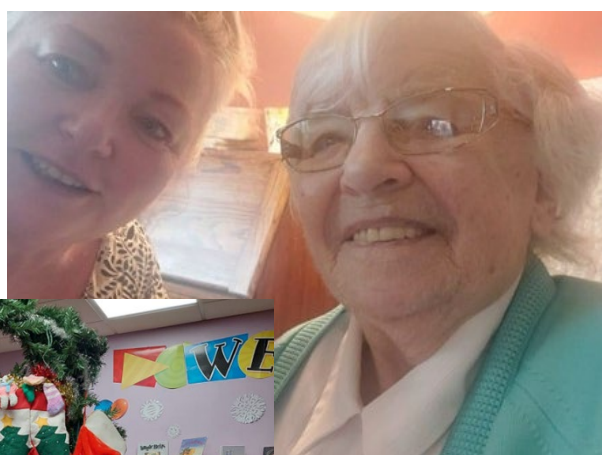


# October to December 2022

## 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	£90,000	Funded until end of March 2024		
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 and Cohesion Officer	£33,227 per annum	Funded until end of March 2025		

# Commissions

**TWIGGS**  
Grounds Maintenance LTD



This was a busier period for the service compared to the same period last year there were a number of community events which attracted a good number of volunteers and participation. As always, the work not only had a positive impact on the local environment, but the volunteering opportunities had further effects on social and community interaction meaning a constructive impact on physical and mental health, helping to address public health priorities.

# Twiggs



228 volunteers worked with on events

47 new volunteers

529 volunteer hours at Twiggs events

382 rubbish bags filled

28 areas targeted in proactive and reactive work

6 fly tipping cases reported

## Tree Planting Thurnscoe



In a bid to increase biodiversity and provide shelter and food for wildlife 11 new grown trees were added to the Thurnscoe Sports Ground green space in November. Located along the footpath 17 volunteer took part in the day and included Berneslai Homes, Park Services and employees from local business Contrac IT. It was the first involvement with the company and the great success led to a commitment from the firm to support other events with volunteers The day also resulted in 5 sacks of litter being removed and 42.5 hours of volunteering.





The social clubs in Bolton and Thurnscoe have welcome new members with 1to1 work to support people continuing. The partnership with BOPPAA (Barnsley Older Person's Physical Activity Alliance) led by Age UK Barnsley has included new falls prevention, exercise classes and a functional fitness 'MOT'. Work has started to encourage new volunteers to come forward. The link with Robert Ogden school has seen 7 students volunteers helping out at the social clubs and 2 have now completed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. In December the Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire presented b:friend with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service at the Thurnscoe Social Club.

**b:friend**

- 110 isolating older neighbours supported
- 431 hours of 1:1 befriender interactions
- 65 hours of staff visits/calls
- 78 volunteers
- 8 new volunteers
- 64 hours of group social activities

The infographic features three icons: a circle of hands, a telephone handset with signal waves, and a person with a cane.



# Dorothy



Dorothy was referred to b:friend by her granddaughter in September 2021 after she suffered a fall which led to her needing to move into a flat. Dorothy had become very isolated as the fall had impacted her mobility and she is also very hard of hearing. She was matched with Tracey a month later. The pair hit it off straight away and found that Dorothy actually knew Tracey's Mum as she worked at the same place many years ago. The match was also good for Tracey as her mum had recently passed away. A mutual love of dogs means Tracey often bring her dog along on her visits. They have developed a real friendship over the last year and are looking forward to continuing it.



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. onto online learning + OCR ICT Award. All learners are also undertaking Employability Skills sessions, extra learning is in partnership with Good Things Foundation using the Learn My Way and Make it Click resources. 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. During recent months there has been an increase in people aged 70+ looking to return to work wanting help with CVs and application. A common theme is they are struggling with the cost of living.

# DECV



23 people learning

18 learner achieving qualifications

5 learners into employment

18 learners into further training

# Suzanne

Suzanne wanted to return to employment after recovering from cancer. Her referral came from the DWP health adviser despite her eagerness to return to work her doctor thought she should wait a further 6 months. It was decided that she would use that time to build up her IT and employability skills, create a CV and look for suitable positions as physical work would sadly no longer be an option despite a long career as a fitness and martial arts instructor.

She was anxious at first but made good progress and is currently on her way to completing a Level 2 ICT course. Suzanne has a fantastic 'can do' attitude and has really thrown herself into the learning and sessions she has made new friends at the centre and now believes she has the ability to work with computers in a role not so physically demanding. If the doctors give the go-ahead Suzanne will be starting to apply for roles from February 2023.

She says:” Rory, massive thanks to you and Steve for all the help, advice and helping me get employment in 2023!



**BARNSLEY**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

## Private Sector Housing and Cohesion Officer

In this quarter there has been an increase in properties in poor repair. There have been complaints of damp, mould and boilers not working properly which in two case has resulted in notices being served against landlords. The officer is out walking in all areas of the Dearne most days dealing with whole range of issues such as Anti-Social Behaviour, Environmental, Private Sector Housing, Fly tipping and Littering. More monthly drop in session at the Libraries have been added to the calendar. Also this quarter the MMIYP event at Goldthorpe Parish Hall in October and two events at the ASDA in Thurnscoe and Goldthorpe Market for Safeguarding week and Self Neglect week mean an additional 80 people were spoken with received information or advice. Monthly walkabouts with Berneslai homes staff have created



numerous jobs primarily waste in gardens or badly overgrown gardens, but more importantly built a good relationships with Berneslai home staff so jobs can be shared and/or passed on.

# Housing Enforcement



169 reports made

24 properties improved

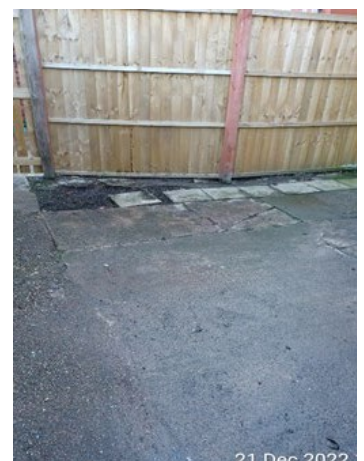
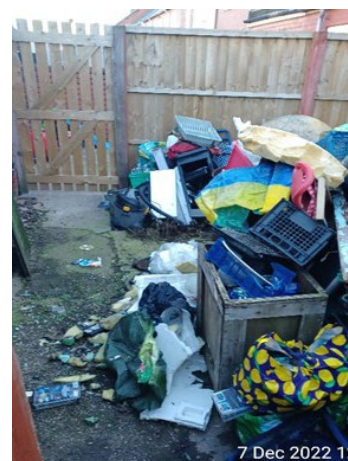
26 contacts with household waste on premises

89 fly tipping reported

18 houses supported to responsibly recycle or dispose waste

25 houses improving after first contact

## Waste on Premises



## Overgrown Gardens



# Dearne Development Fund



DIAL reduced 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 continuing the face to face outreach sessions which recommenced in the summer. 109 people received comprehensive telephone advice 55 received face to face advice. Since start of project each £1 spent has returned £31 into the Dearne.

## DIAL

## Barnsley



55 enquires made this quarter

311 people reported reduced anxiety as a result of using the service to date

£311,733 benefits claims supported to date

## Supporting

Barnsley  
20  
30 Growing

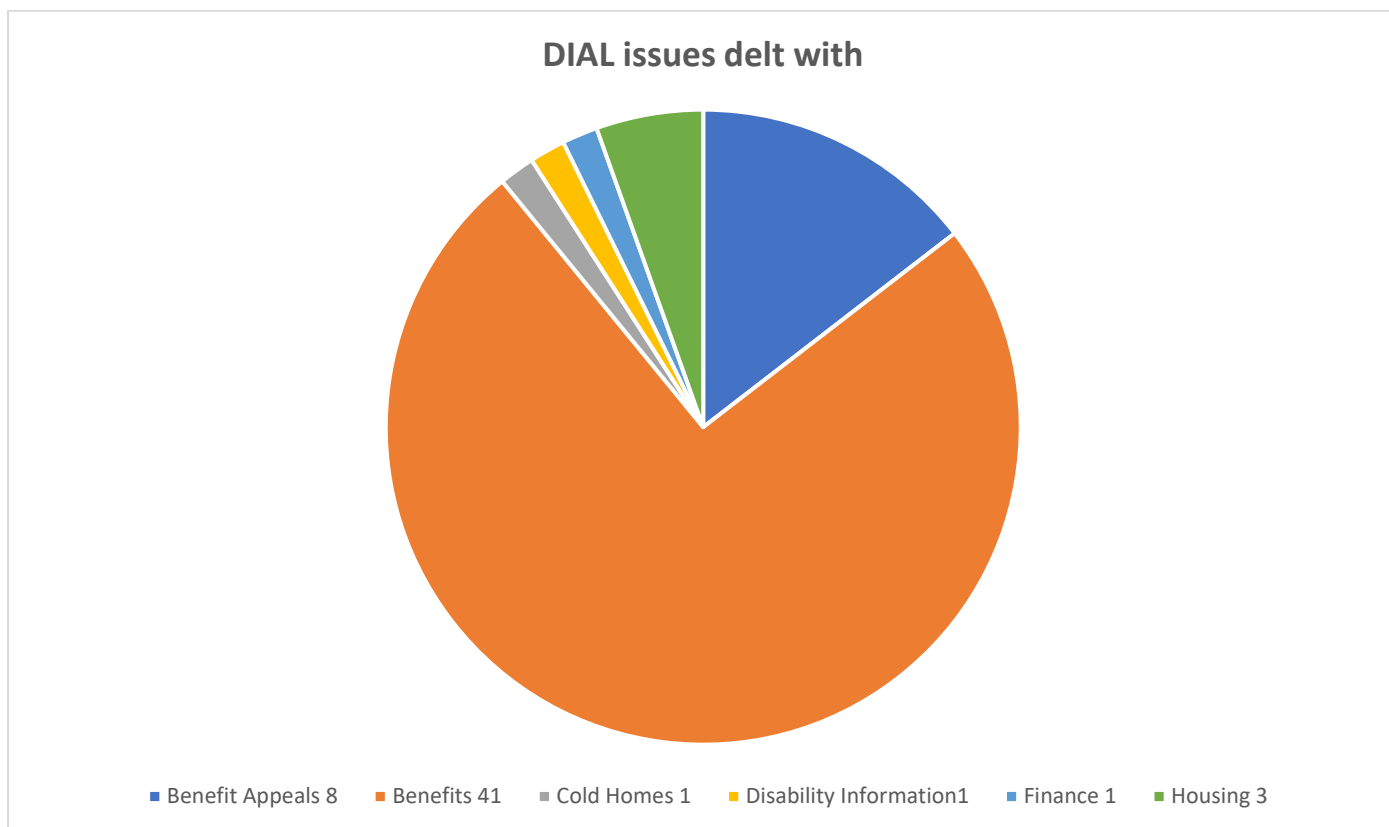
Barnsley  
20  
30 Healthy

Barnsley  
20  
30 Learning



# Case study

Mrs B is 59 years old with mobility issues. She recently had a through lift fitted in the property she rented from South Yorkshire Housing Association, as she was no longer able to manage stairs. The lift access came up into the small spare room in the house, taking up most of the floor space. Despite being in receipt of a number of benefits she was making a contribution of £51.52 a month to her rent as her Housing Benefit had been reduced by due to her having a spare bedroom in the property. Following the fitting of the lift she did not feel that this was fair as the room could no longer be used as a bedroom. Mrs B came to see DIAL at our outreach at Goldthorpe library. They helped her to write a letter to housing benefit asking them to remove the need to top up and when Barnsley Council stated that nothing could be done until South Yorkshire Housing Association reclassified the house as 1 bedroom helped with that as well. The result was a reduction in rent and a refund of £150 that had been made since the lift was installed. Mrs B said: "I didn't think it was fair that I was being charged for a spare room that I could not use, but I didn't know what to do about it. The DIAL adviser was very good and I am very happy that I no longer have to top up my rent."



# Goldthorpe Development Group

The Older Generation Get Together events provide a monthly afternoon event with food and entertainment. This is a volunteer led event but often partners such as Age UK Barnsley, South Yorkshire Police will attend to pass on useful information.

## Older Generation Get Together

252 people attending

35 volunteers assisting



## Supporting



## Case study

The sessions continue to be well attended with both the November and Christmas Get Togethers attracting over 90 people. While this is welcome it is starting to get towards the limit that the group can accommodate, however the loyal volunteers do a great job. As well as the usual partners attending the sessions in this quarter there were also Barnsley Council's Public Health team who came to carry out blood pressure tests and the Green Doctors. These are part of Groundwork Yorkshire who are energy efficiency experts helping vulnerable people and households to save money and stay warm. The feedback from those attending remains overwhelmingly positive with the food, entertainment and organisation of the sessions striking a good balance. There were also excellent comments from the Unity Club who host the Get Togethers who are happy to support the older members of the Dearne Community and suggested that they would be willing to help out if a second date in a month (without any food) were to be arranged.

# Round up 2022

Dearne  
Area Team

## Dearne Area Performance



20  
30

Barnsley – the place  
of possibilities.



Dearne Area Council  
Dearne North, Dearne South



# 2022 – In the Dearne Area

After the pandemic this year was a real chance to get back out there and work in and with the community. This report will give you a flavour of what the Dearne Area Team have organised, supported and contributed to during the year.

This is not an exhaustive list. But shows the work the team has done in proactively and in partnership with the Dearne North and Dearne South Ward Alliances, the Dearne Area Council and the wonderful community groups and volunteers locally. In addition, we have worked with partners including the NHS our Barnsley Council colleagues, commissioned services and anyone interested in working with the community. There has been an effort this year to provide opportunities for our local businesses to reconnect with people as part of our commitment to supporting the local economy.

Here are some of the things we have been involved in during 2022 and the pages that follow give the details of some of our bigger projects.

- **Autumnal Fair**
- **Best Bar None**
- **Breakfast Summer Clubs**
- **Bridge Painting**
- **Christmas Market**
- **Community Notice Boards**
- **Dearne Community Arts Festival**
- **Defibrillators**
- **Feature Friday (Facebook)**
- **First Aid workshops**
- **Functional Fitness MOTs**
- **Great British Spring Clean**
- **Hanging Baskets**
- **How's Thi Ticker – Blood Pressure**
- **Make Chestnut Grove Energy Efficient**
- **More Money in Your Pocket Roadshow**
- **Pictures in the Park**
- **Shake Battle Roll**
- **Spring Fair**
- **Uniform Fairy**
- **Volunteer Week**





# Spring Fair - Easter

Held on The Embankment (Goldthorpe) the event was a follow up to the very successful fair held in the October half term. The event aimed to encourage families to start mixing and socializing again in an outdoor environment to improve their mental well-being especially after the pandemic.

The other aim of the event is to support the recovery of local community groups who have been hit by the pandemic by inviting them to have a stall and run an activity for families, but also to promote their group.

The event was supported by grant funding via BMBC Public Health (Local Support Grant), local business (Tesco, Co-Op) and Dearne South Ward Alliance. There were a number of activities including Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Story, Easter Bonnet competition and bunnies. The event was very well attended due to taking place on a Saturday and warm dry weather.





# Pictures in the Park - Summer

The team help the Thurnscoe Flower Park volunteers put on an outdoor cinema event in Thurnscoe, with Funding from Barnsley Better Bonds and Dearne North Ward Alliance. The event saw in excess of 1000 people attend to watch 3 licensed films including Brassed off, Encanto and The Greatest Showman. The 3 films catered for all age groups.

Twelve local businesses to trade free of charge, in order to grow Barnsley and strengthen their business. The event may also help Thurnscoe Park re-gain their Britain in Bloom accreditation as hosting events is a condition of the award. There were lots of positives with in excess of 1000 people attended across all 3 film showings, 5 volunteers supporting the event, strengthening inter-generational relationships between young and old, increasing access to early health interventions (blood pressure) and an number of first aid training requests form the community.





# Shake, Battle & Roll - Summer

The team wanted our families in Dearne South to have access to an indoor event and to socialise with their neighbours or people in the community who they may or may not know, we also wanted to provide all our young people access to a free meal of hotdogs and fresh fruit and a milkshake alongside board games traditionally played by many people over generations.



# Breakfast Clubs - Summer

To give all our young people in our community access to a free breakfast alongside enriching activities outdoors during the August holidays. Six breakfast clubs were held across both wards. Funding came from BMBC Public Health (Household Support Grant) the £1530.00 funded the whole project. From the 148 children who attended 52% were in receipt of free school meals. Twenty six volunteers helped out on the project and the feedback from parents and children said they had really appreciated the sessions.



# More Money in Your Pocket – Roadshow Autumn

With the cost of living been high on everyone’s agenda this year and many of the Dearne families were starting to feel the pinch they were having to look at alternate ways in which they can reduce their spending and ensure their income coming in and disposable at the end of the month is spent on heating their home and reducing their energy costs as a whole to ensure they are safe and warm over the winter period

The Dearne team were able to support the ‘More money in your pocket’ roadshows currently running from the public health team which was cascaded down from BMBC and sent through our networks and Ward Alliances to help our families in the Dearne reduce their costs and look at alternate solutions on reducing the energy costs in the households. to ease the burden in the homes this winter period. An application was made to BMBC Public Health (Household Support Grant) which brought over £4,500 into the area. This was used to fund energy saving devices give to those eligible. This included 90 slow cookers, 140 vegetable packs, 402 energy saving lightbulbs, 100 room temperature gauges.

In addition 27 other organisations/ service providers attend our roadshow 9 people signed up for adults skills & training, 9 people had blood pressure read, 68 adults consulted with Salvation Army, 15 packs of nappies handed out, 6 people signed up for the digital champions for IT advice, 12 boxes of healthy start vitamins handed out, 59 people completed the hygiene survey, 23 female hygiene packs handed out, 20 male hygiene packs handed out, 50 winter warmth packs handed out, 10 families supported with the recycled school uniforms, 100 children’s toothbrushes and dental hygiene handed out and 18 people given advice on how to keep homes warmer.

