

July  
2022

# Penistone Area Council

## Q1 (April -June)

### Interim Performance updates



# Area Council Priorities

**Health  
and  
Wellbeing**



**Supporting  
Young  
People**



**Local  
Economy  
+ tourism**



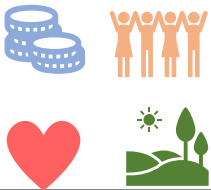





**Helping  
People  
connect**



**Our  
Environment**



These services address the priorities and deliver the outcomes and social value objectives for the Penistone Area Council.

Priority	Service	Contract /Grant	Contract end date	Provider
	Clean, Green and Tidy	£100,000 per annum	Funded until end of March 2023	Twiggs
	Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older people	£70,000 per annum	Funded until 31 May 2022	Age UK Barnsley
	Debt advice service	£ 8,191	Funded until March 2023	Citizens Advice Barnsley
	Information and Advice service	£10,136 per annum	Funded until January 2023	DIAL
	Working Together Grant Supporting Young People	£40,000	July 2022	Various
	Principal Towns	No cost to PAC	Ongoing	BMBC

# Clean, Green and Tidy Service

## Twiggs



## Update

This contract provides a service to help maintain a clean, green and tidy environment in the wards of Penistone East and Penistone West. The emphasis is to work with the community; incorporating volunteers, local businesses, parish councils and local schools to empower and enable a sustainable approach. In spite of restrictions due to the pandemic, the contract has continued to provide a supportive service for community groups and parish maintained areas, finding different ways to work with volunteers within COVID guidelines as well as identifying specific projects across the patch to maintain the appearance of the Penistone area.

The focus this quarter has been to continue encouraging the existing groups back to 'normal' life following the COVID restrictions. Penistone has some incredible and dedicated volunteer groups, with a wealth of knowledge and skills, which, if left unsupported would diminish given the harsh 2 years we have struggled through. A further emphasis has been placed on working with local businesses, to increase their visibility within the community, and further encourage local shopping in the Penistone Town Centre. The team has organised and carried out large impact sessions with multiple businesses to bring them together keeping storefronts clean and tidy. The project is going extremely well, and the team will continue supporting those businesses to build upon their improvements with the seasonal changes throughout the year

New links have been formed with the Silkstone Care Group who has been struggling for volunteers since the pandemic. Specific areas have been identified with the group in both Silkstone and Silkstone Common to reinstate pathways, plan and develop entrances to the village and help maintain village assets.

New links have also been forged with the Penistone WI, with the group being supported with a tree planting project for Watermeadows park as part of the Queen's green canopy scheme. The WI are keen to continue to work with the Twiggs team in the future.

Support has also been given to some areas preparing for Queen's Jubilee events such as Beacon lighting events in Penistone town centre, Green moor and Hood Green.

Further work continues with Parishes including Cawthorne, Silkstone, Ingbirchworth, Stainborough and Thurgoland.

A full report with outcomes will be provided for the quarter one report.

# Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older people Grant

## Age UK Barnsley



*This contract finished on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2022. A full report of outcomes will be provided as part of the Q1 performance report. A summary of the findings from the whole project is provided below including lessons learned. Age UK have been successful in securing the new contract which commenced on June 1<sup>st</sup> and have highlighted where lessons learned will be taken forward as part of this new contract.*

### **Penistone Project Monitoring – Summary Report June 2022**

#### **What has gone well**

Overall, the project has performed well in achieving projected targets and outcomes and in many cases has over achieved. From March 2020 we have been working in exceptional circumstances due to the Covid 19 pandemic and have had to revise our delivery strategy and find creative ways of supporting service users during the lockdown periods when many older people were shielding and face-to-face meetings could not take place.

We delivered the 'Activities at Home' project where various activity packs were put together and delivered to doorsteps so that service users remained engaged with us. This meant that we were able to continue with regular contact and older people were able to focus on enjoyable activities such as arts, crafts, food tastings, nature and other topics. We received very positive feedback on this and people told us that it had made a huge difference to them in what was a very challenging situation.

Volunteers and staff maintained contact with service users by making regular welfare calls, delivering shopping, essential food packs and prescriptions and generally making sure that older people were not struggling for support.

Since restrictions were lifted we were able to resume face-to-face home visits for individual service users and volunteers slowly started to be available once again. Our own and other groups started to meet up again and staff and volunteers have slowly been able to help build up confidence in service users and support them to attend groups and other activities once again.

There are, however, a few people still living in fear of Covid and it will take time for some older people to feel that they can start going out safely again with support from the new contracted Project, 'Penistone Ageing Well Together'.

Overall our volunteer numbers are good and have remained stable due to new volunteers being able to replace those that have had to retire through a change in personal circumstances or due to ill health. Demand for befrienders continues to increase and we now operate a waiting list. A volunteer recruitment event is planned for September and we hope to recruit more befrienders and community car drivers.

The Covid lockdowns forced older people to stay at home for several months and this contributed to less physical movement and more sedentary lives. The effect of this is that some older people have reduced levels of mobility and this has led to an increase in falls and failing health. We have addressed this by having a focus on physical activities, some of which we are running through the BOPPA initiative (Barnsley Older People's Physical Activity). We have summarised these in the full monitoring report. Feedback shows that participation in these activities is already having a positive effect on both the physical and mental health of those older people who take part.

The Penistone Men in Sheds has gone from strength to strength. Following a period of several months when the group wasn't able to meet during lockdown, there has been an increase from 13 to 21 members. They have been involved in several community projects such as making props for the Penistone Theatre Group and their pantomime. Further work has been done to provide bird boxes and bat boxes in several schools, planters for older people in the community, and a noticeboard for the Royd community garden. A new project is starting soon to work with Twigg's on the Penistone Youth Club Garden.

The men meet regularly outside of the official sessions and have formed strong friendships. They are very proactive in sourcing materials donated from various places in the community and are always keen to plan and move onto the next project.

The only thing holding them back is the size of the shed and lack of proper workshop space but steps are being taken to source a new base and it is hoped that a move will take place later this year.

### **What hasn't gone so well.**

Many of our volunteers are retired older people and some were reluctant to put themselves at risk of infection. Our car driver scheme has suffered particularly and we have now only 2 active drivers as opposed to the original 6. This is due to a decline in volunteer health and one driver has sadly passed away. We intend to recruit more drivers when we hold a volunteer recruitment event in September. We will also promote volunteering opportunities at the Penistone Show on 10<sup>th</sup> September.

Transport continues to be a problem and Barnsley Dial-a-Ride are struggling to maintain their level of driver provision which means that they have not been able to provide transport for group hire to enable us to get older people to events. We have used private companies and are looking into alternatives for the longer term.

The SOPPA group stopped meeting during Covid as more apologies were given and numbers dwindled. This was partly due to all member organisations and community group leaders having to deal with changing priorities. It was also due to holding meetings online; it is generally felt that people used to get more value from face-to-face meetings which presented better networking opportunities and sharing of information. The intention is to re-launch this with face-to-face meetings once again.

# Citizens Advice Barnsley



The advice service has supported clients with a variety of different issues, but as in previous years, the most common are Benefits and Tax Credits, Debt, and Universal Credit. As well as improved financial outcomes the support provided by the advice service also helps to improve health and wellbeing, reduces client stress, and improve resilience by increasing the client's ability to cope through self-help.

The new contract started in April 2022 and is funded from the Penistone Working Together Grant Fund for the next 12 months. The service continues to operate via telephone and online appointments only and is investigating a gradual return to face to face work. It is intended that the service will return to a face to face drop in service in the Penistone area from September 2022.

Numbers have continued to exceed stated targets ( a full breakdown of outcomes will be provided as part of the quarter one performance report) , and CAB are monitoring the situation re impacts of cost of living increases. It is their view that the full impacts of the fuel price increases may not be apparent until the autumn.

## DIAL Barnsley



DIAL help to reduce the financial exclusion of residents and work towards lowering anxiety. The service is now in the final year of a 2 year contract which comes to an end in January 2023.

During the last quarter, the advice service continued to concentrate on telephone appointments for form completion and advice along with Public Health Advice and guidance via safe and well checks. Following a visit to Penistone Town Hall earlier in the year a risk assessment was carried out to enable a return to face to face advice via an appointment only system. This was started in June and now takes place every Tuesday morning. The new adviser for Penistone is Kat, previously a volunteer with the adviser for the Penistone area, who has now successfully developed to take on a paid adviser role.

The focus of advice is mostly on benefit claims particularly for Personal Independence Payments and appeals advice. Take up is still exceeding targets and a full breakdown of outcomes will be provided in the full quarter 1 performance report. To date DIAL have not yet reported any significant increase in demand resulting from cost of living increases but this continues to be monitored as part of the contract monitoring process.

# Supporting Young People Grant Fund

This grant fund was set up in May 2021. All projects funded under this did not start to deliver until the end of June/beginning of July 2021, with some starting as schools returned in September. Projects are now starting to come to an end, with outcomes detailed in the full Q1 performance report. A further round of grant funding has been made available by Penistone Area Council and is open for applications.

## Ad Astra



## Update

Originally designed to provide gender specific mental wellbeing sessions to pre-16 pupils at Penistone Grammar, the project has adapted during the covid lockdown and subsequent easing of restrictions to meet the needs presented by pupils and as requested by the school. This has included lunch time drop in sessions, and more recently one to one support to Looked after children as well as year specific group work based on self and teacher referral.

The project has built good relationships with the school and is providing early support to pupils with a range of mental health issues that may not have been identified until they reached crisis point. Since April half day year specific groups have picked up young people presenting with a range of issues which have been identified as impacting on pupil attainment. The project is working with the school to look at measuring the impact of the project's intervention and further outcomes will be provided as part of the quarter one full performance report.

Members have attended visits to gain further knowledge and updates

# Penistone Grammar School



## Update

Penistone Grammar school – Mind for the Future provides mental wellbeing sessions with post-16 pupils to enhance educational achievement and prevent mental health impacts on later life chances.

The project has continued to adapt and develop during this period from its original proposal. The focus has been on responding to outcomes identified as part of the PASS assessment process undertaken with all post 16 pupils to identify specific issues impacting on mental wellbeing. This has led to targeted assemblies, specific mentoring sessions with pupils and sessions with a trainee counsellor providing both group and individual support. The success of this has led to the school becoming a registered centre for student placements from Leeds Beckett University which will continue beyond the project lifespan.

A full report of outcomes including the impact of interventions will be provided in the quarter one report after the PASS assessment process has been repeated with students

Members have attended a school visit to attain more in-depth findings during the last couple of months.

# Girlguiding Barnsley West



## Update

Penistone Girl Guiding – supporting young women through positive experiences and activities to enhance self esteem and wellbeing as part of a 'Challenge' Badge and local event.

The project has now finished but has reached been able to reach over 200 young girls through both the Challenge Badge syllabus development and attainment and the Kingswood Activity day.

The challenge badge was developed locally and is now approved by the Girl Guiding association. The badges have been awarded for both the in unit activity and attending on the activity day. Badges are an important Guiding tradition – one of the slogans is "Giving girls badges not labels", so this was an important part of the project.



The work in the units has looked at the 5 ways to wellbeing in an age appropriate way, and involved a wide variety of activities, from over 300 donations to the local food bank, to singing to local older folk and from adventure walks to crafting. The 5 ways to wellbeing fits very well with the Girlguiding programme and it was helpful to know that our regular activities also make a positive impact on the well being of local girls and women.

190 local Girlguiding members aged 4- 18 with the support of 50 adult volunteers meet at the Kingswood Centre, Penistone, to enjoy a day of adventures, challenges and new friendships. The day was sunny and warm which added to the sense of fun and excitement as girls took on climbing, zip lining, 3g swing, fire lighting, raft building, orienteering, team challenges and much more. The event was named 'Barnsley West Together' as this was the first time in 3 years that the whole of the area had the chance to get together and it was a big deal for everyone. The aim of the day was to offer an outdoor event that enabled the participants to develop team building skills, meet new people after Covid restrictions and have lots of fun.

Some of the positive outcomes from the day :

*"I was so scared of the zip line – but I did it anyway, and have conquered my fear now"*

*Guide aged 13*

*"We had a great time, we've not stopped talking about it all weekend. It was so much fun"*

*Mum of a Rainbow (aged 5) and Brownie (aged 8) who also volunteered with her husband and made it a family day out*



# Angel Voices



## Update

Angel Voices – community based singing workshops, culminating in community performance events to raise funds for charity .

The project so far has been extremely successful. The impact on the local community has been extremely noticeable, children have been learning about techniques that help their physical health and mental well-being that they have taken home to their families and friends. People in shops have said how nice it is to see events in the community which has also allowed for publicity via word of mouth.

This quarter the project has been able to return to workshops following the temporary suspension of events following an accident last march. The workshops continue to be very popular, and are connecting with people whichever venue they use either Cawthorne village hall or St Johns in Penistone.

The project has been supplemented with additional funds from the Ward Alliance to provide a ‘Sing Out’ providing outdoor drop in workshops over the May bank holiday weekend. This was really popular with Penistone high street shops who commented on the events helping to increase footfall in the town centre.

Plans are being made for a final summer concert to end the project.

Some of the outcomes for young people include:

*Attendee B did not want to leave the car in the carpark of the workshops because of severe anxiety. After gentle encouragement from the volunteers, Attendee B came to the workshops and has performed multiple times in front of other attendees, firstly with assistance and support from volunteers and then on their own.*

*Attendee H has epilepsy that isn't fully diagnosed. When they first came to the workshops they struggled with their speech and could only sing songs on one note. They are prone to weekly seizures so a risk assessment needed to be done and a parent present at the workshops. After attending the workshops, this person began learning how to sing with pitch and became an amazing performer adding dance moves to their performances. It was very clear how much they enjoyed singing and performing from the moment they first stood up in front of the other attendees.*

# Penistone Leisure Centre



Well Penistone Youth, delivered by Sporting Penistone. Project to provide a range of physical activities such as Teen Boxing, skating and a planned resilience bootcamp for September, also structured targeted support for children with additional needs such as autism through calm kids sessions and sensational play activity centre.

Unfortunately this project has not been able to deliver on the full planned programme of activities. The impact of Covid has been significant on the staff for the centre and in spite of a good start in getting volunteers trained up and engaging coaches for the activities at the outset, the whole project has been let down by coaches leaving and a lack of staff able to support the volunteers who were lined up to support specific aspects of the programme.

Funds have been diverted to only 2 aspects of the programme Teen Box and Glow! Activities earmarked to support young people with additional needs such as Sensational and Calm Kids had to be abandoned due to the lack of staff support, and the centre was unable to recruit a coach for the Resilience Bootcamp aimed at families.

The Teen box sessions have attracted an average of 10 young people per quarter ( limited numbers due to the type of session and need for more intensive support) whereas the Glow sessions have attracted over 100 young people during the course of the project.

As Penistone area council funds only contributed to part of the project costs ( the remainder were to be stood by the Leisure centre) the outcomes from the 2 sessions which did run provided some value for money.

The project has now finished as it was scheduled to complete by mid June.