

7 December 2015

SIB Performance Update

1a) Little Bit Extra:

Lead Agent: B Active n B Fit

Funding was awarded to deliver 4 x 10 week courses at Carisbrooke Court, Ashelea Lodge, Robert Wheatman and Wadham Court. Carisbrooke Court have continued as residents are self-funding the sessions. Robert Wheatman, Ashelea Lodge and Wadham Court did not continue.

A further grant was awarded to deliver 2 x 10 week courses at Seafayers and BoTM. Both were delivered with an average of 10 members at each venue. Word spread about the popularity of the sessions at Seafayers which enabled the organisation to deliver sessions in Keel Boat Lodge.

1b) Little Bit Extra:

Lead Agent: Friends of Backhouse Park

Funding was awarded to establish and grow a unique lavender plant to Backhouse Park, which was cultivated by Mrs Backhouse and plant rosemary. The Friends Group have found snippets of Mrs Backhouse's lavender and have started to 'grow their own'. Over the Summer a team of volunteers carried out a clean-up and planting scheme.



The lavender will be ready to plant in June 2016 which is when the final scheme will take place.

1c) Little Bit Extra

Lead Agent: Stockton Road URC

Funding was awarded to purchase a new water heater to improve the facilities in the kitchen for existing groups and hopefully attract new groups into the community building.

Since the water heater was installed a number of positive comments have been received, as it is much safer for older people to use, more cost effective and can provide unlimited number of drinks.

Also, two new groups are now using the facilities since being allocated the grant.

OVERALL

Little Bit Extra 1 and 2 received £28,303 in total, to reduce social isolation across the East area and strengthen the community connectors model, complementing the online directory.

33 small grants were awarded to VCS groups across the East area, with 2,463 new people engaged in services.

2a). Partnership in Practice (PIP) dementia.

Lead Agent: Sunderland Carers Centre

Received funding to deliver a six week course called 'This is Me' at Bede Tower over the Summer. 16 people attended the course that had been diagnosed with mild or moderate dementia. Each week people focused and remembered a different part of their life and collected memories/photos to put into a journal, which they could keep on adding to and share with loved ones. Feedback has been overwhelming. Comments included: 'sparked too many memories', 'gave lots of hints on how to access memories in our brains', 'enjoyed very much, felt very welcome and it was nice to meet other people in similar situations in a relaxed atmosphere.' 'well worth the effort to attend'.

The Carers Centre have received additional external funding to continue the course at BoTM and started in September 2015.

2b) Partnership in Practice (PIP) dementia

Lead Agent: B Active N B Fit

Received funding to deliver a Social Holistic Activity Mentor (SHAM) scheme, to deliver four x 15 week course at Alzheimer's Society, Action on Dementia, Seafayers Way and Sunderland Carers Centre

Alzheimer's society had between 15 to 20 people taking part every week enjoying the memory games and social activities and sit and be fit sessions to improve their health and wellbeing. Action on Dementia had 10 to 15 taking part all enjoying the activities all carers had a great time seeing their loved ones taking part. The Play Your Cards game was successful helping with cognitive ability. Seafayers Way had 11 take part, and received positive feedback. The final session started in October at Keel Boat Lodge and is going well.

2c) Partnership in Practice (PIP) dementia

Lead Agent: Living History North East

Funding was awarded to deliver a range of sessions to raise awareness around dementia and to support individuals with dementia and their families.

Eleven volunteers were trained as Dementia Friends at The Donnison School. These volunteer Dementia Friends went on to train others from Sunderland International Centre, Essence Service and Sunderland Museum.

Following the training of volunteers, an events programme was developed which involved a cream tea, memory café, local events, reminiscence projects displaying timeline and interactive activities. Two large events were delivered at The Quayside Exchange for VE Day and EnDear training programme which showcased 1960s. 100s of people have benefited from the programme of activities across the East area.



The lessons learned from this project has been successful is securing further external funding to work with young people and school children to extend the work.

2d) Partnership in Practice (PIP) dementia

Lead Agent: Age UK Sunderland

Funding was used to contribute towards the purchase of 25 I pads which was split between the East, West and North SIB projects, as well as further funding received from other sources.

The I Pad Active project was well received in the East area. Sessions included:
Two taster sessions held at the Essence Service and Seafarers Way. Both of these were followed in each of the venues by a twelve week course. These were pilot courses.
A ten week course was delivered in Ryhope Community Association from September. A Taster Session was held at the Bradbury Centre for people attending the Day Services this followed a by a ten week course. 31 participants have taken part in the pilot.

Pilot courses which have been delivered have resulted in extremely positive feedback. Courses were bespoke to a discrete client group of people diagnosed with dementia. The pilot has been successful in securing external funding to continue and be rolled out across the city. Four volunteers have supported work and will continue do to so.

2e) Partnership in Practice (PIP) dementia

Lead Agent: Ryhope Community Association

Funding was awarded to deliver a memory café. Once a week between May and November 2015. The sessions include Afternoon tea with music from the 40's, 50's and 60's, old films and slide shows of Ryhope through the ages and old movie sessions. 40-45 people benefited from the café each week.

Further funding was secured from Gentoo to continue the memory café for a further year.

3a) Improving Resident's emotional wellbeing

Lead Agent: Headlights Sunderland

Funding was awarded to set up an out of hours service on a Saturday between 10am-4pm.

Members with fluctuating mental health issues accessed and received support in Out of Hours Service. They highlighted that this is often a time when isolation and loneliness peaks and the feeling of despair is at its worst. In this environment they are much more likely to maintain their mental well-being in the supportive environment.

Providing the out of hour's service enabled the group to improve the quality of life and reduce isolation for people with mental health issues. The above highlights that service users really get a sense of belonging and hope for the future; all value the community spirit and are very open to work together and make changes in their lives.

3b) Improving Resident's emotional wellbeing

Lead Agent: Sunderland People First

The project was to develop a network of safe places in the East area of Sunderland. The project involves planning, engagement with and training for each location. The project involves designing and developing the resources including literature, easy read guidance material, safe place packs and identification sticker. The project includes raising awareness of the scheme with people with a learning disability, family carers, social care providers and general community engagement events.

Locations have been identified across the East area. This involved consulting with people with a learning disability around localities they felt would be good additions to the scheme, and where people felt well supported. Managers responsible for premises have been contacted, including health services and GP practices to be part of the scheme. A presentation was delivered to all practice managers across the city, and the project has received endorsements from the Clinical Commissioning Group. A quality assurance tool has been developed which will enable advocates to ensure that localities are able to support vulnerable people as part of the scheme

Resources including safe place flyers, blue cards and location of safe place flyers, and packs

have been delivered across the area. Recently completed two training sessions with staff from Sunderland University Gateway. Worked with Sunderland Healthwatch around a government green paper called “No voice unheard, no right ignored”.

4a) Achieving Everyone’s Potential

Lead Agent: Thornhill School

The information, advice and guidance teacher from Thornhill, acted as lead agent on each work stream to ensure its smooth delivery. Their responsibility included: the general performance management of the project, managing the pupils timetables, liaising with all partners and teachers involved in the scheme, ensuring that when partners turn up at the main reception staff were aware and pupils knew which area to report to, and dealing with any issues that are escalated by the partners to address.

A part of the pilot was to measure performance against pupils who are involved in work streams and to see if the preventative work had been successful. To enable this to happen a software package (U-Explore) was purchased which all pupils in Y11 and selective Y10 pupils registered with. The software then tracked the progress on each pupil against their individual plans / personal account. Allowing the project to be monitoring throughout its duration.

Having the lead agent as a Teacher within the school was vital to the success of the delivery of the whole scheme.

The U-Explore software enabled work related learning and careers education and guidance in a more interactive way to Years 10 and 11. Originally 50 pupils were going to be targeted to use the software, but in reality, 195 pupils, parents and staff across the school used the software package down to its success and ease of use.

The full impact of this project will not become apparent immediately and will be better measured once destinations, and continuing destinations, figures have been collected for the Year 10 and 11 pupils who participated in the pilot. However, the immediate impact of the projects has definitely been an improvement in the mind set of Key Stage 4 pupils when it comes to their futures and the plans that they have for careers.

The software package was used in discreet careers lessons, in Personal Development Learning sessions with years 8 and 10 and in Work Related Learning lessons in Year 10. The pupils were to continue to use the software in their own time and parents were also encouraged to use the software to see what is available for their children once they leave compulsory education.

Feedback from pupils, parents and staff has been positive and the number of registered users in such a short period of time suggests that this will be a part of the project with a lasting legacy that benefited the pupils.

4b) Achieving Everyone’s Potential

Lead Agent: Young Asian Voices

Funding approved employed three part time members of staff who worked three hours a week in the school with pupils from Y10 and Y11.

Connexions completed the personal action plans with Y11 pupils and selected Y10 pupils by October 2014, identifying 50 pupils who received mentoring support from YAV.

The school released the pupils from the core curriculum to allow the mentoring work. For 1 lesson (2 hrs) per week. YAV worked with each cohort for 18 weeks. Y11 pupils were targeted between November and March, because from April onwards the School concentrate fully on preparations for examination time. Y10 pupils were targeted between March – July 2015, as this was the transition period from Y10 into Y11.

YAV mentored 50 pupils covering interview skills, employment research, action planning, group work, one to one, number skills and CV building, introduction to further/higher education and money management.

A strong communication system was developed between the school and YAV, which built positive working relationships between the organisations. The project made a definite impact on young people as they gained confidence and new skills. Although some young people where challenging with complex issues, YAV were able to support their needs and keep the school updated.

Feedback from Thornhill School

The work carried out by Young Asian Voices was very successful in boosting the confidence and esteem of some of our most hard to engage and disinterested pupils. The one to one contact offered by YAV enabled these pupils to access support when applying for college courses and apprenticeship opportunities that they previously might not have had the confidence to ask for. The Year 11 pupils who worked on the project were all successful in gaining certification for the work they carried out and many were successful in gaining college places for September before the end of the academic year.

Lead Agents: Blue Watch Youth Centre and Hendon Young Peoples Project:

Two members of staff worked within Thornhill School for four hours per week to deliver the, Response Project which used the “The Youth Award” tool to deliver the programme, directly linked to the “Youth Work Outcomes” document which is used across the City.

The school identified a small cohort of 24 girls, 12 from each year group, 10 and 11. Between January and March Y11 pupils (12 weeks) were engaged, and between January and July Y10 pupils (24 weeks) were engaged. The work stream tested which age group the Youth Award works best with, and over what period of time is more beneficial, short or long.

All pupils gained accredited awards, for example, BTEC ‘Entry 3 Award in Work Skills’ to the British Heart Foundation ‘Heart Start Certificate’. Young people accessed information, support and guidance in relation to their future educational pathway, such as, further and higher education, apprenticeship schemes, traineeships and Study Programmes delivered at a range of levels. Young people develop personal and social skills and increased their confidence levels in order to make positive life choices in relation to a possible future NEET status.

If repeated, work with Y11 pupils should commence in September/October as exam revision and other needs expressed by the school impacted on attendance. Delivering the Response Project over a longer period (24 weeks) is more practical as it allows for time to cover additional activities, external visits and first aid training.

Although, the length of school based sessions were adequate for both year groups, improvements could be gained by the extension of out of school sessions to half or full days, to allow more quality time on external visits (e.g. to external provider venues, rather than guest speakers to the school), work experience placements, team building exercises and social development. This however, would incur additional funding costs and agreement with Thornhill School for additional time out of school for young people.

Feedback from Thornhill School

The work of HYPP / Blue Watch has helped to widen the horizons of our pupils when it comes to careers in particular industry sectors and these projects have also enabled the pupils involved to develop skills and expertise that they will be able to include on their CVs and on job application forms.

4d) Achieving Everyone's Potential

Lead Agent: Volunteers Centre Sunderland

A part time worker on 16 hours per week between November and May 2015 to deliver pre volunteering courses to Y10 and Y11 pupils and team challenges. In addition, it was proposed to develop the purpose built beauty salon in the school by seeking out qualified beauticians who would volunteer in the school, and provide Y10 and Y11 with employability skills relating to this profession. Similarly develop the newly installed greenhouse and garden, with expert gardeners who would volunteer in the school, and provide Y10 and Y11 with employability skills relating to this profession.

To sustain the project post July 2015, the Centre would work with the school to be volunteer ready by providing advice and guidance on governance, training and best practice.

Delays occurred when recruiting a worker for the post. Resulting in the role being shared amongst staff at the centre. This did impact on the delivery of the project. However, six interactive pre-volunteering workshops were delivered to 120 pupils. The workshops were very well received by the young people attending who realised the massive effect that volunteering could have upon their employability, how it can improve their CVs and how helping others can be enjoyable.

Eight team challenges were delivered. Each challenge was delivered by different pupils with a total of 45 pupils benefiting from the experience. Challenges involved cooking, taking part in a health and beauty session, gardening and developing a School Forest at Barbara Priestman School.

Recruiting skilled volunteers to work within the School was not successful, and this element was not delivered, along with the 'volunteer ready' element.

From the methods delivered, pre-volunteering workshops were the most successful and would be recommended. The others methods did not work in practice as well.

Feedback from Thornhill School

The work of the Volunteer Centre has helped those pupils involved to find out about the benefits of volunteering, particularly as a way of boosting their CVs and the practical sessions organised by Social Chef allowed a select group of both year 10 and 11 pupils to experience work in a specific industry.

OVERALL

Lessons learned were:

- Having a dedicated co-ordinator who worked in the school i.e. teacher, was vital to the delivery of the project.
- The U-explore software is a valuable tool which supports individuals to progress onto

EET, at their own pace.

- The full impact of the pilots cannot be measured until 2016, but attitudes and behaviours of the pupils who participated dramatically changed, for the better.
- The mentoring work carried out on a 1-2-1 basis boosted the confidence and esteem of the schools most hard to reach and disengaged pupils. Highly recommended.
- The response project widen the horizons of pupils and developed skills and expertise that pupils can use to improve their CVs and job prospects.
- The volunteer workshops, were well delivered and received, raising awareness around how volunteering can make a difference.

5. Captain G. Maling VC

Lead Agents: Area Arrangements, in partnership with Peter Curtis North East Sports, James Whitman, Frank Styles and NE Theatre Centre, Janet Robinson Heritage Team.

SIB funded a weekend of activities to commemorate Captain George Maling VC in September. This included guided walks, George Maling cup competition, performance in the park and a blue plaque.

All events were well received and members of the Maling family who visited Sunderland over the weekend attended the service and performance in the park and rated them very highly.

Sport and Leisure provided guided walks around the city centre focusing on the First World War, discussing the history of Captain George Maling VC. 30 people attended the walks



To target young people and families, NE Sports hosted a football tournament, call the George Maling Cup. It was held in Raich Carter with eight teams aged between 10-13 years old. Over 100 people attended the events, each receiving a fact sheet about Captain Maling VC.



Franks Styles, James Whitman and Theatre Space developed a whole production show in George's honour. James, a local writer, worked with George's family and carryout research around his achievements to enable him to produce a book, depicting George's Life Story. Frank, a local artist, produced four 12ft x 8ft story boards, which were placed around Mowbray Park, each one illustrating key points in George's life. The whole tale was brought to life by actors who then lead a tour around the park, and at each stage delivery a performance. Over 200 people attended the performance. The performance was filmed and a special showing was hosted in the council chambers. Both the e-book and film are available to view on-line.

Full film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6BW3wzEWPY>

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZiifH4RGps>

Finally a blue plaque was installed at Carton House, George's place of birth.

6. Safety on our Streets

Lead Agents: Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue

Funding was awarded to cover the transport costs of every year 6 and 8 pupil who attends a school located in the East Sunderland area to visit Safetyworks, an interactive centre. The outcome of the project to engage 12 primary schools and 5 secondary schools was not fully achieved as four secondary schools did not engage. Interesting though the number of pupils who benefited from the project was higher than originally expected. From the 13 schools that did engage it was predicted that 580 pupils would benefit, the actual figure was 756.

In October Area Committee received an update on the project and noted the underspend of £3,130. Committee agreed a continuation of the project up until July 2016 and to receive a further update.



7. Top Up Grants

Lead Agent: Springboard

Funding was awarded to support 15 new Apprenticeship schemes for NEET young people residing in the East area by contributing an incentive of £1,500 to an employer who was willing to take on an East NEET apprentice. The 'top up grant' was subject to an apprentice lasting for a minimum of one year, the employer being based within the East and the young person living in the East and being on the NEETs register.

Unfortunately no employer claimed the top up grant. Feedback from the organisation stated that the eligibility criteria was too restrictive, as some employers fell outside the East boundary and it was difficult to recruit businesses in the East area.

The level of publicity around the scheme was questioned as their seemed very little coverage. Springboard provided assurances that the grant scheme was promoted across the area via business networks i.e. Sunderland BID, Council's Business Investment Team, cold calling and that employers were activity approached about the opportunity.

It was expected that several VCS employers might take up the scheme, but again none came forward.

8. NEET Young Mums

Lead Agent: The Box Youth Centre

Funding was awarded to engage with 28 NEET young mums in the area with the aim to move ten into EET.

The delivery of the project was more difficult than anticipate and as a result little progress was made initially. Issues involved a delay in recruiting a member of staff, once in place, multi-agency meetings were cancelled which impacted on the workers ability to engage with the young mums. Once engagement was made with the young mums it was discovered that many engaged with other services i.e. B2B and there was little the project could do, to bring added value.

9a). Work Ready

Lead Agent: Springboard

Four East based organisations agreed to work in partnership to deliver an Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) scheme against an East area priority, 'Reduce the number of NEETs in the East.' This was achieved by working closely with Connexions, who manage the register of NEETs in the city, which forms part of a statutory duty for the council. Using the register, all East based 18 and 19 year olds were contacted (up to the age of 25 if they have a disability), using a variety of methods e.g. texting, letter, email, door knocking, 1-2-1, etc. to make them aware of the opportunity to progress from NEETs into EETs by moving into 1 of the 28 employment opportunities, via ILM, which this project provided.

Springboard engaged with 7 out of 10 young people, and offered them a 26 week contract. Three moved onto permanent posts and one young woman set up her own business, a beauty parlour for pets.

9b) Work Ready

Lead Agent Monumental Music CIC

Monumental Music received funding to target 10 young people for up to three months. However, only employed one young person throughout the period of the project.

The lack of consistencies with staff managing the scheme impacted on its delivery and the contract of employment was too short, only three months compared to others which lasted six months. This showed that anything less than a six month contract would not be successful.

Also, with the target group been NEETS 18-19 year olds who had an interest in the creative sector, particularly within music, might have been too restrictive. Expanding the age range and selection of duties available would be worth considered for future schemes.

9c) Work Ready

Lead Agent: Young Asian Voices

Y.A.V. were funded to work with four young people, whose interests relate to administration, youth or sport. Four young people were employed, two of which secured permanent contracts on part time basis, and others have continued in the work place by volunteering to strengthen their CVs.

9d) Work Ready

Lead Agent: The Box Youth Centre

The Box Youth Centre work with three out of four young people on a job shadowing programme. Young people provided with a 26 week paid employment contract for 20 hours per week. The three young people were mentored and supported by a Youth Worker / Tutor and complete a 60 hour ASDAN Award in Career and Work Experience. The fourth 'employee', secured employment at a call centre one month into the contract, which was good news.

OVERALL

Lessons learned were:

- Data quality and data sharing between Connexions and organisations could be improved to make it easier to engage with targeted groups.
- The initial event which launched the scheme in the Winter Gardens should have been repeated once a quarter to assist in raising the profile and awareness with young people.
- Changes in staff at Springboard and Monumental Music impacted on the smooth delivery of the project.
- There was a lack of businesses in the area who were not interested in employing a young person on an ILM, even though the salary element was covered and support was provided to the young person on placement and the employer.
- Young people choices were factor, i.e. what they wanted and what was available sometimes differ and some young people were not willing to try something different.
- The wage was a fundamental part of the project. Without the salary attached it is believed no young person would have participated, it also contributed towards the retention of the young people.
- Criteria needed to be more flexible, set a framework but recognise the needs of the young person are more important, so if an employer falls outside the area and it's a position which a young person is keen to apply for, it should be allowed.

Lead Agent: Sunderland Council

Funding was awarded to establish an e-learning portal, based on the Council's employees learning lounge, providing access up to 5,000 volunteers/learners and 100 modules. The initial priority will be to provide access to a number of courses, e.g. Health and Safety, Safeguarding, Basic First Aid, Safety at Work, etc. courses which were identified in the training analysis as being in high demand for volunteers in the East Area.

From October the Council's Communication Team have provided guidance on the design and branding of the CLMS to ensure it complements the corporate brand of the Council, acknowledging the support from East Sunderland Area Committee and FACL. There will be a user testing of the development site held in November/December, with a soft launch delivered with identified volunteers registered with organisations from the East Area Network (*these volunteers were identified by a survey previously mentioned*) in January 2016.

After the launch in the New Year the CLMS will be reviewed in August 2016, December 2016 and August 2017 to review if the learning tool is being accessed by volunteers, and if not, consideration will be given on how to encourage uptake.

For learners to access CLMS they must be either registered with an East Sunderland Area Network organisation; or with the FACL service. This could also encourage new groups to join the Network to gain access to this valuable learning tool, if they are not members and connect into the area arrangements infrastructure provided by East Area Committee.