

Appendix F – Community Stars case studies

Good neighbour 2018 – Mike Frazer

Mike is secretary and founder of the group Friends of Greengates Cenotaph and he raises funds for the group to pay for plants equipment to help maintain the gardens - he helped to raise funds for two Tommy sculptures by running a Facebook funding campaign. This was originally to raise £750 for one sculpture but within two hours had raised over double that so two sculptures were bought and the remainder spent on 100 plants which were planted by schoolchildren to commemorate the centenary of the armistice in 1918. He brought together volunteers to help the New Line care home clear out old bushes in their gardens to enable new planting to provide a better view for residents, several who have dementia, to enjoy. He also volunteered to help Greengates primary school to set up their forest garden within the school grounds. He actively supports the community hub building at the church hall where he has been Father Christmas at the Christmas fair three years running and he helps organise events there. He actively promotes them via social media and leaflet distribution especially on the new estates to encourage newcomers to integrate into the community. An example of this was organising a large scale community clean up at Apperley Bridge, working with the Rivers Trust. He sought sponsorship for the event and arranged for a local pub to provide lunch for all volunteers in order to bring many of the new residents together with the established community for the first time. He also joined the Haigh Hall GP Practice Patient Panel to represent patient's interests which has helped to make changes at the practice.

Volunteer 2017 -Clare Mason

Clare works selflessly for people affected by young onset dementia and contributes in a distinctive way to improving the lot of those who are less able to help themselves. Nothing is too much trouble, no problem too small and from a personal point of view, having a husband who has young onset dementia she has been our guardian angel giving love, support and always on the end of a telephone night or day. She creates a special bond and understands that the carer also needs support offering practical support and a "listening ear". I find it very hard to put into words my respect for Clare and the volunteering work that she does- she is remarkable, dedicated, devoted and a fountain of knowledge. She ensures that people are not isolated and can still take part in the community even though it may be at a different level and helps to ensure that life can go on after diagnosis. Clare actually uses a week of her annual leave each year to go on holidays with people with memory problems and their spouses/carers and works tirelessly for the benefit of others- arranging meals, activities, day trips, entertainment for the inclusion of all. She also gives support through the Pathway Support Group Facebook site which allows members to share situations that they are unable to "burden" their family with.

Community Group 2016 – Parent Power

Parent power is a small group of parents living on the Ravenscliffe estate. They are women from a range of nationalities who have come together to build relationships with each other and through this process have developed very successful projects and facilitated events in the community that have brought families together and enabled a greater sense of community cohesion. This is a phenomenal piece of work that has changed the lives of some of the most disadvantaged young people living in the community. The group worked tirelessly talking to parents on the estates through door to door surveys, making leaflets, interviewing potential Karate Instructors, sourcing funding, and including the whole community in the decision making process of how to use the funding to meet the real needs of the community. The parent power group have set up the club, resourced all the equipment and refreshments for the club and have recruited the current register of 40 youths who are or have attended the club since it was developed in March 2017. This group of women are a model to the whole community of how to really make a difference and develop sustainable grassroots projects that really empower local people to change their lives. They are inspiring people who have never taken part in anything or achieved anything to get involved and make a difference in the community. They are single parents, parents of children with disabilities, carers, and women who face multiple barriers in their daily lives because of their social and economic situation. Their commitment and dedication to young people on the estate is changing lives and giving hope to young people who would have never been able to achieve anything before.