

**BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL****North East Area Council****1<sup>st</sup> December 2016****Report of North East Area Council Manager****Agenda item: 8*****The Milefield Community Farm Project  
July 2016 – November 2016*****1. Background**

This project is a Volunteer It Yourself (a not for profit Community Interest Company), project which has been supported by Milefield School, Voluntary Action Barnsley, the North East Area Council's Youth Development Fund, and local businesses.

Volunteer it Yourself (VIY) combines volunteering and DIY by challenging young people aged 14 to 24 to help improve youth clubs and community centres in need of essential repairs. VIY links themes such as active citizenship and empowering communities with helping to realise their potential, achieve a qualification and improve their employability. The Wickes store in Barnsley has offered a job interview to every NEET young person aged 16+ who has graduated from the project.

In July 2016, Milefield School in Barnsley requested VIY's, VAB and the North East Area Council's help to converting a derelict former caretaker's bungalow in the school grounds into a new external community learning space as part of their Milefield Community Farm project.

## 2. Local Investment

***To date the investment for this local amazing Community project has been significant, with support from:***



***With Grant Funding received from the North East Area Council Youth Development Fund, and the North East Ward Alliance:***



***And In Kind Contributions received from local businesses:***



### 3. Qualifications Gained



11 young people achieved their City & Guilds Entry Level 3 Introductory Award in Employability Skills through working on this scheme.

### 4. Volunteering

A fantastic total of 1,652 Volunteer hours have been recorded helping with the project so far, which has an equivalent cash value of £18,323



### 5. Key Outputs



£18,323 cash equivalent of Volunteer hours



£10,100 funding committed from the North East Area Council and the North East Ward Alliance.



£46,450 worth of in-kind donations from local Businesses and Milefield Primary School



259,740 calories burned by volunteers (approximately)

## 6. Going Forward:

- The Milefield Community Farm Group has been formed, and is now a constituted Group, which is supported by Milefield Primary School.
- Further funding is being sought, with help from the North East Area Council Team, for:
  - A Farm Manager –Reaching Communities
  - 2 x Alpacas plus shelter - Crowd Funding
  - Poly tunnel and interactive TV –EDF funding



*Teresa Clarke, the Project Manager said:*

*‘Without the fantastic voluntary help from the local community, and the support of local businesses, the North East Area Council, and Voluntary Action Barnsley, all working together in partnership, we would not have been able to have achieve this amazing project in our local community. We are looking forward to working with all our partners in the future to continue to develop our lovely Community Farm.*

**Caroline Donovan  
North East Area Council  
December 2016**