

# October to December 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



This quarter had less volunteer involvement compared to the same period last year but there were more targeted areas and only slightly less bag of waste removed. 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. Community efforts included support for the local schools, preparations for Remembrance Day and supporting preparations for Christmas activities including moving the Nativity scene to the Embankment.

# Twiggs



93 volunteers worked with on events

17 new volunteers

371 volunteer hours at Twiggs events

366 rubbish bags filled

73 areas targeted in proactive and reactive work

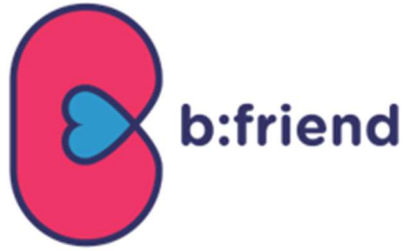
1 fly tipping cases reported



## Remembrance Day Thurnscoe

Support was given to the dedicated volunteers to look after Thurnscoe Park in the run up to Remembrance Day. Work included improve the area by clearing litter and addressing issues such as overgrown pathways and removing overhanging branches. Special attention was given to the area surrounding the cenotaph. This included the volunteers planting pansies around one part of the cenotaph, contributing to the overall beautification of the space.





The big increase in the hours of befriender interactions in the last few months has levelled off but remains high and the social clubs in Bolton and Thurnscoe continue to be well attended. Both social clubs enjoyed a Christmas celebration which 45 people attended along with BBC Look North who spoke to attendees. As well as continuing the Five Ways to Wellbeing model in the social clubs there has been advice and guidance delivered at the clubs including Fraud & Scam awareness sessions by HSBC. In terms of volunteering there was a piece to promote the benefits in the Barnsley Chronicle and there's a plan for Dearne Valley College to support their Health and Social Care students with placements. They will be volunteering at the Thurnscoe club next quarter.

# b:friend



- 192 isolating older neighbours supported
- 1938 hours of 1:1 befriender interactions
- 68 hours of staff visits/calls
- 98 volunteers
- 6 new volunteers
- 48 hours of group social activities



# Stacey - Social Club Volunteer



Barnsley Council's supported employment team asked about volunteer opportunities for one of their service users, Stacey. She has a mild learning disability and lives in supported living residences. She had volunteered at another group but did not enjoy the experience so started volunteering at the Bolton club after a couple of sessions with the support of her job coach Zoe. Stacey said she felt confident to come by herself. Stacey has been a great help, setting up activities at the start of each session, clearing away afterwards and joining in with everything including the Christmas Party.



The ICT and Employability Support sessions are over three days a week with 69 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. Rory is also attending Open Days at the DWP in Mexborough to speak with prospective learners (from the Dearne Area) on a regular basis.

# DECV



71 people learning so far this year

19 learners recruited

24 learner achieving qualifications

7 learners into employment

24 learners into further training

# Damian

Damian worked in a factory/warehouse for 20 years but was made redundant through ill health due to the physical nature of the posts.

His goal was to train up and gain ICT and wider Digital skills as he only had a very basic understanding. Despite being nervous and a little self conscious he settled well into his first learning experience in many years, helped by being in a small group.

Damain made good progress in the basics and so decided to attend more sessions a week. His progress has been very good not only completing a number qualifications but also completing his CV, cover letter and job applications. This support has successfully guided him through the application process for a job at Heron Food. He was appointed as a full time Store Manager in December.

He said: "Thanks so much Rory, you have massively boosted my confidence attending your sessions!"



**BARNSLEY**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

## Private Sector Housing and Cohesion Officer

The ongoing issues and challenges continue to be property disrepair, waste in gardens, and fly tipping. Barnsley Road, Frederick Street and Charles Street have been particularly bad in the last few months. But Beaver Street and Victoria Street have improved since the installation of CCTV and Highgate Lane and William Street were targeted with the help of GXO volunteers in December to remove tipped, general litter and overgrown weeds. Work continues to build trust with tenants to ensure that property disrepair is reported so action can be taken by landlords. Although the amounts dealt with this quarter are on par with pervious, the fear of higher rents or eviction is likely responsible for under reporting. 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. Regular contact with the staff at Salvation Army Goldthorpe, Dearne Family Centre and other partners continues to ensure vulnerable members of the community are helped and events for Safeguarding week were attended. The Salvation Army drop in also led to intervention and successful repair/refurbishment of a property occupied by a single parent and 4 children under 15 suffering from mould.

# Housing Enforcement



- 171 reports made
- 18 properties improved
- 38 contacts with household waste on premises
- 139 fly tipping reported
- 25 making improvements during service intervention
- 9 vulnerable homes identified

## Waste on Premises



# 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. 105 people received comprehensive telephone advice 56 received face to face advice. Since start of project each £1 spent has returned £32.48 into the Dearne.

## DIAL Barnsley

56 enquires made this quarter

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

£149,906 benefits claims supported this quarter



## Supporting

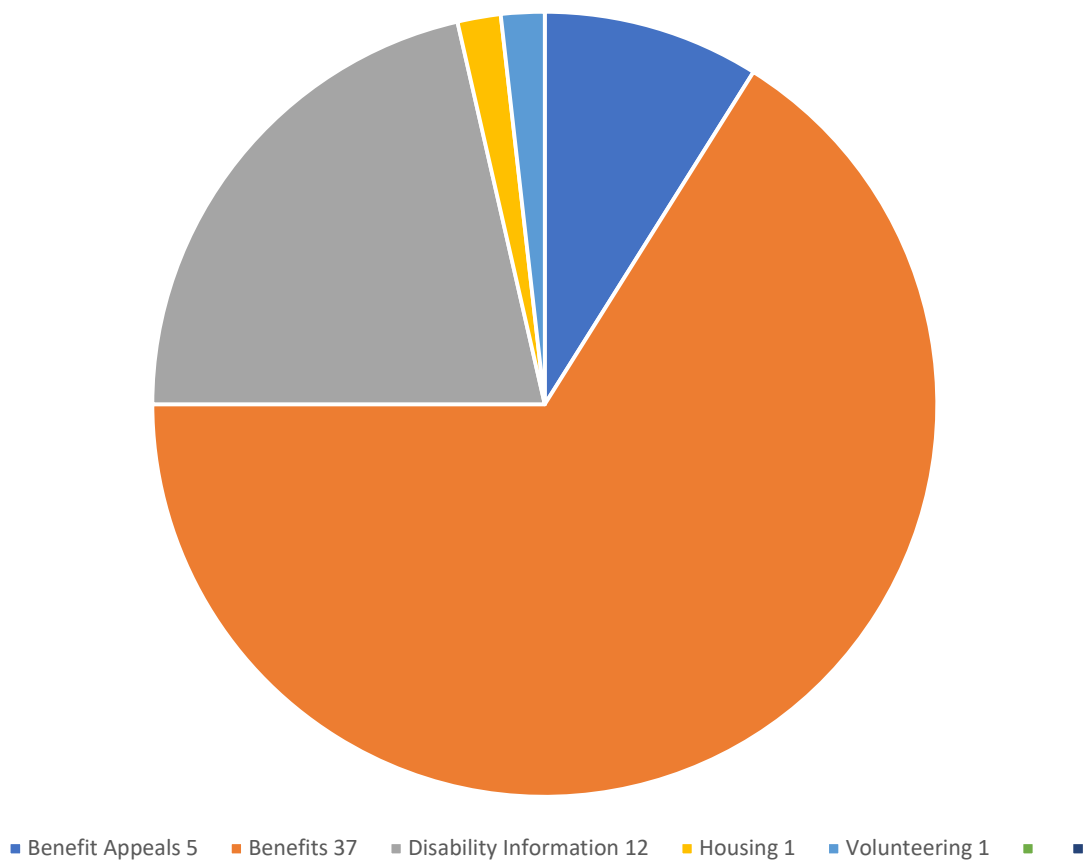




# Case study

Mrs C is 70 years old with arthritis in all her joints, her daughter was helping her with her daily care needs. She came to see DIAL at Goldthorpe Library for help with an Attendance Allowance form. After advise and assistance Mrs C was awarded a higher rate of allowance for needing help with her care during the day and night. Her income increased by £101.75 per week. Mrs C said: “When I looked at the form I didn’t understand it at all. A family friend told me about DIAL. They were very good and I am very happy with the help they gave me.”

DIAL issues dealt with



# DIAL in the Dearne Jan-Dec 2023

choices

## Dearne Area Outreach

Number of outreach sessions delivered 81

Number of residents we supported at outreach 226

Number of hours our advisors spent with residents at outreach 306

90% Of clients felt less anxious after using our service

93% Of clients had a clearer understanding after using our service

86% Of clients felt more confident after using our service



Our advisors helped clients to claim over £335,000 in benefit amount



# 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

255 people attending

37 volunteers assisting (across 3 events)



## Supporting



## Case study

The sessions were well attended during the quarter especially the December Christmas event which was fully booked with 100 people. Entertainment was provided by Goldthorpe Primary School singing Christmas carols and a return for the popular VE day entertainer Abby from 'Viva La Vintage'. There were donations from local businesses for the raffle and games and Wath Tesco donated the desserts. The volunteers worked extra hard to make the event special for the guests and with the event selling out their support was needed. This also marked an end of an era as this was the last to take place at the Unity Club which has hosted the Get Togethers for the past 10 years, in the New Year the venue will switch to the Comrades.



# Dearne Area Team Q3 Case study



## Toy Drive at Station House - Thurnscoe Dearne North

### Healthy Barnsley

- ✓ Our diverse communities are welcoming, supportive, and resilient.

### Learning Barnsley

- ✓ Everyone has the opportunity to create wider social connections and enjoy cultural experiences.

### Growing Barnsley

- ✓ Local businesses are thriving through early-stage support and opportunities to grow

### Sustainable Barnsley

- ✓ People are proud of and look after their local environment.
- ✓ People live in sustainable communities and reduced carbon emissions and increase access to affordable and sustainable energy sources.

### Enabling Barnsley

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

## Dearne Ward Alliance

Dearne North, Dearne South

### Ward Alliance Priorities

- Health & Wellbeing
- Pride in Dearne North
- Strengthening the Community
- Youth Provision

## Dearne Area Council

Dearne North, Dearne South

### Area Council Priorities

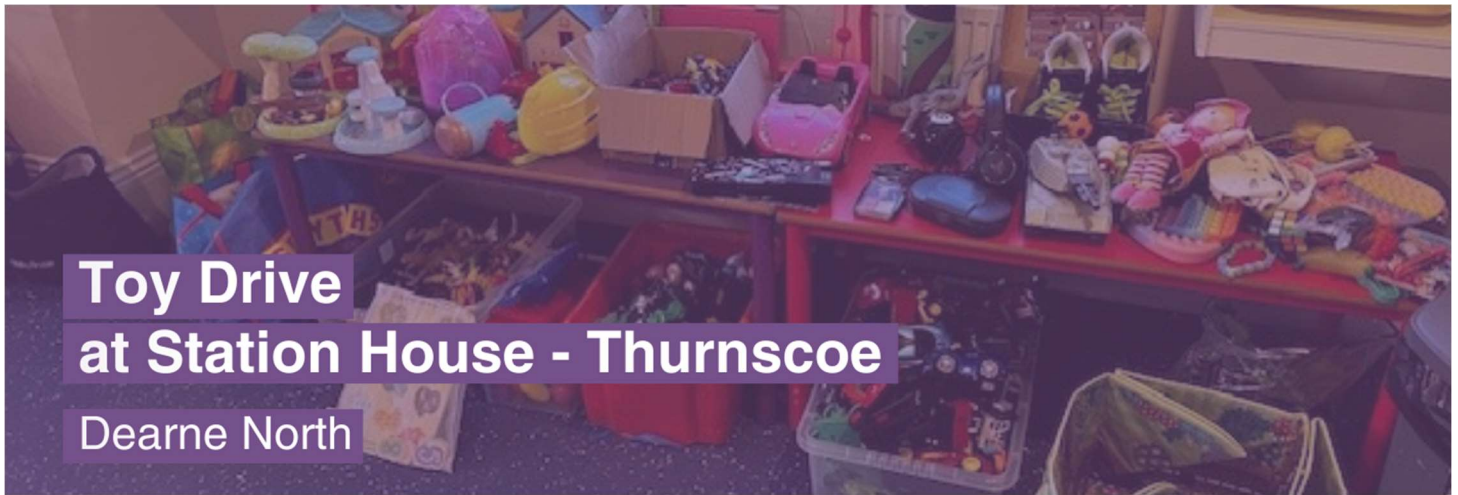
- Health & Wellbeing
- Our Environment
- Young People



Barnsley – the place of possibilities.



@DearneApproach



# Toy Drive at Station House - Thurnscoe

Dearne North

## Background

One of our council ambitions as we head towards 2024, is to be more sustainable. The current cost of living is making it harder for families to afford luxuries so Christmas for some families, is no longer a priority. Working with our partners at Station House Community Association we developed a project that would make Christmas affordable and prevent pre-loved toys going to landfill.

## Issue

Families of the Dearne are having to prioritise their spend and for some, buying toys and clothing this Christmas simply wasn't an affordable option. We have also seen an increase in fly tipping that includes toy items in the Dearne, and local charity shops overwhelmed with donations of toys, that they we're unable to take more.

## What was done

Throughout October – November 2023, collection points were set up in all 3 villages of the Dearne for people to drop off any unwanted pre-loved toys. (Providing they were suitable to re-gift) We had support from One Stop in Thurnscoe, Salvation Army in Goldthorpe and Co-op in Bolton – all of which agreed to be drop-off points.

On Saturday 25th November between 11am-2pm, we had a toy and clothing giveaway at Station House Community Association in Thurnscoe. Local families were invited to fill a bag and take one large item, completely free.

## The result (Outputs, Outcomes, Impact)



**100+**

Families had access to pre-loved toys



**3**

Local businesses supported the cause



**3**

Volunteered for the first time



**4**

Volunteers supported the event



**20**

Volunteering hours



**£274**

Cashable value of volunteering