

2022 -2023

STEPPING STONES- ONE STEP CLOSER



ABOUT STEPPING STONES

Stepping Stones is made up of several projects which were set up as pandemic restrictions started to lift. A community consultation across the borough revealed that many people were anxious about getting back into society and yet felt socially isolated and this had created issues around mental health and wellbeing.

The projects were intended to gently encourage people to start to get out and about more, to meet new friends, reduce anxiety and build confidence.

The projects are:

- Stepping Stones Micro-Volunteering
- Coffee, Cake and Confidence
- Coffee, Cake and Community
- One Step Closer support

STEPPING STONES MICRO-VOLUNTEERING

Stepping Stones Micro-volunteering project works with, or on behalf of, various community groups in the Central Area. These include:

- Friends of Locke Park (Kingstone Ward)
- Barnsley Museums Worsbrough Mill and Park (Worsbrough Ward)
- Lavender Court (Stairfoot Ward)
- Harbrough Hills Allotment (Central Ward)
- Hope in the Community (Kingstone Ward)
- Incredible Edible (Dodworth Ward)
- Barnsley Carers Service ,DIAL, BIADS and more

Activities include:

- Litter picking
- Gardening
- Putting up equipment such as garden furniture
- Christmas decorations for a supported living project
- Writing Christmas cards to residents of a supported living project
- Cleaning toys for a parent and toddler group
- Leafleting for various community projects

Outcomes

- Increased confidence in participants
- New friendships between participants
- New skills developed
- Community groups feel supported

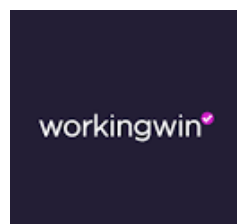
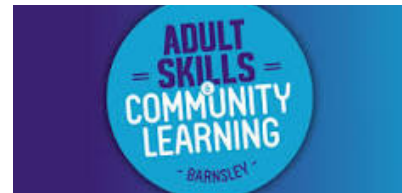


COFFEE, CAKE AND CONFIDENCE

Coffee, Cake and Confidence is a 5 week programme set up to develop confidence for adults aged 18+. The programme explores the nature of confidence, how to act more confidently, how to change failure into success, how thoughts affect our confidence and much more.

Participants enjoy friendship over coffee and cakes and some of these friendships have continued outside the group.

The project works closely with other agencies to help remove barriers. These have included Adult and Community Learning, Social Prescribing, Oakwell Training, and Working Win.



COFFEE, CAKE AND COMMUNITY

Coffee, Cake and Community was set up in partnership with Worsbrough Library who wanted to encourage people to come into the library to participate in new activities.

Volunteers from Stepping Stones and Coffee, Cake and Confidence have been supported to run this social and activity group.

Activities include: arts and crafts, quizzes, bingo, storytelling and much more!



Volunteering outputs 2022-2023



22
Adult
Volunteers



775
Total
Volunteering
Hours

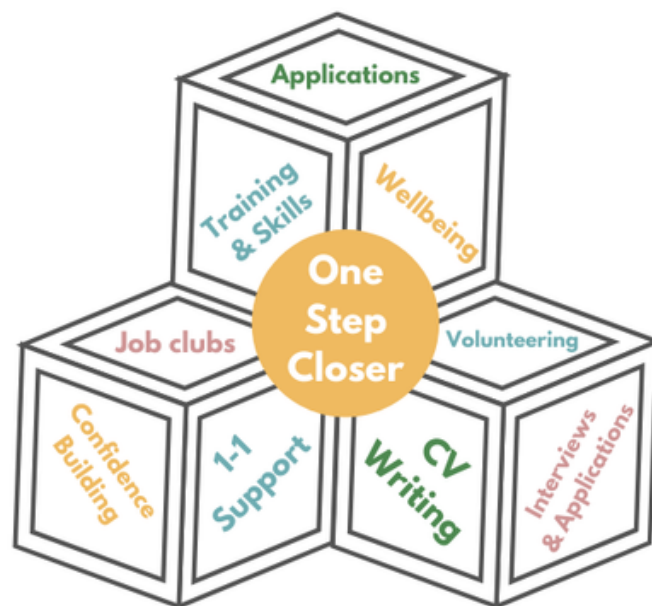


£10,617
Cashable
Value of
Volunteering

ONE STEP CLOSER

Stepping Stones projects work very closely with One Step Closer, a project which sits within the Central Area Team and Employability Team.

The project worker from One Step Closer supports participants in our programmes to progress, as needed, into work, training, education or anything else.



SUPPORTING OTHER PROJECTS

Part of the role of the Community Development Officer who runs Stepping Stones is to support groups who work with marginalised or vulnerable people.

As part of this, the CDO supports organisations in a variety of ways. These include:

- Being part of Steering groups, for example, Creative Recovery, MIND, Refugee Council, Chilypep etc
- Attending meetings concerning vulnerable groups, for example, Migrants Network Meeting
- Networking with organisations across the Central Area which work with vulnerable groups and participating in events
- Supporting groups in exploring sustainability, envisioning and funding
- Highlighting and celebrating the work of community groups through Community Highlights (see example below)
- Sharing information about projects through the Central Area Calendar, Job Centre windows and notice boards and through networks
- Supporting new workers in voluntary sector organisations by introducing them to similar groups and networks



Community Highlights!

Worsbrough Community Pantry

Worsbrough Community Pantry was set up in 2020 with the intention of helping people before they reach crisis point. Not a food bank, the pantry offers food at an affordable price. For £3 a visit, anyone living in the Worsbrough Ward who is suffering financial hardship can apply to be a member of the Pantry and can take away goods to the value of £15 including fresh, frozen, refrigerated and store cupboard favourites!

The Pantry is based in Worsbrough Community Church on High Street.

Currently, 35 families are supported on a regular basis!

PHOTOS



QUOTES

Pantry User, Kaeti M: " It is a really friendly and nice place to come and have a chat with other users and the volunteers. I am always made to feel welcomed and listened to. It's great value for money and helps my money go further each week."

Trustees- Tracey, Linda and Colin: " We are really pleased to be able to reach out to the community in which we are based and offer support to those who need it the most. As well as offering access to affordable food, there is also opportunity for users to volunteer and develop their skills and confidence. It's great to see the journey from pantry user to volunteer".

For more info, please contact Michelle Toone, Community Development Officer: michelletoone@barnsley.gov.uk

Central Area Council
Central, Dodworth, Kingstone, Stairfoot, Worsbrough