

## Coalfield Area - How we made a difference – highlights from 2018 / 2019

### Our local priorities for The Coalfield Area were

Work in partnership to address key issues that affect residents' <b>emotional and mental wellbeing</b>
Encourage and support local residents to eat healthily and take part in <b>wellbeing activity</b>
Increase opportunities to access <b>training and learning</b> to enhance life and employability skills
Support capacity building in local VCS organisations to promote <b>volunteering and collaborative working</b>
Support provision of <b>activities for young people</b> that increase their involvement in community and area events and projects
Support and develop traders groups and initiatives to increase footfall in <b>local shopping centres</b> , and support environmental improvements to local shopping centres
Deliver the <b>environmental improvement and education</b> project to encourage communities to get involved in, and take pride in, their local area.
Celebrate and support long standing and historical <b>events and celebrations</b> taking place in local communities

### Our year in numbers

From our 2017/18 and 2018/19 allocated budgets, we approved over **£350,000** of projects to implement specific local priorities supporting our voluntary and community sector organisations and working with council departments and partner agencies to improve services to the local community. Examples of funding awarded are:

Events, Celebrations and Heritage	£10,000
Activities for schools and local communities at Houghton Feast	£10,000
School Opportunities Project	£5,000
Physical Activities Project to improve health and social interaction	£38,422
Can Do Fund for young people aged 14-19	£10,000
Step Up Project to support VCS	£40,000
Retail Support Project	£28,000
Reduce Loneliness and Social Isolation Project	£43,214
Support Friends of Parks and Greenspaces	£8,000
Positive Activities for Young People	£29,761
Environment and Education Project	£40,000
Caring for Carers Project	£30,000
Universal Credit Support Project	£30,000

We have also awarded **56** Community Chest Grants to the value of **£39,860**. The average grant value was £712.

## A Snapshot of Coalfield Area Highlights

The Coalfield Retail Support programme has supported **92** individual businesses across Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row shopping centres.

The Coalfield Communities Connected digital inclusion project has supported **610** individuals on a 1-2-1 basis

As part of the My Space, Our Place environmental project **99** primary school, and 3 secondary school, educational sessions have been delivered.

Working with local residents and community groups, My Space, Our Place **23** environmental improvement sessions have been delivered, working with **132** volunteers

To support people moving on to Universal Credit, the RU Ready project has provided **49** Universal Credit advice sessions,

A total of **70** people have been helped with job search, **5** of whom have been supported into employment

The Step Up community and volunteering project has recruited **145** new volunteers this year.

Singing workshops were provided to schools from across the Coalfield area, resulting in a Schools Choir of **120** pupils performing at Houghton Feast

A period dignity project to provide sanitary items in all community venues has so far supported **10** local centres to enable them to give access to free sanitary ware in female toilets

**3** groups of young people have made presentations and requests for funding as part of the CAN DO fund, available for young people aged 11-19. The successful projects have supported **28** local young people

A Youth Social Action volunteering project has, to date, recruited **7** young volunteers and supported **2** community groups

Social activities and clubs for older and vulnerable adults benefit over **150** people each week

A total of **687** individuals attended youth and play sessions delivered during school holiday periods.