

July to
September
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

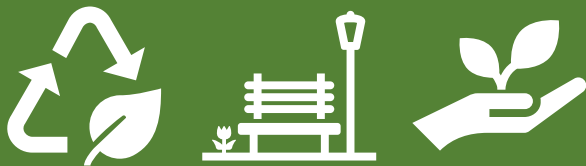
TWIGGS

Grounds Maintenance LTD



The good weather over the summer made for a busy period with a number of community events and good volunteer numbers and participation. Although it should be noted the volunteer numbers are down in comparison to the previous quarter and compared to Q2 in 2022-23 (384 volunteer hours this year vs 786 last year). But the work continues to not only have 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



144 volunteers worked with on events

23 new volunteers

384 volunteer hours at Twiggs events

272 rubbish bags filled

35 areas targeted in proactive and reactive work

4 fly tipping cases reported

Co-operative Street Goldthorpe

Throughout the three months support was given to volunteers to improve the area by clearing litter and addressing issues such as overgrown weeds and nettles. The combined efforts also included the Dearne Area Team, Councillors, Neighbourhood Services and GXO volunteers. The clean-up significantly improved the overall cleanliness and appearance of Goldthorpe's streets and alleys. The removal of overgrown vegetation and litter contributed to a safer environment for residents, reducing potential hazards. A total of 107 sacks of mixed waste were collected, consisting of roughly 50 sacks of general waste and 57 bags of green waste which included glass fragments.





There has been a big increase in the hours of befriender interactions in the last few months and the social clubs in Bolton and Thurnscoe continue to be well attended. Both social clubs enjoyed a summer trip to the coast and were able to invite older people from other local groups to join 46 people attended. The newly established Social Prescribers and other organisation continue to refer into the groups and befriending support. There was a very positive response to the promotional piece in Big Local's 10-year newsletter resulting in 6 new volunteer sign ups 2 have already been paired with an older neighbour and 3 more are just waiting for DBS clearance. This comes a good time as the Robert Ogden School Volunteers have now finished, there has been talks with Barnsley Youth Theatre about delivering workshops to the social clubs.

b:friend

- 190 isolating older neighbours supported
- 2488 hours of 1:1 befriender interactions
- 65 hours of staff visits/calls
- 96 volunteers
- 8 new volunteers
- 52 hours of group social activities



Lily



Lily joined the club around 4 years ago in 2019 by a friend who was also attending and thought it would do her good to get out. Lily didn't really go anywhere unless she was going with her family. When Lily joined the club she was very quiet and mainly spoke to the people at on either side of her. Her confidence has really grown over the last few years and now she will walk around the room to go and speak to people and initiate conversation. She is up for everything and anything at the club. Lily's family have said it's great see photos of her on social media enjoying herself. On joining the club Lily met a number of former primary school classmate. She has since been on several holiday with old friends and has enjoyed rekindling friendship.

Lily says: "I can't miss my group, it's the most important thing in my week!" Pictured with her friend Madge.



The ICT and Employability Support sessions are over three days a week with 50 people 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 many 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



52 people learning

22 learners recruited

16 learner achieving
qualifications

4 learners into employment

16 learners into further training

Darren



Darren came to his first session in May 2023, he had been referred by the DWP work coach long term health issues meaning he had to leave his long term employer as a warehouse/FLT driver. He needed a job that was less physical but hadn't been in an educational setting since school.

He was worried about his health issues and his Maths and English skills so Darren started with 1to1 sessions to build his confidence. Barnsley Council's Adult Skills and Community Learning also did an assessment with him and found it would be beneficial to attend courses to improve his skills.

His CV is now much improved and work will continue to improve his interview skills, this along with his qualifications and commitment should see him back in employment soon

He said: "Thanks for all the help Rory, I really appreciate it and also thanks to Josh. I am enjoying the courses and will continue to work on my nerves!"



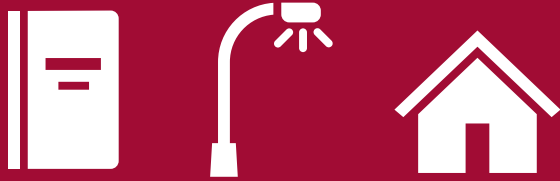
BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

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 12 new bins for properties in addition to the 30 new bins last quarter. Elizabeth St Goldthorpe has continued with further issues on the street including two garages attacked and subjected to arson attacks, effort are ongoing to liaise with landlords to have them demolished due to a health and safety risk. Elsewhere 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. During this quarter extra funds from

the Housing Support Grant enabled the supply of household cleaning items to low income families this will continue into the autumn/winter until funds are spent.

Housing Enforcement



179 reports made

22 properties improved

36 contacts with household waste on premises

130 fly tipping reported

39 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. 117 people received comprehensive telephone advice 69 received face to face advice. Since start of project each £1 spent has returned £24.25 into the Dearne.

DIAL

Barnsley

69 enquires made this quarter

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

£64,524 benefits claims supported this quarter



Supporting

Barnsley
20
30 Growing

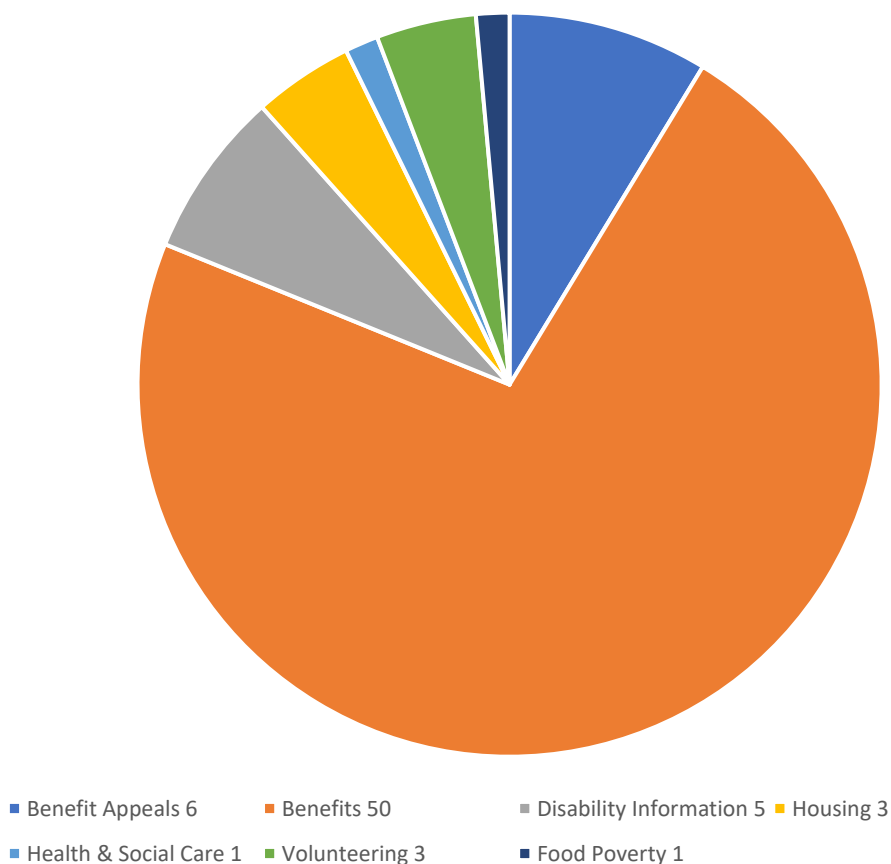
Barnsley
20
30 Healthy

Barnsley
20
30 Learning

Case study

Mr D is 65 years old with long standing mental health issues, diabetes and recent health scare. His friend had advised him to make a claim for Personal Independence Payment (PIP). He had received a PIP form for him to complete but found it difficult and too stressful. He wasn't going to bother completing the form but his friend advised him about DIAL's services. He came to see DIAL at our outreach at Goldthorpe. His initial application was refused but subsequent help and appeal resulted in him being awarded the standard rate of daily living and the standard rate on mobility, increasing his weekly income by £95. Mr D said: "I wasn't going to bother completing the PIP form as it was all very stressful for me. When they refused I did not think this was fair and was quite upset. I am very happy with the help DIAL gave me. They explained everything every step of the way and I was delighted when the DWP changed their mind"

DIAL issues dealt with



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

211 people attending

39 volunteers assisting (across 3 events)



Supporting



Case study

The sessions were a little quieter than usual although around 70 attendees for each of the three sessions wasn't too bad. This may be due to the summer with people having other plans the expectation is that things will become busier in the autumn. Attendees continued to enjoy the food and entertainment and have joined other Goldthorpe Development Group events such as 'Bounce into Summer' and trip to Bridlington. Adding to the sense of community and belonging. The core of volunteers continue to help with the addition of some new faces, it is hoped that those will return for as many session as possible.