



Combined Worker Report 24 August 2021



Barbara Slasor Community Development Lead

Susan Graydon Partnership Support and Volunteer Broker

BS & SG both took a week's annual leave in this period. We have been hybrid working in line with the Covid 19 Government Guidelines and in line with current risk assessments.

Online platforms such as Zoom and Teams are still widely being used during COVID – 19 and many organisations including Local Trust has advocated the ongoing use as a preferred choice for several organisations to gain the widest reach across partnerships to remain flexible. The introduction of hybrid meetings has been introduced to allow for further reach and wider capacity building.

Gaunless Gateway Big Locals Facebook pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=gaunless%20gateway%20big%20local>

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=gaunless%20gateway%20big%20local%20volunteering>

Community Development Lead

Legacy plan and statement

Supported by the Community development lead both Alan, the vice chair and Gilian Campbell, are near to completing the draft plan and legacy statement for dissemination. This may not be available in time for the August partnership meeting and will be shared via email for any amendments before being circulated across the whole partnership for comment, alongside the agreed consultation online survey.

Once feedback is received the final plan will be submitted to Local Trust for assessment.

Good news stories - HENKNOWLE ESTATE



Henknowle Estate Walkabout- BS was invited to an estate walkabout on 6 August with local County Councillors Joanne Howey and Cathy Hunt, along with representatives from Durham County Council, Believe Housing and Local MP Dehenna Davison plus staff team. Estate concerns were raised by residents with an action plan being put in place. The walkabout gave an opportunity to identify who is responsible for the unadopted neglected land and repairs surrounding the community centre. We also chatted about Gaunless Gateway Big Local and the support we can offer. As a direct result; four residents agreed to meet at Henknowle Community Centre for a drop-in session to meet Bethany Mason and Thomas Lowther their PCSO 's and Gareth Lavender neighbourhood warden. They would also like to explore setting up a new Residents Action Group including a potential Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. BS is supporting this new group with an action plan for their proposed activities.

Advantages of GGBL workers being based and visible within Henknowle Community Centre include nine young people aged between 8-13yrs being engaged and made aware of Gaunless Gateway Big Local activities. Only one out of those nine including a parent had heard of us. They were invited along to a drop in on Friday 20 August supported by BS as they would like support to approach the management committee to ask if they could take part in new activities within the centre. Maxine H from AYCC and Susan G supported the session. Both BS and SG are qualified L2 Youth work trained. As a result, the group compiled a 'WoW list' (Ways of working together) and stated why they wanted to form a young people's group and the types of activities they would like to do.

The Henknowle Community Centre management committee has been extremely supportive of GGBL activities and various meetings relating to partnership activities, including exploring the potential of setting up a Learning Hub @Henknowle.

Project updates



Trades4Care supporting students to redecorate Auckland Youth and Community Centre were recently featured on GBTV live with Rachel Sweeney.

<https://www.facebook.com/andrew.coxon.54/videos/1217518365341466>

The project was also visited by Lord Lieutenant Sue Snowden who had an opportunity to find out more about support given via GGBL to projects from Alan Anderson Vice Chair and BS. Trades4Care's first apprentice Cameron gave a brilliant overview of the difference Trade4Care has on individuals and organisations in community settings.

Manhealth

The Bishop Auckland Manhealth group meets each Thursday 6-8pm at Henknowle Community Centre. They report that they have up to 15 men who regularly attend weekly sessions. As the project has evolved the team are keen to ensure that they meet the needs of their attendees. Funding received from GGBL has been repurposed to reflect those emerging needs.

AYCC

Big Purple Playbus- AYCC operate the Playbus on behalf of the partnership and 'Polly' has been seen out and about and has a number of bookings in the diary. An additional GGBL £20k has been allocated towards salary costs for the Playbus Development Worker in addition to external funds received from the BlshAAP. AYCC are meeting with external consultants to work on a business plan specific to the Playbus and will continue to update us about progress.

Streetgames -activities have been taking place each Thursday from 6pm in West Auckland facilitated by AYCC qualified workers. BS has joined in with a few sessions with up to 20 young people aged between 7-14 yrs in attendance. The session on Thursday 19 August engaged with 30 young people in total.

For information

Partnership support and Volunteer Broker

Good News Stories



Congratulations to Chris the founder of the charity "Walking Away" who has started the Local Trust leadership course, Walking Away aims to promote health and wellbeing through walking and talking. Chris has met with John Raw (former partnership decision maker) and together explored a Stockton and Darlington route through Gaunless Gateway Big Local.

There is scope for walks to start in GGBL areas and venture out of further afield. Click the link for more information on the Facebook link below: <https://www.facebook.com/walkingawaymh>

Better Impact volunteers are continuing to be registered on the system.

Baptist Church new volunteer introduction, the individual will strengthen the core team in the catering team.

West Auckland Village Greens Meeting will resume in September after a summer break.

Wear Valley Community Action Group activity & toiletry packs distribution to individuals and groups in the GGBL area. Many thanks to this kind group of volunteers for their ongoing support as part of our work

IT support given to partnership member to enable their goal of improving online skills and undertaking volunteer opportunities.

Autism & Addition individual needs support given to an active volunteer through the turbulent transition period leaving the college setting to university when leaving an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) and seeking support within the new education setting.

Healthy Heart Beat Group are active again and the group meeting again on a Tuesday morning at Henknowle Community Centre, ongoing support will continue.

Solan Connor Fawcett Family Cancer Trust Charity IT support given by a volunteer who was keen to gain on the job practical skills to enhance their CV, this was their priority placement of choice as they are active across the partnership.

Tarek Volunteer Remote Roving Reporter Heston West Big Local has been given support with his CV and Job Application over Zoom to apply for a position at ITV - First Break is a project that supports people at the start of their career or thinking about a behind-the-camera career in television drama. Tarek has been in touch to say he is through to the final stages, so fingers crossed and good luck!

Bishop Auckland Bowls Club a request for immediate volunteer support was received and answered, the group supports Deacon Star with a trip from members when the season and weather permits.

Cllr Cathy Hunt partnership support given.

Meetings attended minutes / notes taken, written up and circulated

- Full Partnership Monthly Meeting facilitated & minutes taken

Project proposals for discussion and decision / recommendation – N/A

Combined Work and Collaboration

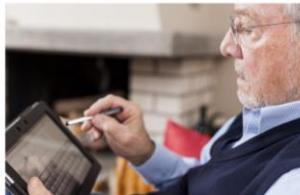
Good News Stories #OperationWiFi

Community example: Gauless Gateway Big Local

Gauless Gateway Big Local identified data poverty as being a big problem for single men living in shared accommodation with no broadband connection. The community group wanted to find a solution and invested time asking the men what they would find helpful - they said wifi hotspots around the local area, so that is where we focused the action.

There [was] all the local places people will go like churches and community centres and they could open up their wifi for community members. We were encouraging that. And we're asking private businesses to consider doing the same thing. So if you have wifi put it in for shops, so we are asking them if they could extend that for community use lots.

Community member: Gauless Gateway



Here is the extract that appears in the report **Making connections: Community-led action** which gave community examples from Big Local partnership's and other organisations on data poverty, the full report can be accessed by clicking on the link below:

<https://bit.ly/3rf6sFt>

After the report was published earlier in the month tO2 Virgin Media have announced the UK's First National Databank, which is testimony to all those involved with the #OperationWiFi campaign. This announcement is the first major step forward in fixing the digital divide and the Good Things Foundation will be working with their network to ensure that data can get to those who need it in times of crisis, more updates will follow. See the link below:

<https://twitter.com/corganisers/status/1419569774099566592?s=21>

Irene Graham – retired decision maker, both staff checked in and updated on current projects and upcoming plans.

Cllr Katie Eliot attended a meeting with both BS & SG to discuss her appointment as Henknowle Town Councillor & Mayor of Bishop Auckland and find out more about the partnership. We listened to the journey from being one of the original team behind the mutual aid Facebook group set up as at the start of the pandemic - Bishop Auckland Area Covid – 19 Community Support Group. This was a vital response at the start of the pandemic to the many efforts undertaken to cheer up the community including singing to local residents.

Cllr Joanne Howey met both staff and discussed her ward and her passion for the area and the importance of partnership working. She is keen to keep the lines of communication open and updates frequent.

Believe Housing BS & SG had a meeting with a member of the team to discussion volunteer opportunities for a small team of Believe Housing corporate staff from across the north east who are keen to fulfil their social and civic responsibilities and give something back. We each gave an introduction of our roles and we offered some potential options that can now be cascaded to the Believe team for consideration.

Baptist Church



BS & SG met with Marion Hodgson to informally chat about the supported GGBL action plan that is in place and meet members of the many activities that take place each Wednesday under the umbrella of the “Community Hub”. We chatted with members from the litter picking group. There are a wide range of activities taking place in a welcoming, inclusive environment.

AYCC combined support with GGBL workers to identify the best source for DBS checks for volunteers and the identified body to access the required resource.

Online Training / workshops this is not an exhaustive list and does not list all individual meetings relevant to our job roles, just a snapshot of topics covered and some positive outcomes from attendance

Delivery body	Training / Workshop	Status	Initials
Newcastle University	Does Place Matter for Covid	Attended	SG & BS
Public Health England	Priority Setting Post-Covid	Attended	SG
Local Trust	Strengthening Communities in “Left Behind” area’s	Attended	SG
Durham County Council	Community Learning - Commissioning Consultation/Market Engagement Event	Attended	BS