

Project Performance Report

Q3 - 2023/24 (October - December 2023)

Support for raising costs of living

March 2024



BARNSELY
Metropolitan Borough Council

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Management
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April 2023 -
March 2024



North Area Council Priorities

20
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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
<p>Anti Poverty Outreach</p> <p>Page 8</p>	<p> Economic Regeneration</p> <p> Health and Wellbeing</p> <p> Anti Poverty</p>	<p></p> <p></p>	<p>£215,00</p> <p>2 years (+1 year)</p>	<p>1st July 2023</p>	<p>Contract Live</p> <p>Contract extended</p>
<p>Environmental Caretakers</p> <p>Page 12</p>	<p> Improving the environment</p> <p> Opportunities for young people</p> <p> Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p></p>	<p>£100,803</p> <p>Continuity</p> <p>£20,160.60</p>	<p>1st July 2023</p>	<p>Contract Live</p>
<p>Economic Regeneration</p>	<p> Improving the local economy</p>				<p>Current gap in provision</p>
<p>Housing and Cohesion Officer</p> <p>Page 14</p>	<p> Improving the environment</p> <p> Health and Wellbeing</p> <p> Economic Regeneration</p> <p> Anti Poverty</p> <p> Changing the Relationship</p>	<p></p>	<p>£35,500</p> <p>12 month contract</p>	<p>15th May 2023</p>	<p>New Officer Appointed 15/05/23</p>
<p>Youth Resilience</p> <p>Page 17</p>	<p> Improving the environment</p> <p> Opportunities for young people</p> <p> Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p></p>	<p>£90,000</p> <p>2 years (+1yr)</p>	<p>1st November 2020</p>	<p>Funding confirmed until 31/10/2024</p>

Barnsley 2030 Ambitions

Contributing to the following Corporate Priorities and Outcomes:

	Anti-Poverty Outreach	Environmental Caretaker	Connecting Communities	Housing & Cohesion Officer	Youth Resilience
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	✓	✓	✓		✓
Children and young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement and attainment					✓
People have access to early help and support	✓		✓	✓	✓
Growing Barnsley					
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
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		✓	✓	✓	✓
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
Enabling Barnsley 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 Q3 2023/24.



Environmental Caretaker



Contract started in July



Anti - Poverty



Fourth Contract Year 9 (Q1)

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

*Still awaiting data from two providers



Anti-Poverty Outreach



20
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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



£604,571 ↑

Overall benefit gain (in £)

£6,709 ↓

Amount of debt managed

£26 ↑

Return on investment (for every pound spent)

753

Number of clients this quarter

89%

Local people feel more able to manage their own affairs

82%

Local residents experienced improved health and wellbeing

Extract from performance report

In the period 1st October to 31st December 2023, advisers from both organisations have provided information and advice to 753 client contacts, supported clients to claim £604,571 of welfare benefits and managed £6,709 of debt. Included in this figure, CAB has provided fuel and food vouchers to a total of £1,059 for 17 clients an average of £62.

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

Of the 753 client contacts this quarter, 190 have required help with form filling – a total of 25% of the clients, the majority of which are related to the benefits system. DIAL forms are completed 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 someone who was wrongly fined by a parking company, appealed the fine with the help of CAB and got it cancelled

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

When Colin* travelled to another town on business, he parked in a multi-storey car park for an overnight stay. The hotel told him their parking was on a different level, so he immediately moved his car, paid for overnight parking and kept the receipt. He was soon very glad that he had...

A few days later, he received a letter from the company that owned the car park, with a £50.00 fine. Colin appealed it, sending evidence of payment, but much to his annoyance, he received another letter saying that it was too late to appeal and raising the fine to £100.00! Again, he wrote to them but received no response. That was when he decided to contact Citizens Advice Barnsley to ask what he could do.

The adviser explained that it was probably best not to pay at this point. Fortunately, the company belonged to a professional regulatory organisation which could decide whether the fine must be paid or whether it should be cancelled. Colin needed to write formally to the parking company again, and then progress his appeal to their professional regulatory body if he needed to.

The adviser forwarded all of the information to Colin by email, and outlined the pros and cons of each course of action, up to and including going to court. Colin let the adviser know that he had decided to appeal through the British Parking Association.

The next time the adviser heard from Colin, it was to say that the BPA had addressed his case with the parking company with his permission and that subsequently, he had heard from the company, rescinding the fine! He was delighted by this and thanked Citizens Advice Barnsley for their guidance and support.

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



Before DIAL

Mr and Mrs W are a couple in their 70's. They both have multiple health conditions and rely a lot on their children who live locally for care. Their son and daughter can come around for 3 days a week due to work commitments to do their laundry, cook pre-prepared meals and help them to wash and bathe. The rest of the time they try to get by the best that they can. Since Covid, they have been struggling financially as they only have their state pensions to live on. This has had a marked effect on their mental well-being as the things that they used to enjoy doing such as going on trips with their family have been put on hold as they struggle to pay their bills and eat.

Advice provided by DIAL

Mr and Mrs W rang the DIAL advice line for a benefits check. It was apparent given the nature of their disabilities that they both should be claiming a disability benefit. Furthermore, as DIAL checked their total weekly income this showed that they were well below the income threshold as they were eligible to claim Pension Credit. DIAL provided details on how to get an Attendance Allowance form and advised to come to a North Area outreach for assistance to complete the forms. Also, they were advised to get supporting medical evidence to help with their claims. They attended a North Area outreach on 3 occasions at which DIAL helped to complete the Attendance allowance forms and also did an online claim for Pension Credit. DIAL also provided contact details for Barnsley equipment and adaptations for help with getting extra equipment that would make it easier to cope with their daily living activities when their children are not able to come around.

After DIAL

Both claims for Attendance allowance were successful. Mr and Mrs W were both awarded the high rate of £101.75 each. The claim for pension credit was also successful and Mr and Mrs P are now in receipt of a couple's severe disability premium of £152.80 extra a week. They now have an extra £356.30 a week to live on. This has almost doubled their weekly income. This has had a massive effect on their quality of life. They can buy food that they have denied themselves due to lack of income and feel less of a burden to their family as they can pay their way when they go out on trips. They have no fears about putting the heating on as was the case previously as they were experiencing fuel poverty. They also have grab rails at the side of the toilet fitted.

Provider



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

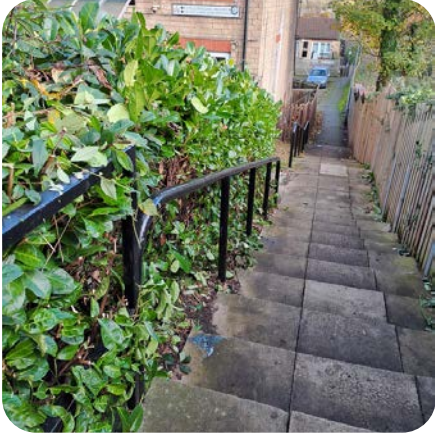
Objective 2: people are helped to live healthy lifestyles, make healthy choices and reduce health inequalities

2.13 Proportion of physically active and inactive adults

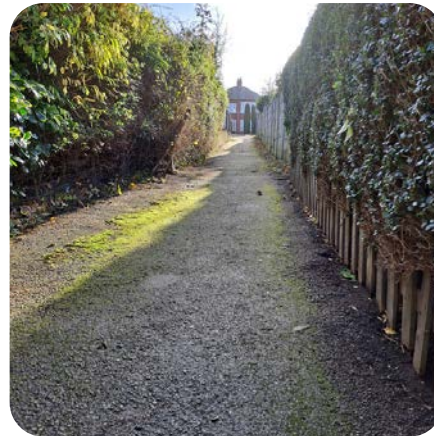
2.13 Self-reported wellbeing

Environmental Caretaker

Honeywell Day of Action



Wilthorpe Avenue



Kingsway - Croft Drive



Wingfield Road



Housing and Cohesion Officer

Provider



20
30

How this commission is making Barnsley the place of possibilities

Healthy Barnsley

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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

Operation 'Drift' - Old Town

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.



Improving the
local environment



Anti Poverty

Priorities

Growing Barnsley

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

Learning Barnsley

- ✓ People have access to early help and support

What was done?

Operation 'Drift' was planned and organised by me, in collaboration with the North Area LPT Sergeant. The operation took place in the Honeywell area between Bridge Street and Barnabas Walk. Focusing on a broad range of issues and to achieve meaningful results, I recruited the services of external stakeholders and colleagues from internal departments. The operation was conducted over 2 days in November and produced the following results:

- ✓ **27 private rental properties** on Honeywell Street and Bridge Street were visited. This resulted in identifying **3 tenants reporting damp/mould issues** in their homes. **2 tenants agreed to house inspections** that have been carried out. Several hazards were identified, and notices have been served on Letting Agents. I have also provided support from the **Housing Support Grant** to one of the tenants, a single mother of 2 young children who is in **fuel poverty**. Housing Officers and the Community Payback Team were on litter-picking duties, whilst 2 members from the Enforcement Team **issued 4 FPNs** for littering offences.
- ✓ **Berneslai Homes** deployed their Community Engagement Team to canvas residents regarding their concerns and issues. **The Tenants First Team** visited tenants regarding support needs, including hardship funds assistance. The **ASB Team** addressed concerns with ASB issues. **SYP conducted 12 stop searches** and seized cannabis leading to **3 individuals** being dealt with by the **RJ process**. Several intelligence reports were generated regarding drug dealing and **speed checks** captured data from **132 vehicles**.
- ✓ **Age UK** teamed up with the local Community development Officer to leaflet drop and raise awareness of the **Lunch Club** at the Community Centre and the forthcoming **'Food Pantry'** initiative at the Community Centre, providing residents with an opportunity to purchase quality food at greatly reduced prices.
- ✓ The **Environmental Caretaker Team** produced very tangible results cutting back and tidying bushes/shrubs and by doing so, they exposed a handrail on the steps that run at the side of the estate. An elderly female resident commented that it was now possible for her to use the steps due to the handrail being accessible to her.
- ✓ **Neighbourhood Services** collected several truckloads of garden waste and fly-tipped waste. They also cleared waste left by rough sleepers in a gated area beneath Barnabas Walk. Residents commented that youths had been climbing into this area which highlighted a health/hygiene hazard. A dozen syringes were found amongst the waste that was cleared.

2030

How this commission is making Barnsley the place of possibilities

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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.

144

100

57

67

Number of unique individuals engaged

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

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

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



Youth Resilience Fund

Holiday Provision

Due to our move in October from New Lodge Community Centre to The Roundhouse Library, we did no daytime holiday provision. We did however have a great Halloween Party for the young people

Youth Club

We thought this may be a quiet term with us moving from centre-based to detached for our youth club. BUT no even on the coldest of nights the young people have turned out onto the MUGA and New Lodge Park area to meet with staff – the young people have turned up in shorts and PJs to meet with us – only to be turned around and sent home to get some layers on – It's been a great second half of the term and to the surprise of the staff all have enjoyed. Our numbers have reduced slightly but, on some nights, we have had almost 20 young people stood having hot chocolate and an assortment of treats. Local parents have been really supportive of the session providing buns and pizza and torches.

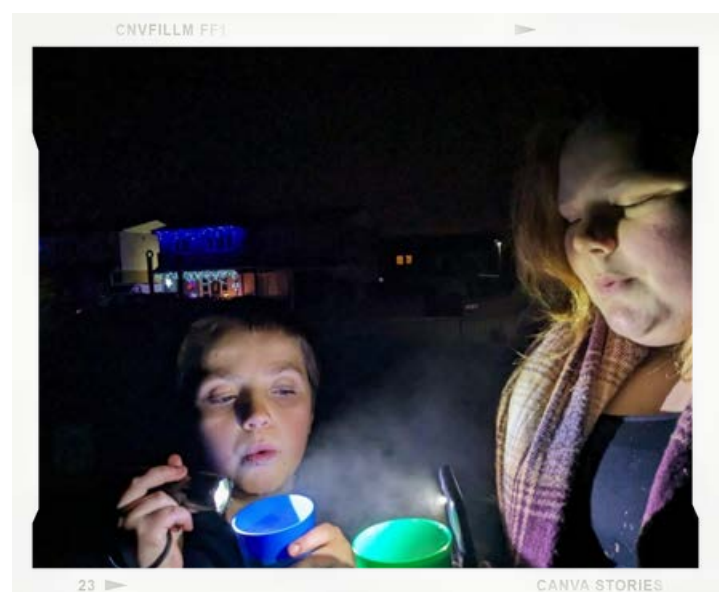
Each week the staff meet with the young people in the park/MUGA area for hot chocolate and refreshments and then the majority all have a walk around the area, stopping occasionally and talking to other young people or parents/carers.

Outwood Academy Carlton

Our work in Carlton with Year 7 pupils has gone well again this term – we have really good communication with the Safe Guarding lead and Head of Year 7 and report back every session with the DSGL

Topics covered in this period:

- ✓ Confidentiality
- ✓ The Care system and relationships with Social Workers
- ✓ Emotions and what triggers these
- ✓ Responsibilities of your actions and consequences
- ✓ Ambitions
- ✓ Positive Healthy Relationships
- ✓ Parents Drug Use – being moved out of the family home to live with grandparents
- ✓ Estranged families
- ✓ Young Peoples Mental Health
- ✓ Sleep techniques
- ✓ Homework support
- ✓ How do you build resilience?



Street-based youth work





Youth Resilience Fund

Additional Outcomes

- We still deliver food parcels to parents from all three of the schools on a weekly basis – our capacity is 40 per week
- We have regular parent volunteers from Laithes Primary
- We've also worked in partnership with our Thursday Morning Community Cafes with Dial – BMBC SEND Parent Partnership which supports many parents in the area

As part of Safeguarding Week, Carlton Outwood asked if we would do a lunchtime drop-in for young people.

We spoke to 43 different young people in Year 7

The topics we covered with the Y7 pupils were as follows

- Feeling overwhelmed with secondary school
- ADHD – the impact it has on learning and how school lack information
- What makes you 'uncomfortable' in school and out of school
- Friendship groups
- Pupils told us it was great having someone to talk to

Due to our centre being refurbished, we couldn't have the usual Christmas Tree Light switch on and Christmas Fair

We did however manage to find a little bit of funding to take two of our groups out for a Christmas Treat – One group chose to go to Market Kitchen for a meal and the other group chose to go 10 Pin Bowling

For our younger members, we got some Literacy support funding and purchased £100 worth of books which we gave our Tinky's and Afterschool clubs as part of their Christmas gift alongside the Selection Boxes from the Ward Alliance



Youth Resilience Fund

75

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

29

Number of new unique individuals engaged

0

Number of peer support sessions delivered

2

Number of school holiday sessions delivered

1

Number of family members engaged in the project

3

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.

“Thanks ever so much for providing the children with a great service, they all love it.”

**Summer Lane Primary – Katie Jepson,
Parent Support Advisor & Deputy DSL**



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.

“I have been coming to Darton's YMCA after school club since Yr7, I have enjoyed being a part of club and learning new skills, I find YMCA a safe space and I am free to express myself how I want to.”

Darton ASC Participant -Anonymised



Youth Resilience Fund

Supporting



Kexborough
Primary



Wellgate
Primary



Delta Academy
Darton



Summer Lane
Primary

School Delivery

Over the past quarter, we have seen an increase in young people who have been consistently accessing after-school clubs, transition clubs and youth clubs. We have seen young people who have previously attended the Primary school YMCA sessions join the Darton ASC, highlighting the importance of continued support for young people as they transition into secondary school and beyond. The Youth Workers continue to work on ensuring the sessions are a safe space where the young people feel like they belong and have opportunities to be themselves and learn new skills such as leadership, teamwork, confidence, resilience and emotional well-being. We deliver a range of different sessions from arts and crafts activities, group work activities, issue-based discussions and specific themed activities. These positive and empowering activities offered to the young people this quarter have included:

Transition Support: Youth workers have started to work with Yr6 students about their transition into secondary school in the summer offering support and guidance about what the young people can expect when they make the move up to Yr7 in September. Exploring opportunities, hopes, worries, fears and challenges, reflecting on skills developed and building positivity for the move to Y7.

National Fitness Day – Highlighting the importance of keeping active and the benefits for young people’s mental health and wellbeing. Young people were supported to lead their favourite active games allowing them to develop leadership skills and improve confidence when speaking to others. Discussions and activities to develop knowledge and understanding around food, nutrition, calories and eating in moderation. Increasing knowledge and understanding about what they are putting into their bodies and identifying healthier alternatives where appropriate.

Positive smile day – Focused on encouraging young people to think about what makes them smile and the impact of a smile. Conversations about nice things they have done with other people that have led to someone smiling, what makes them smile giving the young people a chance to reflect and become more self-aware about things that make them happy or unhappy. Discussion about tools and techniques to prioritise things that make them smile.

Recycle week – A themed week of activities highlighting the importance of recycling as it is a key issue for young people. Upcycling arts and crafts and related discussion to encourage young to people to think about how objects that you would normally throw away can be upcycled and reused.



Youth Resilience Fund

Supporting



Kexborough
Primary



Wellgate
Primary



Delta Academy
Darton



Summer Lane
Primary

School Delivery

Anti-Bullying Week - A themed week of activities and discussions focussed on the importance of being kind and celebrating our uniqueness. In Darton Academy young people designed and decorated socks for National Odd Sock Day. While we were making these we spoke about what everyone can do to help others who are going through bullying. The young people spoke about offering support for their peers giving them the chance to talk, with information where they access support if they are experiencing bullying.

In primary schools' young people had discussions about kind and trash phrases. The young people gave examples of when they could use kind phrases and spoke about alternative things you can say instead of using "trash" statements from the list. Doing this activity has helped the young people to have an understanding of how certain words/phrases can impact other people's lives.

During this quarter YMCA Barnsley has been continuing the work with the participants looking at Equality Diversity and Inclusion policies and procedures. The feedback YMCA received from the participants indicated that they continue to feel nurtured and included within the sessions. The participants spoke about the sessions being a safe space for them and how they can be themselves without the fear of judgement from the youth workers or other young people.

Ongoing projects throughout Quarter 3 included:

- **HSG funded Self Care Packs** – The 3rd distribution of the year of packs of personal care items. We know that December and January are months in which many families struggle with the extra financial strain of Christmas.
- **YMCA Residential Steering Group** – Planning for cross-project residential activities in summer 2024 with membership from all of our secondary school sessions. The steering group will ensure that the project is young person-led and coproduced in all aspects from decisions about venues and activities to leading the fundraising.
- **Chilypep Homefest annual event** – Young people represented the YMCA at the event with the opportunity to talk to other young people and professionals. A chance conversation with a young person led to the project being able to identify and offer additional support to a family who had recently moved to the Women and Children's Refuge, particularly with access to activities for the whole family and items to enhance their Christmas experience.



Youth Resilience Fund

Supporting



Kexborough Primary



Wellgate Primary



Delta Academy Darton



Summer Lane Primary

Holiday Provision

During this quarter the project delivered one week of holiday provision during the October half-term break with activities delivered in response to the needs and wants of the participants. This included:

- Halloween-themed detached session at Wilthorpe Park. Originally planned to support an event in the park but unfortunately, this was not able to happen. However as this was an opportunity to engage with young people in a different location, we continued with delivering a successful, additional outreach session with themed activities and games.
- A whole project Halloween scavenger hunt at YMCA Barnsley, creating opportunities for young people to meet with other young people whom they hadn't met before and work together in teams.
- Team games at Kexborough focussed on working together and developing transferrable skills such as teamwork, effective communication and listening.
- Stop Frame Animation Workshop requested by young people (postponed until February due to unforeseen circumstances as the provider had to cancel)

Plans for the next quarter include:

- Fundraising with the steering group for the upcoming residential activities
- February Half-term Delivery
- Project engagement with Area Council Members as part of their review.
- YMCA LUF Project Coproduction
- Annual Participant Survey
- Project Peer supporters working alongside the YMCA Barnsley Youth Board.

“I like to come to the YMCA Afterschool club because we do lots after different activities and each week we do something different making it exciting plus I get to stay with my friends. The activities I like was decorating biscuits and this (Christmas stuff) I also liked the games with the parachute because they were fun”

Kieran (Kexborough ASC)

“Since joining YMCA Kieran has loved coming, he can't wait for Thursdays when its afterschool club. When he comes out of YMCA I look forward to Kieran telling me what he has been up to because he never tell/talks to me about what he has been up to at school but he is happy to tell me about what he has been up to a YMCA and nice to hear.”

Kieran's Mum (Kexborough ASC)



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.

Our team meet regularly with a core group of mixed-age young people usually at Priestly Avenue. We deliver a mixed programme of street-based team games, issued-based workshops and activities to promote confidence and life skills and a broader understanding of community and identity and where young people feel they fit within their community.

We are now regularly using the Berneslai Homes bungalow on Priestly Avenue as a venue. This enables us to maintain relationships and project delivery with the core group of young people as cold dark streets don't always lend themselves to targeted project work.

We value the opportunity to use this space, particularly as it enables us to also foster some intergenerational and community relationships with the local community. After a wonderful summer and autumn building relationships across generations within the community, we are hopeful this energy and focus will be maintained. The young people have expressed a wish to make and deliver gifts for older residents in the community. Pot plants, soft pot making, and Easter decorations are all ideas thrown into the hat for consideration for activities in early 2024.

The core group are also keen to explore issues pertinent to them via drama and other creative means. Drama has proven to be a fantastic vehicle for learning previously with this group

The team regularly include Longfields adjoining estates, the Kexborough streets and green spaces as part of the regular route engaging with young people both new and those known to us, checking in with them, maintaining relationships and ensuring they are aware of services available to them. As nights have become darker and colder, fewer people are out on the streets other than dog walkers and the usual small groups of young people. Our team have reported no evidence of anti-social behaviour in recent weeks which often is expected come darker nights.

In recent weeks, our team have engaged with a small group of young men who have built a ramp course in Uplands Avenue Park, one of them was known to us. Whilst the young men appear quite focussed and keen to build their course, staff have engaged them in discussions about responsibility to others and safety, reminding them that they ought not to dig and leave obstacles for other park users to trip over etc. The young men were very receptive and heeded our team's cautionary words. An early relationship but one we hope to build on and carry forward.



Case Study

After Schools Project

Youth Resilience Fund

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 highlights the role of the youth worker in supporting young people to develop their social and emotional skills and build networks of friends and relationships with trusted youth workers in a safe, supportive environment. Positively impacting their personal and social development in the areas of core self, belonging, learning and contributing to building positive well-being and emotional resilience.

Context

Lilly has regularly attended the Darton Academy ASC for over a year, and she generally stays within her friendship group. The youth workers noted that Lilly only attended the ASC when her friends were attending and generally stayed within her friendship group. Outside of the ASC Lilly struggles within the school and has stated multiple times about struggles she has with peers in her class, the youth workers have provided support around this and with Lilly's consent have discussed it with the school. Since Lilly started coming to ASC the youth workers have been working with her to build her confidence and self-esteem.

Intervention/Process

When Lilly started coming to the ASC she was shy and would not engage with the youth workers, she would enter the room sit with her friends and complete the activity without engaging with people outside of her friendship group. The Youth Workers spent time with her and her group making sure that they were trying to build a relationship with Lilly. Over time Lilly became more open with the Youth Workers and started to talk more about her life. One thing the Youth Workers found out about Lilly was that she enjoyed origami. To help build the relationship between Lilly and the youth workers asked her if she could teach the Youth Workers her favourite origami which she agreed to do.

Lilly initially demonstrated how to make origami butterflies to the youth workers which then sparked an interest in other young people in the session who then asked if Lilly could teach them as well. Lilly was hesitant to teach others however the youth workers encouraged her to show her peers and offered support while she was doing it. Lilly taught her peers how to make the butterfly origami. After she had shown her peers how to make them the youth workers asked her how she felt, Lilly said, "Happy that I was able to show people how to make them." She then asked if we could do a competition to make and decorate butterflies to see who could make the best one. This was then suggested to the wider group and was facilitated the following week. The youth workers asked if she wanted to judge the competition and take a lead on it. Lilly said that she didn't want to as she wanted to make her own butterfly but thanked the Youth worker for offering.



Case Study

Street-Based Youth Work

Youth Resilience Fund

Impact of the Work with the Individual

Lily was encouraged to reflect on this experience and said that she enjoyed teaching people a new skill and making a challenge out of origami.

In the sessions that followed, there was a clear difference in Lilly’s demeanour, she engaged more in the sessions with people outside of her friendship group and was happy to speak to the youth workers continuing to share more about her personal life. Lilly has started to offer suggestions within the sessions from different crafts she has seen at home to different games at the end of each session.

When Lily started coming to the session she would only speak with her close friends, however now she will speak to different people throughout the session and wants to try different activities. Lilly will occasionally come to the sessions and not want to partake in the activity if something is bothering her, but she does choose to sit and speak to youth workers about what is on her mind.

What’s Next?

Over the next year, the youth workers will continue to provide support as needed and encourage Lilly to take a leadership role in activities which she asks to do, which will help to improve Lilly’s self-esteem and confidence when talking to others, particularly new people. The youth workers will offer support to Lilly for the next steps in her life after leaving the Darton ASC. A part of that support will be offering her other options to continue her journey with the YMCA via different youth clubs and other provisions she would be able to attend.

***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 32	 Health and Wellbeing	 North Area Social Inclusion Service	£79,600.20	April 2021	March 2024	Quarter 2 Received
Connecting Communities Page 39	 Health and Wellbeing	 Connections Hub	£66,450.00	April 2021	March 2022	Quarter 4 Received
Connecting Communities Page 43	 Health and Wellbeing	 Reds Connect	£41,472.21	April 2021	March 2022	Quarter 4 Received

Connecting Communities

15

New referrals

8

Volunteers

5

Existing Volunteers

2030 How this commission is making Barnsley the place of possibilities

North Area Council Priorities

- 

Anti Poverty
- 

Changing the Relationship
- 

Health & Wellbeing

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

- 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 continued to benefit from its two part-time Inclusion Project Officers; Joy and Emma, who have worked with and provided support to 48 individual older people with one-to-one regular support. 15 of these one-to-ones were for newly referred clients received this quarter.

Project Officers have worked with these people to develop personalised support and action plans, to ensure that the support from the team meets their individual needs. Alongside our Project Officers, there are also volunteers, who are enabling some service users who are isolated but unable to get out to groups, to have access to face-to-face and telephone befriending support regularly.

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, Adult Skills & Community Learning, U3A, Library Services including home drop off and audiobooks, Age UK Barnsley's Shopping service, Handyman service and Gardening service, Therapist, Hairdressing and Podiatry services. We have also supported 2 older people in registering for the Door-2-Door transport offer.
- This quarter we have received referrals from the mental health team, social prescribers, information and advice, self-referrals, family and specialist occupational therapy such as the reablement team, South Yorkshire police and Bereavement services.
- **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 Co-op Estate planning services, to inform group members of their legal rights in later life. Members were informed before the session that other providers were available for this service and that there was no obligation to use/purchase any services with co-op. It was simply an information session. Group members reported that they enjoyed the talk, and took some valued points away with them.
- During this quarter we also celebrated **3 very special birthdays** within the Darton Wellbeing group. 2 of our members celebrated their 70th birthdays and one celebrated their 80th. We as a group celebrated with a birthday cake, cream tea, pass the parcel and a song.
- **The Eastfield Arms Lunch** with Company group moved to Fridays to attract more members from the community. We offer great thanks to the Eastfield arms, as they offered to fund a free tea/coffee for age UK group members. This group has seen 21 members attend, with initial interest looking very positive.
- **The Dementia café** now has a regular attendance of 10 members. For some, this has remained a lifeline and a great way to socialise within a small group, where their anxiety of crowds isn't affected. The group enjoyed selecting their favourite Christmas songs, reminiscing about their favourite Christmas gifts, and memories they have of Christmas past with their respective families. They particularly liked playing bells in time to 'Jingle Bells' The group also celebrated Christmas with a Christmas dinner on the last session of the year, served in our day provision at the Elisabeth Activity & Day Care centre. Some of the group also attended Barnsley Singers Christmas Concert at Emanuel Church on Saturday 2nd December. A great time was had by all, and members said they would love to make this a new tradition for the group.
- **Chatty Tuesdays @ The Ginnel** continued to be attended by a small number, but this dwindled, so we took the difficult decision to cease this group in favour of a funded lunch club at Alder Close. The last session of the Ginnel lunch club was on 28th November 2023

Connecting Communities

Kexbrough Breakfast Club and Chair Based Exercise funded by BOPPA



Warm Event at Mapplewell Village Hall



Christmas Lunch at The Ginnel with The Darton Wellness Group



- **Kexbrough Brunch Club** is a new group this quarter, which started on 19th October within Kexbrough social club. This group has provided free breakfast to 7 members fortnightly. We are hoping this will grow with time. We also commenced chair-based exercise provided by funding through The BOPPA, which the members thoroughly enjoy. Each week we offer free hot beverages, with either toast or crumpets, with a game of bingo to round off the session. The exercise that BOPPA provides is delivered in a fun and enjoyable way, always including a moderately competitive game. The members enjoy competing in teams against each other and have formed a close bond of friendship together.
- **Alder Close Lunch Club** is another new group for this quarter, offering free hot lunch to residents in the North Area. It provides a nutritious meal to older adults in the community who may be at risk of malnutrition or social isolation. The project is designed to promote health and wellbeing by providing a space for social interaction and the opportunity to meet new people. Though this group is in its infancy, we have seen 4 group members now regularly attending, and with further promotion aim for this to grow in the new year.
- **Roundhouse Breakfast Club** started in this quarter. Initial reaction was slow, however with some further advertising we saw 3 people regularly attending the session. In the new year this group will also incorporate MCST (Maintenance Cognitive Stimulation Therapy) aimed at those living with Dementia or early stage memory problems. The aim of Maintenance Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (MCST) at Age UK Barnsley is to help older adults maintain their cognitive abilities and prevent or delay cognitive decline. Through regular MCST sessions, participants engage in stimulating and enjoyable activities designed to challenge their thinking, memory, and problem-solving skills. The program also provides a social opportunity for participants to connect with others and reduce feelings of isolation. Overall, MCST aims to improve quality of life and promote healthy aging for older adults.
- **Elizabeth Activity & Daycare centre** and the Ken Littlewood suite at Queens Road, Barnsley continues 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 with the running of the centre and ensuring that 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. At the Elizabeth Activity & Care Centre, we provide a safe and engaging environment for seniors to socialise, participate in activities, and receive personalised care. Our location allows for easy access and convenience for both our clients and their families. Our dedicated staff are committed to enhancing the quality of life for our clients through a range of services and programs tailored to their unique needs and interests. The venue will also have the added value of an outdoor space and gardening activity option from Spring 2024 with thanks to funding from B&Q.

- Several volunteer support group sessions have been held at The Elizabeth Activity & Care Centre. 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 Project Officers attended a winter warm event at Mapplewell Village Hall aimed at providing warmth and comfort during the cold winter months. This event included activities such as providing warm clothing and blankets to those in need, information on community gatherings with hot beverages and food available, also offering shelter to those without a warm place to stay. The goal is to promote a sense of togetherness and support within the community, while also helping those who may be struggling during the winter season. Lots of information was available on the day, with stalls from Barnsley Stop Smoking services, Cryo Central Pain Management, Berneslai Homes, Impact, Barnsley U3A, Macmillan, Healthwatch, How's Thi Ticker, Adult Skills & Community Learning, IAPT, Barnsley Wellbeing Walks, and Reds Connect. At our Age UK Barnsley Stall, we offered informational leaflets on all the services we have currently. Including Information and Advice, Handyperson, Gardener, Affordable Shopper, Social Inclusion, Elizabeth Activity and Care Centre, as well as a list of all Age UK Barnsley social groups and BOPPAA activities across the borough.
- Age UK Barnsley recently held its annual Christmas party, which was a huge success. The event was well-attended by clients across our Social Inclusion projects, who enjoyed a variety of festive activities and entertainment. Social Inclusion team members organised the event and ensured that everyone had a great time. The party was a wonderful opportunity for people to come together and celebrate the holiday season. Age UK Barnsley is committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for older adults, and the Christmas party was a perfect example of this and also provided every individual with a Christmas gift to open on the big day.



Service Users Christmas Party at
The Holiday Inn, Dodworth

Connecting Communities



Darton Wellness
Birthday Celebrations



Darton wellness Co-op Estate
planning talk

Case Study

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

Connecting Communities

Background:

MW lives alone, does not drive, therefore experiences some loneliness due to transport issues. She was referred to us in the hopes that she would find friends in her area, through our social groups.

Summary

MW is a volunteer for Age UK Barnsley. Having been referred to our Inclusion team due to her increased social isolation after retirement. An experienced nurse she missed the social daily interactions and there was a decline in her own mental health and wellbeing.

We often use the tactic of recommending becoming a Volunteer to our clients that have a particular ability to communicate well as this feels less 'needy' than suggesting to attend groups etc as a client.

After talking through the options, MW decided to go ahead and start face to face befriending. This is when a volunteer, after rigorous checks, goes into a person's home for a period each week, and becomes a friend to chat and socialise with. MW has become a constant companion to her 'friend' and even visited her whilst in respite across town. MW cherishes the time she spends with her now friend, and regularly feeds back to our team on what they have chatted about. She feels uplifted by their conversation and time together and tells us that her friend says the same.

MW now also volunteers at a group session for at least 2 hours per week. She is an invaluable member of the North area team and is well liked among all the groups.

Key Learning Points:

Where clients have a higher capacity to contribute it is appropriate to consider asking them to volunteer rather than become a Service User. Whilst the outcome still achieves the end goal for the individual it can be a more welcome opportunity to help others than to consider being a person in need.

Who was involved

- Social Inclusion Team
- Volunteer Co-ordinator
- Group members
- service user whom MW befriends weekly

Any unplanned outcomes (Good or Bad)

MW often tells us that her life has completely changes since volunteering with Age UK Barnsley, and that she feels like she has a purpose in her life again.

Outcomes of Project

The team at AUKB can play a vital role when planning and considering each individuals need. They help to ensure that older people in the community feel valued, respected, and included. By organising social groups and events, these officers help combat social isolation and loneliness, which has a negative impact on mental health and wellbeing. They also refer to our Information and Advice team to offer practical support and advice on a range of issues, such as housing, benefits, and healthcare. Overall, social inclusion officers are an important resource for older people in Barnsley, helping them to stay connected and engaged with their community. This case study is a perfect example of how a person's life can be changed for the better.

Next Steps

MW to continue to volunteer as and when she is available, as it makes such a difference to her life.



Connecting Communities

2030 How this commission is making Barnsley the place of possibilities

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- 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 3

Darton East

We have continued to hold the autumn/winter events at St John's Church Hall. The Christmas gift swap and crafts event saw new sign-ups.

Together at the Table has been launched in this area, aimed at providing breakfasts. When it first launched there seemed to have been a bit of interest but this has slowly begun to dwindle. We are looking at working with a local pub as a more accessible venue in the New Year.

Darton West

The weekly social group sessions have continued at Priestley Avenue Community Centre, with the majority of the members attending for a game of bingo. The first autumn/winter event, the Halloween Wreath making was successful and was enjoyed by the members. As none of the members who attended this group came on the coach trip to Leeds Christmas Market we arranged to have a buffet with them on the day of their Christmas gift swap and crafts. Together at the Table has also launched in this ward, with many of the members attending both groups.

St Helens

Before New Lodge Community Closed for refurbishment at the end of October we continued to hold the fortnightly bingo sessions and monthly coffee mornings there. The bingo continues to be a roaring success. The first of the autumn/winter events which was Halloween wreath making was also a success, with two new members signing up. After the closure of the Community Centre, the bingo was moved over to the Roundhouse Library, with the last session having 5 new sign-ups and being the busiest yet.

Old Town

October saw the launch of Together at the Table, a new group aimed at providing a warm meal and inclusive activities. While the initial uptake was slow, numbers have grown with 12 people attending the last session.

26

Members signed up to
Connect Together

20

Members signed up to
Connect Together

51

Members signed up to
Connect Together

22

Members signed up to
Connect Together

123

People more engaged in
activities

4

New Volunteers

10

Existing Volunteers



Connecting Communities



The Christmas Market Coach Trip

As part of the autumn/winter calendar, we arranged for a coach trip to take us to Leeds Christmas Market. Everyone who went really enjoyed the day and they all received £5 spending money which had been raised at our Jumble Sale.

Together at the Table

Since launching in October, we have 49 members and continue to provide warm meals and a safe place for people to come together for food and friendship.



Case Study

North Area Council

Darton East, Darton West, Old Town, St Helens

Priorities



Anti Poverty



Changing the Relationship



Health & Wellbeing

**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

Enabling Barnsley

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

Connecting Communities

Before Connect Together

Miss J is a 40-year-old single mother of two who has health conditions including the growth of non-cancerous tumours which regularly require surgery for removal, and anxiety. She was also diagnosed with dyslexia at the age of 17. Miss J says that being a single parent and having anxiety has caused her to become more and more isolated which has impacted on her mental health.

Intervention

Miss J self-referred to Connect Together in September 2022 after hearing about the crisis support session. On attending the session she was able to access expert advice from a member of our Warm Connections team and received a free slow cooker. Since then Miss J has attended the group on a regular basis and has enjoyed the monthly events such as the spring clean and gardening giveaways. Most recently Miss J has stepped out of her comfort zone and volunteered to call out the bingo numbers. Due to her dyslexia Miss J sometimes struggles reading the numbers however, the rest of the group are very supportive of her and help in building her confidence.

Outcomes

Since joining Connect Together Miss J has become a valued member of the group and made a number of new friends. She feels that her mental health has improved and that calling the bingo numbers is her making a positive contribution to the group.



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

The sessions have continued to run as promoted with established numbers on both the exercise and Extra Time Hub sessions. The Team Talk session is still proving difficult in attracting regular numbers . The sessions have been disturbed through enforced venue changes and this may have impacted on attendance. We are still actively promoting through our regular avenues and are hopeful we may pick up further numbers across all the sessions as people look to make lifestyle changes with the start of the New Year.

Vikki continues her community engagement through her presence in the local area and by promoting at a number of premises, library, local businesses and schools.





Connecting Communities

Team Talk

We have struggled to attract new participants and we have seen a drop in the average attendance. As mentioned earlier in the report we have had to change venues and this could be a contributory factor. We have talked about opening the session up to offer the support to anyone who feels they would benefit from participating.



11

Attendees at Team Talk

Exercise Session

The exercise session is going well. We have a nice number of people attending on a regular basis. The group dynamics are great with a mix of participants all getting along well. The WhatsApp group has proved popular not only for sharing information but also for keeping participants connected. This is particularly important especially around Christmas when people may feel even more isolated.

The group continues to enjoy a variety of different exercise sessions. Vikki hosted a Halloween special complete with fancy dress and suitable soundtrack. Vikki also invited participants to a Christmas celebration event. They enjoyed meeting up for an evening meal, secret santa and other festive activities.

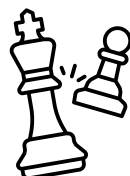


41

Attendees at the exercise
sessions

The Extra Time Hub

The group continue to enjoy their weekly meet up. They engage in various games with participants continually contributing new ideas to help keep the sessions fresh. They are still having the occasional meet up away from the session where they enjoy lunch and a catch up.



7

Attendees at Extra Time Hub

“ I look forward to Thursday very much. I meet up with other folks who like to get out of the house and play a variety of fun games. We have a chat and lots of laughs and enjoy the games so much! Its great fun and gives me the opportunity of having a break as a carer from which I benefit so much.”



**BARNSELY FC
COMMUNITY
TRUST**

Reds Connect

Connecting Communities

North Area Council

Darton East, Darton West, Old Town, St Helens

Priorities



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Case Study

Dave has been attending Tuesday Connect classes for 8 months now. He is there every Tuesday unless Barnsley are playing at home on that night and in which case, the love of his team comes first. Since attending he has become an integral member of our group. Usually the only regular male participant, but this does not stop him, Dave thrives in an active environment and takes it all in his element that he is exercising with a group of women who are vigorously trying to lose weight.

Dave points out that he walks everywhere. The class at St Helens Church has really helped him stay active during the winter months due to the location. It is not far for him to walk and so he has still been able to get out in the cold dark evenings to attend. This has also tackled any social isolation that winter months brings. Dave enjoys the variety the circuit classes bring and has learnt to work alone or in a team. As a fitness coach I have seen a massive change in him from his initial joining period. His confidence has come on tenfold, Dave was originally a lot quieter, but we have broken barriers for the better and now if Dave is absent from the class, everyone notices and shows concern.

Dave loves his active fitness classes with the group he has made friends with, he has made some real confidence progression, loves the location and loves the variety of activities.

