. DIAL looked over her circumstances and agreed that her care needs and walking difficulties were not fully taken into account. She was supported through the appeals process and awarded the standard rate of £61.85 a week.

Mrs S said: ““I was very upset when my PIP wasn’t awarded. The DIAL adviser was great. He went through the case with me and helped me to explain to them why I disagreed with their decision. This gave me the confidence to see it through.”



Goldthorpe Development Group

The Older Generation Get Together events continue to be buffet style but to allow a COVID safe environment for volunteers and guests. As well as the usual entertainment the March meeting the Violence Reduction Unit, from the South Yorkshire Police attended. They gave a presentation and listened to concerns and worries to feedback the local issues.

Older Generation Get Together

143 people attending

29 volunteers assisting





Supporting



Case study

There was no event in April due to Easter but events took place in May and June. There are now a good group of volunteers who help at the events, all willing to take up their assigned roles and help the event go smoothly. The May meeting was a VE celebration which was so well attended that the event was at capacity. This was ideal as the 'Winter Warmer' pack were being distributed by the group thanks to funding from the Dearne Area Team via their Local Support Grant (additional government money) these will hopefully make the coming winter more comfortable. Entertainment was 1940's themed and the performer Lady Kingsnorth made a very good impression on everyone. The June meeting was a Platinum Jubilee Party and was once again an enjoyable afternoon with great feedback from those attending.