

# Project Performance Report

Q2 - 2023/24 (July - September 2023)  
Support for raising costs of living

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April 2023 -  
March 2024



# North Area Council Priorities

20  
30

Barnsley – the place  
of possibilities.



Anti Poverty



Changing the  
relationship



Health &  
Wellbeing



Economic  
Regeneration



Improving the  
local environment



Opportunities for  
young people

Contributing to the following Corporate Priorities and Outcomes:

## Healthy Barnsley

- ✓ Everybody can enjoy life in good physical and mental health.
- ✓ Fewer people live in poverty, and everyone has the resources to look after themselves and their families.
- ✓ People can access the right support at the right time and place and tackle problems early.
- ✓ Our diverse communities are welcoming, supportive, and resilient.

## Learning Barnsley

- ✓ Everyone has the opportunity to create wider social connections and enjoy cultural experiences.
- ✓ Children and young people aim high and achieve their full potential with improved educational achievement and attainment.
- ✓ Everyone fulfils their potential, with more people completing higher-level skill studies than ever before
- ✓ Lifelong learning is promoted and enables people to get into progress to and stay in work

## Growing Barnsley

- ✓ Residents, businesses, and organisations are more confident in accessing and using digital resources, benefitting all aspects of daily life.
- ✓ Barnsley is known as a great place to invest, where businesses and organisations provide diverse and secure employment opportunities, contributing to an economy that benefits everyone.
- ✓ Local businesses are thriving through early-stage support and opportunities to grow
- ✓ People have a wider choice of quality, affordable housing to suit their needs and lifestyles.

## Sustainable Barnsley





















- ✓ People are proud of and look after their local environment.
- ✓ People live in sustainable communities and reduce carbon emissions, and increase access to affordable and sustainable energy sources.
- ✓ Fossil fuels are being replaced by affordable and sustainable energy and people are able to enjoy more cycling and walking

## Enabling Barnsley

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

# Contractual Overview

Table 1 below shows the Providers that have now been appointed to deliver a series of services that address the priorities and deliver the outcomes and social value objectives for the North Area Council.

Service	Priorities	Provider	Contract Value (per year)	Start Date	Updates
<b>Anti Poverty Outreach</b> Page 8	 <b>Economic Regeneration</b>  <b>Health and Wellbeing</b>  <b>Anti Poverty</b>	 	£215,00 2 years (+1 year)	1st July 2023	<b>Contract Live</b> Contract extended
<b>Environmental Caretakers</b> Page 12	 <b>Improving the environment</b>  <b>Opportunities for young people</b>  <b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		£100,803 Continuity £20,160.60	1st July 2023	<b>Contract Live</b>
<b>Economic Regeneration</b>	 <b>Improving the local economy</b>				<b>Current gap in provision</b>
<b>Housing and Cohesion Officer</b> Page 14	 <b>Improving the environment</b>  <b>Economic Regeneration</b>  <b>Anti Poverty</b>  <b>Health and Wellbeing</b>  <b>Changing the Relationship</b>		£35,500 12 month contract	15th May 2023	<b>New Officer Appointed 15/05/23</b>
<b>Youth Resilience</b> Page 18	 <b>Improving the environment</b>  <b>Health and Wellbeing</b>  <b>Opportunities for young people</b>		£90,000 2 years (+1yr)	1st November 2020	<b>Funding confirmed until 31/10/2024</b>

# Barnsley 2030 Ambitions

Contributing to the following Corporate Priorities and Outcomes:

	Anti-Poverty Outreach	Environmental Caretaker	Connecting Communities	Housing & Cohesion Officer	Youth Resilience
<b>Healthy Barnsley</b>					
People are safe and feel safe	✓		✓	✓	✓
People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible	✓		✓	✓	✓
We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough	✓		✓	✓	✓
<b>Learning Barnsley</b>					
People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills including access to apprenticeships	✓	✓	✓		✓
Children and young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement and attainment					✓
People have access to early help and support	✓		✓	✓	✓
<b>Growing Barnsley</b>					
Business start ups and existing local businesses are supported to grow and attract new investment, providing opportunities	✓		✓		
People have a welcoming safe and enjoyable town centre and physical towns as destinations for work, shopping leisure and culture		✓	✓		✓
People are supported to have safe, warm sustainable homes	✓		✓	✓	✓

	Anti-Poverty Outreach	Environmental Caretaker	Connecting Communities	Housing & Cohesion Officer	Youth Resilience
<b>Sustainable Barnsley</b> People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people to enjoy		✓	✓	✓	✓
Fossil fuels are being replaced by affordable and sustainable energy and people are able to enjoy more cycling and walking.			✓	✓	✓

	Anti-Poverty Outreach	Environmental Caretaker	Connecting Communities	Housing & Cohesion Officer	Youth Resilience
<b>Enabling Barnsley</b> Our underlying priority to ensure that our council is modern, inclusive, efficient, productive and high performing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Part A: Overview of performance

6 contracts have formally completed their contract monitoring/contract management reporting for Q2 2023/24.




**Environmental Caretaker**

**Contract started in July**





**Anti - Poverty**

**Third Contract Year 6 (Q4)**

Two providers are currently delivering the Youth Resilience Grant





**Youth Resilience Fund**



Three providers are delivering the connecting communities grant






**Connecting Communities**

The North Area also funds contracted posts:

**Housing and Cohesion Officer**

**New Officer Appointed in May**

# Stronger Communities

## Key Performance Indicators

Table 2 below shows the Providers contribute towards the Key Performance Indicators and deliver the outcomes and social value objectives for the Stronger Communities directorate



# Anti-Poverty Outreach



20  
30

How this commission is making Barnsley the place of possibilities

## Healthy Barnsley

- People are safe and feel safe
- People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible
- We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough

## Learning Barnsley

- People have access to early help and support

## Sustainable Barnsley

- People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community.

## Growing Barnsley

- People are supported to have safe, warm sustainable homes

## Enabling Barnsley

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

## North Area Council

Darton East, Darton West, Old Town, St Helens

## Priorities



Economic  
Regeneration

Anti Poverty



Health &  
Wellbeing

- Satisfactory quarterly monitoring report and contract management meeting.
- Milestones achieved
- Outcome indicator targets met
- Social value targets met
- Satisfactory spend and financial information
- Overall satisfaction with delivery against contract

## Service Outline

Delivered by Citizens Advice Barnsley and DIAL Barnsley, the NAC Outreach service advises local people on all their issues. Their services are free, confidential, impartial and available to everyone.

Both providers deliver AQS quality marked advice that is independently and externally audited. They advise on all categories of law, including debt and money worries, in-work, out-of-work and disability benefits; housing and homelessness; employment, relationship and consumer issues. This breadth of knowledge means they are uniquely qualified to provide wrap-around services to support people with multiple interlinked issues. They help clients sort out problems before they reach a crisis point, and through income maximisation and debt management, they help stabilise people's finances to prevent and reduce the impact of poverty. The client feedback they gather shows that this advice helps improve health and wellbeing and reduces stress.



# Anti-Poverty Outreach



**£376,820** ↑

Overall benefit gain (in £)

**£34,095** ↑

Amount of debt managed

**£16** ↑

Return on investment (for every pound spent)

**796** ↑

Number of clients this quarter

**83%**

Local people feel more able to manage their own affairs

**81%**

Local residents experienced improved health and wellbeing

## Extract from performance report

From 1st July to 30th September 2023, advisers from both organisations provided information and advice to **796 client contacts**, supported clients to claim **£376,820** of welfare benefits and managed £34,095 of debt. Included in this figure, CAB has provided fuel and food vouchers to a total of **£960** for **14** clients, an average of **£69**.

As in previous reports, most clients for both organisations accessed the service for help with benefit-related issues. The generalist adviser from CAB has also supported clients with a range of other issues, including debt, housing, employment, legal, relationship and family issues, consumer, utilities and communication, financial services and capabilities, charitable support and foodbanks, education, health & community care, travel and transport, immigration & asylum, tax and other issues.

Of the 796 client contacts this quarter, **256** have required help with form filling – a total of **31%** of the clients, most of whom are related to the benefits system. Forms completed by DIAL are carried out face-to-face with the clients and not over the telephone.

## CAB & DIAL contribution to public health outcomes

### Improving the wider determinants of health

#### Objective 1: improvements against wider factors which affect health & wellbeing and health inequalities

1.09 Sickness absence rate

1.15 Statutory homelessness

#### Health improvement

#### Objective 2: people are helped to live healthy lifestyles, make healthy choices and reduce health inequalities

2.23 Self-reporting wellbeing

#### Health public health and preventing premature mortality

#### Objective 4: reduce numbers of people living with preventable ill health and people dying prematurely, whilst reducing the gap between communities

4.13 Health related quality of life for older people

4.15 Excess winter deaths

# Case Study

## Citizen's Advice Barnsley



### Supporting families through challenging times

\* All client Storytellers have been given different names, and certain details have been omitted or changed to preserve their anonymity.

Gavin\* and Sharon\* were happy with their life together with their children. Their daughter's health issues were severe, so the family received child DLA. Although her needs were such that she needed constant care and support, they were coping well.

Some months ago, however, the family circumstances changed. Gavin's child with a previous partner, Annie\*, came to live with them full-time, as it was no longer possible for her to live with her mother.

The couple fully embraced the situation and were happy to welcome the latest addition to their family - but there was no doubt that the additional expense was problematic. Whilst they had applied for Child Benefit for Annie and were awaiting a decision, Sharon was concerned that Annie's mother might still be claiming for her. She decided to visit the Citizens Advice Barnsley drop-in close to their home to ask for clarification of their situation.

The adviser started by explaining how responsibility for a child was defined and how that affected the receipt of benefits. She reassured Sharon that she should certainly inform Universal Credit of the change in their circumstances; responsibility for another child was likely to increase the amount of benefits to which they were entitled. They should also ensure that the DWP were made aware of the change in the number of children in the household; as Annie received child DLA and claimed the carer's element of UC, they would probably be exempt from the benefit cap.

Sharon was really glad to have the situation clarified for her by the adviser. But the adviser also offered them some practical help in these financially challenging times in the form of a shopping voucher to help mitigate their increased costs whilst waiting for their claim for additional benefits. Sharon was delighted to accept: she couldn't believe how much support Citizens Advice Barnsley had offered her.

## Case Study



"Throughout the whole process I was put at ease, everything was explained to me and the information was clear and concise, I will not hesitate to recommend DIAL's services to others"

Miss P



### Acknowledged Outcome

- More money to live on
- More optimistic about the future
- Improved mental wellbeing

### Before DIAL

Miss P is a 20-year-old young lady who has severe mental health issues. She attends college but is finding it extremely difficult as she struggles to leave the house due to extreme anxiety at being outside and often needs support to go anywhere. Her situation is further complicated by the fact that she struggles to make eye contact when she is talking to people and cannot force herself to engage with people that she does not know and trust. She also has uncontrolled absence seizures, and these can occur several times a day. Because of this, she cannot go out on her own and cannot be in any place where she could come to harm when a seizure occurs. She has good support from family and friends but is finding life a struggle at the moment. She continues to have specialist mental health input. She struggles to make eye contact when she is talking to people and cannot force herself to engage with people that she does not know and trust. She also has uncontrolled absence seizures, and these can occur several times a day. Because of this, she cannot go out on her own and cannot be in any place where she could come to harm when a seizure occurs. She has good support from family and friends but is finding life a struggle at the moment. She continues to have specialist mental health input.

### Advice provided by DIAL

In November 2021, Miss P claimed Personal Independence Payment. She attempted to complete the form herself. She had an assessment over the phone and received no points due to this. She sought advice from her family as to what to do, and they helped her to complete a mandatory reconsideration appeal. This did not change the situation, and at this point, she contacted DIAL for help. She attended a North area outreach at which DIAL helped to complete a PIP SSCS1 tribunal submission. DIAL also instructed Miss P to get supporting medical evidence to help her appeal by way of her mental health records. For the tribunal hearing, DIAL advised Miss P to take support with her if the hearing was going to be too traumatic for her to cope with on her own and should a seizure occur. Miss P also had a UC50 capability for a work questionnaire, and DIAL helped to complete this at a North area outreach at another time.

### After DIAL

The tribunal was successful. Miss P was awarded the enhanced rate daily living component of £101.75 a week and the enhanced rate of £71.00 a week mobility component of Personal Independence Payment. The award was backdated to November 2021 and amounted to £14,000. On top of this, she was also awarded Limited Capability for Work- and Work-Related Activity on her Universal Credit. This increased her monthly award from £292.11 a week to £682.17 weekly.

# Environmental Caretaker

- Satisfactory quarterly monitoring report and contract management meeting.
- Outcome indicator targets met
- Social value targets met
- Satisfactory spend and financial information
- Overall satisfaction with delivery against contract

**North Area Council**  
Darton East, Darton West, Old Town, St Helens  
**Priorities**



**Improving the local environment**

**2030** How this commission is making Barnsley the place of possibilities

## Learning Barnsley

- People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills including access to apprenticeships.

## Sustainable Barnsley

- People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community.
- Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people to enjoy.

## Enabling Barnsley

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

## Purpose and Function Overview Overview

Service delivery will focus on a programme devised by the North Area Council and the four Ward Alliance, including proactive maintenance, reactive work, and support for volunteer groups. This work will require the provider to:

- Maintain a clean, green, well-presented, and welcoming physical environment in the North Area. This includes proactive approaches to littering, grass cutting, untidy areas, shrub bed maintenance, cutting back, scraping,, etc.
- Respond to reactive requests for service in response to local needs as directed by the North Area Council and Ward Alliances.
- Undertake environmental improvements alongside Ward Alliances and community groups.
- Working with existing community groups, as directed by the Ward Alliances.
- Support the Ward Alliances and North Area Team to develop new environmentally-focused community groups.

## Environmental Caretakers contribution to public health outcomes

### Improving the wider determinants of health

**Objective 1: improvements against wider factors which affect health and wellbeing and health inequalities**

1.16 Utilising outdoor space for exercises and health reasons

### Health improvement

**Objective 2: people are helped to live healthy lifestyles, make healthy choices and reduce health inequalities**

2.13 Proportion of physically active and inactive adults

2.13 Self-reported wellbeing

Provider

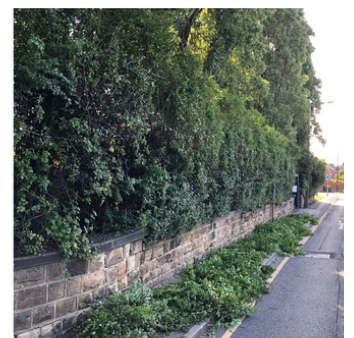
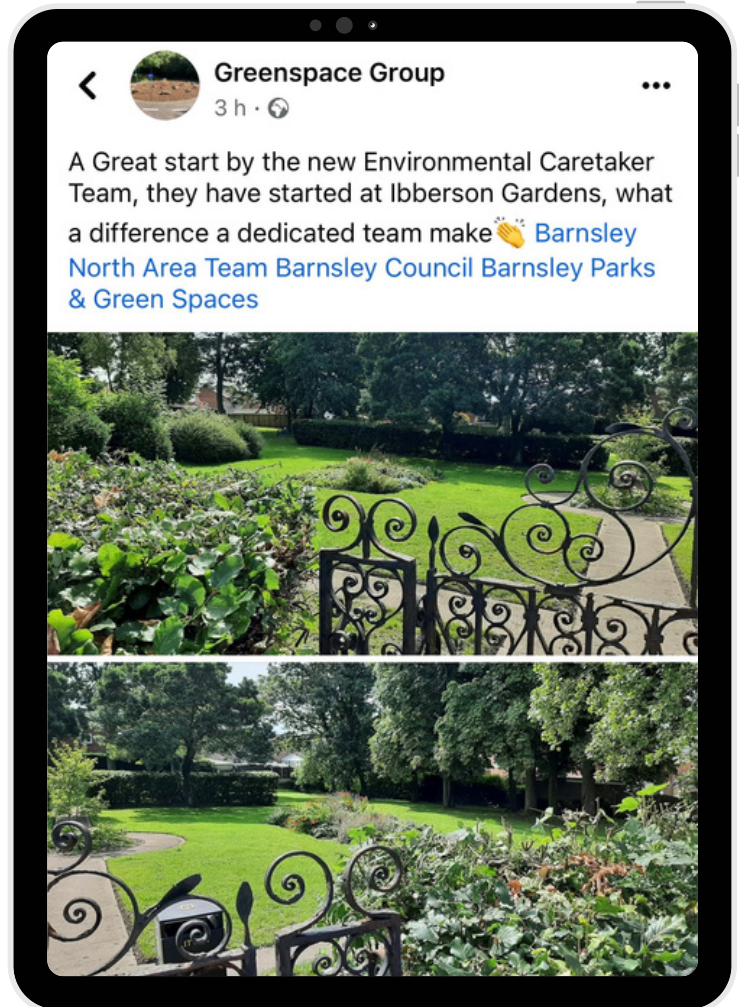


# Environmental Caretaker

## Quarter Overview

The NAC enviro team became active on the 1st July 2023 after a period of recruitment and selection.

The Team have supported the area by attending galas, volunteering on weekend days, and being involved in days of action with other BMBC departments.



# Housing and Cohesion Officer

Provider



20  
30

How this commission is making Barnsley the place of possibilities

## Healthy Barnsley

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## Learning Barnsley

- People have access to early help and support

## Sustainable Barnsley

- People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community.

## Growing Barnsley

- People are supported to have safe, warm sustainable homes

## Enabling Barnsley

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

## North Area Council

Darton East, Darton West, Old Town, St Helens

## Priorities



Improving the local environment



Anti Poverty



Changing the Relationship



Health & Wellbeing



Improving the economy

## Purpose of Post

To ensure compliance with the legislation and statutory obligations of the Council dealing with poor housing and environmental conditions in the Private Rented Sector, ensuring effective regulation with a balanced proactive and reactive approach through the discharging of informal, formal and legal actions. Contribute to improved standards in the local private rented sector and stability for both tenants and landlords.

- Provide advice, guidance and support in accordance with approved Council policies, procedures and statutory responsibilities pertaining to private sector housing and the environment.
- To pro-actively engage and liaise with internal and external stakeholders including tenants, landlords, members of the public and partners, developing strong and cohesive working relationships.
- Respond to requests for service, investigate complaints and provide advice on sub-standard housing conditions in the private rented sector.
- Contribute to the development and delivery of a highly visible proactive approach to raising standards of poor-quality private sector housing across the Borough.

# Housing and Cohesion Officer

## Provider



- Satisfactory quarterly monitoring report and contract management meeting.
- Milestones achieved
- Outcome indicator targets met
- Social value targets met
- Satisfactory spend and financial information
- Overall satisfaction with delivery against contract

## Housing Cohesion Officer's contribution to public health outcomes

### Improving the wider determinants of health

#### Objective 1: improvements against wider factors which affect health & wellbeing and health inequalities

- 1.01i Children in low-income families (all dependent children under 20)
- 1.06ii Adults in contact with secondary mental health services who live in stable appropriate accommodation
- 1.15 Statutory homelessness
- 1.17 Fuel Poverty
- 1.18i Social isolation: Percentage of adult social care users who have as much social contact as they would like

### Health improvement

#### Objective 2: people are helped to live healthy lifestyles, make healthy choices and reduce health inequalities

- 2.23 Children in low-income families (all dependent children under 20)

### Health public health and preventing premature mortality

#### Objective 4: reduce numbers of people living with preventable ill health and people dying prematurely, whilst reducing the gap between communities

- 4.13 Health related quality of life for older people
- 4.15 Excess winter deaths



# Case Study

## Private Rental Housing Inspections (Darton East)

### North Area Council

Darton East, Darton West, Old Town, St Helens  
Priorities

20  
30

Barnsley – the place  
of possibilities.

### Ambitions

#### Healthy Barnsley

- ✓ People are safe and feel safe
- ✓ People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible.

#### Learning Barnsley

- ✓ People have access to early help and support

#### Growing Barnsley

- ✓ People are supported to have safe, warm sustainable homes



Improving the  
local environment



Anti Poverty

### What was done?

Proactive door knocking on a street containing a high number of privately rented, close proximity terraced housing.



### The Result

Three tenants welcomed housing inspections due to various issues ranging from damp and mould, faulty or missing handrails on stairs, a lack of smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors and other potential hazards.

“Thank you for doing this  
for my family”

Tenant

### Reflection

The cases are still live, the Landlords have been served notices and been given timeframes in which to complete the repairs to an acceptable standard.

This was a very worthwhile initiative that I will look to repeat across all of the North area wards on a quarterly basis. I have issued notices to Landlords highlighting the hazards and necessary repairs. The feedback I received from the tenants was very positive. One family I am supporting are foreign nationals with young children. There are no working smoke alarms in their property as well as damp & mould. The inspections have been very valuable to me also, in terms of my development and learning in respect of identifying hazards, grading them and completing the paperwork.





# 2030

## How this commission is making Barnsley the place of possibilities

### Healthy Barnsley

- People are safe and feel safe
- People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible
- We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough

### Learning Barnsley

- Children and young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement and attainment.
- People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills, including access to apprenticeships.
- People have access to early help and support

### Sustainable Barnsley

- People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community.

### Growing Barnsley

- People have a welcoming, safe and enjoyable town centre and principal towns as destinations for work, shopping, leisure and culture.

### Enabling Barnsley

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

# Youth Resilience Fund

## North Area Council

Darton East, Darton West, Old Town, St Helens

### Priorities



Anti Poverty



Changing the Relationship



Improving the local environment



Health & Wellbeing

## Purpose of the Youth Resilience Grant

The North Area Council Youth Resilience Fund has been established by the North Area Council for the academic year 2020/2021 to support the delivery of a range of positive after-school and holiday provisions (interventions/ projects/ activities/ sessions) that will contribute to building the emotional resilience and wellbeing of children and young people (aged 8-13). This resilience-building will prepare children in years 5 and 6, who are displaying additional emotional support needs, with extra skills that will prepare them to transition to senior school successfully.

The grant opportunity is currently delivered by two providers: YMCA and Ad Astra.

### Providers



## Provider



# Youth Resilience Fund

## Supporting



- Satisfactory quarterly monitoring report and contract management meeting.
- Milestones achieved
- Outcome indicator targets met
- Social value targets met
- Satisfactory spend and financial information
- Overall satisfaction with delivery against contract



## Project Summary:

Working in three primary schools in the St Helens Ward, we work with the schools and students to build a flexible programme that meets their needs. Alongside the work in the schools, we offer a youth club session for up to 13-year-olds to participate, and we will also offer volunteer placements for older young people. We have lunchtime referral and drop-in sessions for Y7 pupils at Outwood Carlton. During the school holidays, we offer activities that include a healthy meal.

## Buddy Training

Afterschool sessions will allow us to offer creative ways for the young people to put into practice the skills they have learnt in their Buddy Training session. Some of the areas we cover in our Buddy training are as follows:

- Buddy Rules and skills it takes to become a buddy
- Listening and Communication skills
- Confidentiality and who to turn to if you need help (signposting)
- Anti-Bullying workshops

## Transitions Work

For Y6 Pupils, we will offer the same time scales of 3 x 6-week sessions with a transitional theme of working with schools for groups and individuals. The themes will cover :

- Social Adjustments – Relationships /making new friends, etc
- Institutional adjustments – getting used to a new school and new routines
- Curriculum interest – favourite tops and what will be new

## Year 7

For Outwood pupils, the lunchtime period is classed as their free time, and although it is still within school hours, afterschool sessions are often a problem for secondary pupils due to transport/ getting home etc. and if we were in school, staff could refer and any issues, the young people had could be dealt with much quicker.

## Youth Club

From New Lodge Community Centre, we will offer Youth Club sessions for children and young people aged up to 13, offering a wide range of creative and educational activities with opportunities for young people to become Peer Supporters for Ad Astra.

# 37

Number of unique individuals engaged

# 37

Number of children /Young People reporting an improvement in their emotional wellbeing.

# 0

Number of young people consistently attending Youth Club Sessions (Term-Time Only)

# 0

Number of young people attending conflict resolution workshops (Term-Time Only)



# Youth Resilience Fund

## Summer Holiday Provision

Ad Astra submits one report each term and then the fourth is of the summer provision only.

### Nature Walk

The Day started at our Centre, where the young people made their Packed Lunches.



We then used the newly completed Trans Pennine Walkway, which we joined behind the estate in New Lodge.



During the walk, we did a Nature Quiz and a Nature Treasure Hunt.

Once we arrived at the Laithes Lane Pit Fields, the group relaxed and had refreshments. Then we played a game of rounders and had lunch.

After lunch, we tried flying kites and throwing Frisbees in competition, followed by another break – the weather was glorious.

After relaxing, we returned to the Centre for ice pops and cold drinks.

### Science Day

The group worked on science experiments they could recreate at home. The young people really enjoyed making Storms in a bottle – Recreating Colour coded experiments – and as always Slime...





# Youth Resilience Fund

## Art Day

We recreated famous artist's work.

We recreated several Pop Art pieces, such as Andy Warhol's Hand Prints and Smiley Faces.



## Pop Art

Pop art emerged in the United Kingdom and the United States in the mid-to-late 1950s. The movement challenged traditional fine art by including imagery from popular and mass culture, such as advertising, comic books, and mundane mass-produced objects.

## David Hockney

Who comes from Bradford is also an Abstract artist and uses Pop art to create his artwork.

## Damien Hirst

Is a contemporary artist ..... this means art created after 1945 up to today ... art of the day.

Additional information like this above was talked about whilst we were recreating.

Our 'Masterpieces'

## Youth Club's BBQ

To wrap the Summer Term up, our young people who attend our weekly Junior Youth Club asked if they could have a BBQ and Games night.

This came as part of the planning they had done at the start of the term.

The young people discussed the menu for the night and decided on SOME of the games (They always want to do Pie Face, which involves a lot of Squirry Cream around the building)

This session was well-attended

## Breakfast Club

This was our last session of the Summer Provision. The young people and several family members had a feast.

We did Arts and Crafts and Table top Games and had a selection of breakfast cereals toast bacon and sausage on the go all morning.



# Youth Resilience Fund

63

Total number of sessions (including in-school, holiday provision & YMCA Youth Clubs)

66

Number of new unique individuals engaged

2

Number of peer support sessions delivered

9

Number of school holiday sessions delivered

2

Number of family members engaged in the project

2

Number of young volunteers

- Satisfactory quarterly monitoring report and contract management meeting.
- Milestones achieved
- Outcome indicator targets met
- Social value targets met
- Satisfactory spend and financial information
- Overall satisfaction with delivery against contract

### Context:

North Area Council provide grant funding to YMCA Barnsley to deliver a programme of youth work for children and young people aged 10-14 years within the North Area. The project focuses on building emotional resilience and developing the skills and tools to encourage and maintain positive emotional health, wellbeing, and support and prepare them for life's transitions.

The project is commissioned primarily as an 'out of school hours' programme, and delivery takes place after school, twilight, evenings, weekends and school holidays with one school session and some transition support taking place in curriculum times. However, the delivery model will remain flexible to support participants and respond to local needs.

### Outcomes:

- Improvement in the subjective wellbeing of children and young people.
- Increased confidence, self-esteem, attitudes and aspirations of children and young people.
- Increase in the emotional resilience of children & young people.
- Strengthened protective factors for wellbeing in children & young people.
- Supporting young people to take ownership of their lives and make positive life choices.

“Youth work offers young people safe spaces to explore their identity, experience decision-making, increase their confidence, develop interpersonal skills and think through the consequences of their actions. This leads to better-informed choices, changes in activity and improved outcomes for young people.”

National Youth Agency



# Youth Resilience Fund

## **Schools Delivery:**

### **Kexborough Primary School**

Weekly after-school sessions with all of the Y6 children at some point have the opportunity to work with the YMCA youth work team, who will then remain a consistent person within their transition experience to Darton Academy.

The group of young people are a specific group of Y6 pupils identified as those who would most benefit from the project and improve their emotional resilience and well-being.

### **Wellgate Primary School**

Weekly targeted support project for some Y6 children identified as those who would gain the most

### **Summer Lane Primary**

Weekly targeted support for Y5/Y6 children open access but targeted for some pupils the school has identified as those who would most benefit from additional support.

## **Transition Support:**

Consistent youth work staffing in locality areas and schools building positive relationships with participants to ensure that they already have established relationships and can access the same workers as they move between Y6 and Y7.

Supporting schools with their transition models and engaging our participants in that process, e.g. Peer Supporters being part of transition assemblies and evenings, visits to primary schools and befriending models in secondary schools.

## **Secondary School Delivery Model:**

Darton Academy Targeted & open access drop-in after-school support session

For years, Y7 and Y8 students have used arts/games/themed projects /group discussions to engage participants and build relationships, as well as specific activities to encourage the development of key resilience and personal and social skills. Providing access and opportunities for participants to engage in positive activities in a safe space with access to skilled and experienced youth workers who can also provide additional support around emotional and mental health.

**Darton Academy Peer Mentor Training Programme** (school-identified Y7 Students & YMCA-identified participants)

A 6-week bespoke training programme that includes exploring the role and potential remit within school and YMCA Barnsley, knowledge, qualities and skills of a peer supporter, key skills of communication, problem-solving and group work, confidentiality and safeguarding and relevant wider skills such as first aid and activity leadership.

The school's Leadership Team identified this current cohort, and the young people were chosen for their needs, interests, maturity and the Primary School that they had previously attended to ensure a broad representation of the school's feeder primaries and that the young people were familiar in the Primary School that they will then support as part of the next Year 6 transition process.



# Youth Resilience Fund

## Holiday Provision

A locality-specific mixed model of centre-based, detached, outdoor and outreach provision providing a diverse range of positive activities and opportunities as an alternative to risk-taking and anti-social behaviours. Providing a combination of long-term regular sessions alongside short projects and flexible activities. Using safe, easily accessible venues based in the locality areas provides participants with somewhere to belong, be with their friends and meet new people in a safe, supportive environment.

## Street-based Youth Work (Detached youth work)

engages with young people in their localities on the streets and green spaces. It offers a programme of positive activities as an alternative to anti-social and risk-taking behaviours. We use games, arts, and outdoor and environmental activities alongside wider family engagement, supporting specific children and their families with challenges around health, wellbeing and resilience whilst remaining firmly within the recognised structures and ethos of a detached youth work programme and a young people-led service.

## Youth clubs

YMCA Barnsley have continued to maintain delivery of our centrally based youth clubs for young people aged 8-13 and 13-19 years. (Y Stay In & Junior's Youth Club) We use arts/games/themed projects /group discussion /sports /dance to engage participants and build relationships as well as specific activities to encourage development of key resilience and personal and social skills. Providing access and opportunities for participants to engage with positive activities in a safe space.

Both these youth clubs and our holiday provision sessions continue to attract and engage with a number of young people from the North Area on a weekly basis. In this quarter the percentage of participants from the North Area was 41% for Junior Youth Club and 44% for Y Stay In. In both cases the majority of the young people live in the localities of Old Town and Wilthorpe.

## Youth Worker Support

Access to support from qualified, skilled and experienced youth workers: Providing opportunities for young people to build and develop professional relationships with trusted adults. Through professional relationships based on trust and respect and an understanding of the realities of young people's lives, youth workers encourage, support and challenge young people to explore what they want to achieve, reflect on their behaviour, and consider whether their choices are helping them move forward.

## Themed and issue-based projects

- Health & wellbeing sessions / Understanding emotions & self-awareness work (Primary)
- Self-esteem, confidence and aspirations sessions (Secondary)
- 1-1 support around mental health and emotional resilience where required
- A sleep support programme was delivered to support participants who expressed a need.
- Outdoor learning, horticulture and the environment.
- Regular consultation with young people to engage them in developing their provision and widen their experiences of the range of opportunities available to them.
- Consultation and engagement with wider projects to increase young people's knowledge and understanding and ensure they have a voice and are listened to.



# Youth Resilience Fund

Supporting



Kexborough  
Primary



Wellgate  
Primary



Delta Academy  
Darton



Summer Lane  
Primary

## School Delivery

We've seen an influx of new young people attending our sessions with the start of the new school term, and it is pleasing to see so many familiar faces from Y6 at the Darton ASC. We strive to create a relaxed environment where young people feel they belong and have the opportunity to have fun, meet others, develop networks and access support as needed. We deliver various activities to build self-esteem, confidence and resilience skills. The programme of positive and empowering activities offered to the young people this quarter has included:

**Transition Support:** exploring opportunities, hopes, worries, fears and challenges, reflecting on skills developed and building positivity for the move to Y7.

**Give Something Away Day** – An activity aimed to encourage mindfulness, considering other people's experiences and the impact of kindness. The young people created a trinket box with a few small chocolates inside to gift to the person of their choice. This included discussions around feelings and emotions and how the gifting and creation of something that they had spent time making is a positive experience that can make us feel happy and satisfied. Highlighting that it doesn't have to be a grand gesture and it doesn't have to cost, just the thought and time taken that can make a real difference to someone.

**National Word with Friends Day** – An activity aimed at exploring the role and impact of a 'good friend', positive role models, understanding our impact on others and recognising the important role they all have in someone's life. This included discussions about what it takes to be a good friend and positive self-reflection about why they believe they are a good friend. Friends have a massive impact and influence on a young person. Youth workers often see the control that another young person has in their friendship group, and discussing the 'give and take' in friendships and relationships is fundamental to young people's personal and social development.

**Team Games** – are always a key theme of the programme as this enables young people to develop their communication, social and problem-solving skills, to experience the negatives as well as the positives that build their core skills for emotional resilience and provide them with the life skills they need in life's transitions. The fun aspect and competitive nature that games bring to the sessions make them enjoyable for young people, and they are a core engagement tool for youth workers.





# Youth Resilience Fund

During this quarter, YMCA Barnsley has been engaging with participants around understanding and developing the Ethnicity, Diversity and Inclusion policy and procedures. Feedback and results of the consultation were really positive, with participants indicating that they feel ‘nurtured included and that they belong’, that ‘YMCA spaces are safe and welcoming’, that ‘our programmes and our facilities are welcoming and accessible’ and that people who use our facilities are ‘treated equally, with courtesy & respect. This is an ongoing piece of work that is being coproduced with young people to ensure our EDI policies and procedures are dynamic and ensure that YMCA spaces and services are safe and welcoming.

## Holiday Provision

During this quarter, the project delivered **5 weeks of holiday provision** during the Summer with activities delivered in response to the needs and wants of our participants. This included:

- A whole project activity day at Jenny’s Field in South Kirby with team games and the **inflatable course**. One of the objectives of this session was to support young people in using public transport and developing independent living skills. Whilst planning the sessions alongside young people, it was apparent that many of them had never used public transport and would like the opportunity to get on a bus with all the essential life skills that are involved in this process.
- **Trampolining** at **Barnsley SOAR** with young people from across the projects, having fun together and building strong, positive friendships and networks. The day finished with **39** very tired and happy young people and not forgetting the tired and happy Youth Workers too!
- Weekly regular detached sessions were engaging with core and wider groups in the localities.
- Weekly summer activity sessions in **Mapplewell & Kexborough Parks** on rotation. Creating a safe, friendly and welcoming environment that allowed the young people and their families to engage in fun, team games ensuring that everyone who wanted to, no matter what age was able to participate.

**YMCA BARNSELEY**  
**North Area Summer Holiday Free Activities**

Booking is required for all activities, please scan the QR code on the last page to book your child's place. Please do not book on to activities that show they are full. Please remember to book places early to avoid disappointment. Places are for children & young aged 8-14 years and will be allocated initially to those already attending our project.

<p><b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July, 1:30pm-3:30pm – Fun in the Park</b> Join us for some fun-packed games and activities in the park. <b>Location:</b> Kexborough Recreation Ground, Priestley Avenue, S75 5LG</p>
<p><b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July, 12:30pm-3pm – How High Can You Go?</b> A fun-packed trip to do some trampolining. Please bring a drink for your young person or money to buy one <b>Location:</b> SOAR Trampoline Park, Claycliffe Business Park, 54, Cannon Way, Barugh Green, Barnsley S75 1JU</p>
<p><b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 1:30pm-3:30pm – Fun in the Park</b> Get involved with lots of amazing outdoor activities! <b>Location:</b> Mapplewell Park, Bar Lane, Mapplewell, Barnsley S75 6GE</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August, 10:30am-3pm – Den Building &amp; Fishing</b> Put your survival skills to the test! Please bring a packed lunch. <b>Location:</b> Dearne Valley Country Park, Pontefract Road, Barnsley, S71 1HS</p>
<p><b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August, 1:30pm-3:30pm – Fun in the Park</b> Join us for some fun-packed games and activities in the park. <b>Location:</b> Kexborough Recreation Ground, Priestley Avenue, S75 5LG</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 6pm-9am Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> – Sleepover Time</b> Join us for a sleepover at the YMCA! <b>Location:</b> YMCA Barnsley, 1 Blucher Street, S70 1AP</p>
<p><b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August, 1:30pm-3:30pm – Fun in the Park</b> Get involved with lots of amazing outdoor activities! <b>Location:</b> Mapplewell Park, Bar Lane, Mapplewell, Barnsley S75 6GE</p>
<p><b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August 9:30am-4:10pm, – Inflatables Fun</b> Let's go have some fun! Team games and an afternoon on the inflatables! Young people will be travelling by public bus with our staff. Please bring a packed lunch. <b>Location:</b> Meet at YMCA Barnsley, Blucher Street, S70 1AP before catching the bus with staff to Jenny's Field, S72 9BP</p>
<p><b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August, 1:30pm-3:30pm – Fun in the Park</b> Join us for some fun-packed games and activities in the park. <b>Location:</b> Kexborough Recreation Ground, Priestley Avenue, S75 5LG</p>

North Area Council  
Center East Derby Road, Old Town, S70 1HS

For information and Activity/Club consent forms please contact us on 01226 214165  
E: info@ymcabarnsley.org.uk 1 Blucher Street, Barnsley, S70 1AP  
BarnsleyYMCA @YMCA\_Barnsley www.ymcabarnsley.org.uk



# Youth Resilience Fund

## Street-Based Youth Work

Staff have maintained a weekly presence in and around Kexborough and Darton. Focusing on a core group of young people familiar to us for a while, the sessions and activities have taken place chiefly in and around Priestly Avenue Park and estate.

A mixed programme of activities all designed to challenge and promote confidence and life skills, often emphasising working together and teamwork.

Arts and crafts are always very well received, and on occasion, our activities have attracted interest from older community members, including parents. Our team always encourage wider participation and welcomes older residents' questions and conversation as it promotes front-line youth work and hopefully sets the young participants in a favourable light.

As reported previously, some of the core group have expressed an interest in developing their drama skills more but are reluctant to explore this outdoors, potentially in front of others who might tease them. With that in mind, we have had conversations with the group about moving back indoors in the near future as nights draw in and inclement weather comes with them. We are awaiting the go-ahead from Berneslai Homes (hopefully) once again to check the availability of the Priestly Avenue Centre.

Our team often patrol other areas and engages with young people less familiar to us. Nonetheless, they know who we are. We continue to remind those on the periphery of our core provision that we are here for all young people and to seek us out if they feel they need our input or guidance on issues pertinent to them.

We continue to see illicit drug paraphernalia in Uplands Avenue Park, discarded 'stash' bags, smoking materials, etc. We are happy to report that we haven't witnessed what was believed to be cannabis use in Priestly Avenue Park, where the majority of young people from the estate gather (as previously reported).

A busy summer with lots to celebrate in terms of young people transitioning through school and year groups successfully, though not without anxieties and fears for some. Our staff have supported several young people on an individual basis who have expressed their concerns.





## Case Study

# Youth Resilience Fund

## Street-Based Youth Work

## North Area Council Priorities



Opportunities for  
young people



### Learning Barnsley

- Children and young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement and attainment.

This case study demonstrates the value of the long-term relationship over several years with trusted youth workers and the impact of youth workers 'informal' support on the personal and social development of young people. Jill has been able to develop at her own pace in a safe, supportive environment and has been supported to develop that 'peer supporter' role and recognise the need to adapt her behaviour with younger peers. She is now using those communication, problem-solving and people skills in her jobs in the community.

Jill has been known to our team for approximately 3 years. Our team have witnessed her transition from school to college and now into the world of work.

Jill was always present in sessions as a younger woman but was often happy to sit and scroll through her phone or do her own thing. Over weeks and months, staff would make attempts to encourage a deeper engagement, but she always declined and appeared happy to sit and watch others.

Jill's demeanour, whilst perhaps a little unusual, didn't present staff with any major concerns. Our team had got to know her elder relations in and around the neighbourhood and were happy that she had lots of support.

Jill left school with few qualifications, and she reported that she couldn't wait to leave. She progressed to college, and on checking in with her frequently, it appeared that her college experience was almost mirroring that of her school.

Staff would discuss her options and challenges, but she appeared to withdraw and move the conversation on whenever staff members would tiptoe into the college talk. It was clear that Jill wasn't happy with her choice of subject at college, but it was off the table for discussion.

While Jill was still attending college, she would seek us out in the park and spend at least a few minutes with us as we engaged in activities with the younger ones. It was clear she was popular in her neighbourhood, and younger girls, in particular, were happy to be in her company and listen to her speak.



## Case Study

# Youth Resilience Fund

## Street-Based Youth Work

Jill often shared her experiences at school and reflected on her learning and the challenges she faced. Once, she offered 'advice' to a small group of younger girls: 'Don't end up like me. I messed about a lot, and now I'm on a college course I don't want to do, but it's my only option!' Staff would carefully manage these situations when Jill offered her experiences, as sometimes, she could forget who and how old her audience was.

Our team would offer support and guidance to Jill, and she would listen. Jill was unaware of her potential influence over some younger girls and that they held her in high regard and looked up to her. She discussed how, as an older young woman, she felt a certain responsibility towards her younger peers, stating on one occasion, 'I don't even vape in front of them now'.

In recent months, Jill left college and started full-time work. Our team keep in touch as she often walks through the park from one job to the next, and if she has time, she stops to chat. She works hard and often presents as 'shattered'.

Jill will reflect on conversations past: 'Can you remember when 'this' happened at school?' and 'Who'd have thought I'd be working in my community 2 years ago?' Jill reports that her work isn't something she wants to do for the rest of her life and acknowledges there are other opportunities out there for her that come with a career path more suited to her. However, for now, she enjoys the independence earning her own wage offers her.

Jill has lots to offer; it is a privilege being witness to her journey into adulthood, and it is our considered opinion that Jill, sometime down the road, would make a blooming good youth worker.

**\*The name of the young person in this case study has been changed**

### **\*YMCA & Ad Astra's contribution to public health outcomes**

#### **Improving the wider determinants of health**

#### **Objective 1: improvements against wider factors which affect health & wellbeing and health inequalities**

1.01ii Children in low-income families (all dependent children under 20)

1.03 Pupil Absence

1.04 First time entrants to the youth justice system

1.16 Utilising outdoor space for exercise and health reasons

#### **Health improvement**

#### **Objective 2: people are helped to live healthy lifestyles, make healthy choices and reduce health inequalities**

2.07 Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children (0 - 14 years)

2.08ii Percentage of children where there is cause for concern

1.04 Self-reporting well-being

# Community Grants Summary Performance Management Report

April 2023 - March 2024

Service	Priorities	Provider	Contract Value (per year)	Start Date	End Date	Reports
Connecting Communities Page 30	 Health and Wellbeing	 North Area Social Inclusion Service	£79,600.20	April 2021	March 2024	Quarter 2 Received
Connecting Communities Page 36	 Health and Wellbeing	 Connections Hub	£66,450.00	April 2021	March 2022	Quarter 4 Received
Connecting Communities Page 39	 Health and Wellbeing	 Reds Connect	£41,472.21	April 2021	March 2022	Quarter 4 Received

# Connecting Communities

**20**

New referrals

**6**

Volunteers

**5**

Existing Volunteers

**20/30** How this commission is making Barnsley the place of possibilities

### Healthy Barnsley

- People are safe and feel safe
- People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible
- We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough

### Learning Barnsley

- People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills including access to apprenticeships.
- People have access to early help and support

### Enabling Barnsley

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

## North Area Council Priorities



**Anti Poverty**



**Changing the Relationship**



**Health & Wellbeing**

- Satisfactory quarterly monitoring report and contract management meeting.
- Project milestones achieved
- Project outcome indicator targets met
- Overall project progress & achievements

### Project Aims

Age UK Barnsley are a local charity that works only for the benefit of the people of Barnsley Borough and our Resource Centre/Head Office is based within the Town Centre. We have been providing successful, innovative, area-wide services addressing social isolation in Barnsley for more than 5 years. Age UK Barnsley work with older people with a wide range of needs and health conditions including dementia, mental health problems, physical health conditions and limited mobility.

### Project Summary

This quarter, the North area has benefitted from 2 part-time Social Inclusion Officer (SIO) hours, which has enabled us to work with and provide support to 69 older people. 20 of these were new referrals which have been received this quarter. SIOs have worked with these people to develop personalised support and action plans to ensure that the support from the SIO meets their individual needs. Alongside the SIOs, there are also 7 volunteers, who have enabled some service users who are isolated but unable to get out to groups to have access to face-to-face or telephone befriending support regularly.

# Connecting Communities



## Achievements this quarter - April 2023 - June 2023

- When delivering one-to-one support, we have been able to signpost service users to services such as Age UK Barnsley's Information and Advice team, Romeros, Alzheimer's Society, fire service, Equipment & Adaptions, Mental Health Team, Memory Team, Butterflies, Adult Social Care, Digital champions, Age UK Barnsley's Shopping service, Handyman service and Gardening service, as well as the new Therapist, Hairdressing and Podiatry service launched at the Elizabeth Activity and daycare centre during last quarter. We have also supported 4 older people to register for Door-2-Door.
- This quarter, we have received referrals from the mental health team, social prescribers, information and advice, self-referrals, and family and specialist occupational therapy, such as the re-ablement team and South Yorkshire Police.
- The **Darton Wellbeing Group** has been attended each month by a Tai Chi instructor, which has enabled group members to participate in **chair-based Tai Chi**. We have also had a visit to the same group by Diane Arkwright for scams awareness, a fire safety session delivered by **South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue**, and 2 sessions of the focus group. This was to consult with our service users and collect and collate their opinions and views on what Age UK Barnsley should be doing, what we're doing right, and what we could improve upon.
- During this quarter, we also celebrated 2 very special birthdays within the **Darton Wellbeing group**. **Mrs S was 102 years young**, and **Mrs D was 79**, and we as a group celebrated with a birthday cake, cream tea, pass the parcel and a song.
- The **Eastfield Arms Lunch with Company group** will continue to run fortnightly but will henceforth be moving to Fridays to attract more members from the community, hopefully.
- The **new dementia café** has moved to our offices at Queens Road and has gone from strength to strength, welcoming new members and regularly hosting 6 members. For some members, **the Dementia Cafe has remained a lifeline** and a great way to socialise within a small group, where their anxiety about crowds isn't affected. The group are in the **planning stages of their Christmas musicals** and hopes to have a trip to see a pantomime soon.
- **Chatty Tuesdays @ The Ginnel** was launched in June last quarter, with 6 members at the initial meeting. Four members have made it a regular event, enjoying the home-cooked food and social inclusion in a warm and welcoming environment.



# Connecting Communities





# Connecting Communities



- Elizabeth Activity & Day Care Centre and the Ken Littlewood suite at the head office on Queens Road Barnsley continue to go from strength to strength. It provides a fun, stimulating environment for older people in need of a little extra support. We rely on wonderful volunteers to help run the centre and ensure everyone who comes has the time of their lives. We run a **free taster session** for the centre. Several North area social inclusion clients are in the process of taking up this invaluable offer.
- Several volunteer support group sessions have been held at **The Elizabeth Activity & Daycare Centre**, Age UK Barnsley, Queens Road. This was to bring together the wonderful volunteers within our organisation to consult them on our aims and strategy going forward. It has been an invaluable opportunity to showcase their great contributions to their role within Age UK Barnsley, and their feedback has been taken on board.
- Our North Area SIOs also attended the **St Helens Gala**, organised by St Helens Ward Alliance. On the day, we offered information on the various social groups in the North area. As well as information leaflets on all Age UK Barnsley services on offer. Thank you for inviting us to this wonderful family event. We look forward to supporting this for many years, hopefully going from strength to strength for the St Helens and the surrounding community.





## Case Study

### Summary

Mrs L.C referred to the digital project for lessons on using her mobile phone to send text messages.

**2030** How this commission is making Barnsley the place of possibilities

### Healthy Barnsley

- People are safe and feel safe
- People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible
- We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough

### Learning Barnsley

- People have access to early help and support

### Growing Barnsley

- People are supported to have safe, warm sustainable homes

### Enabling Barnsley

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

### Background

Mrs L.C was referred to Age Uk Barnsley by her daughter, for our Digital project. She was interested in having lessons in texting form her mobile phone.

### Who was involved

- Social Isolation Officer
- Daughter of Service -User
- Other Family member
- Next-door neighbour

### Outcomes of Project

SIO identified that the phone L.C. was using initially was unsuitable for her to message on. And requested that her daughter find a different model within their budget.

Also identified was that L.C. would find it more accessible to use a stylus, as she struggled with the keyboard due to reduced hand mobility from arthritis.

As we progressed through the lessons, we slowly changed the accessibility settings on the phone to suit L.C.'s particular eye condition and sight problems. I enabled a shortcut that would give a spoken response each time she plugs her phone in to charge so that she knows the charger is connected properly, rather than having to see the tiny battery icon in the top corner. I changed the screen settings to allow higher contrast between text and background and put a blue filter on, as L.C. cannot see the colour blue. I made the text size as large as possible, so together with a magnifying glass and adequate lighting, L.C. managed to learn how to open her phone, enter the passcode, and send a basic test message. This is no mean feat at 90+ years of age.

She is an inspiration to our older generation, who may struggle with new technologies and shows that the perseverance she has is paying off.

### Key Learning Points:

It is important to speak slowly and at volume when assisting a service user with hearing and sight issues.

Also, to have correct aids in place from the outset.

### Any unplanned outcomes (Good or Bad)

SIO had to wait for the daughter to source a SIM card for a new model phone, which added time to the overall project completion date.

### What could have been done better?

Upon initial meeting, discuss appropriate aids and phone model.

### Next Steps

To create a large print manual for L.C. to follow so that she can carry on practicing once the project comes to an end. This will be specific to her mobile phone model.



# Connecting Communities

**2030** How this commission is making Barnsley the place of possibilities

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- People are supported to have safe, warm sustainable homes

## Enabling Barnsley

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- Satisfactory quarterly monitoring report and contract management meeting.
- Project milestones achieved
- Project outcome indicator targets met
- Overall project progress & achievements

## Aim of the Connections Hubs

We wish to support individuals, especially those with long-term health conditions or disabilities, to recover from the longer-term impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic by re-connecting them with their community through the creation of a weekly hub providing opportunities for people to meet, share and learn.

Building on the proven successful Happy Café model (both nationally and in the north area), the hub will deliver a varied programme of activities and events and provide opportunities for increasing social capital through volunteering and establishing a concept of membership amongst participants.

## The gaps

Loneliness and isolation are not new challenges for disabled people, particularly those living in deprived areas.

Some will need support and assurance to overcome the seclusion they have experienced and to enable them to re-engage with the life they enjoyed pre-covid. Others will have reassessed their lives and taken the decision to improve their future lives. Some will have lost their job or volunteering roles and want to improve their opportunities by improving their skills.

The hub will offer the opportunity to meet like-minded people, share experiences and learn new or improve existing skills, thus developing a community spirit and sense of belonging.



# Connecting Communities

## Connection Hub Quarter 2

### Darton East

We have continued to hold the monthly spring/summers events at St John’s Church Hall. The number of members attending these events did fluctuate slightly due to member holidays, however each event was still well attended.

**23**

Members signed up to  
Connect Together

### Darton West

The weekly social group has continued at Priestley Avenue Community Centre, and the numbers are slowly beginning to increase, with 5 new members signing up and 4 of these returning regularly. One of the newest members suggested playing bingo as well as having a chit-chat. This went down brilliantly with the other members, and we now play a few games each week.

**16**

Members signed up to  
Connect Together

### St Helens

The fortnightly bingo continued at New Lodge Community Centre until the beginning of the summer holidays, as Ad Astra used the centre to provide children’s holiday clubs. We started back up in September. The second of the summer giveaways was held in New Lodge Community Centre, where we gave away gardening kits.

**50**

Members signed up to  
Connect Together

Our final summer giveaway was held at the Roundhouse Library. Although there was a slight hiccup on their part, everyone liked the venue. The venue and event attracted two new people to sign up, and the picnic hampers that the members received went down a storm.

### Old Town

We viewed and booked St Pauls Church Hall as a venue in this ward. The first event to be held here was the picnic giveaway. Despite contacting all the members who live in this ward only 3 people attended, one of which was a new sign up. We have booked this venue to use for our Autumn/ Winter events in October, December, and January.

**23**

Members signed up to  
Connect Together

**112**

People more engaged in  
activities

**0**

New Volunteers

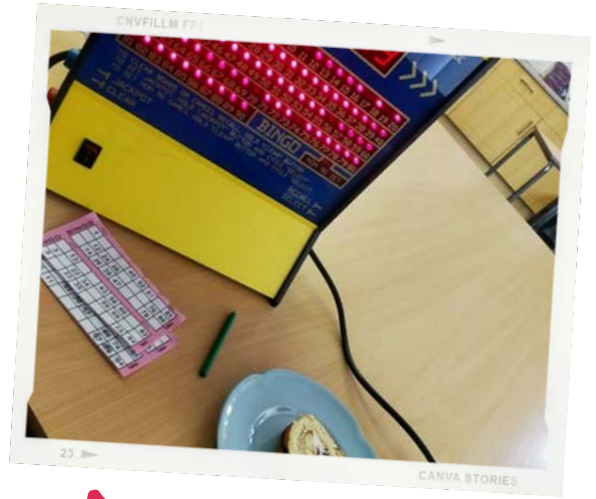
**5**

Existing Volunteers

# Connecting Communities



Aimi and Hannah preparing for the rush on our amazing picnic baskets!



Our bingo caller is all set up for our regular bingo session in Kexborough.



Jumble Sale in full swing!

## Jumble Sale

Throughout June, along with help from volunteers, we went out collecting donations for the Jumble Sale and Tombola, which was held in July.

Donations were plentiful, and on the day of the event, the DIAL staff turned up to help out. And despite the poor weather conditions, the day was a real success and raised over **£400**. This will be used for our day trip for members, which will be free.

## North Area Council

Darton East, Darton West, Old Town, St Helens  
**Priorities**



**Anti Poverty**



**Changing the Relationship**



**Health & Wellbeing**



**How this commission is making Barnsley the place of possibilities**

### Healthy Barnsley

- People are safe and feel safe
- People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible
- We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough

### Learning Barnsley

- People have access to early help and support

### Enabling Barnsley

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

### Before Connect Together

Mrs B is a widower in her 80s. Since the passing of her husband and giving up her driving license a couple of years ago, she has found herself becoming more and more isolated. She has several health conditions, including curvature of the spine, which impacts her mobility. She often feels that she is lonely and anxious and has lost a lot of her confidence.

### Intervention

Mrs B was referred to Connect Together by one of DIAL’s trustees. The trustee chaperoned Mrs B to her first session as she was extremely anxious about meeting the group for the first time. Once other members started arriving, Mrs B recognised a few of the faces, and her anxiety began to fade. During the sessions, Mrs B has talked openly with other group members and has often felt supported by them. An example was when she told the group that she had not used her mobility scooter for roughly two years and didn’t know if she felt confident enough to use it or if it still worked. As another group member also uses a mobility scooter, she advised Mrs B to get it serviced and reassured her that she would be fine once she bit the bullet. A few weeks later, Mrs B told us she had arranged to get it serviced and would take it on a day trip. She thanked the group for having confidence in her and showing their support.

Since joining the group, Mrs B has slowly grown in confidence and reduced her anxiety. She has become a valued member of the group and made new friends. She has shared her experiences and knowledge and gained knowledge. She really enjoys attending the group and interacting with others.

### Outcomes

- Feels less isolated
- More confident
- Made new friends
- More knowledgeable
- Shared knowledge

# Connecting Communities

## Programme Aims

- Beneficiaries have improved emotional and physical wellbeing
- Beneficiaries are connecting, interacting, and forging new friendships
- Beneficiaries are regularly participating in the activities in their local area
- Beneficiaries are adopting and maintaining more active lifestyles

- Satisfactory quarterly monitoring report and contract management meeting.
- Project milestones achieved
- Project outcome indicator targets met
- Overall project progress & achievements

## Performance Narrative Report

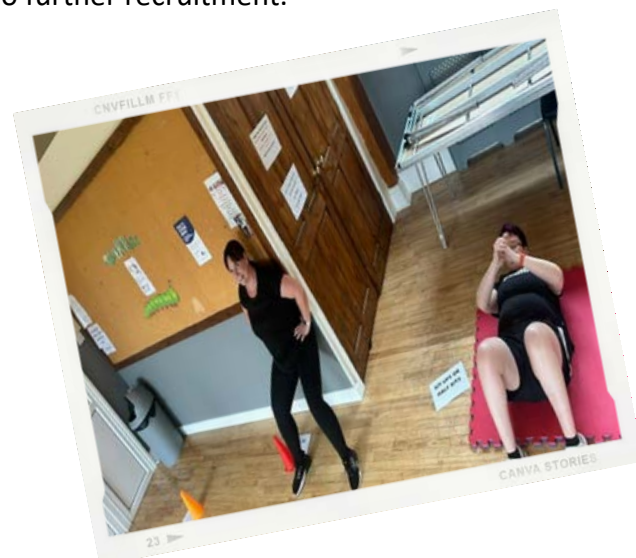
We continue to promote the project throughout our normal avenues. We are just in the process of revamping the original flyers to see if this will lead to an increase in numbers across all 3 strands as we enter the last year of the project.

Vikki continues her community engagement by promoting locally at the library, local businesses and schools.

We were looking at changing the exercise session away from Tuesday nights, but we have seen several new arrivals, so we have decided to leave it unchanged for the time being.

The other 2 sessions continue as normal, although we are looking for an alternative venue for the Team Talk session. New Lodge Community is set to close for refurbishment until the New Year, and our Engagement Officer, Vikki, is assessing other options in the area.

If you know of any suitable venues, then please let us know. We are hopeful that a change of venue may lead to further recruitment.







# Connecting Communities

## Reds Connect

**42**

Number of people adopting and maintaining healthy lifestyles

**1**

Number of volunteers supporting activities

### Team Talk

Vikki continues to offer various activities and games designed to help participants relax and feel safe enough to engage in conversations around their health and wellbeing. Vikki engages in a non-judgmental way and participants have expressed their gratitude for just having someone to talk to.

One of the activities is called in 59 seconds or less. Participants have to think of something that has made them angry, or sad. Participants have 59 seconds to turn the negative thoughts into positive ones. For example did the event help you..

Grow stronger.

Appreciate other aspects of your life more.

Become wiser.

Strengthen other relationships.

Communicate better.



**11**

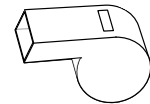
Total participants engaged

Participants are asked to be as honest as possible with their answers and the timescale lends itself to instinctive truthful answers that can then be discussed moving forward.

### The Extra Time Hub

We have had another new member join the group this quarter. The gentleman has recently lost his partner after caring for her for a while. He saw the group as an avenue to get himself back out and about, and he has fitted in well with the existing members.

They continue to enjoy the sessions, games, quizzes and refreshments while having social conversations. As mentioned in previous reports, they also meet away from this session to go out for lunch or coffee. This group also engages through WhatsApp. We have members who live alone, so this is a great medium to keep connected and ease any feelings of isolation.



**7**

Total participants engaged

**How the Area Council can support this provision?**

**Looking for a new venue is St Helen's**

### Exercise Session

This session now takes place at St Helens Church Laithes Lane Athersley on Tuesdays 5.45-6.45 pm.

As mentioned, we have seen an increase in numbers over the last few weeks. Vikki has set up a Whats App group which has worked well with plenty of engagement and encouragement on there. They continue to participate in various exercise sessions tailored so that everyone can work at a safe level whilst also increasing their general fitness levels.

**33**

Total participants engaged

