

**BURNLEYPENDLE
& ROSSENDALE**
COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Registered Charity Number: 1062446 Company Limited By Guarantee: 3328219



UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND 2025 - 2026 FINAL REPORT



Funded by
UK Government



LANCASHIRE
COMBINED COUNTY
AUTHORITY

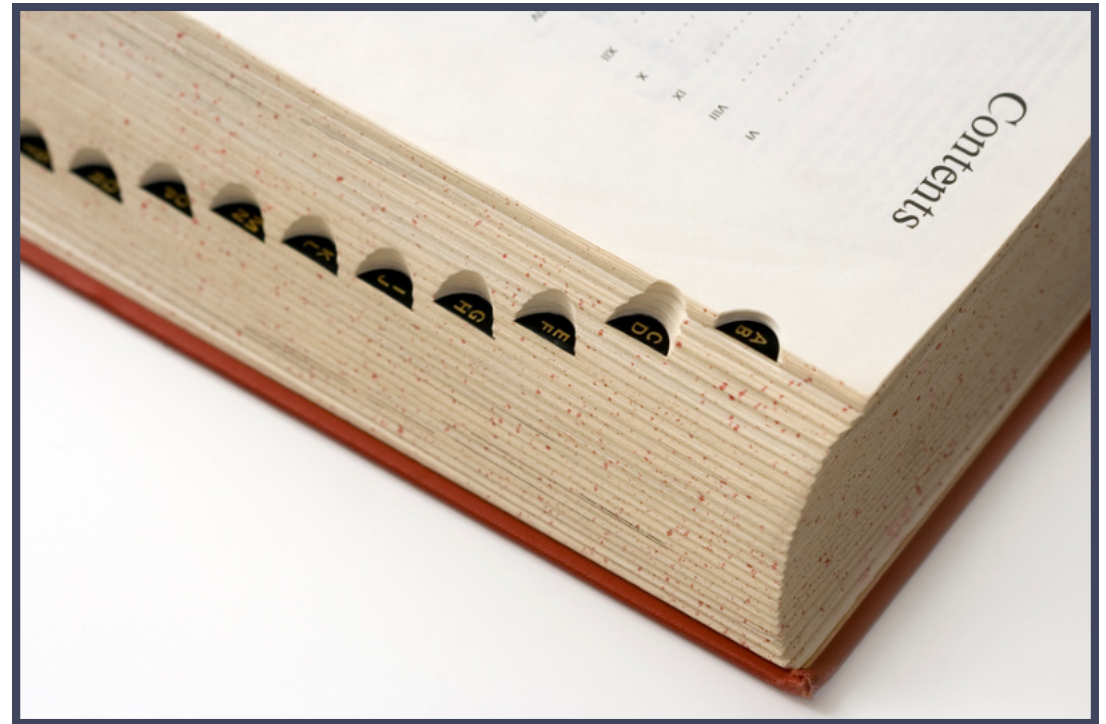


Burnley
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INTRODUCTION

Burnley Community Grants Programme (2025-2026)

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) 2025-2026 was launched by the UK Government. Burnley Borough Council in partnership with Lancashire Combined County Authority launched the Burnley Community Grant Scheme for a fourth year. The investment priority was 'Communities and Place' focusing on healthy, safe and inclusive communities. The sub themes were: healthy - improve health and wellbeing; safe - reduce crime and the fear of crime; inclusive - bringing communities together, and tackling homelessness; and development of the visitor economy.

Burnley Borough Council appointed Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Council for Voluntary Service (BPRCVS) to administer a fourth year of community grants to voluntary, community, and not-for-profit organisations, under the priority of 'Community and Place'. Over the final one-year programme, 13 organisations delivered 13 projects, which included capital improvements, sports and physical activities, community engagement, and arts initiatives.

The programme achieved its aims, with most targets exceeded. Key achievements included increased community engagement, improved access to local services, and enhanced physical environments. Only one key outcome was not met: 'number of premises with improved digital connectivity as a result of support' - no project application was received that aimed to meet this outcome.

Challenges included delays in grant disbursement, which impacted project timelines, and difficulties in monitoring and evaluation, especially for volunteer-led groups and outside construction projects. Despite workshops and support, some organisations struggled with reporting requirements and government terminology, and required additional one-to-one support to navigate completion.

Opportunities emerged in supporting capital projects for long-standing community groups and in providing tailored one-to-one support. The programme highlighted the importance of flexible, responsive support structures for grassroots organisations.

The impact of the programme was significant, with positive outcomes reported across all funded initiatives. Lessons learned include the need for clearer guidance on evaluation and more proactive support for volunteer-led groups. Despite some setbacks, the programme delivered substantial benefits to the community and laid a strong foundation for future funding initiatives.

This investment to our voluntary and community groups and venues is a lifeline to those who benefit which is recognised by Burnley Borough Council. Funding is a constant battle for our non-profit organisations, and the investment to our local communities is invaluable.

VALUE FOR MONEY

	Actual Spend To 31 st March 2026
Capital	£45,051.81
Revenue	£126,948.19
Total of Capital & Revenue = Actual Grants Awarded	£172,000.00
Management Fee	£28,000.00
Project Total	£200,000.00
Underspend	£0.00

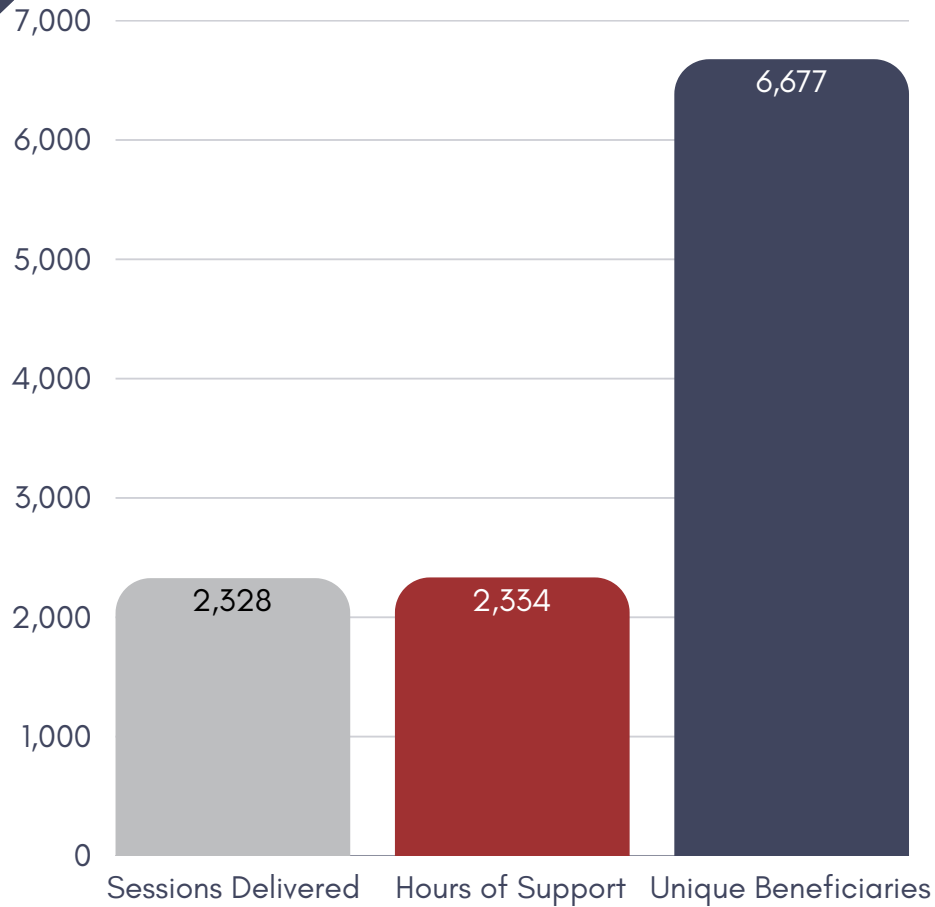
MATCH FUNDING

Overview Of Match Funding Raised

Several organisations used additional funds to complete their projects. In each instance these funds came directly from the organisations' own reserves rather than sourced from other organisations such as local councils, national charities, private donors, and in-kind support as was the case in the first three years of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which we also administered. The below table shows which groups utilised additional funds to ensure project delivery, completion and success.

	Funds From Reserves
Rosegrove Neighbourhood Watch	£1,818.23
Burnley Youth Theatre	£75.78
AFC Wolves	£2,700.00
St. Margaret's Church	£4,293.00
Enterprising Habits	£15,119.00
New Neighbours Together	£1,000.00
Total	£25,006.01

QUALITATIVE OUTPUTS OVERVIEW



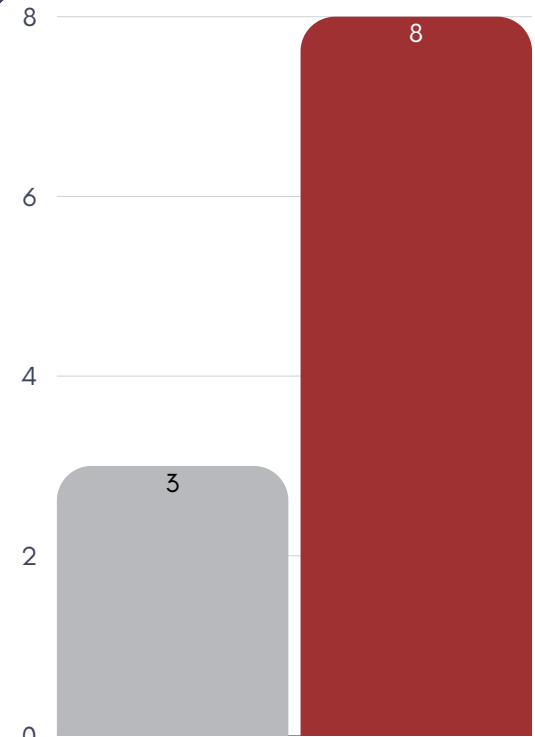
*Added value calculated at £12.21 per hour (national minimum wage)

OUTPUTS

Outputs	Programme Forecast	Programme Achieved
Number of amenities or facilities improved	3	8
Number of tourism or heritage assets created or improved	1	2
Number of local events or activities supported	4	2,328
Number of tournaments supported	3	37
Number of organisations receiving grants	9	13
Number of organisations receiving non-financial support	12	13
Number of volunteering opportunities supported	25	1,238

OUTPUTS

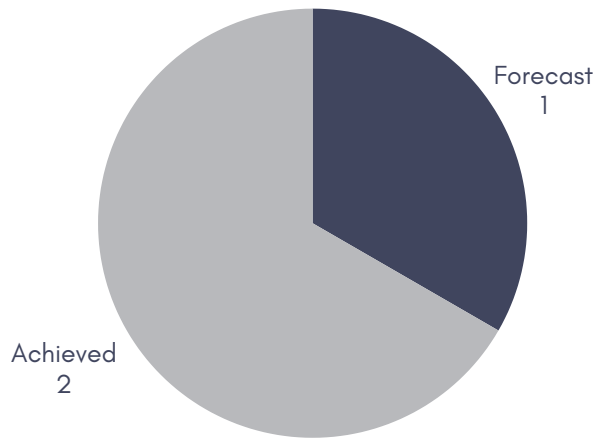
● Forecast ● Achieved



Number of amenities or facilities improved

Number of tourism or heritage assets created or improved

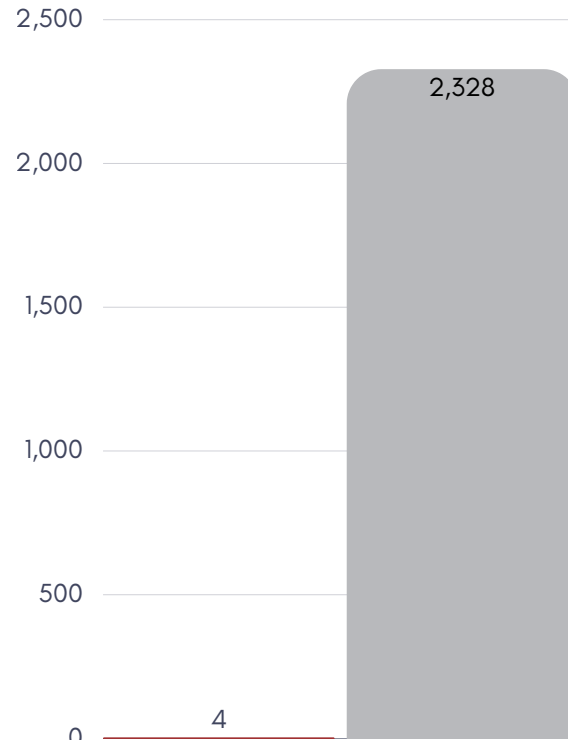
● Forecast ● Achieved



Achieved 2

Forecast 1

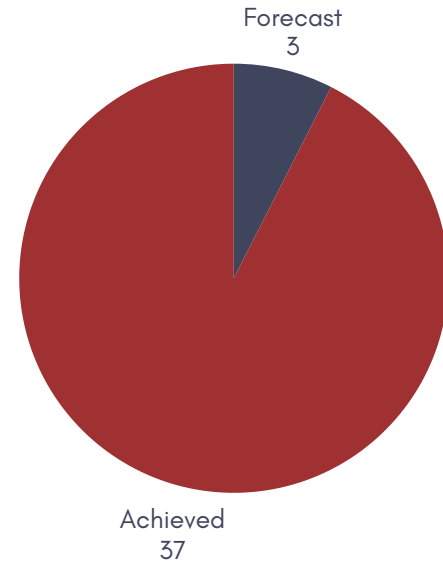
● Forecast ● Achieved



Number of local events or activities supported

Number of tournaments supported

● Forecast ● Achieved

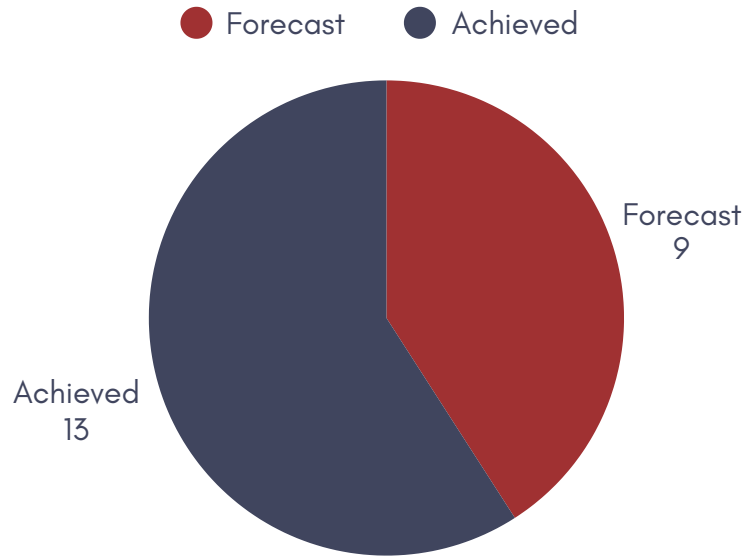


Forecast 3

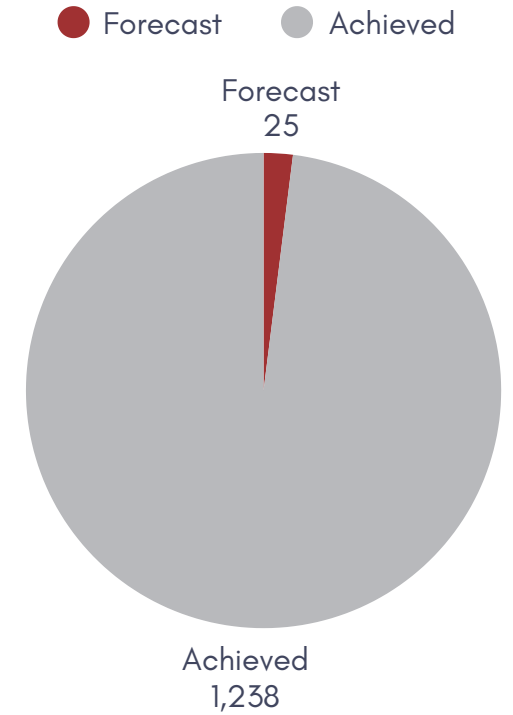
Achieved 37

OUTPUTS

Number of organisations receiving grants



Number of volunteering opportunities supported



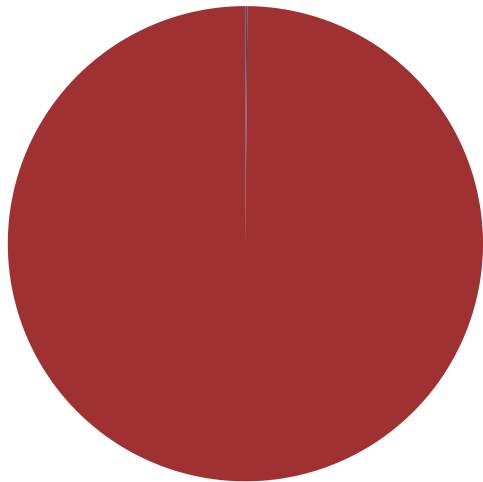
OUTCOMES

Outcomes	Programme Forecast	Programme Achieved
Number of increasing use of facilities or amenities	5	3,719
Number of increased visitor numbers	5	1,170
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity as a result of support	1	0
Number of improved engagement numbers	500	5,214
Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support	3	219
Number of volunteering opportunities created as a result of support	55	600

OUTCOMES

Number of increasing use of facilities or amenities

● Forecast ● Achieved

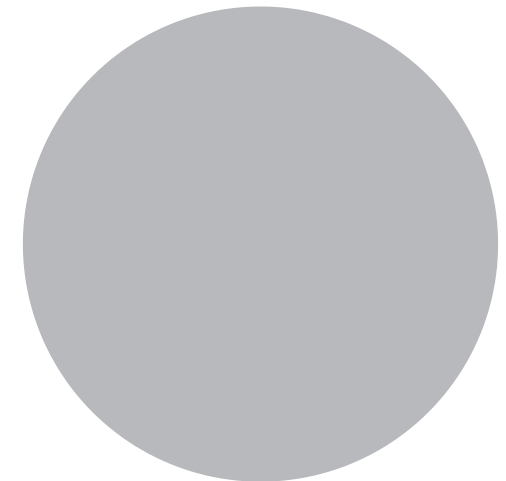


Achieved
3,719



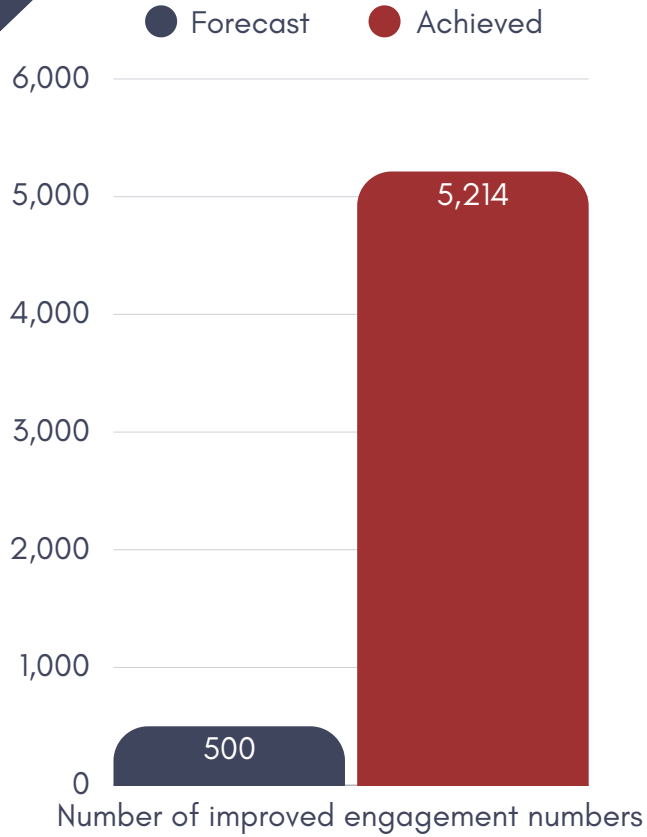
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity as a result of support

● Forecast

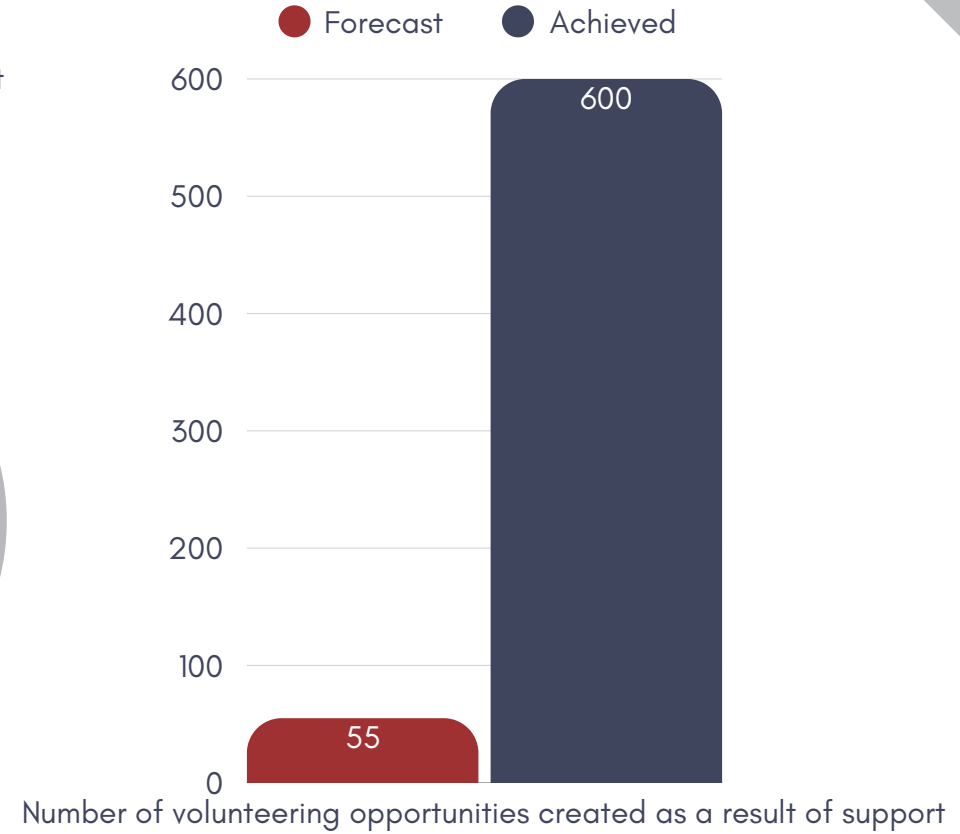
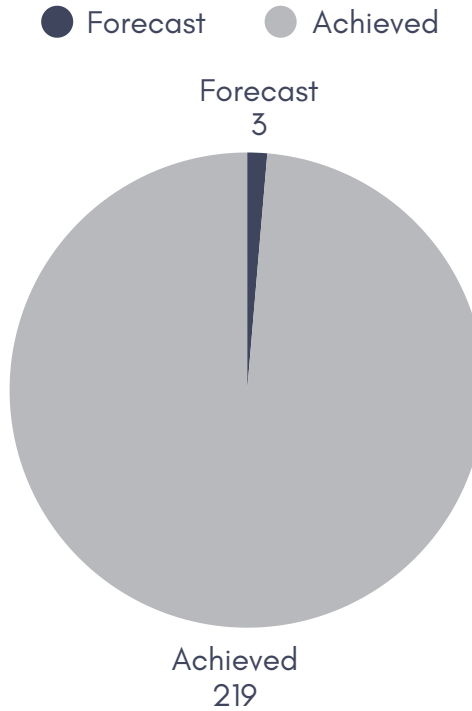


Forecast
1

OUTCOMES



Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support



BURNLEY GROUP AWARDS

The following pages demonstrate how the Burnley Community Grants Programme 2025-2026 has been used and benefitted the local community.

Groups' pages contain a project brief, a breakdown of the outputs and outcomes achieved, and two case studies demonstrating impact.



BANGLADESH WELFARE ASSOCIATION

PROJECT SOS360

Background & Project Brief

Bangladesh Welfare Association (BWA) was established over 45 years ago to extend support to disadvantaged BAME communities in East Lancashire. The emphasis has always been on community cohesion and social inclusion irrespective of religion, race, gender, age. We engage community members and encourage participation.

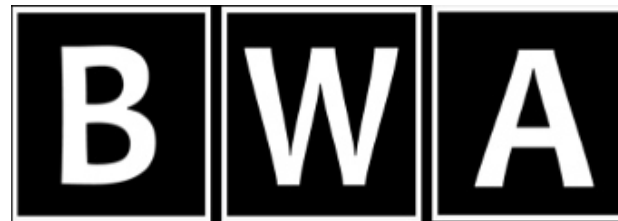
Through this project, BWA will offer a safe and reliable space for community members to access information, advice, guidance and support due to language and knowledge barriers. This is in relation to benefits and entitlements, housing needs, employability, immigration, and all other everyday issues and obstacles the community faces.

We have been contributing to community cohesion that strengthens local communities through positive engagement, communication and interaction. BWA focuses on the development of stronger cross-cultural social links and friendship, thus improving community cohesion, social interaction and participation in the area. This project will increase self-confidence and self-esteem through learning new skills and experiences, increasing potential for progression.

The project will ensure we can work with more families and take on more complex casework. The project will aim to alleviate some of the problems people face on a day-to-day basis equipping them to manage their debt better and becoming more financially resilient this in turn will ensure a more positive mental wellbeing for individuals and families.

We will also work with other partners including the colleges and training providers to refer individuals to courses for their own betterment and put them on a route to become more inclusive, more productive and begin to become more economically active.

SOS360 will open 4 days a week (Monday to Thursday) and will offer drop-in sessions consisting of general enquiries, issue-based work, case work, form filling, language services, GP and NHS liaisons, IAG sessions and workshops, education and training, and employability. Afternoon appointments will be dedicated to case work, complex cases, debt and money management, and immigration.



AWARDED £11,200.00

BANGLADESH WELFARE ASSOCIATION

PROJECT SOS360

Project Outcomes Brief

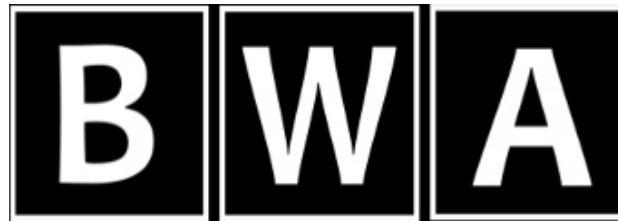
BWA has consistently delivered a four-day-a-week information, advice, and guidance (IAG) service for residents across Burnley, with a particular focus on the Daneshouse area. Our service continues to respond to the everyday issues that local people face, ensuring they receive timely, accurate, and practical support.

Our core IAG work has included: welfare benefits and entitlements assisting clients with benefit applications, renewals, mandatory reconsiderations, and navigating changes to their entitlement; Universal Credit support helping individuals make new claims, manage online journals, understand conditionality, and resolve payment issues; housing information and support offering guidance on homelessness, overcrowding, disrepair, tenancy issues, and helping clients communicate with landlords and housing providers; immigration advice providing information on visa categories, family routes, settlement options, and supporting clients in understanding Home Office requirements; and General advice across a wide range of issues including debt concerns, employment challenges, digital access, cost-of-living issues, and signposting when specialist help is needed.

This service has become a vital point of contact for many local residents who struggle to navigate complex systems or face language, digital, or financial barriers. Demand has remained consistently high, with people attending daily for essential support.

To strengthen the quality and reach of our service, we have continued working closely with a range of partner organisations. This has included: Jobcentre Plus to collaborate on Universal Credit issues, work-related requirements, and supporting vulnerable clients; Calico Homes and Calico support services by sharing information on housing problems, tenancy sustainment, and joint support for at-risk households; schools and colleges by helping families with benefit issues, immigration queries, and hardship support; NHS services and local GP practices through receiving referrals for patients needing welfare, housing, or financial advice; and third-sector organisations across Burnley ensuring residents receive holistic support through coordinated referrals and joint casework when necessary.

Through this four-day service, BWA has played a crucial role in improving financial stability, housing security, and overall wellbeing for individuals and families. Our ongoing collaborative work ensures that those most in need continue to have access to high-quality, free, and reliable advice within their community.



AWARDED £11,200.00

BANGLADESH WELFARE ASSOCIATION

PROJECT SOS360

Case Study 1

Background: South Asian male - newly arrived migrant from Spain with 2 children and partner.

Needs: Client needs support to understand the local community, how to access further services, help in getting his children into local school, looking for employment, benefit and entitlements.

Actions Taken: We went through the registration of this client so that we could understand all the information the client needed support with. We set up a Universal Credit account for the client and his partner and confirmed all his housing needs. The client was also referred to our in-house L.C.C. school admission team. These are the two elements of what we have done so far. The client will return for further support.

Outcomes: The client has now enrolled his needs to Universal Credit. The team will now work to address further needs of the client. The client feels a sense of relief as we are helping his and his family through all needs, anxieties and worries. He is a lot more settled now than he was a week ago.

Case Study 2

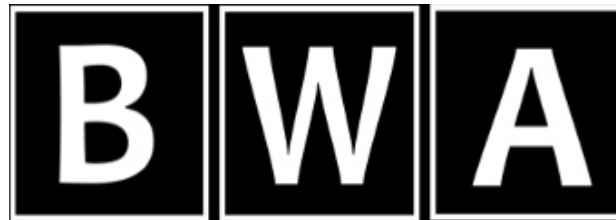
Background: South Asian male. Newly arrived and married with 3 children all of school age. Very little spoken or written English skills. No benefits.

Needs: Family came in to access knowledge and support in the UK system. This includes education, welfare, employability and immigration.

Actions Taken: We got this person registered on the Evisa system. We registered them with a local GP. We worked in partnership with L.C.C. and have applied for their children to get into the school system. We have created CVs for both parents and are in the process of registering with online job search platforms. We have asked them to keep returning for support with their rented property, utilities and bills.

Outcomes: This service has allowed for the parents and family to get comfortable with life in Burnley. We have introduced them to groups and other organisations to help. They are now in a position to move forward and know that many aspects of their daily living will be in a good stage.

"Thank you for your help. I did not know these kind of services and help would be available. I came here almost blind."



"Thank you for all your help. We did not know that such a service was available. We are so grateful for all your help and consideration. I will come back."

AWARDED £11,200.00

BANGLADESH WELFARE ASSOCIATION

PROJECT SOS360



B W A

AWARDED £11,200.00

ROSEGROVE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

OUR GROVE, OUR PLACE

Background & Project Brief

This project will strengthen community wellbeing and resilience in Rosegrove through a series of inclusive workshops, events, and training activities. It aims to reduce isolation, fear, and anxiety while promoting pride, safety, and connection among residents of all ages. By fostering collaboration between local organisations, schools, and businesses, the initiative will build a more confident, engaged, and supportive neighbourhood where individuals feel empowered to thrive and contribute to a safer, healthier, and more united community.

The multiple series of workshops, events, and training include:

- Security - strategically placed doorbells, hedges cutback, knife crime awareness, and raising awareness of criminal activity
- Mind Health - creative mindfulness activities including flower arranging, grounded in soil, flower troughs, seasonal wreath making, needlework, collage making, tinfoil sculptures, and embroidery delivering confidence building, reducing overwhelming feelings, and eliminating fear-based beliefs.
- Card Making for the Community - outreach project
- Workshops based on self-care, self-love, worthiness, and healthy boundaries delivering pride in self, in the home, in the street, and in the community
- Financial Resilience - needlecraft, fix and mend, money awareness, financial signposting, and growing your own vegetables
- Community seasonal events in autumn, winter (including Christmas), and spring
- On the Move - nature and animals (trips to HAPPA, Animal Farm, and Forest School) getting people out of the town and into the countryside
- Up-skilling - training programme for volunteers and support circle
- Growth - local business training and engagement



AWARDED £14,800.00

ROSEGROVE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

OUR GROVE, OUR PLACE

Project Outcomes Brief

Over the reporting period, Rosegrove Neighbourhood Watch delivered a total of 205 sessions engaging 455 volunteers and supporting 1,984 participants across the Rosegrove community.

These sessions were primarily hosted at our Youth & Community Hub providing a safe and welcoming environment for young people and local residents. In addition we utilised Rosegrove Railway Club as an extended venue to accommodate larger activities, community events, and partnership sessions.

Our work has focused on strengthening community cohesion, promoting safety awareness and creating inclusive opportunities for residents to engage in positive activities. The strong volunteer involvement demonstrates growing community ownership and sustained local commitment to the project.

Through consistent delivery and partnership working the project has established regular engagement opportunities while responding flexibly to local need.

Beneficiaries engaged with the Rosegrove Neighbourhood Watch project for a range of important social and wellbeing reasons. The main reasons for engagement were:

- Loneliness and social isolation - many participants attended to reduce feelings of loneliness, build friendships and feel part of their local community
- Health-related issues - individuals facing physical or mental health challenges engaged to access supportive activities gentle social interaction and signposting to appropriate services
- Access to a safe and warm space - a significant number of beneficiaries attended to benefit from a welcoming, safe, and warm environment, particularly during periods of financial pressure and colder months

The combination of quantitative data (session numbers, volunteer hours, participant figures) and qualitative evidence (photographs, feedback and social media engagement) clearly demonstrates that the project has met, and in some respects, exceeded its intended outcomes.



AWARDED £14,800.00

ROSEGROVE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

OUR GROVE, OUR PLACE

Case Study 1

Background: A young boy aged 8 attended Rosegrove Neighbourhood Watch art sessions. He finds it difficult to cope with change, large groups and loud environments making participation in mainstream activities challenging.

Needs: He requires a calm, structured environment with consistent support. Large, noisy groups can feel overwhelming, so he benefits from smaller sessions where he can participate at his own pace. His family were looking for an inclusive activity so he could build confidence, develop social skills and enjoy creative expression without feeling anxious.

Actions Taken: We provided a safe small-group art session where his parent could remain present to offer reassurance. Volunteers created a calm, welcoming environment adapting activities to ensure he felt included and supported. Over 10 weeks, volunteers provided consistent encouragement helping him engage in creative activities and gradually build confidence in interacting with others.

Outcomes: He now looks forward to the sessions each week - confidence has grown and is more comfortable participating in group activities. Sessions have also provided valuable support for his family giving them access to an inclusive community space where they feel understood and supported.

"We would like to thank everyone in the group for this opportunity we have been given as a family. The support has meant so much to us."



Case Study 2

Background: An older lady had recently moved back to the area and attended the group to help rebuild her social connections. Having been away for some time, she found it difficult to re-establish friendships and wanted to meet new people in a welcoming environment.

Needs: She was experiencing loneliness and was keen to make new friends and develop new interests. She wanted opportunities to socialise regularly and find activities that would give her purpose and enjoyment.

Actions Taken: The group provided a friendly, inclusive space and introduced to other members supported by volunteers. She was encouraged to take part in activities and conversations helping her gain confidence and feel part of the community. Through attending sessions, she developed a new interest in learning about local offerings. She now sometimes attends a monthly group at Padiham Town Hall and attending activities at Towneley Hall. She has been introduced to new ideas and hobbies that she continues to explore at home.

Outcomes: Attending the group has enabled friendship building and discovering new interests with more places to go and connected to her local community. The social interaction and stimulation has had a positive impact on her wellbeing and confidence, which has also benefitted her family life.

"I've made friends and found places to go with things happening for older people. It makes me feel happy with my life which is a benefit to my family life."

AWARDED £14,800.00

ROSEGROVE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

OUR GROVE, OUR PLACE



AWARDED £14,800.00

AFC WOLVES

FACILITY RENOVATION & COMMUNITY ACCESS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Background & Project Brief

The project is undertaking essential renovations and upgrades at the AFC Wolves football ground and clubhouse to improve access, safety, and usability for our players, volunteers, and the wider community. The project includes:

- Repairing and upgrading storage facilities for sports and maintenance equipment, ensuring everything is safely and securely stored
- Developing new parking bays, including accessible spaces for disabled users, and drop-off zones for young players and families. This will be part funded by club fundraising events to go towards this facility
- General renovations to worn infrastructure, including fencing, drainage, and pitch access paths
- Improving lighting and signage for safety and ease of use

Improved parking and storage areas will reduce congestion, support better match and training organisation, and enhance the experience for users. By improving access and storage, we aim to support the long-term sustainability of the club and increase its ability to deliver community sport and social projects.

This work supports our long-term vision of becoming a central community sports hub, encouraging young people and families to engage in healthy, safe and inclusive physical activity.

AFC Wolves Football Club seeks to install a permanent, compliant wheelchair access ramp at our facility. Currently, there is no maintained or functional ramp, which excludes disabled players, fans, volunteers, and visitors from safely accessing our facilities. This project aims to ensure inclusivity, dignity, and equal opportunity for all community members regardless of mobility challenges.

Funding will cover materials, construction, safety features (e.g., handrails, anti-slip surfacing), and signage aligning with our commitment to making AFC Wolves a welcoming and fully accessible grassroots football club for everyone. Enabling wheelchair users to participate more fully – whether as players, supporters, or staff – will strengthen the Club's community impact, promote equality, and remove a critical barrier to participation.



AWARDED £20,000.00

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AFC WOLVES

FACILITY RENOVATION & COMMUNITY ACCESS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Project Outcomes Brief

Upon completion of the essential upgrades and renovations at the football ground and clubhouse, we have delivered the following sessions in total:

August and September - over 10 teams, 2 sessions per week, with each team totalling 20 sessions per week. Total number for 8 weeks = 180.
October to April - winter training due to dark evenings and condition of pitches meaning no sessions took place in these months.
180 hours of support/activity have been provided.

Beneficiaries within the club are players, parents and volunteers. This is a total number of 800 persons.

- a. Volunteers for this project was 45 in total and all played a part in agreeing what the need was for the project. This allowed us to get an opinion from those closest to the club and agree with which contractors to use. Volunteers were used to agree on decision making and to make the facility safe ready for works. 45 volunteers all provided on average 2 hours each equalling 90 hours in total.

The car park has 45 spaces which takes the pressure away from local road parking which was causing concerns with local residents. The locals have thanked us for carrying out this work and feel they will benefit from this massively due to there drives and road not being blocked.

We used £2,700.00 from the club's savings collected from donations and sponsor money to ensure we met targets.



AWARDED £20,000.00

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AFC WOLVES

FACILITY RENOVATION & COMMUNITY ACCESS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Case Study 1

Background: Three local volunteers supported the community project to develop a new 40-space parking area. The volunteers included: a retired gentleman, a young parent, and a long-standing resident.

Needs: Support planning discussions and help coordinate communication with local households. Provide on-the-ground help, especially around clearing and tidying areas affected by the works. Door-knocking engagement to ensure residents understood what was happening. Strengthen community relationships and gather local feedback throughout the project.

Actions Taken: Assisting with planning meetings, offering local insight and helping shape communications. Door-knocking across the estate, speaking directly with residents to explain the works, answer questions, and gather feedback. Supporting clean-up efforts including clearing litter, removing debris, and ensuring the area was safe and tidy. Acting as community representatives, feeding residents' views back to the Chairman and project team.

Outcomes: Improved resident engagement through clear, friendly doorstep communication. Higher levels of trust and cooperation between the community and the project team. A cleaner, well-presented area following construction, helping the final parking area feel welcoming and well cared for. Stronger community spirit, as local people saw the volunteers actively contributing to a shared improvement. Personal fulfilment for the volunteers, who expressed pride in contributing to a project that benefits the whole neighbourhood.

Case Study 2

Background: The project was led by the Chairman of AFC Wolves who was overseeing a funding application for the first time. The project was approached with enthusiasm and a strong commitment to improving local infrastructure.

Needs: Create a safe, accessible parking area with 40 spaces for residents and visitors. Reduce congestion and parking pressure on the surrounding main road. Improve local safety, particularly during winter when poor weather created additional challenges. Manage contractor coordination and resident communication, which required significant time and planning.

Actions Taken: Coordinated with contractors to ensure the works could progress despite wintery conditions and shorter daylight hours. Engaged residents to keep them updated on timescales, access changes, and project milestones. Oversaw the full development process, from planning and ground preparation to installation of the parking surface and final checks. Ensured compliance with funding requirements and safety standards throughout.

Outcomes: A completed 40-space parking area, easing pressure on local streets. Improved safety and accessibility, especially during winter when road conditions are more difficult. Enhanced community satisfaction - residents reported reduced congestion and greater ease of access. Leadership development gaining valuable experience navigating funding processes, managing contractors, and coordinating multi-stakeholder communication. Strengthened community infrastructure, supporting long-term local wellbeing.

"It felt good to do something that really makes a difference to the street."

"Helping clean up at the end made us proud of what the community has achieved."



"The end result has made a huge difference, and we're proud to provide safer, more convenient parking for the whole community."

AWARDED £20,000.00

AFC WOLVES

FACILITY RENOVATION & COMMUNITY ACCESS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



AWARDED £20,000.00

BASICALLY CHEER CIC

LEVELLING UP

Background & Project Brief

This project is enabling us to level up, reach more people and deliver a greater impact within our communities across three key areas:

Improving Facilities and Amenities

We will continue developing our outside space, by creating a community garden and seating area which we hope will lead to future activity and volunteer opportunities as this develops. Keep our grounds tidy and well maintained with monthly maintenance work which will include tending to outside spaces, re-decorating and more. Providing free refreshments which will hopefully encourage more people to come along.

Running and Improving Activities and Events

We will be able to develop our SEN parent support group with the addition of adding FASD awareness and having a new volunteer that will support this. We will hold a Halloween disco which will be free for families to attend and will include entertainment and food, we will hold 2 free weeklong holiday clubs for up to 30 children each day which will be in October & February and will include a schedule of activities including physical activity and include a free healthy lunch. We will also provide first aid training for our team and volunteers.

Increasing Participation and Awareness

We will be trialling a targeted marketing campaign to achieve maximum impact and to help capture those hard-to-reach audiences. Despite having a strong online presence there are many people who are not on social media or online, our plan is to create posters / leaflets that specifically target these groups. Once created we will distribute these in local libraries, care homes, with social prescribers, nurseries and schools as well as attending community events. We will also invest in outside notice boards so we can display upcoming activities and events both from ourselves and other partner organisations.



AWARDED £11,877.00

BASICALLY CHEER CIC

LEVELLING UP

Project Outcomes Brief

SEN Support Group - 7 x 2 hours sessions delivered monthly between September and March

We provided a peer support group where parents came together, swapped tips and got advice. We organised talks by ADHD North West and Lancashire FASD. We are working to build a network and raise awareness for Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and have had positive talks. We have also been selected by the office of Oliver Ryan MP to host a questions and answers event about the new SEND reforms. We are collaborating with Child Action North West to deliver SEND sessions.

Halloween Disco - 1 x 2 hour session

We held a fun Halloween disco that had 50 children attend. We played party games, did party dances, provided food and had a visit from our pumpkin mascot. It was lovely to bring children and families together.

Dance Camps - 10 x 5 hours sessions

We ran two holiday clubs during half term where children could enjoy a range of physical and enriching activities including arts and crafts, dancing, games and more. A healthy lunch was also provided at each session.

First Aid Course

This in-depth course consisted of 4 hours online training plus 6 hours in person training. The course covered topics including paediatric first aid including life threatening bleed, and an online first aid at work add on.

We believe this project has achieved our expected outcomes. We successfully engaged 167 participants and received positive feedback showing that our community noticed positive changes as a result of attending our sessions. We have also strengthened our network and started collaborating with new services.



AWARDED £11,877.00

BASICALLY CHEER CIC

LEVELLING UP

Case Study 1

Background: Family - mum, dad and 6 year old girl with SEND

Needs: The family wanted to book their child onto our Halloween Disco and Dance Camp. They were a little unsure as the child had additional needs and needed to keep her comforter toy with her, and needed a bit of extra support. Our team reassured the family and adapted our communication and activities to put them at ease.

Actions Taken: The family were happy and the child had a lovely time at the Halloween Disco and also on the Dance Camp. Our team ensured there were regular checks to see if she was ok and found a quiet space for her if she felt overwhelmed. We also managed communication with parents and arranged for her to finish slightly earlier to suit their needs.

Outcomes: The child increased in confidence, made lots of new friends and our feedback form showed improved mood, learned something new, boosted confidence, felt happier, and made new friends.

"Our daughter absolutely loved attending Basically Cheer - the staff are very supportive of her additional needs...we are so glad we found this place for her and us too."



Case Study 2

Background: Family with 2 daughters.

Needs: Joined to attend our Dance Camps. Parent wanted children to make new friends and build confidence.

Actions Taken: Both girls attended our October Dance Camp. They were quite shy, but they enjoyed taking part in arts and crafts, dancing, the food activity (which was adapted for one of the children due to a dairy allergy), and games.

Outcomes: This made a positive difference and the girls enjoyed it so much they booked onto the February camp too. Their confidence has increased and they thoroughly enjoy coming.

"Both girls love it here. Thank you for bringing out some confidence in them and being inclusive with the allergy so she doesn't miss out."

AWARDED £11,877.00

BASICALLY CHEER CIC

LEVELLING UP



AWARDED £11,877.00

MS ANGLING & EDUCATION

MORE POSITIVE TOGETHER: FISHING FOR SUCCESS

Background & Project Brief

Following on from recently delivering an extremely successful pilot project with 4 Burnley primary schools, MS Angling and Education is offering similar sessions, as well as an extension of these, to all 44 primary and secondary schools in the Burnley district. The inter-community/inter-school fishing therapy project aims to improve community connections whilst supporting mental health and wellbeing through fishing-related activities.

The pilot project brought families together from different cultures, faiths, religions and backgrounds. It helped to connect parents, teachers and children from different areas in the Burnley community; improving community connections, confidence, health and wellbeing. The pilot project provided opportunities for families to mix, celebrate diversity, encourage dialogue and build a more inclusive community.

Through this funding, MS Angling and Education will offer weekly fishing-related 'Wellbeing Sessions' to primary and secondary schools in Burnley. The purpose of these sessions is to support headteachers, staff, schools and families by offering alternative approaches to supporting teaching and learning, using fishing-related activities.

Transition from primary to secondary school can be a difficult time for children. This project plans to help with this transition by providing relaxed, informal opportunities for young children to mix with other pupils, teachers, staff, parents and families from their chosen secondary school. This will help build confidence, rapport and all the children to feel much more relaxed about their transition.



AWARDED £20,000.00

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MS ANGLING & EDUCATION

MORE POSITIVE TOGETHER: FISHING FOR SUCCESS

Project Outcomes Brief

We delivered 29 fishing-related curriculum sessions to children identified by senior leaders in primary and secondary schools with additional learning needs.

We delivered 23 outdoor fishing sessions to school groups since September 2025. This is over 100 beneficiaries/100 day tickets - Over 100 young people benefitting from the health and wellbeing benefits that fishing brings. We have 'fishing transition sessions' planned for the Summer Term 26/27 which have been planned with Blessed Trinity RC College and the primary feeder schools. We're looking forward to this.

We have delivered over 25 indoor curriculum-related 'Woodcarving Sessions' to Burnley schools which have been thoroughly enjoyed by all participants. These have been completed at our 'Lakeside Cabin'. In some cases, a few sessions have been delivered at the school itself. All children taking part have learnt new skills, benefit from the relaxing atmosphere and environment, grown in confidence, been inspired by others, and taken away a wonderful wooden fish carving they produced themselves.

Our project has supported inclusivity, bringing communities together, with a focus on breaking down barriers to learning and opportunity. This has been clear when senior leaders, teachers, and support assistants from schools have been informally discussing the positive benefits of sessions their children have attended.

Our project has offered additional support to young people and families to help them progress towards essential skills (including numeracy, literacy, ESOL and digital), and therefore future employment opportunities. One pupil from a school attending the woodcarving sessions brought a wooden bird-box he had made with his father during the half-term break, following 2 weeks of his attendance at the project. This was so great to see! The project had inspired him and others.

Project sessions offered additional opportunities to support children who were identified as being less active and less confident than their peers. Sessions were specifically planned and delivered by educational professionals to support the needs of these individuals.



AWARDED £20,000.00

MS ANGLING & EDUCATION

MORE POSITIVE TOGETHER: FISHING FOR SUCCESS

Case Study 1

Background: A small group of pupils from a local primary school in Burnley.

Needs: They were selected to help build their confidence, patience, self-esteem, resilience and fine motor skills. Activities were structured to also help improve their teamwork and communication skills.

Actions Taken: Teamwork fishing activities both inside the lakeside cabin and outdoors lakeside. The activities helped to improve all of the above.

Outcomes: The pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves throughout. The school staff member updated us weekly on the improvements noted both in school and at home with the pupils involved.

Case Study 2

Background: Primary school pupil (female) suffering with anxiety and having difficulty with her attendance at school.

Needs: The child was selected by the school with a view to helping improve her confidence, her attendance at school, and positive social interaction with others in a relaxed, calming environment.

Actions Taken: The wellbeing woodcarving sessions were such a help for this young lady. She enjoys going fishing with her family and one of her favourite lessons at school is the 'Forest School' sessions, therefore the planned woodcarving sessions were very appealing to her. As a result of her attending the sessions, the pupil has 'come out of her shell' much more. She had gained self-confidence, found a new hobby, and generally feels better in herself.

Outcomes: The young lady has found coming into school much easier. Her attendance has improved, her confidence has grown, and she is now thriving in school.

"Thank you very much for your amazing work with our school. Your warm, welcome, expert coaching and patient guidance helped our boys to develop discipline, etiquette and teamwork through a new sport."



"It's so good to see her smiling and enjoying her time in the classroom environment more. The sessions have really helped her confidence."

AWARDED £20,000.00

MS ANGLING & EDUCATION

MORE POSITIVE TOGETHER: FISHING FOR SUCCESS



AWARDED £20,000.00

NEW ERA NORTH WEST

THE ANNEXE OUTDOORS

Background & Project Brief

New Era Burnley proposes the creation of 'The Annexe Outdoors' - a new outdoor wellbeing space; a therapeutic outdoor space constructed and designed to support emotional wellbeing of families, young people, and adults across Burnley.

Building on the success of New Era's holistic services and a 'Place of Welcome, our access to all 'Annexe Outdoors' will offer wellbeing-based interventions, promoting healing, connection, and personal growth for all communities, particularly for those who respond better to open sensory environments.

The external space, front and rear of the building, will be utilised and designed for those who've experienced mental health challenges, loneliness or exclusion, and will provide therapy, peer support and creative wellbeing activities. It will also be a gateway for wider connectivity to local services and opportunities New Era delivers, linking with local VCFSE groups and organisations for volunteering, training and community engagement.

The project involves reforming two accessible outdoor spaces, utilising volunteers/organisations such as the Kings Trust to build the spaces and then form a series of inclusive outdoor wellbeing services, including: Therapeutic sessions e.g. mindfulness; peer led groups e.g. gardening, storytelling and reflective practice; family wellbeing events e.g. intergenerational activities building connection and resilience; volunteer opportunities e.g. skill-building through gardening, maintenance, etc.; 1-2-1 wellbeing support, coaching and signposting; mental health and family workshops; community wellbeing events and awareness campaigns; therapy areas, group space and sensory friendly design; and a 'Place of Welcome' for community, voluntary, schools and public service organisations.

The funding will ultimately create with community involvement: quiet reflection zones; raised beds and sensory planting; all weather areas; accessible pathways/seating; and a space for solitary mindfulness or group collaboration.

The resultant impact will reduce isolation, improve mental wellbeing and foster a sense of belonging. A living symbol of our mission: 'believing in you, believing in better.'



AWARDED £6,280.00

NEW ERA NORTH WEST

THE ANNEXE OUTDOORS

Project Outcomes Brief

35 sessions with guided activities delivered, but the space has been opened 12 hours per week. The project began with a clear vision: to create a restorative outdoor space where individuals could experience peace, tranquility, and connection through a sensory garden environment. From the outset, we engaged with local organisations, businesses, and social media communities to share plans which quickly proved successful, with volunteers beginning to join us and take an active role in shaping the space.

A key achievement of the project has been the inclusive and flexible volunteering environment we have established. Volunteers engage in a way that suits them. This flexibility has helped us create a welcoming and safe space where people feel comfortable to come and go as they please.

The physical transformation of the garden has been significant. The heavily overgrown area was cleared. Broken panel fencing was removed and replaced with a lower wire fence, which has since become a creative feature through weaving activities led by volunteers. While clearing, we remained mindful of local wildlife. To ensure habitats preservation, we introduced hibernation stations, bird nesting boxes, and feeding stations. Sustainability has been central to our work; reclaimed fence panels were repurposed into planters, now filled with winter flowers and spring bulbs.

Another major development has been the transformation of the shed into a welcoming "Book Nook." Originally used for storage, it is now a shared community space. Accessibility has been a priority throughout. A seating area with a bench has been carefully positioned to accommodate wheelchair users and prams. In addition, a circular table and chairs were introduced to improve ease of access, removing barriers often associated with traditional picnic benches. These spaces are now regularly used for creative sessions, social interaction, and informal gatherings. A repurposed gazebo has also provided valuable shelter.

The garden has fostered meaningful community connections e.g. a family of five joined during the school holidays to paint the fence a calming soft green. Their involvement not only enhanced the space, but also highlighted the project's wider impact - providing opportunities for families to spend quality time together away from screens. Following this experience, one family member continued to attend creative sessions, using them as valuable personal time alongside work and family responsibilities.

Additional improvements include clearing and cleaning of the decking area, now serving as a versatile space for yoga, creative activities, and group gatherings.

The project developed strong links with external organisations. We have provided placements for students from The King's Trust and individuals accessing other services offered by New Era North West. Interest continues to grow, with enquiries from additional agencies and participation from a local school group in our creative sessions.

Importantly, volunteers have had opportunities to develop practical skills, using tools such as hammers, and glue guns - many for the first time. This hands-on experience increased confidence and sense of achievement. The garden is open to volunteers, offering a peaceful space to enjoy and structured creative activities to take part in.

Alongside the physical development of the space, we have delivered a varied programme of seasonal and wellbeing-focused activities:

- November: Hot chocolate and marshmallows with a surprise treat for volunteers; soup-making; visiting Community Grocers; and Japanese Kintsugi-inspired mindful drawing
- December: Clay Christmas tree making, wreath making, and Christmas carols
- January: A crisp winter walk, wind chime creation, and mindful colouring sessions
- February: Felt heart crafts, bird feeder and bird box making, spring planting, and nature lantern activities

Overall, the project has successfully created a welcoming, inclusive, and therapeutic outdoor environment. It has not only transformed a neglected space into a thriving community garden, but has also fostered connection, creativity, skill development, and wellbeing among all those involved.

AWARDED £6,280.00

35

NEW ERA NORTH WEST

THE ANNEXE OUTDOORS

Case Study 1

Background: We had met this lady at another organisation when delivering numeracy courses. She was interested in what The Outdoor Annexe could offer her and her son.

Needs: Her son hadn't been outside properly for nearly 2 years, and with the space feeling so safe and secure, felt The Annexe Outdoors would give them something to do together. She felt he would like to access the creative sessions.

Actions Taken: The son had agreed to come, but decided it was too much for him and so the mother came alone. She took plenty of photographs to show him the space and leaflets, telling him what he could help with. The mother came back to our wind chime making session still alone, but said he was warming up to the idea of coming along. After the session she said he would really enjoy the sessions if he could do it on his own or with just her, so we put a kit together for him and left it in the shed for him to come along and complete.

Outcomes: The son decided to come along and have a look at the garden and is keen to come along to help. His mum feels this is a step in the right direction to get him out and about again and hopes this is something they can enjoy together. Meanwhile, mum has been attending every session every week and is really enjoying the activities, but also the connecting with other people.

Case Study 2

Background: The Annexe Outdoors welcomes and supports volunteers from across our community including from one of our local specialised schools with teachers who love to come along with a few of their students to access the garden and join in with the creative events.

Needs: The staff from the school told us students don't generally like to interact with people they don't know and have found the sessions perfect for them as a safe, quiet space when using the outdoor space.

Actions Taken: Activities included potting plants, making planters, and using equipment they wouldn't normally.

Outcomes: We slowly introduced the students to the creative sessions where the students interacted with others in the session asking how their days are and talking about how they are going to tackle the creative activity.

"Thank you so much for putting on these activities every week. I've really enjoyed every session and loved seeing the outdoor space change so much. I can't wait for summer out there."



"We are extremely pleased with the progress the students are making and have created an 'New Era Outdoors' scrapbook in school."

AWARDED £6,280.00

NEW ERA NORTH WEST

THE ANNEXE OUTDOORS



AWARDED £6,280.00

LANCASHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

CHAI CENTRE COMMUNITY GARDEN ACTION

Background & Project Brief

Lancashire Wildlife Trust Nature and Wellbeing Service will deliver an 8 month programme of weekly nature-based activity in the Community Garden at The Chai Centre in Burnley.

The programme is built around creating and enjoying a vibrant community garden and a range of Environmental Awareness Days to show people of Burnley how their local actions feed into wider environmental activism, community engagement, and learning. This is a project aimed at widening the community engagement reach of LWT at the Chai Centre - making the outdoor space vibrant with new groups and individuals who want to incorporate nature time into their lives. It will offer gentle teaching and guidance in environmental issues alongside exciting and engaging activities.

LWT staff time will plan, recruit for, and deliver, practical accredited sessions across August 2025 to March 2026. We have included funding requests for materials to run the sessions, a refreshments/ingredients budget, and travel expenses for volunteers/groups, so that travel cost to be a barrier to attendance.

Each month one of the sessions will be based on an environmental awareness day, carrying out a local, place-based action:

August- National Allotments Week; September - Organic September; October- Recycle Week; November - Tree Week; December - Soil Week; January - Big Garden Bird Watch; February - World Wetland Day; and March - Great British Spring Clean.

Another session each month will be a healthy cooking and preserving activity in the outdoor kitchen. We will also hold an end of project 'Celebration of our Garden' event. Staff will create a handbook with guidance of how to do these activities at home so the learning can be shared.

All sessions will include wellbeing support for participants by incorporating the 5 Ways to Wellbeing into sessions. These are things that if you acknowledge doing every day, can add 7 years to life expectancy.



AWARDED £9,800.00

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LANCASHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

CHAI CENTRE COMMUNITY GARDEN ACTION

Project Outcomes Brief

Over the duration of the project we have delivered 35 sessions at 2 hours each. We have worked with 35 individual participants, 29 of whom have received accreditation - 62 accreditations in total were awarded. 3 participants became volunteers on the project.

A programme of weekly activity sessions was based around theme weeks and staff delivered activities such as:

August - National Allotments Week: planting, harvesting and garden planning sessions; September - Organic September: creating habitat piles, and making bird feeders and autumn chutney; October - Recycle Week: creating cold-frames from recycled materials, and using the apple press to make fresh apple juice; November - Tree Week: tree ID walk amongst the local greenspaces, and making pumpkin soup; December - Soil Week: making terrariums, and carrot and sunflower seed pesto; January - Big Garden Bird Watch: due to staff sickness we had no sessions on site this month, but participants were encouraged to take part in the bird watch independently and supported with recording; February - World Wetland Day: pond work - and looking at wetland species, creating a hibernaculum, and starting the bug hotel; and March - Great British Spring Clean: local litter-pick and recording of what was found.

The programme was built around creating and enjoying the vibrant community garden at the Chai Centre. We used a range of Environmental Awareness Days to theme our activity sessions and show participants how their local actions feed into wider environmental activism, community engagement and learning. This weekly programme has encouraged new participants into the garden who have then also taken up offers from the wider Community Roots programme. Participants discussed how they have used the knowledge they have gained to do more nature based activity in their own lives. This includes looking at IDing species while they are out and about, using more vegetables in their cooking and baking, as well as litter-picking their local areas.

We also offered 2 accredited Bushcraft sessions, working with young people from the Kings Trust. Using the outdoor classroom we showed them the value of being out in nature, how to cook simple things over a fire, and how to make items out of greenwood.

Biodiversity in the garden increased with activities making a bug hotel, hibernaculum, and also feeding the birds. We have also grown healthy produce.

The programme has been well received by people who work in the Chai Centre. Staff who use the garden for breaks have been keen to learn about what we have been doing and why.



AWARDED £9,800.00

LANCASHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

CHAI CENTRE COMMUNITY GARDEN ACTION

Case Study 1

Background: 49 year old Asian female who self-referred having seen information while attending another class at the centre.

Needs: She wanted to get out in nature as they found this therapeutic. She found Katie who runs the sessions really helpful as she can advise on what to do in the garden and other green spaces with planting and seeding.

Actions Taken: Activities such as gardening, including planting, seeding and weeding, as well as surveys, litter picks, crafting and cooking. The sessions offer year-round activities that are tailored to suitable weather conditions. Attending the sessions also helped with socialising and making friends who she now socialises with outside of the group.

Outcomes: The attendee has had a difficult time, struggling with loss and grief. The sessions offer a change of scenery and an opportunity to relax. She said the sessions really help with her mental health as it offers a place to talk with other attendees and it's important for the community to have that.

"Very grateful for the sessions at the Chai Centre."

Case Study 2

Background: A Burnley lady who has a form of Down syndrome and is volunteering with the project.

Needs: She referred herself to give her more confidence with a lot of things in her life and to find like-minded people, as well as finding confidence to support others in any challenges they might be facing in their life. She also wanted to nurture her own growing interest in growing, wildlife and food.

Actions Taken: We encouraged her to share her ideas, giving her confidence and gradually she started to lead sections of the session herself.

Outcomes: There were personal challenges the lady needed to overcome, and parts of herself she needed to accept and be proud of. Gaining confidence with the sessions and through volunteering enabled her to embrace her differences to others and become an ambassador for the Down Syndrome Association. She also gained so much confidence in her own cooking skills and cooks online to a live audience via Facebook and YouTube. She also has started to get a lot more involved with her local community, running stalls and even doing a charity sleep over in an old hall (originally built 1380) on Halloween.

"I started coming to the group on social prescription before starting as a volunteer. I feel I have gained confidence, friendships and support through something I am passionate about."



AWARDED £9,800.00

LANCASHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

CHAI CENTRE COMMUNITY GARDEN ACTION



Lancashire,
Manchester &
N Merseyside

AWARDED £9,800.00

PADIHAM FC JUNIORS

NEW 20 FT FOOTBALL EQUIPMENT STORAGE CONTAINER

Background & Project Brief

The existing storage container is very old and is generally not fit for purpose. One of the container doors doesn't open. The roof leaks causing equipment to get damp and mouldy. Access is poor due to its position at the end of the car park.

This project will replace the current container with a brand-new 20ft one. The container's dimensions would be length 20ft x width 8ft x height 9ft 6" and it would have 28 air vents including vents on the rear to allow air to flow through and stop condensation issues arising. A lockbox would be included as well as an easy open handle and the flooring would be coated plywood or bamboo composite in nature.

As part of this work, the container location would be moved to the field side of the changing rooms building (the existing one is located on the end of the car park right next to the building). Due to the container being so close to the building, we have had numerous issues of anti-social behaviour, with youths climbing on to the roof (via the container) and causing damage.

As part of the relocation, we would create a concrete pad to provide a suitable foundation for the container to sit on. The container would be field side and as such would be more accessible and easier for managers and volunteers to take out and put away portable goals, training equipment, etc. The moving of the container would also free up some more car parking space (which is at a limit especially on matchdays at weekends) and open up access from the end of the car park to the changing rooms. Planning permission has been granted by Burnley Council Green Spaces, and also for the relocation of the container.

This project will involve, and ultimately help, all the junior teams within our club. We have 22 teams in total, ranging from 6-year-olds to 18-year-olds, both boys, mixed and girls football. Anyone can come along to training or play as we take on all ages and abilities.

Most of the players, volunteers, coaches and committee members come from Padiham and the local area. We want to provide a better all-round experience for the players (including visiting teams/supporters/etc) and this is the first step in trying to improve the quality and inclusiveness of facilities at Fennyfold. We are also working with Burnley Council on trying to improve the changing rooms, playing pitches and car park.



AWARDED £9,655.00

42

PADIHAM FC JUNIORS

NEW 20 FT FOOTBALL EQUIPMENT STORAGE CONTAINER

Project Outcomes Brief

A new concrete pad was built for the brand-new 20ft equipment container to sit on.

Over a thousand unique beneficiaries have benefitted from this development project so far, and many more thousands will continue to do so over the coming years thus creating a more thoroughly enjoyable experience for all beneficiaries and stakeholders.

Being able to use a new container that's fit for purpose has engaged all beneficiaries of Padiham Juniors Football Club. They have embraced it and love the new equipment.

The expected and desired outcome of this development project has been fully achieved. All volunteers, coaches, managers and players are now using the brand-new container which is keeping training and matchday equipment safe and sound ensuring training sessions and matchdays take place as expected.

This project came in under budget resulting in a £1,539.50 underspend. These remaining funds were authorised to be used for the purchase of new goalposts and nets for the club to use during training sessions and matchdays.



AWARDED £9,655.00

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PADIHAM FC JUNIORS

NEW 20 FT FOOTBALL EQUIPMENT STORAGE CONTAINER

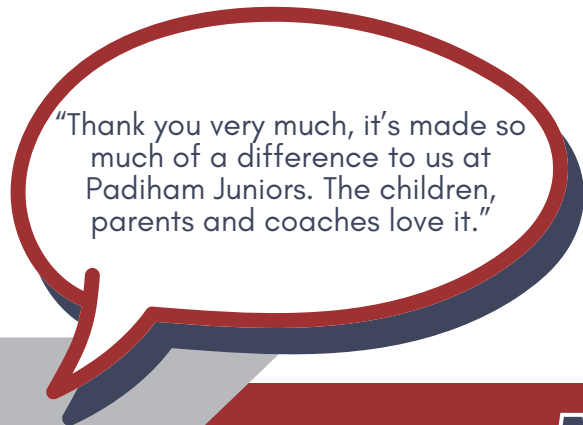
Case Study 1

Background: The whole club of players for Padiham Juniors Football Club and volunteers connected. Plus travelling players and coaches.

Needs: The club was in desperate need of a new container to store new equipment due to the old one being unfit for purpose.

Actions Taken: Padiham Juniors Football Club applied for the funding, agreed all space with Burnley Council, and executed the project.

Outcomes: The outcome is massive. All of the children and coaches are benefitting from the new piece of equipment. It's more secure and clean.



AWARDED £9,655.00

PADIHAM FC JUNIORS

NEW 20 FT FOOTBALL EQUIPMENT STORAGE CONTAINER



AWARDED £9,655.00

45

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH COMMITTEE

OPEN TO EVERYONE: INCLUSIVE OUTDOOR IMPROVEMENTS

Background & Project Brief

At St Margaret's Church, centrally located in the village of Hapton, Burnley, we're open to everyone and believe that open spaces make strong places. Through this project, we are setting out to make essential enhancements to our external areas that bring together and serve our local community.

This project seeks to undertake repair and enhancement works to the church grounds and car park. The external areas are well used and support community events including the annual Christmas and Summer Fairs, Christmas Lights Switch-on, Remembrance Day activities, and providing facilities for many community groups including Rainbows and Brownies, toddler groups, and the Mothers' Union. We also provide safe access and parking for the school adjacent to the church, which is situated on a busy road. This avoids the major hazard of parking around the entrance to the school and ensures a safer environment for the children alighting and disembarking from vehicles.

However, high usage of the external areas has led to wear and tear which requires long-term investment beyond our financial means to safeguard these areas for community benefit. Firstly, the project will undertake repair and resurfacing works to the car park which has become cracked and uneven over time. This is vital for us to keep the church accessible and safe particularly for the young, elderly and those with disabilities or mobility issues. Also, for us to continue to host much loved community events in this space.

Secondly, this development project will maintain our external paths and greenspaces which again, are frequently used by our community and also enhance the amenity of the village. Our church building, has been well maintained over the years, has a small kitchen, an accessible toilet, downstairs meeting room and an upstairs room which we use for Junior Church, and as a meeting room for other community groups. We are pleased to leave our church open during the daytime for visitors to look around and have a quiet time for prayer should they wish.



Padiham
Parish

AWARDED £14,400.00

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ST MARGARET'S CHURCH COMMITTEE

OPEN TO EVERYONE: INCLUSIVE OUTDOOR IMPROVEMENTS

Project Outcomes Brief

St Margaret's Church sits at the heart of the village of Hapton, Burnley, and plays a far wider role than that of a traditional place of worship. As a well-used community hub, we provide a welcoming space for local groups, host much-loved events, and support families, children, and older residents. Investment from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund has been essential in enabling us to continue and strengthen this contribution.

With the funding secured, we have delivered a programme of repair and enhancement works to the external church grounds, with a particular focus on resurfacing and improving the car park. These outdoor areas are heavily relied upon throughout the year and form the backdrop to key community activities including the annual Christmas and Summer Fairs, the Christmas Lights Switch-On, and Remembrance Day events. They also support a wide range of local groups such as Rainbows, Brownies, toddler groups, and the Mothers' Union, all of whom depend on safe, accessible facilities.

Importantly, the car park also provides a crucial safe access point for families using the adjacent school, which is situated on a busy main road. The improvements have reduced the need for roadside parking around the school entrance, helping to ease congestion and create a safer environment for children as they arrive and leave school.

Before this investment, years of high usage had taken a significant toll on the external surfaces. The car park had become cracked, uneven, and increasingly difficult to maintain, presenting challenges for visitors – particularly those who are elderly, young, or have disabilities or mobility issues. Long-term repair work was urgently needed, but far beyond the financial reach of the church alone.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund has therefore been transformational. The resurfacing works have restored the car park to a safe, level, and durable condition, ensuring that St Margaret's can remain accessible to everyone in the community. This improvement secures the future of the space as a venue for valued community events and everyday activities, helping us continue to serve as a vital, inclusive resource for the village.

Circa 200 unique beneficiaries, based upon approximate users of the church for weekly services, users of the car park, including the school and community groups, and visitors to annual events, have benefitted from this work.



Padiham
Parish

AWARDED £14,400.00

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ST MARGARET'S CHURCH COMMITTEE

OPEN TO EVERYONE: INCLUSIVE OUTDOOR IMPROVEMENTS

Case Study 1

Background: Head Teacher at Hapton CofE/Methodist Primary School and is responsible for the wellbeing and safety of pupils attending the school.

Needs: The school are regular users of the car park in regard to drop-offs/pick-ups and other activities.

Actions Taken: The development of the car park through resurfacing prevents parking and congestion on the main road which leads to safety concerns.

Outcomes: The car park resurfacing has made a significant contribution to the school by enabling safe access for children. The permitted use of the car park discourages on-road parking and contributes significantly to the safety of both the children and those accompanying them.

Case Study 2

Background: Lay Minister at St Margaret's Church who is heavily involved in the day-to-day life of the church and providing pastoral support to both congregation members and the wider community. Alongside leading worship and taking part in church activities, she regularly carries out home visits to vulnerable and elderly residents.

Needs: Lynne has mobility issues, and as a frequent user of the car park the deteriorating surface had become a significant hazard for her and for other visitors with disabilities or limited mobility.

Actions Taken: The car park has been redeveloped with new surfacing.

Outcomes: The rejuvenation of the car park has enabled Lynne—and others in similar circumstances—to continue accessing the church safely and confidently, allowing them to remain active in church life and continue serving the community.

"I offer our thanks for work the church has done resurfacing the car park immediately across the road from our school and heavily used by parents dropping off and picking up their children and for other events."



**Padiham
Parish**

"The new car park has made such a difference to me and many other people. I can get in and out of the church safely now, without worrying about tripping or slipping."

AWARDED £14,400.00

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH COMMITTEE

OPEN TO EVERYONE: INCLUSIVE OUTDOOR IMPROVEMENTS



Padiham
Parish

AWARDED £14,400.00

ENTERPRISING HABITS LTD

CHAT AND CHAI

Background & Project Brief

We are looking to reopen and revitalise the long-closed café at the Chai Centre in Burnley, transforming it into a vibrant hub and volunteer-led community café that supports inclusion, training, wellbeing, and social connection. The café is situated at the heart of the Daneshouse and Stoneyholme community, surrounded by over 10,000 residents, including large Pakistani, Bangladeshi, and Syrian refugee populations. The space has remained closed since the covid-19 pandemic, but after 18 months of sustained dialogue, Enterprising Habits Ltd has successfully secured access to re-establish and lead its operation.

Our plan is to recruit a volunteer café manager working on a self-employed basis as an independent practitioner and train a team of local volunteers, many of whom may be facing barriers to employment, social isolation, or language limitations referring into local services. Volunteers will gain practical experience and training in food safety, hospitality, teamwork, and customer service—building both confidence and employability. Crucially, the café will act as a gateway to wider opportunities within the Chai Centre, which already hosts or is developing partnerships with: Lancashire Adult Learning (ESOL & digital skills), The Wildlife Trust (growing and sustainability project), health and wellbeing services (mental health, yoga, gym), primary care outreach, and steps to employment - we run a specialist employment hub ourselves.

By embedding itself within the existing network of services at the Chai Centre, the community café will do far more than provide affordable food and drink — it will serve as a vibrant platform for social impact, skill development, and community empowerment. Our goal is to engage at least 500 local residents in the first 12 months, offering meaningful opportunities that support both wellbeing and personal progression. The café will act as a neutral, inclusive space where people from different backgrounds — including Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Syrian and other communities — can interact, build relationships, and reduce social isolation. This will help strengthen intercultural understanding and community cohesion in one of Burnley's most diverse neighbourhoods. Initially, we plan to open the café Monday to Thursday, 10am-3pm, with a phased expansion to evenings and weekends, eventually operating 7 days a week as demand and volunteer capacity grow. This grant will support initial setup costs, volunteer recruitment and training, equipment, and early operational delivery, laying the foundation for a self-sustaining and inclusive community resource. We will also offer childcare support for volunteers, enabling wider participation from women and carers.



AWARDED £14,400.00

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ENTERPRISING HABITS LTD

CHAT AND CHAI

Project Outcomes Brief

Since the award of funding, the Chat & Chai project has delivered a substantial programme of activity, exceeding initial expectations set out in the application. In total, we have delivered over 18 structured sessions and a wide range of additional engagement activities, alongside the successful launch of the community café in October. This launch marked a significant milestone, reactivating a previously closed space within the Chai Centre and transforming it into a vibrant, inclusive hub for the local community.

The café has quickly established itself as more than a place for food and drink; it is now functioning as a central point for community connection, skills development, and wellbeing support. Regular café sessions have provided consistent volunteering opportunities, enabling individuals from diverse backgrounds to gain hands-on experience in a supportive, real-world environment. Alongside this, we convened a Culture Makers session involving 26 local community leaders, creatives, and residents, helping to shape future programming and embed community ownership within the project.

A series of partner-led sessions have also been delivered, focusing on employability skills, pathways into work, and confidence building. These have been complemented by bilingual Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) support, ensuring accessibility for individuals facing language and cultural barriers.

In addition, the café has hosted mental health and wellbeing activities, as well as arts and crafts sessions, creating a safe and welcoming environment that encourages participation, reduces isolation, and strengthens social connections, particularly for women and families.

A key area of impact has been volunteer development. We have supported 15 volunteers in building essential basic skills, confidence, and work readiness through structured engagement in café operations. Of these, 9 volunteers successfully completed accredited Food Allergen training, and a further 4 completed Food Safety certification. These achievements contributed directly to the café being awarded a 5-star hygiene rating by Burnley Borough Council's Environmental Health team, demonstrating both compliance and a strong commitment to quality and safety standards.

Collectively, these activities have positioned Chat & Chai as an emerging "North Star" within the community – a hub for culture, volunteering, wellbeing, and progression. The space is increasingly acting as a launchpad for individuals, particularly women and young people, who are beginning to explore further training, employment pathways, and even early-stage business ideas. The project has not only met its intended outcomes but has evolved into a dynamic and responsive community asset, with strong foundations for long-term sustainability and growth



AWARDED £14,400.00

ENTERPRISING HABITS LTD

CHAT AND CHAI

Case Study 1

Background: A single parent who relocated from London to Burnley. She is separated following an abusive relationship and the primary caregiver for her children.

Needs: To support her mental wellbeing (including managing anxiety, low mood, and sleep difficulties), social isolation and community integration, confidence building, employability and work readiness. She required a safe, supportive environment with structured opportunities to regain routine and develop skills.

Actions Taken: The café supported her by providing a safe, inclusive, and flexible volunteering environment offering hands-on experience in a real work setting. She participated in customer-facing and operational roles such as till operation/handling transactions, taking orders, organising stock and maintaining hygiene standards, delivering customer service in a busy environment, and completed barista training and prepared beverages. Additional support included CV development support and guidance on job searching.

Outcomes: Improved wellbeing, with reduced isolation and increased routine. Increased confidence in communication and workplace responsibilities. Enhanced social inclusion, developing a sense of belonging within the café. Improved employability, gaining practical and transferable skills.

"I appreciate the opportunity and being part of the café has had a meaningful impact on my wellbeing and confidence."



Case Study 2

Background: A housewife who moved to the UK a few years ago.

Needs: Never worked before and originally joined The Hub attending ESOL classes to improve her English. Our employment team spoke about future opportunities and whether she might consider working or volunteering - wanted to work, but lacked skills, confidence, and understanding UK employment.

Actions Taken: She attended employability workshops to learn about UK workplace culture, basic employment language, customer service dialogues, understanding job roles, and building confidence communicating. As confidence grew, we encouraged her to try volunteering in our community café. She was very nervous and worried, but she agreed to begin two days per week, starting with simple tasks such as food preparation, cleaning, and organising.

Outcomes: When the time came to take customer orders, she became anxious. We reminded her that she had practised these conversations in class and staff would stay beside her. She bravely attempted it and to her surprise, she successfully took her first food order and confidence increased immediately, and no longer felt afraid to interact with customers. She has now gained increased English-speaking confidence, practical work experience, customer service skills, a strong sense of independence, and motivation to continue developing her skills and consider future employment.

"I am very happy and thank you to The Hub team for your continued and dedicated support."

AWARDED £14,400.00

ENTERPRISING HABITS LTD

CHAT AND CHAI



AWARDED £14,400

ROSEGROVE FOOTBALL CLUB

BASNETT STREET TRAINING FACILITY

Background & Project Brief

This project aims to supply a secure storage container to replace our vandalised cabin and changing room facilities, which have suffered extensive damage due to recent acts of vandalism. These facilities have been critical to the continued operation of our activities, offering secure, weather-proof space for storing equipment and providing shelter for participants and visitors.

Due to the damage - including broken doors and windows, destroyed interior fixtures, and compromised structural security - the facilities have become unsafe and unusable. Rather than attempt to repair the extensively damaged structures, we now intend to install a secure storage container. This solution will ensure the safe, weather-resistant storage of our sports equipment and provide a reliable base of operations for our community work.

The new container will include reinforced doors, security, upgraded locks to help deter future incidents, and ensure long-term usability. Working with local suppliers and contractors, where possible, to source and install the container, supports the local economy and encourages community involvement in the project.

This facility is vital to our ongoing delivery of grassroots sports, wellbeing initiatives, and youth engagement activities. Having secure storage will allow us to continue offering physical activity, personal development, and a sense of community connection in a safe and structured environment.

This project will help us recover from recent setbacks, safeguard our future operations, and contribute to restoring confidence and pride in the local area. It will enable us to continue delivering inclusive, accessible, and meaningful community activities for everyone involved with Rosegrove Football Club.

Our project will benefit a significant number of people, with Rosegrove Football Club supporting over 400 participants, more than 70 volunteers, as well as the families of those involved and members of the wider local community, all of whom engage weekly with our activities. Many of our Rosegrove FC family are often underrepresented or face barriers to participation in community and physical activity spaces. We pride ourselves on creating an inclusive environment where everyone is welcome and regularly engages with our dedicated team of volunteers and coaches.

By supplying a new storage container, we aim to create an accessible space that supports a wide range of community-led activities alongside our football sessions. This facility is essential for providing high-quality provision, enabling the secure storage of vital equipment.



AWARDED £5,728.00

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ROSEGROVE FOOTBALL CLUB

BASNETT STREET TRAINING FACILITY

Project Outcomes Brief

The UK Shared Prosperity Funding has been used to provide secure storage for our goalposts and equipment at our Bassnett Street facility.

Heasandford Primary School, from whom we rent the facility, had planned to remove the existing storage cabin due to ongoing vandalism issues. In response, we applied for funding to install a secure container that would safely house our 11-a-side and 7-a-side goalposts, ensuring we could continue delivering football provision across Burnley and the surrounding areas.

There was an initial delay in the project timeline, as the school had intended to remove the cabin in Autumn 2025, but this was not completed until late January 2026. Following this, we progressed with the necessary groundwork, including the construction of a suitable base for the container, which was completed on Friday 13th March 2026. The container was subsequently delivered and installed on Friday 27th March 2026, marking the completion of the project.

This project has had a significant positive impact on our organisation. Without this secure storage solution, we would not have been able to safely store our equipment at the facility, and therefore would have been unable to continue offering football provision at this site.

We currently support 8 eleven-a-side teams and 7 seven-a-side teams, with over 200 members benefiting directly from this improvement. The facility now enables us to host at least 10 football matches each weekend, ensuring continued access to sport for the local community.

The project has delivered several unexpected benefits. Improved reliability and organisation of matchdays and training: significantly reduced the time and effort required to transport and set up equipment, leading to more efficient delivery and improved experience for players and volunteers. Increased volunteer engagement: the easier access to equipment has encouraged greater involvement from volunteers, as sessions are now simpler to organise and manage, thus reducing pressure on a small number of key individuals. Enhanced facility sustainability: the presence of a secure container has reduced the risk of damage, loss, or vandalism of equipment, ensuring long-term sustainability of football provision at the site. Capacity for future growth: with appropriate storage now in place, we are better positioned to expand our provision, including the potential to introduce additional teams or training sessions in the future. Stronger relationship with the facility provider: the project has supported a more positive and sustainable working relationship with the school, as the new storage solution addresses previous concerns around vandalism and site management.

Overall, these additional benefits have strengthened both the day-to-day delivery and long-term viability of our project, beyond the original expectations.



AWARDED £5,728.00

55

ROSEGROVE FOOTBALL CLUB

BASNETT STREET TRAINING FACILITY

Case Study 1

Background: A 14-year-old male participant from the local area, currently a member of one of our 11-a-side teams. He joined the club through a parent referral and has been attending for several seasons.

Needs: The participant required consistent access to structured football activity to support his physical wellbeing, confidence, and continued engagement in a positive community environment. Previous disruptions to sessions due to equipment storage issues risked affecting his attendance and experience.

Actions Taken: Through the project, secure on-site storage was installed, ensuring that all equipment and goalposts were safely stored and readily available. This enabled the club to deliver regular, uninterrupted training sessions and fixtures.

Outcomes: The participant has benefited from consistent weekly football, resulting in improved confidence, attendance, and enjoyment. He remains actively engaged with his team and continues to develop both socially and physically.

"I really enjoy playing every week now. It's good that training and matches are always on."



Case Study 2

Background: A volunteer coach supporting one of our junior teams, who became involved through their child's participation in the club.

Needs: The volunteer required a more manageable and sustainable way to deliver sessions, as previously they were responsible for transporting equipment to and from the site, which was time consuming and physically demanding.

Actions Taken: The installation of the secure storage container has enabled all equipment to be stored safely on-site, removing the need for regular transportation and reducing logistical pressures on volunteers.

Outcomes: The volunteer is now able to focus more on coaching and player development rather than logistics. This has improved their overall experience and supported their continued involvement with the club.

"This has made a huge difference. It's taken a lot of pressure off and means I can just focus on the team."

AWARDED £5,728.00

ROSEGROVE FOOTBALL CLUB

BASNETT STREET TRAINING FACILITY



AWARDED £5,728.00

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BURNLEY YOUTH THEATRE

SPEAK OUT

Background & Project Brief

Theatre Tour

Burnley Youth Theatre will tour a play called 'Toxic' to five secondary schools in Burnley in autumn 2025. The issue-based play explores toxic elements of young people's lives including social media pressures, friendships/relationships and toxic masculinity. The play will perform to one year group (approximately 200 young people per school), and then smaller groups will take part in workshops which tackle the themes of the production.

The piece will raise awareness of important topics for local young people and support them to explore these issues in a safe and supportive environment. The tour will also help Burnley Youth Theatre raise its profile for touring theatre for teenage audiences which will create opportunities for future issue based projects in collaboration with local schools.

Creative Response

In January 2026, we will work with five groups of young people (one from each school) to form a creative response to 'Toxic'. Each group will include around 15 young people who will work for ten weeks with a facilitator/director to make their own short piece of theatre. Their pieces will promote youth voice and explore issues they are experiencing/care about such as mental health, exam pressures, the environment, and social media.

Speak Out Festival

In March 2026, we will host the Speak Out Festival at our venue. Each group will perform their play at the festival and there will be creative workshops/drop-ins throughout the day. We will have a marketplace in our foyer where VCF organisations can support young people through information and signposting. The festival will be attended by young people from Burnley schools and we will invite local councillors, local decision makers and stakeholders to attend so that young people's voices are heard by adults who have the power and influence to make change happen.

Our project is aimed at young people aged 12-16 from hard to reach communities. The five local secondary schools will be from areas of high deprivation with diverse young people who may not normally access the arts or creative activity due to financial and social barriers. Some of the young people we will work with have protected characteristics including those who are from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds or are disabled, have learning difficulties or are neurodiverse, and may feel excluded from taking part in the arts. We recognise that young people have different needs and will provide support to ensure that every young person who wants to access this project, will be able to.



AWARDED £17,030.00

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BURNLEY YOUTH THEATRE

SPEAK OUT

Project Outcomes Brief

We recruited a project director who carried out cast rehearsals, the tour and the Speak Out project in five local secondary schools. He was supported by Laura Simpson, Head of Programmes, who managed the project by liaising with schools and carrying out necessary risk assessments and management.

Here are the outcomes of the Speak Out project:

Play Rehearsals - October - December 2025 = 5 days of rehearsals (equivalent to 10 sessions)

The cast (3 young actors) worked with the Director to revise the play 'Toxic' to make it relevant and up to date for teen audiences. The issue-based play explores toxic elements of young people's lives including social media pressures, friendships/relationships and toxic masculinity. The group ended up re-working more of the play than planned due to making it relevant for their current target audience.

Theatre Tour - January 2026 = 10 performances and 10 post show workshops (equivalent to 10 sessions)

The play toured 5 Burnley Secondary Schools from Monday 26th January until Friday 26th January. They visited The Heights (alternative provision school), Sir John Thursby Community College, Blessed Trinity RC College, Unity College and Shuttleworth College that week. Over each day they delivered 2 performances and 2 post show workshops.

Creative Response Workshops/Rehearsals - January - March 2026 = 60 sessions comprising 8 workshops (equivalent to 8 sessions) x 5 schools = 40 sessions + 2 days rehearsals (equivalent to 4 sessions) x 5 schools = 20 sessions

The schools involved in the tour were then given the opportunity to select a group of their pupils who will work with our creative Director Henry to create their own 'issue based' creative response.

Their pieces will promote youth voice and explore issues they are experiencing /care about such as mental health, exam pressures, the environment and social media. Some schools had this session in school time and some schools opted for this to be delivered as an extra curricular activity.

Speak Out Festival - March 2026 = 5 short performances (equivalent to 1 session) and 4 creative workshops/drop-in activities (equivalent to 4 sessions)

In March 2026, we hosted a Speak Out Festival where the school groups were given the opportunity to showcase their work to others.



AWARDED £17,030.00

BURNLEY YOUTH THEATRE

SPEAK OUT

Case Study 1

Background: Person A has been attending youth theatre workshops since they were aged 6.

Needs: This young person has been taking part in youth theatre workshops and performances since a young age, but wanted to build confidence in front of their peers.

Actions Taken: This young person had the opportunity to take part in touring the show to local secondary schools and being a part of the devising and rehearsal process.

Outcomes: The nerves felt before performing Toxic were daunting. The idea of performing an original script to people not much younger than the young person left a great feeling of uncertainty - how would they react? What if they can't relate to our performances? But these fears were flushed away the moment they stepped in front of the first audience. Though it could be, admittedly, challenging at times, it was clear that Toxic spoke to a lot of those teenagers, and the young person felt beyond privileged to be able to perform such an important piece to those to whom it is most relevant.

Case Study 2

Background: IB is a young performer who has attended Burnley Youth Theatre from a young age.

Needs: IB started rehearsals a bit shaky on the fast-paced style of the show. They were trying to bring a lot of realism where the early parts of the play require big, bold characterisation to make the characters likeable and funny.

Actions Taken: Soon, IB understood this and took direction really well, leading to a very successful comedic performance which packed a punch once the emotional journey of the character started.

Outcomes: IB was great in the post-show workshops, being able to answer questions and probe students further on their views to help them overcome their initial thoughts and come away with a more well-balanced view of the themes. IB definitely improved in confidence over the course of the project.

"Such a unique experience for which I am ever grateful. I especially loved being able to speak with them about it afterwards and understand fully the omnipresent problem that 'Toxic' highlighted."



"I pushed myself out of my comfort zone and delivered a strong performance and showed dedication to the process."

AWARDED £17,030.00

60

BURNLEY YOUTH THEATRE

SPEAK OUT



 **BURNLEY
YOUTH
THEATRE**

AWARDED £17,030.00

NEW NEIGHBOURS TOGETHER

BURNLEY CITY OF SANCTUARY: STRONGER TOGETHER

Background & Project Brief

Our aim through this project is to support the growth of community wellbeing through building cohesion and integration in our town, delivering an outreach programme using arts and culture, and through the written and spoken experiences of people seeking sanctuary. The project aims to create mutual understanding and build common ground between different groups of people here in Burnley, creating unity in diversity, and challenging the current narrative about immigration. We believe this will support all participants and audiences with their health and wellbeing, enhancing a feeling of belonging and being part of a supportive and inclusive community.

We will setup an outreach team drawn from clients with lived experience supported by professional arts practitioners from Burnley Youth Theatre (BYT) and cross organisations involved in our City of Sanctuary Network organisation, and our staff, to deliver the following project:

Stories Of Hope

Undertake 'Stories of Hope', a multi-art form (craft and drama) storytelling project which will promote understanding and help integrate refugees, asylum seekers and migrants with their new neighbours, helping them feel welcome and valued as members of the whole community. This will culminate in a free 'Celebration of Community Day' staged at BYT, with a staged performance and exhibition of the work and organisations and people involved, which will be open to all participants and the host community.

Complete a minimum of 8 outreach visits to local community organisations - sharing experiences and delivering a counter narrative to prejudice and misunderstanding. A cross organisation project team will visit schools and community groups with free creative sessions and the spoken word which will explore refugee stories and promote the opportunity for discussion and interaction and the growth of understanding between all participants.

The project will enable people with lived experience to work with BYT's creative outreach team as supported volunteers developing confidence learning new skills as speakers, artists, production staff and project support.

There will be a lasting legacy for Burnley post project, in performance and exhibition, which can continue to be toured around organisations and schools going forward with this work.



AWARDED £16,830.00

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NEW NEIGHBOURS TOGETHER

BURNLEY CITY OF SANCTUARY: STRONGER TOGETHER

Project Outcomes Brief

This project marks the official beginning of our increased focus and determination to build unity in diversity in our town. We believe that fostering community welcome and inclusion, bringing together many diverse people with skills, qualifications and talents, and the desire to succeed, is a great opportunity for Burnley as a whole.

We are working for a future that brings diverse communities together in unity, building shared futures, increasing prosperity and making life better for everyone. Therefore one of our most important aims, running in tandem with our immediate goals to build common humanity, mutual respect and social connection, improving people's health and wellbeing, and develop lived experience leadership - was to establish a legacy and pathways and skills that enable us to keep in touch with our grassroots connections and continue this work post project with the people we had visited, and to expand our work by reaching out effectively to more people and groups.

In order to do this, we had to establish a skilled team of lived experience volunteers who were prepared to learn how to share their stories and build connections with the host community. We wanted to develop people who could reach out confidently, and over time become leaders and change agents in their own right. We specified we would take a trauma based approach and asked for 5 half days funding support for this endeavour. In reality, we met as a team 9 times and had individual coaching sessions and met the extra costs from our own resources.

We commissioned Burnley Youth Theatre (BYT) and an artist Elmi Ali, to help us to both develop our team, deliver our Outreach Sessions and our Celebration Event and also a photographer Orrin St Pierre to record, create a legacy and help stage our work.

In our application, we specified a minimum of 8 outreach sessions and a communal event. However, we actually delivered 11 sessions and the event.



AWARDED £16,830.00

NEW NEIGHBOURS TOGETHER

BURNLEY CITY OF SANCTUARY: STRONGER TOGETHER

Case Study 1

Background: Asylum seeker with her husband and family fleeing religious persecution/torture and threats to kill her children – still awaiting a decision from the Home Office about her case. She is the lead applicant in the asylum case and lives with constant uncertainty and fear of the future.

Needs: We learned she had been a secondary school teacher in her own country. She was initially very quiet and reticent about herself, but obviously a very skilled and gifted person struggling to cope and remain positive.

Actions Taken: She immediately enrolled for ESOL Classes on arrival and made amazing progress. A trustee taught her crochet and within weeks she was producing beautiful items helping to fill up her time. We were forming our Outreach Team and invited her to join. We asked if she would feel able to share her story, but she needed to consider this carefully as she had never shared her very difficult story publicly.

Outcomes: She made the decision to try. Over time, as her confidence grew and the team developed and came around each other in mutual support and understanding, she grew stronger. She produced amazing individual videos and recordings with our Artist Director, becoming one of our most successful story tellers at outreach sessions. The pain inside began alleviating through support of the team and the reception received from audience members at outreach sessions. She is now a vital member of this work, and together with other members is developing her leadership skills and actively contributing to shaping forward plans and delivery.

"You have given me back so many beautiful colours in my life I want to do much, to fit in and to help this town, which has welcomed myself and my family."

Case Study 2

Background: Community Engagement Officer at Burnley Borough Council

Needs: Two sessions attended: the presentation delivered to Council middle managers, and the public community launch event.

Actions Taken: The Stories of Hope programme is an incredibly powerful and moving piece of work. It brings forward the real lived experiences of people seeking asylum, stories that are often overshadowed by the negative and misleading national narratives presented through various media outlets. Hearing these testimonies is not easy.

Outcomes: The programme goes beyond data and policy discussions; its strength lies in its humanity. The two sessions attended demonstrated this clearly. The presentation was hard-hitting and thought-provoking, prompting meaningful reflection about our roles, responsibilities, and the assumptions we may carry. The community launch event then brought these stories into a public space, where their impact was even more profound. Seeing members of the community engage with the testimonies highlighted how vital this work is in fostering understanding, compassion, and connection. By taking these stories directly into community settings, Stories of Hope has the potential to shift perceptions in a way that formal reports or media commentary simply cannot. It helps people understand the human elements behind the headlines, reminding us that every individual seeking asylum carries a story of resilience, loss, hope, and an unshakeable desire for safety and dignity.



AWARDED £16,830.00

"This programme is not only worthwhile; it is essential. Its impact is lasting, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to witness it firsthand."

NEW NEIGHBOURS TOGETHER

BURNLEY CITY OF SANCTUARY: STRONGER TOGETHER



New
Neighbours
Together



AWARDED £16,830.00



**BURNLEYPENDLE
& ROSSENDALE**
COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

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