

BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**North Area Council Meeting:
23rd November 2015**

Agenda Item: 8

**Report of North Area Council
Manager**

Stronger Communities Grant Projects – Performance Update

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides a performance update for the Stronger Communities Grants Projects.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Member note the Appendix 1, Project Performance Update.

3. Current Update

- 3.1. All of the Stronger Communities Grants projects are required to meet with the Area Council Manager on a quarterly basis and submit a Grant Monitoring Report. The appendix attached is a completion of extracts from the project performance updates submitted by the providers.
- 3.2. The North Area Council have agreed to run the Stronger Communities Grant opportunity in 2016. Applications will be available from December 2015.

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**Date:
10th November 2015**

Appendix 1

SUMMARY PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR EACH NORTH AREA COUNCIL STRONGER COMMUNITES GRANT PROJECT

Ad Astra Barnsley CIC – Broadening Horizons

Satisfactory quarterly monitoring form submitted	
Project milestones achieved	
Project indicators / targets met	
Overall project progress & achievements	

Project Summary

Broadening Horizons: £19,270

The project consists of two strands: i) The core Ad Astra project is based in Old Town and enables the running of a weekly afterschool club for children and young people ages 6 to 17. This involves parents and extended family in activities that to form strong communities. ii) Enables Ad Astra to run a number of four week programmes through in schools and community venues throughout the North Area. They will ensure that their project is complimentary existing area based provision. The work will be tailored to the group and could include Peer Support training, anti-bullying, healthy lifestyles, enterprise work, volunteer training, local history and geography projects.

Project Update – extract from the Quarterly report.

The year is continuing to be busy and very successful.

For our Monday Afterschool club the waiting list is growing although we are trying to fit in young people as they request a place as a few are not coming every week. We now have to say to parents and young people if you miss 4 weeks we will have to give your place up – (unless there are circumstances beyond their control.)

Our Walking Buses are still very popular and we have managed to engage another 2 volunteers to help with this.

In this quarter the young people have started collecting photos for a topic which will last over 12 months – 50 things to do before....This is a project ran by National Trust and we have got copies of their booklet and each young person has got a copy and they are filling it in each time they complete a task – this could be “climbing a tree’ or “jumping in a wave”

there are a large number of activities the young people can chose to do. The young people are doing this as a home project with occasional input at the session
Many of the young people have also been involved with our Holiday provision throughout the summer break. The group have come back in September full of 'gusto' for this terms programme.

We coordinated another Family Fun Day in Wilthorpe Park. Again this was very successful with young people coming from 7 different schools and over **150 people signing in on the day**. We had stalls with a few local groups, Friends of Wilthorpe Park – Healthy Food Campaign and Love Where You Live, Smoking Cessation and Wilthorpe Childrens Centre. The weather again was a little up and down but everyone had a fabulous day. Our volunteers once again did an amazing job helping coordinate all the activities, including more litter picking and more weeding in the park. We had families from Cudworth Shafton Darfield Athersley New Lodge Darton as well as all over the Old Town Ward

Our additional Pilot projects have seen us starting short-term programmes in Darton Community College. One group is a Lunchtime Drop In Club focussing on integrating the different year groups; the second is with the Y7 Nurture group and working with them on Transition skills and building self-confidence within the group. We have also started a project for young women in KS4 at Carlton CC working on building relationships, self-confidence and self-esteem looking at relationships and building aspirations within the group. The numbers will follow in Q3 report

During the school holiday period we have done Litter picks in Darton East Darton West and Old Town. We supported the St Helens Community Gala and the Reopening of New Lodge Community Centre, which saw us working with over **50 children and young people** doing sporting activities.

Our Volunteers – as always are an amazing group of people who come and support all the activities we do. The volunteer hours are continuing to be way in front of our expectations. We have managed to find one volunteer from the St Helens ward and are looking for more volunteers for the other areas to support our upcoming work.

All our School projects are running for 6 weeks rather than four weeks, as the relationship building requires more work and we can maintain this within budget.

Case Study

Our Case Study for this quarter is based on a young man from the St Helens Ward. His name is Joshua and we have worked with him for several years now. Joshua has severe learning difficulties and attends Greenacres School. When Josh attended his first session he would not let go of his mums hand and could not lift his head up off his chest. He couldn't maintain eye contact with anyone apart from his mum. Even the friends he knew from school couldn't get him to join them. As time went by we managed to prise him away from mum and dad and get him to join in a few activities. The first residential we got him to go on was the first time he had ever been away from home and he wept most of the night.

We then turned a corner...

People don't recognise the difference in Josh, the school is amazed at how confident he is – academically there isn't much of a difference from when he was 7 but his Social and Personal skills have grown tremendously.

He now volunteers at three different sessions we work, but his role in Ad Astra has taken on a new purpose. This last 12 months he has completed his IKIC Peer Support Training and this is what he is putting into practice in every session he attends. He now helps leading sessions, supports other young people including our Homework table where he listens to KS1 and KS2 pupils reading (even though they can often read at a higher level than Josh – they still all feel very confident) He helps with all aspects of running our sessions from setting up and clearing away to leading specific table top activities and sporting activities. He attends all our activities and for our residential this year he has taken on the role as Senior member in the dorms supervising children and young people who are staying away from home for the first time.

We are very proud of Josh and the commitment he gives to Ad Astra and all our work but more importantly Josh and his parents are extremely proud of his achievements.

This year he just missed out on the opportunity to take part in Children in Needs Rickshaw Challenge with the One Show – we never thought he would have been confident to even think about participating in such an event, and this shows us how far this young man has travelled and how his skills have grown.

New Lodge Community Day 18.07.2015



St Pauls Summer 2015



These are some of the Ad Astra young people preparing food and participating in a planning and evaluation session



Athersley Cares – Project Expansion

Satisfactory quarterly monitoring form submitted	
Project milestones achieved	
Project indicators / targets met	
Overall project progress & achievements	

Project Summary

Project Expansion: £12,285

This project also consists of two strands: i) Activities for young people which will also involve family learning. Led by a fully qualified youth practitioner. Volunteers will be recruited and trained to deliver youth provision ensuring that there is greater capacity within the local community once the project draws to a close. ii) The second strand will provide information, advice and guidance within three community locations. This is intended to address confidence, health and wellbeing, self-advocacy and antipoverty. This is intended to enable the local people to have greater control over their own affairs, giving them confidence in their own decision making ability.

Project Update – extract from the Quarterly report.

Kids in the Community

Between 50 and 58 young people are attending after school activities which include Art and Craft, Cook and Eat, sports and ICT programmes. The young people are consulted regularly as to what they would like to take part in and if resources allow are accommodated. Parent participation is encouraged and some sessions are dedicated to young people with their parent/carer designing and constructing crafts for e.g. tissue paper flowers, coasters and garden ornaments which are to be sold at local craft fairs and galas to help towards sustainability. Older young people are encouraged to become Peer Mentors, supporting the worker and volunteers (X4) with the younger ones.

A 50p charge per session was introduced a few weeks back. Unfortunately some young people stopped attending and others were attending saying their parents had not given them money. This is an issue that is being addressed and monitored and hopefully a conclusion sought in the very near future.

13 young people are working towards accreditation by working as Peer Supporters in their school at lunch times and breaks. Some young people work to a rota and do corridor and dining room duty. Others take charge of the younger children and teach them to skip and play games with them so they don't feel alone at break times. They call themselves 'Playground Patrol'. The young people are keeping a log of their duties and write up their weekly challenges as evidence for their portfolios and photographs taken. They will be accredited by IKIC (I Know I Can) once completed.

I.A.G. & counselling at New Lodge - New Lodge WMC began on 3rd March but as numbers were low – 3 in total, this was discontinued after 5th May.

The second outreach due to take place at New Lodge Community Centre has not started yet due to refurbishment work not being completed. Numbers for counselling have been poor, with only 2 – these are on-going.

I.A.G. - The IAG worker is on hand during the time the organisation's groups are operating and any support the members may need, is given.

Groups – The weekly Gentle Exercise sessions have proven very successful with the elderly, enabling them to access support from the local health trainer who has also offered other health related advice e.g. weight, eating habits, blood pressure checks etc. These sessions have helped its members to stay active, easing aches and pains and maintain a level of fitness for general mobility. By meeting and socializing with other members of the group, this has enhanced their health and well-being considerably and many have gone on to join the organisation's other groups. A charge of £1 is being introduced to cover the cost of the rent for the Hall from the end of July. An average of 11 people attends every week.

The Twilight Club, originally started last September to combat isolation for the elderly, it is still taking place every fortnight. See case study for more information.

Cook and Eat sessions have carried on from the ones originally funded by BMBC earlier in the year - at the request of those who were attending – being made up of elderly residents and adults with learning/physical disabilities. These have provided members of the group ideas on healthy options when buying and preparing food, have also provided new social links with others within the group and have formed close friendships whereby they also attend external social events. Two members of the group have taken on the role of buying the ingredients every week once the group, as a whole, have chosen the following week's menu with the support of the project worker and health trainer. There is a charge of £1.25 per person which covers this cost of ingredients. An average of 11 people attends every week.

The Hobby Club is very well attended by two day care centres for adults with learning/physical disabilities; the activities provide therapeutic benefits whereby they learn new skills which give a feeling of achievement. This activity, along with all the others, is advertised regularly in local shops, doctors surgeries, libraries, community buildings etc in-order to attract local residents. Each person pays £1 and includes refreshments. An average of 13 people attends every week.

Case Study

Child T is a bubbly 10 year old girl but struggles in class and was referred to the project by the schools Learning Mentor. She has a reading age of 5 and finds difficulty writing, her letters have no formation.

When T was four years old she was diagnosed with epilepsy, she suffers from simple complex seizures and also has a muscle disorder. Her parents were in denial for a number of years and could not see past wanting her to be an ordinary child. Her parents have gradually seen the facts and now worry about her inattentive and obsessive-compulsive behaviours at home and at school. These behaviours have been the reason she has been made fun of, be alienated in the playground and cause problems in the classroom. She disrupts her peers and constantly craves attention because she is struggling with the work and her attention span is weak. T's positive interactions with adults are her strengths; however she struggles with articulation, reading, and concepts in Maths. T's unfocused work habits and her inability to complete class work have become a growing concern to both her teachers and her parents.

Teachers and Learning Mentor advised the project of the above and we have, for 10 weeks now, given her some 'special attention' within the out of hours setting. Extra activities have been set up so T can move around when her attention to one has vanished and she needs more stimulation. Her peers within the setting are from different classes at school and this has somewhat had a calming effect on her. New 'buddies' accept her and rally to support. It is a new, unusual environment for her and it is early days; however the setting and people around her seem to have a positive effect on her and her attitude as a whole is slowly changing. Her Mum is pleased with the small difference the Project is making and has encouraged her to attend another of the Projects venues in order to build new relationships with young people attending different schools.

Romero Communities – Project Expansion

Satisfactory quarterly monitoring form submitted	
Project milestones achieved	
Project indicators / targets met	
Overall project progress & achievements	

Project Summary

Project Expansion: £19,308: Offering an open door, non-appointment based advice and guidance service based in St Helens. The project wish to establish a client progression programme to enable service users to achieve personal goals. They wish to formalise a follow-up phone call service to ensure service users are continuing to make headway.

The Romero Project recognises that to become more sustainable as a community project they need to recruit volunteers to fill specialist roles. This will involve training and development for volunteers.

Project Update – extract from the Quarterly report.

- Our daily drop-in sessions continue to be maintained over the 2nd quarter. 3 sessions are delivered by our paid worker (we currently are only able to pay for the worker for 3 days) and 2 are delivered by 2 volunteers. These 2 sessions also support a coffee morning and the National Careers Service worker. The coffee morning is a springboard for informal peer support, time to discuss issues impacting on the lives of local people and more importantly is a social gathering. The volunteers provide the contact point for people seeking help, this allows us to ensure the centre is open Monday to Friday. The volunteers are equipped to provide information and support but will refer to the paid worker as necessary to be followed up. We have recruited an additional volunteer on Monday who is supporting the face to face sessions due to high demand. The support offered to the National Careers worker is in the form of helping people to 'log in' to their Universal Job Match account (often because people don't have I.T skills or access to a computer elsewhere) and typing up letters, C.V's etc. in Old Town and a school in the Darton ward. In order to make sessions more beneficial to the customers we are looking to link with the Barnsley Advice sessions which have just started. The aim is that together we can provide a 'wrap –a- round' service.
- Outreach sessions are still to be started. In order to make sessions more beneficial to the customers we are looking to link with the Barnsley Advice sessions which have just started. The aim is that together we can provide a 'wrap –a- round' service.

- We have now made contact with the Anti-poverty contract holder inviting them to a coffee morning organised by 1 of our volunteers in support of the McMillan charity where they promoted the Community Shop.
- Advice Barnsley visited the Romero Centre to discuss the possibility of holding their sessions alongside Romero Communities. However it was decided that the Roundhouse Lifelong Learning Centre was to be used. We are currently discussing how we can best develop links and referrals.
- Our long standing partnerships with Welfare Rights and The National Careers Service deliver 4 sessions at the Romero Centre every week. In addition to its current service National Careers are keen to deliver additional support aimed to help people interested in self-employment. We have recently made links with People Plus to help those wishing to consider self-employment as an option to Job Seekers Allowance. We continue to receive referrals from eg - Mental Health Access Team, the staff at Kendray Hospital Oakwell Centre and Health Visiting teams. The number of referrals from Mental Health Services are increasing as is the complexity of the support we provide eg: Home Visits and hosting appointments at the Romero Centre for someone who was homeless but reluctant initially to meet the Intervention Team elsewhere.

OUTCOME 2

- We have formulated a system of 'follow up' calls. We have recently recruited a volunteer to carry this forward.
- Progression Pathway tool is not yet completed. We have discussed this through with a number of people who have identified their need to make forward plans. We will carry out a short trial before we offer this as choice to all our customers.

OUTCOME 3

- 2 volunteers are trained to use new IT based tools which deliver Benefit Checks and Better Off In Work Calculations. We intend to promote this as an additional service to our customers.

OUTCOME 4

- The 2nd meeting of our ideas group will be held 9/11/2015.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- We are currently carrying out an in-house evaluation of our support and guidance work. This is in the form of a feedback form which is in the format which we co-produced with Public Health.
- Romero Communities new web site which is designed and managed by 2 volunteers has attracted a number of new contacts/enquiries to our Support and Guidance work. We have also received a small number of people seeking help via e mail. If this increases we will recruit a volunteer to manage them.
- 2 volunteers attended training at V.A.B. to learn about a funding search engine. These funders will help individuals in particular need.
- We have identified a gap in service for Refugee and Asylum seekers. To ensure people are able to access the correct advice is very difficult and often outside the Borough.
- Caroline Parker is an advocate for ACTS 435 charity. We continue to see an increase in demand for applications to the charity. Our work with the Debt Team at Barnsley Citizens Advice is reflecting the high number of individuals who are seeking a Debt Relief Order which costs £90. We are able to apply to ACTs 435 for the fee. This has helped 26 people over the 2nd quarter 20 of those receiving the gift of £90 to allow

their DRO to be completed. Those individuals report a dramatic reduction to their stress levels.

- C.P. continues to be a member of Barnsley Advice network.
- Romero Communities have 2 new Board members. Both have a working knowledge of the Support and Guidance work and in addition are qualified to Level 5 I.A.G.(Information Advice and Guidance)
- We are working with the new Berneslai Homes Tenant Support Worker on complex cases.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT-

- We have received The Keith Lax Presidential Award from Barnsley Rotary Club and a £500 donation. We also have received an anonymous donation of £500.

Case Study

- L has been accessing the help of Romero Support and Guidance (to be referred to as R/S/G) for a few years very occasionally as health/social issues relapsed and rendered L unable to self- help.
- Was in crisis – drug dependant /at risk of losing his tenancy/in debt.
- Very poor mental health.
- Was evicted.
- Lived on many 'sofas'.
- Has now been in regular contact for 6 months.
- Over the past months R/S/G has supported L providing advocacy at face to face appointments eg - G.P. and NHS mental health needs assessment.
- Has linked L into specialist services and facilitated appointments with Barnsley Citizens Advice debt worker/ M.I.N.D. / Intervention team from NHS Kendray Oakwell Centre/ Phoenix drug and alcohol service/Housing Options BMBC and Riverside Housing - Holden House..
- L is now a tenant at Holden House supported by a worker.
- Is maintaining the tenancy and attending most appointments which are occasionally held at Romero Centre at the request of L as he says' He feels safer and more confident'.
- Working in partnership with C.A.B debt worker Romero have been successful in an application to ACTS 435 to pay for a Debt Relief Order. This is currently with The Insolvency Service.
- Is now taking small steps to an improved lifestyle.
- L feels he is almost at the point where he is able to plan towards his future.

Greenworks Barnsley – Sustainable Allotments and Community Orchards

Satisfactory quarterly monitoring form submitted	
Project milestones achieved	
Project indicators / targets met	
Overall project progress & achievements	

Project Summary

Sustainable Allotments and Community Orchards Project: £20,000: The project aims to engage young people (junior and secondary school) in horticultural projects. The intention is to plant and cultivate community orchards and community allotment projects. The project has 5 key target areas – i) delivering training and skills, ii) promoting allotment gardening, iii) encouraging sustainability, iv) cultivating sustainability, v) maintaining adequate resources.

Project Update – extract from the Quarterly report

All four schools have been contacted and have agreed to join the project.

Greenworks will be working with Wellgate, Mapplewell and Darton Schools throughout November. They will each receive twenty mixed fruit trees and three raised bed kits.

The project will be working with The Nurture Group at Darton College. Trainees and Volunteers will also be working within Darton College.

Greenworks have been working on the Grassmere Estate Community Allotment Site. The community have been very supportive with adults and children coming to work along-side the Greenworks trainees and volunteers.

Case Study

(– non submitted at this stage of the project)

RVS - Barnsley North Looking Out for Older People

Satisfactory quarterly monitoring form submitted	●
Project milestones achieved	●
Project indicators / targets met	●
Overall project progress & achievements	●

Project Summary

Barnsley North Looking Out for Older People: £19,961: RVS have stated as one of their outcomes that they will create 20 volunteering opportunities. They will conduct at least 200 home visits to older people who have been identified as being at risk of loneliness and isolation. Following the home visit elderly residents will be matched with existing provision within the community to ensure that they are encouraged to take part in social activities.

Project Update – extract from the Quarterly report



Throughout this quarter the Inclusion Officer has been involved in creating awareness of the service across the four wards. This has involved speaking with Housing Officers, GP surgeries and others involved in the community, she has attended Mapplewell & Staincross Celebration Day, New lodge Gala, Specsavers fundraising day and coffee mornings to publicise the service. There have been no major obstacles to service development and most people have been enthusiastic about the opportunities the service offers.

This quarter RVS have completed 180 home visits in the North Area and will shortly be commencing a customer satisfaction survey.

Case Study

I was contacted by Mr V's Daughter who wanted to make a referral for her Father. The referral stated that Mr V needed help with his garden that had become over grown due to him being ill in spring this year. He had received a letter from the housing officer stating he needed to act on his garden. Otherwise it would affect his tenancy agreement and this had caused worrying concerns for Mr V.

Upon initially meeting Mr V it was apparent that he enjoyed the company as due to illness he was not getting out due to fear of losing balance and had recently given up driving. We discussed the options for his garden and contacted Barnsley Community Build. Within 2 weeks they had been out to provide a quote and returned the following week to carry out the work discussed. Mr V was extremely pleased with the work done by Barnsley Community Build. And has plans to use them on a regular basis for maintenance.

Mr V enjoyed the company & conversation over a cup of tea I felt he would benefit from the befriending service we provide. Mr V enjoys reminiscing about his late wife, his work within the RAF, his family business and previous holidays, he will regularly show me old photos, videos & books that are meaningful to him. He once told me he finds it refreshing that I am able to go round and be interested in speaking to him, as his family and daughters have 'heard it all before'

Mr V is a sociable character, and in the near future when his health improves he has expressed interest in attending any groups/ clubs available to him. He has also agreed to be a part of the Royal Voluntary Service steering group.