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| Logo, company name  Description automatically generated | BAILDON COMMUNITY HUBS  ACTIVITY REPORTS  (6-monthly) |
| Name of Hub:  Baildon Community Link | Date of report:  31st March 2023 |

Plus: please send a current programme of activities at your premises or arranged by you in your neighbourhood.

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| 1. | What evidence do you have that your activities are meeting the needs of the community?  (E.g. requests, surveys, attendance numbers, special factors, local knowledge and feedback) | We set up our activities in response to local requests or local needs. We listen to people and we work in partnership to provide services and activities in line with what people tell us they would like to see us offer, including utilising survey feedback from local residents. We have monitored numbers during this reporting period 1st October 2022 to 31st March 2023 and we have seen a significant growth in attendances at our activities for seniors. Over this period our afternoon tea dance had 195 (18%) individual attendees, our film club had 314 (30%), Hygge had 241 (23%) and bingo had 307 (29%).  All of our activities are experiencing a growth in number of beneficiaries. The hygge activity was promoted as a full 12 week programme to see if people would be able to commit to a set number of weeks rather than on a drop-in basis and this approach has worked really well. Apart from a few people dropping out due to illness we have seen a steady attendance. Our afternoon film club and our afternoon social bingo sessions have also been evenly attended at 30% and 29% respectively.  Over the reporting period from the beginning of October to the end of March our regular Thursday Community Café has served 393 people, with nearly everyone of these having a meal and just a few drinks, with an additional 100 for our Christmas meal. The average number of people attending the café each Thursday during this period was 21 (an increase of 5.5 since the last reporting period).  Overall we have welcomed 1550 individual attendances across the senior activities we run ourselves during this reporting period which is an increase of 466 from the last reporting period.  In addition to this we continue to see a steady growth in activities we run in partnership with others including strong local interest in our seated and seniors exercise sessions. We have subsidised 3 sessions per week which have been well attended alongside volunteer activities we support each week including mat and chat sessions, weekly painting groups and a regular monthly Parkinson’s support group.  Our new advice project in partnership with Windhill Community Centre and CAB is going well. It started in January and the 3 sessions are now normally full each week (with the exception of last-minute cancellations). Regular queries helped with include help around disabilities, personal independent payments and child DLA.  This quarter we produced two questionnaires to gain feedback from younger members of our community and one of those questionnaires was distributed to all relevant young people via Titus Salt School. Feedback enabled us to do the necessary planning of our new Seniors youth club which is starting in April, along with our new junior youth programme. The most popular choices made by young people were sporting activities, making smoothies and lego building was also quite high up the list. We find that by working closely with local community members and finding out what they want to see happening at the Link we are able to keep up with good attendance records. |
| 2. | What steps do you take to make sure that newcomers or vulnerable people are welcomed into your activities? | We continue to look out for any newcomers and welcome them to the Centre. When undertaking outreach work, we spread the word that we are open to all, including single people and that everyone will be made to feel included because it is not easy for some people to attend for the first time, especially for those who might be recently bereaved. We welcome carers to come along to activities too with partners or those they care for thus ensuring that both can benefit from our activities and services. We do not make a charge for carers who enable the more vulnerable members of our community to access our activities and services. We continue to recognise that transportation difficulties are a barrier that some local residents face. We are also aware that we need to do more than run Centre based activities and services. Outreach wise we have made plans to start detached work from April targeting our efforts to support vulnerable young people and we will also utilise this time to build good relationships with local businesses and other projects, especially if they report anti-social behaviour. We have asked if the Local Authority youth service want to partner with us on this work. We have also prepared AGM invitations which will be delivered to all our nearby 105 Cliffe Avenue residents who will be welcomed to join us to hear more about our project and enjoy a Coronation cream tea afterwards. In addition, we have continued putting up regular posters in local shops and businesses and noticeboards, along with leaflet deliveries to householders, trying to reach those who might not be on face book. Our timetable of weekly activities is regularly updated to reflect any changes or new developments. We lost our seated and seniors exercise tutor during this reporting period and welcomed the regular attendees to join us to say goodbye to Steve which was a lovely send off. We replaced Steve but the new tutor only stayed one month. We are currently working hard to find a replacement tutor because some of our more vulnerable members really enjoy the seated and seniors’ classes and these groups help to ensure that they are included and that they can attend suitable and accessible activities. Most of our activities include time for a cuppa and a chat and a piece of cake. This time offers a good opportunity for staff or volunteers who are directly running activities or services to get to know people and to signpost as well where appropriate. We look out for those who may be experiencing mental health difficulties and we still hear reports from people affected by Covid including those struggling with anxiety and depression. We signpost residents to seek support from their GP or to a relevant organisation that offers counselling such as Bradford Bereavement Support. We notice if vulnerable clients are absent and we check up on how they are if we notice we haven’t seen them in the last week or two. We also continue to involve people who use our service in running the services which also shows value to individuals who often have a lot to contribute. Volunteers are trusted with a whole array of responsibilities across the Centre and without their input we could not continue to run many of our activities. |
| 3. | Please give details of any new activities which have started in the current reporting period. | We started a new advice service that runs each Wednesday morning (offering 3 appointments each week), two new exercise class for seniors along with being a warm space through to the end of March. We offered lunch tokens for those who could benefit from a free lunch as well as drinks, WIFI access etc Over the period we were a warm space we had 82 beneficiaries. We also welcomed local neighbours to utilise our welcome area for a weekly coffee morning. This activity is going well and there are half a dozen regular neighbours who turn up for a chat, including a regular opportunity to talk to a police representative each Wednesday morning. |
| 4. | Please give details of any activities which have ceased during the current reporting period, and explain why? | Our official warm space came to a natural end at the end of March because this was a seasonal project. However, local residents are still welcome to utilise our welcome area as a free warm space to meet and pass time. Some residents do this and enjoy company and a chat and one resident regularly brings her knitting along. Steve who ran exercise classes here for a decade has also left. Steve moved on to another job and we replaced him with Naomi who started two new exercise classes to benefit senior members of our community. We also lost a booking (Rhythm Time), but we hope to replace this with another activity in due course. |
| 5. | What advice or signposting services are you offering? | We signposted to Windhill Community Centre for advice for the first half of this reporting period. Then we were pleased to be able to offer an advice service again to benefit Baildon residents at the Link from January. This should hopefully helpful some of our most vulnerable residents who need additional support and help with issues including disability forms. We also continue to promote counselling services locally, along with advertising and signposting to a whole array of local groups and services across Baildon and beyond including displaying posters and leaflets for a wide array of groups at the Centre as well as promoting on face book. |
| 6. | How many volunteers (formal or informal) are currently involved in delivering your activities (approx). | 20 volunteers |
| 7. | Details of any outreach work undertaken within the current reporting period. | We have kept our timetable updated along with producing regular programmes of our activities and services including a film club monthly programme, posters about bingo, hygge and dance, alongside our community café and advice project. These posters are always available from our own centre but we also ensure that we regularly put publicity materials out locally including at local shops and businesses and these have been picked up by people visiting the various venues and taking timetables and posters away. We have focused on youth development work during the reporting period and questionnaires have been distributed to Titus Salt School so that all relevant young people were included in our youth consultation in advance of starting our new Seniors Youth Project. |
| 8. | Number of residents attending your activities in an average week. | 700 |
| 9. | Anything you have been especially pleased about recently. | Baildon Community Link has welcomed a number of wonderful new volunteers to join our team during this reporting period. Three new volunteers have joined who will become trustees at our forthcoming AGM along with 2 new hygge volunteers and a new café volunteer. We have also secured a cover volunteer for our film club so that we can manage more easily when the core team of volunteers are on holiday or absent for any reason. We could not do all we do without volunteer support. The volunteers are making a real difference to the lives of local residents who benefit from our activities and services. |
| 10. | Any concerns or difficulties that you want the Town Council to be aware of. | Baildon Community Link is concerned that this year to end March 2023 we anticipate a deficit of over £30,000. We are budgeting for a deficit of £13,760 this financial year to end March 2024. We were affected significantly when we lost the £10,000 grant from Town Council funding last year with the redistribution of the grant funding to local churches. We have managed to reduce this deficit to £13,760 through a number of methods including securing additional grant income helping us to run full cost recovery activities. However, we still have the £13,760 anticipated shortfall and we have produced a very realistic budget which includes income generation of £4,000 in fundraising. We do have healthy reserves which will cover this deficit for a period of time. However, we are eating into our reserves and moving forwards we will need to consider ways of reducing the deficit further. |
| 11. | Any gaps or plans identified for the future? | We continue to meet an increasing number of local residents who would benefit from counselling services and we are building our knowledge of local support for residents who would like to access services so that we can signpost effectively. There are long waiting lists impacting people in need.  We are currently exploring opportunities for new exercise class sessions and tai chi classes. |

Signed: L Maddison