

Organisation Details	
Organisation Name	ShARP (Shiney Advice and Resource Project), Beatrice Tce, Shiney Row
Project Details	
Project Title	Coalfield Advice on Prescription
Project Overview (max. 50 words)	The project provides a dedicated advice service for patients registered with Coalfields GPs.
Total Project Cost	£47,479
Match Funding	£10,480
Total NF Requested	£36,999
Project Start Date	20-Jul-24
Project End Date	31-Mar-25
Where will the project be based/delivered from?	ShARP and local venues
Project Description	
<p>Taken verbatim from application form: Advice on Prescription was one of the first social prescribing projects in the UK. The project was developed through a partnership of GPs, health professionals, Sunderland City Council and the Coalfields Area VCS network. The project is unique in its approach to delivering advice on a range of welfare issues including benefits, debt, housing and employment to people registered with the GPs of Herrington Medical Group, Hetton Group Practice, Houghton Church Street, Kepier Medical Practice, Westbourne Medical Centre and Grangewood Surgery in the Coalfields area. The support is targeted to those patients referred who are experiencing low mood, anxiety or depression where causal factors relate to worries around finance and managing household budgets. The Advice on Prescription Advice Workers use a casework approach so that those who are most vulnerable due to mental illness, bereavement, ill health etc have an allocated Advice Worker so that they can build trust and confidence and engage in the work needed to gain their benefit entitlement or work through managing debt by sticking to agreed payment plans etc. They have an allocated worker so do not have to retell their story - this method of working is a vital support to many unwell, isolated patients - when their main issue is resolved they will return for help as other issues arise which can prevent difficulties escalating into crisis and helps with longer term confidence building. The project is delivered by 2 part time qualified Advice Workers providing 49 hours per week across the Coalfields area - since Covid restrictions they have not been able to return to GP surgeries, but they have established outreach sessions at the Hetton Centre, High Downs Community Building. Home visits are not routinely offered but can be arranged in exceptional circumstances. The project is trusted by beneficiaries and health professionals. The Advice Workers will see 130 people each month which is around 1560 people each year. The quality of the service provided by Advice on Prescription is evidenced through monitoring, capture of data relating to the financial gains for each client and it is also routinely sampled through anonymous Customer Satisfaction Surveys which are carried out quarterly.</p>	

The project is unique in its approach and delivery of advice. It sits alongside the other advice projects delivered by ShARP so there is an internal referral/support pathway for people to access other services or activities as their needs change. The project is known and has excellent links with all partners in the Coalfields area - GPs, social prescribers, foodbanks, ELCAP, the Family Hub, Hetton Centre, Gentoo, Space4 etc

NF FUNDING BUDGET		
Salaries, management costs and resources		£36,999
Outputs		
CODE	Vibrant Smart City Outputs	
301	Number of activities or services delivered that support residents to become more resilient (financially)	1911
302	number of individual people more resilient (financially)	1170

Recommendation: approve – meets priority ‘Support residents to improve financial resilience’

Organisation Details	
Organisation Name	Springboard
Project Details	
Project Title	Clean it, Green it Coalfield
Project Overview (max. 50 words)	Clean it Green it aims to improve the Coalfield area by working with key partners to identify and maintain areas that are outside of usual maintenance schedules. Whether they need general improvements or work to rectify vandalism, overgrowth or litter picking.
Total Project Cost	£100,000
Match Funding	£0
Total NF Requested	£100,000
Project Start Date	01-Jan-25
Project End Date	31-Dec-26
Where will the project be based/delivered from?	Based at Hetton Lyons Country Park. Activity and improvements will be delivered across all wards in the Coalfield area
Project Description	
Taken verbatim from application form. Established in 1975 Springboard, we are a North-East based charity aims to support the development of sustainable communities, where people have the skills needed for work and life. We have operated in the Coalfield for over 30 years, working with local stakeholders to deliver a variety of services and initiatives.	

Since 2004 this has included the management of Hetton Lyons Country Park (HLCP) in partnership with Sunderland City Council where we deliver a range of successful services and initiatives including Horticulture training / volunteering for young people and adults. The Clean it Green it Coalfield Project is now well established in the area and we hope to continue with the momentum we have gathered since 2022. We believe we are well placed to continue to deliver on the aims and outcomes of the project.

We will continue to work in partnership with Community Opportunities who lead similar projects in other areas of the city, we utilise our combined strengths and deliver the project in the following way:

Environmental Improvements - We work closely with SCC Environmental Services and local stakeholders; elected members on the steering group, Coalfield VCS network, Gentoo, Police, TWFRS and HALO project. We work together to identify what improvements are needed and develop an action plan to ensure we achieve maximum impact using the individual skillsets of each organisation. The now well established and effective steering group will go mobile over the coming months and move to venues in each ward.

The work is balanced across the Coalfield area to ensure that a fair distribution of projects is undertaken within the time available. We have a blend of litter picking and community clean up engagement activities with more intense works that require mechanised support including strimmers, grass cutters, chippers or rotavators. We have the skills and tools to continue with Community Opportunities to foster community ownership of the newly renovated areas to continue to look after and maintain them in the ways they have been shown.

Working with Communities and Partners - Since 2022 we have worked with a wide range of partners including:

- Penshaw Community Centre
- Elemore Park
- Sharp
- The Old Rectory
- Houghton Racecourse CA
- Durham Wildlife trust
- Groundwork NE

Over the coming two years we will continue to expand who we are working with. By adding an additional day with staff from Community Opportunities we will have extra capacity to reach more parts of our community. Since the steering group began, we have made progress reaching more community groups and this continues to be a key objective.

We are aware of the Litter Free for Wildlife project which, if it is successful we would liaise with them. Its aims and objectives are complimentary and would help us work in other areas of the community. Springboard have been involved in supporting DWT's Links with Nature project as it has developed. As it moves from planning into delivery we will continue to work with the project steering group to deliver the ambitious plans, supporting where we can and where the projects aims align.

With our key partners in particular our horticulture volunteers we will continue to make visual improvements to identified areas and dramatically improve them so that there is a clear change in a short period of time. We will do this by using our powered machinery as well as our expertise in training people on their use. The team have established a revisit list so that once an area is in a better state it is less of a challenge to maintain for the team, residents and volunteer groups. We have carried out heavy work to areas where possible to minimise the ongoing workload.

Our Programme Manager Robin Baker works four days per week leading the programme supported by Community Opportunities who provide a ranger on a part time basis. The roles include adopting and managing agreed areas, shrub beds and open green spaces as well as paths and tracks.

One of our strengths is our ability to train and inspire people in horticulture, cleansing and grounds maintenance. Our trainers and assessors run non-accredited training for people who would like to take the lead locally supporting the sustainability of the project.

All volunteers are supported to develop skills and can be put through a pathway to ensure that they are safely inducted into the project, understand what the plan is and are assessed verbally and practically to ensure they are involved in appropriate activities for their ability. Both staff involved supervise closely and support to improve methods that people use.

At the start of each session participants are given a tool box talk, refreshing regular attendees of safe use. Groups are involved in risk assessment both from a health and safety point of view and also environmentally as well, for example when working on uneven terrain or when it is bird nesting season.

Alongside improvements we provide local residents with information and education on the work that is going on as well as ways to be involved. We have branded flags, banners, hi vis clothing and flyers that travel with us on clean up days to promote the work we are doing. Our vehicles are also branded. Key promotion is actively interacting with as many people as possible. This makes sure the word gets out on what the project is and what it is aiming to achieve and also how they can get involved.

There is an education element which has seen success by informing residents of the types of behaviour that are negative for their area. Litter and fly tipping are key contributing issues for the decline in Coalfield areas, educating people on these messages is key to success in this project. This has included free and low cost ways of disposing of waste by the City Council, how to identify genuine waste disposal operators as well as charities that recycle furniture and upcycling to avoid items going to landfill. These educational messages are delivered in person with those who engage face to face. Moving into 25 /26 this will involve working with other groups and projects to visit schools on a more regular basis.

Our equipment bank for use by groups is based at Hetton Lyons Country Park, in our secure equipment store. All of the kit has been added to our existing kit and log to ensure it is maintained and safety checked at the correct intervals as well as to monitor its use and location. This is monitored by the programme manager and team members to ensure it is fairly distributed. It is used by volunteers who have been through the volunteer pathway and signed off as competent. We have allowed for natural damage / breakage and maintenance into the budget. The project aligns with the city's low carbon framework by being directly in the communities it is serving.

To summarise, by building on our existing partnerships and expertise in horticulture we will continue to deliver this project to the whole Coalfield, with the aim of leaving a lasting impact with a sustainable legacy.

NF FUNDING BUDGET

Salaries, management costs and resources **£100,000**

Outputs		
CODE	Healthy Smart City Outputs	
208	amount of highway, cycle, pathways, greenspace improved by area (m2)	8000
209	number of litter picks/community cleans up carried out	400
210	Number of bags of waste cleared from neighbourhoods	400
211	Issues reported via www.sunderland.gov.uk/report-it	200
213	number of street furniture and / or equipment funded to repaired/replaced/renewed	80
CODE	Vibrant Smart City Outputs	
305	number of NEW volunteers recruited	40
306	number of volunteers participating	80
307	number of volunteer hours delivered	240

Recommendation: Approve – meets priority 'Deliver Clean it, Green it Activity'

Organisation Details	
Organisation Name	Durham Wildlife Trust
Project Details	
Project Title	Litter Free for Wildlife
Project Overview (max. 50 words)	The Litter Free for Wildlife project will tackle littering in the Coalfields area. It aims educates schoolchildren about the harms of litter and plastics on wildlife and waterways. Students will participate in classroom sessions and litter pick-ups. By working with schools and communities, the project will create a cleaner environment.
Total Project Cost	£19,625
Match Funding	£0
Total NF Requested	£19,625
Project Start Date	01-Sep-24
Project End Date	31-Aug-26

Where will the project be based/delivered from?

Based at Rainton Meadows, deliver across all wards and all schools in the Coalfield area

Project Description

Taken verbatim from application form. Throughout the Coalfields, many greenspaces, parks and watercourses are blighted by litter. This includes material, particularly plastic, being dropped and discarded. This litter will often continue on a journey through the network of watercourses that flow through the Coalfield, being discharged in the River Wear and ultimately ending up in the North Sea. Litter is unsightly and unpleasant, and has a devastating impact on local wildlife.

The Wear Catchment Partnership are working collaboratively with numerous organisations and communities to address this through the Plastics Free Wear Campaign. The Campaign is raising awareness through education programmes and research about the harm litter and plastics have on wildlife, increased levels of pollution, the impact on water quality and raising the risk of localised flooding. The Litter Free for Wildlife project is an opportunity to address this issue on a local level by working with schools and young people throughout the Coalfields. Potentially, this approach could be extended across Sunderland.

Over the next two years, this project will invite all 14 Coalfield primary and 3 secondary schools, including Biddick Academy which takes children from Shiney Row, to participate. Durham Wildlife Trust (DWT) will devise a bespoke set of educational resources and an interactive session that will be delivered in school. Through multimedia presentations, hands-on activities, and group discussions, students will explore the lifecycle of plastic waste, tracing its journey from land to sea and understanding its consequences for marine life and ecosystems. The children will find out about the wildlife on nearby greenspaces, learn about negative impact of litter and plastic pollution on wildlife. They will follow a plastic bottle's journey through the connecting watercourses, River Wear and onto the North Sea, where it may end up washed up on a beach in Sunderland or further away. After the in-school session, children will participate in a practical litter pick, exploring a nearby greenspace or park. The children will see first-hand the difference that they can make, helping to protect wildlife, tidying up their local park and preventing litter and plastics from entering the river system. The children can bag up, weigh and record how much litter that they pick up and dispose of it correctly.

In addition, there will be the opportunity to visit the Waste Education Centre in partnership with Groundwork North East and Cumbria. This visit will show the children how waste is managed locally and spread valuable messages about how to reduce waste by recycling and reusing and the importance of disposing of waste correctly. We have spoken to Laura Farrell-Pronesti from the Waste Education Centre who is happy to facilitate this.

Durham Wildlife Trust will be the project lead and will work with a range of local partners and other projects, which will include the following:

- All schools in the Coalfield area
- Organisation who provide activities for young people such as Community Opportunities, HALO and Scouts
- Clean It Green It
- Links with Nature

Project Outputs

- Children and families appreciate impact of dropping litter/not disposing of waste correctly
- Reduced littering in local area
- Opportunity to engage volunteers and community groups with Links with Nature
- Measurement and analysis of waste across Coalfield greenspaces and tributaries.
- Successful project that can be extended across the city

Durham Wildlife Trust (DWT) is uniquely positioned to offer expertise on tackling littering and plastic pollution in the Coalfields region due to its extensive experience in wildlife conservation, habitat management, and environmental education. With a history dating back to 1971, DWT has been a leading advocate for nature conservation across County Durham, Sunderland, Gateshead, and beyond. Managing 50 nature reserves spanning diverse habitats, from rural upper Teesdale to urban Gateshead, DWT has garnered invaluable insights into local ecosystems and the threats they face, including littering and pollution. Additionally, DWT has a proven track record of engaging communities, schools, and youth groups in environmental initiatives, making it well-equipped to design and deliver educational programs like the Litter Free for Wildlife project. The project directly addresses two key strategic priorities outlined in the Sunderland Low Carbon Framework. Firstly, it aligns with Strategic Priority 1 by engaging with residents, communities, and partners to encourage positive behaviour change, as articulated in Priority 1. Secondly, it supports Strategic Priority 7 by aiming to reduce the volume of consumption and waste, changing consumption patterns and waste disposal methods to minimise environmental impact. Through educational sessions, practical activities, and partnerships with local organizations, the project embodies the collaborative spirit of these strategic priorities, contributing to Sunderland's efforts in fostering sustainability and reducing carbon footprints.

NF FUNDING BUDGET		
Salaries, management costs, transport for schools/groups and resources		£19,625
Outputs		
CODE	Dynamic Smart City Outputs	
104	number of low carbon initiatives supported	1
CODE	Healthy Smart City Outputs	
205	number of NEW children and young people benefiting from this project	540
209	number of litter picks/community cleans up carried out	17

Recommendation: Approve – meets priority ‘deliver low carbon initiatives in the community’

Organisation Details	
Organisation Name	Sunderland City Council
Project Details	
Project Title	Proactive ASB

Project Overview (max. 50 words)	A two year project to employ an additional proactive ASB Officer dedicated to the Coalfield area. The Officer will work alongside mainstream ASB Officers, Neighbourhood Officer, Wardens and Neighbourhood Police Teams.	
Total Project Cost	£127,340	
Match Funding	£35,340	
Total NF Requested	£92,000	
Project Start Date	01-Jul-24	
Project End Date	30-Jun-26	
Where will the project be based/delivered from?	Will deliver across all wards in the Coalfield area	
Project Description		
<p>Taken verbatim from application form. The current ASB project has proved to be a massive success in the Coalfield area, undertaking a proactive approach in hot spot areas and areas that go under reported. The Officer has forged good links with businesses and residents and has been able to tackle the issues more swiftly and in a timely manner thus preventing issues escalating. This proposal will allow for this approach to continue and also be rolled out to other areas within Coalfields.</p> <p>This role will enhance and work alongside the mainstream ASB Officer, Neighbourhood Officer, Neighbourhood Wardens and Neighbourhood Police teams to share intelligence and to target perpetrators. The team's dedicated Victim Support Officer will continue to support any high-risk victims. The Officer will work to reflect some of the Police shifts and will have the capacity to operate in a more pro-active, creative and innovative way rather than simply being reactive.</p> <p>The Officer will be responsible for engaging with Primary and Secondary Schools to deliver ASB awareness which impacts upon members of the community. The sessions will cover the sanctions and consequences attached to engaging in ASB activity. The project will also continue to support one off partnership targeted approaches in identified areas.</p> <p>We would continue to forge links with all housing providers across the Coalfield area, working with private landlords and promote the Council's Landlords Accreditation Scheme attempting to increase the membership.</p> <p>Quarterly progress reports will be provided to the Neighbourhood Board.</p> <p>To conclude this role will complement and add value to the current Council resource and will improve visibility and reassurance across the Coalfield area.</p>		
Salaries and management costs		£92,000

Outputs		
CODE	Healthy Smart City Outputs	
211	Issues reported via www.sunderland.gov.uk/report-it	720
CODE	Vibrant Smart City Outputs	
304	number of (additional) Enforcement actions	70

Recommendation: Approve – meets priority 'Delivery Proactive ASB Project'