



**Combined Worker Report 27 July 2021**



**Barbara Slasor Community Development Lead**

**Susan Graydon Partnership Support and Volunteer Broker**

Following government Covid – 19 guidelines we are continuing to work from home, until advised otherwise.

**Online platform – Zoom** is still widely being used during COVID – 19 and many organisations including Local Trust has advocated its use to replace face to face meetings with multiple users, this will continue till advised otherwise. We are adapting to accessing some meetings via the TEAMS platform, this is a preferred choice for several organisations so to gain the widest reach across the partnership we must remain flexible.

**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**

**Good news stories - Bursary awards.**

	<p>Bursary award presented to Chloe Wymer 17 yrs old from West Auckland. Chloe is embarking on a new adventure to pursue her dreams of becoming a professional international soccer coach and player in the USA. AYCC youth workers and GGBL development worker attended the fantastic send off to celebrate Chloe’s achievement of being the first international student to be accepted to study into a top Indiana University. Chloe has promised to keep in touch with us via social media and we look forward to hearing about her experience.</p>	
<p>Chloe Wymer West Auckland</p>		<p>Chloe, family and both Maxines from AYCC</p>
	<p>Great News! Connor, a young carer from Woodhouse Close, has passed his theory test. He is now just waiting to complete his practical test booked in at the end of the year. His instructor has informed us it’s only due to COVID waiting lists that is preventing him progressing sooner. Connor’s bursary was awarded to him to learn to drive, enabling him to become more independent and to support him in his chosen career. Congratulations Connor and we wish you luck for your practical.</p>	

**Project updates**

**Bishop Auckland Table Tennis Club (BATTCC)**- the club with support from H.C. Horizons as part the feasibility work, has agreed to attend an away day to explore opportunities, issues and possibilities. They intend to hold a public meeting in the near future to share their learning

## AYCC

- **Playbus project** – AYCC operate the Playbus on behalf of the partnership. They have been successful in receiving external funding over the last few years for all activities. The partnership has agreed to support the project with further salary costs to enable 'Polly' to be seen out and about. A new business plan will be produced to look at ways to secure 'Polly's' future for years to come.
- **West Auckland Youth Initiative (WAYI) including Streetgames** - a new steering group has been formed as part of the West Auckland Youth Initiative. This group is made up of representatives from Local residents, West Auckland Parish Council (WAPC), Gaunless Gateway Big Local, (GGBL) Auckland Youth and Community Centre (AYCC), West Auckland Working Man's Club (WAWMC), The Vinyard Centre, Elected members for West Auckland Ward and local Policing team. This Initiative has been funded via GGBL and WAPC to support children, young people and families from West Auckland and surrounding neighbourhoods to have a say in activities being developed for young people. Streetgames will take place in outdoor space and running alongside this WAWMC are supporting the development of indoor youth club activities. Anyone is welcome to attend future meetings or receive minutes. Please contact [barbaras@gaunlessgateway.co.uk](mailto:barbaras@gaunlessgateway.co.uk) to find out more.

### Partnership review and planning

Decision makers and staff have undertaken a series of workshops including online surveys as part of their 5-year legacy planning, taking them up until March 2026. They have almost completed the process and the plan will be shared for feedback by the full partnership before being submitted to funder Local Trust.

The decision-making group feels that simplifying priorities and themes, and by offering longer term project support, this will generate the greatest impact. The new plan will be available soon and submitted by the end of August.

### For information

#### New Bridge Builders toolkit - opportunity to test out across our communities

"Connected communities do better. Covid has shown us the importance of connection and collaboration, it has also exposed the fragility of our social fabric. Discussions that are defined in terms of "us" and "them" have increased. Debates about identity and fairness have become more fractious. As "social distancing" requirements reduce, how do we find our way back to each other? In collaboration; Neil Denton (Professor In Practice - Communities, Conflict Transformation and Integration - Durham Uni) and the Relationships Project, have produced [The Bridge Builder's Handbook](#), a step-by-step guide for people wanting to cross divides in their community, and build bridges of understanding and collaboration."

Gaunless Gateway Big Local is working with Neil to organise a workshop session. This will be an opportunity to discuss what we are seeing and hearing in our communities, how that relates to theories of disaster recovery and peacebuilding, and an introduction to the Handbook.

To secure a place please contact [barbaras@gaunlessgateway.co.uk](mailto:barbaras@gaunlessgateway.co.uk)

### Partnership support and Volunteer Broker

#### Good News Stories Woodhouse Close / Tindale Decision Maker returns

Welcome back Colin Dixon who has returned as a representative of himself for the Woodhouse Close / Tindale area. Watch Colin's reasons for returning here <https://youtu.be/UML5p8Tjeao>

**Neighbourhood Watch replication-** we continue to make links and explore the potential to support a new NWS in the Cockton Hill area.

**PACT online meeting-** great networking with area PCSO and Cllr Katie Elliot as a result of attending this meeting. It is a positive resource that can be accessed via the Bishop Auckland Police page.

<https://www.facebook.com/Bishop-Auckland-Police-967972099893127/>

**Volunteer Sign Up - potential job offer** a volunteer was happy to report back that they have started in their role, joined the signposted employability programme, upskilled and is currently on the shortlist after the second interview for a job.

**Better Impact** – SG continues to register volunteers on the system.

**Believe Housing** an initial discussion with a staff member around engaging in potential volunteer opportunities across the partnership, updates to follow.

**West Auckland Village Greens Meeting** SG facilitated the meeting for this active group, they have both an active Neighbourhood Watch group & Facebook group that are growing in numbers.

**Durham Community Action – Volunteers Co – Ordinator's Forum** attending the forum is an invaluable network to connect with others in the sector and keep up to date with current guidelines, training opportunities, volunteer resource etc.

**Baptist Church** partnership Support & Volunteer Broker check in

**Zoom and IT workshop** support to access email and zoom on laptop, previous training had been given but only to install the apps and not how to use the software.

**Durham Community Action** volunteer forum signposting information followed up for support in the partnership

**Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership Board – AGM** topics covered: Local Neighbourhood issues, Priorities and Action Plans and Countywide partner issues attending this meeting keeps us up to date with our partners.

**Meetings attended minutes / notes taken, written up and circulated**

- Full Partnership Monthly Meeting
- West Auckland Village Greens Meeting

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

### **Combined Work and Collaboration**

**Woodhouse Close Community Stakeholder Meeting** we attended this worker led meeting which is attended by organisations from the partnership and wider partnership who gave their input on the topics. The Auckland Project are facilitating the meeting and sharing the notes taken. <https://adobe.ly/3zpgAhS>

**Local Trust Worker Feedback** Asimina Vergou facilitated one to one conversation and focus groups for staff, residents and LTO's giving them an opportunity to comment on Local Trust's national and local support offer; providing an opportunity to influence what that offer may look like moving forward.

**Sometimes It Hurts: Pilot launch Changing Relations Event** - both attended the launch event of 'Sometimes it Hurts' project, where a range of powerful resources have been developed to raise awareness of the impact on individuals and specifically young people experiencing domestic abuse. Changing relations are developing their offer and feedback from the event will be invaluable to help shape the project moving forward. <https://changingrelations.co.uk/our-work/sometimes-it-hurts/>

**CLLR Cathy Hunt & CLLR Joanne Howey are the recently elected members for Woodhouse Close and Henknowle ward.** After meeting them in person at AYCC's AGM they have agreed to pop into Henknowle Community Centre and meet the team including residents.

**Henknowle Management Committee** – we met with members of the committee a to discuss the running of the busy centre as the staff transition into their office space in line with government guidance and AYCC employment service support.

**CLLR Katie Eliot** A brief Zoom introduction was made, a formal introduction is to follow to welcome the new councillor )(also town mayor and give a broader overview of partnership and hear of future plans.

**Bishop Auckland Neighbourhood Policing Team** We had an introductory meeting with PCSO Bethany Mason from the Bishop Auckland & Toronto team. These vital paid officers are often seen around the area and are keen to support and engage with GGBL partnership activities. Further developments will be explored and updates shares. Please see the PSCO’s role description below:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Police\\_community\\_support\\_officer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Police_community_support_officer)

**Worker Event – Local Trust** - both attended the Zoom event; this event is only open to workers and is an open forum to discuss any matters arising that individuals feel they can’t either discuss with their partnership or are seeking guidance advice, or good practice from other BL workers.

**Full Partnership Monthly Meeting** Ongoing attendance and feedback from our combined roles shared.

**AYCC’s AGM, development day and full staff meetings** BS & SG in attendance to celebrate the t the achievements over the previous year and potential new developments including new policies and procedures.

**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
Better Impact	User Group Forum	Attended	SG
Local Trust	Operation WI - The Next Steps	Attended	SG & BS
Jacqui Jobson Consultancy	Equal but not the same: supporting LGBTQ+ communities, Covid 19 and beyond	Attended	SG & BS
Local Trust	Community Power Lecture – Andy Haldane	Attended	SG & BS