

Stronger Communities Service

2019/20 Quarter 02 Narrative Report



CENTRAL

Stairfoot Ward Alliance

Using Heritage as a Hook for Engagement

THRIVING & VIBRANT ECONOMY	PEOPLE ACHIEVING THEIR POTENTIAL	STRONG & RESILIENT COMMUNITIES
Outcome 4: Strengthen our visitor economy	Outcome 9: People are healthier, happier, independent and active	Outcome 10: People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities



There is a real interest in local heritage across the Central Area and in particular the Stairfoot Ward and lots of potential to use this interest to develop more projects, create more volunteering opportunities, and engage with more volunteers. It is also an opportunity to deliver engagement, networking or health events in varied locations, bringing different people together to engage with other services.



The Stairfoot Ward Alliance have successfully worked with a number of heritage groups using the interest in local Heritage as a hook to engage with more people to get more involvement and develop local Pride in the area.

The initiative was designed to make the Ward Alliance and other partners more visible to the local communities. People in the ward have many and varied interests it is therefore necessary to use a number of different hooks for engagement. Working with local Heritage groups is one way of engaging with local people. Also developing heritage sites and using old photographs can be used as a talking point for the Ward Alliance Road shows.

Priority One: This initiative supports groups to maintain and increase specific heritage areas; it helps groups to put on events in the area thus strengthening the visitor economy. Both the Barnsley Main Heritage Group and the Stairfoot Station Heritage group have unofficially adopted specific sites in the area, they have helped to maintain the sites to make them more welcoming to people and give people information about the history of the site.



Stairfoot Station Group have been successful in gaining funding to install a number of interpretation boards and a new rail related feature on the Trans-Pennine trail, they have also delivered a number of local fund raising events that helps to increase the visitor numbers.

Barnsley Main Heritage Group have made a huge impact on the site on Oaks Lane. It is now a welcoming site with heritage and nature walks. The group meet regularly to maintain and develop the site and to deliver events, such as the National Heritage Open day in September, where a number of local history groups came together to have a stand on site and people from all over the country came to visit.



Priority Two: Getting involved with a local group can have significant impact on individual people helping them to be happier, healthier, independent and active. The Ward Alliance has also used heritage sites to deliver health events such as the Pop-up Health Events that were delivered with the Victoria Alms Houses. These events went very well bringing different audiences together, local people came to see the Community Matron and other providers and also learned about the history of the Alms Houses, and about other volunteering and engagement opportunities in the area.

Priority Three: There is always a lot of interest in local heritage. Supporting local heritage groups is a great way to increase volunteering, and this in turn contributes to developing stronger communities.

These projects would not take place if it was not for the committed volunteers who give up hours of their time to make a difference in their community. The Stairfoot Ward Alliance including Elected members have been very supportive of a number the local heritage groups. This support has developed in a number of ways such as helping with funding through applications to the Ward Alliance Fund and other sources of funding; enlisting as members of the groups to help with planning and delivery of the groups aims and objectives; being on hand to give advice and support to the groups when needed; supporting the groups to deliver engagement events that bring more people to the heritage sites; promoting the group's activities via social media, networking events and roadshows.

The Area Team are on hand to give advice and support to the groups on funding and other issues, to help with training and development, and to help widen the perspective of the groups to utilise the heritage sites for different events and initiatives.

Working with Heritage groups in Stairfoot Ward has brought huge benefits, particularly in supporting the development of groups that will look after specific areas of historical interest, helping to bring more visitors to the area and keeping them informed of the historical significance of the site. It has also developed more volunteering opportunities and encouraged more local people to volunteer their time. The venues are now being utilised more and can be used for different events such as the pop-up health coffee mornings held at the Alms Houses, giving local people access to the local health services and promoting the historical building.

Linking groups to other service providers such as the fantastic joint work with the Stairfoot Station heritage Park Group that saw a new railway installation sited on the Trans-Pennine Trail, The Area Team, Parks Services, Section 106, DVLP, Trans Pennine Trail Officers, Rights of Way Officers, neighbourhood Services and Twiggs Clean and Green team, all worked with the group to create this installation.

The Central Team continue to get great feedback from members of the groups who really appreciate the work that goes on to support them. The main learning points are that the team needs to use a number of different strategies and hooks to engage with people, Heritage is just one hook that can be used to help with engagement.

The examples of the groups above are now independent and do not require ongoing support from the area team, but they continue to maintain close links and know that the area team is on hand for any future advice or support.

Central Area Council

Service to build emotional resilience in Children & Young People aged 8-14 years living in the Central Council Area – Peer Supporters help young people transition to Horizon College



The Central Area Council YMCA service to deliver a service to build emotional resilience and wellbeing in children and young people aged 8-14 years is now in its third year and it continues to meet its aims of contributing to building emotional resilience and wellbeing in children and young people aged 8-14. This continues to be achieved through the building 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. 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 recent Peer Mentor Training Programme has given the YMCA Peer Mentor trainees the opportunity to learn new skills, develop their confidence and self-esteem through the sessions they participated in and then use the skills learnt to offer help and support to others.

The project was designed to support young people transition. The Peer Mentor Training Programme sessions are designed to support the young people to build confidence and self-esteem and to develop skills to help others. Once the young people have completed the Peer Mentor Training Programme the aim is for them to have the skills to help their peers through supporting activities / events in school, at the YMCA, and Year 6 to Year 7 transition which in turn will further develop their own confidence, self-esteem and

emotional resilience. The idea that these young people have shared interests and experiences to help others who may need their support is not only beneficial to the young people they are offering support to but also for their own personal growth. The specific approaches of the Resilience Framework are being developed through this programme in particular *Belonging; Make friends and mix with other children / YP, Learning; Engage mentors for children/YP, Coping; solving problems and Core Self; Support the child/YP to understand other people's feelings.*

The programme has given the young people the opportunity to build trusting consistent relationships, learn new skills and build their confidence. They now have the support and opportunities to help their peers within school, attend and support at activities / events within the YMCA provision to meet other children and young people to develop friendships. They will also have opportunities to develop their interests and aspirations which in turn will help to build their emotional resilience and overall well-being.

The Peer Mentor Training Programme was delivered in Horizon Community College with 10 young people completing the programme. The young people were originally identified by their Heads of Year and the Careers & Enterprise Coordinator (Transition Lead) as young people who would benefit from the programme and had the potential and/or the personal experience that would help with fulfilling the role but not necessary the confidence to put themselves forward. The Peer Mentor Training Programme had been delivered within the Unity project previously with lots of positive results and previous Peer Mentors still involved in supporting at YMCA provision and events so the staff at Horizon Community College and Barnsley YMCA staff were keen to see it delivered again. This service was commissioned by Central Area Council.



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The evaluation scores and comments from the Peer Mentors has been very positive with them recording the following comments about how the training programme has made them feel and what they have learnt; I feel happy, excited, confident, more motivated, I have made new friends, talked to new people, learnt to be more patient, learnt to be part of a team, had fun, learnt how to help people, helped me to get out of my comfort zone, learnt that you don't judge a book by its cover. The majority of the young people scored themselves 4 and 5's on the evaluation questions which asked for feedback about developing skills, building confidence, trying something new and also about how the programme made them feel.

The following is feedback from the Careers & Enterprise Coordinator at Horizon Community College;

“The peer mentor programme has had a great impact on the students who have taken part; the Year 7 students who were involved have developed valuable skills to support them through their remaining years at Horizon. We have already seen a big change in a number of the students. Some of the students were really struggling to settle in during the first term and this programme really supported the transition process for those students. One girl Sarah has grown in confidence so much that she offered to speak in front of 800 parents over 2 separate nights at our recent transition evening, something that she would never have done without having the intervention of the peer mentoring group. One other student Arron was able to settle into Horizon more than we ever thought he would after the first term due to the support of this group. They have already joined some of the YMCA’s provision outside school hours which is fantastic.” - Thomas West, Careers & Enterprise Coordinator (Transition Lead) Horizon Community College

The Peer Mentors have been given the opportunity to attend and support at the Horizon after school club called the ACE Club – Arts, Crafts & Enterprise. This is a great opportunity for the Peer Mentors to get to know the young people who attend this club and form friendships and offer support if needed. We recently received some feedback regarding the ACE Club which we felt was important to include in the case study especially as the Peer Mentor support will focus on transition as one of the key areas of support needed for young people when transitioning from Primary to Secondary education.

“I am writing to say a huge thank you for the support you’ve given my daughter, Crystal, over the past year. Coming to ACE club is the only constant she has had, and the only club that has supported her through her transition to high school. As she moved into Year 8 yesterday she said “At least I know I will still have ACE club after school on Wednesday, even if everything else is different”. This is so important for her as a child with additional needs and I wanted to let you know how much it is appreciated. Support for children as they make the most difficult transition in their young lives is so important, and the relationships she has built with the YMCA staff have been invaluable. She attended holiday clubs and was able to maintain links with her primary age friends, another important stabilising factor for her. She is looking forward to the clubs over the summer so once again, thank you!” - Rebecca Gomes Siqueira



DEARNE
Dearne & North East – Joint Project
Once Upon a Prom 2019



The Once Upon a Prom project aims to ensure that school leavers in our areas have the opportunity to attend their school prom, regardless of their parents' financial circumstances. The project offers an affordable, alternative option to buying expensive prom wear by offering a hiring service at an incredibly low cost, which simply covers the cost of dry cleaning the outfit.

Prom attire can be very expensive to buy, the average price of a dress being several hundred pounds, and suits less than £100 are hard to come by. This expense can put extreme pressure on a family's finances, particularly for families who already have struggling finances. This project offers prom wear to hire at a small charge to simply cover the cost of dry cleaning. For referrals from IDAS and students in certain circumstances identified to us by school staff this fee is waived and their outfits are free of charge.

This project aims to prevent families getting into financial difficulty from purchasing expensive prom wear that they can't necessarily afford, due to social pressures on both parents and children. There has been some suggestion by staff in some schools in our areas that children misbehave at school so that they aren't allowed to attend their prom, so that to their peers it seems the reason they aren't there is because they are not allowed rather than because their parents can't afford for them to attend. By offering this affordable option, we hope that this project will discourage such behaviour as students will know they will have access to affordable prom wear.

Priority Two: People are happier and healthier mentally as this project softens the social and financial pressures of prom that can cause stress and anxiety for both children and parents. Knowing that they have access to a huge selection of excellent quality prom wear at an affordable price will be a huge weight off of their shoulders at a key point in their lives whilst they focus on their GCSE exams.



Priority Three: This project attracted a number of new volunteers in a number of “unusual” volunteer roles. A retired seamstress offered free minor alterations and completed a number of repairs on dresses we otherwise would have been unable to save. We held a fashion show event at Astrea Academy Dearne where four local Make-Up Artists and Hairdressers volunteered their time, skills and stock to get the models ready for the show. We also had volunteers assisting with appointments, taking photos of the stock etc.



One Council: This was a joint project with CDOs from the North East & Dearne Area Teams, who ran the project together, assisting at events in each other’s wards and both supporting each other’s work as much as possible. This project involved liaising with Communications and support from the Ward Alliances and Area Councils.

The Dearne Area Team trialled a similar project in 2018, which was accessed by several students from the North East area. This is why for 2019 we decided to collaborate and deliver the project on a larger scale in both areas. Firstly, the CDOs and Area Managers from both teams met to discuss the evaluation and learning points from the previous year in the Dearne, and to confirm funding for the year ahead.

The CDOs then met to develop an action plan. They met with the schools in each area to promote the project and discuss ways in which we could work together in school. We then held a fashion show launch event at Astrea Academy Dearne where 30 students modelled our stock, volunteer hairdressers and make-up artists assisted in getting them ready, and we opened our diaries to book the first lot of private appointments.



We held a “pop-up shop” event at Outwood Academy Shafton, where Y11 students were invited to have a look round our stock in the morning where they then made individual appointments for the afternoon to try on dresses and suits on their own or with friends. In this session alone, which was supported by a new volunteer, eight students hired an outfit with us. Following this we held a number of private appointment events on evenings and weekends between March-July, using social media as our main tool for promoting the project and taking bookings, as well as taking referrals from IDAS and our local schools.

We were invited to Outwood Academy Shafton’s prom breakfast event as a thank you, as we had kitted out over 10% of their students for prom. We will now evaluate the project and take this back to the Ward Alliance and Area Council for discussions, comments and learning points for the future of the project.

The CDOs were paramount in the delivery of this project; the project would not have been delivered without the input of the CDOs. The CDOs built relationships with school staff to get them on board and promote the project within school. We met with Youth Workers and Education Workers to inform them of the project and encourage them to promote to the children they know will benefit, as well as IDAS who referred students to us that they work with. We recruited and supported

volunteers, including six new volunteers, in various roles. We managed the entire project ourselves, including social media accounts and answering queries on a daily basis.

We approached local businesses for donations and put pleas out on social media, and have received an incredible amount of support and donations from the local community. One local business donated 42 brand new dresses, another 16, and another business in Sheffield donated 8 suits and tuxedos. We have received over 300 dresses, 150 suits and a number of shoes and jewellery donations from the community, with a number of businesses across Barnsley and the surrounding area acting as drop-off points, including every branch of Co-op Funeralcare in the Borough. We made links with a local dry cleaner, who offered us a substantial discount for the project and has agreed to support us in the future, as well as a seamstress in the North East who offered discounted alterations. We contacted many local beauticians and hairdressers to build up a collection of prizes such as free hair, make up, nails etc. for the prom, and did a prize draw for everyone who hired their outfit with us.



In the end, 35 students hired their prom wear with us for their prom night. The project enabled us to build good relationships with our local high schools and local businesses that have supported the project. We have promoted their businesses on social media, attracting them more business and many have already stated they would like to be involved in the future.

Some feedback from students and parents:

“Absolutely fantastic ladies, very patient and helpful. Amazing value for money, highly recommended.”

“I was really nervous initially, but I found a perfect dress eventually. The people were really lovely and made me feel comfortable. I can’t wait to wear my dress, thank you for helping us.”

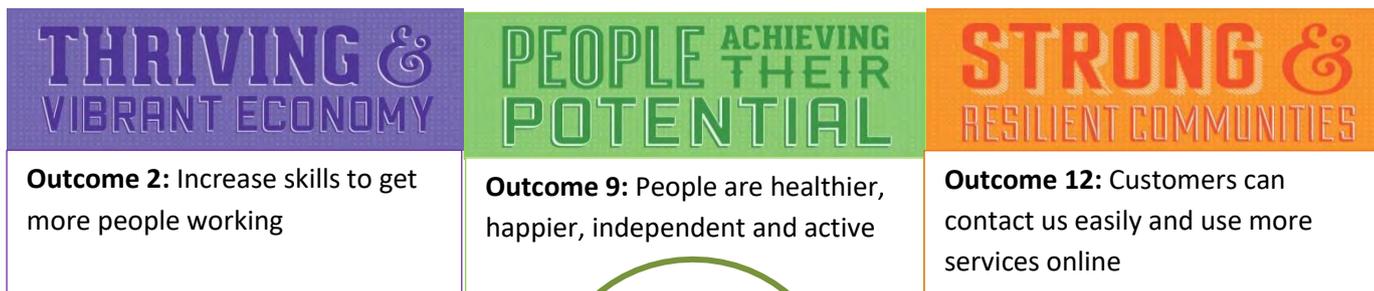
“Brilliant friendly, warm service, the ladies helped bring my daughter out of her shell and got her to try on more dresses and ones she wouldn’t usually try. She was very shy to begin with but left happy, laughing and with a beautiful dress she wouldn’t usually go for. Cannot fault them at all.”

“Thank you ever so much for Jade’s dress, she looked like a princess and had an amazing time thanks to you. We cannot thank you enough for how you have helped our family, we will never forget it thank you so much.”

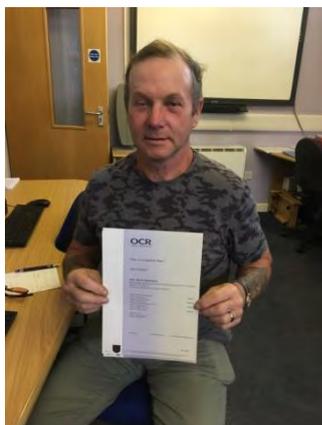
The project was successful however very time consuming for officers. More bodies need to be involved in this project to be sustainable in the project, including volunteer recruitment and staff, and schools taking more ownership as the level of officer time spent on the project are not sustainable in the future.

We would also look to do full-day appointments (9am-5pm) rather than many shorter evening and weekend sessions. We will take the evaluation back to the Ward Alliance and Area Council for discussion.

Dearne Area Council Commissioned Service
Employability Skills



The Dearne Area Council has commissioned a service to work with local people in gaining the confidence to apply for work. The service also offers bespoke training packages around gaining ICT qualifications. The project was designed to work with the long term unemployed. The tutor works with the learners in enhancing their skills to gain confidence, apply for jobs online and gain an ICT qualification.



The tutor works with each individual and provides a bespoke package to meet their individual needs. Through this process they are applying for and gaining employment. Obviously by gaining work they are more independent and active. Aside from the employability aspect of the programme the tutor as seen a rise in people needing assistance in paying their bills online and this is also covered in the sessions.

The people that are long term unemployed take part in the service. They usually access the service through referrals from DWP and other organisations operating in the Dearne Area. The Area Team support the sessional tutor in developing the project. It is a commissioned service so much of this is done through the contract management process. The Area Team also assist in promoting the service and ensuring links are made with other such services in the area.

In the last quarter 20 individuals from the Dearne Area have accessed this support and gained an ICT qualification, 4 of those have gained employment. The sessional tutor works 3 days per week and each learner attends for around 3 hours per week. Many of the learners are referred from DWP and although some are not yet work ready, the tutor can build up their confidence by working on an individual basis with them.



There are many services that come into the Dearne Area, many of them skills and employment based. We now have an extremely good network and are usually the first point of call for many of these new services. Therefore we are constantly working together to assist in filling the gaps rather than duplicating the work that is already on offer.

The tutor stated: "As of September 2019 I am working in partnership with both GMB union and Wiseability (meeting to be held at DECV on 23/09/2019) to hopefully offer Maths & English at DECV to level 2. Wiseability will offer the sessions and tutor and DECV will offer our facilities. This would fill a much needed gap left by Dearne Valley College who pulled from our centre due to outreach funding issues. I believe this would be a success and will benefit my learners greatly. We will also be in talks with DWP about a referral system for this."

The project will continue to work on a one to one basis with individuals in the area. One of the learning points is that some of the learners referred onto the programme are really far away from the job market. What this means in practice is that a lot more one to one time is needed with them to make them job ready. That said the services are working together a lot more now and filling the gaps that had been previously identified.

Dearne Area Team
Forget-me-Not Café

<p>THRIVING & VIBRANT ECONOMY</p>	<p>PEOPLE ACHIEVING THEIR POTENTIAL</p>	<p>STRONG & RESILIENT COMMUNITIES</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Increase skills to get more people working</p>	<p>Outcome 9: People are healthier, happier, independent and active</p>	<p>Outcome 10: People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities</p>



The current Forget-me-Not Café was initially set up as a Dementia Café for people caring for family members or friends who have Dementia. The project was designed to support people who were supporting family or friends with Dementia by offering a place to go, where they could meet other people who were doing the same.



An informal, friendly place with people who understood what they were going through. The group was developing nicely, had increased its numbers by a few. The original steering group wanted to look at how we could encourage more members. We came together again as a group and decided to change the name from Dementia Café as we thought it might stop people from attending and we changed the time to a later start from 10am to 12pm to 10:30am until 12.30pm as sometimes people with dementia need a little more time to get ready, have breakfast, and get to the venue. It also meant that people could get lunch at a reduced rate if they wanted to stay. New posters with new name and times were developed by Barnsley Library and sent out to the many agencies and groups who may have members who were supporting someone with dementia.



One established member of the group, who has dementia herself, has become friendly with a new member, whose husband has just been admitted to a social care facility, they have become good friends and are supporting each other during and after the group.

The project was designed to support people who were supporting someone with Dementia by offering a place to go to where they could meet other people who were doing the same. An informal, friendly place with people who understood what

they were going through. An opportunity to meet with agencies that were also supporting people

with Dementia, receive information about those agencies, what they could provide in the way of support and maybe funding etc.

When people volunteer they get a sense of 'self-worth', it increases their confidence, and they can learn new skills which potentially may lead to a job if that's what they want. Volunteering encourages people to come together under a common theme, gather information and pass on information that they have to others. Supporting people in the same situation as you can be very powerful. You sometimes get back more than you put in.



The group was supported by staff from agencies that have Dementia in their remit - Age UK, Making Space, Dementia Friendly Churches, Barnsley Libraries, Dearne Area Team and Snap-Tin who provided the venue.

The Dearne Area Team were the conduit to bringing people and agencies together, to further develop a project for people living with Dementia and the people who care for them.

The project has gone from strength to strength with the support of The Dearne Area Team and its partner agencies, volunteers and staff at Snap-Tin. The numbers attending the group have risen slowly with a different activity taking place. Activities include Ukulele, sing-a-longs, crafts, and more. We have worked with agencies that we haven't worked with before; this has opened up a dialogue with them for work in the future.

The feedback from agencies and participants in the group has been very positive.

"It's a great place to meet other people in the same situation."

"I don't know what I would have done without the Support of Elaine and this group."

"[I] didn't know where to turn to for support when my husband was admitted to a Social Care Home."

We have learned that things change from what was originally planned, and agencies need to be kept informed as to what's going on and what has changed. This doesn't mean that there needs to be a regular formal meeting, but popping in to see if there are any issues seems to be the best way forward.

The project will carry on with very little input from Agencies and Service Providers. Meetings will still happen but on a quarterly basis so that we can make sure the project is okay and developing.

NORTH
Darton East Area
Healthy Holidays Project

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

Live it
Looking after
yourself and others

Love it
Having pride
in where you live

After seeing the success of last years 'Healthy Holidays' government pilot project in parts of the borough, the Darton East Ward Alliance decided that they wanted to do a similar project in the Ward during the summer holidays.

The aim of this project was to provide fun activities and a hot meal to children living in the Darton East Ward. Whilst Darton East is seen as a fairly affluent area on the local statistics, there are still pockets of deprivation within the Ward and many children who are entitled to free school meals. This project aimed to ensure that children in low income families still received a hot meal during the holidays.



People are healthier, happier, independent and active: This project not only ensured that children had a hot healthy meal but in addition there were a number of fun activities for the children to take part in. These activities enabled children to socialise and interact with other local children; the same can be said for the parents too. It also provided activities for families to do together.

People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities: The project had a great core of volunteers and without these the project would not have gone ahead. Also, two of the sessions involved volunteers from a local organisation who felt very passionately about the project and wanted to use it as an ESV day from work.

A sub group was formed from the Ward Alliance comprising of one Councillor, three WA members and the North Area Team CDO. The sub group held a number of meetings to plan the sessions. They were responsible for ordering the equipment and food that was needed, cooked at the sessions and helped deliver them.

The North Area Team CDO supported the group from start to finish. They helped with the organising and delivering of the sessions as well as keeping the group on track with their budget (a Ward Alliance funding grant was used for the project).

This was the first time a project like this has been done in the Darton East Ward – the CDO gave support and advice and helped build the volunteers/groups confidence so they would be able to deliver another project like this in the future.



The project exceeded expectations – the sessions were incredibly popular and well received within the ward – each one was full. Every child that attended thoroughly enjoyed the activities that they did. Many of the parents passed comment at how much they appreciated the sessions and that they had enjoyed them. Due to the success it is envisaged that more of these sessions will be run during school holidays.

The only partnership really involved with this project was the link generated with DWP and their staff that volunteered on the day. The staff that volunteered really enjoyed the sessions and are keen to do more volunteering within the ward. The feedback from parents and children alike has been incredible. They were so grateful for the sessions and enjoyed every minute.

The main learning point to come from the project is how to reach those that are really in need of the free meal. A register was kept for each session and whilst many who came did receive free school meals these were ones who at under the age of 7 automatically receive free school meals from the Government's free school meals programme.

If the project was to run again, the group would need to consider how to get to the hardest to reach families – possibly by forming links with schools. Hopefully the project will run further sessions during the school holidays.

Darton West Area
Sponsored Hanging Baskets



After seeing the success of the sponsored hanging baskets in Silkstone, the Darton West Ward Alliance thought that it would be a good idea to try in the Ward. One of the aims of this project was to reduce the reliance on the Ward Alliance to fund the hanging baskets - each year they pay approx. £1500 on hanging baskets. It also aimed to help local residents, community groups and local businesses a unique opportunity to remember a loved one or promote a service/group.

Develop a Vibrant Economy: A great deal of improvement work has happened over the last 12 months in the Darton West Ward, particularly in Darton. The hanging baskets added to some fantastic work that has happened - with the new shop fronts scheme and a local community group improving the aesthetics of the village (litter picking, bulb planting, lights, tree planting, cutting back). By making the village attractive it has encouraged more people to come into the village to shop and use its facilities, for example, Darton Park.

The project was led by the Darton West Ward Alliance with support from the North Area Teams CDO. The North Area Team CDO supported the project from start to finish. They advertised the opportunity to sponsor a hanging basket, collated the forms and organised all the orders.

This year we managed to get 15 of the hanging baskets sponsored which is a great success. The hanging baskets really brightened the ward. The hanging baskets promoted a new way of working with the local community – by sponsoring a basket they got to improve the look of their neighbourhood as well as keep something that people have enjoyed looking at over the last few years.

Feedback from one of this year's sponsors:

"The basket has looked really lovely all summer; I would appreciate it therefore if you would contact me next year, when the time comes, for ordering another one for 2020. I think it's been a lovely tribute in the village for my mum and dad. Thank you so much."



Old Town Area
National Citizenship Service Presentations



The North Area Team have assisted the National Citizenship Service throughout July in attending their phase three element workshops. The team were tasked with explaining the overall situation and understanding of social action, how the NCS project fits into that, and why it's important for the young people to get involved in their communities.

The workshops were an essential part of the NCS process. They are designed to allow the young people on the programme to determine how they will undertake the volunteering project required for the third phase of the programme.

In previous years, the NCS have adopted a "Dragon's Den" style approach where potential projects are pitched to young people and they select the one they are most inspired to take part in. This year, a different approach was taken, with key themes and issues being presented to the young people instead of specific projects, with the aim for the young people to select a theme and design their own social action to address part of that theme.

These themes included homelessness, social isolation, gender and sexuality and the importance of social action itself.

Every child attends a good school and is successful in learning: The workshop days gave the Area Team a good opportunity to engage with young people aged 16-17 – a demographic that has been quite difficult to reach in our previous work. These young people have been given the chance in small groups to learn about the importance of social action and inspired to undertake action in something they are interested in.

People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities: Through inspired knowledge, the young people on the NCS programme have been able to make a deeper impact that they otherwise would have and got to the heart of some significant issues affecting our communities.

The Area Team attended three workshop sessions over July, and engaged with 274 young people in total. The sessions included an overview of what social action was, why it was important to undertake such activities and how to find the best way of delivering activities that they were interested in.

The Area Team not only assisted in advising them on community funding, but they also engaged with the group to help organise a special “bunting workshop” as part of Tour De Yorkshire.

The priority aim of this group’s activities has been to help alleviate social isolation, bring people together and work on something to benefit the wider community whilst the members undertook activities that they genuinely love. This approach is felt to be far more impactful and relevant.

More young people of the difficult demographic of 16-17yr old engaged and explained the importance of volunteering. The project raised awareness of key aspects to social action and the best way to deliver it, and 274 people were engaged and encouraged. 24 Social action projects were delivered, including £5,139 raised.



There is a clear shift in focus on the relationship and delivery of activities between NCS and the Area Teams. This has gone from a project pitching angle to one that outlines significant and meaningful issues that are affecting local communities and empowering the young people to determine their own solutions.

Feedback from the project:

“It is absolutely amazing that this group of young people have chosen our Charity to support. It highlights how important young people are in the community and that they care. The fact that they want to give something back to all these different people is great.”

As a learning point, it was noted that there was not a strong enough call to action on the area team presentation around social action. Although the team felt that there was a strong message of how

and why to deliver social action, the young people still require some suggested direction in terms of *what* can be delivered. Despite this point, the presentation at each subsequent workshop was improved and adapted, with scope to build more in for the future.

The delivery of this workshop theme was undertaken solely by the North Area Team, therefore there is also scope to build in examples and other viewpoints into the presentation / discussion.

St Helens Area
Athersley Crafty Crafters



The Athersley Crafty Crafters applied to the Ward Alliance for assistance in obtaining their craft materials for the forthcoming year, alleviating the problem of increased subs for more expensive items.

The Crafty Crafters are a social group that encourages local residents to come along and create various items, often to be used for local initiatives or raise money for charity. They were involved in creating decorations for this year's Tour De Yorkshire, bobble hats for Age UK and much more.



The group is a great way to help people tackle issues of anxiety and social isolation, whilst simultaneously making friends, and learning new skills. This is in line with other efforts by agencies such as Royal Voluntary Service and South Yorkshire Housing.

People are healthier, happier, independent and active: The group are of great benefit when it comes to assisting people to become more social. The group is very welcoming, the activities are relaxing and the members really feel that they are contributing to something bigger when they create various items for sale to benefit charity.

People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities: The group have a good, consistent coordinator and a variety of causes that they contribute to.

The Crafty Crafters group has fifteen regular volunteers to their sessions. They meet to undertake a variety of activities including making Christmas cards for Bluebell Wood, knitting cardigans for the neonatal unit at Barnsley Hospital and Pinderfields, and knitted poppies for the British Legion amongst other things.

The Area Team not only assisted in advising them on community funding, but they also engaged with the group to help organise a special “bunting workshop” as part of Tour De Yorkshire.

The priority aim of this groups activities has been to help alleviate social isolation, bring people together and work on something to benefit the wider community whilst the members undertook activities that they genuinely love.

The project achieved more members for the group, and money was raised for a good cause. Babies benefitted from the clothes knitted, and the British Legion benefitted from the knitted poppies (as well as the people receiving them). The group were also able to afford more stock to be able to continue their activities.

Feedback from the group:

“The most important thing to come out of this group is that members of the local community have joined us and enjoyed it so much that they attend other groups at the Church Hall such as Twilight, Gentle Exercise, and the over 50’s Luncheon Group. We often go out for meals and have coffee with each other. This means that people who wouldn’t normally leave their homes are now doing so and making friends as well.”

At present, the group are exploring links to begin knitting scarves and hats for the homeless project that runs over the winter months.



NORTH EAST

North East Ward

Reading Room: Older people reading to reduce loneliness



The project was launched by the Great Houghton Parish Council, supported by the North East Ward Councillors and funded by a grant of £260 from the North East Ward Alliance for reading materials.

The scheme provides a safe, comfortable and relaxing space for men and women over 50 years old to access free reading materials. Residents are able to join free of charge, read daily newspapers, magazines, and borrow books. The project is aimed at easing the pressures of loneliness and creates friendship groups. Tea and coffee facilities are free of charge.

The Reading Room is open Monday and Wednesdays from 10am to 12pm and takes place at the Great Houghton Welfare Hall. It is run by volunteers.

The Reading Room was developed in response to evidence that a social reading programme could provide powerful benefits for older people. We know from research that the winter months and Christmas can be particularly lonely for older people the Reading Room acts as a tool for helping older people stay in touch and connected with each other.

Wellbeing is when you feel good and enjoy your day to day life this project, connects friends, family, neighbours and people making them healthier and happier.

The project encourages community cohesion and improves community spirit. The target group will have the opportunity to mix with others and form relationships as an alternative to staying in their home and being lonely. The Reading Room brings together volunteers and vulnerable and isolated older people, including people with dementia and their carers together through social reading.

Alfred Houghton said that he started coming to the reading room from the beginning, and he *“looks forward to the company and it stops him looking at four walls”*

Cally Gregory said they have a laugh and *“it’s just like ‘Little and Large’, they laugh so much.”* Reading Friends volunteers come from all walks of life and receive full support and training.

The Ward Alliance offered support, advice and funding. The CDO is responsible for brokering and bringing together stakeholders. Great Houghton Parish Council, local groups, the North East Area Team, Ward Councillors, local businesses, and a selection of residents over 50 are all involved in the project.

The project helps highly vulnerable older people to reduce isolation and loneliness and address challenging life issues. Through the programme, the lives of up to 20 older people in the Great Houghton area, identified as being vulnerable and at risk of loneliness especially during the winter months will be transformed. Helping older people enjoy the best possible quality of life by meeting new people.

The social reading programme which is being trialled in North East Area for the first time will also have long term benefits for participants including; keeping them mentally active, reducing or slowing down cognitive decline, reducing stress, and uses a shared love of reading to provide a safe space for people to engage in meaningful conversation.



North East Area Council – Area Wide
Barnsley In Bloom



Yorkshire in Bloom is an annual competition which encourages communities of whatever size; small villages, towns or a big city, to make a positive and lasting improvement to their local environment for the benefit of local people.

The North East Area councillors and North East Area team wanted to encourage a strong community spirit and pride of place, by improving public spaces. Local members and North East Area team therefore inspired groups to enter the Yorkshire in Bloom competition.

Yorkshire in Bloom is a voluntary regional organisation that administers the RHS Britain in Bloom Campaign in North, South, East, West and North Yorkshire. The very nature of Yorkshire in Bloom encourages and develops community spirit and civic pride whilst promoting responsibility for planting, cleanliness and maintenance. This in turn can boost the local economy through increased tourism, stimulates voluntary work and cooperation between community groups, and is a means to address issues such as sustainability, recycling, minimising waste and energy conservation.

The project created a stronger sense of pride of place, a higher volunteer numbers, and enabled groups to have a bigger impact. Local food growing can help people make better eating choices, while green exercise is linked to better mental and physical health. The scheme encourages all communities to get involved to help create safer, cleaner and greener local environments.

North East Area's results in full were:

- Carlton Marsh Nature Reserve – Parks, Gardens, & Cemeteries - Platinum
- Royston Canal Club – Parks, Gardens, & Cemeteries - Platinum
- Friends of Monk Bretton Park – Parks, Gardens, & Cemeteries - Gold
- Friends of Monk Bretton Memorial Garden – Parks, Gardens, & Cemeteries - Platinum
- Friends of Cudworth Park – Parks, Gardens, & Cemeteries - Silver Gilt
- Cudworth Environmental Group – RHS It's Your Neighbourhood - Level 4 Thriving
- Grimethorpe War & Miners' Memorial – RHS Its Your Neighbourhood - Level 4 Thriving

- Grimethorpe Community Farm – RHS It's Your Neighbourhood - Level 5 Outstanding
- Robert St Community Allotment – RHS It's your Neighbourhood - Level 5 Outstanding
- Royston in Bloom – RHS It's your Neighbourhood - Level 5 Outstanding
- Birkwood Primary School – Young Peoples Award - Gold

John Craig a volunteer from Royston said: *“Yorkshire in Bloom encourages everyone to get involved and brightens up the appearance of the whole village for the benefit for all.”*

Yorkshire in Bloom is a catalyst that brings the community together, The North East Area has demonstrated how a communities can pull together to improve and enhance its environment. The Ward Alliance offered support, advice and funding, and the CDO's role was to broker and bring stakeholders together to share skills, processes and approaches.

New partnerships were formed between local authorities, businesses and community groups.

The North East Area's reputation in the Yorkshire in Bloom awards continues to grow. The North East Area received a blossoming 11 awards this year out of the 27 entries from Barnsley as a whole, all thanks to the hard work of local groups and volunteers.

The gardening competition is a powerful tool for building communities and tackling local issues but can lead to disappointment if groups don't achieve their expectations in the competition.



Royston Ward
Summer Holiday Activities – Royston Pavilion



Free summer holiday activities for children, young people and families in the Royston Ward.



The project was funded from the Youth Development Fund and was designed to provide free summer holiday activities for children and their families in the Royston Ward. The sessions were designed to provide positive activities for families and to access food in the school holidays to try and tackle the Holiday Hunger agenda.

Priority Two: These activities were delivered in a safe community space by qualified youth workers.

Priority Three: The sessions encouraged community involvement and volunteering, with one of the sessions conducting a litter pick of the park.

Ad Astra were brought in to facilitate this project; they delivered provision two days per week for five weeks. The Royston Ward Alliance supported the project by promoting it within the community and putting up publicity in community notice boards.

The North East Area Team was responsible for the development and co-ordination of this project, liaising with Ad Astra on the project requirements and delivery, booking the community venue, and creating publicity, ensuring the sessions were well advertised within the community and at all four primary schools in Royston including on social media.



The project provided 284 meal opportunities for the 213 children and young people and 81 adults attending the activities throughout the summer. The project engaged with 85 unique children and young people.

The sessions were accessed by local families and had a huge positive impact on the community. We had one family with 4 children ranging from 2 to 14 years who attended 9 out of the 10 sessions delivered.



The sessions were hosted in the newly refurbished pavilion and showcased the development of this fantastic community facility. The project involved working in partnership with other BMBC services liaising with Parks for the booking of the Pavilion, with Ad Astra coming in as the provider delivering the sessions.

For one family, the mum told us that she would have struggled throughout the summer. Not only to entertain her children, but to feed them as well – It is often one or the other. She said that it was very expensive to provide entertainment for her children with the wide age range and what suited the 2 year old did not work well for her 5 7 and 14 year old.

When she attended our sessions, we found that we could easily entertain her family by encouraging her eldest daughter to have a peer support role and help with some of our other younger children. This gave her a sense of achievement and helped raise her confidence and give her some independence throughout the sessions. Her middle two just really enjoyed every activity we put in front of them and we created arty opportunities for the youngest child so that he felt involved. When he got a little restless, the mum had more time to deal with him whilst her other children were involved with our activities.

Mum became actively involved as well by helping with the cleaning up at the end of each session, making cups of tea and coffee when we were busy, and helping with the local litter pick we did. She said that she felt part of the community and part of something that all her children were happy to be involved with.



North East Area Council – Area Wide
First Aid Training Course for Volunteers



The North East Area Team arranged to facilitate some First Aid training for local volunteers. The training was delivered at a central location and places offered to volunteers and community groups across the North East Area. The project was designed to invest in current volunteers, upskilling and enabling them to deliver the work they do out in the community, and ensuring they have all the relevant skills and knowledge needed to volunteer and help others within their local communities.



Priority One: By upskilling volunteers and providing opportunities for training and development, they can gain confidence and qualifications that may help them to secure employment as a result.

Priority Two: As all of the volunteers that attended the training are part of community groups that provide activities for children and adults within the North East area, ensuring they are confident and knowledgeable in first aid means that if someone requires first aid within the community, they are able to offer help. As a result, this reduces the risk of serious harm to the public.

Priority Three: All participants that attended were local volunteers who wanted to volunteer their time to attend the course so they would gain the skills and knowledge to enable them to help someone in need within their communities.

Twelve local volunteers and community group representatives completed their Level 3 First Aid Qualification. The free course was advertised through each ward alliance and social media in the North East Area.



The North East Area Team arranged the first aid training course. We researched providers and booked a tutor from Adult Learning to deliver the course. CDOs booked the venue and created publicity for the course. We then advertised and promoted the course to Ward Alliances, volunteers and community groups across the North East Area. We facilitated on the day providing refreshments for learners and conducted an evaluation looking at what other support volunteers need.

Twelve volunteers are now qualified in first aid skills, knowledge and understanding. With the up to date skills and increased confidence volunteers feel empowered in their volunteer role and able to help someone in the community if needed.

As the course was delivered by Adult Learning, the tutor was able to promote other courses available from their service that volunteers can access. As a result of this partnership working we are currently working alongside the tutor to develop a training programme of free courses that can be offered and delivered out in the community. These are non-accredited course but are designed to help build skills and confidence and potentially address social isolation.

The first one we are in the process of arranging is a children's first aid awareness for parents and guardians to be delivered at a local parent and toddler group for participants so if their child would ever need first aid in the home parents and guardians would have an understanding of what to do in that situation.



Some feedback received:

"It will provide me with the knowledge about first aid so that when I am with people at the Allotment and children at the dance school I can help as a volunteer." Lyn

"As a volunteer youth worker I feel a lot more confident if I had to perform first aid." Lianne

"Excellent course, well presented. I will be available to provide first aid at all ward alliance events."

Pam

"I've had this course every 2 years as a teacher but this has definitely been the best and most detailed. It will help provide up to date first aid at our community group." Dorothy

"Excellent Course, I could now help someone in the community." Shelly

As well as the new qualifications gained this course provided the opportunity for us to consult with volunteers about what other training would be useful and assist them in their volunteer role in the community. As a result of the feedback we are developing a training programme for volunteers to cover key themes identified such as food safety, safeguarding, mental health awareness.

PENISTONE
Penistone West
Ingbirchworth Community Fun Day

STRONG &
RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Outcome 10: People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities

Loveit

Having pride
in where you live

The Ingbirchworth Community Group was initially setup as a Facebook group to help bring the community together. Over the summer a small group of volunteers decided to come together as a formal group and organise a community fun day for the village. Ingbirchworth struggles with a lack of community facilities, it has no village hall, church, shop or pub so it was an important opportunity to bring people together. The aim of the event was to give local people an opportunity to come together and create connections.



The Ingbirchworth Community Group organised and delivered the event. Funding was provided by the Gunthwaite and Ingbirchworth Parish Council (£300) and the Penistone Ward Alliance (£300). The event was entirely volunteer-organised and delivered.

The event was a great success and attracted over 300 people. On the day, 24 volunteers supported the 4 hour event.

Stephen Miller, Community Development Officer for the Penistone Area Team, guided the group the process of becoming a formal group and gave guidance on the practicalities of organising the event in terms of insurance, event management, publicity and making connections with other groups.

“We initially planned to just organise a sports day for the children but we decided we needed to do something to appeal to the whole community of Ingbirchworth, so we brainstormed ideas and were very grateful to Stephen Miller, Penistone Area Team, for his help and support. He gave us valuable guidance from his past experience and advice about organising events.

We secured funding from Gunthwaite and Ingbirchworth Parish Council and Penistone Ward Alliance and set the wheels in motion to produce an amazing fun day that was attended by over 300 residents

and their families. The day was a huge success and the feedback we have received has been overwhelming with people already looking forward to next year!!"

Pauline Ogden, Chair, Inbircworth Community Group

The project really shows how a few committed and determined volunteers can do something really positive with some expert help and guidance.

The group already have plans for more events next year and are looking to potentially create a community space for the village in the future.



Penistone East
Silkstone Waggonway Project

STRONG &
RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Outcome 10: People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities

Loveit

Having pride
in where you live

The Silkstone Waggonway is a historic trail connecting Silkstone Common with Cawthorne. It follows the route of an early 19th century horse drawn waggonway which moved coal mined in the area to the canal.

Following renovation works over 20 years ago this much loved community asset was in need of some maintenance. Silkstone Parish Council stepped forward to engage with various volunteer groups and undertake the improvements.

The aim was to make physical improvements to a stretch of the Silkstone Waggonway from Silkstone to Norcroft Bridge and make future maintenance more volunteer friendly.



Silkstone Parish Council part funded and project managed the improvements. Roggins History Group led the project over 20 years ago to develop the trail, they were engaged with for their experience and expertise on the waggonway. The Silkstone CARE Group are team of environmental volunteers who look after many of the green spaces in Silkstone and Silkstone Common. They helped with ground preparation and will be involved in ongoing maintenance. The Penistone Ward Alliance allocated £400 funding towards the project.

Stephen Miller, Community Development Officer for the Penistone Area Team, advised the group on the practicalities of the project and supported their Ward Alliance application. The project has also been supported by the Penistone Area Council commissioned, Twiggs Clean and Tidy Team.



The work is now complete and the section of the waggonway is much more accessible for all users. New areas alongside the trail have been created to be better managed for wildlife and increased biodiversity. The new improved section of the trail leads to Pot House Hamlet and Silkstone Church so it is hoped there will be additional benefits for this local business and community hub.

Ten volunteers gave 30 hours towards the project, with an equivalent value of £405.30. This project was a good example of a Parish Council working closely with different local volunteer groups and Barnsley Council to achieve something beneficial for all.

SOUTH

South Area Council, South Area Team, All Three Ward Alliances South Healthy Holidays Programme

THRIVING & VIBRANT ECONOMY	PEOPLE ACHIEVING THEIR POTENTIAL	STRONG & RESILIENT COMMUNITIES
<p>Outcome 1: Create more and better jobs and good business growth</p> <p>Outcome 2: Increase skills to get more people working</p>	<p>Outcome 6: Every child attends a good school and is successful in learning and work</p> <p>Outcome 7: Reducing demand through improving access to early help</p> <p>Outcome 9: People are healthier, happier, independent and active</p>	<p>Outcome 10: People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities</p>



The Healthy Holidays project is a 12 month programme of free family activities delivered across the South Area. Each of the activities also provides a healthy snack or packed lunch for each child attending. The first lot of activities were delivered during the school summer holidays 2019. Plans are being made for the programme to run during October 2019 half term, February 2020 half term, Easter 2020 and Spring Bank 2020. It is hoped that this free provision of both activities and lunches

will help alleviate some of the financial strain for our families and ensure that children are happier and healthier during the school holidays.

This project is aimed at families who financially struggle to feed their children during the school holidays largely due to the fact that their child would normally receive a free school meal during term time. It is hoped that this free provision of both activities and lunches will help alleviate some of the financial strain for our families and ensure that children remain happier and healthier during the school holidays.

Where possible, this project will use local businesses to provide the activities, packed lunches and venue hire which will help contribute towards local business growth.

The project provides a range of opportunities for our children to try different experiences, learn new things and get involved with their community. All of which will aid them in their education and help them to become happier, healthier, independent and active reducing future demand on public sector services.



A number of the activities have / will be reliant on support from our community groups and volunteers. This project will help contribute towards the groups' sustainability as well as develop the skills and confidence of a number of volunteers increasing their employability.

The project involves a number of both internal and external stakeholders including the South Area Team, colleagues within Stronger Communities, Barnsley Libraries, community groups, businesses and volunteers.



Officers from the South Area Team are acting as project managers for their own area co-ordinating the activities on behalf of the South Area Council and each of the Ward Alliances. They are ensuring that resources are in place; services are booked and in some cases intend to deliver the activities themselves.

The programme has to date delivered a number of successful activities throughout the school summer holidays. In relation to this period:

- The SAT worked in partnership with Barnsley Libraries staff to incorporate the libraries school holiday provision as part of the Healthy Holidays programme with Libraries staff booking / planning the activity and the SAT co-ordinating snacks / packed lunches.
- Wider support from within Stronger Communities was offered in terms of producing the publicity for the programme.
- A number of the activities were facilitated by existing community groups who provided the resources, skills, knowledge and volunteers to run the sessions.
- Local businesses agreed to provide the packed lunches and in some cases at a reduced cost.
- Volunteers played a key part in ensuring activities were set up and delivered effectively by opening / closing community venues and by serving snacks and refreshments.

It is envisaged that this partnership working / level of support will continue (if not increase) for the whole duration of the programme.

As mentioned above, the South Area Team is acting as project manager for this programme with each CDO co-ordinating activities within their areas on behalf of the South Area Council and Ward Alliances.

The team has been able to pull upon their existing relationships within the community to ensure that a varied programmed of activities is being put in place which involves utilising community assets as well as bringing in external service providers.



To date this project has delivered a successful summer programme of activities which have been well attended by many families from the South Area. Although some of the activities proved more popular than others, this project has already evidenced a clear need for local family provision.

The activities delivered so far have encouraged families to travel outside of their own area and into the neighbouring wards. This is something which we have struggled to achieve in the past and is a step in

the right direction for us to be able to build area wide community networks.

During the summer, the project involved support from 9 community groups within the area who helped with delivering the activities, opening / closing buildings and setting up / clearing away. The activities have helped to promote the use of many of our community buildings as well as the work of the groups all of which contributes towards future sustainability. Particular successes in relation to this was the music session delivered in Hoyland by the Rockingham Brass Band which has encouraged 6 children to sign up with them, Friends of Wombwell Park has seen an increase in volunteer help at their subsequent work days and 2 of the young people attending the fishing club at Wombwell have since been back.

The summer activities involved 54 volunteers of which 15 were new and attracted £729.54 in volunteer hours. They also involved working closely in partnership with a number of organisations including the South Area Tidy Team, South Yorkshire Forestry Commission, TIAG and Barnsley Libraries.

More activities are being planned for the remainder of the school holidays which will further add to the above outcomes.



The project is providing a platform for the South Area Team to form new working relationships with teams across the Council as well as build upon existing relationships with partners as we strive to make the much needed links in-order to reach those families who benefit most from this project. An example of this would be the links made with the 0 to 19 Team and Berneslai Homes to distribute any surplus food from the activities to the families they are supporting which are living in food poverty.

The project also encourages an asset based community development approach with the Area Team working with existing community provision where possible to help build stronger, more resilient communities. This is allowing us to build new relationships with groups which we haven't worked

closely with before. This has been the case in the 2 Hoyland wards with the project so far allowing the relevant CDO to form a closer working relationship with both Rockingham Brass Band and Elsecar Cricket Club.

We have received lots of positive feedback about the activities delivered so far. Below is a small selection:

“Well done to all who helped organise and run the activity you are a credit to your town.”

“Was brilliant, thank you so much daughter really enjoyed it.”

“Yesterday went well, we ended up with 19 young people attending.”

“Boys loved it. Thank you!!”

“Thanks for a lovely afternoon, the kids love it. And thanks to the volunteers for being so patient.”

Correspondence from the 0 to 19 Team:

I have a few families on my caseload who would benefit from these free packed lunches, they are in receipt of free school dinners, in food poverty, seeking frequent food parcels, I have discussed one family with the social worker and if you could let me know what day and if we could arrange them to be dropped off at Hoyland centre, I could get them to the family, there are 4 children; The other family there are also 4 children - These families subsequently received packed lunches for each child.

Although the summer programme was a success, it didn't particularly deliver its objective around targeting families living in food poverty. Towards the end of the programme links were established to help offset some of this however largely speaking, the summer programme's success was down to the need of family provision during the school holidays.



Planning and promotion of the summer programme started too late. We didn't allow ourselves enough time to build the necessary links ahead of the summer holidays to reach those families living in food poverty. The links mentioned above will continue to be built upon in-order to give the project the best chance of meeting this objective moving forward.

Take up of some of the activities to date has been poor in relation to the money spent, this may be down to the short lead time into the programme and lack of promotion. We are hopeful that numbers will grow moving forward once the project becomes more established.

Darfield Area

Intervention support to the Plevna & Parva Volunteer Community Group

STRONG & RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Outcome 10: People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities

Achieveit

Helping you realise your potential

Imagineit

Creating a brighter future

Loveit

Having pride in where you live



This project involved officer support to the Plevna & Parva Volunteer Community Group in the planning and delivery of their summer family fun day in relation to sharing best practise around health and safety and ensuring the event was adequately insured.

This is a relative new volunteer group who have come together to carry out environmental improvements and increase community spirit within the Little Houghton and Middlecliffe areas. They have carried out regularly tidy days around the village throughout the past 12 months and have also organised a couple of successful small community events. They continue to go strength to strength and are developing into a fully self-sustainable volunteer group organising and planning their own activities. However they recently asked for some intervention support from the South Area Team in relation to a family fun day which they were planning for the summer. The volunteer group didn't have the appropriate events insurance in place.

The support offered by the South Area Team and the Council meant that everything was in place to allow this willing group of volunteers to go ahead with the delivery of their event and contribute the time and commitment they did for the benefit of the whole community.

The Plevna and Parva volunteer group played the largest part in this as it was them who planned and organised the event, taking the responsibility to



ensure that they were adequately insured. The South Area Team's involvement was to support the group to fulfil this responsibility as outlined below.



The Council's Health and Safety Unit were happy for the Council's insurance to cover this event subject to officer involvement in the risk assessment and also agreed to arrange for the urgent renewal of a provider's CHAS registration so that the event could go ahead as planned.

As CDO for the area I had already built up a working relationship with the group which allowed them to seek advice and support from the Council. My role was to seek clarification on whether or not this event could come under the Council's public liability insurance and then advise the group on what was needed to satisfy the criteria associated with this. I met with the group to carry out a risk assessment for the event and encouraged them to think about what potential hazards existed both with the grounds / venue and the activities booked. I also advised them on what was deemed best practise and also about the Council's protocol on using providers of high risk activities which are CHAS registered. I was also present on the day to offer my full support to the volunteers and to ensure that everything was in place.

This intervention work allowed the group to deliver a very successful community event which was enjoyed by many local residents. It has encouraged the group to arrange for their own events insurance which is now in place and is another step forward in their development.

To allow me to respond to the request of the group I liaised with colleagues in Health & Safety who evidenced that we are 'One Council' offering their full support to the situation and allowing the event to be delivered under the Council's insurance as well as arranging for one of the necessary CHAS registration for one of the providers.

Although I had no involvement in the fund raising for the event, I feel it needs to be noted that the volunteer group, local businesses and residents really pulled together on this and raised most of the funds needed themselves to put on this event. This is a great testimony to how when communities pull together, great things can be achieved and contributes perfectly with our corporate priority of strong and resilient communities.



This case study is to evidence the development journey of this volunteer group and what part the South Area Team played in this. Other than thanks and appreciation from the group for our involvement, no feedback is available.

Lines of communication will remain open with the group for sharing of information and / or further support.

Hoyland Milton & Rockingham Area
Jump Gala

STRONG &
RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Outcome 10: People volunteering and contributing towards stronger communities

Loveit

Having pride
in where you live

Jump Environmental Group wants to bring some social cohesion back to the village. The gala was timed to take place during 'Love Parks Week'.

The group held their first gala in Jump Park. It was their second event designed to promote the group, recruit volunteers and encourage social cohesion within the village.

The group is run by a small core group who are reliant on grants and donations to develop their projects. The gala was used as a tool to raise funds, their final figure was £390.00 (£340 on the day and £50 in donations), and this money can be used towards future projects. They also wanted to promote the work of the group and recruit new volunteers.

There are a number of small community groups in Jump who work in isolation. Jump Environmental Group believe all these groups can achieve more if they can work together; this was a starting point to build those relationships.

The event put together by Jump Environmental Group a community group with a core group of 6 volunteers supported by the Area Team and the South Area Tidy Team.



The majority of the stallholders were other community groups in Jump with a small number of attractions paid for from outside the village. The group wanted to encourage other local community to take part as a way of funding raising for their own projects but also to promote their group in Jump and network with each other so that can work on bigger projects using each groups skills, expertise and experiences.

The group agreed to host the gala at a meeting in January 2019 and considered the dates during Love Parks weeks. In March 2019 the group called an urgent meeting with the CDO to state they did not have the skills to organise a gala and felt they had no option but to cancel.

The CDO spent time unpicking the reasons the group had changed their mind and helping them to identify solutions. The CDO helped the group to form a plan of action and used her links where possible to broker meetings and source equipment. The CDO helped the group apply for funding through the Ward Alliance and Berneslai Homes to help cover some of the initial costs incurred with the event. The CDO ensured the group had adequate public liability insurance and advised the group to check the insurances and registrations of the stallholders and entertainment providers.

The group raised £390 in total for their group's future projects and recruited a volunteer who helps them with their monthly litter picks. On the day 4 new volunteers turned up to help with the gala, this included 3 qualified first aiders who remained on site for the duration of the event and one who helped with setting up and returned to help clear up.



The gala built on the group's relationship with the parks team and The Barnsley Met Band to enable them to deliver a successful event. The group encouraged members of other groups in Jump to network and exchange ideas and opinions.

Feedback received from the event:

"Hi Dawn,

We have a total for cash on the day ... £340. Which I think is admirable seeing that it was first and all prices were very low. Can I just say thank you for all your help in sorting every aspect of the event. Without you we would not have been able to pull it off.

*Respectfully yours
Judith Moore"*

and Councillor Mick Stowe said: *"Congratulations for a fantastic Gala"*

The group learned that they did not take full advantage of the fund raising possibilities and potential revenue was lost when the burger van failed to turn up. They need to look at other activities to keep visitors on the site for longer, and need to look at a smaller site.

The date has been set for next year's event and planning will start immediately after Christmas.



Members of the Jump Environmental Community Group..

Wombwell Ward Alliance

Volunteering in the South Area Healthy Holidays Programme – Carmel Seston



The Healthy Holidays project is a 12 month programme of free family activities delivered across the South Area. Each of the activities also provides a healthy snack or packed lunch for each child attending. During the school summer holidays 13 activities were delivered in various locations/and venues across the Wombwell Ward. Carmel was a key volunteer in the activities delivered in Wombwell Park and Loxley Community garden.



This project is initially aimed at families who financially struggle to feed their children during the school holidays largely due to the fact that their child would normally receive a free school meal during term time. It is hoped that this free provision of both activities and lunches will help alleviate some of the financial strain for our families and ensure that children remain happier and healthier during the school holidays.

However another key outcome of the project was to contribute towards strong & resilient communities through encouraging volunteering and ensuring the continued sustainability of local community groups through the recruitment of new volunteers.

The success of the delivery of healthy holiday activities relied heavily on the support of community groups / volunteers. Carmel previously lived in Barnsley but on retirement had returned to live in Wombwell. She has always enjoyed volunteering and was keen to volunteer in Wombwell and get to know local people.

Carmel was introduced to the Friends of Wombwell Park early in the summer and at the last minute had to stand in to help to coordinate the annual picnic in the park event. Carmel was very eager to support the Park group and the Area Team in the delivery of the healthy holiday activities. Through her involvement she was able to develop her skills and confidence and gain insight to the local area arrangements.

The Healthy Holiday project in Wombwell mainly involved local community groups and volunteers, working alongside the South Area Team, South Area Tidy Team, libraries and a small number of external providers. The majority of the activities were facilitated by local community groups working with the local CDO. Meetings were held with key people within the community groups to plan the activities. Volunteers made sure activities were set up/ supported /cleared away and snacks/refreshments/packed lunches were prepared and served.

Carmel was integral to the activities delivered within Wombwell Park. She promoted the event locally, ensured the venue was opened up and supported other volunteers and the CDO with the delivery of the activity.

The CDO project managed the programme with Wombwell and coordinated the activities on behalf of the South Area Council and Wombwell Ward Alliance, and worked very closely with the volunteers allocating roles and responsibilities in line with their skills and preferences. The CDO also ensured that new volunteers integrated well within the setting and felt welcome and comfortable with the tasks and imparted information/knowledge of other volunteering opportunities within the area.

Through volunteering on the Healthy Holiday programme and working alongside the FOWP committee members at the events Carmel was asked to become a member of the FOWP committee. The group had been going for some years and although the commitment was there they needed new input and direction. When the existing Chair of the group stood down due to ill health, Carmel and 1 other were voted on as joint chairs.



This unintended outcome has had a great impact on the Friends of Wombwell Park. Carmel has rallied round local residents and organised work days which have been supported by the South Area Tidy Team. Paths have been cleared, shrub beds pruned, benches painted and regular environmental family activity session have been organised. During the past couple of months a number of new volunteers have been recruited: Three adults and three young people.

A management action plan for further development/improvements in the park is currently being pulled together and funding for future activities is being identified.

Carmel is already developing a positive working relationship with BMBC Park services, South Area Tidy Team and Community Pay back. CDO will be working closely with FOWP to support them in moving their action plans forward.

"I have the time, energy, enthusiasm and commitment to work alongside others within the community to improve our area; I am able to view our area with a fresh pair of eyes." - Carmel

One outcome of the Wombwell Healthy Holiday programme was the commitment of the volunteers and local community groups. 13 activities were delivered with the support of volunteers and 5 new volunteers were recruited. Take up of activities was high and by using an asset based approach to community development outsource of provision and snacks/refreshments was kept to a minimum.