

April to June
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

Sustainable Growing Healthy 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



While the figures have dipped slightly compared to the last quarter and this time last year this is likely due to the Great British Spring clean happening in March 2023. The colder spring also delayed plant and weed growth resulting in less clearing activities. 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



258 volunteers worked with on events

92 new volunteers

639 volunteer hours at Twiggs events

362 rubbish bags filled

99 areas targeted in proactive and reactive work

4 fly tipping cases reported

Mansion Park Bolton upon Dearne



Over a two month period support was given to volunteers to improve the park by clearing litter and reinstate the footpath, addressing issues such as overgrown grass and moss. The efforts have made a big difference to the park, making it a cleaner, safer, and more accessible space for everyone to enjoy. A core group of four dedicated volunteers were supported and 11 purple sacks of litter were removed.



It has been a busy time for the social clubs in Bolton and Thurnscoe. As well as the weekly meeting there has been a party to celebrate the Kings Coronation and a Barge trip on the canal funded by a Barnsley Better Bonds. The befriending pairs also continue to flourish. The newly established Social Prescribers and other organisation continue to refer into the groups and befriending support. Volunteer recruitment continues to be a priority with 5 new volunteers who have received their DBS application back and are now paired. A partnership with Thurnscoe Little Theatre has started, there were plans this quarter for an event with them but this was postponed as the stage is being lowered to make it safer and more accessible. There will also be a joint funding bid with the Thurnscoe Little Theatre to cover the cost of the event, including free tickets for the wider public.

b:friend



187 isolating older neighbours supported

452 hours of 1:1 befriender interactions

65 hours of staff visits/calls

90 volunteers

7 new volunteers

52 hours of group social activities



June



June joined the club in early 2022 after struggling with the lifting of lock-down and the loss of her son. June found it very hard to socialise in larger groups after so much time spent alone and indoors. To begin with June attended infrequently and was very quiet. With encouragement from other members of the club June began to attend more regularly and her confidence grew. June is now a regular attender and actively participates in all sessions. June has also encouraged a friend of hers, who is also recently bereaved, to join the club as she finds it so beneficial. June says "I really missed it last week with it being a bank holiday, I've been right looking forward to this morning! It does me the world of good this group" Pictured on the left with new friend Sheila.



The ICT and Employability Support sessions are over three days a week in classroom learning but 2 people are learning remotely due to health issues. On top of the ITC skills English and Maths assessments are offered to gauge their skills any that are struggling are referred to Barnsley Council's Adult Skills and Community Learning courses at Goldthorpe library . 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. There continues to be a large number of people aged 65+ looking to return to work wanting help with CVs and application. A common theme is they are struggling with the cost of living. There has also been an increase in those of school leaver age who need help with CV and job search help.

DECV



29 people learning

21 learner achieving qualifications

6 learners into employment

21 learners into further training

Raymond



Raymond came to his first session in March 2023, he had been made redundant and had spent three months looking for work with no success. His CV was very generic and didn't fully describe his skills or employment history. The lack of progress was having an impact on his mental health and he did not have the required computer skills to improve his chances.

Ray worked hard to improve those skills and did not miss a single session in three months. Soon he was feeling a lot more confident and volunteer Josh began working with him on job searches and applications all while improving his ITC skills.

By June he had successfully secured a full time position in a local company and was over the moon. He said: "Thanks Rory and Josh for all the help, chats and cups of tea! Can't wait to start work."



BARNSELEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

Private Sector Housing and Cohesion Officer

Fly tipping across the Dearne remains an issue it is particularly bad in Goldthorpe in a few locations. Steps have been taken to remove these and address the issues including requesting 30 new bins for properties. The vast majority of work is proactive, as such, dealing with fly tipping and waste in gardens which become an issue in the spring with badly overgrowing gardens. The cost of living crisis continues to be a major issue across the area making life difficult for the vulnerable community within the Dearne contacts have been made with the safeguarding leads of the local primary schools to make identifying and collaboration easier. Another issue which may become more serious is the increase in interest rates is starting to make landlord

more reluctant to invest in their properties. Work with partners continues to build in terms of referrals, complementary works and attending/holding drop in events for residents.

Housing Enforcement



153 reports made

26 properties improved

35 contacts with household waste on premises

135 fly tipping reported

42 houses supported to responsibly recycle or dispose waste

6 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. 104 people received comprehensive telephone advice 75 received face to face advice. Since start of project each £1 spent has returned £24.08 into the Dearne.

DIAL

Barnsley

75 enquires made this quarter

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

£65,635 benefits claims supported this quarter

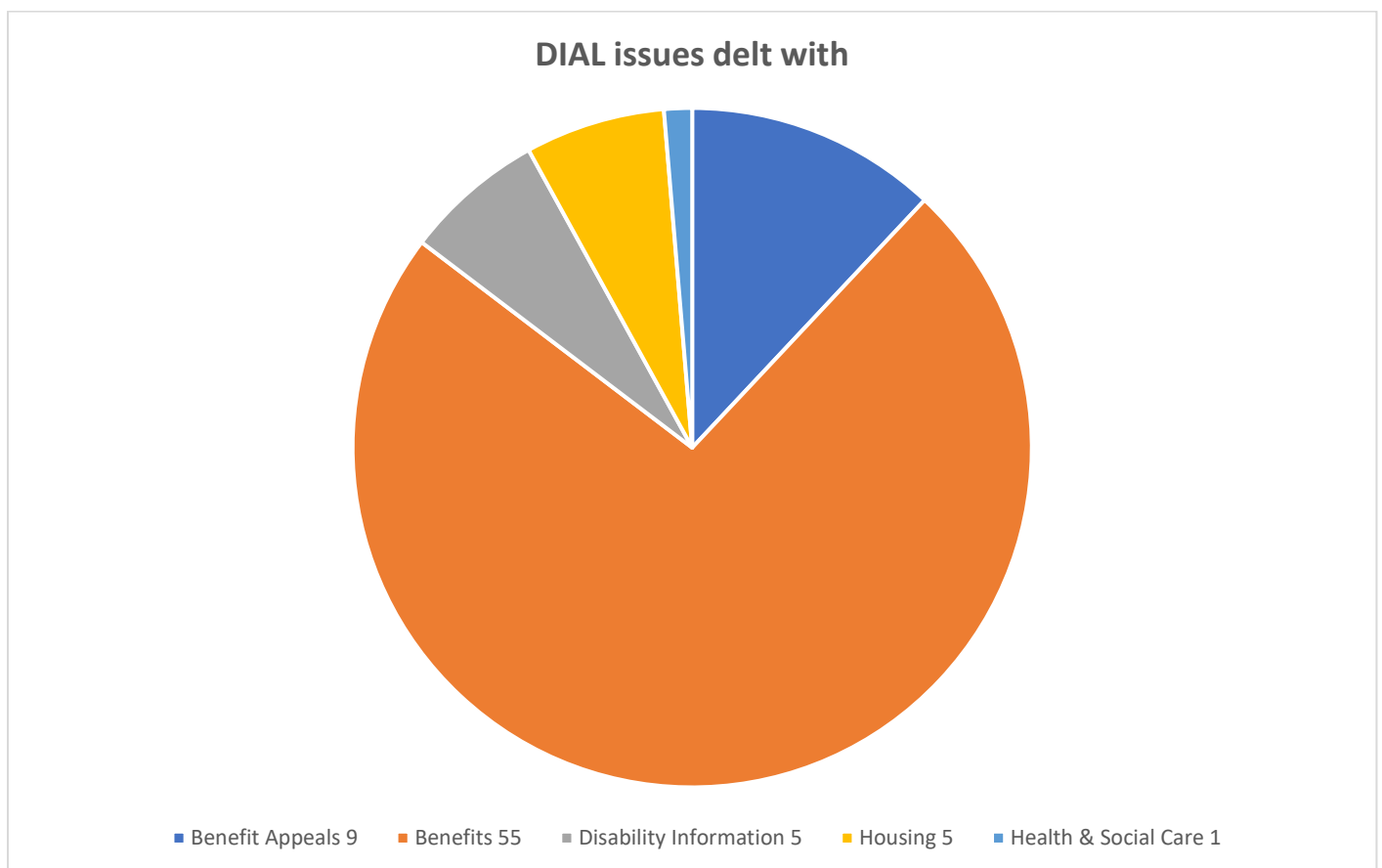


Supporting



Case study

Miss C is 55 years old with long standing mental health issues, she lives with her wife who also has poor mental health. She has been claiming benefits for a number of years including Housing benefit. Miss C received a call from Barnsley Council explaining that as her wife reached state pension age the year before her housing benefit should stop and a claim for Universal Credit started. Also, she would need to repay the housing benefit that had been incorrectly awarded. Miss C explained this at the outreach session and she was helped to further explain her situation. The result was Housing Benefit was reinstated and there was no need to make a claim for Universal Credit which would have reduced weekly income Miss C said: "I am very glad I went to see DIAL. I did not understand what the council was telling me and was just going to accept it."



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

281 people attending

40 volunteers assisting (across 3 events)



Supporting

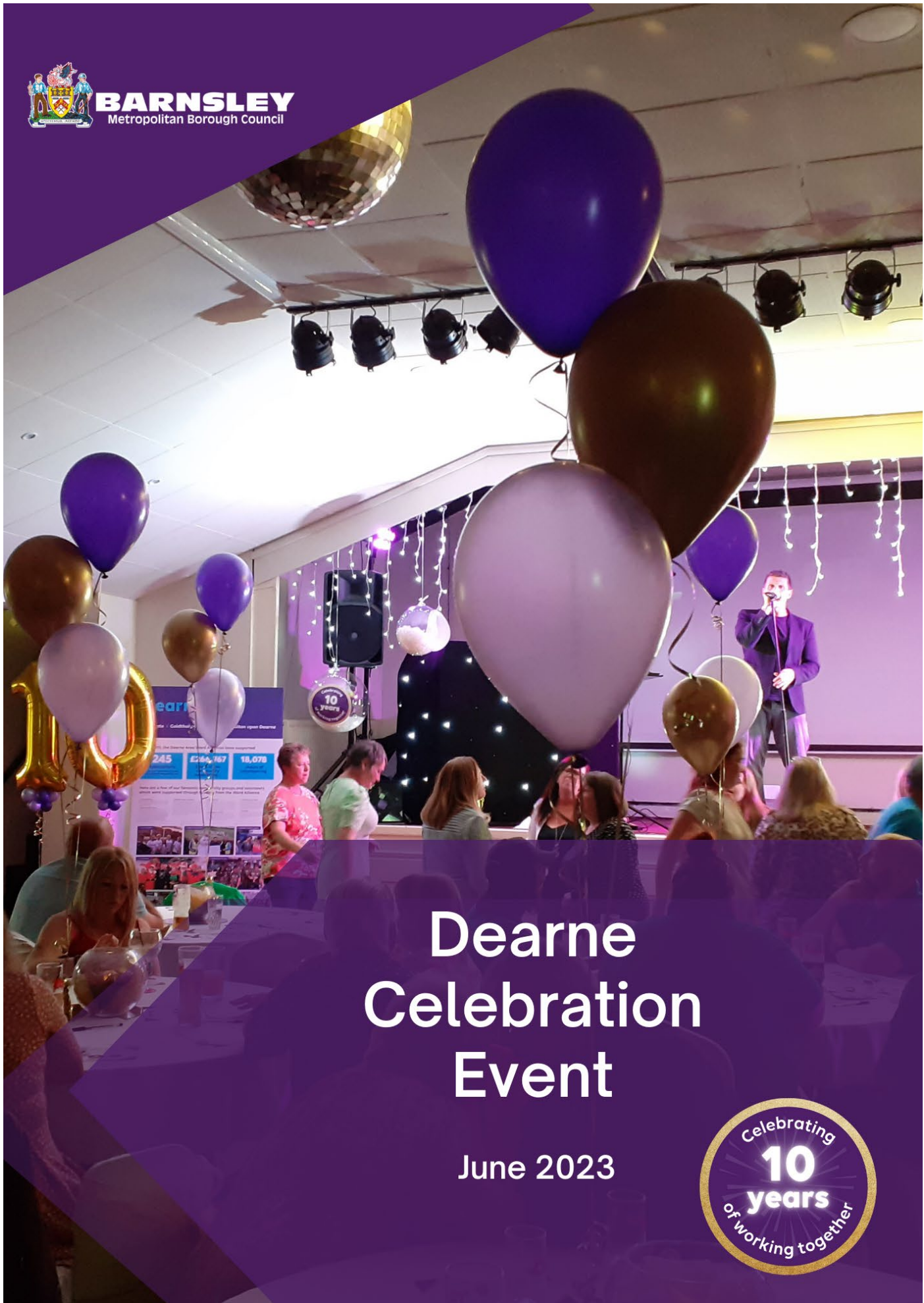


Case study

There have been very successful sessions during this quarter with few unused spaces. Even the April event (close to Easter) which is usually quiet was busy. The May event was a VE Day celebration which was full with 100 guest attending. The room was transformed with bunting, flags and other props the guests and volunteers dressed in wartime fashion giving the event a real special feeling. There were issues with the entertainment at the April and June sessions with a last minute cancellation at one and a poor performance at the other but on the whole the guests enjoyed their afternoons and the volunteers all worked hard to make the events feel special.



BARNSELY
Metropolitan Borough Council



Dearne Celebration Event

June 2023





Dearne Celebration Event

Dearne



Barnsley – the place of possibilities.

Healthy Barnsley

- Our diverse communities are welcoming, supportive, and resilient.
- Everybody can enjoy life in good physical and mental health.

Enabling Barnsley

- Our underlying priority to ensure that our council is modern, inclusive, efficient, productive and high performing

Ward & Area Council Priorities

- **Health & Wellbeing**
Celebrating the community volunteers and workers
- **Strengthening the Community**
Using community assets
- **Information & Support**
People connecting and coming together

Background

This year marks a decade since we launched our area arrangements to support communities, including Area Councils, Ward Alliances, and Area Teams.

In 2013, the Area Councils and Ward Alliances were formed to bring decisions about allocating funding closer to the local communities they serve. Dearne North and Dearne South Ward Alliances set their own priorities and work with the community representatives to direct funding to the voluntary sector.

Dearne Area Council

Dearne North, Dearne South

The Area Teams support their communities to utilise their strengths, skills and resources so groups can achieve more and the people in Dearne North and Dearne South can have their voices heard.

For our 10-year celebrations, we decided to celebrate the volunteers, businesses, and everyone who helped make the Dearne a better place to live and work. We wanted to showcase some of the excellent work that's taken place over the past decade, and boy, did we have some fantastic work!

Issue

People very rarely praise themselves for the work they have achieved, and the volunteers are the same. We did not want awards or venues elsewhere. We wanted local establishment, local entertainment and just a feel-good factor of a night.

What was done

The Area Team held an evening to celebrate in a local working men's club with **£1,000** funded through the Ward Alliances to help pay for the room decorations, balloons, artist, DJ, and buffet.

Cllr Cain, our local Councillor in Dearne North and Cabinet Spokesperson for Communities, was invited as a guest speaker and gave a warm welcome and really highlight the good work that had been achieved in the Dearne and recognition to all that is participated in this

Those who attended also enjoyed a Dearne related logo and general knowledge quiz, hot and cold buffet, DJ and live entertainment from Soul and Motown singer Steve Real

We also bought a memory book to which our lovely volunteers, elected members, businesses, school reps, internal & external partners could sign as a recognition of the work for the past 10 years. They have all created and inputted to collaboratively make the Dearne a better brighter, smarter and feel-good factor village for people to live, work and visit, the book is a brilliant read with some real positive thankyou and quotes. Something to cherish for many years to come.

Dearne Celebration Event

Dearne

10 Year



Dearne Celebration Event

Dearne

Reflections/Learning

On reflection, a different day of the week would have been better, as a mid-week event might have put people off through working or plans the next day.

The buffet was over-ordered so we could cater to less next time.

Music was a little loud, and some did ask that the volume be turned down as they could not speak to other people that they would have liked to, so next time, only have 1 hour for music at the end. Everybody liked doing the quiz, it seems like people are very competitive in the Dearne.

What was the role of the Area Team within this project?

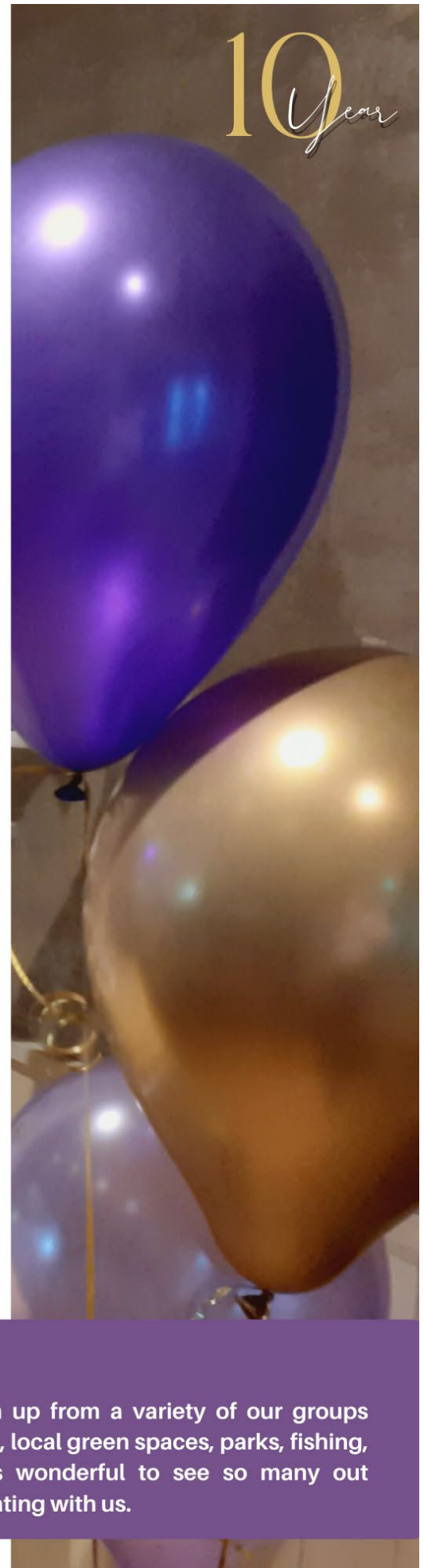
The team facilitated the event, from the CDO planning and designing the badges and certificates given to the attendees to creating the quiz and sourcing prizes. They also ensured the venue looked amazing. Alongside the Project Officer, they also set up payment for the artists.

We would also like to thank the Club, who provided the buffet and cleaned up after the event.

All Officers attended the celebration in a non-work capacity but still made sure everyone was happy and enjoyed themselves.

Did the project promote new ways of working e.g. with the Council, community or any agencies? How did it do this?

Working alongside the People Strategy 2022-2025, we know our members of staff in the Dearne Area Team are our greatest asset in the Dearne (we are told this several times by the community itself). The special relationship we hold passes on to the local volunteers & even their families who again are a huge asset. Enabling and empowering them to be positive and create leaders in their roles in the community makes such a difference. Building on relationships with them over the 10 years is extra special - so celebrating their achievements and recognising what they do will have a massive impact on them carrying on in the community, adding to the legacy of the Ward Alliance and Area Councils in years to come and hopefully passing down to their next generations.



The result (Outputs, Outcomes, Impact)



80

Attendees

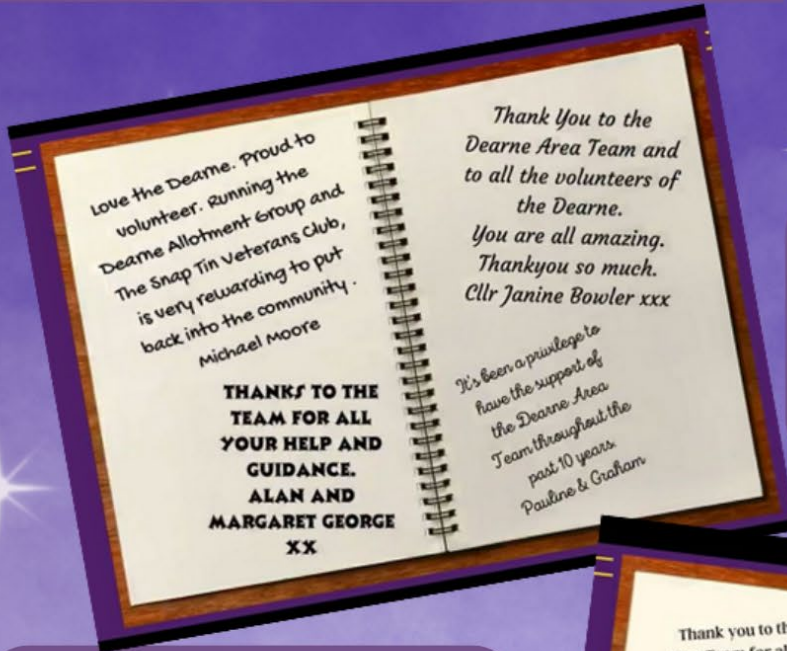
We had around 80 people turn up from a variety of our groups including social isolation, events, local green spaces, parks, fishing, sports, and many more it was wonderful to see so many out enjoying themselves and celebrating with us.

Dearne Celebration Event

Dearne

We have many more thankyous but heres just a snip from the memory book...

Most of the attendees complimented us on the night and also the days following – with the local Primary School adding they were thrilled to be invited and take time away from their normal settings and meet the local community groups they haven't met before. Some were praising the team, the councillors, and especially each other it was brilliant to see everyone just mingling and getting satisfaction and overall celebrating themselves and others all in once setting.



“ What a celebration – well done you lot
Joh Hayes
 Goldthorpe Development Group ”

“ Thank you so much for inviting me - haven't let my hair down in such a long time but loved this event
Michael Wellburn
 Member of the Local Allotment Group ”



“ Thanks so much Dearne Team for setting this up and making us feel special and part of the wider community its wonderful
Sue Miller & Nicola Lawrence
 Hill School in Thurnscoe ”

