

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL Performance Report

Q2 July 2019- Sept 2019



INTRODUCTION

Priorities, Principles and Corporate Outcomes 2017-2020



Ensuring the following principles are promoted and embedded in all that we do:

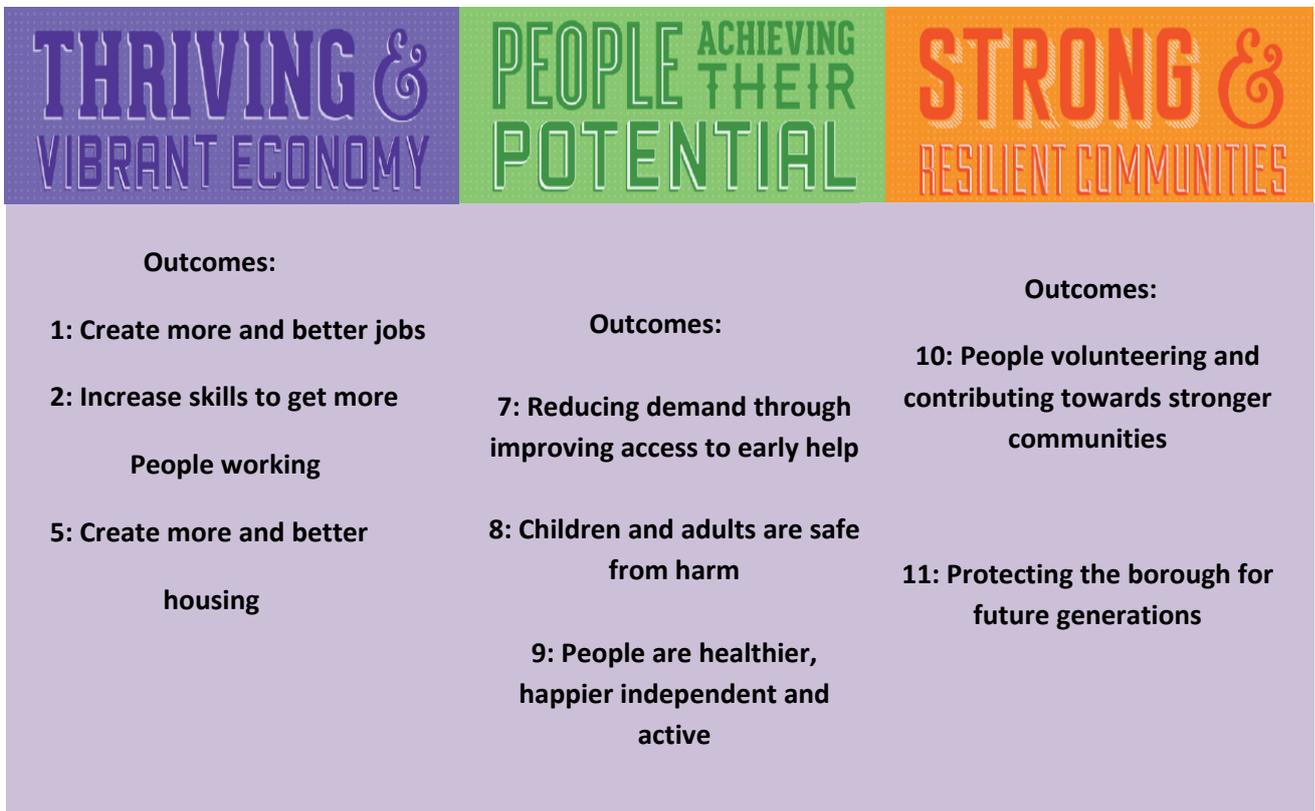


Table 1 below shows the Providers that have been appointed to deliver a series of services that address the priorities and deliver the outcomes and social value objectives for the Dearne Area Council.

Service	Provider	Contract Value/length	Contract end date
Employability	Dearne electronic community village	£33,000 per annum	Funded until end of March 2021
Private Sector Housing Enforcement	BMBC	£38,061 per annum	Funded until end of March 2020
Environmental, volunteering and education service	Twiggs	£75,000 per annum	Funded until end of March 2021
Social isolation	B-friend	£27,000 per annum	Funded until September 2020

PART A - OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE

The Dearne Area Council commissions also contribute to the Councils overall priorities of thriving vibrant economy, stronger resilient communities and citizens achieving their potential. The achievement of the outcomes which includes the figures from the Dearne Development fund are listed in table's below:

*the targets below also include the statistics from the Dearne Development Fund

Thriving and Vibrant Economy

Outcome Indicators	Yr Target	Quarter	Cumulative
No. of jobs created through area council commissions	8	0	8
No. of people into jobs through DECV	20	4	11
No. of work experience placements	6	2	4
No. of apprentice through area council commissions	1	1	1
No. of group/service match funded	7	5	11
Local spend (average across all contracts)	90%		90%

Stronger resilient communities

Outcome Indicators	Yr Target	Quarter	Cumulative
No. of people engaged in volunteering	700	212	484
No. of new volunteers	100	75	105
No of community groups supported (Twiggs)	60	20	42
No. of local business involvement	25	10	19

Citizens achieving their potential

Outcome Indicators	Yr Target	Quarter	Cumulative
No. residents achieving qualification	90	11	31
No. environmental education in schools and groups	12	11	26
No. of residents receiving benefit/debt advice services	438	159	507
No. of children receiving support	18	41	41
No. of families attending drop in sessions	25	3	3
No. of older people attending drop in sessions	900	215	725

PART B - SUMMARY PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR EACH SERVICE

The below commissioned services, projects and groups paid for from Dearne Area Councils finances are based on the Dearne area priorities but also contribute towards meeting Communities Public Health Outcomes and to Barnsley Council's 2020 vision of :

- Create more and better jobs and good business growth
- Increase skills to get more people working
- Create more and better housing
- Every child attends school and is successful in learning and work
- Reducing demand through improving access to early help
- Children are safe from harm
- People are healthier, happier, independent and active

At present, three contracts and one Service Level Agreement (SLA) with BMBC have formally completed their contract monitoring reporting.

Employability- DECV

(1)DECV

DECV report for Q2 submitted on the 3 rd of October 2019		
Dearne Area Council Priority		RAG rating
Improving the economy	Satisfactory quarterly monitoring report and contract management meeting	
	Milestones achieved	
Improving Health	Satisfactory spend and financial information	
Skills for work	Overall satisfaction with delivery against contract	

Performance Indicator	Yr Target	Q2	Cumulative
Learners Recruited	100	20	48
Learners into local employment	20	4	11
Learners achieving qualification	90	11	31
Learners into further training	50	21	41

*DECV contribution to Public Health Outcomes

Improving the wider determinants of health	
Objective 1: improvements against wider factors which affect health and wellbeing and health inequalities.	
1.08a	Gap in the employment rate between long term health conditions and the overall employment rate
1.08v	Percentage of people age 16-64 in employment

This contract has now been running for 6 months and they have already support 11 people into employment. Of the 11 people 10 of those have secured full time posts. DECV are now working with 46 individuals on the ICT and employability support sessions. All learners have at least 3 hours per week support and this support varies based on the need of the individual. Over the last 6 months 31 people have completed the qualification offered by DECV.

Previously the service has worked with older individuals however during this quarter the majority have been a lot younger. DECV still get the majority of their referrals from DWP and this partnership works really well. Many of the learners are long term unemployed with health problems and suffer financial hardship. Although

working with these individuals can sometimes be difficult support is given and referrals made to relevant agencies.

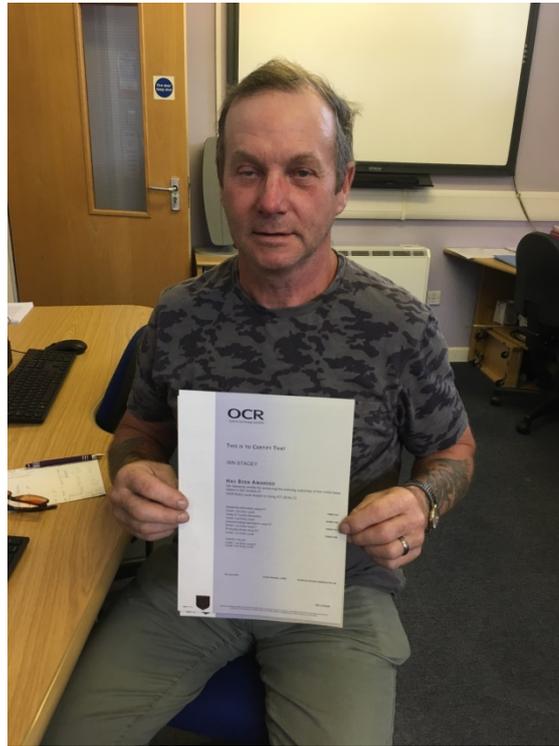
Case Study

“Ilan started with me back in 2018 and re-enrolled when I began this project in April 2019. Ian’s background is in Farming and he had no computer skills at all when he first came to see me. He had no idea about emails, CVs, mobile phones, Internet banking or Universal Credit and how to jobsearch and apply online for work. The DWP had signed Ian up to Universal Credit and given him 35 hours per week jobsearch to complete. This left Ian stressed and worried as he had no idea how to get started.

I’d already got a brief history from the DWP before Ian attended, so I knew he would be nervous. His hands were shaking visibly as he entered the classroom. Ian did have a solid work history and a wealth of practical skills and experience, particularly in horticulture and the care of animals, especially Owls and Birds of Prey, something which I could use to put Ian at ease. Ian couldn’t see the point in learning computers, at his age (Ian is late 50’s). He’d never searched on the Internet so our first task was to search for Birds of Prey on the Internet and very slowly Ian relaxed and we began to chat. Ian had not only lost his job but had also gone through a relationship breakdown. I choose Friday afternoons for Ian to attend as I knew he would connect with the people already attending, many with similar experiences and a similar age. He was not long a resident of Thurnscoe and didn’t know anyone in the immediate area. The social aspect of sessions is as important as the learning in many cases.

Ilan enrolled on the courses and we got started with his jobsearch and UC commitments. It’s important I got through to Ian that he isn’t on his own, he has me to help him, 1 to 1 when I can plus the support of others in the class and the volunteers. I showed him how we would jobsearch and record everything we do in the online journal. This put him at ease instantly as the threat of Sanction always looms large and is used by the DWP as a way of getting people to look for work. We worked on a CV, a cover letter and registered with all the major jobsites. Ian’s UC account was also put up to date and we began to record all activities.

The next stage was to start the ICT course. This was purely set at Ian’s pace and Ian worked 1 to 1 with a volunteer for the first 6 weeks. Progress was slow and Ian often got confused by how things work. I had to explain this was perfectly normal. Ian’s pace began to speed up and after 20 weeks Ian had completed all the work needed for the OCR.”



Environment, education and volunteering - Twiggs

(2) TWIGGS

Twiggs environmental, education and volunteer service Quarter 2 report submitted on the 3rd October 2019		
Dearne Area Council Priority		RAG rating
Improving the economy	Satisfactory quarterly monitoring report and contract management meeting	
Skills and learning for work	Targets achieved	
Environment	Outcome indicator targets met	
	Social value targets met	
Improving Health	Satisfactory spend and financial information	
	Overall satisfaction with delivery against contract	
Young People		

Performance Indicator	Yr Target	Q2	Cumulative
Twiggs social action events	80	30	60
Community groups supported	60	20	42
Areas adopted by residents	12	6	10
Volunteers recruited to Twiggs events	240	168	268
Local business engagement	25	10	19
Impact sessions delivered to groups and schools	12	11	26
Local spend	90%	90%	90%

***TWIGGS contribution to Public Health Outcomes**

Improving the wider determinants of health	
Objective 1: improvements against wider factors which affect health and wellbeing and health inequalities.	
1.04	First time entrants to the youth justice system
1.16	Utilising outdoor space for exercise and health reasons
Health Improvement	
Objective 2: people are helped to live healthy lifestyles, make healthy choices and reduce health inequalities	
2.13	Proportion of physically active and inactive adults
2.23	Self-reported well being

The team have undertaken 30 social action events during quarter 2 and supported 20 local groups. In total they have worked with 168 volunteers and engaged 10 local businesses. They have also delivered 11 impact sessions to local schools and groups. They have also done litter picked 26 different areas and collected 264 bags of rubbish.

The schools the team have worked with this quarter are The Hill, Carrfield, Lacewood, Goldthorpe Primary, Highgate and Heathergarth. They have also supported Thurnscoe community pride, Hickleton bowling club, Station House and Goldthorpe Railway Embankment group.

The team have also targeted areas such as, Church Street in Bolton, Dearne Road, Goldthorpe Library, Lockwood Road, High Street, Houghton Road, Prospect Road, Cranberra Rise, Hanover Street, Fieldsend Lane, Holly Grove, Bridal Path, Tudor Street, Ingsfield Lane, Nicholas Lane, Main Street and Probert Avenue.



Social isolation-B: Friend

B-friend social isolation project Quarter 2 report submitted on the 7 th of October 2019		
Dearne Area Council Priority		RAG rating
Improving Health	Satisfactory quarterly monitoring report and contract management meeting	
	Targets achieved	
	Outcome indicator targets met	
	Social value targets met	
	Satisfactory spend and financial information	
	Overall satisfaction with delivery against contract	

(3) B-friend

*B:Friend contribution to Public Health Outcomes.

Improving the wider determinants of health	
Objective 1: improvements against wider factors which affect health and wellbeing and health inequalities.	
1.18a	Adults who have as much social contact as they would like
1.18b	Adult carers who have as much social contact as they would like
Health Improvement	
Objective 2: people are helped to live healthy lifestyles, make healthy choices and reduce health inequalities	
2.13a	Physically active adults
2.23	Self reported well-being

Performance Indicator	Yr Target	Q2	Cumulative
Number of request for service	160	16	51
Number of pairings	30	10	26
Number of volunteer hours supporting the project	1116	360	1152
Number of volunteers	44	17	41
Number of enquiries about volunteering	80	22	106
Number of referrals to existing groups	8	12	17
Number of groups delivered	96	36	108
Number of people attending group sessions	15	16	16
Number of volunteers 50+	20	4	16

Initially this quarter the service received 12 referrals for pairing however after being matched the beneficiaries decided that the service was not for them, so this quarter 10 matches have been made. This is an increase on previous quarters; referrals are now starting to come through from professionals in the area. After volunteering on this project 2 volunteers have now gained employment. There was a 20% drop off rate of befrienders following the final supervised visit. 100% of older neighbours that have befrienders are satisfied with the project. The beneficiaries of the one to one element of the service have an average of 20 minutes additional physical activity.

Steven speaking about Wendy his befriender *“Couldn’t wish for a better friend to talk to, she’s fantastic”*.

Befriender Nicola speaking about working with Kathleen *“I still enjoy going every week, even 9 months into befriending”*.



After a slow start the social clubs have gone from strength to strength. The weekly clubs are based in Bolton, Thurnscoe and one is due to start in Goldthorpe. On average 15 people attend each session and they have planned activities at each one. The groups have been enjoying yoga session, making bird feeders for the embankment, boat racing, bunting designing, line and ball room dancing and buzzer competitions.



The South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue safe and well service also attended the Thurnscoe group in order to inform the group about staying safe. As well as BMBC Home Share service attending the Bolton social club. Both groups also had a fabulous day out at Cleethorpes.



Joyce said *“I think it’s a lovely thing that you do. I only knew one person when I started coming to this group and now I have made new friends”*.

Janet said *“I only came to start with off with for numbers because I know things don’t last without people turning up. But I’ve stayed because I love it. I won’t do anything else on a Wednesday now. “*

PART C- Dearne Development Fund

Dearne Development Fund

CAB, Dial, Goldthorpe Development Group, Premier league Kicks and Dearne and District were all allocated finances in the last financial year.

SERVICE	PRIORITY	PROJECT TITLE	COST	START	END	Reports
Dial Drop in	Improving Health improving the economy	Dearne drop in advice	£9,395	Jan 2019	Dec 2019	Report included
Goldthorpe Development Group	Improving health	In your prime get together	£5,000	Jan 2019	Dec 2019	Report included
Premier league kicks	Young people	Premier league Kicks programme	£7,750	January 2019	July 2019	Project finished
Dearne and District	Health and Young people	Improvements to football ground	£7,500	May 2019	Nov 2019	Project underway
2019/20 Dearne Development Fund Allocation						
TADS	Improving Health and Young People	Therapies and outreach provision for families	£14,944.73	April 2019	March 2020	Report included
Dearne Playhouse	Improving the economy	Playhouse improvements	£7126.00	May 2019	June 2019	Final report included
B:Friend	Improving Health	Extra activities for older people	£7,384	June 2019	May 2020	Report included
Mission Muay Thai	Improving Health and Young people	Kit for kids	£2,500	June 2019	September 2019	Started in October 2019
Dearne Family Centres	Improving Health and Young people	Little talkers project	£2,980.69	June 2019	March 2020	Started in October 2019
CAB	Improving Health	Advice services	£8069	October 2019	October 2020	Report included from previous grant

2018/19 allocation

DIAL

During the last quarter the project delivered **24** sessions at Goldthorpe Library to **84** residents. **Actual** Benefit gain to date: **£167,100**. For every **£1** invested by the DDF the project has brought **£23.71** into the area.

Breakdown of enquiries July-September 2019

Issue	Specific Issue	No of Enquiries
Benefit Appeals	Mandatory Reconsideration ESA	1
	Mandatory Reconsideration PIP	8
	SSCS1 DLA	1
	SSCS1 PIP	7
Total		17
Benefits	Attendance Allowance	3
	Benefit Check	3
	Benefits (Miscellaneous)	1
	Disability Living Allowance - Child	3
	Employment and Support Allowance	17
	Health Costs	1
	Housing Benefit	1
	Pension Credit	1
	Personal Independence Payment	32
	Universal Credit	4
Total		66
Housing	Landlord disputes	1
Total		1

Activity/Intervention	Quarter 4		Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Total Project target
	T	A	T	A	T	A	T	A	
No of people accessing the drop in service	75	91	75	97	75	84	75		300
No of weekly drop in session	24	24	24	27	24	24	24		96
No of volunteers supporting the project centrally	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		3

Case Study

Before DIAL

Mr H is a 62 years old man with Arthritis. He had been in receipt of Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB) at 20% giving him a weekly income of £35.80. He has now been diagnosed with COPD and advised by his GP that it may have been caused by exposure to coal dust whilst working as a miner.

Advice provided by DIAL

DIAL discussed how long Mr H had worked as a miner, what his working conditions were and if he felt that this work may have contributed to his lung damage. Following this discussion we assisted him to fill in an IIBD form for prescribed disease D12 (COPD due to exposure to coal dust).

Mr H returned to outreach with a letter from DWP explaining that he did not qualify for an increase of IIBD as he had not worked as a miner underground for the appropriate periods.

We discussed this further and checked the dates Mr H had worked underground as well as how long he worked on the surface and it appeared that he had worked enough years and should qualify. We helped Mr H fill in a form CRMR1 to ask for a mandatory reconsideration of the decision.

After DIAL

Mr H received a letter stating that the original decision had been overturned and he did now qualify for IIBD at 50% with a weekly payment of £89.50, an increase of £53.70 a week.

Mr H said

“The adviser was very helpful. He explained that I could ask for IIBD to be looked at again. He explained how the process works and what the possible outcomes could be. I felt much more knowledgeable and confident in applying for the benefit because of the information I was given.

Further to that, when they refused my benefit, he helped me to put across my points and argue my case as I was sure they had not made the correct decision.”

Goldthorpe Development Group.

The group have held 3 events during this time frame. 36 volunteers have assisted the group in delivering the events and 206 people have attended.

At the August's event the Physio team attended on behalf of 'Safeguarding adults' and they was well received he spoke to the audience as a whole then invited individuals into the back room for private consultations. He also mentioned a 'drop in centre' on a Wednesday for those who wished further consultations. The group have noted that numbers at the event have fallen in the last couple of months. This could

be for a couple of reasons such as workers within the complexes moving on to other posts. The group intend to promote the group through social media and the neighbourhood network.

Goldthorpe Development Group

	January	March	August	Sept	Oct
People attending event			74	78	54
Volunteers			13	12	11

Case Study

"I spoke to two carers from the Dearne Hall Care Home, Sheila and Vicky have both attended the last 5 events having being brought by a senior carer Louise who has unfortunately left our area. They both agreed that this event was something special for their residents who really looked forward to coming to share in the experience of joining with others in a warm and friendly environment where they could meet other people and generally enjoy the overall atmosphere. They both said that it really did make a difference to the people whom they brought. I was introduced to George, formally from Aberdeen, who had been with them for a couple of months. This was his second visit to our event and he said that it was special for him as not only did it allow him to leave the home but he so enjoyed the atmosphere, food and entertainment. He said that he would definitely come back again.

Sheila noted that they had found out about our event through Louise, the former carer, but she had not seen it advertised anywhere. I did mention that it was on Facebook, but that was something the home did not use, therefore the group will be looking at other ways of promoting the service.

Another very interesting comment was that out of their 48 beds in the Care Home, the vast majority of people are wheel chair bound and unable to use ordinary taxis. The ones that can walk can deteriorate quite quickly hence fewer people can attend our function. This is something that I will be discussing with the GDG and Councillor Noble to see what can be done to bring some more wheel chair bound pensioners to the event. "



CAB

Across the whole of this project, the advisers have seen a total of 244 client contacts. (164 for generalist advice and 80 for the debt advice) This means the service have exceeded the targeted amount of client contacts for the whole year by 106. In the year they have delivered 84 individual advice sessions across 49 x 3.5 hour outreaches.

During this year, changes to library services came into effect which required the service to change delivery days. As previously reported, this did have an initial detrimental impact on client numbers but they have now returned to expected levels.

This advice service has supported clients with a variety of different issues over the last year, including benefits, debt, employment, family and relationship and housing. Further analysis of our Casebook recording system shows a total of 553 unique issues. Of these issues 36% related to Benefits and Tax credits, 26% for Universal Credit and 19% related to debt.

Across this project period the generalist adviser has assisted clients to claim £285,119 of benefits - these benefit gains were distributed amongst 32 different clients with an average gain of £8,910 per client.

Year to date, our debt specialist has negotiated 18 financial settlements and this quarter another 4 clients have been referred to the Debt Relief Order Unit and their settlements are currently in progress. In total the debt specialist has helped manage £366,828 of problem debt and has written off debts totalling £46,198. Most of these debts have been written off as a result of the client making a settlement through a debt relief order where it was considered that this was the best result for the client and the creditor.

Supporting clients with claiming the benefits they are entitled to and managing their debt will help to maximise income and will give clients more money to spend in the local economy.

Across the year, this project has delivered a return on investment of £35 for every £1 spent.

Activity/ Intervention	Quarter 3 (Project Qtr 1)		Quarter 4 (Project Qtr 2)		Quarter 1 (Project Qtr 3)		Quarter 2 (Project Qtr 4)		Total Project	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
Recruit/Train Volunteers	ongoing		ongoing		ongoing		ongoing		2	
Number of Outreaches	11	11	12	12	12	13	11	13	46	49
Number of Advice Sessions	22	20	24	21	24	20	22	23	92	84
Number of people attending sessions	33	44	36	84	36	41	33	75	138	244
Number of Financial Settlements	7	3	8	6	8	5*	7	4	30	18
Improved health and wellbeing	Target 65%		Results are being collated							

2019/20 allocation

TADS

Within the Dearne area TADS have several projects happening. They have currently started a new project during the summer holidays at Station House where the youth worker and volunteers are leading a five to eleven years old yoga and mindfulness session each week. This has started well and had ten young people attend with positive feedback of the sessions. The young people felt relaxed so they are planning to provide more of these sessions shortly.

They are also currently in the Dearne ALC on a Wednesday providing 1-1 support with the pupils struggling with wellbeing problems. Offering solution focused counselling and the wellbeing project discussing strategies on how to cope well with anxiety, stress, depression, and anger. They hold Drop-in service after school for any of the students who feel the need to talk with someone.

TADS have also been going into the Dearne Primaries providing one to one support of solution focused therapy and wellbeing activities such as craft and wellbeing discussions. Many of these have been passed forward to other agencies as they were high intervention. The schools have been pleased with the support and the youth worker has written reports for certain young people to help the school find further support. The Youth Worker will continue to go to all the primaries in Dearne.

The youth worker has also booked to attend the picnic in the park event held in the area and will be the first Aider at the event as well as doing a drop-in support stall. TADS will also be attending the Children and young people's priority meeting to discuss how the service can support the Dearne area to its best.

Case study 1

We have been supporting a young male who came to TADS within the Dearne ALC school. He wasn't on my current list at the time but was having difficulties so was brought to me on off chance but then became a regular client. He was suffering with anxiety and had not eaten for three days and was having trouble sleeping and not attending school. When he did attend school he would avoid certain lessons and spend most of his time in the Bridge away from other pupils.

He was very confused to why he had voices in his head and did not want to feel like he did. After assessing his needs I spent 1-1 time going through our wellbeing program. Within one session of him understanding how the brain works and that we need to create a clear pathway within our brains to create new positive habits. He left with hope of change. As the sessions went on and I started implementing solution focussed therapy he became more positive and came with hope of change. He started to eat again, going to school and is now back in his lessons. He has also started going to the gym. He also decided to come along to the workshop at the medical centre and referred his friend as well. He is enjoying the service and is now staying for another workshop. He has really developed and is now able to look at the triggers and find solutions. He has mentioned that the voices in his head are now disappearing. On his evaluations of the sessions he says he feels listened to, has found ways to cope with his anxiety and now feels a lot more relaxed and looks forward to coming to the session each week.

Case study 2

I have also been supporting a young girl who I have been seeing on a 1-1 at the Dearne ALC school. She was very emotional and came due to anxiety issues and low mood. She was very emotional on the first session when she was explaining the issues of bullying in school. She was being bullied online which then led to being bullied within the school. She was not attending all her lessons due to feeling worried about the bullies. I addressed this with the school. She then came with an open mind with hope for change and wanted to be less emotional and more confident.

On this occasion I decided that solution focus therapy would be the best route. After focussing on what her miracle day would be, she came up with solutions to her issues and gained confidence to implement change. She also went and approached one her friends who was upsetting her. She felt her friend was jealous of her boyfriend. After a number of sessions, she is no longer emotional in sessions and was getting very confident and open to talking about her feelings.

Dearne Playhouse

The Dearne Playhouse stage sees many shows each year, from their annual pantomime, to dance shows and everything in between. It takes a lot to put on any kind of production, a lot more than people realise. When you haven't got a West-End budget, you have to depend on support, volunteers and donations. Thankfully, the community around the Playhouse has come together and provided us with light.

Over the last few years, Dearne Area Team/Council has been a constant support for us, and always help with all our projects. They have been instrumental in helping the Playhouse stand on its own feet, and become what it is today. Although the Playhouse is not a huge regional theatre, the funding and backing that the Dearne Area Council provides has certainly set us off in the right direction, helping us bring shows to the people in our community. Once again, they have kindly contributed, this time helping to provide the Playhouse with brand new technical equipment, especially our lighting. Our previous set of lights had been here for nearly two decades, however thanks to the new funding we have been able to change over to new, LED, energy saving lighting. Meaning, not only will the thousands of performers from all over the community who grace our stage benefit, but the environment will as well.

Julie Medlam, the theatre manager has said, *"We are extremely grateful for the support from everyone who has provided it. This will help sustain the theatre for years to come, and provide the best experience for the performers and the audience. The Dearne Playhouse is unbelievably grateful for the years of support, and realise we would not be in the position we are in without it."*



B:friend

The team have reached 13 older neighbours since the start of this project. 13 people who are now having weekly social interactions through either 1:1 befriending or attendance at social clubs.

Doris, a member of our Thurnscoe social club, has recently returned to the group after a long absence. Jenny was able to visit Doris on several occasions because of the extra time the project has allowed her. Doris considered having a befriender but felt that she was not ready for a volunteer at this stage, however she was missing the weekly interactions at the group and decided, with Jenny's encouragement, to return to the group. Doris has now been attending the club on a weekly basis and recently enjoyed our trip to Cherry Tree Court for breakfast.

Joan, an older neighbour in Thurnscoe, recently started to attend the group after a visit from Jenny. Joan had expressed an interest in joining the group but was initially unsure. After a visit from Jenny where they discussed the group in detail Joan

decided that she would give it a try. Joan now has two weekly interactions thanks to this project. Again, without the extra time, Jenny would have been unable to visit Joan and spend time discussing the group, giving Joan the confidence to start attending. On attending the group Joan said "I'd like to give it a try, I might make a new friend".

Muriel, a member of one of the social groups was unable to continue attending the group. Jenny has been able to visit Muriel at her home to discuss having a volunteer befriender. Muriel is now being paired with a local volunteer.

The project has been delivered throughout the Dearne, with particular focus on the Goldthorpe area initially. A social Club in Goldthorpe was piloted and after 8 weeks the decision was made to move the club to a different venue. The decision was made based on low attendance and venue due to accessibility. They are now piloting club in a new venue, on a different day.

The team have also been on day trips to Cleethorpes with both groups. These trips were open to all older neighbours living in the Dearne area and they welcomed them from the local Knit and Natter and Walking groups.

They have also visited local restaurant Cherry Tree Court for breakfast and lunch and are currently organising trips to Barnsley Town Hall Museum and Brigg Garden Centre.

As part of the research they have undertaken during the project so far, they have been very proactive in visiting other local groups to learn from their experience of either running a social group in a particular area or recruiting volunteers. This has also enabled them to develop a wider knowledge of other community based activities which allows the team to signpost/refer older neighbours to the most suitable and appropriate places for meaningful social interactions.

This project has allowed more time to be spent in the community, enabling Jenny to make natural connections with the people who live there. Flyering target areas has given the team opportunities to talk to people in a more informal way which has been more effective at engaging people in weekly social interactions at the club.

Whilst out in Thurnscoe Jenny bumped into Lillian, a member of the Social Club, who had not been at the group for a couple of weeks. After a short conversation, during which Jenny inquired after Lillian's well-being and encouraged her to try and attend the group the following week, they went their separate ways. The following week Lillian was back at the group, stating "I had to come and see how you were going to make fancy bird feeders out of toilet rolls!" Without the extra time this project allows Jenny to be in the Dearne this interaction would not have happened and Lillian may not have returned to the group at all.