



North East Area Council

Cudworth, Monk Bretton, North East, Royston

Slipper Swap Event Monk Bretton



"I don't normally come to One Stop Shop, saw this event on Facebook, its been brilliant"



"I heard about this through word of mouth, (Susie Mac) its been a good thing, really enjoyed it, Green Doctors were really helpful"



" Fantastic event, useful information, lovely, friendly atmosphere"



**Working in
partnership with:**



Introduction

In order to try and help address social isolation following the Covid pandemic, the North East Area Council members agreed to support a Sloppy Slippers and Information, Advice and Guidance event in each of the four Wards.

The Neighbourhood Engagement Officer worked with Age UK Barnsley to facilitate this project, and the Area Manager and Public Health agreed to jointly fund these events.

The project enabled the elderly and people with mobility problems to exchange their old slippers for a new sturdy safe pair and had them fitted them correctly.

Additionally in order to support the North East Area Council's pilot study to work with Nursing Homes in the communities, discussions were held with the Nursing Homes managers and although a community event was not thought to be appropriate in the Nursing homes just yet, all the residents were given a new pair of slippers, which the Nursing Home staff ensured they were fitted correctly.

Two venues in the Monk Bretton ward were identified: Cherry Trees Care Home and the Methodist Church.

Background

This project met the North East Area council's priority for Health and Wellbeing and one of the Ward Alliances priorities of "improving the quality of life of older people"

The issue

In addition to help address social isolation the aim was to raise the awareness of the high number of slips, trips and falls in the home for people over the age of 65 which is caused by poorly fitting slippers. This issue is known as one of the leading causes of 1 in 3 people aged over 65 falling in their own home often leading to admissions to hospital for fractures and breaks of their already fragile bones. Some researchers in the early 2000s believed that well fitted footwear reduced falls by 60%.

What was done

Wynsors shoes supplied sturdy slippers for care homes across the North-East area. Grafters Warehouse Ltd. a local business was approached to supply slippers for

the community events in a bid to 'shop local' and to support the Barnsley pound. The event took place alongside a weekly 'one stop shop' aimed at over 50's. Residents can have a coffee, get advice on health & welfare and take part in an exercise class.

The result

Altogether we held 4 slipper exchanges across the North-East area in different venues. 75 pairs of slippers given out in the Monk Bretton Ward. Talking to the individuals whilst fitting the slippers also raised issues of social isolation amongst older people and the importance of social interaction for health and wellbeing.

A number of other services attended to provide advice and support.

Age UK

Displayed a range of aids to use around the home to make everyday living easier for older people.

Barnsley Health Watch

Independent consumer champion gathering the views of the public to help improve health and social care for local people.

Public Health Welfare team

Support referrals made to warm homes, falls prevention, mental health, bereavement support, befriending, weight management, and household support grants.

Digital doctors

Advertised IT courses and sessions that run in the community and gave advice on getting online on different devices.

The North East Area Team

Provided information on projects Ward Alliance had funded. Gave a selection of useful branded items to help advertise the North East Area Council such as shoppers, dog waste bag holders, reflective key rings, stubbies.

Crime prevention

Tips and gadgets to help deter criminal activity. Lots of free giveaways of crime preventing gadgets.

Green Doctors

Provided advice on households to stay warm, stay well and save money on household bills and reduce carbon waste.

Home instead

Independent care provider, who provide own home care support and workshops in the community around issues such as fraud awareness, healthcare and eating well.

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue

Provided advice around fire safety in the home and offered free home checks and smoke alarm updates.

South Yorkshire Police

Advice on crime prevention measures, personal and property safety measures.

Berneslai Homes

Advice on social housing, property repairs and maintenance.

DIAL

Supporting disabled people, their families and carers in Barnsley.

Quotes from Providers

Age UK: Faye Lawson (Information Advice and Guidance) and Carol Foster

"There's been an increase in enquiries to the IAG and a lot more of them are complex enquiries as things have built up over time due to Covid. Enquiries today have generally been linked with mobility issues and pensions".

Public Health: Kerry Birk and Helen Windle

"A lot of people are unaware of our Support Service which contacts those who are on the Council Tax Support list to help with various needs such as; adaptations, bereavement, housing support grant and the £200 food voucher. We also refer to internal or external services such as MIND, Berneslai Homes, Warmer Homes and others".

Green Doctors: Mark Foster

"Events like this are great for getting your name out there, I have spoken to lots of residents who are going to have visits from us to help make their homes more efficient. It's also been good to get some new contacts Berneslai Homes and Public Health Welfare Team have taken our details to share with others who may benefit from our services"

Barnsley Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Group– John Hallows

"I've started doing events again now as due to Covid we haven't been going out as usual and fitting the alarms we used to do. I started coming to events again following the Susan Everard murder and asked if I could make people aware of safety. People have not been aware of what we have to offer and what they can

do to help themselves keep safe. Most people today have been very interested in the Credit card covers to keep their payment cards safe and also the security pens and purse wires."

Grafters Ltd – Andy Fowler – Slipper Supplier

"I've done three events now and it's been a real learning curve. It's been really good, the first time I have been involved with anything like this and it has been a privilege to do it and be involved and of use to the community. It's good to be part of it with other groups (**nodded to...'the other services'), and that they have social time together. I think it has been successful whether it has been profitable for us or not".

Reflection

With the uncertainty coming out of Covid what restrictions may be in place, the events across all areas were pulled together quite quickly in conjunction with partners Age UK Barnsley'.

It can be noted that some past service providers are no longer operating, and that some feedback suggested they felt was too short notice to attend. The service providers who did attend found the networking aspect of the event useful, the majority of providers swapped details with each other to stay in touch and share information and maybe work in collaboration in the future for the good of the community.

The providers invited to the event had to be split over 3 rooms. The main hall was already in use for the exercise class. If the event was to be held again in this venue the main hall would be booked in advance to allow a smoother collaboration between both providers and residents.

A flyer drop advertising the event was distributed to residents nearby in the premise that they could easily walk to the venue. This worked well and some residents attended from seeing the flyer in their letter box.

The North East Area Council will definitely consider using Grafters to supply all slippers in the future including the Care Homes as the service they provided was excellent. This in turn will support a local business and ensure 100% of spend is in Barnsley, supporting the Barnsley pound.

Residents really enjoyed the events and were appreciative receiving a new pair of safe slippers. They would like to see more events in the future for their age group and would be willing to pay a nominal fee if it meant getting out more. People spoke about how it's nice to be getting out again. It had lifted their spirits.

