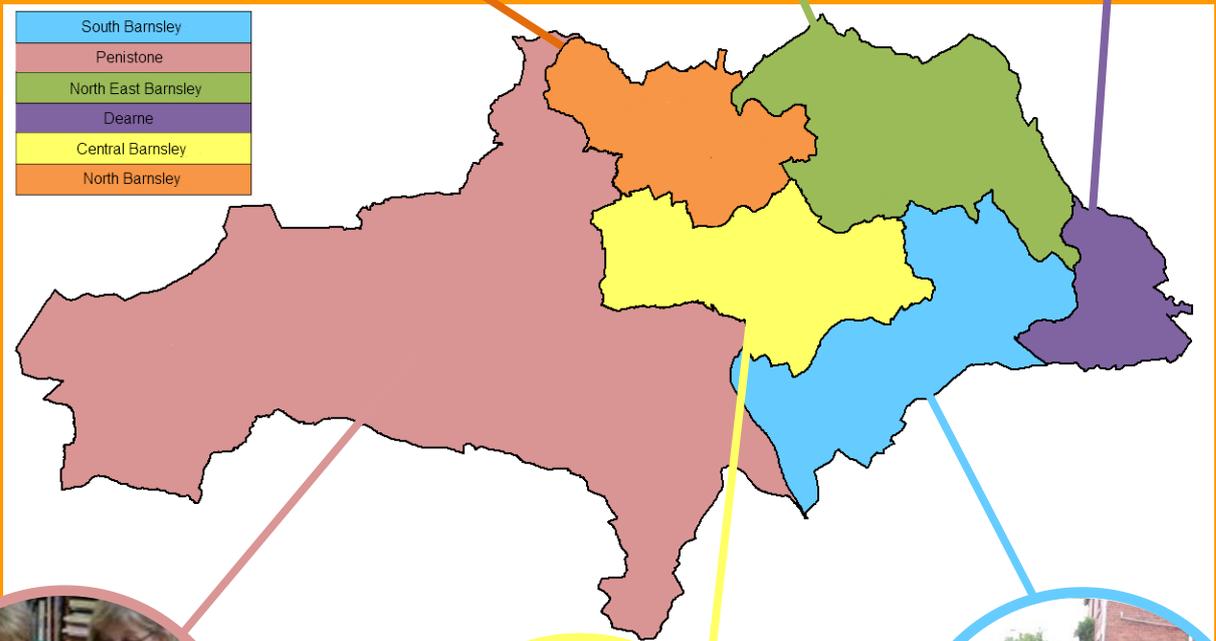


# Stronger Communities Service 2019/20 Quarter 1 Narrative Report



## **Introduction**

Welcome to the Stronger Communities Service 2019/20 Quarter 1 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

### Central Area Council - Contracted Services

#### *The YMCA Bank End Music Project*



As part of the wider YMCA Contract, a Music Project has been facilitated by YMCA staff at regular weekly sessions taking place in Bank End at the Kendray & Worsbrough Family Centre.

This case study demonstrates the contribution being made by the YMCA contract to build emotional resilience and wellbeing in children and young people aged 8-14. This continues to be achieved through consistent positive relationships with trusted adults, offering a safe environment for children and young people, providing positive opportunities and experiences to raise aspirations and in turn building confidence and self-esteem.

Through a range of support models and referral to additional services both within the YMCA and with external agencies, the project continues to develop and provide continued support to children and young people accessing the project.

The Bank End Music project is a very good example of the positive impact the Central Area Council YMCA service is having on the lives of young people.

The children and young people attending the session are from the Bank End area and range from year 5 and 6 students who attend the local primary school to year 7 and 8 students who attend Barnsley Academy.

The group have really engaged with the staff and the activities provided. The team has offered a

variety of different activities from cook and eat sessions to arts and crafts and trips during the school holidays. The activities the staff have run have come from consultation with the young people and there has been a positive response from the children and young people who have participated.

The group began working on the music project after consultation during the October half term activities. The group worked with Corey Sills, a student in the final year of his Music Technology degree, and the YMCA staff to create their own piece of music. They also produced a music video and a short video showing footage of their journey throughout the project. As well as providing new and exciting experiences and opportunities for the young people working on the project it allowed them to develop core self, learn new skills and build their confidence and self-esteem and create a real feeling of belonging.

The music video created was showcased at the Central Area Council Awards & Celebration Evening, which was organised by the Central Area Team.

When the young people initially began the project one girl, Tyler, expressed that she loved to sing but was afraid of getting it wrong or failing so wouldn't sing in front of others. The project gave her the chance to overcome this fear and supported by the staff and others in the group she was able to sing lots of the vocals on the track. She also sang the lead vocals on a track that the group recorded during their visit to the recording studios at Barnsley College.

When evaluating the project with Tyler she shared her feelings about the process expressing, ***"I am more confident in myself I believe I can do whatever I put my mind to. I have learnt that being unique and being myself makes everyone a lot happier."*** When asked what difference the project had made to her she answered, ***"The project has made me realise that I am special and I can do it."***

As well as discussing how the project had helped her become more confident, she shared with lots of pride that the track they had recorded was played at the awards ceremony and that she received lots of compliments. As well as growing in confidence and self-belief during the process Tyler has grown as a role model and an inspiration to her peers, supporting the younger members of the group and becoming a Peer Supporter, a role which has seen her become more responsible and has raised her aspirations. It has also given her the opportunity to be involved in more positive activities which has resulted in her making better choices.



When working with young people success is achieved through the establishment of consistent positive relationships with trusted adults, offering a safe environment for children and young people providing positive opportunities and experiences to raise aspirations and in turn build confidence and self-esteem.

## Central Area Council

### *Junior Wardens in Kingstone, Stairfoot and Worsbrough*



Ward Alliances support the Junior Wardens scheme in Kingstone, Stairfoot & Worsbrough.

The overall aim of the Junior Wardens scheme is to promote good citizenship, increase awareness of the environment including road and rail safety, the impact of littering or graffiti, promote community liaison and to facilitate an understanding of the positive benefit of pro-social behaviour. Learning about the police and emergency services and their importance and especially to help create a friendly partnership with them.

The Junior Wardens are made aware of safety concerns: - "Staying Safe" by Police, Road and Rail safety, First Aid including CPR and shown the advantages of good behaviour and manners. They are encouraged to help meet the needs of senior citizens and the community. Part of the programme includes involvement in community litter picks and fund raising for Mountain Rescue.

The children learn to appreciate the work done in the locality and break down 'barriers' (actual or perceived) between young people and the statutory agencies and promote a positive image of young people to the public at large, thus improving community confidence between diverse age groups.

Good citizenship and taking responsibility is promoted throughout the scheme to the children attending.

The children who have participated in previous schemes have been evaluated by their teachers and have demonstrated a significant improvement in their academic work, developed their individual personality, displayed an understanding of their local environment and an appreciation of the services being provided by the local agencies. Letters from parents whose children have benefitted from the

schemes have also been received.

The latest OFSTED report from one of the participating schools gives a mention to the Junior Warden Scheme as being a positive asset.

Children from each of the following 3 schools took part in the 12 week programme:

- Forest Academy, Kendray
- Ward Green Primary School
- Worsbrough Common Primary School

The Central Area Team have supported the development and delivery of the Junior Wardens scheme for a number of years and Community Development Officers have guided and supported the scheme Co-ordinators to develop and submit WAF applications.

84 children from the Central Council area have completed the Junior Wardens Programme over the past year, with all reporting that the scheme has had a positive impact on their lives.

The latest OFSTED report from one of the participating schools refers to the Junior Wardens scheme as being a positive asset to the school.



## Central Area Team – Stairfoot Ward

### *Neighbourhood Health Integration in Action*



This small project was in response to identified health issues in the local Alms houses on Field Lane. Field Lane is an area of the ward with a very settled community of older residents. The Alms Houses Trust identified a number of the residents in the houses as having deteriorating health (particularly low level mental health issues). These health issues were not being addressed for different reasons. The trust asked the Ward alliance if they could help bring Health partners together with the residents of this area to promote the Health services that are available and to try and make appropriate referrals.

The project helped towards getting people referred to appropriate health, befriending and social care services, so the residents of the area will be able to live a happier more independent lifestyle.

The Ward Alliance promotes activities throughout the area that help people to engage with groups that already exist. This in turn helps to address social isolation.

The Ward Alliance and the volunteers from Field Lane Crafters and the Alms Houses invited Julie Bassendale, our local Community Matron, Liz from My Best Life and Natalie for Royal Voluntary Service to come to a Coffee Information morning with information about their services and be prepared to take referrals. We leafleted all the streets in the area around Field Lane and over 20 residents came to have a chat to the services who were there. The residents who had been identified as needing a referral were encouraged to come to the event and were introduced to the relevant services.

As the CDO for the Stairfoot Ward Alliance I have links with many groups and organisations in the area. This issue was raised and I suggested the coffee morning. After agreeing with the Cllrs and the Ward Alliance I invited the health professionals, recruited the volunteers from the local group to do the refreshments, organised the leaflets and arranged volunteers to post leaflets.

The Area Team's contacts of both the local groups, volunteers and service providers along with the contracted partners are vital in getting the right people to attend such an event.

The project achieved its main aim as the people who were identified as needing extra support have been referred to RVS and Community Matron. We had 6 volunteers supporting the event by posting leaflets and making refreshments. 20 residents came to the event and spoke to the partners about the services. Many of the local residents gained information about the Ward Alliance and one requested information about becoming a member and information about WAF was given to an emerging support group in the area. All residents were given information about events that are happening in the ward over the summer.



This project helped to establish a way of working at a neighbourhood level. Each neighbourhood has a different make up and will require different ways of working. This coffee morning suited this particular neighbourhood; it took advantage of the Assets in the area, (the local volunteers, the community room in the Alms houses, the health and social care professionals etc) to deliver a small but effective event.

We had good feedback from local residents who were happy to find out more about the services and the groups and activities in the local area. The volunteers from the craft group and Alms houses were able to promote their group and sell some produce. The Ward Alliance raised its profile and promoted lots of activities in the area. **Most importantly the residents who were identified as needing extra support were referred to RVS and Health professionals.**

The main learning point from this project is that every neighbourhood is different and requires a different approach. This small coffee morning worked to engage with the residents in this area, but may not be successful in other areas (for example, putting on family activities may be more beneficial in other areas).

The Alms House Trust and the Field Lane Crafters will continue to deliver small engagement events for the local residents of the area.

# DEARNE

Dearne Area Team – Dearne North and South

*Embankment Education Day – Transition for Dearne ALC*

PEOPLE ACHIEVING  
THEIR  
POTENTIAL

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

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

STRONG &  
RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

**Outcome 10:** People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities

**Achieveit**

Helping you realise your potential

**Liveit**

Looking after yourself and others

**Loveit**

Having pride in where you live

After meeting the principle at an integrated care session the school was invited to come along to the Goldthorpe railway embankment, which is now a community green space that will be open to the community and local schools for education days and nature/wildlife initiatives. The School children from Dearne ALC assisted the group in hedge laying a few weeks later and fell in love with the site taking ownership and pride in what they were doing in their own community, after being on site for a couple of hours and loving the environmental work the school then approached the area team to see if they could help support them with the new kids going up to senior school in September on their initial Induction days – referred to as transition days with a local project that they were keen to get their teeth into. The date was then agreed for Friday 14th June.



The transition day event was designed to allow the children moving up to Astrea Academy Dearne the opportunity to visit and experience the railway embankment site, before it is officially opened for the public in September, as they will become involved in the project during their time at their new school. It was the first educational day to be held on site with 8 different stations, educating about different aspects of the site including creating bird feeders through recycling plastic bottles, developing bug hotels on site and interactive activities such as identifying

various leaves, plants, flowers and herbs that can be found on the site, as well as learning about the history of the site itself and the journey it has been on over the past few years transforming it. The event was about education, educating the children about wildlife, the site and taking pride in where they live and involvement in community based projects. This site was abused for many years and is now a beautiful space for the community to enjoy. Thanks to several years of dedication and hard work by all involved, this event was a perfect opportunity to highlight this hard work to the next generation of kids and show them what can be done if we work together and take pride in making our area a nice, clean place to live!

### ***Every child attends a good school and is successful in learning and work***

Each child who attended the transition day has gained 5 AQA awards that they will be presented with at the next transition day. They have gained new skills and knowledge about the environment and have contributed to a fantastic local community project.

### ***People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities***

240 children got involved in various activities including litter picking, weeding, planting, making bug hotels and bird feeders, all contributing to a fantastic community project that will see the embankment transformed into a place the community can enjoy.



240 children on their transition day from primary school to Astrea Academy Dearne were involved in these activities, split into their form groups and taking it in turns going round the 8 stations of activities. They were accompanied by teaching staff from the school and their primary schools.



The stations/activities were led by Community Development Officers, a Community Heritage Officer, TWIGGS staff, a Teacher from Goldthorpe Primary School and 2 local volunteers.

The children were split into 8 groups of 30, taking it in turns to pass round each substation until they had completed all 8 activities before heading back to school.

The team all assisted at the event, each manning an activity station of their own and working with 30 students at a time on their activity. The team had put the project plan together and had brought people together, including recruiting volunteers to assist in the event and arranging who was bringing what supplies. The area team sorted out all arrangements for the transporting of all equipment needed for the events and liaised with all involved. The event would not have been a success without Area Team involvement.



Despite the constant downpour during the session, the kids had a great day and the school's feedback was very positive on how successful it was. A second transition day at the site has been arranged for 12th July to do further activities.

Every child who attended that day has also gained 5 AQA awards from the event. Their certificates will be presented to them at the next transition day, which has increased their skills, knowledge and success in learning.

The event included working alongside TWIGGS, School staff, the Community Heritage Officer and local

volunteers who are already involved in the Railway Embankment project.

***“We’ve had a fabulous morning up at the Goldthorpe Embankment. Thank you to all the dedicated staff involved.” - Miss Conway.***

The wet weather drenched the papers that the children were writing on the clipboards to give details of the trees and wildlife descriptions. Next time we will make sure we have a gazebo to ensure all the papers stored, and any other items that need to be dry, stay dry.

Another transition date on site has been arranged for 12th July where their children will participate in different educational activities related to the embankment project such as log slicing.

The Principle at Dearne ALC has already stated he would love this to be the regular annual transition project to enrich the lives of the children and teach them about the benefits of our beautiful community green spaces.



## NORTH

North Area Team – Old Town

*Fleets Activity*

**THRIVING &  
VIBRANT ECONOMY**

**Outcome 2:** Increase skills to get more people working

**STRONG &  
RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**

**Outcome 10:** People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities

**Outcome 11:** Protecting the borough for future generations

**Achieveit**

Helping you realise your potential

**Liveit**

Looking after yourself and others

**Loveit**

Having pride in where you live

**Protectit**

Protecting our wonderful borough

For over a year, Barnsley Council has been working with a number of partners including Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, ASDA and Barnsley College with an aim of rejuvenating the Fleets Dam. In the past 3 months, management agreements have begun to fall into place and the Area Team were instrumental in helping publicise the start of the work and encouraging members of the public to begin getting involved and consult on what could be feasible in the area and in what they would be willing to be involved.

The project in this phase was to develop an interest from the community in the work that is just beginning with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and hopefully develop some interest in getting involved. We knew that we were facing apathy with the public, especially as work has been absent in that area for a number of years, so we needed something dynamic and fresh if we were to succeed.

### **Increase Skills to Get More People Working**

The assistance and land management of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust has brought with it an amazing opportunity for a member of the public to become a trainee with them. The successful applicant will be given a budget for training and a high percentage of people who have undertaken this role have moved into employment with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust themselves.

### **Protecting the Borough for Future Generations**

The assistance of ASDA and partners in this work has meant that we have excellent facilities for recycling waste and litter collected from that area. ASDA's Plastic Purge has saved hundreds of bags of waste from going to landfill in this area alone, and we're only just beginning.

### **People Volunteering and Contributing Towards Stronger Communities**

There has been a great response to the publicity and advertising from people coming to share their views on the best activities to put on in the area, as well as a number becoming regular faces at the plastic purge and clear ups, including local business, McDonalds, who regularly offer free meals to all who take part.

The main activities around the Fleets this quarter took place in three phases. The first was the continuation of the "plastic purge" activities run by ASDA. Twiggs, the North Area Team, McDonalds and local residents have all supported this and regularly turn up.

The second phase was the initiation and development of fortnightly task days developed by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. Run on a weekend, these task days include wildlife surveys as well as physical work clearing paths and preparing the site. The majority of people involved in this were previous volunteers from YWT, therefore, there was a big need to do something to develop more local interest.

Hence, phase three – a consultation event with the public. Councillors, YWT and Twiggs all helped to shape the event, giving talks advice and listening to people's views on what they want to see at the Fleets. The North Area team played a big part in advertising for this and encouraging attendance – as well as promoting the YWT trainee programme.

Promoting the work going on in the Fleets: This included social media, leaflets to local residents, radio interviews and live videos.

Without the area team's involvement, local people would not be aware of the work, the agencies would not have as many volunteers and local people would not have the potential to apply to YWT for a traineeship and potential employment.

- Over 300 households are now aware things are happening in the area.
- Almost ten new volunteers have been consulted / recruited with the hope of additional people coming up.
- 951 local people were reached directly by the personalised call to action to apply for the YWT training position.

Cross partnership promotion and working together to have a bigger presence with local people. Direct promotion via video feed allowed us to personalise a message and reach a lot of local people and impart lots of knowledge in a short space of time. We did this informally and in a down to earth way to encourage more local engagement.

Volunteers felt positive about the work coming up and were eager to share their views on activities that they would like to see in the area. A lot of these were around wildlife conservation, but a couple even asked for more entertainment such as music events in the area and potential shared use of the college building at the Fleets.

- A significant number of fishermen on the fleets will be a good source of recruitment for wildlife conservation.
- Future engagement opportunities on a weekend need to be considered.
- Future communication needs to be undertaken soon in order to keep the people who did respond/

engaged.

Work with YWT will continue to finalise the land management agreement with Barnsley College.



## North Area Team – Darton East

### *Mapplewell Beer Festival*

**THRIVING &  
VIBRANT ECONOMY**

**Outcome 4:** Strengthen our visitor economy

**STRONG &  
RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**

**Outcome 10:** People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities

**Loveit**

Having pride  
in where you live

The Mapplewell Beer Festival weekend was organised by the local community of Mapplewell and Staincross. The aim of this community event was to raise funds for Christmas motifs in Mapplewell.

The event was run over three days and involved selling various varieties of beer which had been sourced by a local pub. Special re-useable memorial glasses were sold for serving the beer and within a day half the 600 glasses they had ordered were sold.

There was various entertainment provided over the weekend by local singers and bands.

The event was run and delivered entirely by volunteers; there were 40 people who volunteered their time over the weekend. Each volunteer had a special t-shirt so they felt part of the event.

The event was a huge success with over £12,000 being raised.

The Mapplewell Beer Festival was organised and run by local volunteers, for the local community and to raise money for the local community's Christmas lights. Mapplewell has never had Christmas motifs and a group of residents thought it was time that this changed.

#### **Develop a vibrant economy**

This event attracted a lot of people into the village – people came from all over Yorkshire and many of these had never heard of or been to Mapplewell before. Local businesses reported that they had a huge increase in footfall in their shops and did some of their best trading to date.

The event has put Mapplewell on the map and after seeing what it has to offer, it is hoped that people will return to the village to shop/eat/drink etc.

#### **People Volunteering and Contributing Towards Stronger Communities**

A lot of time and effort went into this project by the volunteers – they met fortnightly/monthly for six

months to plan, organise and deliver the event. Over the weekend they gave a huge amount of time volunteering. In total there were 40 fantastic volunteers and 50 sponsors. Volunteers had celebratory and complimentary drinks at a local pub.

In total 40 people volunteered for this event and gave a huge amount of their time. This included all the pre-meetings and helping out over the weekend. At the actual event many were there from the opening (12pm) to close (10pm) each day. They did various roles including taking money, serving drinks, cleaning and selling the memorial glasses.

As a thank you, these volunteers were invited to a celebratory evening with complimentary drinks at one of the local pubs.

50 sponsors contributed towards this event by sponsoring a barrel, the t-shirts or the glasses. They also attended the pre-meetings and gave their time at the event to volunteer.

The North Area Team promoted the event and gave support to the group. The North Area Manager volunteered her time at the event on a couple of the days.

The North Area Team will continue to support the group with purchasing the lights and liaising with Neighbourhood Services in putting up the motifs.

It brought the community of Mapplewell together – **they were all working together towards the one aim of raising money for the Christmas lights**. It brought more people into Mapplewell; local businesses said they had never seen it so busy in the village. It has also formed a new group of local like-minded residents who have the interests of Mapplewell at heart.

The project brought people within the community together who had never worked together/volunteered together before. It also brought the local businesses together as they worked together and supported each other over the event.

The event was a huge success; everyone who volunteered, sponsored and attended the weekend said it was fantastic. It was so well received that the group has decided to run the event again next year – again to raise funds for the local community.

We aim to make time to attend next year's event as either volunteer or on a personal level with my family.

## North Area Team

### Volunteering Month Publicity

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>PEOPLE ACHIEVING THEIR POTENTIAL</b>                                 | <b>STRONG &amp; RESILIENT COMMUNITIES</b>  |
| <b>Outcome 9:</b> People are healthier, happier, independent and active | <b>Outcome 10:</b> People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities |

## Loveit

Having pride  
in where you live

Following on from the huge success of the videos we did to promote the Tour De Yorkshire event, the North Area Team developed a series of short videos highlighting not only the volunteering opportunities within the North Area, but also the fantastic work of the groups in that area.

This project aimed to reach more people in a fun and interactive way – taking a much more informal and friendly approach in order to gather views and engagement on our social media site.

This in addition would hopefully assist the groups mentioned in recruiting more members and/or inspiring the public to approach us with ideas for new initiatives.

The project helps to meet these outcomes by promoting volunteering, the benefits and allowing people to hear from real people, in real situations to give it authority and help relate to it more. By doing this, the project helps people to dispel the myths of barriers to volunteering and encourages them to get involved.



The CDO's were the main drivers of this project, but they visited many groups including Darton Afternoon Club, Stronger Women and Girls, DWP, Dan Jarvis MP, Voice for Darton and a young person from the area.

Each of these groups/people took the time to speak to us about their groups, why they got involved and explain how they benefitted from volunteering.

The North Area Team were integral to this project as they were the ones who filmed the videos, arranged the interviews and uploaded them onto social media. We were also sure to mention the groups and highlight volunteering opportunities.



We reached up to 709 people in one video, with similar rates across all the videos we held. We have a better working relationship with community groups arising from the comments and responses on the videos.

The project used our media base to springboard awareness of community activities. It encouraged more people to get involved in these and, therefore, helped the new ways of working.

People have given very positive feedback to the videos and have received numerous responses on the site. We have even been spotted out and about in a different area of Barnsley and people have said hello, which shows the level of reach we've had.

***“Lovely to see you both – we love your live videos”*** – Laura Hawkins

***“Well done, Amelia! You’re a star!”*** – Debbie Auty

***“Fantastic!”*** – M-I-Ashton



Being fun and friendly has made us more approachable to the community and allowed people to approach us more because we look more “human”. Keep videos to less than 3 minutes wherever possible. Editing software would be a good addition for longer clips.

## NORTH EAST

North East Area Council

*Memorial Bench – Lest We Forget*

PEOPLE ACHIEVING  
THEIR  
POTENTIAL

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

**Liveit**  
Looking after  
yourself and others

STRONG &  
RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

**Outcome 10:** People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities

**Loveit**  
Having pride  
in where you live



The project involved the installation of a memorial bench by the Yorkshire Regiment Barnsley Branch Association in Cudworth Park's Pocket Peace Garden commemorating the memory of the men and women of all war conflicts of past and present.

Councillor Wraith and North East Area Team were approached by Mr Tony Turton from Yorkshire Regiment Barnsley Branch Association with a request to install a memorial bench in Cudworth Park's Pocket Peace Garden.

The Yorkshire Regiment Association raised money for the bench by the kind generosity of the public and features the words 'Lest we forget' alongside red poppies and a dedication plaque.

Following discussions with the Cudworth Ward Alliance and the Area Team a dedication and unveiling ceremony was held which included prayers, readings and a Military Band followed by light refreshments. John Hayhoe a member of the Ward Alliance worked closely with the Yorkshire Regiment on the project submitting a WAF to install the bench and fund the dedication ceremony.

This fitted in with the Cudworth Ward Priority of Health and Wellbeing.

The massive effort and sacrifice made by the people of Cudworth is something we all should be very proud of and ensure that we never forget. With the placing of this memorial bench, many visitors will make use of it and remember.



It will connect with people in the local community, family, friends, colleagues and neighbours. These connections will support and enrich the community every day.

Reflecting on our past experiences will help us appreciate what matters.

The installation of this memorial bench is particularly poignant as last year marked the centenary of the end of the Great War. It's extremely important that as a community we continue to share the stories of our friends and relatives and pay tribute to their bravery.

The bench will provide a place for individuals to spend a quiet moment reflecting and giving thanks to the men and women of Cudworth who gave their lives to ensure our peace and freedom.

The Ward Alliance offered supportive advice and helped to project manage the dedication ceremony. Cllr Joe Hayward sourced and booked the Military band. Councillor Wraith was asked by the Yorkshire Regiment to unveil the bench.

The North East Area Team played a crucial role in making connections, supporting the Ward Alliance members, local councillors and the Yorkshire Regiment Barnsley Branch Association to work together.



Getting them to: share ideas, issues and solutions, but avoiding doing it for them and directing members to relevant support and guidance and spending time and effort to bring them all on board.

The Yorkshire Military Band helped by performing at the event and Father David carried out the blessing. The Standard bearers and everyone who has turned up today to support this event.

The dedication ceremony was a great success with over 100 people attending including veterans and the local MP Stephanie Peacock. The project gave an opportunity to all involved to a build stronger community.

Members of the association were delighted with the outcome and plan to raise further funding for a memorial bench in Grimethorpe.

People came together to share a common goal from different backgrounds, problem solving through working together.



## North East Youth Development Working Together Fund

### Physical Futures – Volunteer It Yourself (VIY)

#### THRIVING & VIBRANT ECONOMY

**Outcome 2:** Increase skills to get more people working

#### 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

#### Achieveit

Helping you realise your potential

#### Liveit

Looking after yourself and others

#### Loveit

Having pride in where you live

**TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT: £8,250**

**Physical Futures contribution: £1,000**

The North East Area Council agreed to fund a Volunteer It Yourself project at the Physical Futures Resource Centre in Carlton, through the Youth Development Working Together Fund. The Resource Centre is an educational and support centre for adults with a variety of additional physical, social or learning needs.



Volunteer It Yourself projects include the following outcomes:

- Young people volunteer to learn new skills and improve their employability.
- Volunteers get involved in local regeneration and social action.
- Businesses such as “Wickes” contribute assets to benefit communities.
- Challenging young people aged 14-24 to learn new skills.

Over the first three weeks of the project we worked with 45 volunteers on site at Physical Futures, where they helped to completely refurbish the interior of the centre. With guidance from their VIY Lead Mentors, volunteers completed the following works:

- Internal demolition and removal of a stud wall in the large bathroom (in order to increase accessibility for wheelchair users).
- Installation of new cladding over previously tiled area.
- Full internal paint out of the whole building, comprising:
  - o Two large exhibition rooms
  - o Three bathrooms
  - o Main hallway/foyer
  - o Office
  - o Kitchen
  - o Quiet room

- o External railings and bars
- o All internal doors

We then worked off-site at Outwood Academy Carlton with ten new students to build some additional features for their garden. This included several items of garden furniture and a new external container to keep the three wheelie bins secure and out of sight. This was then dropped off at Physical Futures and installed on the same day, wrapping up our scope of works and making a big difference to both the centre and all the volunteers who took part.

**The project was a big success for a number of reasons:**

**Community engagement**

A large number of volunteers committed a total of 450 volunteer hours to the project. Many of these volunteers had never been to the centre before, and some weren't even aware of it.

**Business involvement**

The support received from local business was also superb. The Barnsley Wickes store donated just under £2,000 worth of stock to the project. Additionally Burmatex donated 4 boxes of blue carpet tiles for the quiet room at a value of £252. In a time of austerity it is amazing to see businesses contributing so much towards local community initiatives.

**Youth outcomes**

20 young people from Outwood Academy Carlton volunteered their time to learn new skills and give back to the community. All 20 of these students earned themselves a City & Guilds Entry Level 3 accreditation, with ten achieving the painting unit and the other ten achieving carpentry. This will now go on their CV to show future employers and boost their chances of finding work when they leave school.

**Volunteer hours**

There were a total of 450 volunteer hours dedicated to this project from the first session on 11th May 2019 to our final session at Outwood Academy Carlton on 13th June 2019.

There were a total of 55 volunteers who contributed time to this project. They were made up of:

- ✓ 14 from ASOS (XPO logistics).
- ✓ 21 from the local probation team.
- ✓ 20 students from Outwood Academy Carlton.

A total of 55 volunteers of all ages and backgrounds took part in this project. This translates to an average of 8 volunteer hours committed to the project per person. On a typical VIY project we normally have between 10-20 volunteers participating, so this demonstrates the culture of volunteering that clearly exists in the local area and the desire of the community to improve this important facility for its users. All 55 volunteers were new to VIY and hadn't volunteered on one of our projects before.



**Feedback**

***“Last week was fantastic, the kids engaged from start to finish and I was so impressed with***

***their behaviour. They loved getting stuck in and hopefully we can do more next year.”***

- Nicola Knowles, teacher at Outwood Academy Carlton.

***“I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Physical Futures trustees, to congratulate you and your team on putting together such a well-planned schedule of works that kept disruption at***

***the Centre to an absolute minimum and was also so well executed by ALL those involved in this project. The decorations have transformed the Centre, making it much brighter, more hygienic and generally much more welcoming to service users and team members alike.”*** - Martin Kelly, Physical Futures Trustee.



***“I enjoyed everything about this project, mainly working with my friends to do something good. I think this has helped me both mentally and physically.”*** - Kyan Crossland, Outwood Academy student.

***“I really enjoyed being able to try something new and working as a team to give back to the community. I feel that this project has opened up new opportunities for me by showing me what a job as a painter looks like.”*** - Patrick Stankiewicz, Outwood Academy student.

***“I enjoyed learning new skills that will definitely benefit me in later life and has helped build my confidence. I also enjoyed working in a team with my friends and people I've never worked with before. I have become more confident and I have learnt skills that I don't think I would have learnt anywhere else until I was a lot older.”*** - Alia Francis, Outwood Academy student.





**This Case Study was submitted by a Community Volunteer and member of the Monk Bretton and Royston Ward Alliance.**

Throughout March and April, Carlton Primary Academy took part in the Great British Spring Clean. This event was organised by Carlton Village Community Group and incorporated the local Ward Alliances, Carlton Primary Academy, Berneslai Homes, BMBC, local residents, local Councillors and the North East Area Environment Team.

This project had no costs due to using existing equipment from Berneslai Homes and BMBC.

During the Spring clean:

- 199 school children took part for one hour
- Ward Alliance members and Councillors volunteered for 6 hours
- Local residents volunteered for 12 hours
- Members of staff from Carlton Primary Academy volunteered for 28 hours
- Carlton Village Community Group members volunteered for 7.5 hours
- Berneslai Homes and BMBC attended for 6.5 hours
- The North East Environment team attended for 56 hours



It is estimated that the amount of miles covered during the litter pick is in excess of 147.9 miles. The time to organise the event was two hours.

During the Great British Spring Clean this equated to 254.5 volunteer hours. As per BMBC Ward Alliance guidance the volunteer time equates to £13.51 per hour; this is worth £3,438.30.

**Gemma - June 2019**

# PENISTONE

Penistone Area Council – Penistone West

*Penistone Happy Café*

PEOPLE ACHIEVING  
THEIR  
POTENTIAL

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

**Liveit**

Looking after yourself and others

STRONG &  
RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

**Outcome 10:** People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities

**Loveit**

Having pride in where you live

Thanks to Public Health funds via Healthier Communities, a pilot project was established with Café Crème in Penistone to trial a peer led approach for people with low-level mental health issues. The café hosted 'Time to Talk' running every week on a Tuesday evening, providing a relaxed environment for people of any age to come together who might feel anxious, stressed or not quite themselves.

During this time people attending the original 'Time to Talk' sessions agreed with Café Crème to link into the Action for Happiness 'Happy Cafes' scheme and the Penistone Happy Café has now been established as an informal drop in café for anyone looking for positive support and opportunity to take time out with like-minded people.



It was recognised from within the community by volunteers and services such as social prescribing that there was a need for something for people (including those who may be working) who may be experiencing low level mental health issues. The project aim was to provide a space where people could come together, informally, to socialise and gain support from each other. The owner of Café Crème Penistone was very keen to support this and the café provided a great relaxed venue for this as well as being able to provide delicious homemade cake and coffee.

The Happy Café has grown out of the initial pilot and is now run by the volunteers who attend and the café owner. During the time people have been attending, some individuals who were lacking the confidence to attend in the first place are now regular contributors to discussion and activity and others

have moved on to more structured support and volunteering opportunities.

The sessions have been attended by people in their 20s through to people in their 70s who have all experienced various degrees of mental health issues. For some it has provided their first opportunity to share with others their experiences, whilst others have just enjoyed having some 'Me' time. Some people have come every week whilst others may have come on just a few occasions. One person attended once and found out about other support so has not felt the need to come back again. As a pilot it was very much about working out how people wanted to use the time and space.

The Penistone Area Team, acting upon intelligence from within the Penistone Community, instigated the project thanks to funding made available by Barnsley Council's Public Health Service. Elaine Equeall, Penistone Area Council Manager, has been supporting the weekly sessions and has worked with the Exchange Recovery College, Social prescribing team My Best Life, local volunteers and the Café Crème owner to work out how best to make this work for people.

After a few structured sessions lead by Exchange Recovery College at the outset to help get things established, the attendees agreed that it should be a more informal drop in café and one volunteer brought the idea of joining the Happy Café network [www.actionforhappiness.org](http://www.actionforhappiness.org). The Area team has helped to promote this widely making use of social media and leafleting at the Penistone gala and has worked with volunteers and Café Crème to look at longer term sustainability through funding solutions.

The project has been able to trial a different approach to supporting mental health in the community in a non-stigmatised way. It has filled a gap for people looking for a relaxed environment to support each other and is now working towards becoming self-sustaining thanks to Café Crème providing a free venue and subsidised refreshments, a grant application to the Penistone Roundtable and an offer of support from another local business in the Penistone area. Up to 10 people have attended the café at any one time. Further work is being done to promote the café which now has its own Facebook page.

The project is a good example of how, through partnership working, new approaches can be developed within a community environment. This project has involved the Penistone Area Team, funding from Healthier Communities, the Exchange Recovery College, My Best Life (Social prescribing), some amazing community volunteers and the commitment of local businesses working together to support people.

Participants have reported many benefits of attending the café including:

***"Lovely to meet and chat and find others with same issues as yourself."***

***"Good to learn about other people's situations and how they cope."***

***"Connects me back into my community without looking over my shoulder feeling watched."***

***"It's good to get rid of my mask!"***

As a pilot we did not know how this would work, but the people attending have helped to shape this for themselves. It needed some structure at the beginning and Exchange Recovery College kindly provided this, to help people work out why they were there and what they wanted from this type of project. The Café is continuing but it will need some more development to draw more people in, possibly through more structured activities provided by the people attending. The Happy Café network provides support and ideas, but the volunteers themselves are determined to keep this going in Penistone.

**STRONG &  
RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**

**Outcome 10:** People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities

**Achieveit**

Helping you realise your potential

**Loveit**

Having pride in where you live

Heritage Silkstone has been established for over a decade, celebrating local history and bringing the community together. They have a track record of delivering major capital projects and coordinating heritage event programmes. Last year, thanks to Penistone Ward Alliance funding, the group delivered the Huskar 180 project to mark the 180th anniversary of the Huskar Colliery disaster when 26 children died.

In 2019, to help reach more people, the group asked the Penistone Area Team for social media support and training. A practical session was delivered in Penistone Town Hall with group members being shown all the basics of setting up a Facebook page and tips and tricks for how to make the most of it.



The aim of the training was to allow Heritage Silkstone to reach more people, engage with their community in a new way and promote their activities.

Heritage Silkstone has a small organising committee who deliver projects and run an education and resource hub at All Saints, Silkstone. Stephen Miller, Community Development Officer for the Penistone Area Team, delivered the training for the group. The Facebook page is now live and has a good interaction rate.

***“The Penistone Area Teams help setting up the Heritage Silkstone Facebook is much appreciated.”*** - Jane Raistrick, Heritage Silkstone.

There is a lot of opportunity for more groups in the Penistone area to make use of social media to reach more people and share what they do.

## SOUTH

South Area Team – Darfield

*Community Buildings Networking Event*

**STRONG &**  
RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

**Outcome 10:** People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities

**Changeit**

Having your say on things that matter

**Loveit**

Having pride in where you live



The project was a networking event which brought together community groups to share best practise, build relationships and meet service providers who can support them.

There are a number of community venues in the area, some of which are thriving, others which are struggling. Common issues facing these groups are shortage of funds, lack of volunteers and effectively promoting themselves. This event allowed groups the opportunity to make links with support services and more

importantly each other, exploring ways in which each group can support the next by sharing expertise and resources.

Community venues offer invaluable services to our communities. This event and the building of a strong neighbourhood network will help ensure their sustainability and contribute towards a stronger, more resilient community.

The event took place on Thursday 27th June and was organised by the South Area Team. The team facilitated a number of workshops which encouraged the groups to think about what was great about their venue, what issues they were having and consider how they could each support the other.



The event was attended by Barnsley CVS, SYFAB, Barnsley Better Bond and Berneslai Homes who worked with the groups within the workshops and also spent time one-on-one to explore ways in which their organisations could support them.

Community volunteers responsible for the running of a community venue and their willingness to be involved with the workshops played a vital role in the success of this event and what level of benefit they gained from it.

The idea for this event came from a conversation between the Darfield CDO and a local volunteer involved with a successful community venue who offered to share her expertise with other groups in the area who perhaps were struggling with the running of their building. This offer came about as a result of the working relationship established between the volunteer and the CDO.



The event was project managed by the South Area Team who was able to identify a number of key stakeholders and bring them together. The event brought together 17 volunteers representing 9 community groups/venues from 2 different electoral wards.



It has created the desire for more networking events to take place with one of the groups offering to host this. This is being planned for the New Year. At least 2 of the groups who attended are pursuing funding applications with Barnsley Better Bond. One of the groups has booked onto the next Funding & Support Forum quarterly information event.

A number of offers have been in response to the issues highlighted from the workshops including help with social media, additional storage, promotion, advice and guidance.

Outcomes will continue to be monitored over the coming months.

The sharing of best practise and ideas between the community groups was encouraged as part of the Council's vision of developing neighbourhood networks and utilising the many assets that already exist within our communities to help support local need.

The event promoted partnership working between the Council, Barnsley CVS, SYFAB, Barnsley Better Bond and Berneslai Homes who not only attended the event to promote what services they offered but agreed to act as table facilitators on the day to help prompt conversations.

Very positive feedback has been received from the event. Almost everyone who attended has commented how beneficial they found it to be, particularly the opportunity to meet each other and make links with the service providers. Many comments were received via text, email and via the feedback forms. Below are some of them:

***"Thank you for tonight, we got some great leads!"***

***"Just a quick thanks for a great event last night. Apologies that I had to leave early but I made some great contacts and gathered some great, useful information."***

***"Just a quick note to say thank you for you kind hospitality last night, it was a fab event!!!"***

***"Knowing we're not alone in our problems. Good ideas for funding, sourcing volunteers"***

***“Very friendly and nice to talk to other groups we don’t usually get to talk to. Good to talk about common issues we all face.”***

***“I would really like to see this group continue and provide a framework for local help.”***

Learning points include that there are clearly many benefits to organising a simple networking event and that there is a real desire by our many community groups to thrive and support each other – something which we need to both harness and celebrate.

Next steps:

- A development plan will be pulled together which will help address the needs of the community groups and inform the work of the South Area Team in relation to this.
- Offers of support from the groups and services will be followed up on.
- A second networking event to be planned for the New Year which will hopefully continue on the success of this one.



## South Area Team – Hoyland Milton and Rockingham

### *Phoenix Ladies*



The Phoenix Ladies group is a social group who meet monthly in a local Church Hall. The group has a number of retired ladies who live on their own. The project was about creating activities which made the group more sociable.

In the past the group has had a series of speakers, but over a period of time realised that members came to the presentation, sat down and listened while having a cup of tea and then went home. There was little or no interaction between members. The type of group they are naturally attracts older members and an increasing amount are widowed or living alone. The group wanted to try something different and asked the Ward Alliance for help to buy in some tutored craft sessions.

The group is run by a committee of volunteers who have a number of varied roles. New members are often encouraged to take roles within the group. The craft activities are carried out while sitting at tables in groups so stimulates conversation, as members talk about their creations. Group members feel more connected; engaged with the group and love learning new skills. Craft activities also stimulate and improve fine motor skills and overall muscle strength and control in the hands. Concentration is also improved during these activities.

Members of the group took part and they found that these craft activities attracted other ladies to the group. This has increased their membership, but they also have a number who only attend for these sessions.

The Community Development Officer met the group leaders as part of a community mapping exercise. During the discussion the committee mentioned that the group was losing members and becoming a bit stale because the members weekly fee was increasing to pay for room hire etc. The CDO discussed Ward Alliance Funding and helped the group complete the application form.

As a direct result of the Ward Alliance fund being granted the group have been able to keep the weekly subscription to a minimum and used the funding to pay for the activities. This has had a positive effect on the group, as members are continuing to attend because the fees are affordable and new members are beginning to get involved.

The group paid for several tutors to come along to the group and hold a craft session. These ranged from glass painting and jewellery making to card making and everything in between. After a few craft sessions it became obvious to the group that there were some talented people among them. A couple of group members decided to lead on craft sessions with the group purchasing the materials. One group member led a session on flower arranging and one did Christmas decorations; both were very well received and they are looking to repeat these sessions within the group.

The project did support new ways of working because it encouraged and gave members the confidence to deliver craft sessions. This meant they had craft activities at much reduced rates so could afford to have more of this style of meeting.

As the group members are getting older, they are considering moving the meeting time to an afternoon. This may also increase membership as their members have commented they do not like being out at night.

They are also hoping to have more volunteer led sessions.



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

**Loveit**

Having pride  
in where you live

The CommuniTeas project has been running throughout the 2019 growing season. This session was designed to showcase the different ways we can use herbs in our cooking. All the suggestions were based around the herbs growing in the community garden.

The CommuniTeas Project is designed to increase volunteering at Owd Martha's Yard community Garden and encourage socially isolated people to join in with their community.



The project allows people who are socially isolated to connect with each other over a common interest while learning and increasing their knowledge and skills. People who interact on a regular basis are often healthier, active and less reliant on others.

A regular volunteer from Owd Martha's Yard community Garden hosted a cooking with herbs demonstration and asked the group to discuss the herbs they cook with and how they use them. The volunteer is a trained chef. The group, made up of 9 participants, all involved in the CommuniTeas project, were each welcomed with a non-alcoholic cocktail made from herbs taken from Owd Martha's Yard, received recipe cards for some recipes using these herbs and were treated to a tasting session of dishes made before the session. The session ended with a question and answer session over a cup of freshly made mint tea.

The CDO booked the room and liaised with the community group about advertising the event to ensure all participants in the project were aware of the session. The CDO worked with the volunteer to deliver the session, helping her to source some unusual recipes and all the ingredients necessary for the session. The CDO supported the volunteer with setting up, clearing down and delivering the session, as the volunteer was nervous about hosting such a session.

The session increased participants' knowledge about the uses of herbs in everyday cooking,

particularly those that the group are growing in the garden. The session was very interactive and encouraged participants to talk about and share their knowledge of herbs.

One participant of the scheme has enjoyed the project, and learned so many skills, that she wants to start her own community garden in her local area when this projects ends. A new garden in another area will bring about new volunteers and allow a new community group to form.

This workshop is part of a project running through the summer in partnership with the RHS, Social Prescribing and Owd Martha's Yard community Garden which aims to bring isolated and lonely people together with a common theme.

All participants said they had found the session very informative and fun.



## South Area Team - Wombwell

### Loxley Gardens

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

**Loveit**

Having pride  
in where you live

**Protectit**

Protecting our  
wonderful borough

In 2015 Wombwell Ward Alliance and Berneslai homes came together to tidy up an unsightly piece of landlocked area and turn it into a community garden. The project's success was down to involving local residents from the very start through community consultation, engagement in developing the garden from building the raised beds, planting and harvesting vegetables and planting out to maintaining the garden's borders and hosting community events.



The Community was originally led by a project team made up of the Community Development Officer/Berneslai Homes Housing Officer and a Wombwell Ward Alliance representative. However, the aim was to eventually hand over the management of the garden to the volunteers. By the summer of 2018 we had achieved our community involvement priority and the garden was being managed by a gardening committee, with the original project team taking a back seat.

In order to ensure sustainability of the project regular open days and work days were organised to raise the awareness of the garden, ensure that all growing beds were occupied and to encourage other volunteers into the garden. However, by the autumn a number of the key players in the garden committee left due to family commitments and work. This could have been an end to the project, but, as local residents have always been encouraged to get involved in the project and over time had built a relationship on trust with the original project team, finding new committee members to take the project forward was not such a problem. The new committee members have taken over the roles of Chair, secretary and treasurer and with some support are settling in well and bringing new ideas to the meetings.

This project encourages volunteering and local residents in having a say and participating in a local community project on a level that they feel comfortable with, building on the strengths and skills of volunteers to ensure continuity and sustainability of project.

Key project team: Initially developing the garden initiative with support of local residents.

Volunteers: With initial support from South Area Tidy Team to physically develop the garden (build raised beds, pathways between the beds plant out trees, shrubs and borders). Develop and upskill a gardening committee, seek out additional funding and resources to support activities - materials from Henry Boot, additional funding from Better Barnsley Bond. It was vital that local residents and volunteers got involved so that they could take ownership of the project. Additional funding was sought to enable the group to be self-sufficient and not having to rely on other organisations for the loan of equipment for events. Loxley Garden now has its own generator, table/chairs/gazebos/Bain Marie.



The CDO:

- Took part in initial consultation process – door to door knocking/consultation event with residents on site.
- Worked with volunteers to set up gardening committee and supported volunteers in their roles.
- Involved with project management.
- Supporting volunteers with planning and delivering community events.
- Support volunteers on workdays.
- Helped to secure additional funding for the group.

This project turned a piece of unused land into a thriving community garden where people can come together not only to plant vegetables but to relax and enjoy time with others. Hosting regular family community events raises the profile of the garden and ensures that raised bed occupancy is full. Recognising and nurturing on the skills of volunteers.

This project was a partnership piece of work between Berneslai Homes and Wombwell Ward Alliance who joint funded the project.

***“Loxley Garden is not just about growing vegetables, it’s growing a community.”*** - AT committee member.

Group dynamics are not constant; they are always changing. Key people will leave or move on which has a knock on effect on the sustainability of a project. It is vital to continue to support and involve volunteers in the decision-making process and recognise potential in new volunteers to take over roles within a project. We will continue to support new committee members in their new roles.

