

January to
March
2023

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



There has been lots more activity for the service this quarter compared to the same period last year. Nearly double the amount of bags were filled and nearly five times as many proactive areas were targeted. Support for community events and involvement with community groups was very strong which saw a twice as many new volunteers compared to the last quarter (Q3 2022/23). 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



275 volunteers worked with on events

64 new volunteers

639 volunteer hours at Twiggs events

749 rubbish bags filled

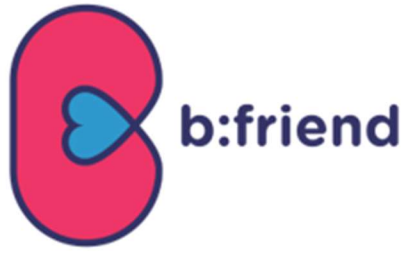
158 areas targeted in proactive and reactive work

5 fly tipping cases reported

Brick Ponds & Tiny Forest

This area has seen lots of activities taking place recently with many community groups supported and plenty of volunteering opportunities. Support has been given to the Brickyard Group, Angling For All, IKIC Youth Group, Astrea Academy working with the Area Team. Work included maintenance, litter picks and the planting of new fruit trees at the old orchard. This is part of the Tiny Forest project led by Jenny Yates also included wood carving with artist Dan Jones and creating bug hotel towers and maintaining the outdoor seating/classroom area.





The social clubs in Bolton and Thurnscoe continue to thrive and welcome new members with 1to1 befriending work to support people continuing. The befriending pairs enjoyed a fully funded trip to the Tropical Butterfly House as part of the “Buck-It” project. There has been a slight increase in referrals made this quarter plus several requests for service from other organisations looking to signpost people. Volunteer recruitment continues to be a priority. Funding work has also been put in place to deliver King’s Coronation parties during next quarter and a Barnsley Better Bonds grant to fund a canal barge trip and refreshments for social club members.

b:friend



117 isolating older neighbours supported

440 hours of 1:1 befriender interactions

65 hours of staff visits/calls

88 volunteers

8 new volunteers

65 hours of group social activities



Cynthia



Cynthia rarely left the house and had limited social interaction with others. In March 2022 she was paired with volunteer Amy. They have become great friends and enjoyed outings to the shops, café and Cynthia has met Amy's children. She was invited, to join Amy at her daughter's nativity play at Christmas meaning Cynthia feels like she has found a friend but a family. Also, the 'Buck-It' project enabled Cynthia to join the trip to the Tropical Butterfly House in Sheffield. A place she enjoyed with her husband but has been unable to visit since his death many years ago. Cynthia didn't think she'd ever be able visit again as she had no one to go with and no means of getting there. Reflecting on her friendship with Amy, Cynthia said: "We got on so well, right from the start! You honestly couldn't have paired me with anyone better"



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



19 people learning

26 learner achieving qualifications

6 learners into employment

23 learners into further training

Cheryl

Cheryl came to the first sessions with her iPad which she didn't know how to use. She has never used a computer and relied on family to help her, especially with online [Grab your reader's attention with a great quote from the document or use this space to emphasize a key point. To place this text box anywhere on the page, just drag it.]

shopping. She recently became unemployed, the first time Cheryl has ever been out of work, she was shocked at the amount of work involved when applying for jobs and the amount that required a computer and IT skills.

A program was put together that while looking for work her digital skills would also be developed not only in term of employability but also essentials. These included online shopping, staying safe online, online banking and keeping in touch with friend and family as she had recently moved from Manchester.

Cheryl will soon complete her IT qualifications and started a new job as a Shop Assistant at Cannon Hall at the end of March.

She says: "Thank you so much for the fab CV that you did for me, and also for believing in me!"



*Rory with another learner



BARNLSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

Private Sector Housing and Cohesion Officer

January as usual saw a large increase in fly tipping across the Dearne following the Christmas period with a lot of Christmas decorations, trees and old toys flytipped work was done to ensure the areas where this occurred did not exacerlate or become a long term issue. The vast majority of work is proactive, as such, a questionnaire was conducted to try to ascertain the issues around bin presentation and the use of incorrect bins and recycling this will inform future work. The cost of living crisis continues to be a major issue across the area and continues to make it a very difficult winter for not only the vulnerable community within the Dearne. Winter warm packs have been given to the most vulnerable and work with landlords

with properties with low EPC ratings. Work with partners continues to build in terms of referrals, complementary works and attending/holding drop in events for residents.

Housing Enforcement



229 reports made

19 properties improved

23 contacts with household waste on premises

92 fly tipping reported

17 houses supported to responsibly recycle or dispose waste

10 vulnerable homes identified

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 52 received face to face advice. Since start of project each £1 spent has returned £23 into the Dearne.

DIAL

Barnsley

52 enquires made this quarter

48 people reported reduced anxiety as a result of using the service this quarter

£60,648 benefits claims supported this quarter

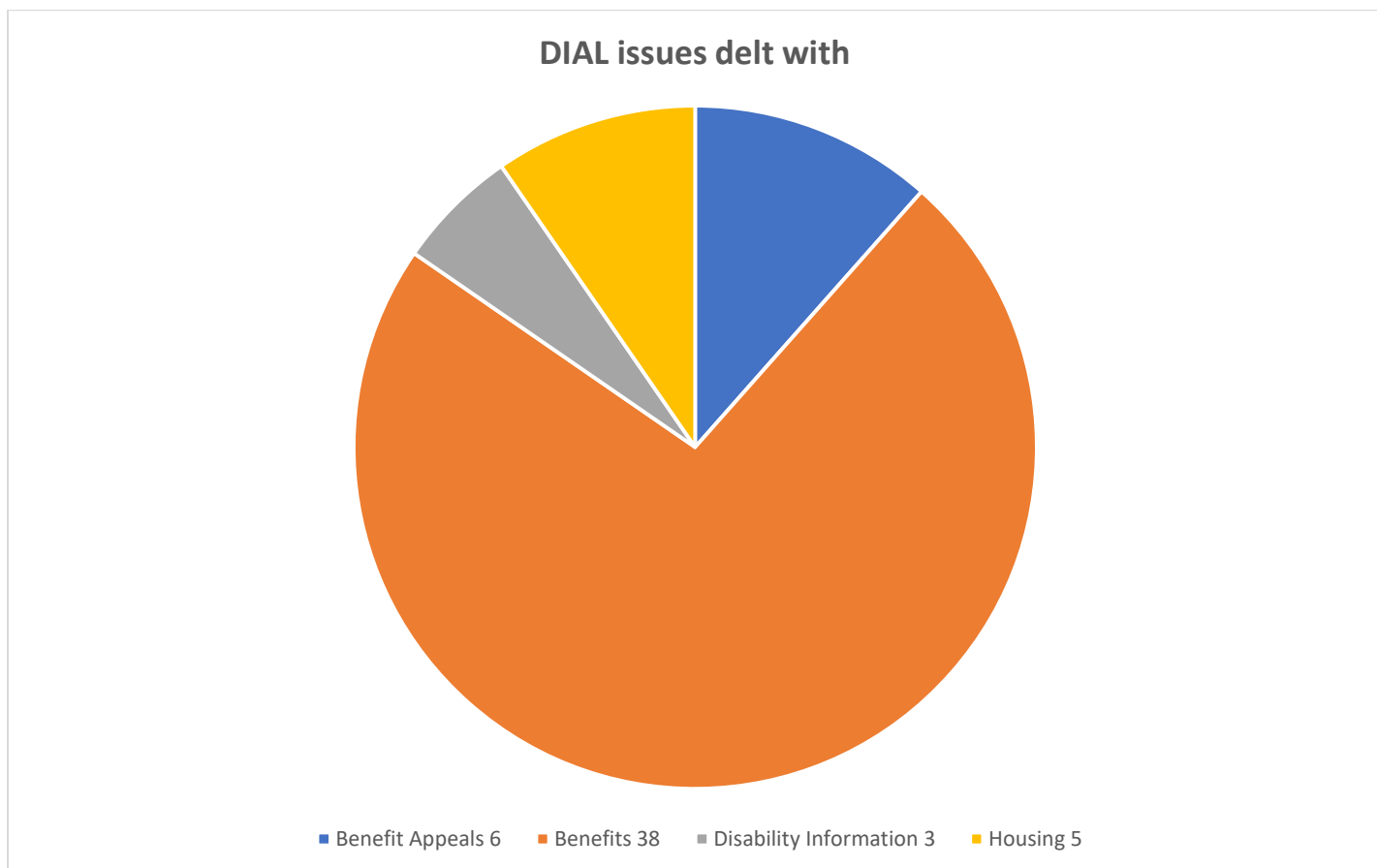


Supporting



Case study

Mr N is 59 years old he is autistic, but this has not stopped him working all his life. In 2022 he had to stop work due to severe COPD, recurring chest infections and heart disease. This had an effect on his mental health. As he received Universal Credit he was required to complete a Capability For Work Questionnaire from to assess his ability to work. He was very anxious about the form and the assessment. Mr N came to see DIAL at the outreach at Goldthorpe library, they helped him complete the paperwork with enough evidence for the DWP to decide to increase his benefits slightly without needing to participate in the face-to-face assessment. Mr N said: "I was very scared about the assessment as I have not had to do anything like this before. DIAL was fantastic. Not only did they help me with the form, but they also explained everything to me and this made me feel less anxious about it all. I am very happy with the outcome"



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

255 people attending

27 volunteers assisting



Supporting



Case study

The sessions have been very well attended compared to the same time last year with a number of new faces particularly at the January and February meetings. The combination of the poor weather and the rising cost of living may have tempted more people to come forward. The entertainment was again enjoyed by all and the singer at February get together managed to keep the dancefloor full. The get togethers seem to be making good progress in reaching those who are more isolated as the number of people using the taxi service is increasing. This is one of the main aims of the group – including those who are lonely.