

Stronger Communities Service 2018/19 Quarter 4 Narrative Report



Introduction

Welcome to the Stronger Communities Service 2018/19 Quarter 4 Narrative Report.

The following pages highlight, through case studies, the extensive work of the service in contributing to community development across the borough. There are many and varied examples of the types of initiatives that have increased community engagement and cohesion, intergenerational working, volunteering, lifelong learning and environmental improvements. All of the following are co-ordinated by the service, and encourage involvement from organisations and the residents of Barnsley.

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CENTRAL Area

All Wards Project

Young person inspires Great British Spring Clean 551 event

PEOPLE ACHIEVING
THEIR
POTENTIAL

Outcome 9: People are healthier, happier, independent and active

STRONG &
RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Outcome 10: People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities

Changeit

Having your say on things that matter

Imagineit

Creating a brighter future

Liveit

Looking after yourself and others

Loveit

Having pride in where you live

Protectit

Protecting our wonderful borough

Five different starting points in our different wards, five different litter picking routes and one final meeting point where everyone enjoyed bacon sandwiches together!

This project was inspired by a letter sent to the Mayor, Cllr Steve Green, by a local girl whose family live on Bluebell Bank Estate, with a heartfelt plea that waste and litter were ruining the borough and that something needed to be done.

This project was designed to bring people together from across four of the five central area wards (Central, Kingstone, Stairfoot and Worsborough) to launch the Great British Spring Clean 2019. Five simultaneous clean-ups were started in each of the four wards, coming together at the end on Bluebell Bank Park to meet with the Mayor.

The project was designed to highlight the problems of littering and fly tipping and the impact upon the environment. The project was designed to show the importance of people power and the positive impact of collective action. In this way, bringing together groups, residents of all ages including families with young children, Councillors, Berneslai Homes from across four different wards was very powerful. The sheer volume of waste collected and the amount of goodwill generated by the coming together of volunteers was very impressive.



The project involved two hours of outdoor activity which is good for health alongside the community spirit, which is built during a shared task which is good for promoting happiness and general well-being.

The Area team played a vital role in organising the individual litter picks originating in their own wards, promoting the event to encourage volunteers and work with ward councillors to shape the overall event.

The project has had some really good publicity and feedback:

“Saturday was a brilliant day”
- The Mayor, Cllr Steve Green

“Oh look it’s the Mayor and Mrs Mayor picking up rubbish” [at Mr Mayor and his driver!!]

- Roman, aged 10



DEARNE Area

Dearne Area Team

February Fun

PEOPLE ACHIEVING
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POTENTIAL

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The project's purpose was to ensure that children in the Dearne area had access to a good meal during the school holidays, whilst providing free activities for families to enjoy together and engage with. The majority of children in the Dearne are entitled to receive free school meals throughout the academic year, so the Dearne Ward Alliance funded one event in each ward to provide an opportunity for local families to access free food and activities, to enable them to socialise, eat, learn, create, express, integrate, relax and generally just enjoy.



There was a range of fun yet educational and creative activities including 'Meet a Creature', Toy Story themed party games and dances as well as various craft activities. We handed out over 50 free children's books to take home at both events, kindly donated by the Salvation Army in Goldthorpe.

The events were widely supported by local volunteers who were on hand to cook, prepare and handle food and refreshments, set up and clear up for the events, assist with activities, entertain children and assist with registrations. The success of these events is hugely down to the commitment of volunteers. The first event in the Dearne North area was assisted by thirteen volunteers, five of which are Ward Alliance Members and three Councillors. The second event in Dearne South was assisted by six volunteers, of which two were Ward Alliance members, and two Councillors.

The events were supported by many BMBC colleagues including Dearne and Thurnscoe Family Centres, local Councillors, Live Well Barnsley, and Barnsley Museums.



Three local Councillors from Dearne North & Dearne South attended the sessions to help with providing meals and entertainment to the families and to assist with any issues that came forward as their role of leadership for the Barnsley Council. The Ward Alliance members also assisted in the cooking of the meals and sat on each of the tables to assist in the arts & crafts. Volunteers from Dearne Churches Together, BMBC staff from the Family Centre, and Claire from Live Well assisted at both events.

The first event at St Helens Church Hall, Thurnscoe, had a creature theme, where the 'Meet a Creature' company from Doncaster brought a range of animals for the children to learn about and handle, along with various related craft activities such as beehive decorating - some of which have been placed in Thurnscoe Park. Inclusive Ping Pong was also hired for the event which gained a lot of interest. A local face painter volunteered her time for the event and did a fabulous job of painting the children's faces. 226 meals were provided to 109 children (two young volunteers) and 117 adults including 27 staff and volunteers.



The second event at Furlong Road Methodist Church, Bolton upon Dearne was capped to 100 attendees at any time due to fire regulations on the smaller venue. This message was sent out across social media and our community groups following the huge success of the previous event at Thurnscoe. The event was Toy Story theme with many related toys to play with, craft activities including decorating cowboy hats and masks, and a space helmet making session run by Gaby from Barnsley Libraries.

Following a buffet lunch, local company 'Powered Up Parties' arrived for party games and dances, and photos with Toy Story's Woody and Jessie. The event was attended in total by 134 attendees including 85 children (one young volunteer) and 49 adults including 14 staff and volunteers.

Over 300 local residents accessed free meals and activities during these half term holidays, allowing families to spend meaningful time together without the financial burden.

Support was received through a number of donations including from Tesco, Co-op, Station House Community Association and Asda, all from within the Dearne Area. The Dearne Area Team made sure the delivery went smoothly and all the families were fed and entertained.



Many of the external partners that attended the summer fun events engaged with residents that they hadn't seen before. Family Centre staff got new registrations to their local centres, Cannon Hall staff consulted with local children on plans for the new discovery area within the park, and Live Well staff engaged with members of the Dearne community. Wath Tesco in the Community staff member, Suzanne, attended the Thurnscoe event and said how they would like to support more events in the future. They have all said the events were excellent and want to continue these school holiday events.



One child's mum said:

“Oliver has been awake all night excited to see the animals; he loves to learn about creatures. I would love to take him to the zoo but I don't drive and money is tight. Having events like these on the doorstep is brilliant. To see all the kids enjoying themselves, it's lovely.”

Feedback was also received about venues and activities, and the possibility of having a booking system for future events.

These events are a huge success and show the importance of partnership working, building positive working relationships within the Dearne with many partners and organisations chipping in and supporting not only these events but each other following the events.

Dearne Area Council and Dearne Area Team

Friendship Project

PEOPLE ACHIEVING THEIR POTENTIAL

Outcome 6: Every child attends a good school and is successful in learning and work

Outcome 7: Reducing demand through improving access to early help

Outcome 8: Children and adults are safe from harm

Outcome 9: People are healthier, happier, independent and active

Liveit

Looking after yourself and others

Loveit

Having pride in where you live

This project was developed as a partnership between The Dearne Area Team and Station House Community Nursery. The idea was first discussed following the Channel 4 TV programme "Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds" where local school children were introduced to the residents of a local care home. The project was a partnership between Dearne Area Team, Station House Community Nursery and Windsor Gardens Sheltered Housing.

The aim of the project was to break down barriers between children and the elderly, and improve communication skills of the children. By bringing the two generations together it creates a relationship with children and adults; the children get a better understanding of older people, their ways, and their history, and the elderly start to understand the children and young people which could start to create less friction in the community. The children were then asked to stand up and tell everyone about the person that they had 'interviewed' which helps to develop skills in presentation and talking in public.



The children arrived with a short questionnaire to break the ice and get to know the residents of Windsor Gardens.

The Dearne Area Team played a part in bringing the two groups of people together, discussing with Station House and Windsor Gardens the date and time of the event and how the event would run. The Team inputted into the project management. Station House devised the short questionnaire that was to be used by the children.

Most of the children and all of the residents enjoyed the morning, getting to know each other and finding out how long people had lived in The Dearne. A small amount of the children were shy and apprehensive at talking to strangers and standing up to read out their questionnaires, but were supported by members of Station House, The Dearne area Team and the residents to manage this.



We had quite a bit of feedback from everyone involved. The staff thought that the children and residents had interacted well and we had the following comments from the children and residents:

The residents:

- It was nice to have visitors
- Children were well behaved
- Would like them to come again and stay a bit longer
- Impressed by the children
- Enjoyed talking to them and finding out information from the children

Children:

- Meeting older people and their friends
- Meeting new people
- Talking about animals
- Drink and biscuits



Everyone one said that they would love to meet them again and play games, take toys and games, talk to them longer, get to know them better, more details about their work. Some feedback received was that the building was too warm, and we needed a bigger room. It is hoped that we can build on this initial visit and involve more children in visiting the residents on a more frequent basis.

NORTH Area

Darton West Ward

Barugh Residents Group



In summer 2018, the team were contacted by a local resident in Barugh who was keen to clean up her local area. Together we organised a local clean up for a Saturday morning – the result was amazing as 22 volunteers turned up. Since the initial clean up, six regular residents have come together to undertake litter picks in the local community. They have received funding from the Darton West Ward Alliance to support these, with litter pickers, bag hoops and bin bags being purchased. The Royal Pub supported the litter pick by providing volunteers with free refreshments after the clean-up.

A further clean-up was organised as part of the Great British Spring Clean. Again this had fantastic support with 20 volunteers attending. The results of the clean-up were amazing with over 30 bags of rubbish collected as well as various household items that had been thrown down the embankment. The group even found the cash register from the local pub which had been stolen the week before.

This project was designed to bring the community of Barugh together, for them to take pride in their local community. It was also designed to clean up the local environment to make it cleaner for those living, working and travelling through the area.

The project encouraged people to get outside, to get some fresh air and participate in some exercise whilst they were litter picking, contributing to healthier lives. Once the project was complete, people took pride in what they had achieved. They had transformed the area which led to them feeling happy.

The CDO for the North Area supported the local resident to organise the clean-up. They designed and printed posters and leaflets and helped them publicise the event. They organised Twiggs attending and arranged for the rubbish to be collected by Neighbourhood Services. They also supported on the day of the litter pick.

The project continued its support of the local residents in Barugh. It strengthened their confidence in leading and delivering clean ups on their own, and also strengthened the team's partnership with Neighbourhood Services around litter collection. Everyone who took part enjoyed the litter pick and were thrilled with the impact that they had.

One learning point from the project was: Always ensure that litter collection is booked in advance with Neighbourhood Services!

The group have a keen interest in history and there is talk of them doing a history project with the potential of creating some interpretation boards within the local community.



Old Town Ward

Retirement Fellowship



The Barnsley Retirement Fellowship (Formerly the NHS Fellowship) is a group of people retired and looking to come together socially to enjoy their new lease of life. The group approached the North Area Team to help them re-vitalise their publicity and create a marketing campaign to set them on the track to becoming totally self-sustaining. The project aimed to create a multi-channel approach to publicity so that their current membership could stay informed about the work of the group, and to attract fresh new members. The management committee is eager to develop a web-presence (they already have a Facebook page) and are all committed to maintaining this website.

The Retirement Fellowship goes beyond just socialising as they understand the threat that social isolation poses and are committed to giving a helping hand to anyone who's alone and in need of help. Through offering a welcome, open door to anyone in the borough of Barnsley, the Retirement Fellowship is consciously attempting to reduce the level of social isolation in the area. They have designed specific social events to encourage attendance and aim to use the new publicity in key areas of Barnsley Hospital where people in need will see it.

The Chair of the Fellowship, John Rooke, and other members of the Management Committee met with the Community Development Officer to outline the help they needed in designing more publicity. The group were responsible for coming up with the content and outlining their needs for the design. They then worked with the Community Development Officer to develop an attractive template for a newsletter, create a generic email address that the Management Committee could all access, as well as providing content for a web-page.

This website will be used by the group to help keep people involved and informed by posting the latest information and providing a two way communication tool that all the committee can access. This will

form a significant part of their online presence as many members are resistant to social media in the traditional sense, but are actively asking for a website.



Old version



New version

The project, although requiring significant officer support initially, has developed templates that can be easily updated and used again and again with very little input from the Area Team.

The new publicity is on the verge of being launched, so external feedback is yet to be received. The Management Committee however were very pleased with the templates created.

The group have also been encouraged to apply for Ward Alliance Funding to assist with attracting interesting speakers and activities.

North Area Team

Tour de Yorkshire

THRIVING & VIBRANT ECONOMY

Outcome 3: Develop a vibrant town centre

PEOPLE ACHIEVING THEIR POTENTIAL

Outcome 9: People are healthier, happier, independent and active

STRONG & RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Outcome 10: People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities

Developit

Helping businesses to thrive

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Creating a brighter future

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Protecting our wonderful borough



The Tour de Yorkshire (TdY) has given us a fantastic opportunity to engage with local businesses. The majority of businesses we have spoken to have been really keen to be involved – the very fact that the TdY is in the area has also meant there's potential for more sales with businesses.

The bunting workshops have given both adults and young people the opportunity to get involved within their local community. The sessions have provided much entertainment, with conversations and laughter flowing and new people meeting each other.

Many who came to the workshops soon got hooked! Once they had been to one, we couldn't keep them away from the other sessions. The people who stitched the bunting have been kept incredibly active; they have sewn metres and metres. A huge number of people volunteered towards this project, without them the project wouldn't be half as successful. The volunteers contributed towards: decorating bunting triangles, cutting triangles, sewing and donating fabric. The coloured fabric that has been used in between the decorated triangles has all been donated by the local community and businesses. It is recycled fabric that would otherwise have been put into landfill.

Kexborough Primary School decorated one of their bikes with recycled plastic bottle tops, not only did this save plastic waste it encouraged and educated children to recycle and create less plastic waste.

This project has encouraged local pride, and also hits a range of ward priorities:

- The environment
- Health and wellbeing
- Recreation and the arts
- Skills and the economy
- Community involvement

The Project

The Tour de Yorkshire has become a major attraction within the borough of Barnsley. With this year's race predominantly covering the North area of Barnsley, the North Area Team wanted to make a huge impact and create an immense sense of pride and celebration within the local communities.

To achieve this, we came up with various ideas and suggestions to reach the local communities, residents, community groups and businesses, including working in partnership with the Events Team by supporting them with their roadshows, holding bunting workshops, liaising with local schools, decorating bikes, a t-shirt competition and a flag competition.

Bunting Workshops

A number of bunting workshops were held across the North Area as it was felt that these could be easily and cheaply duplicated amongst the various groups and sessions, and would generate a bigger impact and value than more costly and time-intensive t-shirt and flag competitions. The workshops were held across various days and times over a period of five weeks. As the first workshop arrived we were excited to meet local people and see what creations would be made. As the hours ticked by and no-one turned up, our excitement sank and we began to think *'what have we let ourselves in for'* and *'why did it not work?'*



Not to be completely disheartened, we regrouped and thought about how we could do things better or differently to entice people to attend. We increased our publicity drive, sharing as far and wide as we could on social media; we leafleted the local area and schools and even provided refreshments and cake at the workshops! This seemed to do the trick as the remainder of the workshops were extremely well attended with an average of 150 bunting triangles being created at each session!



Impact of the Workshops

The impact that these workshops had on the project went much further than within the four walls of the session. Those who attended the workshops had so much fun, they decided to attend a number of the other workshops.

People surprised themselves. Many people commented to us at the start of the workshops *'I'll give it a go but I'm not very good at drawing.'* Or *'I'm not very artistic'* So it was really lovely to see people's reactions to the bunting they produced, when it hit them that actually they could do it and they could produce some amazing creations.

A number of people who attended the workshops were part of other community groups and asked if they could take some triangles to do within their group sessions, for example, Staincross Brownies, Wilthorpe Beavers and Scouts. Community groups who couldn't attend asked us to come and deliver a workshop at one of their meetings, including Darton Afternoon Club, Crafty Crafters, Pogmoor Afternoon Club and Ad Astra. The reach went further than we had ever imagined with people wanting to be involved who were not within the North Area or near the route of the TdY, for example, Kings Oak Primary School in Wombwell.

Local Schools

We have always found it a challenge to make an in road into our local schools and thought that this project would give us the perfect opportunity to try again.

We contacted six local schools offering them the opportunity to decorate a triangle per pupil and an MDF bike per class. Two schools jumped at the opportunity straight away and with some gentle persuasion and persistence the others soon came on board.



Impact of working with the schools

The reports back from each school are that the pupils have loved doing it and enjoyed contributing towards the TDY.

"I'm really pleased with the effort the children and staff have gone to."

- Julie Brown, Headteacher of Gawber Primary

"Thank you so much for including us in your project - we're really excited."

- Beth Smith, teacher at Darton Primary

"The kids have had a great time decorating them."

- Chris Hawley, teacher at Wellgate Primary School

Kexborough Primary School proudly posted on their Facebook page that "Year 2 had a lovely time decorating bunting and a bike which will be used to decorate the Tour de Yorkshire route".

Summer Lane has received publicity by arranging a visit from Barnsley Chronicle. Our aim now is to nurture these links with the local schools and develop a strong working relationship. We would like to encourage them to get involved with the local community, support them in their projects and invite them to join in some community projects.



The volunteers

The volunteers' impact on this project has been immense. We really could have not done it without them. The time and effort they have put into creating bunting for us is truly incredible.

We have had a bank of six ladies who have sewn the bunting together, they truly were life savers! A special mention must go to one of our sewing volunteers, Mary Melling, she has seemingly sewn miles and miles of bunting and has taken so much delight in it as she found it therapeutic! It has been a pleasure working with her.

We were informed of a small local business, The Recycle Yard, who sold unwanted/end of line fabric for a small fee. We decided to pay a visit to see if there was anything we could use for bunting. Upon hearing about our project the owner kindly donated £6 worth of material to us.

Role of the Area Team in the Project

The North Area Team was instrumental in delivering this project. Their role included: choosing and ordering materials; organising and leading workshops; advertising / promotion; contacting local businesses and schools; managing and organising the sewing of the bunting; organising locations to hang the bunting and put up the MDF bikes; project management.

Outcomes and Outputs

The outcome of this project has by far exceeded our expectation. It ended by being five times bigger than we planned it to be:

- 2800 triangles decorated
- 950 fabric triangles donated by local communities and businesses
- 3750 triangles sewn, enough for around 1600 metres of bunting
- 63 MDF bikes decorated, 74 new volunteers engaged, and 1823 young people
- 6200 people reached by social media

This project truly has put the North Area Team on the map! It has enabled us to reach people far and wide enabling them to learn about the North Area Team and what we do.

Did the project support new ways of working?

Regular volunteers who attended the workshops grew in confidence with each session. This led to people becoming more organised and efficient, and even saw a group of ladies taking the lead on the sewing, organising the fabric to be sewn and running a production line that produced the most amount of finished bunting we had in all of the sessions.

Lessons Learnt

Persistence and patience pays off! There were a vast amount of people who engaged with this project. This led to an unexpected shortfall in resources and materials. Many emergency calls were made asking for more materials to be ordered! If we did this again, we would be much more generous in the amount of material we would need.

We underestimated the amount of time the project would take up. It's fair to say that this has been *the* priority project for the North area for the past three months. If we did this again, more consideration would have to be given to the time needed and delegating opportunities to undertake the planning of the work would have to be explored

Our advice to anyone doing a TDY project would be to stay positive, buy plenty of scissors and don't be afraid to delegate!



Closing Comments

We truly are humbled and overwhelmed by the response of the local communities to this project. We honestly never thought that we could achieve such amazing results and none of it would have been possible without the volunteers, community groups, local schools and businesses who took the time to be part of this project. Their willingness to get involved, to try something new (even if they didn't think they would be any good) and their generosity.

At times we did get frustrated with the project, particularly when there seemed to be a never ending pile of fabric waiting to be cut! But we have had so much fun and loved every minute of it. We have met some wonderful and inspiring people along the way and forged many new working relationships. It's been a one heck of an amazing project to be involved in.

This project has been a true team effort. We couldn't have achieved the impact or results without the constant great support of each other. We went along with each other's ideas, if that did mean embarrassing ourselves on social media. Phil and Holly watch out!

All in all, we can't wait for the race to start!!!

NORTH EAST Area

North East Ward Alliance

Chair Aerobics



This project will pay for a qualified instructor and hire a venue to deliver a course of armchair aerobics. The classes will focus on gentle exercise to help older people to regain fitness at their own pace.

This project arose from the Ward Alliance induction process for new Ward Alliance members. A good induction ensures volunteers are able to contribute quickly and feel part of the organisation. Volunteers need to be inducted into the role and provided with support to enable them (and the Ward Alliance) to get the most from their volunteering. From understanding the volunteering role, and understanding the values and priorities of the Ward Alliance, the new member suggested Chair Aerobics as a way of improving Health and Wellbeing. This fitted in the Cudworth Ward Priority of Health and Wellbeing.

It is a well-known fact that gentle physical activity is the number one contributor to living longer and improving your quality of life - even if you don't start exercising until your senior year. Exercise can also help you lose weight, reduce stress, and improve sleep, digestion, circulation, energy levels, and self-esteem. Finally, regular exercise can help you to function better and remain independent in spite of health problems. The Ward Alliance offered support and advice. A qualified instructor also helped with the project.

The new member engaged with local residents, researched the how, why, and when the project would take place, completed the Ward Alliance application form and booked the instructor. The North East Area team played a crucial role in making connections, supporting the new Ward Alliance member and the local councillors, to work together. Getting them to: share ideas, issues and solutions but avoiding doing it for them directing members to relevant support and guidance and spending time and effort to bring them all on board.

The Area Team had the following main areas of focus:

- To act as a point of contact for all aspects of community development
- Brokering and bringing together stakeholders
- Sign posting
- Spotting opportunities to help move the project forward
- Involving and encouraging the Councillors in their roles as Community Champions
- Helping to sort out problems and potential barriers
- Challenge where required
- The Area Teams intervention enables Community Groups to thrive and grow, ultimately becoming self-sustainable



There was a fantastic response at the taster session at the Cudworth Health Fayre:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HYp_g09tCCs

Residents looked forward to exercise sessions and were visibly more energised and more cheerful.

Over time the new volunteer developed good working relationships not only with the North East Area Team but with other Ward Alliance members and local residents.

North East Area Team

Employer Supported Volunteering day at Grimethorpe Community Farm

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Following an article in Straight Talk requesting volunteers, five ladies, who work for Barnsley MBC as Management Support Officers, contacted the North East Area Team to enquire about volunteering at Grimethorpe Community Farm.

The North East Area Team met Alison at the farm and it was agreed that painting the stable and paddock fencing with wood stain would improve the general appearance of the farm and help to preserve the wood.



A date was agreed as the three Shetland ponies, Bramble, Cinders and Rocco, would have to be moved to a different area of the farm whilst the work was being carried out, and stay there for a further 24 hours to make sure the stain was completely dry.

In order to help promote biodiversity in the local community, the Area Manager then organised an information visit from the Hogwarts Hedgehog Hospital to explain to the volunteers about endangered species and how they could help to look after hedgehogs.



It was agreed that the volunteers would then be able to take part in a taster session for the 'infamous' vegetable soup that is made in the farm café.

During the lunch break the Area Chair visited the volunteers and was delighted to talk to them about the work of the North East Area Council, and thank them for their support.

Finally to finish off the day the volunteers took part in helping to make a friendly scarecrow.

The volunteers' health and wellbeing has been improved:

- Through helping out at the farm through physical activity
- Through learning about new concepts such as biodiversity
- Through engaging in useful arts and crafts, such as scarecrow making. Arts and craft activities have been shown to improve mental wellbeing

The five ladies who kindly volunteered at the Community Farm have contributed to a stronger community through:

- Helping to improve a local area
- Getting involved in worthwhile community activities that help other people
- Volunteering and helping other has been shown to reduce stress, combat depression, keep people mentally stimulated and provide a sense of purpose

The five BMBC Management Support Officers, the farm manager, the farm assistant, and regular volunteers at the farm, and the North East Area Team all took part in making the project successful.

The North East Area Team played a crucial role in making connections, supporting the Management Support Officers and liaising with the farm manager, the regular volunteers, the Hogwarts Hedgehog Hospital and the Area Chair.



The Area Team:

- Worked together to act as a point of contact for the project
- Lead on brokering and bringing together stakeholders
- Lead on sign posting and spotting opportunities to help move the project forward
- Lead on involving and encouraging the Area Chair in his roles as Community Champions
- Helped to sort out problems and potential barriers
- Provided the materials required

Subsequently the Management Support Officers have requested further ESV days at the Community Farm, and have built up very positive relationships with the the North East Area Team, the farm manager and the regular volunteers at the farm. A further ESV day will be facilitated by the North East Area Team, and relationships will continue to be built upon and strengthened.

The feedback from the Volunteering Day was really positive:

“Thank you for having us on the 21st March; we all thoroughly enjoyed it so much that we were wondering if it's possible to come back to Grimethorpe Community Farm in June to volunteer yet again?” - Volunteer



“It was lovely to meet you and the team and thank you so much for organising it and coming to cheer us on!” - Volunteer

“Another great day on the Community Farm, and lovely to meet some new, happy and hardworking Volunteers. Thanks so much for your help.” - Alison, Farm Manager at Grimethorpe Community Farm.

Royston Ward

Tour de Yorkshire Bunting Workshops

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The Tour de Yorkshire race route passing through Royston on 3rd May led to a number of community engagement events. Activities around the TdY race help to bring the community together and strengthen the town's visitor economy.

A number of decorating / bunting workshops were arranged to involve the community in the race and encourage them to decorate Royston. Advice and guidance was given from CDOs who had experience in the race last year. They passed on vital information on do's and don'ts.

Dawn, a CDO in the south area, was extremely helpful in passing on information and contacts she established as part of last year's race, and put the team in touch with a volunteer who was responsible for specific decorating elements in Hoyland as part of last year's race; large flowers (Yorkshire Rose) were created to decorate the race route.



Katie, the volunteer responsible, loved being involved with the TdY so much last year that she offered to support and help out at the bunting / decorating workshops in the North East area. She wanted to pass on her skills and experience to others.

Katie volunteered her time to teach and support others at the TdY workshops. As a result she has been working alongside other volunteers in the area, encouraging them to support the race. Her enthusiasm is infectious and she has motivated others to get involved.

Katie has been the main focus and lead for the decorating workshops. She has volunteered her time to teach others crafting skills and techniques, and to pass on her experiences of being involved with the race last year. She has worked alongside the CDO to plan and prepare for sessions.

The area team was responsible for the coordination and organisation of TdY community engagement

events building up to the race. These events have been instrumental in recruiting new volunteers and getting the community involved.

Other CDOs from the South and Penistone area teams shared ideas and best practice from their experiences being involved with the race. As a new CDO to the North East Area team this partnership working and information sharing was vital in the success of TdY events in Royston. The project has allowed the CDO the opportunity to recruit new volunteers, build relationships with community groups and establish new contacts in the community.

Katie the volunteer has used her volunteer hours as part of the directed studies as she is currently completing a teaching qualification.

The project has brought together service wide information sharing as the TdY has been through a number of area teams' wards now. The TdY has empowered volunteers to remain involved and continue to volunteer, even though it's not in their local community.

The project is ongoing but the feedback so far is positive. Katie has loved being involved in the TdY activities again this year. She has enjoyed meeting new people and getting to know Royston. It has also supported her in her teaching qualification studies which will benefit her in future career plans.

Community engagement events were planned to take place up to the race day, with the hope that people will come out and watch the race on the day uniting the people of Royston.

PENISTONE Area

Penistone Area Council

Penistone Parkrun

PEOPLE ACHIEVING THEIR POTENTIAL	STRONG & RESILIENT COMMUNITIES
Outcome 9: People are healthier, happier, independent and active	Outcome 10: People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities

Liveit
Looking after yourself and others

Loveit
Having pride in where you live

Parkrun is a national project which provides free, volunteer-run, 5k runs every Saturday morning. The model relies on community investment interims of fundraising and volunteer time. The idea for Penistone Parkrun has been around for a few years and at the end of 2018 became a reality thanks to a volunteer team and funding from the Penistone Ward Alliance.

Parkrun aims to bring people together in a happy, healthy environment. Whether you want to run, walk or volunteer, everyone is welcome. Host towns also benefit from the economic impact of having hundreds of people visiting the town. Test events took place in January, February and March, with around 100 runners per event. The first official Penistone Parkrun was Saturday 13th April 2019.



Penistone Parkrun’s aims were to create a sustainable, healthy event which could attract more people to Penistone. It also creates new opportunities for volunteers to come together on a regular basis and have a social impact. Regular exercise has proven positive impacts on both physical and mental health.

An organising committee of six volunteers has brought Penistone Parkrun to this stage. They have had to arrange permissions with Barnsley Council and Parkrun UK as well as applying for funding from the Penistone Ward Alliance.

The weekly events will be supported by around 18 volunteers for around 3 hours each. They are responsible for marshalling, time keeping, scanning and supporting the runners/walkers.

The Penistone Area Team worked with the committee to broker relationships with elected members and BMBC staff in regards to permissions to run the event on the Penistone Showground and Trans Pennine Trail. The Penistone Area Team also advised the group to seek support from the Penistone Ward Alliance which they did successfully in receiving £3,000 in funding.

Once established there is huge potential to increase the health and wellbeing of local people. It is also hoped there will be a positive impact on the town centre economy by bringing visitors to the town. Barnsley Parkrun regularly has over 200 runners and Huddersfield has over 500.

Every week volunteers will contribute around 50 hours to deliver the runs, with the equivalent value of over £35,000 per year!

The only other Parkrun in the borough operates at Locke Park and is therefore quite self-contained. Penistone will be using public footpaths on the Trans Pennine Trail, so this is a first for the borough.

“We really need to thank the Ward Alliance who are the funding providers enabling the event to set up!” - *Helen Hayton, Penistone Parkrun volunteer.*

The test runs have been successful but led to some slight changes to the route and setup. The next stages are to begin the official runs and recruit enough volunteers to support them.



Penistone Area Council

Penistone Arts Week 2019 – Bigger and Better!

STRONG & RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Outcome 10: People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities

Liveit

Looking after yourself and others

Loveit

Having pride in where you live



Penistone Arts Week came together as a constituted group with the support of the Penistone Area Team in late 2017. They delivered their first community arts festival across the Penistone area in March 2018 and returned in March 2019.

The group was formed by a small, passionate team who saw a gap to deliver an arts festival with a difference in the Penistone area. The aim is to bring local people together and attract visitors to the fantastic places within the Penistone area. Sustainability and resilience have been key drivers of how Penistone Arts Week works.

This year the group diversified their modest funding streams to include business sponsorship, crowdfunding, and an application to the Penistone Ward Alliance. Penistone Arts Week is completely volunteer-organised and delivered. They run on a model of empowering venues and groups to deliver one-off activities during the week and taking ownership of their own arrangements (promotion, ticket price, event management, etc.). This makes Penistone Arts Week much more sustainable than many arts festivals which rely on large external grant funding. Penistone Arts Week is probably the most thrifty arts festival in the country! The volunteer committee is made up of eight people meeting monthly to coordinate the activities. The volunteers also work outside of the meetings chasing up events, generating income and making connections. In total the committee alone contribute 330 hours in volunteer time to make the festival happen, with an equivalent value of over £4,500.

The Penistone Area Team were able to give advice on funding, specifically helping the volunteers launch and manage their crowdfunded campaign.

The Penistone Area Team also used their local contacts to broaden the reach of Penistone Arts Week into new communities and working with new groups.

The 2018 Penistone Arts Week was supported with £700 from the Penistone Ward Alliance, and in 2019 it was supported with £500.



Angel Voices at Wortley Hall

In 2018 Penistone Arts Week attracted around 500 people to their events; this year over 2,000 have attended over 30 events in Penistone, Thurlstone, Silkstone, Cawthorne, Wortley, Hoylandswaine and Springvale.



**Winston Plowes at Cawthorne
Victoria Jubilee Museum**

“This year’s Penistone Arts Week has quite frankly been a tremendous success, far exceeding my personal expectations. The Penistone Area Team, particularly Stephen Miller, has been invaluable to us. His constant presence and support, coupled expertise and thoughtful opinions helped make the festival the success it was without a shadow of a doubt.

The Ward Alliance support via the funds for us to publicise the event more effectively this year has also paid real dividends. Penistone FM and the Paramount Cinema too did us proud. I personally felt that Penistone as a community really came together this year and as a result, Penistone Arts Week is now in a position to go from strength to strength.”

Chrissie Yates, Chair, Penistone Arts Week

The biggest learning point this year was how to involve business sponsors. A direct approach to local business proved much more successful than the Crowdfunder campaign.

The planning committee are meeting again soon to have their AGM, review of 2019 and start planning for 2020!

SOUTH Area

Darfield Ward

Hungry Caterpillars

PEOPLE ACHIEVING
THEIR
POTENTIAL

Outcome 7: Reducing demand through improving access to early help

Outcome 9: People are healthier, happier, independent and active

STRONG &
RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Outcome 10: People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities

Liveit

Looking after yourself and others

Loveit

Having pride in where you live

Hungry Caterpillars is a parent and toddler group which provides physical and educational activities for those aged 5 years and under, and acts as a 'hub' to share information and advice to parents on a range of issues such as healthy eating, parenting and learning and development needs of young children.

With a number of their existing children due to start full time education, the group's numbers were in danger of dropping to a level which would result in them struggling to meet their running costs and continuing to operate.



The group made contact with the South Area Team, as they wanted to apply to the Darfield Ward Alliance Fund for some new resources which they felt would help attract new families to the group.

Being a parent with a young child can be daunting and lonely. The playgroup is an informal, welcoming environment which offers the opportunity for parents to build friendships and support networks so they feel less socially isolated. Each session offers healthy snacks and activities which encourage physical activity and brain development. This helps build the skills and knowledge of the parents so they can replicate this approach at home creating a healthy lifestyle for all the family.

The playgroup is run by volunteers who are supported by a number of parents with things such as serving refreshments and clearing away. A group of 5 regular volunteers are involved with the planning, organising and delivery of these toddler sessions which are held every week during term time only at Low Valley Methodist Church, Darfield. Their roles included advertising the group out in the community, setting up and clearing down, meeting and greeting, setting up and running of the activities, serving tea/toast, preparing healthy snacks and ensuring the administration of the group is up-to-date. Parents attending the sessions also help out with tasks such as tidying up and serving refreshments.

The CDO for Darfield recognised the value in supporting this group to become more sustainable, not only in terms of being able to meet both Darfield Ward Alliance and BMBC priorities but also for the many benefits it provided to the Darfield Community as listed above. Because of this the group were encouraged to think wider than just purchasing a few new resources.



Although this would help attract new members, the group were supported to think more long term, and identified that having funding to cover their room rent would have much more of an impact on them being able to achieve this sustainability. This would give them the time needed to build up numbers for the group as well as their own reserves to cover ongoing spend. The group were supported through the Ward Alliance Fund process resulting in Darfield Ward Alliance agreeing to fund just over £700 to cover the cost of 12 months room rent as well as some new resources.

One quote from the group:

“Thank you so much for our grant, it has made such a difference to so many young children in the community”.

The group has been able to continue to run with a number of new families now attending. The group has attracted two new regular volunteers who have an interest in working within a childcare setting. It now has the means to spend the next 12 months ‘saving’ for additional spend. This project over the 12 months will deliver approx. 480 volunteer hours at a value of £6,484.



Hoyland

Christmas in Hoyland

THRIVING & VIBRANT ECONOMY

Outcome 3: Develop a vibrant town centre

Outcome 4: Strengthen our visitor economy

STRONG & RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Outcome 10: People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities

Changeit

Having your say on things that matter

Imagineit

Creating a brighter future

Loveit

Having pride in where you live

In 2018 The Tour de Yorkshire came through Hoyland and the town came together, creating bunting, decorating bicycles and creating a fantastic feeling of community spirit. There were some businesses who were interested in talking to each other and the Area Team, and as a direct consequence of this some businesses came together to put on a Christmas market in Hoyland.

Hoyland's Christmas market was designed to increase footfall on the High Street and bring Hoyland together as a community. The community came out in force whether it was having a stall, being a member of one of the community groups taking part, or just having a look round at the stalls and shops.

The project attracted 23 craft stalls and 11 people volunteered towards this event with 7 brand new volunteers.



Hoyland's Christmas market was designed to increase footfall on the High Street and bring Hoyland together as a community. Local businesses opened later, there was a craft market in Hoyland market place which covered 23 stalls, the library played host to Father Christmas and Hoyland Community choir and held craft sessions for adults to make rag wreaths and children to make cards that lit up. Owd Martha's Yard Community Garden hosted the Fiddlers Three folk band, a dancing troupe and provided a host of children's activities.

The CDO for Hoyland Milton and Rockingham brought a group of retailers together to help them plan a Christmas Fair to increase footfall on the Hoyland High Street. The Ward Alliance approved funding for the cost of the market stalls, Christmas tree; the businesses donated money towards the cost of solar

lights for the town centre.

There was some excellent feedback and this has inspired the businesses to meet regularly and look at other issues within the town centre.

In their capacity as Community Champions, Councillors have actively attended the business meetings and taken away issues that have been the main concerns of the business such as issues with parking, which have been taken to Highways for them to look at lining and signing.

Public Health used the group to consult with for the Smoke Free Towns project and the consultant has actively engaged with them. The project promoted new ways of working because the CDO formed new partnerships between businesses and community groups.

The CDO also worked across the Council with other services such as Events Team, Health and Safety, Assets, licencing, regulatory services and the Markets team.

The event was a success, examples of feedback are below.

'Congratulations to everyone who took part, thank you to the businesses and community groups who made the market feel very special, brilliant work from Dawn and the team to organise it all and well done you the residents who turned out to support it; looking forward to next year's already.

We can't speak for other stall holders but judging by the number of people who braved the cold, it seems to have been a great success. Hope the doubters learn when to be quiet!

Well done Dawn, credit to you.'



Having formed a committee the group are now constituted and planning to open their own bank account and looking to explore external funding opportunities for the good of Hoyland and its businesses. Ideas so far include a 'Shop Local' week and another Christmas event in line with Town Spirit.

Hoyland

CommuniTeas

PEOPLE ACHIEVING
THEIR
POTENTIAL

Outcome 9: People are healthier, happier, independent and active

STRONG &
RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Outcome 10: People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities

Imagineit

Creating a
brighter future

Loveit

Having pride
in where you live

The CommuniTeas project is a plant-based project designed around tea. The current volunteers have been involved with Owd Martha's Yard for some time now and at the same time getting older. Illnesses often associated with aging are creeping in and some members of the group are finding it more difficult to help with heavier work, so in order for the group to remain sustainable they require more volunteers.

The project was designed to bring new volunteers for Owd Martha's Yard Community Garden and upskill local residents. Participants who completed the 12 week programme will earn a certificate from the RHS.

The Social Prescribing team would like more socially isolated residents to get involved in their community and this is a slightly unusual way. The project is based on the RHS' three core values which are: 'Inspire', 'Develop and Create', and 'Share and Celebrate'.

By people becoming involved in their community they are less isolated and as a result, and feel healthier and happier. This project is designed to give them purpose. The outcome of the project will be to get more people volunteering within their own community, particularly with the community garden.

The project helps the participants to develop their skills, not only in horticulture, but their social skills as well as they communicate with volunteers and other participants.



The RHS wrote the session content and provided resources for the whole of the course. My Best Life social prescribing recruited participants, the South Area Team helped to source a venue, provided some funding, and helped with publicity. Owd Martha's Yard provided the garden and the volunteers to run the sessions.

As a result, sixteen participants attended the first session along with five volunteers from Owd Martha's Yard Community Garden.

The CDO brought the stakeholders together and obtained funding which was matched by the RHS for set up costs and materials. The CDO visited groups that may know of suitable participants such as the Patient Participation Group, the local Churches and Berneslai Homes. The CDO made the posters and ensured that they were widely circulated including using social media. The Area Team also liaised with the Communications Team to get a promotional campaign up and running, and contacted the local paper to invite them to come along to the launch event.

The first session was in the form of a workshop delivered by a qualified herbalist who spoke about tea and produced herbal teas. This was attended by the Mayor of Barnsley and the Barnsley Chronicle.



The herbalist was able to talk about using herbs as a way of controlling illness in a complimentary way to modern medicine, she was very clear that participants should not substitute prescribed medication for herbs but it is hoped that this may reduce the participants visits to the GP surgeries for minor illnesses. Participants were able to network with each other so will feel less isolated and more comfortable attending future sessions.

The project has only just started but it is hoped that participants will continue to with the course and go on to volunteer with Owd Martha's Community Garden and the Tidy Team. As they will have a certificate in basic horticulture, participants may decide to seek further learning or job opportunities. If the project is successful for the RHS, they intend to roll it out to other community gardens, allotments and similar venues.

"I have to say, even though I wasn't present at the whole of the event, due to escorting the Lord Mayor on his visit, I was amazed at how many people attended the session, twenty six in all, and with the excellent Bel Charlesworth, Medical Herbalist and Yoga Practitioner, who was an inspiration to us all. She had the ability to speak to and get the attention of all the attendees. Her expertise was duly noted and the tea samples that she provided were unusually very good! From my wife's and my own perspective, we have to report that the Chamomile/Lavender/Lime flower blend has become our firm favourite. We can only comment that the whole event was first rate! Thank you".

- Participant at the CommuniTeas event

"I found the session enlightening and interesting. Bel was brilliant. She was easy to listen to; she taught without your realising it and delivered the information in just the right manner. She had plenty of props and endless knowledge on a wide variety of subjects — herbs, teas, medicinal use, relaxation techniques. Excellent!"

- Participant at the CommuniTeas event

The programme will continue over the next 12 weeks with the support of the RHS, after that time the community can further develop the project to extend beyond the growing season. The participants will have developed their skills sufficiently to obtain certification by the RHS.

Wombwell

Volunteer Chelsey – new Ward Alliance Member representing youth



The initiative is to encourage more young people to volunteer and contribute in community activities and projects. One of Wombwell Ward Alliance's priorities is Youth Provision and has had difficulty getting representation from the youth of Wombwell on the Ward Alliance.

Chelsey has been volunteering with the Friends of Wombwell Cemetery for the past 4 years and met the CDO at a cemetery event. She mentioned how much she enjoyed volunteering and wanted to expand on her current volunteering role to build up her confidence and develop her skills doing something useful during the school holidays. Chelsey is currently doing her A-Levels and will be moving onto University in September.

Chelsey will be able to share her skills and experience of volunteering and bring the voice of young people onto the Ward Alliance; be a role model to other young people. Chelsey has had various volunteering experiences. She initially started out as a first aider supporting the Wombwell 'Picnic in the Park' events and the 'High St Christmas' events initially supporting an experienced volunteer. During the school holidays she has supported the CDO on a number of family activities.

The CDO spent some time bringing Chelsey out of her shell, encouraging her to get involved with volunteering in other community projects, but making sure she always felt comfortable with the task she was undertaking. The CDO enrolled Chelsey on a First Aid course to update her training, carried out induction training for new Ward Alliance members, and offers ongoing support and 1-1s for Chelsey. The CDO ensured that Chelsey had an overall view of community activity across Wombwell and was in attendance when Chelsey volunteered with the various groups e.g. Friends of Wombwell Park, Loxley Gardens etc.

Chelsey has gained from volunteering alongside older experienced community volunteers who have always been willing to offer support and guidance. Chelsey has just enrolled on a CV which has been organised via the South Area Team. The accolade of Chelsey's volunteering within the Wombwell community happened a few weeks ago when she became a member of the Wombwell Ward Alliance.

Chelsey will be a great asset to the Ward Alliance; she will be able to bring a young person's perspective into the decision making process. Chelsey now has the confidence to express her views and put forward ideas for discussion. She integrated well into the Ward Alliance, as through her volunteering, despite having already met most of the current members and elected members.

Chelsey is able to utilise her updated first aid training at community events e.g. Wombwell Picnic in the Park and Wombwell High St Christmas event. She also assists and supports other community groups with their activities.

Chelsey thoroughly enjoys volunteering in Wombwell and has made many friendships and benefited from working alongside other people. Recently a volunteer arranged for Chelsey to visit his place of work at Doncaster prison which she found to be very informative.

Chelsey is looking forward to working alongside the committee members in the Ward Alliance and she will be a great asset.

"I think the main issues are getting people to be responsible for their own environment and getting teenagers involved in their local community."

- Quote from Chelsey

Spending time building up volunteers' confidence, letting them develop at their own pace and not making too many demands on them, and introducing the volunteer to the various groups and enabling her to get to know them was a learning point from this initiative.

Wombwell Ward Alliance has tried numerous approaches (through Youth Councils, local High School) to try and get representation from young people, without success. The method of supporting a young volunteer through their journey within their local community seems to be way to go. Chelsey will be supported throughout her time on the Ward Alliance with regular 1-1s.