

SIB Project Update 2015/16

Below is a summary of key **People** based SIB funded projects which have been delivered between April 2015 and March 2016 and contributed to Area Priorities. The information shows what they have achieved during these dates.

Community Transport

The ELCAP shopping bus continues to provide a service to those that are socially isolated or have various disabilities that prevent them accessing these facilities independently.

The Shopping bus also introduces customers to Lunch clubs and Social trips as they befriend others on the bus, which in turn gives them more confidence to attend other activities and functions that previously they would not have done. To date 64 shopping trips, supported transport to 65 lunch clubs and 26 social outings have been delivered to 415 local residents.

CAN DO

The CAN DO fund gives groups of local young people the opportunity to design, plan and deliver an event or activity. In the last year ten groups of young people have developed their skills and confidence by completing their own applications for funding and presenting their ideas to the Area People Board.

Volunteer Co-ordinator

ShARP has recruited and trained 15 volunteers to support their welfare advice service. Local people have gained confidence and skills and increased the capacity of the service, enabling an additional 154 residents to access information and support regarding welfare and benefit issues.

Houghton Feast 2015

SIB funding enabled the Community Programme at the Friday opening, and Saturday carnival, to be successfully delivered. 250 children from 10 local schools took part in activities and workshops in the weeks leading up to the Feast. Over 200 people performed at the opening ceremony, watched by an audience of over 1000 people.

Health and Greenspaces

A total of 272 people attended 4 outdoor health and green space events which promoted healthy cooking, eating and fun ways to exercise. 126 older residents with limited mobility took part in 12 sessions providing opportunities to get outdoors and meet new people. 13 local heritage tours were delivered as part of the 'Summer in the Park' project to 77 people who would not normally have access to such activities.

Social Navigator

The project delivered by Sit N B Fit aims to reduce social isolation and increase social integration. Tailored therapeutic activities, exercise packages, and other interventions tailored to the individual's needs are delivered in their own home and in the community. The project also communicates with individuals by telephone on a 1 to 1 basis. The overall aim is to support and direct individuals into social activities and services available within the community. In the past year 250 people have been contacted directly, 116 have received support and 12 people assisted to access services within the community.

Pudding Lane

The project delivered by Fencehouses YMCA was set up to encourage local residents to attend sessions to talk, share and eat. People identified as being isolated were asked to bring a 'recipe' with them which signifies a 'memory' they have. They were asked about what they could remember due to that particular recipe/s. The project has provided a meeting place for socially isolated residents which in turn has **reduced isolation and increased social interaction** with their peers. It has enabled socially isolated people to have somewhere to go for a drink or a meal. Participants have had the opportunity to share their memories and enable the heritage of the area to be captured and shared. 70 local people have attended sessions. 8 have been delivered in local community venues, 3 have been delivered at Fencehouses YMCA.

Space 4 Blokes

The project commenced in August 2015, and has grown to a regular attendance of between 15 to 20 older gentlemen on a weekly basis. Group members have reported that being part of the group has given them the opportunity to make new friendships, try new skills and break down some of the isolation they had been experiencing. Through Space4 Blokes members have also been able to access the daily drop in at Space4 and walking group Space to Ramble. Space4 Blokes is currently working towards a photographic exhibition about mining in the Coalfields area.