

Coalfield Area of Sunderland - How we made a difference – highlights from 2015 / 2016

Our local priorities for Coalfield Area were

Support for Local Shopping Centres
Environmental Improvement & Education
Make better use of land and green space
Celebrate Local events & heritage
Physical Health & Well being
Emotional & Mental Wellbeing
Training & Learning opportunities to meet skills gaps
Support/Enable Local delivery of Services

Our year in numbers

We approved £xx of projects to implement specific local priorities and supporting our own council departments and supplementing funding of partner agencies to improve services to the local community.

% Council led?

% Third sector led?

Support to develop and support vulnerable or social isolated people into volunteering opportunities	£5,000
Houghton Feast Community Programme	£10,000
A pilot to tackle hunger during school holidays	£1,787
Coalfield Activity Programme to support local events and celebrate heritage	£10,000
Volunteering and Community Support project to work with all local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations across the area to develop and grow their delivery and volunteering offer	£100,000
Youth Social Action project to support young people in developing and taking part in activities to develop their own skills and confidence, while making a positive contribution within their local community	£15,000
Funding to work with local people to develop a village atlas for Houghton le Spring	£4,000
Support to the Underground Youth Music Project to continue and further grow within the local community	£8,798
Social Activity Navigator project to reduce social isolation and increase social integration by delivering tailored therapeutic activities and supporting people into activities being delivered within their local area	£20,000 (joint funded with CCG)
Funding to six local organisations to deliver a range of social and healthy lifestyle activities aimed at those who are lonely or socially isolated.	£20,000 (joint funded with CCG)
March 2016 approvals to be added	

We have also awarded xx grants to the value of xx to xx organisations. The average grant value is xx

Highlights (examples of outputs)

Over 250 children from 10 local schools took part in activities and workshops in the weeks leading up to the 2015 Houghton Feast. Over 100 children, and a similar number of adults, performed at the opening ceremony, watched by an audience of over 1000 people.

The Can Do project has awarded grants to 7 groups of young people. The project aims to develop the skills of young people who have to complete an application and present their idea to the Area People Board.

Two grazing plots have been created at Easington Lane, to improve an area of neglected land subject to persistent fly tipping. The plots are now occupied legitimately and have paying tenants. Fly tipping has reduced significantly around the location.

Houghton Traders Association has been supported to implement a review of traffic and parking restrictions in, and around, Newbottle Street.

The Love Where You Live project continues to engage local residents and school groups of all ages from nursery school through to older volunteers. Hetton Primary and East Rainton Primary both took part in a poster competition resulting in the winning entries being displayed in Ad Bins across the area.

The Green, Green Grass of Home project delivered 4 outdoor health and greenspace events during July 2015. A wide range of partners attended the events to promote healthy cooking, eating and fun ways to exercise including team games, dance and kickboxing. A total of 272 people attended.

The Community Transport and Shopping bus service continued to provide a valuable service to those who find it difficult to access mainstream services and need additional support. A total of 64 shopping trips, supported transport to 65 lunch clubs, and 26 social outings were delivered to 415 local residents (need to add Q4)

The Health and Greenspaces programme delivered a number of projects including installation of trim trails in Hetton Lyons and Herrington Country Parks, assisted walks and outings for people with limited mobility, new 3-2-1 running, walking cycling routes in major parks and development of an outdoor space for therapeutic sessions with young people.

Support for local shopping centres has continued and provided one to one and mentoring support to 12 traders in Shiney Row, 5 in Houghton le Spring and 21 in Hetton. Traders have worked with retail experts and the local community to deliver schemes such as Shiney Christmas and Shop Local to improve footfall in their local shopping centres (need to add Q4)

An advice volunteer project has recruited and trained 15 volunteers, enabling an additional 154 residents to access information and support regarding welfare and benefit issues.

A Social Navigator project which aims to reduce social isolation and increase social integration has contacted 251 people identified as needing support. Of those contacted 55 have received 1-2-1 support in person, 61 have received telephone support and 12 people have been assisted to access other services within the community. (need to add Q4)

A total of 12 health and greenspace sessions were delivered to 126 older residents, many who have limited mobility and little opportunity for social interaction. Trips covering a total of 241 miles travelling between local venues such as Herrington, Hetton Lyons Country Parks and Elba Park were arranged. Care homes, lunch clubs and other local projects encouraged users of their services to take part.

14 local people identified as socially isolated, older or vulnerable adults are now engaged as active volunteers in a local project. They are currently being trained and supported to undertake a valuable role within their own community, increasing skills and confidence. Three have attended anxiety and stress management courses, 2 have completed debt buddies training and 1 has now become self employed.

A 'Summer in the Park' project delivered 13 local heritage tours to 77 people who would not normally have access to such venues. Elba Park and ELCAP Heritage garden and museum were amongst the popular places visited.

Coalfield Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Network meetings continue to be well attended and a valuable forum for local groups and organisations to come together to share information with the Council, relevant partners and each other. Over 120 different organisations are signed up to receive invitations and information, average attendance at meetings is 30-35. A leaflet to promote the network has been produced by the three VCS representatives who are all are proactive in offering support to the Coalfield area and its groups.

The Underground Youth Music project has been supported to find a new venue. The project was left at risk of closure following the expiry of the lease on their premises in Newbottle Street. SIB, CAN DO and LMAPS funding has enabled the project to continue and grow at their new home in Houghton Blind Centre building. SNCBC are providing the project management and administration as in-kind support.