

**Safe, Strong &
Active
Communities**

1.1 Reduce Levels of Antisocial Behaviour and drug-related crime.

Progress:

- **Ward Officers leading on and coordinating responses to anti-social behaviour at a neighbourhood level by: Organising and leading Ward-based consultation involving the following partners: Ward Office, Youth Services, Housing Officers, Police, Fire, Wardens and Councillors to take a multi-agency approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. Using shared knowledge, resources, skills, and data to take a more effective approach to finding long-term solutions to solve and prevent reoccurrence of priority community issues.**

Example 1: Implementation of ASB Strategy Meetings in BD2, BD3 & BD5 which are held every 6 weeks to discuss emerging and existing issues relating to ASB, crime and environmental issues at a Ward level.

To create action plans, leading to more effective deployment of resources, enabling services to respond to local problems in a stronger and more collaborative manner.

ASB meetings have led to several successful outcomes; reducing and preventing recurring ASB in hotspot areas such as Silverhill Road, Mortimer Avenue, Swain House, and St Stephen's Road.

Example 2: Implementation of the Fagley & Thorpe Edge Support Panels, which are panels of professionals from partnership agencies that have been formed to discuss wrap around support for families and young people at a very early level that are not already open to Early Help which aim to increase future opportunities and reduce "victims" of the future.

The panel focuses on young people with poor attendance, history of criminality within the immediate family, domestic abuse within the household and low-level behavioural issues.

- **Strengthening relationships between Ward Officers and Youth Services to increase the opportunities for young people by highlighting areas of concern within Ward areas, where there are high levels of antisocial behaviour, criminality, and risks of exploitation to young people.**

Example 1: Beech Grove in BD3 has historically been a very difficult area to engage with and has a long history of organised crime, exploitation and anti-social behaviour with a known distrust of a statutory services.

The Ward Officer, taking an ABCD approach, began by building relationships with the community with a series of community events, action days and consultation. The impact of these activities has led to increased community cohesion, engaged active residents in local initiatives and the creation of the "Friends of Beech Grove Park".

The Ward Officer, in collaboration with the Youth Service, secured funding to repurpose 2 covid cabins and has developed these with the community to create the "Beech Grove PODS".

The PODS will be used to provide activities for young people to strengthen relationships with young people in the area, showcase positive role models and influence positive behaviour changes.

Example 2: In response to high levels of antisocial behaviour in the St Stephen's Road BD5 area, Neighbourhood and Community Services, in partnership with West Yorkshire Police and Bradford City Football Foundation, collaborated to secure funding and a venue to offer free weekly Premier League Kicks sessions in a local community setting, Newby Primary School.

Local data identified that the session would be most effective on a Friday evening as this is when the issues were most prevalent. Listening to the voice of the local community, a sport-based session aimed at teenage males was put forward as one of the most effective ways of engaging young men. These sessions attract over 20 young men on a weekly basis and have been the catalyst to engaging those who are most at risk of criminal exploitation or are on the periphery of crime, with youth workers offering an opportunity to change behaviour, educate and empower young people to make informed decisions and raise the awareness around consequences.

Example 3: In response to youth related anti-social behaviour and high levels of shoplifting at the Five Lane Ends Retail Park known as Enterprise Five, Neighbourhood & Community Services alongside WYP worked in partnership to reduce the issues in the area by developing an action plan to deploy resources in a targeted manner using local data and intelligence. This included additional patrols in the area by Police, detached youth work sessions to engage young people and engagement with the retail outlets and businesses, to look at the implementation of a "Shop Watch Scheme", which businesses could sign up to, to support each other and share information, making it easier for Police to respond, to identify prolific offenders and to increase Police crime detection rates and deter future crime.

Example 4: Neighbourhood & Community Services collaborated to develop a disused park building into a Youth and Community Hub in Peel Park, to offer a space for young people to engage with Youth Services and other VCS providers to address concerns regarding an increase in anti-social behaviour and crime within the park and surrounding areas. The aim is to offer young people an opportunity to enhance their skills, grow in confidence and engage with positive projects to help develop the amenities in the park, have a voice in the community and build a sense of ownership to prevent future damage to park infrastructure.

The project work carried out at the Hub alongside targeted detached provision has had a significant impact on the level of reported ASB within the park, there has been no further damage to park buildings/equipment and as a result usage of the park has increased.

Example 5: The Co-op in Idle Village became a target, with the store regularly being forced to close temporarily or early due to the levels of anti-social behaviour. As a result of this, a partnership between the Co-op, Neighbourhood & Community Services, Councillors and WYP was established to understand and problem solve the issues. This led to staff from the Co-op participating in conflict management training, working with the Assistant Ward Officer who supported staff with understanding how to report crime, and improvements were made to the lighting outside of the store which significantly reduced the number of incidents, alongside increased and targeted patrols from the Police and detached youth workers.

- **Neighbourhood & Community Services have worked together to identify key opportunities to work with partners from the VCS sector to develop projects that target specific need for education and training within communities such as: street safety, grooming, domestic abuse, SEMH, ASB and bonfire safety.**

Example 1: To address concerns regarding street safety and negative/poor decision making of young men and women, Ward Officers collaborated with Project On Guard to deliver sessions in the East Bowling area. The project is a 5-week programme which engages young men and women aged 10-17 in interactive sessions around topics such as healthy relationships, grooming, controlling and coercive behaviour, drug, and knife crime awareness. Referrals into the project from YOT, Breaking the Cycle, Early Help and Youth Services has enabled this project to reach 100 of the most vulnerable young people and provide an opportunity to take part in a project that ultimately aims to drive youth empowerment, build resilience, and educate young people to make better, more informed lifestyle choices whilst doing practical sessions to become more street aware.

Example 2: In response to statistics that highlight Eccleshill as one of the highest Ward areas for domestic and sexual abuse, Youth Services, in partnership with the Domestic Abuse Unit at WYP secured the engagement of Operation Encompass for Eccleshill.

With the support of the Ward Officer, Operation Encompass was rolled out to local primary schools in the Ward. Operation Encompass aims, by directly connecting police and schools, to secure better outcomes for children, to enable schools to better understand the impact living with domestic abuse has upon children, to help schools to better understand a child's lived experience and to therefore be able to support and nurture each child, making a child's day better and preventing the need for long term statutory intervention.

Example 3: To address community concerns in the lead up to bonfire night around youth related antisocial behaviour and use of fireworks, Ward Officers, in partnership with West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service and West Yorkshire Police, worked together to identify young people to attend Leeds Road Fire Station for a unique opportunity to take part in their "Crackers" initiative and provide an enrichment opportunity.

"Crackers" is an initiative that aims to challenge young people to consider the effects of ASB and playing with fireworks and fires during the bonfire night period, or at other times of the year if an issue arises.

12 young people from hotspot areas were identified and attended the 5-hour workshop. Below is feedback received from one of the chaperones.

"I would like to thank you, WYFRS and Jess for organising this event for our youngsters. They really enjoyed the experience and I think it would be beneficial to run this type of activity on a regular basis. It enables youngsters to have a better understanding of the Fire Service, increase their respect for fire men/women and reduce the incidents of youngsters attacking the fire brigades."

Example 4: In response to data that highlighted Bolton & Undercliffe as one of the highest ward areas for self-harm in young people, Youth Services created a “connect group” to offer 1-2-1 and group support to those struggling with their social, emotional mental health.

The Supportino’s group (named by the young people) have a weekly session where they focus on community-based projects. The projects are used as a diversionary tactic for young people to focus on developing their skills and building resilience to give them a purpose, provide volunteering opportunities and support them to build positive relationships, thus boosting their mental wellbeing and making them feel valued members of the community.

Through their community-based projects the group has supported over 1325 people struggling with food poverty through the food bank they ran throughout the 6-week school holidays. Their “Hurry 4 a Curry” project has enabled them to raise over £800 ensuring that the group can be self-sustained on a long-term basis.

1.2 Promote greater interaction within and between neighbourhoods and communities in Bradford East, encouraging community engagement, participation, and volunteering.

Progress:

- **Working with communities of interest, hidden communities, and faith-based organisations to promote cohesion between groups, increase visibility and provide opportunities to engage with the local community and promote the benefit and need for local volunteering.**

Example 1: Neighbourhood & Community Service staff are prioritising intergenerational projects at Peel Park Youth & Community Hub to build relationships between generations, overcome stereotypes and negative perceptions of young people and give young people a chance to gain some volunteering experience.

Events were held over the summer including “Build a Bird Box” with a local retired carpenter who volunteered his time to teach young people how to make bird boxes and teach them the importance of looking after the wildlife population.

This was followed by the “Bridge Between Café” - an afternoon tea dance in the park led by young people, which provided the older generation with an opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy an afternoon tea, outdoor sequence dancing and live entertainment.

Example 2: Faith Forums have been established by Ward Officers in BD3 and BD5 (Bradford Trident Partnership) to bring representatives from different faith groups in Ward areas together to facilitate discussions around community priorities and represent cohesion across leadership within faith organisations. As a result of the Faith Forum in BD3, local leaders have sourced fruit trees to be planted across the Ward area, £10,000 of funding has been obtained for the Sikh temple to make improvements to their place of worship to reduce the carbon footprint and 47 additional volunteers have been recruited to take part in local initiatives such as litter picking, responding to local street level ASB issues and assist with Neighbourhood Connect to offer local support to vulnerable individuals.

Example 3: To help overcome local stereotypes that had been formed of young people and to aid relationship building between generations, Youth Services engaged with young people from the Ravenscliffe Youth Centre to support a Christmas event held at Housing 21, a retirement and extra care living complex. Young People made gifts, including home-made candles, and gave them out to older people and supported the event by engaging with the elderly and serving them food and refreshments.

Example 4: Youth Services have represented the LBGTQIA+ community by supporting local events such as Bradford Pride and young people from the Sound, Spectrum and Phoenix Youth Groups in partnership with Equity Centre, marking Trans Remembrance Day by researching and recording those who have been killed due to trans related hate crime or had ended their own lives through bullying. Young people created a visual image that showed the extent of the fear throughout the trans community with a vigil to remember the lives that have been lost. Young people wrote poems and openly spoke about their own lived experiences in Bradford. The event was attended by community partners and councillors, and young people had the opportunity to share ideas about how Bradford can become a safe place for Trans people.

- **Neighbourhood & Community Services organising community events to provide opportunities for residents to visit local green spaces, promoting engagement with statutory and voluntary services to reconnect with their neighbourhood.**
Ward Officers attending SAG briefings regarding large scale events, to offer invaluable local insight and represent the communities voice to help reduce disruption, community tension and identify local risks.

Example 1: Neighbourhood & Community Service staff leading at the Peel Park Youth & Community Hub have hosted a number of events to promote the use of Peel Park and encourage people of all ages to become more physically fit.

“Spring into Summer” a community fun day, offering free activities such as inflatable games, bouncy castles, sports activities, RSPCA Dog Show, face painting, art and dance activities, and a large climbing wall which was attended by over 200 people.

Further to this, the Hub organised a “Scarecrow Trail” - a free outdoor experience in the park, accessible to people of all abilities, with an interactive quiz to encourage social interaction whilst engaging in physical activity. Over 100 people took part in the Trail locating 24 Scarecrows that had been made by local schools, businesses and voluntary organisations and hidden throughout the park.

Example 2: The Assistant Ward Officer organised “Idle Fun Day” as an opportunity for statutory services such as Council, WYP and WYRFS to connect with local residents. A range of activities were offered such as an environmental roadshow which educated people around the importance of being a responsible resident and the long-term impact of environmental crime. A fun encouraged children to be active, and engagement with the blue light

services was promoted through mini uniforms and there was the opportunity to explore emergency vehicles and equipment.

The event was attended by over 100 people from the neighbourhood and was a great way for residents to connect with each other.

Example 3: To encourage local residents to visit local amenities such as Bradford Moor Park, Neighbourhood & Community Service staff worked alongside Friends of Bradford Moor Park to make some significant changes to the park and bring in additional equipment such as a new under 5's play area and an outdoor gym facility. The Ward Officer has supported the Friends of group to obtain funding to offer additional activities to work with young people, ladies walking groups and a cycling group. NCS staff also led on large community events in the park, including a Blue Light Service, bringing in partners from West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service, Yorkshire Ambulance Service, and others to help build and improve relationships between the community and blue light services. Both events attracted over 200 people.

- **Strengthening relationships with VCS organisations to help plan, organise and deliver local events, by offering support with logistics, staff, promotion, and exposure to maximise participation and bring other partners in.**

Example 1: Neighbourhood & Community Service staff supported St Andrew's Methodist Church to plan, organise, source funding, and deliver the "Bolton & Undercliffe Christmas Market".

With the support of the Ward Officer, relationships were established between local VCS organisations who came together to jointly deliver the event.

In addition, 19 small local businesses attended the event to showcase and sell their products, some of whom were young people and people with disabilities. The event provided them with an opportunity to run a stall and build their confidence. The event was attended by over 150 people who benefited from low-cost family activities making it an inclusive experience for everyone.

Example 2: The Ward Officer and Assistant Ward Officer supported several Christmas events in the Eccleshill Ward by helping to advise groups and support with the writing of risk assessments, event management plans and sourcing appropriate insurance. The WO and AWO, alongside the local Councillors, supported road closure applications and helped to promote the events in the locality. The AWO was present on the days of the events to provide support and assistance where needed. The support of NCS ensured that the events were well attended and organised in line with health & safety regulations.

Example 3: Neighbourhood & Community Services worked alongside St Clare's Primary School to plan and deliver the "Fagley Fun Day". The partnership with NCS meant that other organisations such as JU:MP, Dr Bike, Social Prescribers and Blue Light Services were invited to attend the fun day to provide residents with the opportunity to engage in local offers. Over 150 residents attended the fun day, with over 40 bikes being repaired for free, helping to

keep young people active. The Assistant Ward Officer supported the event by helping staff from St Clare's with logistics such as risk assessments and event management plans, to organising partners to attend the event. On the day, NCS supported the running of the event by organising stall holders and ensuring that all health and safety regulations were followed and engaging with the community.

Example 4: Peel Park Youth & Community Hub has partnered with several organisations over the past 12 months to bring events and opportunities to Peel Park.

This includes the creation of the "Peel Park Youth Forum" a consortium of existing delivery partners to strengthen relationships, explore collaborative working and joint funding opportunities.

Other events include an Easter Egg Trail in partnership with CommunityWorks.

A partnership with United Arts Project offered a great space for their "Neon the Night" event, an opportunity for people to explore their creative side with neon colours and light. A collaboration with Better Place to offer a space for their 0-5 play sessions to continue over the winter months, along with their "Lights in the Park" lantern festival and a partnership with Get Out More CIC to offer regular forest schools during half term.

- **Ward Officers working in partnership with VCS organisations and grassroot community groups to identify gaps in local provision, develop projects to maximise local offers and support the continuation of existing projects by sharing relevant funding opportunities, assisting with bid writing, and linking partners together to increase capacity to deliver.**

Example 1: The Ward Officer has worked with Methodist Homes Association (MHA) Communities, supporting them to expand their offer to support those aged over 55 in the community. With the support from the Ward Officer, MHA have received additional funding from the Community Partnership, Combined Funding and Community Building Grants, funding streams that they were not aware of. Supported through Asset Management, a transfer of a community allotment for their men's group has been agreed, have co-run events to fundraise and have benefited from other offers such as Safe & Well training from WYFRS and IT workshops to enable the older generation to become digitally included. MHA Communities are now supporting the elderly through Neighbourhood Connect referrals, specifically those living with cognitive issues, supporting with risk assessments, transport, and care needs.

"Our Area Coordinator's Office in Bradford East actively encourages and supports local organisations to work together with them to enhance the lives of their local community. Due to this support, I have witnessed a rise in community engagement at local events and activities, people taking up meaningful volunteering opportunities and people sharing/swapping their skills which has had a positive effect on the community's well-being and confidence".

Example 2: Various issues in Seymour Park such as anti-social behaviour, rough sleepers and fly-tipping had led to a fear among the community of using the park. As a result of this, the Ward Officer worked with a very small grassroot community group called "Friends of Seymour Park" to help them grow the group, apply for funding, and

bolster their capacity to fulfil their commitment to helping to tackle the issues, making the park a more desirable place for the community to attend.
The Ward Officer linked the Friends of group in with other local partners such as ROC, NRC and the Salvation Army who combined their skills and resources to develop an action plan for the park.
Events and community fun days, supported by the Ward Officer, have led to an increase in the number of residents now accessing the park, a growth in volunteers joining the Friends of Group to take responsibility of planters, flower beds and the general upkeep of the park, offering long term sustainability and local ownership of green spaces.

Example 3: The Ward Officer has engaged partners and obtained funding to increase support and access to services for the growing EU/Roma population in the Bowling area. Initiatives include:

- Roma Cinema Nights which VCS organisation European Drom have played a key role in running, showing movies in Roma dialect, a unique opportunity to help the Roma Community feel a sense of ownership and belonging.
- Gardening and litter picking groups in partnership with West Bowling Training & Advice Centre, where they also have access to health, hygiene, and food parcels along with ESOL classes and advice services.
- Increasing access to essential health checks in community settings to get key health messages across to reduce health inequalities.

Example 4: It was brought to light through the Assistant Ward Officer and Five Lane Community Partnership that there was a lack of local provision to support families in need in the Thorpe Edge estate. In response to this, the AWO approached a local VCS organisation called “Food For Life” and asked if they could extend their reach to include this neighbourhood. The AWO supported a funding application for £10,000 which now enables “Food For Life” to support 30 households in the Thorpe Edge estate, prioritising families, elderly and vulnerable residents with food parcels, personal care/hygiene packs and tangible items to support people through the cold weather such as warm blankets, hot water bottles and warm pyjamas.

1.3 Improve the visual amenity of the area from individual gardens to public open spaces.

Progress:

- **The Area Team working with the community to encourage resident/neighbourhood led community action days to motivate residents to take ownership, pride, and responsibility for their neighbourhood.**

Example 1: The Area Team worked alongside residents in the East Bowling area to improve the visual amenity, taking on subtle street enhancements such as grass verges and personal garden improvements. The minor improvements had a wider impact and led to more residents becoming involved and a new project emerging. Residents have now transformed a neglected piece of land into a vibrant wellbeing garden which is accessible to the community, showcasing the ability for resident led initiatives to redefine public spaces.

Example 2: The Area Team encourage and supported residents to participate in the Great British Spring Clean. Over the space of a week, 40 + resident led litter picks were carried out across Bradford East providing a platform for communities to come together to clean up litter and make a difference to their neighbourhood.

Example 3: The Area Team engaged with residents from the Beech Grove, BD3 area to recruit street champions to take ownership of the area. This started with street litter picks and community clean up's and has developed into local led initiatives to improve street planters, create raised beds, and plant fruit trees. This has encouraged formerly inactive residents to have a positive attitude to improving the aesthetics within the area.

Example 4: The Area Team supported residents from the Parkside, BD5 area to take ownership of their local streets and green spaces to improve the visual appearance such as planting grass verges and aid a reduction in the carbon footprint. Residents planted several trees throughout the area, planted grass verges and regularly undertake community litter picks in the woodland area to encourage people to connect with nature.

- **The Area Team working alongside partner organisations to encourage them to promote the benefits of clean neighbourhoods, to have active involvement leading by example and encouraging others to follow and using key engagement opportunities to deliver educational material around the environment.**

Example 1: The Area Team have built close relationships with Housing Officers from various social landlords across Bradford East which has led to several action days including a community day in partnership with Places for People. The Area Team, Places for People and residents from Shelby Grange came together to deliver an action plan to address potential contributing factors to ongoing anti-social behaviour in the area and took a proactive approach to tackling them together. A clean up of the area removing fly-tipping and street litter took place, fences and railings were painted and essential repairs to properties and street furniture were carried out to bring a sense of pride and ownership to the area.

Example 2: The Area Team, in partnership with Better Place, West Bowling Centre, and volunteers from the BD5 in Bloom project, linked in with British Gas to offer their staff a volunteering opportunity to improve social emotional mental health and help people back into work on long term sick. Together they cleared 61 bags of rubbish along Clipstone Street and finalised the Better Place Community Garden project by filling the planting beds with shrubs and trees.

One British Gas employee said “I really loved the day, and it was amazing to see local people coming by and asking if they could get involved and help out too – you really get a feel for how much the work you do means to the people in the community you serve! I will be making a point of sharing our experience with the wider British Gas team, and encouraging colleagues to make an effort to organise some local volunteering as we have seen the difference we can make.”

Example 3: Neighbourhood & Community Services have created opportunities across primary school networks to deliver educational material regarding the environment including recycling workshops and have taken young people out to participate in action-based learning such as litter picking. Schools have been encouraged to create gardens within their play areas where young people can learn about horticulture and wildlife.

Additional work has been carried out by Youth Workers across secondary schools (Hanson & Carlton Bolling Academies), working with those identified as being involved in ASB and revisiting ASB hotspots that are frequently plagued with litter to carry out litter picks to understand the impact of their behaviour and to give young people an opportunity to make a positive contribution to the neighbourhood.

- **Working with residents, local grassroot organisations and internal council departments to identify opportunities to create community gardens, transform spaces to prevent fly-tipping and ASB and offer incentives to residents to improve the kerb appeal of their properties and adopt a greener approach to their personal gardens/outdoor spaces.**

Example 1: The Ward Officer, in partnership with VCS organisations and local volunteers, has led the BD5 in Bloom project which encourages residents to beautify their gardens/outdoor spaces, grow their own produce and encourage wildlife and climate friendly initiatives, through an annual garden competition which offers reward and recognition through an annual presentation event.

The garden competition includes rewards for allotment holders, schools, community centres, faith centres and local businesses, incentivising gardening throughout the entire community.

In addition to the annual competition, volunteers run gardening workshops to teach basic gardening skills and demonstrate low-cost methods to transform spaces.

Volunteers have mapped out community spaces for development and with funding now obtained will be transforming areas of land susceptible to fly-tipping in the coming months.

Example 2: The Area Team is developing an allotment within the Burnsall Road site to provide a space within a heavily built up and populated area with limited garden space, to grow their own produce and enjoy the holistic benefits of horticulture. The Ward Officer will be linking in with schools to offer enrichment opportunities and deliver family-based sessions.

The allotment will be used by Youth Workers as an innovative way to engage young people delivering 1-1 and group sessions, keeping them away from ASB and to develop community and intergenerational activities.

Example 3: The bowling hut had been subjected to graffiti and vandalism and was starting to look unsightly. As a result of this, Neighbourhood & Community Services worked with Idle Bowling Club, park users and young people to design a mural for the building. This was a great opportunity to build relationships within the park by working together to improve the visual appearance of the hut. As a result of this, the bowling hut is now a vibrant building, that stands out in the park and is a talking point, bringing new people into the park.

A similar project was carried out at Peel Park Bowling Hut by Councillor Julie Humphreys, and the bowling hut now features an “Instagramable” piece of art which is cleverly designed to promote “selfies” and carries a message to remind people of their value and worth.

Example 4: Leeds Road is one of the main gateways in and out of the City Centre which has a high volume of traffic. There is an acute lack of green space along the gateway and a need for something “eye catching”. In response to this, a “living wall” was designed in consultation with the community. The wall features local representations, and the theme throughout this installation is “peace, unity and inspiration”. The wall features a phoenix which symbolises Bradford’s rising future and pride in our hometown. It features a beautiful light installation, and a plethora of plant life in a sensory garden style.

- **The Area Office building partnerships with organisation and schemes such as ROC, Community Payback and Business Payback schemes to deliver vital support to community projects, community organisations and**

Example 1: The Area Team has partnered with Participate Projects who are a charitable organisation that provide skilled volunteers to complete community projects through businesses giving back to their communities. Participate Projects will be completing work at Laisterdyke Hub and The Springfield Centre, enabling these VCS organisations to reduce the amount of money that they need to spend on the upkeep of their centres.

Example 2: The Area Team has partnered with Community Payback to deliver community projects and link their services in with VCS organisations to maximise the opportunities for those in the criminal justice system to give back to their communities.

Through the Ward Office, Community Payback have assisted St Stephen’s Church by installing some trellis panels to repair the damage that had been caused during recent storms.

Community Payback will be working alongside the Area Team, The Springfield Centre, the 30th Bradford East Scouts to carry out a spring clean at Haigh Beck and the surrounding streets with the Aire River Trust and Friends of Bradford Beck’s Volunteers.

Example 3: The Area Office has worked hard to establish a relationship with Blackpool based charitable organisation, ROC Gardens. Connections made via the Area Office with the housing organisations in Bradford East have led to ROC securing funding through Places for People to work with their tenants to improve and transform their gardens and look at sustainable resolutions to prevent eviction, homelessness, and unsightly neighbourhoods as a result of poor gardens.

Good Start, Great Schools

2.1 Enhance collaborative working between all agencies to deliver early help agenda to improve resilience in families.

Progress:

- **The Area Team developing stronger relationships with schools, enabling active involvement with Headteachers and staff networks in order to have a greater insight on issues that families are facing and offer a collaborative approach to addressing them.**

Example 1: The Ward Officer regularly attends headteacher network meetings in BD3 to ensure schools are kept up to date with ward plans and community projects to increase accessibility to services and to encourage schools to embed ward priorities in their school. This has led to several positive outcomes such as, Carlton Bolling delivering bespoke activities aimed at supporting vulnerable young people during school. Killinghall Primary school has accessed CAZ funding to address parking issues and Feversham Primary is offering skills and activities at Laisterdyke Hub for parents.

Example 2: The Ward Officer has chaired operational meetings with school staff in the BD3 area, including Parental Involvement Workers and Attendance Officers to look at projects aimed at supporting families across the area. The WO has created agenda items to link ward priorities such as attendance, community cohesion, interschool activities and support for low-income families. A range of projects are now in the planning stage such as “Bradford East’s Got Talent” an opportunity for pupils to build confidence and creativity and support the Year 6 transition programme.

Example 3: The Ward Officer has built strong relationships with schools in BD5, developing key contacts and links at each school to enable a two-way process for sharing information and ensuring families are engaging in community-based provision. This relationship has led to the Ward Officer organising several sessions at schools based on the needs identified, such as health checks, supporting low-income households through Incommunities ‘Money Matters’ and supporting parents back into the labour market through Skills House job advisors having regular sessions for parents.

- **A collaborative approach to enhance access and participation across Bradford East by engaging families with children under the age of 5 in the early help agenda.**

Example 1: To address the low uptake of the “Terrific Two’s” early years education offer across certain wards in Bradford East, Ward Officers have supported the Barkerend Family Hub to engage families and promote the benefits of the offer through outreach and door knocking, community events and local groups, leading to a 13% increase of 2-year-olds accessing early education.

Example 2: The Ward Officer organised an event at Laisterdyke Hub targeted at new and expectant mothers, to highlight opportunities for women to access support pre and post pregnancy, to gain support, insight and knowledge which will enable them to have the best start to motherhood. The event was held in partnership with the Area Office, CP5, VCS organisations and the Primary Care Network. The event successfully supported 58 new and expectant mothers to have positive health outcomes surrounding their pregnancies.

Example 3: Consultation between parents and professionals highlighted that there was a significant need for support for families with 0–5-year-olds with potential SEN. In response to this, the Ward officer was successful in accessing in excess of £20,000 from the Community Partnership to employ a specialist worker to support families to access resources to support both parent and child through peer led support and statutory intervention.

“Play and Thrive” was formed through this work, a parent led group with board members all having SEND lived experience, to offer a 10-week programme including parent led support and training, weekly toddler groups, stay and play and speech therapy.

The project enabled over 50 families to access support to EHCPs, social emotional support and access to diagnosis pathways.

Example 4: The Area Office built relationships through Peel Park Hub with Better Place to offer a space during the winter months that enables Better Place to continue their vital work with under 5s, reducing the risk to young children and families whilst continuing to offer play and enrichment opportunities, delivering family support such as winter clothing and signposting to welfare advice services.

Example 5: The Area Team promoting the children and families information website, that has a range of services and opportunities for families in local communities <https://fyi.bradford.gov.uk/>

To enable the community to have access to up-to-date information, advice, and guidance. Using outreach and information stands at events, facilitated, and organised by the Area Teams and encouraging services to input their offer onto the website.

- **Working collaboratively with key partners to provide individual support to targeted families at primary and secondary schools.**

Example 1: The Area Team has attended several coffee mornings at primary and secondary schools across Bradford East, facilitated by the Early Help Team, to provide information and guidance to specifically target families that had been identified by professionals. This led to several families being able to access vital services, information, and support.

Schools collaborated with include Carlton Bolling Academy, Westminster Primary, Thornbury Primary, Horton Park Primary and Bankfoot Primary.

Example 2: Family support panels across Bradford East in specific neighbourhoods i.e. Thorpe Edge and Fagley. These family support panels are led by Ward Officers and supported by Youth Workers, Police, and other statutory organisations and aim to work with families and young people who are likely to come to the attention of statutory services such as the Childrens Trust and the Police due to poor behaviour, low school attendance and lack of family engagement.

A positive outcome from the panel was a family struggling with five teenage boys, none of whom were attending school. The panel of professionals were able to support the family by increasing school attendance by working with the school to offer alternative education placements. 1-2-1 support through Youth Workers encouraged the take up of local youth provision and volunteering. Parenting courses helped manage the home better and Police were engaged to highlight and prevent CCE.

Example 3: Neighbourhood and Community Services, alongside Youth Workers, have collaborated with Neighbourhood Policing Teams, Children's Social Care, Early Help and Bradford Children's Trust including Breaking the Cycle, B Positive Pathways / Edge of Care services and VCS organisations. This multi-agency approach has enabled services to offer bespoke support for families and young people to provide localised interventions addressing ASB issues. i.e., Safer Streets Project which involved targeting young people in school years 5 and 6 at risk of exclusion and supports them back into positive pathways (Thorpe Edge and Fagley). Roadshows educating and raising awareness of criminal exploitation, drugs, and knife crime (Little Horton).

- **Education programmes and events for children, young people, and families to improve confidence and attainment levels, particularly in literacy, communication, and comprehension.**

Example 1: The Ward Officer, in partnership with WomenZone, organised the BD3 literacy festival held at Myra Shay. The event provided local children with access to free reading books, a reading corner to bring stories to life, and fancy dress to encourage children to be creative and use their imagination. The event supported low-income households to access free literacy resources to remove barriers and increase access to education and develop a love of reading through engaging activities.

Example 2: The Ward Officer in Eccleshill has worked closely with local libraries and primary schools to promote and encourage regular access to library programmes such as craft activities, singing, bear passports and certificates for regular reading. Through this connection, St Clare's Primary now attend Eccleshill Library on a regular basis to provide new opportunities to access literacy and reading.

Example 3: The Ward Officer has linked Primary Schools into local offers at the Science and Media Museum such as the Bedtime Stories Event at Carlton Bolling Secondary School. Families from across BD3 accessed the event which promoted the benefits of and encouraged parents to spend time at home reading with their children and shared ideas and storytelling techniques.

- **The Area Team working with partners to enhance local opportunities for children and young people to engage in meaningful play experiences that promote problem solving, resilience and confidence in outdoor play.**

Example 1: The Area Team organising events such as the Peel Park Scarecrow Trail and Easter Egg Hunt to offer free outdoor experiences in the park that are accessible to people of all abilities, to encourage social interaction and engage in physical activity whilst challenging their minds with interactive quizzes.

Example 2: In Bradford Moor the Area Team has organised Under 5 play events at Bradford Moor Park and Bowling Park encouraging den building, muddy play, and resilience in families.

Example 3: In Idle Rec play sessions in partnership with Play Bradford target approximately 45 young people each week offering a range of play activities including cart building, sack races and jumping towers, challenging young people to use their minds and bodies differently during play activities.

Example 4: The Area Team has established a partnership with Get Out More CIC to offer regular forest schools during half term in Peel Park. A great opportunity to connect communities and nature, using local woodlands and parks to bring people together, to be active and improve wellbeing. The forest school experience includes elements of problem solving, managed risk taking and creativity through a diverse range of activities such as woodland games, art, den building, and campfires.

2.2 Raise the level of school attendance and reduce the number of children and young people at risk of exploitation.

Progress:

- **Working with schools encouraging networking to share best practice around common school issues such as attendance procedures to aid and reduce long term absences across the Locality.**

Example 1: The Ward Officer facilitating the sharing of successful attendance procedures between schools in BD3, to encourage schools to share best practice and adopt effective procedures to tackle low attendance.

- **The Area Office working with families who are new to the UK to establish stronger relationships with schools and develop a better understanding of the education system.**

Example 1: The Ward Officer organised and delivered an event for refugee families at Laisterdyke Hub targeting families from local schools. Schools were asked to bring along families to the event to give them access to a range of activities and meet different support-based services in the community such as The Anchor Project and Karmand Centre, giving families an opportunity to find out what is available for them within the community. The aim of the event was for families to speak to local professionals that could support them with any advice, welfare and housing support that would help improve their home life and minimise and barriers to attending school. There was also an opportunity to take part in fun activities to create a more relaxed environment for families to be able to speak only about their experiences.

Example 2: The Ward Officer in Eccleshill extended their support to Horton Housing who were housing families as part of the government ARAP scheme. Families were given advice and guidance on day-to-day issues and linked in with their local wardens and PCSO's as well supported with arrangements to access schools and GP services.

- **Increased parental engagement opportunities at primary school level to build stronger relationships with the community and enhance the offer to parents to engage, learn and invest in themselves.**

Example 1: Regular meetings between Parental Involvement Workers and Ward Officers has enabled information sharing to work together to address gaps in provision and create opportunities for adult learning and signpost parents to enrol on courses for self-development. This has led to sewing classes at Laisterdyke Hub targeting parents from Delius Special School, fitness sessions at Dixons Marchbank and a parents' walking group at the Myra Shay.

Example 2: The Ward Officer collaborated with Exceed Academies connecting them with CECOS College to offer learning opportunities for parents.

Parents, who had not previously engaged in learning, took part in functional skills, ESOL, IT and mental health training and, as a result, many of these parents are now involved in other activities in the school and the wider community.

Example 3: The Ward Officer worked closely with two primary schools in Fagley to connect them together and enable them to share resources to create a stronger offer for the community. This resulted in St Clare's offering space within their school to other primary school parents to access training and education opportunities including paediatric training.

Example 4: The Area Team is working with Bowling Park Academy to set up a parent's group, linking partners such as Better Place Bradford to run sessions, offering parents an opportunity to engage in community-based projects, meet new people and a platform to carry out consultation around skills and education opportunities.

- **Neighbourhood and Community Services taking a collaborative approach, bringing in partners to target schools with low attendance. To understand and address poor attendance by supporting students with bespoke and individualised programmes, helping to reduce the numbers of young people on NEET programmes, missing in education or non-attenders.**

Example 1: The "Think Forward Project" at Delta Hanson Academy is a multi-agency response instigated due to behavioural issues spilling out of the school into the local community, poor attendance and ineffective communication between parents, school, and other statutory services.

A collaboration between NCS, Delta Hanson Academy, WYP, Early Help, Council Attendance Team and Youth Justice System led to several positive interventions, including.

Delta Hanson having a better understanding of the needs of the community and a better relationship outside of their boundaries. Relationships between the school, young people, and their parents were improved. There was a significant increase in attendance. Support for young people's social emotional mental health and wrap around support for issues within the home environment contributing to low attendance. Young people were supported back into education through managed moves, reduced timetables, and alternative provisions and there was a reduction in community issues caused as a direct result of those not in education.

Example 2: The Laisterdyke Hub and Bradford Moor Pass worked together to carry out targeted outreach and offer support to vulnerable young people who were not attending secondary school, spending their day in local parks. Youth Workers were able to build relationships with these young people to understand the barriers to accessing education and, through these relationships, were able to support reintegration back into education and support with access to alternative provision.

Example 3: Youth Workers offer vital support to young people across secondary schools in Bradford East through the Youth in Mind Programme. Youth Workers offer a bespoke service which supports the mental wellbeing of young people through 1-2-1 and group sessions which focus on health, wellbeing, and positive behaviour changes. The sessions aim to boost self-esteem, build resilience, and learn new coping mechanisms to help them navigate through life. The work within schools also builds capacity for young people to access youth provision in community settings to keep them engaged outside of school time.

- **A collaborative approach to addressing and overcoming perceived and existing fears of young people who are moving from the safety of a smaller primary school environment to a larger more independent secondary learning environment, to prevent the risk of absences and low attendance.**

Example 1: The "Moving up Project" is a programme developed to enable a smoother transition from primary school to secondary school. This was delivered to Year 6 students in Eccleshill and Bowling and Barkerend Ward by Youth Workers. A targeted piece of work that focused on young people in Year 6 to give them practical skills, enabling a confident transition from primary to secondary school. The project connects young people with other young people who will be attending the same secondary school to build peer support networks and provide an opportunity for friendships and familiarity. Young people are then supported by Youth Workers during their first term of secondary school through check ins and access to open access youth sessions in the local community.

Example 2: The Ward Officer is working with Bradford City Football Foundation to deliver a BD5 School football tournament, specifically aimed at Year 5 and 6 pupils. The tournament will take place in local secondary schools, supporting pupils to become familiar with secondary school environments and providing them with an opportunity to socialise with pupils from other schools that they may encounter during their transition, encouraging new friendships and support networks.

- **Creating opportunities to offer guidance and support to families at locally accessible venues to improve attendance and increased knowledge of available services within the community.**

Example 1: “Parents Evening Road Show” - The Ward Officer brought together a number of partners to attend parents’ evenings at primary and secondary schools across the Bowling and Barkerend Ward to increase accessibility to services and information. Partners included Neighbourhood and Community Services, Police, Fire, NHS, Children’s Services, school nurses and many more. Information regarding health and minor ailments was distributed to parents to educate around self-help and when to access medical support. This included guidance regarding which illnesses would prevent their child attending school to reduce unnecessary low attendance.

Example 2: Coffee Mornings at Fagley Primary School and St Clare’s Primary School have been organised and supported by the Ward Officer, where a range of services have been invited to speak to parents about provision available in the community that will benefit them and their children. These have been successfully received increasing participation in the coffee mornings and increasing numbers now accessing other provision. Parents have had an opportunity to request specific information and external partners have then been invited to deliver sessions relating to the needs of the group.

- **Initiatives designed to specifically target and support the diverse communities of Bradford East who do not necessarily engage with mainstream services, including education.**

Example 1: Neighbourhood & Community Services worked with the traveller community at Mary Street Caravan Site to apply for funding through the cleaner greener initiative to improve the environment around the Mary Street Site. The funding provided money for planters, revamped garden spaces and cleared waste from the site to make it more visually appealing. As a direct result of this engagement, the relationship between the traveller community and Council services has significantly improved, leading to VCS organisation Leeds Gate coming on board to provide learning and enrichment sessions for young people in the traveller community who are not accessing education through mainstream services at Laisterdyke Hub.

Example 2: Neighbourhood & Community Services has created a sanctuary for refugees and asylum- seeking families at Laisterdyke Hub by providing a safe space where the community can access a range of services and support including ESOL and wellbeing classes, youth provision and access to the library. Evidence of this can be seen with a thriving and confident Gambian Community in BD3 who now have their own constituted group supported by the Ward Officer.

2.3 Improve partnership working across schools, colleges, and VCS organisations in order to develop more joined up and additional services through integrated working and information sharing opportunities. Ensure that opportunities are created to hear and act on the voices of children and young people.

Progress:

- **Calendar of events and opportunities to share knowledge, information, good practice, and signpost for additional support, enabling parents and families to access local services.**

Example 1: Collaborative working with Better Start Bradford to offer a range of information at events across Bradford East. The Area Team has facilitated and accessed funding to arrange events in local venues for families at Laisterdyke Hub, Myra Shay, Bradford Moor Park, Peel Park and The Mayfield Centre that provide a “one stop shop” style event for the community to access a range of services that can offer support with physical wellbeing, welfare support and signposting to health-based services.

Example 2: Laisterdyke Hub and Library have devised a shared timetable of courses and activities taking place at the centre in order to share with families. The Area Team has organised classes and courses based on feedback from public consultation ie ESOL, sewing and functional skills at the centre and then collated a timetable to share with families via schools, social media and open days.

Example 3: Information sharing through the Parental Involvement Worker Network facilitated by the Ward Officer in BD3 of their respective parents’ courses timetables to offer opportunities to access courses at different schools, developing stronger relationships between schools and greater offer for parents.

Example 4: Area teams have worked closely with VCS organisations, schools and faith groups in order to create a directory of services within the Bradford East area, detailing activities, courses and professional support that is available. This has supported hard to reach groups and families to access and participate in provision in their neighbourhoods.

- **Utilising existing resources and services to increase the offer and create bespoke opportunities for children, young people, and families.**

Example 1: Following extensive consultation and work with residents in the Beech Grove area of Barkerend, 2 Covid cabins have been repurposed to develop into young people’s activity PODs. The PODs are in place at Beech Grove Park, an access ramp has been built and work to develop the inside and outside has begun. The aim is to use the PODs to provide activities for young people to reduce community tension and ASB, initially supported by our teams and youth service with the aim of them being taken over by community members. Area office staff have engaged residents in the area and have set up a Friends of Beech Grove Community group.

Example 2: The Youth Service offer a minimum of three youth work sessions in each ward across the Bradford East area. In many wards this offer is extended through partnership with Voluntary Sector Organisations. These sessions run from a wide range of venues and offer a range of activities for young people to access.

An example of this is the Youth Offer for Bolton & Undercliffe, with sessions being delivered in partnership with VCS organisations such as Sorted and Bolton Villas, specialist provision targeting SEMH, YiM work at Delta Hanson Academy and Feversham Academy, detached outreach provision to target and engage young people on the streets, and open access sessions at Peel Park Youth & Community Hub.

- **Creating new and innovative opportunities during school holidays to keep young people and families engaged.**

Example 1: HAF Provision in Bradford East has increased with several organisations now offering a range of HAF activities for families. This includes family fun days at the Laisterdyke Hub run by Neighbourhood & Community Services, where families can engage in activities together, receive a hot meal and access sports coaching, arts and craft activities and other fun activities.

Example 2: All wards within the Bradford East area, offer a range of summer holiday activities for young people. This is an extended offer that runs alongside the normal youth sessions. The summer programme is designed by young people, for young people and offers a range of activities for them to build connections to peer groups, build relationships with area-based youth workers and have fun. An example is the work at Ravenscliffe Youth Centre, where young people took part in a 2-night residential where they were able to challenge themselves by doing 'outdoor pursuits' including climbing, kayaking and night walking. There were various trips across the summer, which are invaluable as they help workers and young people to build those all-important youth work relationships. The Centre based activities, included sports sessions, cooking session and music sessions.

- **Creating opportunities for young people to have their voice heard in the community to influence the design and delivery of services, provision and opportunities.**

Example 1: Young people who access provision at Laisterdyke Hub were successful in securing £20,000 through LEAP to distribute through a grant giving panel. Young people, alongside Youth Workers, developed criteria and an application process for local community groups and individuals to bid for grants to develop art-based projects.

Examples of projects funded through this were for 2 young people to develop their music rapping skills by accessing a music studio to have their music produced professionally with a music video. A young person was also awarded funding to deliver art workshops in Attock Park, these were successful and attracted local families and young people to get involved in art in the community.

Example 2: Young people have been given the opportunity to co-design the Beech Grove PODs, alongside the community and Youth Workers. They will have the opportunity to decide on a range of activities that they would like to be delivered and to determine their vision of how they would like the PODs to look.

	<p>Example 3: As part of the community consultation process to create a living wall mural at Laisterdyke Hub, a number of workshops took place. Neighbourhood & Community Service staff led consultation workshops with young people to involve them in the design and development of the mural. They were then invited to the launch of the mural to see their design come to life.</p> <p>Example 4: Young people have also taken part in consultation on the design and development of Fagley Park and were instrumental in securing flood lighting for Ravenscliffe Park and a multi-use activity area, creating a safer and more accessible area through the winter months.</p> <p>Example 5: Supportinos is a youth work connect group for young people with SEMH, they design and develop community-based projects supported by a youth worker in BD2. One of their successful projects has been ‘Hurry for a Curry’, where the young people have approached local restaurants to sponsor them with food. They then sell these meals at low cost to the community, the funds they raise have enabled them to sustain their group and source additional opportunities and resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer opportunities for young people to enhance their experiences of the democratic process locally and nationally. <p>Example 1: Young people from the Karmand Youth Project and the Ravenscliffe Youth Centre undertook a 2-day residential trip to London to tour the Houses of Parliament and meet key decision makers in the country. This was part of a wider project in Bradford East through the Youth Service, to help young people understand more about the democratic process, including the right to vote and how national decisions are made that impact on communities in Bradford.</p>
<p>Better Skills, More Good Jobs, and a Growing Economy</p>	<p>3.1 Improve the employment opportunities for young people, particularly those who need additional support to transition into the labour market.</p> <p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted work between the Area Office, Skills House, partners, and the Youth Service to engage young people not in education and training to offer alternative activities and courses to encourage a positive attitude towards work and volunteering. <p>Example 1: Young volunteers at the Ravenscliffe Youth Centre have bid into funding through the Co-op. The group wrote about what they do on a weekly basis in the Ravenscliffe Youth Centre, from running a junior youth club, supporting an older residents’ group, and helping to plan activities and events at in the local area. The group was successful in securing £6800 towards activities and projects they are planning in 2024.</p>

Example 2: The Area Team leading on the Role Models Project in Bradford Moor and Barkerend have been identifying key community and professional role models to inspire young people and encourage positive career opportunities and pathways. The project is being developed in partnership with Bradford Media Museum and the Youth Endowment Fund. The aim is to set up a programme that supports young people in Years 6 and 7 to access information and advice from local professionals living in their community to make different employment opportunities and pathways feel realistic and achievable.

Example 3: Young people at risk of committing ASB or being exploited have been identified by a range of partners including from the Area Office, schools, and the Fire Service. Following several incidents of fire, an intense Safety Course was developed. The course will improve resilience, build young people's ability to handle emotions in pressurised situations and simultaneously develop skills for further education and employment. The course will include practical elements such as experiencing life at the Fire Station. Based on the learning from this course and young people's feedback, funding will be sought from the Prince's Trust to further support the young people on bespoke courses which will impact on the local area.

Example 4: Wardens have taken part in school projects including World of Work Week' and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), delivering workshops and activities allowing students to meet people from different sectors, challenge stereotypes and have some open discussions.

Example 5: At Laisterdyke Youth Club, young people have become volunteers as a pathway into the labour market. These volunteers enable us to target gaps in services i.e Gambian and EU. As an example, 2 volunteers started to work as casual workers and 1 gained full time employment, at the time there was only 1 other EU youth worker in the service. Both EU workers made a considerable difference over Covid due to their understanding of their community and being able to use their language skills to effectively communicate our message, advice and information to the EU community in Bradford Moor. A current Pakistani volunteer who was a mental health referral, has volunteered over 100 hours in the last financial year alone and has secured paid work with other parties whilst pursuing studies.

3.2 Increase the rate of adult employment by reducing the barriers to work.

Progress:

- **Opportunities to access education and training provisions locally.**

Example 1: The Ward Officer worked in partnership with Exceed Academies and CECOS College to offer learning opportunities for parents who had not previously engaged. The learners enrolled on various courses including functional skills, ESOL, IT and mental health training. Many of these parents are now involved in other activities in the school and wider community and are actively searching for jobs with the support of Skills House Job Coaches who have been linked in to the school via the Area Office.

Example 2: The Area Office team has been working with the traveller community at Mary Street Caravan Site. What initially started as an environmental project and developing the amenities within the Mary Street site has now turned into a positive working relationship between the Area Office, Leeds Gate, and the traveller community. Leeds Gate now provides education and resources through the Laisterdyke Hub for young people not accessing mainstream education.

Example 3: A partnership between Neighbourhood & Community Services, Clarion Housing and Skills House identified the need for more courses on SIA (Security) and CSCS (Construction). Laisterdyke Hub will be the centre used to facilitate the upskilling of Clarion tenants to provide them with new opportunities and skills to enable them to get into the labour market.

Example 4: There have been several volunteer job fairs across Bradford East with a range of stalls and workshops in place facilitated by the Area Team who have worked closely with Skills House to bring local employers such as LUBNA Foods and Morrisons to events, with a view to providing local accessible opportunities and removing barriers to residents gaining local employment.

3.3 Improve the skills attainment levels of the working age population.

Progress:

- **Develop and promote volunteering opportunities, work experience, apprenticeships, and skills with partners to increase confidence, inspire and encourage young people and adults to achieve their full potential.**

Example 1: 2 local young people developed through the Karmand youth provision over 6 years, Imaan and Hannah, have developed from quiet members of the group to junior leaders. They took part in several district wide projects from the Young Ambassadors programmes, where they worked with other young people to have a voice in the wider council structures, becoming young COVID volunteers, supporting young people through the COVID pandemic and participating in the Young Inspector's Project, inspecting schools on behalf of the Opportunity Area Fund.

Imaan was successful in gaining a paid YCA role, working in the Holmewood area supporting youth work connect groups. Imaan is studying Law at University and has recently secured a 6-hours youth support worker post in Bradford South. Hannah a YSW worker in the Bradford East Team. This example is one of many; young people often start in youth provision as members, then move into volunteering and then on to paid work and training and qualifications.

Example 2: The Ward Officer in Bradford Moor facilitated a post-16 employment event at Laisterdyke Hub, strategically targeting young individuals completing their GCSEs, presenting alternative pathways beyond traditional academia. The event involved a range of employers and training providers offering opportunities and guidance to

young people who attended. Building on this success, our current focus involves an upcoming event in April, specifically designed for young people on NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) and who have SEN (Special Educational Needs). This event aims to bridge gaps by offering live vacancies, CV support, and mock interviews conducted by employers on-site. The comprehensive approach extends to secondary schools and alternative education provisions.

Example 3: Five Lane Business Watch – The Ward Officer is currently facilitating a business forum with Enterprise Five aiming to tackle ASB, however the aim is to also work with the local businesses to create a series of digital skills badges which can be worked towards by prospective employees. Businesses will have a say on what skills are needed. When the prospective employee gains the skills, they are guaranteed an interview with the employer.

Example 4: Project on Guard is supported by the area team to support young women who have been exploited through confidence building and raising self-esteem. Women into learning have led a recognised NFC coaching qualification, giving these women an opportunity to gain work experience at the gym on a voluntary basis through supporting other survivors of exploitation and victims of abuse.

Example 5: The Area Team has facilitated adult learning through Mosques and has recognised this is a key part of reaching communities. Adult learning courses including ESOL have been positively received by Masjid-Al-Minar and Masjid Ibahim in BD3 and Madni Masjid in BD5. The aim of using faith-based venues is to reach those locally who do not normally access community centres or other local venues but have strong relationships with their faith.

Example 6: 10 young people have been trained in a range of arts and cultural activities at Laisterdyke Youth Club including mendhi, facepainting, hair braiding and tattooing helping the centre deliver its holiday programmes. The aim is to encourage young people to give back to their community, as well as reducing the reliance on costly artists. Nearly all the young people involved have then delivered for other organisations or private individuals in a paid capacity. This investment into local young people allows the community skill base to grow, allows young people to learn about the world of work and the responsibilities this brings, and enables workers to support them with positive references. From the 10 young people Youth Workers have developed to offer these services, most were mental health referrals, a few have social services interventions and are representatives of the local community, i.e. Gambian, Pakistani, EU and White.

Decent Homes and the Visible Environment

4.1 Improve and maintain the quality of private-rented and social housing and empower tenants to address issues.

Progress:

- **Strong partnerships have been established with social housing providers and other partners, particularly Incommunities, Manningham Housing Association, Places for People, Neighbourhood Policing Teams, Environmental Enforcement and the Housing Standards Team across Bradford East.**

Example 1: In the Ravenscliffe area, Incommunities are working with the Ward Officer on a focused piece of work to target and address poor housing standards and gardens. This will include home visits and enforcement action as appropriate. Residents will be offered advice and support to address any concerns they may have. This will also be used as an opportunity to connect residents to existing local offers from health to education at the nearby Gateway Centre and Ravenscliffe Youth Centre, who provide services and activities which target the fundamental causes of poverty, social exclusion, unemployment with the focus to overcome barriers to educational attainment, employment and improving residents' quality of life.

Example 2: With support from the Area Team, over 40 properties were visited in partnership with Manningham Housing Association, addressing several issues from environmental to health and safety concerns. As a result of this, neighbouring properties came together to form a residents' community group who now liaise directly with each other to address low level community concerns and when additional support is required the group are the voice who liaise with relevant organisations. This was particularly effective in reducing tension over the bonfire period. Residents were also informed on how to report local issues and provided with information on how to use the Council APP.

Example 3: The Area Team has shaped Neighbourhood based policies with Incommunities at Amberley Court. Complaints were received regarding residents who posed a higher risk to the members of the community due to lifestyle choices and criminal behaviour. Through partnership working and support from West Yorkshire Police, residents have been educated and supported with welfare visits and given advice on issues such as cold callers. Partnership working has also been formed so services are aware of any potential risks and threats to the locality.

Example 4: Scheduled community driven clean ups and walkabouts have taken place across the Wards with partners to raise awareness of support available to those in need. Neighbourhood Wardens are active in the community promoting local offers, recycling, reporting fly tipping, and facilitating community litter picks. A clean up was arranged with Places for People at Allanbridge Close to improve the visual amenity and bring residents together with a planned BD10 in bloom project focusing on modest street enhancements and garden improvements to give residents that sense of ownership and community empowerment. At Beech Grove residents have adopted an ABCD approach with support from Neighbourhood & Community Services and regular newsletters have ensured residents are updated and involved in activities from community action days to fun days at the local park. The community is taking positive action to make improvements in the area and are keen to continue the work with the Ward Officer, Assistant Ward Officer, Youth Service, Neighbourhood Wardens and other partners to develop the area. Regular door knocks with partners have also gained a greater insight into issues and to have encouraged support and actions from residents to resolve issues.

Example 5: Working with the Council's Empty Homes Team, the Ward Officer and Assistant Ward Officer did a focused piece of work in West Bowling, addressing the issue of long-term empty properties at St Stephen's Road. The properties were being misused for varying reasons including ASB, misuse of drugs and other crimes with elderly residents contacting the Area Team regarding the impact this was having on their well-being. Through the support of

the team and exploring the best options with owners and landlords and encouragement and support to the in-house teams to find tenants, these properties have now been brought back into use and let resolving the ASB and other longstanding problems.

4.2 Improve housing accessibility to enable more independent living for older people and people with disabilities.

Progress:

- **Ward Officers and Neighbourhood Teams working in partnership with VCS, emergency services, landlords and residents towards a voluntary code of conduct, ensuring properties are fit for purpose and providing residents with the skills and support for independence and improving social interactions.**

Example 1: A landlord and tenants pack providing educational advice and outlining legal responsibilities has been developed. The aim is for tenants and landlords to comply and come to an agreement with expectations, avoiding formal action but keeping the neighbourhood clean and safe. For example – The tenant will receive advice and expectations on how to correctly store waste (e.g. – in the correct bin, black bags not uncontained on the floor). The landlord would in turn receive expectations and agree to ensure any previous waste from occupants has been removed, the property has a bin correctly numbered and residents are given adequate information on where to present their bins and on what days.

Example 2: In Bradford Moor, in partnership with Manningham Housing Association and West Yorkshire Fire Service, the Ward Officer facilitated residents having fire safety checks with 20 properties receiving smoke alarms as they either did not have one or required a replacement. Educational talks were also given to residents on what to do in the event of a fire and how to protect their property. This location was identified due to the vulnerability of the residents and has now provided them with lifesaving tools to detect the early warning signs of a fire.

Example 3: Connections via the Ward Officer led to the Fire Service attending the Upper Bolton Social Club's over 55 group to deliver their "Safe and Well" advice and support. Follow up home visits were arranged with residents to look at several issues from health and safety to fire safety. Issues such as how to avoid slips, trips and falls were discussed, along with the offer of vibrating alarms for those hard of hearing to alert them in the event of a fire-, and fire-retardant blankets for those who have limited mobility. Sessions were also facilitated with an IT provider to give residents the knowledge and confidence to do everyday tasks such as order online shopping.

Example 4: A range of organisations have been supported across Bradford East through the Area Office and have received funding for Warm Spaces, Welcoming Spaces and other projects that enable the community to remain independent. Ward Officers have advocated for organisations such as St Andrew's Methodist Church, WomensZone, MHA Communities & Karmand Community Centre and have subsequently received funding to provide services such as elderly day care and elderly drop-in sessions at Thornbury Centre and wellbeing groups

providing support to elderly women aged 55+ to reduce isolation by taking part in activities such as dance sessions, knitting and socialising at WomensZone.

Example 5: At St Andrew's Church, Pain Management courses have been funded through the Community Partnership with the need advocated by Ward Officers who work with residents suffering with long term chronic pain caused by injury or illness. Residents also receive support on how to avoid slips, trips, and falls and advice and support on the most up-to-date treatment options with the primary target of improving function and quality of life, despite pain and form friendships with other people who can understand and sympathise with the limitations that pain can have on their life.

4.3 Improve the energy efficiency of homes and support people to manage household budgets.

Progress:

- **Area Teams, working in partnership with VCS, to educate and engage with residents to give them the skills and resources to make their homes efficient, comfortable, and warm all within their means.**

Example 1: BCADS working with the Ward Officer Team has been funded, alongside the Independent and Childrens Family Services, to work in Neighbourhoods with schools and nurseries to support families with the focus being to empower and support those seriously in need and at risk. The organisations provide food parcels to families, translation of legal documents, supporting GP appointments, debt advice and money management.

Example 2: Using Neighbourhood Connect to offer lifelines to those in need such as a local resident who having lost his job, found himself in food and fuel poverty. Being on the verge of losing his home, he became very lonely and isolated. Neighbourhood Wardens, through a series of visits, uncovered the extent of the resident's struggles. The Neighbourhood Wardens linked him with a financial advisor at the Jubilee Centre, a local VCS organisation, who offered a wraparound service from providing him with food items, a mobile phone and legal services to fight the repossession of his home.

This resident now actively engages with the Jubilee Centre, fostering social connections and utilising available resources. He has retained his home and says, "life is getting better; I can see light." His mental health has improved, and he regularly ventures out into the neighbourhood with his new-found friends.

Example 3: A community-led foodbank was set up at Laisterdyke Hub, delivering bespoke food parcels with culturally appropriate foods – reaching over 162 households and 823 individuals every month. HAF provision was also run targeting low-income families, this included 10 sessions during school holidays, sessions including fun activities as well as cost of living advice and warm food for participants.

Example 4: The Area Team has intimate knowledge of the neighbourhoods and links to organisations and how these organisations can offer support to local people. The Area Team identifies funding opportunities for these

organisations and advises how this support can then be delivered at a local level. An example of this is the BD3 PIW Network, linking low-income families with UKSPF funded organisations such as Karmand Centre. This has enabled a connection between low-income families identified by schools to organisations who can support with tangible items such as warm clothing, food parcels and some families receiving fuel top ups and advice on money management and how to manage existing debts.

Example 5: The Area Team secured funding to support the need in Eccleshill for Fagley Primary School. Relationships have been established with families through the school's parental engagement worker who reached out to those families struggling with the cost of living crisis. Tangible items such as warm clothing, food parcels, air fryers and slow cookers will be provided to these families. Partners will also be pulled into the school coffee mornings to discuss debt management, energy efficiency and support when seeking employment and developing skills.

Better Health, Better Lives

Community Partnerships (CPs): Community Partnerships are informal networks of statutory, voluntary and community organisations that work together to address health inequalities and improve outcomes for their local populations. Within the Bradford East Ward there are two main Community Partnerships: **5 Lane Community Partnership** and **Community Partnership 5**. Both Community Partnerships have aligned their work to support the Better Health, Better Lives priorities outlined in the Bradford East plan. Ward Officers, Assistant Ward Officers, Head of Community Partnerships for Bradford East & Craven & Reducing Inequalities Manager work closely together to ensure partnership working is robust, resources are used effectively and gaps in provision are identified and addressed.

Increase access to timely and inclusive support for healthy lifestyle choices:

Self-Care Sessions and Events – Ward Officers have been instrumental in supporting organisations with advice and/or funding to run events and activities that bring people together to reduce isolation and loneliness and improve mental, physical and emotional wellbeing. Chai and chat, arts and crafts, stretch and flex, gentle walks, Rohingya Men's Football Group and men's motion fitness are a few of the activities run at centres such as Guru Gobind Singh Gurwara, Karmand Centre, Laisterdyke Hub, Women's Zone, Oneness Centre, Ibraheem Mosque and Myra Shay.

Example 1 – Activities at Laisterdyke Hub: The newly developed offer of activities, in partnership with Happy Healthy You, has helped to enhance the local offer for people of all ages, ensuring there is provision in the area for Neighbourhood Connect referrals.

Example 2 - Men's Information Market at Laisterdyke Hub: This event focussed on self-care with 26 stalls and the opportunity to participate in free health checks. Some of the men were referred for immediate consultations with their GPs as a result of the health issues identified. Taster exercise sessions also generated interest. £7500 funding was obtained to run weekly sessions in the area, including Yoga, a walking group and a support group.

Richard, a local resident stated, “*Us men we often don’t know where to go for help and support once we build up the nerve to seek it. This event was a real eye opener, and I would like to thank the Council Staff at Laisterdyke Hub who have really helped me on my journey*”.

Example 3 – Health MOTs: To improve self-care, awareness of heart health and access to medical services, Ward Officers have organised health checks with a range of statutory services and VCS organisations, in conjunction with Community Partnerships and/or PCNs. Each event has included Health MOT’s and health messaging. The high blood pressure readings have been concerning with 61% presenting at Madni Mosque with abnormal blood pressure. An average of 165 people attended 3 separate health MOT events in BD3. Some of the health events have been themed or targeted specific people such as men/women and Feb 2023 – Child Health (over 300 families attended), June 2023 – Severe Mental Illness (75 people attended), October 2023 – COPD, Hypertension & Heart Disease (330 attended), February 2024 – Early Cancer Diagnosis health event is proposed.

Example 4 – Development of the Milgul Group: Ward Officers have been working with a group called Milgul who develop activities and services for women in the area. The committee is also formed of women who have faced issues of domestic abuse, depression, and low self-esteem. The group was becoming overwhelmed following an increase in demand for services so staff at the area office have supported them to organise events and targeted services including a self-care event at the Hub to sign post women to advice and support agencies in relation to domestic abuse, as well as encouraging neighbours to look out for red flags.

Raising awareness and education regarding self-care and increasing the take up of screening.

Example 1 - Engaging Communities CIC: Community Child Health Worker (CCHW) (5 Lane End CP) supports families with children from birth to 5 years to access a range of services including breastfeeding advice, smoking cessation, perinatal mental health support and parent education, particularly those families who do not engage with services. October to December 2023 *over 100 local families* have been reached and offered signposting or direct support.

Example 2 – Increasing breast screening: The Ward Officer has identified areas where take up for breast screening is low and she has linked health care specialists with organisations such as Nisa Shine and Peacemaker International’s Women’s Group to undertake a targeted piece of education and awareness-raising work in relation to breast care. This involved teaching women how to self-check and myth busting to break down cultural barriers to breast screening.

Example 3 - Maternity Circles at The Gateway and Fagley (5 Lane End CP): The aim of the Maternity Circles is to improve experiences and outcomes of pregnancy and birth for women living in the 5 Lane CP area by providing support to women/and their partners during the first 1001 days of pregnancy and following birth. Those that feel isolated or need support around their pregnancy/being a new mum/parent are targeted. Women are currently signing

up for the Gateway MC and there is a large WhatsApp following which provides support and information. The Fagley MC is due to start in March 2024.

Supporting access to adequate healthy food:

Example 1 – Having fun finding food: Fishing for food has played a huge role in many of the elders who migrated from Pakistan in a region which also holds Mangla Dam. Working with Asian elders at Attock Park, the Area Team supported around 15 people with children to go to Kilnsey who caught more than 200 hundred fresh trout, paying less than £1 a fish. At a time when the cost of living is so high, having access to fresh fish from a sustainable source which is cheap to purchase and involves the satisfaction of catching your own produce is very rewarding to the community. Such was the interest that another day was organised and by doing this fishing mentors stepped forward and started to take their own peers and their families. It is a common occurrence to be sat at Kilnsey and a group from Bradford Moor arrives - this activity generates monthly visits to the farm.

Example 2 - Youth-led food bank: The Supportinos Youth Group is a Youth Work Connect Group that supports young people who are struggling with their social and emotional mental health. Conscious of the cost-of-living crisis, the young people were keen to develop a community project to offer food to people. They set up a food bank at Peel Park Hub over the summer holidays 2023. They obtained food from local businesses and markets and over 1325 people benefited from the project and access to free fresh food. This food bank and initiatives such as the 'The Hurry for a Curry Project' gives them a focus and develops confidence and self-esteem and improves mental health. This removes some of the need for more mental health interventions from specialist services.

Example 3 - “Let’s do it Together” (5 Lane End CP): The Ward Officer is working with Methodist Housing Association to support people aged 55 plus to make important lifestyle changes. They will encourage peer support and improve motivation by offering weekly cook and eat sessions and exercise opportunities to people who are potentially isolated / lonely who live in the area.

Example 4 – Healthy Eating: Young people in a number of youth projects take part on a weekly basis in cook and eat sessions. These sessions are led by young people and supported by youth workers. Young people often use the internet or cook books to look for healthy recipes, work with a youth worker to purchase ingredients and then cook healthy food within a youth session. This is then shared with other young people, normally around a table!

Improve access to mental and physical health support:

Youth Workers have worked with staff from the Area Team and other partners to create opportunities for young people to build their self esteem and skills through various recreational opportunities.

Example 1 – Social, emotional and mental health support for young people: Youth Workers work within each of the 8 secondary schools in the Bradford East area. This work is part of a district wide response to young people’s social, emotional and mental health. Over the past 12 months Youth Workers have worked with over 400 young people in Bradford East through education, supporting their mental health and connecting them with community-based support, through youth projects and other youth activities. The project helps to connect young people to their local area, making them feel safer and more informed about their local area. Schools have continued to express how beneficial this work has been, and schools are allocating more funding to deliver more sessions in schools. Youth Workers work alongside safeguarding staff to support young people who are on the edge of social care and support families through the early help agenda, in order to keep them from falling into higher support tiers.

Example 2 - “Girls Can” Project: The ‘Girls Can’ project was dreamed up and is led by a Ward Officer and Youth Worker passionate about football and is a partnership between Bradford City Community Football Foundation, Neighbourhood and Community Services and Carlton Bolling School. The project is funded through the Football Association to increase the participation of young women from diverse backgrounds in sport, focussing initially on football. Qualified female football coaches, who act as role models for the young women and girls, will run sessions. The participants will be fed into local football clubs once they have the confidence and the skill set. The young women will be encouraged to undertake coaching awards and FA approved refereeing awards. The established partnership between the organisations has recruited young women through schools, community connections and youth work. The sessions started in January 2024 and are attracting good numbers.

Example 3 - Free Premier League Kicks Sessions for young people: The Area Team has supported Bradford City Foundation and West Yorkshire Police to respond to local need regarding anti-social behaviour of young men from the Little Horton area. Through local data of reported ASB issues, the partnership worked together to establish a youth session on a Friday evening when the issues were most prevalent. The session is sports-based at Newby Primary School and is aimed at young men. Over 20 young men attend weekly with the session being a catalyst to engage young men who have been identified as at risk of criminal exploitation and have been involved in ASB in the local area. This work is part of a longer-term process, where youth workers are able to target the young men on more specific work, for example run awareness sessions on knife crime and ASB and direct them to other local positive provision on other days of the week.

Removing barriers to health care services for vulnerable people:

Example 1 – Supporting young people with neurodiversity: Youth Workers support many young people experiencing neurodiversity and other barriers that mean that they don’t enjoy the same opportunities to participate. A Youth Worker supported LEAP, a VCS organisation, with an application from a group of autistic young people interested in horticulture who wanted somewhere quiet and safe to meet and engage in activities. The Youth Worker supported and advocated for the young people who now help out at an allotment.

Example 2 - Safety First “Good Life” (CP 5): This project will focus on prevention of serious mental illness providing holistic support, with a focus on removing barriers to services to tackle health inequalities; the offer will include access to counselling, support into employment; and promoting self-care.

Example 2 - The Brathay Trust “Unite Project” Integration of Refugees (CP 5): Support 2 x cohorts of 20 young refugees, displaced by war, and improve their physical and mental wellbeing by integrating them into the community through activities and engagement. The project is being co-designed with young people, with a buddy system and residential.

Example 3 - The Salvation Army & Bevan Healthcare: Occupational Therapist at The Orchard (CP 5): The offer made through the existing day shelter for homeless and vulnerably housed people will be extended through a sustained occupational therapist-led programme of support that is linked with wider services. The project will aim to reduce social isolation, poor mental and physical health and increase independent living skills.

Example 4 - Anchor Project & Healthy Happy You Support for Refugees (CP 5): A Refugee Community Health Worker who is a member of the refugee community will be employed to work with refugee and asylum seekers to access healthcare, understand services, local provision; manage their own wellbeing, increase health literacy; access trauma-based wellbeing support; recruit and support volunteers; strengthen community partnerships and to support the community in to careers in health care.

Example 5 - Pain Management programme (5 Lane End CP): The 5 Lane Community Partnership funded 3 courses of the 12-week pain management programme which provides classes to anyone who experiences hip, knee or back pain. The programmes were delivered at different sites across the 5 Lane CP area. The classes provide a gentle, individualised activity programme and a place for local people to build social networks. Each group has had a **minimum of 8 participants** attending.

Example 6 - Transport Project (5 Lane End CP): A small grant from 5 Lane Community Partnership has enabled the transport service to pilot a model of enabling friendship groups to meet monthly, in small groups, at a place organised by them. During the 6 months’ pilot project, the transport service provided **28 outings** for the different groups **plus transport to Warm Spaces**. This project has been extended to 12 months and there is now a waiting list for this service.

Raising awareness and access to support in relation to sexual health issues and teenage pregnancies, including sexually transmitted diseases which are rising in parts of Bradford East.

Example 1 - Targeting sexual health of young people in Idle and Thackley and Eccleshill: Meetings are being facilitated by the Ward Officer with partners to consider how to work together to tackle Increasing teenage pregnancy rates in parts of the ward. Consultation is being undertaken with young people to understand how to engage them in

making more effective and informed choices. Locala, a community health care charity, will be providing support and services in the area, work will be undertaken in schools and accessible free contraception for all is being explored.

Example 2 – Supporting the Roma community: Recognising the need to be sensitive to Roma cultural norms and taboos and appreciating the difficulties some Roma face understanding and accessing services effectively has been important in building trust with the community. In terms of sexual health, the Ward Officer has worked with European Drom to help them to establish links and trust with Farrow Medical Practice who will apply for funding from the Community Partnership to replicate a project around sexual health that was delivered in BD7.

Example 3 – Access to C Card for condom distribution at Ravenscliffe Hub: Youth Service are trained to distribute condoms to young people in a safe controlled way focusing on healthy relationships and safeguarding. Youth Service staff work in a culturally sensitive way in other parts of Bradford East to discreetly support young people around sexual health.

Significant financial investment into parks in Bradford East to replace and repair infrastructure:

Example 1 – Peel Park: The Ward Officer has worked with partners including Friends of Peel Park to enhance facilities including a brand new and vastly improved upper play area costing in excess of £100,000, repairs to all 3 sets of steps in the park, replacement of the fencing around the bowling green due to historical damage, resurfacing of the tennis court, installation of 2 table tennis tables and planting of new trees.

Example 2 – Bradford Moor Park (FOBMP): Working alongside Friends of Bradford Moor Park, staff from the Area Office have made a number of significant changes to improve the Park for local residents. Following consultation with residents and work with partners, improvements have included a new under 5s play facility, an outdoor gym area and a storage container for FOBMP to use for additional activities.

Example 3 - Improved facilities for young people on Ravenscliffe: Thanks to funding from JUMP lighting has been installed on the sports court at the back of Ravenscliffe Youth & Community Centre, enabling access until 9pm each evening. The youth service ran a series of consultation and engagement events with young people and their feedback has been very positive. A group of young people using the Sports Court said, 'this is sick, this is so good thanks for sorting this out' Parents also commented that it felt safer.

Bradford East Hubs are a lifeline for many people eliminating barriers and allowing participation and access to a range of services.

Example 1 - Thornbury Wellbeing Hub: From 1st April to December 31st 2023 Thornbury Wellbeing Hub supported 450 clients to access mental health support including depression/low mood, anxiety and isolation. The majority of referrals into the Hub was for welfare benefits and financial advice. The centre provides comprehensive support

through a range of initiatives, including wellbeing checks, arts and crafts sessions, coffee mornings, and specialized one-on-one counselling. Additionally, there are bereavement support groups, high-level needs counselling, and group counselling services. The centre offers welfare benefits advice and facilitates connections to Carer's Resources, Staying Put, The Bridge Project, and Refugee Action. Woodwork sessions and a Psychosis group are also part of the support services.

Example 2 – Bradford East Area Team Hubs: Improving health and wellbeing is a key part of all the hubs run by this Team. The repurposed bowling hut in Peel Park has become a hive of activity for community initiatives with a focus on health and intergenerational work resulting in increased use of the park for wellbeing activities. Laisterdyke Hub brings different people together and offers specific health-related activities targeting communities of interest and men's and women's work. At Ravenscliffe Hub young and older people come together to participate in activities that support positive physical and mental health including cooking sessions.

Example 3 – VCS Hubs: The Area Team supports the work of many VCS Hubs from faith-based organisations such as The Oneness Centre, mosques and churches to other community based organisational structures connecting people, places and communities to services. For example, in Little Horton Shine West Bowling and the West Bowling Adice Centre have continued to grow and develop with support. Both premises are local community hubs which offer a broad range of vital support services extending from welfare and benefits advice, growing clubs, clothing bank, food support, wellbeing activities and much more. They also provide local people volunteering and support self-help groups to tackle local priorities.

Improve communications to ensure that people access healthcare services at the right place and right time:

The Area Team is involved in disseminating information to support people to access healthcare services:

Example 1 – Distribution of 'Kids' Health Information Hub' Poster – Members of the Area Team have been involved in using networks to extend the reach of information to improve the health of babies, children and young people. The poster, produced by the Health and Care Partnership, includes QR codes relating to different illnesses such as asthma attack, croup, coughs and colds and vaccinations that advises parents and carers what action to take.

Example 2 – Living Well Toolkit: The Ward Officer supported the pilot in Barkerend of development of the launch of the "Living Well Faith Settings; a toolkit for promoting healthy behaviours through madrasas and other Islamic faith settings" which will be rolled out in February.

Example 3 – FYI: This is the Council's Families and Young Persons Information website that offers information and signposting for families in the Bradford District. Families and young people can find out about services and activities

across the district. Youth Workers ensure that all the activities are constantly updated and use the platform to advertise one-off events to extend reach.

Sustainable district

Improve opportunities to adopt approaches that involve reducing, reusing and recycling waste:

Example 1 - Junk modelling: Wardens led on a junk modelling project at Barkerend Primary School. Wood from the tip and donated wood was recycled into planters that the children planted.

Example 2 - Repurposing equipment: Ward Officers supported a faith-based organisation, The Oneness Centre, to repurpose donated gym equipment to a local mosque. Staff in the Area Team also work closely with the Police NPT Team and reuse soil and plant pots, seized from criminal activities, to support work at allotments, schools and community gardens. Shine in West Bowling used compost obtained through the Area Office to complete their community garden which is now used as part of their wellbeing offer. Old cameras that could no longer be used to catch fly tippers were allocated to schools as part of biodiversity studies and are used to capture and study wildlife.

Example 3 - Repair Shop: Ward Officers engaged tutors from Bradford College to deliver courses in repairing and recycling at St Vincent's. Participants gained skills and residents were able to obtain low-cost essential household items.

Example 4 – Helping young people to maintain their bikes: The Youth Workers support Doctor Bike sessions where young people are invited to bring their bikes to an experienced cyclist mechanic who will support them to make their bikes road safe and maintained by checking their bike from their wheels, brakes, gears etc. This gives young people valuable skills enabling them to maintain their own bikes. Summer 2023 sessions took place at Ravenscliffe Hub, Idle Rec, St James' Church, Peel Park and Horton Park.

Example 5 - Repairing unwanted and damaged bikes and redistributing: Bradford Moor PASS, supported by a Youth Worker, recycle hundreds of bikes each year that would otherwise be scrapped. Local residents, trained as bike mechanics, assess and repair bikes and these are distributed to children and young people. Throughout the year volunteers fix bikes for a very small fee. Regular mechanic courses are run to increase the number of volunteers and bike rides are also organised. A contained has been repurposed into a mechanic shop to progress the work.

Stimulate interest in community growing initiatives and create more biodiverse environments:

Bradford East In Bloom – the Area Office Team has worked in partnership with organisations to encourage biodiverse gardens and spaces. BD3, BD5 and BD10 in Bloom will involve a range of initiatives from garden competitions, improving derelict land and gateways to trips to beautiful gardens to inspire people.

Example 1 - Rebranding and redevelopment of Beautiful BD5 Garden Competition into the BD5 in Bloom

Project: this now has a wider offer for the community such as subsidised trips to RHS Gardens making them affordable for all in the community, regeneration of unloved spaces across the ward, sponsorship from local businesses, community and VCS led approach, annual garden competition and gardening workshops. The competition also has a biodiverse garden category which rewards people wildflowers, trees and ponds.

Support for resident- and VCS-led Projects:

Example 1 - Improved garden area at St Vincent's: The Ward Officer has supported St Vincent's with a range of projects including the garden with raised beds and a play corner for children to grow and explore, is being managed by users of the centre. The fruit and vegetables grown in the garden are being used by people attending cooking classes to prepare meals at reduced cost.

Example 2 – The first hydroponic set up in the VCS in Bradford East: The Bradford Moor Youth Worker is driving a project with PASS and local residents to set up a polytunnel at Attock Park with an area devoted to hydroponics to complement the traditional garden area. Allotment holders in the area will be helping with the project as they're keen to learn how to grow without soil. With the support of the Youth Worker they have already managed to grow Saffron which the elder said could not be done in the UK. The Gambian community has challenged PASS and colleagues to grow cassava, as the leaves from this staple plant cannot be bought here and is so precious to them. It is hoped that the Gambian community will get involved in the challenge.

Example 3 – Sharing skills and interest in horticulture: Residents on Lister Avenue in East Bowling saw the community garden that PASS, a VCS organisation in BD3, had developed and were keen to replicate this on a derelict piece of land on Lister Avenue. PASS and Ward Officers supported local residents to obtain funding to clear the land, create storage and build planters. The residents have taken responsibility for individual beds and share produce.

Example 4 - East Bowling Garden: Wardens empowered residents to come together to address this fly tipping hotspot which they turned into a community garden. Wardens supported the group and provided resources from local businesses and some of the fly tipped waste was even used to create the bed. This verge has made the area look better and has also reduced fly tipping. The council no longer needs to maintain the verge. This has expanded into the residents taking on similar projects in other streets close by.

Transforming raised beds and grass verges:

Example 1 - Grass Verge Guardians: In response to complaints across the Bolton and Undercliffe Ward regarding damaged grass verges and vehicles parking on the verges, the Ward Officer launched a project called "Grass Verge Guardians". This involved repairing, restoring and protecting the grass verges from vehicular damage and bringing

some fun to the local streets with 'guardians' designed and made by the community. In partnership with ROC (Redeeming Our Communities) a few "build it days" were held where local residents helped design and make the 'guardians'. The first set of guardians were installed on a number of verges on Swain House Crescent.

Example 2 - Leicester Street Verge, East Bowling: Local residents have been supported by the Area Team to improve this area having seen the transformation of a similar verge on Coventry Road with a view to reducing asb and restoring pride. Lots of young men were sitting on a verge at Leicester Street and were smashing glass and being intimidating. The wardens supported the residents to get resources from local businesses and helped with planting. The local lads that were causing the asb got involved and the asb has reduced. Residents maintain the verge and get together at different festivals, and this has engendered community spirit.

Example 3 – BD3 Get Together: An initiative that began with repairing raised stone beds near Attock Park has gained momentum, with more residents and faith groups supporting planting with donated trees, shrubs and flowers. In the warmer months, this has brought young and old together to engage in activities to enhance the look of the area.

Allotments – the Area Office Team is working with colleagues in Asset Management to establish allotment associations to share growing tips, ideas and run competitions to identify the best plots in Bradford East.

Example 1 – Burnsall Road allotment site: Many of the plots are neglected and overgrown and to stimulate interest the Area Office Team has worked with residents to clear 2 plots for community use. Funding has been obtained for an anti-vandal shed and tools and items have been repurposed to create raised beds. The plots will be used to involve the community such as local schools, faith-based organisations, women's groups and young people in growing fruit and vegetables.

Example 2 – Derby Road Allotments: Following evidence of fly tipping and other anti-social behaviour at the site, the Assistant Ward Officer (AWO) worked with the Allotments Officer and local residents to develop an action plan. Door knocking was undertaken in the surrounding area with letters informing people how to dispose of waste responsibly and advising of enforcement action. The fly tipping and asb have reduced and the AWO will be working with plot holders to improve their plots and to bring other areas back into use.

Example 3 – Queen's Road Allotments: Ongoing problems with significant fly tipping and invasive and extensive coverings of knotweed have resulted in lots of unused plots at this site. The Area Team obtained funding to erect fencing to prevent the possibility of access for further fly tipping. A plan is in place to treat the knotweed in the spring 2024 which will enable the plots to be brought back into community use.

Example 4 – Methodist Homes Association (MHA) creating additional space for activities: A Ward Officer has liaised with the Council's Asset Management Team to obtain 2 allotment plots for MHA. MHA will use the space to

offer wellbeing activities to the people they support including outdoor exercises such as yoga and the opportunity to grow fruit and vegetables that they will then be involved in cooking and eating.

'Friends Of' Groups

Example 1 - Seymour Park is spruced up by residents who are learning new skills: Residents raised concerns about ASB, fly tipping, homeless tents, and expressed their fear of taking their children to the park, as well as their desire for making the park more community friendly and sustainable. Staff from the area office engaged partners such as ROC, NRC, Salvation Army and local residents and Friends of Seymour Park and other residents worked with ROC to develop their horticultural skills to improve and adopt planters, flower beds and took more responsibility for the upkeep of the park. This has increased membership of the friends of group and the taster gardening sessions have resulted in piquing people's interest in horticulture. ROC and Friends of Seymour Park continue to support members of the community to develop the Park.

Example 2 – Ravenscliffe Woods Walking Trail: Ravenscliffe Woods has suffered with litter and fly tipping so the Friends of Ravenscliffe Woods was set up to conduct regular litter picks. Ward Officers supported the group to become constituted so it could access funds to pay for things like litter pickers, tabards etc. There are plans to include local schools to access a walking trail.

Example 3 – Friends of Chapel Street Cemetery Restoration Project: Having campaigned to stop the cemetery from being sold, the group transformed an overgrown cemetery, that had been neglected for decades, by revealing graves shrouded in trees and vegetation. The wardens have supported the work and have provided soil, bark and other materials. It is proposed to develop a memorial garden as a quiet space for reflection and the Area Team will work with the group to obtain funding for items such as benches.

Work with local communities to promote more sustainable and environmentally friendly lifestyles, including increasing active travel and reducing the reliance on vehicles:

Supporting walking and cycling:

Example 1 – Supporting Cycling Hubs: The Ward Officer has worked with colleagues from Jump to support BMX Bandits to go into primary schools to deliver taster sessions to increase the take up of cycling.

Example 2 – Peel Park Youth Forum and Cycling and Bolton Road Cycling Club: the Ward Officer is working with 'Hop On' and other partners are working together to identify opportunities to extend provision including opening up at Peel Park Hub for their Ladies' Group and running groups in Bowling and Horton Parks. The Ward Officer has identified locations for Bolton Road Cycling Club to highlight opportunities for cycling, using the turbo cycle bike to create an interactive cycling experience to pique the interest in cycling.

Example 3 – Using cycling to overcome challenges and build confidence: 12 Youth Workers have qualified as bike leaders enabling them to facilitate group rides with young people across the district. In summer 2023 the Youth Worker at Ravenscliffe took young people on bike rides around local areas/beauty spots to encourage confidence and boost physical health.

Example 4 - Walking and cycling groups: Friends of Bradford Moor Park have obtained bikes to support ladies to learn to cycle and have a waiting list of ladies who are keen to develop this new skill. They also run walking groups.

Example 5 – Increasing the use of The Greenway for active travel: The Area Team, alongside local residents, Incommunities, Active Travel, Carlton Bolling School and Trident Rangers, is facilitating work to make this area more accessible and attractive for walking and cycling. The removal of overgrown shrubs and hedges, improved lighting, planting and the installation of benches will reduce anti-social behaviour. The Pods on Beech Grove will be used as a destination for socialising when using this route.

Example 6 – Walking to Friday Prayers: To encourage worshippers to walk to Friday Prayers, who ??? developed a project to promote the benefits of walking as opposed to relying on vehicles for such short journeys. Faith leaders have disseminated messages about the religious and health advantages of walking and pedometers were distributed.

Example 7 – Bankfoot Primary School Play Street: This school striders project between Bradford Trident and Cecil Green Arts was supported by the Ward Officer. This culminated in a street closure for a play street event. Following the success of this, residents are keen to continue to close the street for limited periods to enjoy outdoor play in a safe manner.

Example 8 – Newby Primary School Street Closure: To improve air quality a TRO is in place for the street leading to the school to be closed at school drop off and collection times. The Ward Officer has helped to manage initial negative feedback through education work with the school and parents and by the presence of Wardens.

Youth Service – Bradford East

Youth Service – 121 Work and Group Work

Each youth worker within the Youth Service carries a case load of young people referred by a range of services, these include education, CAMHS, GPs and Children’s Social Care. The referrals are made to get early support for young people and for families who are struggling with a wide range of issues. The work also supports statutory based services by reducing the need for more invasive social care interventions, supporting the district’s response to improving educational attendance and to reducing the need for clinical interventions through mental health services. Below is an overview of the outcomes of this work and examples of cases.

Edge of Social Care

Working with young people on the edge of social care refers to early intervention and support before families reach social care thresholds. Once a family enters the social care system there is a significant increase in costs for the local authority and positive outcomes for the family are significantly impacted. Through the Youth Service’s case work, young people and families receive timely interventions, which are tailored towards individuals at the right time to create opportunities for positive outcomes.



Case Example 1: Young person had lost both his mum and dad to long term illness before he reached his 8th birthday. His older sister stepped in to take care of him and became his legal guardian. Whilst the young person was at primary school his attendance was good, and he engaged well in community activities and had a positive attitude. When he transitioned to secondary school things started to become more difficult. The young person would refuse to attend school, he put on weight, and started to get into low level trouble in the community. The local community-based youth worker knew the young person through the Junior Youth Club, which he attended whilst he was at primary school and the youth worker knew the older sister as she also attended the youth club when she was a teenager. Through these community-based connections, the youth worker was able to connect with the family and identify barriers to his school attendance and his behaviour in the local community. The young person said he was bullied and hated going to school. The youth worker helped the sister speak to school by attending meetings, and supported her to get the support needed for the young person in a calm and controlled manor. The young person’s attendance has slightly improved, and he has started to attend the local youth project, where he is engaged in positive activities and continues to build professional relationships with workers.

Case Example 2: A single woman from the Bradford East area, with young primary school aged children, her house had been attacked by young people with fireworks and eggs thrown at the windows, this was over the bonfire period. The police were called several times and asked for support from the local community. Youth Workers and Neighbourhood Officers responded and engaged with mum reassuring her and her children that they were safe. Neighbourhood workers worked with the police to increase patrols and undertook daily visits alongside the police to ensure the woman was safe and felt supported. Social care had been involved in the past due to the children’s poor school attendance and the woman’s physical and mental health conditions, and as things were escalating again, school was planning on making a re-referral to CSC. Workers realised the woman was struggling with her mental health and brokered support from a local voluntary organisation. This support got her some counselling and someone

to talk to about her mental health. Workers have touched base with her every month since October and she now also receives food packages through the HAF programme. She was recently visited, and she explained to workers how she is a totally different person now, with the support she received, to the one that she was back in 2022.

Case Example 3: Young person was living with his mum and not attending school. He was in year 11 and had under 10% attendance, which spanned from when he was in year 10. Prior to this his school attendance was over 90%. The young person was referred through to the multi-agency Think Forward project that supported students at secondary school with poor attendance. Youth workers spoke with the family to look at what the barriers were. It became very clear that the young person was caring for his mum, that the house was in a poor state of repair and that mum had addiction to alcohol and was struggling with her mental health. The young person disclosed to a youth worker that he felt he couldn't leave his mum as he was scared she would be dead when he came back. Through connections in the local community, the family were provided with much needed furniture and white goods. Through contact with social care, the wider family became involved and offered respite for the young person. The young person felt he had missed too much of his schooling to sit his GCSEs, so with youth workers support he attended a local college, undertook assessments, and secured an apprenticeship. The young person is now 17 and employed and focusing on achieving his goals. Mum has support from a range of services for her addictions and her mental health.

Supporting School Attendance

The Area Team works with young people and families to support regular school attendance. This involves early identification of issues that could create barriers to attendance, for example undiagnosed SEND needs. Youth workers work alongside schools and colleges to identify young people at higher risk of low attendance and school dropout. They work to ensure that adequate interventions are in place to support students to regularly attend school and actively participate in learning. Workers also support young people and families to have a voice within education to express concerns and fight for the services they are entitled to. Those young people falling through the cracks and not engaging in education, through been a school refuser or through exclusion, are more likely to have a low level of educational attainment, lower paid jobs, unskilled jobs, be subjected to living below the poverty line and potentially more likely to be involved in crime.

Case Example One: Young person has not been at school since September 2023. She used to be a very bubbly and outgoing young person in primary school and attended her local youth club and dance lessons and had a good group of friends. When the referral was made by school, the worker thought they had made a mistake, school stated that the young person's attendance at school was under 10% and that she was struggling with her mental health but had not attended any appointments with clinical services (so any referral made was quickly closed, due to non-engagement). The first appointment with the young person was in her home, the worker spoke to mum who was worried about her daughter, as she did not leave the house, she had not washed for several weeks, had very matted hair and was eating very little. After the first appointment, the worker knew this wasn't a simple case of school non-attendance, and she knew a more clinical intervention and safeguarding was needed. After speaking to other services and getting a team around the child to support the family, which included social care, CAMHS and education, the worker started to visit the house weekly. The young person slowly started to engage, by getting out of bed for the visits. This has been a huge step forward and this has paved the way for other services to speak to the young person and put clinical support in place that she needs. She is now getting some schoolwork sent home and services are exploring if there are opportunities for home tutoring until she is well enough to return to school.

Case Example Two: Young person had not been in school since the start of December 23. She had failed her managed move towards the end of November so was moved back to her original school. The young person had stated that she didn't feel safe in her original school, this is due to her been physically attacked in a class whilst in lessons and whilst travelling to school. A Youth worker has supported the young person and helped her have a voice by attending meetings at school and expressing the reasons why she is in not attending and how she is feeling scared. School feel they have put things in place for her safety and that she should not be feeling worried about coming in and they feel she is making excuses to not attend. The young person is in year 11 and is a crucial time for the examinations and her future. The youth worker supported the young person by negotiating with school and insisting on a support package for her so she could sit her exams in May. They eventually offered a place in their bridge unit where she could take her lessons away from her peers. This was agreed as a short-term solution, to look at fully integrating her back into mainstream school within 8 weeks. The young person has agreed to try and will continue to work with her youth worker, developing her emotional intelligence and confidence to help her deal with bullies and communicate effectively with her teachers.

Case Example Three: Young person was referred to the youth work connect sessions in school and attended for 8 weeks. He was initially referred due to his behaviour and had been excluded for several days due to fights with other students and verbal aggression towards teachers. It took several weeks to build trust, this was done through fun interactive sessions, playing Jenga or a board game. After a few weeks, the young person started to talk about his anger and how he found it hard to keep control, especially when he is accused of doing something he didn't do. The worker explored through talking and art what triggered his anger, and discussed possible ways to avoid them or to deploy coping strategies so he was able to manage things better. The young person spoke a lot about how he felt he was letting down his dad and that his family wanted him to do well in school and go to university. He disclosed he struggles to do his homework as he is busy after school, and this is normally where they problems with his teachers start. The worker explained why teachers want students to do homework and he has choices, but with each choice comes consequences, for example exclusion from school means missing learning, missing learning means less success in exams, which means less choices when it comes to leaving school and his future. Now the sessions have come to an end, the school have noticed a big difference in his attitude and although there are still a few issues, the young person is dealing better with his emotions and has had no exclusions since finishing his sessions.

Reducing the need for specialist clinical interventions

Specialist clinical interventions in the mental health world can be costly and are often in high demand, meaning services are stretched with limited resources and young people are often waiting long periods of time for clinical mental health support. Youth work interventions either at an early intervention stage, before the young person becomes clinically mentally unwell or at a higher level through a step down / multi-agency approach to recovery have a high level of success.

Case Example One: The young person first met a youth worker whilst she was an inpatient at the BRI, she had been admitted 4 weeks earlier because of an eating disorder 'anorexia'. Her weight had become dangerously low and was impacting on her physical health. The young person was often alone in hospital due to her mum having to care for younger siblings and clinical staff busy with their duties. Her emotional health was deteriorating, and she was feeling down and weak due to her physical condition. A hospital-based youth worker visited her on the ward and spoke to her about school and friends, she explained that she didn't go to school or have many friends as she had spent a great deal of time in hospital. Through the visits, which took place daily, the youth work relationship developed and when the young person was discharged from hospital, she was encouraged to attend a local youth connect group by the youth worker and this has had such a positive impact on her mental health and physical health. She has made friends and connected with her peer group, she is involved in community-based projects, including the 'Hurry for a Curry'

Project and the Peel Park Food Bank. She still has her challenges, but having friends and connections to her local community is allowing her to think about her future and things are looking bright!

Case Example Two: Young person was referred to the youth service for support for his mental health. Things were difficult at home and the young person was part of a large single parent family and had recently lost a baby sibling the previous year. The young person was not going to school, he was struggling with anxiety and spending a great deal of time alone in his bedroom. When the youth worker visited the home and spoke to the young person and his mum, it was evident that they were struggling with their mental health and with the cost-of-living crisis. The worker engaged more services to support the family, including early help, health visitor, counselling services and a local voluntary organisation to support with food parcels. The young person started to engage with the youth worker and was encouraged to attend a youth work connect group in his local community. Through the group he started to make friends, his confidence developed, and he got involved in community events, for example supporting the Laisterdyke summer holiday activity days. Through this his mental health did improve and he started to go back to school after the summer holidays. The youth worker supported the family to apply for a bus pass, so the young person didn't have to walk the 7-mile round trip to and from his school (which was a huge barrier). The young person spoke to his worker about wanting to become a paramedic when he left school. Through workers in the team, they were able to arrange an ambulance crew to visit the youth centre where the young person got individual time with the paramedics and learnt about the role and got to see inside the ambulance. This gave the young person a boost and a new determination to get back to school and work hard to achieve in life.

Case Example Three: Young person struggles with his emotions outside school, he doesn't ask for help but bottles things up in his head, he has large outbursts at home towards his family. Parent has found notes the young person has written saying he hates school and wants to kill himself. He's struggling with his mental health and how he can express himself to others. Parents have been to the GP and to school to ask for support, and the GP referred the young person to the youth service. At the initial meeting with the young person, he wouldn't speak to the youth worker. The youth worker discovered he liked McDonald's and used a trip there to find out that he liked playing his play station and baking. The youth worker arranged for him to visit the local youth club with his mum as he wanted to do some baking. The young person wrote out a recipe he wanted to cook at the youth club, and he took part in a 121 activity and made shortbread biscuits that he shared them with other young people at the club. He has attended more youth sessions and the young person is slowly developing a relationship of trust and respect, he's beginning to communicate more openly, and he has taken part in several activities in a safe space.

The Development of Community Hubs in Bradford East

Bradford East is a densely populated constituency, with multiple deprivation indicators such as overcrowded homes, families on low incomes, lack of employment opportunities and low educational attainment. The population is made up of multiple ethnic groups, with growing numbers of new communities occupying some of the most deprived neighbourhoods adding to the increased levels of poverty in the constituency. Such levels of deprivation have led to communities becoming territorial and this has led to increased segregation and isolation in some communities. In Bradford East, communities have developed a sense of distrust to services and therefore have become wary of venturing too far from their own neighbourhoods. The Area Team has worked intensively to build trusting relationships with communities, which has led to an understanding that community-based hubs are a necessity in eliminating barriers to participation and access to services.

The key to developing successful community hubs is:

- to ensure that they are open and accessible to the local community at times that work for them;
- that they provide services that the local community want and need and
- that the community has ownership and makes decisions about how the Hub is run and managed.

In Bradford East we have developed several hubs to help to address the identified needs in the area, below are some examples of Community Hubs and the work that has been developed.

Laisterdyke Hub - Bradford Moor

- Laisterdyke Hub has become a sanctuary for refugees and asylum-seeking families, a safe space where they can access a range of services and support, this includes advice and guidance, access to food and warmth, a space for meeting peer groups and to meet professionals.
- The Gambian Community were difficult to engage and were very reluctant to access services. Through outreach work and community activity days we have developed a Gambian Ladies' Group who access the centre weekly and are now constituted.
- The Laisterdyke Hub offers a range of courses for families from ESOL classes and wellbeing sessions to exercise classes and offers weekly welfare support sessions and coffee mornings with a specific focus. Employment coaches are on site daily.
- The Hub provides a food support programme and wrap around support service.
- The Area Team has supported the travellers from the Mary Street site and created opportunities for the group to use the Hub. This has included weekly youth sessions for those young people not accessing education.

Beech Grove Pod - Bowling and Barkerend

Beech Grove is area with high levels of anti-social behaviour and serious organised crime gangs. Some young people were pulled into SOC gangs and people who live in the area were fearful. Following extensive consultation by the Area Team through community action days, consultation discussions through detached youth work and community meetings, it became clear to the ward officers and youth workers that a focused piece of work with the community was needed in the area. To respond to need and respond to what the community wanted, key community members were identified and developed a community hub. This is still in the developmental phase, but things are moving forward.

Peel Park Youth and Community Hub – Bolton and Undercliffe

Neighbourhood services and Youth Services jointly repurposed the empty bowling hut in Peel Park and transformed it into the Peel Park Youth & Community Hub offering a vast range of provision for the community with a focus on intergenerational work.

- A large community fun day which attracted over 500 people into the park, this fun day included play activities, a dog show and access to professional services.
- Scarecrow Trail designed as a fun outdoor experience that was accessible to all abilities, with 24 scarecrows in the park.
- Summer Food Bank in the Park - Youth-led food bank which supported over 1325 individuals / 289 households.
- Creation of the Peel Park Community Forum bringing together all activity providers in the park to strengthen and widen the offers available to the community/park users.
- Partnership work with Better Place which will enable their 0-5 offer to continue throughout winter with an indoor space during poor weather conditions. This session offers messy play for under fives and supports family interactions.
- Close partnership work with Friends of Peel Park to help shape future investments into the park including a new outdoor gym.

Ravenscliffe Youth and Community Hub - Eccleshill

The youth centre at Ravenscliffe is a community hub in the heart of the Ravenscliffe estate. The centre is a hub of youth activities in the evening and is used during the day by several community-based groups and schools.

Faith Partnerships

Case Study

The establishment of faith-based forums across Bradford East is rooted in the recognition of the pivotal role that faith-based communities, including Gurdwaras, temples, churches, and mosques, play in community cohesion. Involving faith groups in community-led projects is key to the progression of the East Locality Plan. These led to the recruitment of community calmers during bonfire work.

Faith institutions serve as trusted pillars within communities and are looked up to. The aim is to create a collaborative platform that harnesses the influential networks within various religious communities to address health disparities, social issues and localised community issues and tensions, enhancing community resilience, and creating a unified front against anti-social behaviour and reducing youth crime.

Bowling, Barkerend and Bradford Moor's Faith Partnership, established by the Area Team, meets every two months and comprises of representatives from faith leaders, police, fire services, health and other partners. The communication strategy comprises of a WhatsApp group with representatives growing to include 32 different organisations. This allows key messages to be cascaded to the Faith Partnership and emerging community tensions can be addressed early. Faith representatives disseminate information into their communities and to other faith leaders. Friday prayers have cascaded messages to thousands of worshippers instantly. Issues such as parking around Ibraheem Mosque and Thornbury Primary School were resolved promptly through the Faith Partnership's network. Dealing with the issues arising from international affairs has also improved dialogue between communities, blue light services and the Area Team. impacting positively on reducing community tensions. In addition, over the last 5 months the Faith Partnership has achieved the following:

- The Centre for Oneness has donated gym equipment to Ibraheem Mosque to engage with young people and reduce ASB.
- Fruit trees donated by Nirankari Faith Centre have supported the horticultural work at Beech Grove and further donations will support volunteers at the Burnsall Road allotments.
- Guru Gobind Gurdwara has been successfully supported to obtain £10,000 funding towards solar panels reducing their carbon footprint.

- Street level litter picks with 6 volunteer groups consisting of 47 volunteers have taken place at Guru Gobind Singh Gudwara, Abu Hanifa Mosque, Abasiya Mosque and Madni Mosque.
- Quarterly clean ups through Abubakar mosque around key hot spot areas have reduced fly tipping and improved the aesthetic look within the Attock Park area.
- Multiple Neighbourhood Connect referrals have been identified and supported through the Faith Partnership group to reduce isolation and receive food packages.

The Faith Partnership at Bowling, Barkerend and Bradford Moor has led to the development of a Safeguarding Project seeking to reduce the risk of young people being exploited from criminal gangs. A targeted approach in collaboration with Abubakar Mosque, Madni Mosque, Abu Hanifa Mosque, Laisterdyke Secondary, Carlton Bowling Secondary School and Partners seeks to address issues in identified hotspot areas.

The positive impact of the 6 weekly Faith Forum meetings, supported by the area office, can already be seen in Little Horton. Following asb issues at St Stephen's Church, representatives from the Faith Forum facilitated discussions between the church and local mosques and the asb subsided very quickly. Members of the Forum are part of WhatsApp groups and tackle asb hotspots at a street level using local community calmers. They also support the Police and Youth Workers and have attended recent Premier League sessions to speak to some of the young people.

Women's and Girls Work in Bradford East

The population of Bradford East consists of 50.7% female residents, the majority of which are under the age of 50. Furthermore, the life expectancy of females in Bradford East is lower than the district average. The pandemic has left communities facing a multitude of issues, and those have been particularly exacerbated for women and girls. Developing services that are bespoke for women and girls is fundamental in reaching those that often would not engage with services. Mainstream service delivery models do not often address the complexity of many women's lives. [Getting support that women need are often fragmented services across a range of organisations in different locations, which can be difficult and time-consuming to attend. There are also other challenges that can impact on women accessing services, for example cultural barriers, domestic abuse, lack of education or understanding and a lack of financial independence.](#) Bradford East Area Team has developed deep rooted and significant relationships with key groups of women and girls to devise an extensive programme of services and provisions across the constituency.

Examples of this work include:

- In the Bradford Moor and Barkerend area, Ward Officers have been supporting a women's only group called 'MilJul'. The group develops activities and offers valuable services for women in the area. Due to the popularity of the group, it was becoming overwhelming, and Ward Officers supported the committee to streamline activities, supported them to organise events and helped them understand more about specialist services and how to deal with safeguarding concerns.
- Several 'women only' events have been created to engage and consult with women and these have been extremely popular, with average attendances of over 200. Funding and sponsorship of over £8,000 allowed ward officers to organise a cultural ball, engaging women from different cultures and heritage to experience music, dance, food and fashion.
- Staff have also worked closely with Women's Zone and Happy healthy You to develop additional locally based women's only fitness and sports sessions in local schools and community centres across Bradford East, with the aim of developing a Women's Sports Zone at Myra Shay.

- Young women and girls' youth sessions have been established across the Bradford East area. These are safe places for young women to connect with peers and have fun. At the Rockwell Centre, the young women wanted to get involved in community events that promote the safety of women and girls. The group took part in a consultation that fed into the Bradford District Strategy for the safety of women and girls and are looking forward to delivering a project in the summer to promote healthy relationships through the Relationship Matters National Programme.
- The 'Girls Can' project is a partnership between Bradford City Community Football Foundation, Youth Services, Neighbourhood and Community Services and Carlton Bolling School. The project is led by Neighbourhood Services staff who have secured funding and created the partnership. The project is funded through the Football Association to increase the participation of young women from diverse backgrounds in sport, focussing initially on football.

Neighbourhood Connect - Case Studies

Nationally services to support adults are facing unprecedented challenges. Demands resulting from changing demography and austerity are increasing at a time when available resources are reducing. Low level needs can be prevented or delayed from developing into more serious or acute needs from effective early intervention and prevention.

The Neighbourhood Connect Project is Bradford Council's innovative response, providing an investment in resources from Neighbourhoods and Community Services to ensure that people are connected to local neighbourhood opportunities increasing independence, acceptable outcomes, and improving their quality of life.

The reduction in the use of expensive, acute and specialist services additionally provides a financial return to the Local Authority through cost avoidance.

Councillors, Adult Services, Police, Social Housing providers and other services/organisations refer individuals who they feel would benefit from support to Area Offices. Staff in the Area Teams find out about people's interests and using their intimate knowledge of the neighbourhoods and their contacts, they support people.

1. Case Study – Delivery Model: Faith-Based Support

The Council's Independence Advice Hub referred a female in her 40s who was experiencing difficulties completing Personal Independence Payment (PIP) forms and an application for a disabled bus pass. Neighbourhood Wardens contacted the client who had fled an African country and was applying for asylum with a refugee status. She had been placed in a new and unfamiliar neighbourhood and was isolated and alone. She had previously suffered a stroke, which when added to the language barrier made communication challenging for her. Her disability limited opportunities to travel and meet even her most basic needs, such as food provision. She was lonely and despondent impacting emotionally and mentally on her wellbeing. Patiently, the wardens began to understand her needs as they gathered information and explored her interests and hobbies. It was identified that she had previously taken great comfort in her faith. They connected her with St Clement's Church, a friendly and diverse congregation who work in partnership with the Anchor Project. The project provided a weekly food parcel, arranged and funded transport for her to attend the Church as an interim measure until her benefits/funding could be put in place. This gave an opportunity for her to meet new people and feel less isolated. Wardens helped her to take her first steps to attend an appointment at the Karmand Centre by accompanying her to meet advisers for completion of her applications. The Wardens also connected her to a coffee morning at the Thornbury Centre which led to her enrolment on a 12-week Therapeutic Community Group for women. In a brief period her confidence has grown, her appearance has improved, and she has opened up to those around her.

Client's personal statement – *'I feel excited attending St Clement's and the Thornbury sessions and meeting new people.'*

2. Case Study - Delivery Model: Wraparound Support

Adult services referred a vulnerable male in his 60s who had unfortunately lost his employment, claimed no benefits, and had found himself in food and fuel poverty. He did not know how to seek help which had led to him ignoring bills as he had no means of payment. He had been served eviction notices and was on the brink of losing his home which impacted on his wellbeing. He became very lonely, isolated, and overwhelmed by the scale of the situation he found himself in and had accepted his fate. Neighbourhood Wardens, through a series of visits, gained his trust addressing immediate needs by ensuring the provision of food parcels and access to benefits through connecting him with Jubilee House. A personalised plan was agreed providing him with a mobile phone for contact and a financial advisor who completed court correspondence to safeguard his home. He was also eligible for pension payments which were processed and provided an income. He was allocated a dedicated support worker. Jubilee House has become a focal point for him. At his own pace he is gaining self-esteem, fostering social connections, and using all available resources. He has retained his home which has led to an improvement in mental health and his ability to cope. He will now regularly venture out into the neighbourhood with his new-found friends.

Client's personal statement – *'If it had not been for your visit, I would be homeless now. Life is getting better, and I can see the light.'*

3. Case Study – Delivery Model: Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Support

Adult Services referred an elderly male who was feeling isolated and craved interaction with others. He was unable to function in large groups, was visually impaired, had hearing loss and Aspergers. Neighbourhood Wardens visited him and he shared that he was feeling low, was married but did not want to be a burden to his wife, placing stress on his relationship, and felt he should have an interest of his own. He had benefited previously from a support worker who would take him out for walks. This service had ended during the Covid pandemic and was no longer available. Walking was clearly his passion and would benefit his mental and physical capacity enormously. The Wardens explored several community assets who were unable to assist due to his complex additional needs. The Wardens were able to connect him to Carers Resource to undergo a 12-week programme which included a weekly appointment with a psychotherapist to help with his mental health and depression. In addition, after an extensive search, a walking group, Summat Creative, suitable for all abilities agreed to aid with safe and healthy walks and provided him with a schedule of dates and activities. His mental health has improved significantly, and he now feels independent once more and able to make a positive contribution to his walking community.

Client's personal statement – *'I felt I was not heard and left to get on with life. I knew when I was visited that you were going to be able to help.'*

4. Case Study – Delivery Model: Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Support

A Neighbourhood Warden was investigating a report of waste and vermin at a local address. Through his impartial and caring approach, he was able to identify that the sole occupant of that address needed support, was feeling lonely and struggling day to day with mental health issues. He was seldom seen by neighbours and isolated himself from the community. After several visits, the Neighbourhood Warden gained his trust and noted that he had suffered trauma and a sense of loss having discovered his mother deceased within the house. The Neighbourhood Warden had time to listen and adopt a person-centred approach. His interests were cooking and despite his isolation and low self-esteem, he had a friendly manner and would be willing to socialise with community members with shared interests. The Neighbourhood Warden initially took him to the Gateway Centre where he joined a cooking class. Having enjoyed this experience, he went on to join and benefit from a Men's group where he was

able to talk freely and develop his confidence and emotional wellbeing. The waste issue was resolved improving his self-care and health. With support he now feels he can contribute positively to his neighbourhood and looks for opportunities to participate.

Client's personal statement – *'I like how friendly and welcoming the service is but to improve it further you will need to be more prevalent on social media to make people aware. I would recommend the service.'*