

PENISTONE AREA COUNCIL Performance Report

October – December 2016



INTRODUCTION

Penistone Area Council Priorities



Table 1 below shows the providers that have been appointed to deliver services that address the priorities and deliver the outcomes and social value objectives for the Penistone Area Council.

	Service	Provider	Contract Value	Contract start date
The Local Economy including tourism Environment	Countryside Skills & Training	Growforest	£100,00 + £54,600	October 2014 + Sept 2015 Contract now ended
Environment	Clean and Tidy Team	Environmental Services, BMBC	£160,000 18months	1 st November 2015
Health and Well Being	DIAL Drop in Service	DIAL	£5570	2015/16
Support for Young People Health and Well Being Environment Helping people to connect better	Working Together Fund	Penistone Scouts Penistone Round Table TPT Volunteers Penistone FM Projects approved and in development: Bumping spaces Sporting Penistone Penistone youth project DIAL and Barnsley market wifi and led lighting	£8050 £11,660 £6630 £15,627	TBC

PART A - OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE

The Penistone Area Council commissions and funds contribute to the Councils overall priorities of thriving vibrant economy, stronger resilient communities and citizens achieving their potential. The achievement of the combined outcomes are listed in table's below:

Thriving and Vibrant Economy

Outcome Indicators / target	Achieved to date
No. of FTE jobs created and recruited to	4.5 (+1)
No. of apprentice and placement created and recruited to	1
No of clean & tidy activities which involve businesses	10 (+3)
Local spend (average across all contracts)	85%

Strong & resilient communities

Outcome Indicators Target	Achieved to date
No. of adult volunteers engaged	121 (+58)
No. of young people engaged in volunteering	14 (+3)
No. of activities which involve young people under the age of 18	36 (+6)
No. of new volunteers	43 (+21)
No. of community groups supported	52 (+15)
No. of new community groups supported	3
Volunteer hours contributed (£ value)	£14,470 (+412)
No. of volunteer opportunities created	351 (+15)

Citizens achieving their potential

No. people achieving a qualification	31 (+2)
No. of residents receiving advice and support	915 (+28)
No. of residents referred to health advice	
No. of young people making a positive contribution to the design/ maintenance of their local environment	20 -
No of people who feel they have the opportunity to influence the design and maintenance of their local environment	39 -

PART B - SUMMARY PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR EACH SERVICE/ PROJECT

Countryside Skills and training

The Local Economy including tourism		RAG
	Satisfactory quarterly monitoring report and contract management meeting.	
	Milestones achieved	
Environment	Outcome indicator targets met	
	Social value targets met	
	Satisfactory spend and financial information	
	Overall satisfaction with delivery against contract	

This contract has now ended.

Final milestones and targets below:

Milestone/Target/Output	Target	Achieved	Comments
Learners Recruited	24	32	Not all stayed the full cohort.
Learners Achieving Stage 1 Qualification in Dry Stone Walling	24	19	
No of Learning Hours Delivered	230	182	
No of Learners Achieving 85% or higher attendance	24	19	
People perceiving traditional countryside skills as a viable enterprise	24	3	Only 3 expressed a wish,
People being happier and healthier by being connected to the natural environment.	24	24	Case studies used

The Clean & Tidy team

The Local Economy including tourism		RAG
	Satisfactory quarterly monitoring report and contract management meeting.	
Health and well being	Milestones achieved	
	Activity intervention targets	
	Outcome indicator targets met	
Environment	Social value targets met	
	Satisfactory spend and financial information	
	Overall satisfaction with delivery against contract	

A contract meeting took place on the 5th January 17 covering the period October 16 – December 2016. Further reporting information was submitted on the 16th January 17.

During the contract meeting the Penistone Area Council manager was informed that in November one of Clean and Tidy team operatives resigned and that the team had subsequently been reduced to 2 members for over half of this reporting period. The impact has been that some work requests have taken longer to complete but the clean and tidy team did not feel the impact was severe. A discussion took place regarding recruiting to this post but it wasn't felt that this would be practical as the recruitment process would mean there would only be about a month left on the contract to the end of April. The work requests will be monitored.

Since the contract meeting an alternative has been sought and an agency worker has been pulled into the team from Monday 16th January 17 in order for the contract commitments to be delivered.

In addition to this, one of the contract project managers is on sick leave following an operation and is likely to be off work for 8 - 10 weeks. Sarah Ford will be the main contact for this period.

Reactive work targets continue to be met and exceeded. Love Where You Live events and engaging businesses continue to be challenging. The Penistone Community Development Officer has been developing the 'Love Your Street' project and the Clean and Tidy team have been actively engaged in this.

Primary schools are engaging in the project and more schools are now coming on board.

Facebook and communications regarding the project continue to be an area that needs to be developed and a more innovative and creative approach is still needed.

Extracts from Clean and Tidy reports:



No of volunteers new to community action

The number of new volunteers continues to rise thanks to the innovative and unusual volunteer projects that excite the interest of new volunteers

These include installing gates and dry stone wall repairs through to hedge laying training which was possible with the help of a small amount of Section 106 funding to pay for specialist tools and trainer. Training the C&T team and rangers in these skills meant they could then support new volunteers or volunteers learning these skills alongside the specialist.

PCV –Bullhouse 6

PCV –Oxspring 2

PCV –Ingbirchworth 9

PCV –Oxspring 4

LWYL Green Rd (5)

LWYL Talbot Rd (2)

LWYL Westfield Ave (1+ 1 junior)

Day to day management / staff update

As part of the Apprentice training and assessment – waymarking and stile training sessions took place in the Penistone Area

Waymarking assessment was carried out by the college

The team passed their spraying qualifications (3 days)

They also carried out a day specialist training in hedgelaying that would allow them to support the trainer on the volunteer days in Dec, Jan and Feb

January will see first aid and chainsaw training courses taking place

The apprentice on the team will be attending college almost every Monday from the beginning of January to beyond the end of the current contract. The agency member of the team will be in place to enable a range of tasks to be carried out on Monday's.

Case Study 1 -Upskilling volunteers

A very important priority for the project team when putting in the bid was to utilise the skills and knowledge within the PROW, neighbourhoods, highways and ranger teams to develop the interest and skills of any volunteers or young people who joined in our events. The experience of our rangers and PROW teams in running

volunteer events meant the C&T team could go well beyond the usual volunteer events such as litter picking and sweeping vegetation into varied and complex projects.

Offering this variety and creating the right social and relaxed setting to the events retains interest, attendance, encourages others by word of mouth and legacy to improve the environment in the Penistone area and beyond, as volunteers take their skills and knowledge back to others in their schools, families, colleagues and communities.

So in no particular order some of the tasks volunteers have been involved in since the start of the project, the knowledge they are acquiring and skills they are practicing. Where the volunteers have experience they help train others, freeing up the C&T/Rangers to carry out more specialist work with chainsaws etc on the same site that volunteers can't help with.

task	knowledge	skills
Litter picking	Recycling Instant impact	Health and safety in collecting Lifting and handling heavy items
Dry stone walling	theory and regional differences  Volunteer David training other volunteers	How to build a wall to last Experience in repairs and rebuilds including gaps, wildlife/livestock holes  Wildlife hole when repairing walls to enable access
Specialist habitat maintenance and creation	seasonal ponds – how & why Heather moorland maintenance – sourcing or harvesting seed, time of year, ground prep	Practical skills re-establishing ponds as silt up and grass over including basking stones and banks Stripping out old woody heather and reseeding
Tree thinning and maintenance	Ecological succession and need to manage woodland. Habitats and food chains Options to deal with debris	Safe use of hand tools in thinning trees and maintaining routes Building dead hedging and habitat piles
Hedge laying	Historical significance of this countryside craft and variety across UK Tree species	Specialist tool maintenance and skills to fell trees to create a fabulous, stock proof hedge. Start with a qualified hedgelaying trainer in small groups and further opportunities to develop skills
Bird and bat boxes, and nesting sites	Value of the different species, including special requirements for key species Law relating to different species	Making and siting boxes for maximum benefit How to create specific nesting sites for fussy rare birds as part of wider woodland maintenance
Bug houses and hotels	Needs of different insects/wildlife Suitable sites depending on exposure, sunlight etc Value of even small projects	Making up the kits Identifying and collecting suitable materials to go into it. Building and Installing
Waymarking	History of rights of way Law relating to signing and waymarking	Map reading Use of hand tools & appropriate siting for public use and minimum interference with farmers activities
Stiles and gates	Accessibility issues - mobility impairment isn't just wheelchair users, and with off road scooters they can go just about anywhere Livestock control and countryside Legal responsibilities and local support	Use of tools Planning ahead to layout site Practical aspects re livestock containment Making key components fit properly
Bridge building	Different materials Different designs and needs of users	Preparing sites Safe movement of heavy materials Building different elements
Planting and sowing - trees, wildflower meadows and bulbs	Needs of specialist wildflowers – soil type and depth, woodland or open grassland	Preparing ground for different species eg. removing top soil for wildflowers on TPT as need poor soil, whilst 'formal' plants need more nutrients.

Case study 2 – Volunteer day

We received a complaint from users about a poor stile and electric fence on footpath 32 Penistone near Bullhouse Bridge.

“The stile is too high on the Ecklands side where as suggested to me, an extra step would be much appreciated. Several of our members found it difficult and one member received a nasty shock from the fencing which she found most distressing. There is one post to grab, but still it is difficult for most of our members to get enough spring to mount the stile on the Ecklands side”

A site inspection revealed more issues on the same path that hadn't been mentioned including a missing bridge handrail and badly overgrown steps up a very steep hillside.

With a range of tasks in a small area it was ideal for Employee Supported Volunteers (via VAB) and an opportunity to upskill our Penistone countryside volunteers whilst helping out the adjacent landowner.

Volunteer day was scheduled in for 12 October and getting agreement from adjacent landowners to switch off electric fence (although not quite as early as hoped for) So with 11 ESV from Barnsley Council asset management team and 1 regular volunteer the day started with instructions on crossing fields safely with a bull and cows in it to get to the site.

Splitting into 3 teams – stile, handrail and steps the group made a big difference. The team stayed really positive all day despite the rain.



overgrown steps before



and almost finished



Rightly proud of the new stile. As the ground falls away steeply on the other side of the field an additional lower step was added to make it easier coming the other way. Two posts give the stile structure and help with balance/pulling up steps



Getting on with building the new handrail for the old stone bridge. The stile team can be seen in the background at the top of the slope.

7 of the volunteers were completely new to volunteering

90% of the group said they would volunteer with us again and 10% said they may volunteer with us again

Common responses on the feedback forms were they had fun and loved the relaxed social environment

Comments from volunteers

“We all thoroughly enjoyed our day near the TPT “in the rain” and look forward to another day with you when there is another round of volunteering. Not often we get out as a team and do something a bit different!” Head of Asset Management

“It's like informal (and free) team building. We got to learn more about colleagues in a few hours than we would in months or years in the office environment. Where personalities sometimes clash in the office everyone is more flexible and relaxed in this social environment. Most people are learning new skills and we found it easier to talk to each other about a whole range of issues and understand each other more, which can only help back in the office.”

Finally comments from the original complainant

“All eight present of our eleven member walking group were able to enjoy our Penistone - Hartcliffe - Ecklands- Penistone circular walk yesterday. We are all highly delighted with all the work that has been carried out; It was so good to be able to walk that stretch of the walk in safety again. So good to actually be able to see those steps again too!

We all send a big thank you to yourself and your team of dedicated volunteers who did an excellent job.”

Penistone Advice Drop In

(The report was updated for the Area Council meeting on the 8th December 16, next update for the meeting on the 9th April 17)

Health and Well Being

	RAG
Satisfactory quarterly monitoring report	●
Milestones achieved	●
Satisfactory spend and financial information	●
Overall satisfaction with delivery against contract	●



Passionate
about
possibilities.

Penistone Drop-In

Period: 1st September – 17 November 2016

Project Highlights

- 10 sessions have been held
- 28 residents have received face-to-face advice
- The average number of residents attending a session is 3
- The highest number of residents attending a session is 5
- The total **actual** amount of unclaimed benefit income generated through the sessions in the last quarter is £11,287
- The total **projected** amount of unclaimed benefits generated through the sessions in the last quarter is £52,700 (these are claims waiting for a decision)
- For every £1 invested from the Ward Devolved Budget the project has brought £63 into the area
- 100% of residents attending the sessions reported feeling less anxious as a result of speaking to our advisor
- 68% of residents attending the sessions reported feeling more able to deal with their own affairs
- 91% of residents reported feeling their health and wellbeing had improved 3 months after receiving support from our advisor
- 75% of residents attending the sessions did not have access to the internet
- 86% of residence with access to the internet did not feel confident to manage their affairs online

Penistone FM – Young People in radio

(The report was updated for the Area Council meeting on the 8th December 16, next update for the meeting on the 9th April 17)

The Local Economy including tourism

Activities for Young People

	RAG
Satisfactory quarterly monitoring report	
Milestones achieved	
Satisfactory spend and financial information	
Overall satisfaction with delivery against contract	

New jobs

Two people have been recruited to work part time on the project.

Training

Two students have completed NCFE level one at over 60 hours learning and are waiting for final external assessment in December. Three other students are also well underway on the course and expected to complete it during December.

Another four young people have also just started on the taster sessions or waiting to come in for their start date.

Community Volunteering

Two community groups have been approached and agreed to provide some volunteering experience with a chance for students to record interviews with a couple of people on subjects like volunteer motivation. Three students are volunteering as reporters or co presenters so boosting the stations output and content. Two students are looking at Level 2 Radio skills now or part of this as a progression into radio.

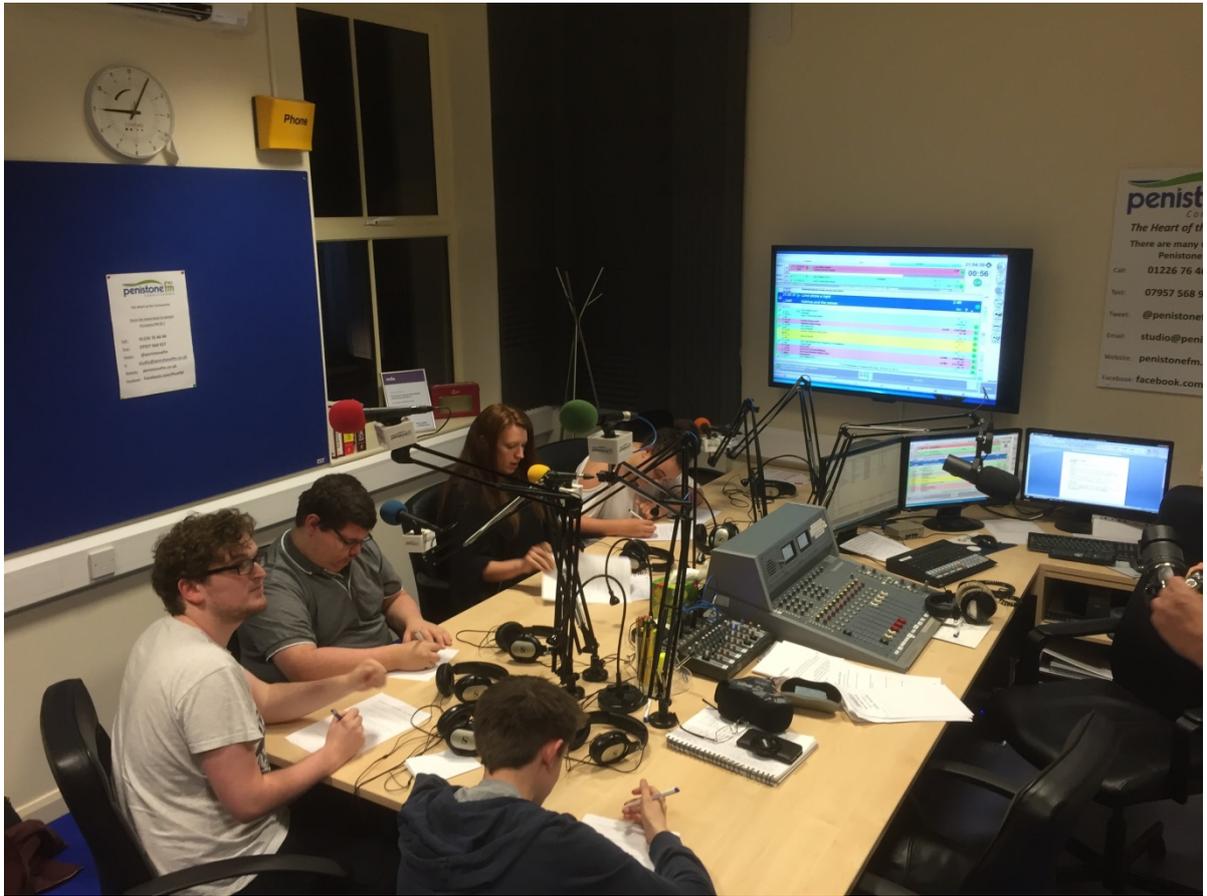
Experience

Penistone FM have engaged with a local newspaper and media training company to look at work experience for students providing an opportunity for people to gain experience in radio advertising by shadowing someone selling and creating commercial adverts.

Overall

The project is doing really well, on target and the students are enjoying the course. The station now have more people taking part in volunteering. A new promotional leaflet is in production.

Some of the students took part in the recent Penistone Youth Poppy Memorial opening where they interviewed the young people that helped create it, their youth mentor and the community development worker from Tesco who helped collect the bottles made into the poppies.



Penistone Scout Activity Centre Development

(The report was updated for the Area Council meeting on the 8th December 16, next update for the meeting on the 9th April 17)

Health and Well being		RAG
	Satisfactory quarterly monitoring report	●
Activities for Young People	Milestones achieved	●
	Satisfactory spend and financial information	●
	Overall satisfaction with delivery against contract	●

All hardware specified as part of the grant has been ordered which included the tables and chairs. These have been in full use and have enabled us to open up the centre to larger events. A quiz night fundraiser was hosted in November with over 90 people attended which was possible due to the new equipment.

The mattresses will be used for the first time when 60 beaver scouts have a sleepover on the weekend of the 10th & 11th December and then again at a Christmas sleepover on December 23rd for Scouts.

Courses for young leaders have been identified for Hillwalking, Archery, Rifle Shooting, Climbing, Watersports and caving and over 20 young leaders have signed up to take part and achieve accreditation. The volunteer development weekend is also booked at Walesby Forest outdoor centre in Worksop on the first weekend in March with over 35 adult volunteers attending.

