

Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2023 - 2026

Updated December 2024

The Area Plan commits the Area Committee to a number of priorities, which will be delivered within the Coalfield Sunderland area. This Delivery Plan provides an update on progress on the Area Committee’s Area Plan and will be monitored by the Area Committee and actions will be addressed throughout the three years covered by the plan, via the Coalfield Neighbourhood and Community Board

Priority	Progress Update
<p>Dynamic Smart City We will have</p>	
<p>A Can Do Project to develop skills of young people</p>	<p>Young people have attended the Neighbourhood and Community Board in November 2023, January and April 2024 to present their proposals to Councillors. Kepier School, Houghton Boxing Club, Philadelphia Cricket Club, the Old Rectory youth Club and Flatts Youthie were all successful in their applications for funding after presenting their ideas to relevant N&C Board meetings. Presentations from four groups of young people were received at the November N&C Board meeting. The following projects were approved and each received £750.</p> <p>Houghton Rugby Young Coaches The funding will help produce more coaches and match officials aged 16 to 19.</p> <p>Kepier School Funding requested to take a group of 14 year 8 and year 9 learners to compete in the Fleetwood Town Cup at Blackpool.</p> <p>Shiney Row Community Centre Youth Club Funding requested to purchase equipment to turn our youth club into a mini disco.</p> <p>Studio V NE The project will include a fun filled day of dance acrobatics to all members of studio V (NE) CIC, it will also be open to new members who wish to join our club completely free of charge.</p>
<p>Coalfield Communities Connected Project to develop digital skills of residents</p>	<p>The Coalfield Communities Connected IT project is delivered by Springboard in ‘Community Hubs’, each week. In all hubs, participants have access to laptops and PCs, and also get support in improving their knowledge on the use of their personal mobile phone and tablets (using venue’s wifi). Each setting offers clients access to wifi and digital devices. During the sessions lots of ICT support, other IAG support and signposting</p>

	<p>is required. The digital sessions do attract new clients but the majority of the footfall is returning clients week on week, it is an ICT development skills session linked to wellbeing for all those who attend. During July: Footfall 22 and 7 of those were new, August's footfall was 28 and 9 of those new then September's footfall 37 with 5 of those new. The project offers support in all aspects of ICT and many clients have wanted ICT support to access housing and financial advice. During this period 11 people moved into employment or training.</p>
<p>Support to residents to improve financial resilience via R U Ready</p>	<p>The project offers support in all aspects of universal credit and many of this support leads to financial advice. These support sessions are complex and timely. Analysis of the client's engagement for RUReady support shows that sessions tend to be with new clients who want IAG and support relating to a particular UC / benefit topic and therefore to ensure everyone gets the support required appointments are booked not only during a session time but on an alternative afternoon. During the last quarter the hubs included New Dawn, Sharp, The Rectory, Hetton Lyons Country Park, Houghton Racecourse Community Centre and ELCAP. Each setting offers clients access to Universal Credit support and signposting, if required to have access to the most relevant services. During July: Footfall 20 and 14 of those were new, August's footfall was 13 and 10 of those new then September's footfall 19 with 8 of those new.</p>
<p>A VAS and Road Safety programme</p>	<p>The current VAS programme consists of 32 locations and 14 signs which are rotated on a quarterly basis. The project has been extended until March 2026. Members were provided with a further update report at the November N&C Board meeting. Smart technology options are being explored for future phases of the programme, and officers will attend future meetings to consult with members.</p>
<p>A Tree planting programme across the area</p>	<p>In addition to proposals put forward to plant trees on a number of the 13 sites included in the LinkTogether project, members have been asked to submit relevant locations within their ward for consideration for inclusion in a 'community orchard' programme. Trees have been planted in Hetton Park, Herrington Colliery Welfare and Elemore Park.</p>
<p>Developed and delivered low carbon initiatives in the community</p>	<p>At the July Area Committee, an application for funding to deliver the 'Litter Free for Wildlife' was approved. The two year project will work with all schools across the area and commenced in September 2024. Shiney Row Primary School will be the first to take part with their first in-school sessions for a Year 5 class (30 children), scheduled between January and February. In addition a trip to Campgrounds will be arranged within this timeframe.</p>

All schools in the Coalfield area will be offered this opportunity in the coming weeks. Further outreach to Wear Rivers Trust is planned in the next few weeks to facilitate potential collaboration.

**Healthy Smart City
We will have**

Provision of positive activities for young people during school holidays

A total of 14 projects (totalling £62,590) commenced in July 2024, and will deliver activities during all school holidays until May 2025. A wide range of activities such as cycling, trips out, cookery, crafts, outdoor games and swimming will be available free of charge to children and young people across the area. All sessions will be promoted and advertised via the Coalfield Sunderland Community facebook page. [Members were provided with a full update via the project performance report in October 2024.](#)

Youth clubs in each of the four wards

The two year Neighbourhood Fund project 'Youth Choices', delivered by Community Opportunities, provides two sessions of youth activity, per ward, per week. Current sessions are delivered at outdoor and indoor venues including Flatts Youth Centre (and field), Shiney Row CA (and Claremont Drive field), Houghton Racecourse CA (and Kirklea field), Houghton Sports Centre (and MUGA). The sessions in each of the four wards provide our young people with a safe space to meet, where they can engage in discussions and talk about issues that are relevant to their lives. [In the last quarter 182 individual young people benefited from the project. Members were provided with a full update via the project performance report in October 2024.](#)

A Coalfield Healthy and Active Teen (CHAT) programme
COMPLETE

Delivered by Everyone Active, the project offered the opportunity for 11-15 year olds in the Coalfield area of the city to participate in a programme of junior gym and wellness sessions at Hetton and Houghton Sports Centres. This project has now been successfully delivered and has made new partnerships with Foundation Of light, the HALO project, the local police and Community Opportunities youth workers to ensure that the young people are aware of opportunities that are open to them, and the jobs that are open within the leisure industry such as lifeguards, leisure attendants, tennis coaches and swim teachers. They have all been sent information about small group training that is available to them at certain times throughout the week and have been offered support as a group. The participants have been informed of exit strategies in the area which include social football, teen circuits and couch to 5K sessions and many more. In the final quarter of the project a further 9 participants have been introduced into the scheme. The project will have worked with 48 participants throughout the 12 month duration of delivery.

Activities to reduce Social Isolation	The Links for Life programme will support increased social and wellness activity. The Area Committee have approved funding to 12 organisations to deliver activities and events to reduce social isolation. The projects commenced in October 2024. Further updates will be given as part of the regular project performance report.
Social Prescribing Services	<p>Links for Life is Sunderland’s social prescribing programme. Further information will be provided each quarter as part of the Links for Life update in Annex 2</p> <p>The Advice on Prescription (AoP) Project funded via Neighbourhood Fund is a vital support to the patients of the 6 GP surgeries in the Coalfields. The AoP team receive direct referrals from GPs, health practitioners, social prescribers, the Stroke team and Macmillan. The casework approach used by the Advice Workers means that patients are supported by a known worker who knows them and understands their needs. In this reporting period the Advice Workers saw 301 people and provided a range of support including benefit checks, help with benefit applications, form filling, debt advice and help with housing issues etc.</p>
Vibrant Smart City We will have	
The Coalfield Clean it, Green It project	The two year Clean it, Green it project, delivered by Springboard, continues to deliver activity across all four wards on sites and locations which are not currently on a maintenance schedule and need environmental improvement. One Councillor from each ward sits on the steering group, alongside SCC and Gentoo colleagues. The team has been busy on a variety of projects over the last quarter. Working with partners to take action on problem areas as quickly as possible. Community Opportunities continue to work in partnership with Springboard, contributing one staff member, two days per week. Sites visited during the last quarter include, the Trod, Holy Well, Herrington Burn, Penshaw Shop Lane, Copt Hill Dene, Elemore Park, Easington Lane Wasteland, Rhubarb Fields, Railway Terrace, Gilpin Woods and Mallard Way
Heritage Activities and Community Events	Local community events throughout the year are supported by Community Chest and Neighbourhood Fund. A series of Christmas activities and events will take place during November and December 2024. Planning for other events including Elemore Music Festival and Coalfield Pride is underway. A proposal to align funding to these events is contained in Item 4 Budget Report

Delivered the Houghton Feast community programme	The 2024 Houghton Feast was delivered successfully. The opening ceremony, and parade saw hundreds of community groups, schools and residents engaged in activities and entertainment.
Improvements to Herrington Colliery Welfare Ground facilities	Following allocation of Neighbourhood Fund and Neighbourhood Capital Improvement Programme, works have been carried out to improve the pavilion at Herrington Colliery Welfare Ground. The Class A football pitch has been improved and encroaching trees have been removed and pollarded. Repairs to the spectator rail has been completed and external fencing to protect the site has been installed. Picnic benches have now been installed, completing this phase of the project. Discussions are ongoing regarding improvements to the bowling green.
Improvements to Houghton Rectory Park	Improvements at Rectory Park are almost complete. Final works including renewal of the red gravel path will be carried out by March 2025.
Delivered the Stephenson Trail heritage programme COMPLETE	During this quarter all elements of the project have been finalised. Additional signage has been installed, and badges and walks/maps have been distributed from various locations including Elemore Park and Hetton Lyons Country Park. The project has now been completed with all elements of the action plan being delivered. The remaining funding has been allocated to three organisations across the East, Coalfield and West areas to continue environmental improvements for a further 2 years. Replacement waymarkers, maps and badges have been purchased in order to provide a legacy of the project. Partners will continue to promote the Trail and will distribute maps and badges to the local community.
Contributed to habitat and ecological improvements via the Links With Nature project	<p>The Links with Nature Project Team started on 1st July. The team includes an Engagement Officer, Greenspaces Officer and Hetton Park and Hetton Bogs Officer. Two Conservation Trainees have also been appointed.</p> <p>Regular volunteer Tasks began in August with activity taking place at Copt Hill, Success Railway, Flint Mill, Elemore Vale, Elemore Park and Hetton Park. Tasks have included scrub and meadow management, path clearance, thinning plantations and coppicing. Numbers are increasing with more local people getting involved. The Community Engagement Officer has delivered activities with ELCAP, Houghton Racecourse Community Centre, The Old Rectory and Space4 with over 200 people getting involved. Activities include making willow dream catchers, wildflower wreaths, bird feeders, mini-bug hotels, as well as litter picking and mini-beast hunts. There have been wildlife walks in Elemore Park, Herrington Country Park and Hetton Lyons. A Green Health and Wellbeing Event took place at Elemore Park on 10th September in</p>

	<p>partnership with Natural England. The attendees did outdoor willow weaving and coppicing in one of the plantations</p>
<p>Continued the Proactive Coalfield Anti-social behaviour project and worked in partnership to tackle Motorcycle ASB</p>	<p>In this quarter 55 proactive patrols have been carried out in the Coalfield Area, this has included working in collaboration with the Houghton Neighbourhood Policing Team and Officers from the HALO partnership project to organise Multi-agency Days/Nights of Action. This quarter saw 2 dedicated days/nights of action across the Coalfield areas, with the support of the drone to try and trace offender locations, alongside the engagement with residents and businesses to encourage reporting of vehicle ASB. A proposal to use £10,000 from the preventative measures budget to extend the Motorcycle ASB Officer post for a future 12 months is contained in Item 4 Budget Report</p>
<p>Held a Coalfield Pride Event at Houghton</p>	<p>This event took place at Houghton Rectory Field on Saturday 17 August 12 – 8 p.m. The event was a great success and attended by a wide audience from across the area. Planning for 2025 is underway. A proposal to align funding to next year's event is contained in Item 4 Budget Report</p>
<p>Developed environmental improvements at Copt Hill and Seven Sisters</p>	<p>The project is progressing well with many areas covered. We have had more volunteer days supporting tasks including maintenance to the area, strimming and cutting back.</p> <p>Most street furniture has had two coats of paint with a couple requiring a revisit.</p> <p>The fence has been replaced at the entrance and the fences replaced and repaired where needed in other entrance points.</p> <p>The designer has been working up the draft designs for the interpretation panel. The main panel will feature a panorama showing the view across from Copt Hill and identify local features. As part of the delivery of the Links with Nature project, there will be a programme of scrub management on Copt Hill to reinstate the grassland.</p>
<p>Supported VCS organisations and Community Hubs</p>	<p>A Coalfield Voluntary and Community Sector Network meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month. The meetings are chaired by the Vice Chair of Area Committee and continue to be well attended, participative and informative and provide a mechanism for attendees to network with Council Officers, partners and community organisations. Meetings are increasingly well attended by a variety of organisations and local groups. Partnership working and networking opportunities continue to be built upon. Further information is contained within Item 2c VCSN Partner report.</p>

Improved Community Assets	The Area Committee meeting in March approved 11 applications for funding. Shiney Row Community Centre now has a new kitchen and flooring, Houghton Blind Centre, a new heating system, ShARP a refurbished Digital Hub, Houghton Racecourse CA, new flooring in the toilets and plans to redecorate the centre, ELCAP, a comprehensive new CCTV system and Penshaw Community Centre will install a new kitchen.
Supported the celebration event at former Houghton Colliery site COMPLETE	Work on the new retail development at Houghton is now complete and the mining heritage artwork has been installed. A display board has been installed and the project is now complete.
A Christmas Tree at Newbottle	Further to approval of funding at the September Area Committee to deliver the 'Coalfield Christmas' project, arrangements were made to install infrastructure to accept delivery of a 30ft Christmas tree in November 2023. The tree lights were switched on at a community event on Friday 1 December. The local community, including St Matthews, provided entertainment and refreshments. The switch on event for 2024 will take place on Friday 6 December
A Music Event at Elemore Park	The 2024 event, headlined by The Lake Poets and featuring This Little Bird, Jessica Thoroughgood and King Ink took place on Saturday 24 August. Families were also able to enjoy free activities such as face painting, balloon modelling, juggling and magic. A proposal to align funding to the 2025 event is contained in Item 4 Budget Report