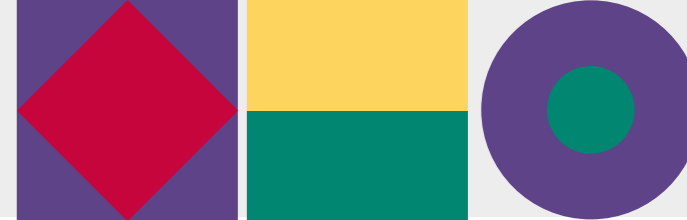


# Bolsover Partnership Annual Report

April 23 — March 24





## Equalities Statement

Bolsover District Council is committed to equality both as an employer and when delivering services to the community.

The Council believes no person should be treated unfairly and is committed to eliminating all forms of discrimination, advancing equality, and fostering good relations between all groups in society.

## Access for All Statement

You can request this document or information in another format such as large print or in another language.

## Contact us:

**Phone:** 01246 242424

**Email:** [enquiries@bolsover.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@bolsover.gov.uk)

**BSL Video Call:** a three-way call with us and a BSL interpreter. It is free to call Bolsover District Council with Sign Solutions, you just need wifi or mobile data to make the video call or call in to one of our contact centres.

**Call with Relay UK:** via textphone or app on 0800 500 888 – a free phone service provided by BT for anyone who has difficulty hearing or speaking. It's a way to have a real-time conversation with us by text.

**Visiting:** One of our offices at Clowne, Bolsover, Shirebrook and South Normanton.



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**Cover Design:** The shapes in the cover design and throughout this report represent the wide variety of projects supported by the Bolsover Partnership, which come together to create a stronger community.

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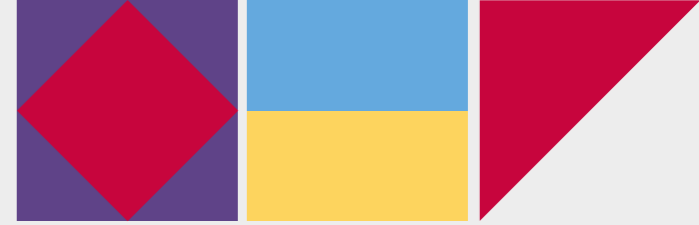
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# Welcome

## by Chair of Bolsover Partnership

**A warm welcome to the Annual Report 2023-24 which showcases the achievements of Bolsover Partnership over the last 12 months, made possible by partners' continued commitment to working together. The breadth and depth of delivery is testament to the strength of partnership working in Bolsover District, which has sustained for over two decades at a level rarely seen elsewhere.**

The past year has been one of transition, with Bolsover District preparing for the emergence of the East Midlands Combined Authority (EMCA). During this period of change, and some uncertainty, the Partnership continued the roll-out of nearly two million pounds of **UK Shared Prosperity funding** (UKSPF) to uplift local communities with a focus on people and skills. An additional £428,000, from the **Rural England Prosperity Fund** (REPF) has targeted rural communities and businesses. Our management of the programme satisfied government spending targets, which means the District is well-placed for a third year of these funding streams. Perhaps more importantly, the personal impact of programmes being delivered locally can be seen in the real life stories included in this report as **Case Studies**.

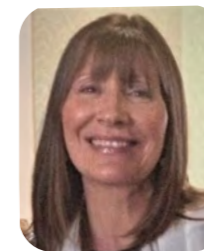
For many years, a distinguishing feature of Bolsover Partnership has been the active involvement of partners in funding decisions and monitoring programmes, adopting a genuine collaborative approach to addressing key priorities for the district and allocating resources for the benefit of local communities. More recently, the use of social value

tools to measure the impact of projects has shown how relatively modest amounts of money can bring tangible benefits for local people, as illustrated in the **Impact Spotlight**.

A long-standing resource for Bolsover Partnership has been Public Health Locality funding from Derbyshire County Council (DCC), which has been used to develop and deliver innovative projects to tackle health inequalities. Several programmes like Bolsover Wellness (now PALS) and Raising Aspirations, have become embedded in service provision or given rise to subsequent projects, creating a legacy for the future not only in Bolsover but in neighbouring areas. Early this year, the District's approach to addressing health inequalities and measuring impact was recognised by the Local Government Association in their Municipal Journal (MJ) awards; being shortlisted as finalists for a national award was a huge accolade. Alongside this, the news that DCC has approved Public Health Locality funding for five years brings much needed stability to this aspect of the Partnership's work, particularly in light of increasing health inequalities amongst our residents.

At our Annual General Meeting this autumn, as we reflect on the successes and challenges of the year, we will also have the opportunity to consider how Bolsover Partnership can contribute to the EMCA vision. The newly elected East Midlands Mayor, Clare Ward, recently expressed her belief in the value of partnership working, (read article [here](#)). This offers encouragement that, as we navigate a changing political landscape both nationally and regionally, our track-record as a partnership stands us in good stead and will be viewed as an asset for Bolsover District.

On behalf of myself and Partnership Vice-Chair Councillor Fritchley, I invite you to endorse this Annual Report, and I offer my heartfelt thanks to each and every partner for giving their time and energy so generously to Bolsover Partnership, your commitment means we can look to the future with optimism.



**Mandy Chambers**

Independent Chair of Bolsover Partnership



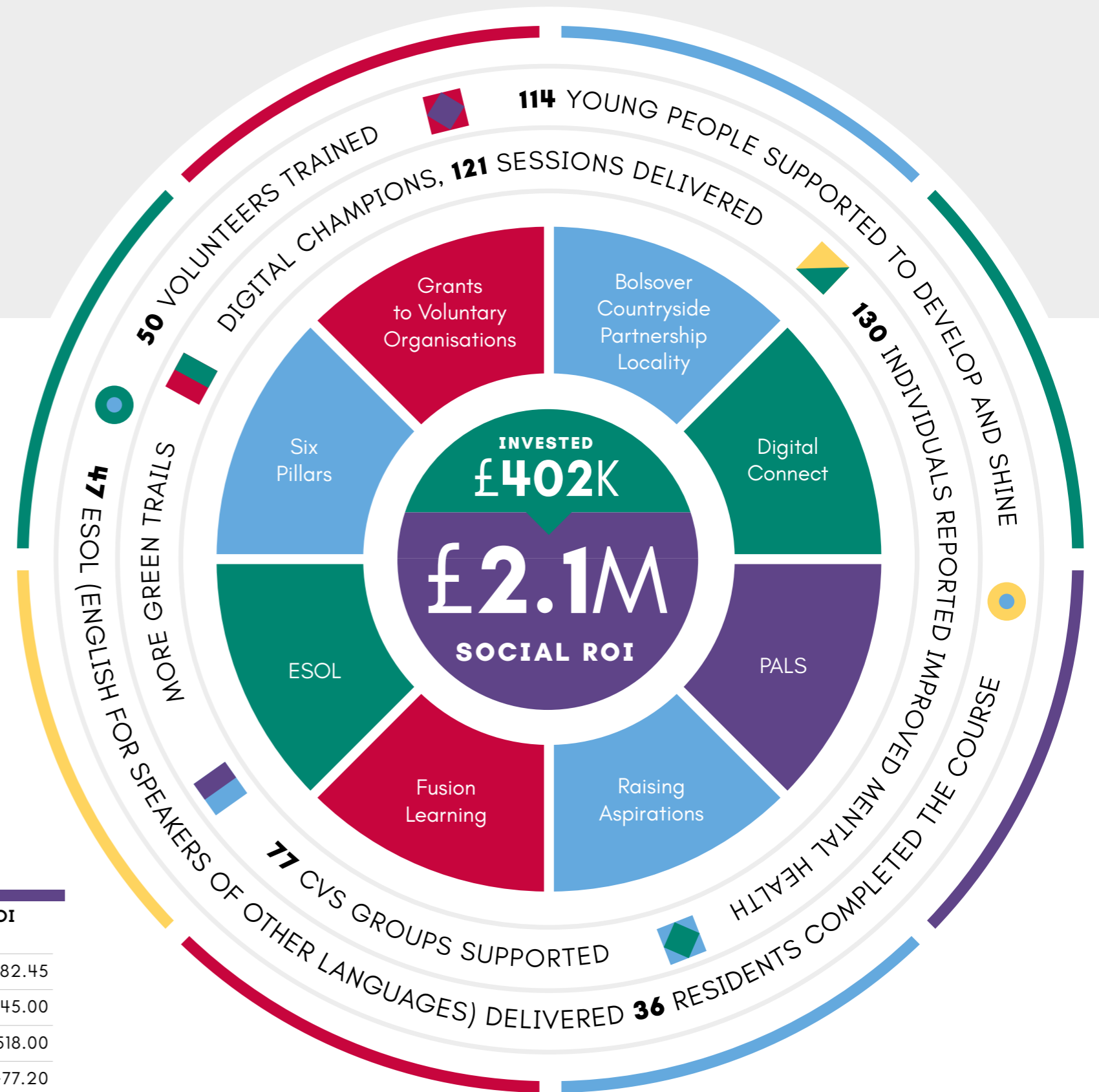
**Steve Fritchley**

Vice Chair of Bolsover Partnership and Leader of Bolsover District Council



# Impact Spotlight

## Incorporating Social Return on Investment



| Project                                   | Start Date | End Date   | Cost Spend          | Total SROI 22/23      |
|---|------------|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Bolsover Countryside Partnership Locality | 01/04/2023 | 31/03/2024 | 30,000.00           | 94,782.45             |
| Digital Connect                           | 01/04/2023 | 31/03/2024 | 29,940.00           | 159,945.00            |
| Grants to Voluntary Organisations         | 01/04/2023 | 31/03/2024 | 102,045.00          | 1,368,518.00          |
| PALS (Locality & BDC)                     | 01/04/2023 | 31/03/2024 | 10,000.00           | 33,477.20             |
| Raising Aspirations Locality & DCC)       | 01/04/2023 | 31/03/2024 | 21,940.00           | 109,586.80            |
| BCVS                                      | 01/07/2023 | 30/06/2024 | 58,000.00           | 58,878.57             |
| Fusion Learning (Locality & CMR)          | 01/05/2023 | 30/06/2024 | 50,000.00           | 78,730.00             |
| Six Pillars                               | 01/07/2022 | 30/06/2024 | 100,000.00          | 268,000.00            |
| ESOL                                      | 01/10/2023 | 31/03/2024 | 450.00              | 2,004.00              |
|   |            |            | <b>£ 402,375.00</b> | <b>£ 2,173,922.02</b> |

# Funding Update

**Bolsover District Council (BDC) are the financial accountable body for the Bolsover Partnership and manage a number of funding streams to deliver shared local priorities. The Leaders Executive and Partnership Team oversee a number of financial, commissioning and performance management functions on behalf of the Partnership. The commissioning of interventions are agreed by the Bolsover Partnership Commissioning Group, ratified by the Bolsover Partnership Executive Board and are allocated based on evidence of need and deliverable outcomes that meet local priorities. Details of the projects and case studies are contained within this report.**

Funding Streams managed during 2023/24 include:

- ◆ UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)
- Rural Fund
- ▶ DCC Public Health Locality funding
- Councillor Community Grants
- ◆ Grants to Voluntary Organisations

## UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

UKSPF is part of the UK Government's levelling up programme and is the successor to the previous European Social Investment Fund. All areas of the UK received an allocation via a funding formula, Bolsover was allocated £1,963,993 over a 3 year period April 2022 - March 2025, the financial breakdown is detailed in the following table:

| 22/23    | 23/24    | 24/25      | Total      |
|----------|----------|------------|------------|
| £238,349 | £476,697 | £1,248,947 | £1,963,993 |

The investment of UKSPF is set out against three Investment Priorities aimed at addressing specific objectives. Bolsover's investment plan detailed collective interventions with measurable outputs and outcomes. The total allocation of the funds against these priorities are set out in the table to the right.

| Investment Priority       | Summary of objectives   | Total      |
|---------------------------|---|------------|
| Community and Place       | Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging.<br><br>To build resilient and safe neighbourhoods.  | £644,221   |
| Supporting Local Business | Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion by supporting local businesses.<br><br>Promoting networking and collaboration and stimulating innovation and growth.<br><br>Targeted support to help businesses grow - e.g. Innovation, productivity, energy efficiency, low carbon and exporting.                          | £711,212   |
| People and Skills         | Boosting core skills and support adults to progress in work.<br><br>Supporting disadvantaged people to access the skills they need.<br><br>Funding local skills needs and supplementing local adult skills provision.<br><br>Reducing levels of economic inactivity and supporting those furthest from the labour market. | £530,000   |
| Management and Admin (4%) |   | £78,560    |
|                           |   | £1,963,993 |

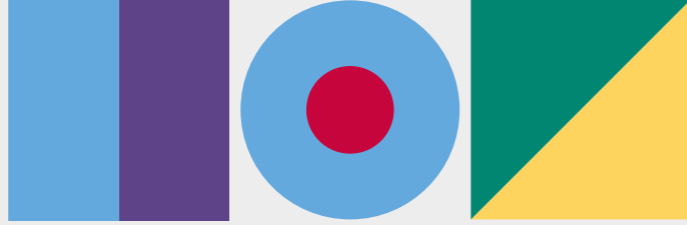
Appendix 1 summarises the interventions that were included within the Investment Plan and the indicative allocations and spend to date.

## Rural England Prosperity Fund

The Rural England Prosperity Fund is a top up to the UKSPF and provides capital funding for small businesses and community infrastructure to help improve productivity and strengthen the rural economy and rural communities.

To access Rural Fund allocations, an addendum to the UKSPF investment plan was submitted which set out local challenges, market failure and opportunities for the rural economy. A summary of eligible interventions was outlined in the Rural England Prosperity Fund and these were included within the addendum as potential areas of investment for the district. A grant scheme was launched in May 2023 and the intervention criteria is as follows.

The total funding available under each priority for the Rural England Prosperity Fund is detailed in the table below:



| Priority          | Summary of Objectives  | 2023/24         | 2024/25         | Total           |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Rural Businesses  | Small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas. Including diversification of farm businesses outside of agriculture to encourage start up, expansion or scale up of these businesses   | £126,000        | £51,000         | £177,000        |
| Rural Communities | Digital infrastructure for local community facilities<br>Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civic society and communities groups<br>Local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities<br>Active travel enhancements in local area<br>Rural circular economy projects<br>Effective volunteering and social action projects<br>Creation of and improvements to local rural green spaces<br>Existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer | £51,000         | £199,884        | £250,884        |
| <b>Total</b>      |  | <b>£177,000</b> | <b>£250,884</b> | <b>£427,884</b> |

Within the investment plan, the original allocation of funds was 41% for Rural Businesses and 59% for Rural Communities. However, it has proven difficult to attract grant applications from the voluntary sector and community groups. When they *have* shown interest they have often not had the capacity to submit an application.

Therefore, the Commissioning Group agreed a reallocation of funds, detailed in Appendix 2, which summarises the approved interventions, revised split between Rural Businesses and Rural Communities, spend to date, and forecast spend for 2024/25.

## Public Health Locality Funding

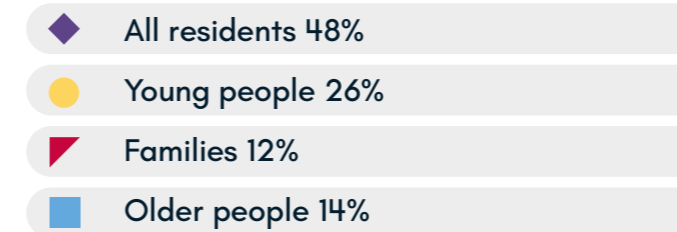
Derbyshire County Council's (DCC) Public Health Localities and Place-based work is integral to addressing the wider determinants of health, this includes employment and skills, financial inclusion, community cohesion and social isolation. Bolsover District Council receives an annual allocation of Public Health Locality Funding from Derbyshire County Council (DCC), as well as other funding identified to address certain needs. The total amount of funding received from Public Health in 2023/24 was £228,597 from the following funds:

|  |
|--|
| £115,500 for Raising Aspirations delivered across Derbyshire |
| £88,097 Locality funding                                     |
| £25,000 Social Connectedness funding                         |

## Councillor Community Grant Scheme

Due to the success of the Councillor Community Grant Scheme in 2022/2023, it was extended by Bolsover District Council for a further year. This enabled each district councillor to support their local community groups and organisations for services and activities within their ward, up to a value of £1,000 each, for all 37 councillors.

The grant scheme was well utilised by members and numerous local communities benefitted. In total, 106 awards of funding were made. The figures below show how the funding was distributed and who benefitted:



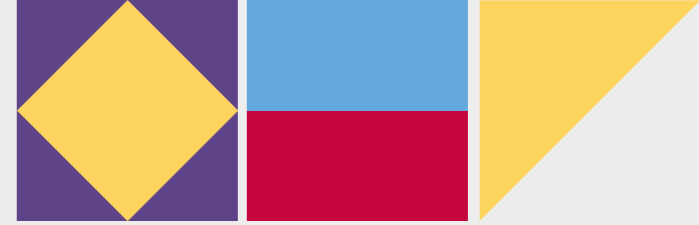
The majority of awards were for less than £250 (66); between £251 - £500 (30) and between £501 - £1000 (10). Grants were used for a variety of activities including:

- Christmas Events, lights and maintenance
- Community events (e.g. outdoor family theatre shows. Coronation celebrations and dance events)
- Warm spaces/meals
- Physical activity sessions
- Equipment (e.g. football and cricket equipment, toys, youth club provision)
- Capital expenditure (e.g. outdoor spaces, repair of paths,)
- Transport
- Youth activities
- First Aid Equipment
- Defibrillator batteries & pads
- Gazebo hire
- School trips

## Grants To Voluntary Organisations Programme

Bolsover District Council has awarded Grants to Voluntary Organisations listed in the table below in 2023 to 2024, with each receiving an agreed amount annually to support the objectives of that organisation, as detailed in individual Service Level Agreements. Case studies and achieved outcomes are detailed within the report.

| Organisation                                | Grant Awarded 2023/24 |
|---|-----------------------|
| Derbyshire Law Centre (DLC)                 | £18,000               |
| Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre (DUWC) | £19,900               |
| Junction Arts                               | £16,000               |
| Citizens Advice North East Derbyshire       | £42,230               |
| TRUST                                       | £3,650                |
| Rural Action Derbyshire                     | £2,265                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                | <b>£102,045</b>       |



Project Name:

# BCVS VCS support and social connectedness

Project Lead:

**Steve Morris**

Funding Source:

**Bolsover Partnership/  
Bolsover District Council**

**Bolsover Partnership and Bolsover District Council have a contract with Bolsover Community and Voluntary Service (BCVS) to provide infrastructure support to the voluntary and community sector. Now in its fifth year of the contract, in 2023/2024 delivery has gone from strength to strength.**

Bolsover Social Circle is a specific collaboration involving three Voluntary and Community Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations operating in the Bolsover District:

- ◆ **Bolsover Woodlands Enterprise**
- **Pleasley Pit Trust**
- ▴ **Rhubarb Farm**

The work of Bolsover Social Circle is co-ordinated by Bolsover CVS, with the aim to both oversee the pilot, and critically, to quantify the benefits of green social prescribing with improving people’s mental health and advocating this approach to wider partners. This pilot was part of wider work in Derbyshire involving green social prescribing, coordinated through the GreenSPring network.

This collaborative framework was funded as one of seven “test and learn” green social prescribing sites in England, focusing specifically on communities whose mental health has been disproportionately affected by COVID-19. The aim of the Bolsover Social Circle pilot is to link green social prescribing and social connectedness; discovering how each of the three settings could potentially widen the social circles of participants, establishing what works, and any barriers to access.

Each of the three delivery settings had different approaches, coordinated by Bolsover CVS:

## Rhubarb Farm

A recognised point of referral for agencies and social prescribers providing community gardening and growing opportunities. This horticultural social enterprise provides work placements, training, and volunteering opportunities for people with long term, multiple, and complex needs.

## Bolsover Woodlands Enterprise

Provides meaningful placements for people with learning difficulties, delivering outdoor services and activities such as, wood turning, outdoor furniture manufacture, coppicing, and woodland management.

## Pleasley Pit Trust

This former coal mining site is a popular country park incorporating the Pit’s heritage. Offering activities such as, walking, cycling, and wildlife watching, it also has a busy, well-used modern visitor centre and cafe. A wide range of local residents use and benefit from the outdoor setting.

## BCVS

Undertook the part of locality support – convening the partnership and supporting ongoing delivery. They also provide advocacy on behalf of the partnership to external local authority and health boards, monitoring and evaluating the overall approach.



| Volunteering KPIs Year 5 Bolsover District Council                        | Target | Outcome |
|---|--------|---------|
| Volunteers engaged with or brokered to organisations                      | 50     | 117     |
| Organisations supported with volunteer brokerage or volunteer development | 25     | 103     |
| Volunteers’ forums and events   | 10     | 14      |
| Organisations supported   | 100    | 218     |

(including volunteer resources developed, opportunities shared and marketed, DBS checks completed, example volunteer policy forms shared e.g. risk assessment, volunteer agreement)

| Groups Support (including Social Enterprise and Business Development, Trading) | Target   | Outcome  |
|--|----------|----------|
| Groups supported   | 70       | 174      |
| Individuals supported  | 100      | 395      |
| New groups developed   | 10       | 13       |
| Groups supported to produce development plans                                  | 10       | 8        |
| Groups supported to identify funding opportunities                             | 50       | 61       |
| Applications submitted   | 30       | 27       |
| Amount of funding secured by groups supported                                  | £100,000 | £371,173 |
| Amount of funding secured by VCS for infrastructure                            | £100,000 | £152,500 |
| Stakeholders engaged with  | 350      | 371      |
| Networks developed, online or offline  | 5        | 5        |
| Events delivered online or face to face  | 8        | 16       |
| Strategic board representations  | 30       | 49       |







Project Name:

# Bolsover Countryside Partnership

Project Lead:

**Andy Heath**

Funding Source:

**Bolsover Partnership**



## Bolsover Countryside Partnership (BCP) has cross-cutting aims and objectives to:

Support the development of the local visitor economy

Encourage active travel

Support carbon reduction

Improve health and wellbeing

Support the enhancement of biodiversity and nature connectedness

## Delivery and Impact

The last 12 months has consisted of delivering a programme of works as part of the ongoing delivery of the *Visit. Sleep. Cycle. Repeat* (VSCR) programme. Broadly, this has included:

Supporting the development of the visitor economy by completing a business case for a camping pod site on Pleasley Pit Country Park; continuing to develop the VSCR App and working with the new Place Manager to develop the Bolsover Loop project and support the Place narrative.

Continuing to improve the Trails Network by project managing larger infrastructure projects, to be delivered next year, and completing a number of smaller projects this year.

Strengthening partnership working arrangements – particularly through work on the Low Carbon Thematic Group, Bolsover Compass, the Creative and Cultural Coalition, the Health and Wellbeing Thematic Group, the Culture and Tourism Partnership and Bolsover Woodland Enterprise.

Seeking additional funding for project activity including submitting a NEIRF bid, an additional LTP bid, supporting the submission of a number of SPF underspend bids, securing a small source of additional income from North East Derbyshire District Council (NED) and agreeing future funding with partners to support the ongoing cost of the BCP. existing support already on offer, intended outcomes, and any ongoing challenges within the school setting.

## Specific outcomes/impacts include:

Continuing to project manage improvements to the Archaeological Way (AW) through the Town Centre & Create a Town Trails project. This programme of work has £115k of Local Transport Plan (LTP) funding. A second round of consultation was completed and the BCP is now developing detailed designs and is planning on delivering the scheme in 2024-25.

£45k of LTP has been secured to deliver further improvements to the AW on Wood Lane, to resolve issues with drainage and surfacing.

£80k of LTP has been secured to deliver the Creswell Connects Study. A brief for the work has been developed and discussions with relevant consultants are nearing completion. Work is expected to be delivered in 2024/25

The VSCR App is complete and initial testing has been carried out by partners. A number of additional amendments are being made to the content, and the plan is to launch the App soon.

The business case for the Camping Pod Site at Pleasley Pit Country Park was completed. This identified a positive return on the investment opportunity. Discussions with a range of partners are ongoing, with the aim of finding a suitable model to develop the project further.

A funding application to the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF) was submitted to Natural England for £99k to support a project that will work with farmers and landowners to better understand the economics of increasing natural capital throughout the Bolsover District.

Working in partnership to submit an SPF bid for £50k to improve signage, waymarking, interpretation and marketing of the Bolsover Loop – a 27-mile route around the Bolsover District. BCP also secured £28k of LTP match funding for the project.

Working with partners to deliver Bolsover Compass. This project aims to develop a generational shift to improve physical activity across the Shirebrook Schools' Catchment Area. The Bolsover Loop, Shirebrook AW, and Town Trail project will be used to add value to the project (see case study).

Work on the agriculture transition study is ongoing. This is a complex and ever-changing field of research, and the initial findings were used to support the NEIRF application.

Specific small-scale works were delivered to improve the drainage on the Rowthorne Trail, remove a "K barrier" near Shirebrook Station (at the behest of the British Horse Society), and install a trail counter on Pleasley Pit Country Park.

An Access and Greenspace Study was completed for NED which generated a small amount of income to offset some of the in-year rise in wage inflation.

The BCP manager is now vice-chair of the Low Carbon Thematic Group. An analysis of new environmental markets has been carried out to support this group and other aspects of BCP's work.

The BCP manager is an active member of the Health and Wellbeing Group, the Culture and Tourism Partnership, and now sits on the Executive Group. In addition, they are also a member of the Creative and Cultural Coalition and sit on the Management Committee of Bolsover Woodland Enterprise.

The Archaeological Way Access Volunteers delivered 54 volunteer days to help maintain the trails network.

## Case Study

Partnership working and a systems approach to project delivery

The Bolsover Countryside Partnership (BCP) is working with partners on a number of projects, which have been aligned to maximise impact. The following projects will be brought together to help drive Bolsover's new Place Narrative:

Bolsover Compass, a walking project with £100,000 to improve physical activity in and around Shirebrook.

£160,000 of capital investment on the Archaeological Way in Shirebrook.

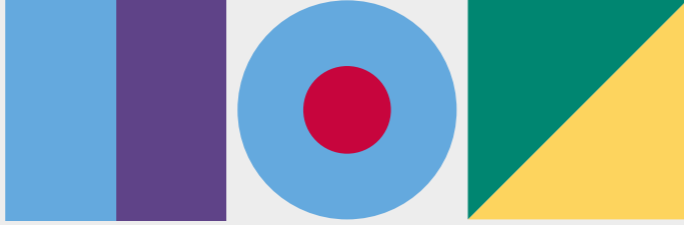
£78,000 of funding to improve the promotion, marketing, signage, and interpretation on the Bolsover Loop

The new, Visit. Sleep. Cycle. Repeat (VSCR) Trails App – which places Bolsover District at the heart of one of the best trails networks in the Country.

Rather than delivering these projects in isolation, partners are aligning them to create more of a splash! This is a new way of working, which involves taking a systems approach. It is hoped that it will deliver more than the sum of its parts and maximise the benefits for local people and visitors to the area, alike.







Project Name:

# Building Resilience Programme

Project Lead:

**Piotr Danek**

Funding Source:

**Controlling Migration Fund**

Partners:

**Frasers Group, Bolsover District Council Services, Citizens Advice Bureau, Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre, Storehouse, Mansfield District Council, Fire Services, Police, West Notts College, Live Life Better Derbyshire.**

**The legacy of the building resilience programme (January 2017) continues to improve community cohesion in Bolsover District. Improving the awareness and understanding of public services is one of those interventions. Data received from the Frasers Group shows that workers employed at Shirebrook’s warehouse represent more than 80 nationalities.**

Working every day with individuals from non-English communities and community leaders, provides insight about the ongoing need for support in how services are delivered. The reasons people are not able to use services independently are varied – it can be low English proficiency, lack of knowledge about what is available, or misunderstanding the role of a service because it is different to the individual’s country of origin.

During previous interactions, workers living in Nottinghamshire have asked about local issues; therefore we invited colleagues from Mansfield District Council to participate.

Another reason for the interventions is that project partners are reporting low levels of engagement with non-British residents. For example, GP registrations, health and wellbeing programmes, or education programmes.

## Delivery and impact

Cooperation with the area’s largest employer was deemed the most practical approach. Representatives from 13 different services: Citizens Advice Bureau, Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre, Storehouse, Mansfield District Council Housing Team, Mansfield District Council Community Safety Team, Fire Services, Police, West Notts College, Live Life Better Derbyshire, BDC Contact Centre advisors, BDC Housing Team, and BDC Community Safety Team, were

invited to present their offer again at the canteen inside the Sports Direct Warehouse. The visit lasted three hours, which enabled us to meet workers who were already at work, those who were finishing, and those who were starting their shift.

Frasers Group provided interpreters from their workforce to cover the most popularly spoken languages: Polish, Romanian and Ukrainian. There were many conversations between workers and various services’ representatives who also gave out promotional materials and practical gadgets such as, personal alarms and card covers. There was information about ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) college courses and Live Life Better Derbyshire had referrals signed for their Stop Smoking programme. One of the most popular subjects of discussion was about social housing rules and regulations.

The project partners were keen to participate in future visits and had ideas for increasing the general awareness of their presence by bringing roll-up banners.



*The level of engagement was positive from staff and supervisors with some supervisors gathering information for their teams. We provided guidance to numerous individuals on the service we provide. We are currently working on digital resources to be able to reach a more diverse audience at the next session.*

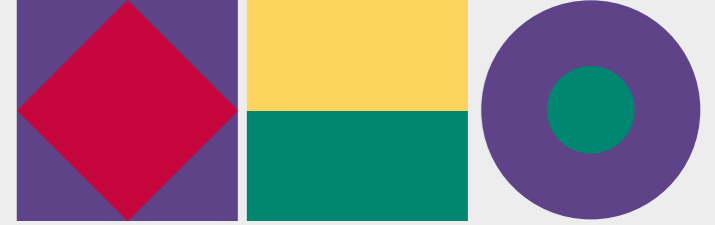
**CAB**

*I thought the event was excellent. I did feel at times that some of those who took the time to talk to me were quite vulnerable due to one thing or the other. I would like our Domestic Violence Officer and our Senior Parenting Practitioner to attend any future events.*

**Community Safety Partnership**







Project Name:

# Business Growth Grants

Project Lead:

**Caroline Daghsh**  
**BDC Economic Development Team**

Funding Source:

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

**Economic Development is important to us all in enhancing the districts employment and growth prospects. As part of the UKSPF programme, this grant funding has been provided to encourage business improvement and growth opportunities, resulting in job creation and retention. Businesses can access specialist consultancy and training that covers help with adopting digital solutions, carbon reduction solutions, and product development.**

In addition, there is an opportunity for the grant to contribute towards the purchase of capital equipment including plant and machinery. There are two types of grant funding: a small start-up grant of £500 (at a 100% intervention rate) and a growth grant up to £10,000 (at an 80% grant intervention rate).

Of the 2,305 businesses in the Bolsover District (ONS UK Business Count 2021) the number of micro businesses with between 0-9 employees was 2,010 or 87.2% and a further 220 or 9.5% of businesses have between 10-49 employees. It is these businesses that this project aims to engage with, offering financial assistance to help them survive and grow. During consultation events these businesses have identified that access to finance is an important factor to growth, job creation, and retention. Businesses also stated that funding with a higher intervention rate (80%) would mean that grants would be more accessible.

## Delivery and impact

Grants criteria and processes were approved by the Commissioning Group in January 2023, with delivery of the schemes starting in February 2023. The application process is via the Economic Development Team's CRM - Customer Relationship management System

The schemes have been widely promoted; the details are included on the Bolsover District Council website, a feature has been aired on Bolsover TV, schemes are promoted at the monthly Business In Bolsover breakfast meetings, as featured in the InBusiness Magazine which is sent to all businesses in the District.

To date:

| Outcome   | Number  |
|---|---------|
| Increased amount of investment                                  | £62,145 |
| Businesses that received grants                                 | 29      |
| Businesses introducing new products to the firm                 | 3       |
| Organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer activity        | 2       |
| Premises with improved digital connectivity                     | 1       |
| Businesses adopting new (to the firm) technologies or processes | 4       |
| Businesses adopting new or improved products or services        | 5       |

The two grant schemes are complemented by the Hyper Local Business Support Programme funded through UKSPF and delivered by Clowne Enterprise. Businesses and potential entrepreneurs can access one-to-one support from Clowne Enterprise and participate in training workshops or join networking activities. The "Start your own business in a day" workshop was an excellent example of this. The event was very successful and attracted 15 participants who have subsequently enquired about or are applying for a start-up grant.

## Case studies

### Platform Thirty1 Limited

A not-for-profit, women-led company that was established in 2015 working across the arts, culture, community, and education sectors in the East Midlands. The company successfully applied and was awarded a Growth Grant - part of which contributed towards the purchase of new office furniture and equipment during their recent re-location to Council-owned offices at Pleasley Vale Business Park. The grant will also help to raise their profile, contributing towards their commissioning of a film-making studio to create several films for their website to exhibit services, approach, value, and impact. The films will also be used as attachments to funding applications and tender responses, to demonstrate their unique selling point within submissions, helping them to secure contracts, increase turnover, and further achieve in their company mission. Platform Thirty1 have taken the opportunity to engage with other departments of the council with a view to undertaking workshops and events for them.

### A R Brassington Designs

A start-up grant has been awarded to this graphic design company, which offers help to print shops in getting their customers' artwork print ready.

The business offers full graphic designer services, creating promotional items such as banners, posters, business cards and signage. The grant contributed towards the purchase of Adobe Creative Cloud which is the most commonly used design software in the industry. The software has allowed the business owner to send her work to designers and print shops with the confidence that they will be using the same software and the files will not be changed or corrupted when opened.

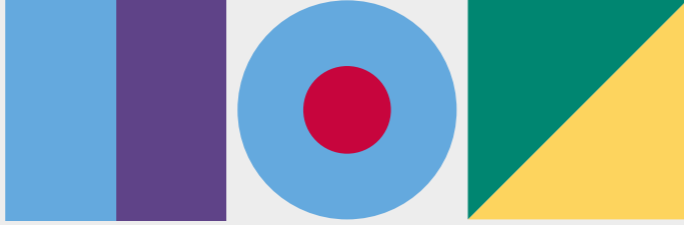


No 4 Coffee House purchase of awning with the assistance from the Business Growth Grant



Victory Design - new printer purchased with the assistance from the Business Growth Grant





Project Name:

# Cultural Corridor – Bolsover District

Project Lead:

**Daniel Oakley**

Funding Source:

**UKSPF**

Partners:

**Doe Lea Centre, Ault Hucknall, Glapwell, Pleasley Parishes**



**The Cultural Corridor is boosting the local culture and creativity in three parish councils: Ault Hucknall, Glapwell, and Pleasley. It includes the villages along the A617 from Stainsby to Pleasley Mill.**

**The project aims to meet the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) priorities of improving wellbeing and pride in our community.**

The Cultural Corridor project believes that creativity can make our community stronger. The Cultural Corridor will help to keep the existing cultural scene vibrant, whilst creating new events for the communities along the corridor and for people who want to visit.

This intervention stems from a strategic alliance with the existing communities, local charities, and parish councils along the cultural corridor. There is a keen interest in offering more arts activities and opportunities, and a recognition of the existing successes of arts promotion and intervention. The desire to share and showcase the geographical, cultural, heritage and arts offers the area has, is the main driver behind the cultural corridor strategy.

There are already key arts and community partners that support the project's concepts, and therefore, an existing offer to build upon. Community ownership of their original ideas and aspirations is the foundation of the Cultural Corridor. Curating, developing, and creating new partnerships is a key aspect of this project, bringing successful arts organisations into the area and building a learning and skills base for future arts work. Arts interventions can help communities to grow and thrive, developing pride and ambition. Building confidence, tackling loneliness and isolation, and improving mental health are all positive products of a strong, robust arts programme.

## Delivery and impact

Recruitment and selection of development worker

Development of the volunteer programme

Create a corridor network

Cultural corridor outreach programme

Art trail Project

Digital hub work

Digital skills programme

Community led arts programme

Youth social action project

Art trail project (v3)

Bus stop arts project

Willow walk arts project

Pleasley pit arts project

| Outcome                    | Number |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Participatory programmes   | 3      |
| Local activities supported | 2      |
| People reached             | 221    |

Attendance numbers for first projects are well above expectations - 74% of total planned reach in first project! - and reception to the work within communities and partnerships is also very strong going into next quarter.

We needed to recruit a creative and dynamic individual to co-ordinate and develop the project in years 2 and 3 of the funding. Candidates were required to demonstrate the ability to work and think creatively and differently.

The role had to be accessible and inclusive - we were not necessarily looking for someone with a wealth of further education, rather, we were looking for someone with plenty of community and arts experience.

Whilst we asked for a formalised CV, applicants were invited to be as creative as they liked in their cover letter, for example, creating a piece of artwork, producing a film, or writing a song.

We did not produce a list of desired and essential skills for the role, nor a desired level of education in order to attract as many applicants as possible. One candidate asked for the questions beforehand as a reasonable adjustment to the interview process; it was then decided to share the questions with all prospective candidates. This had the desired effect of receiving applications from a wide range of candidates with different skills and abilities. It also gave candidates the opportunity to showcase their creative abilities in a way that traditional application methods do not.

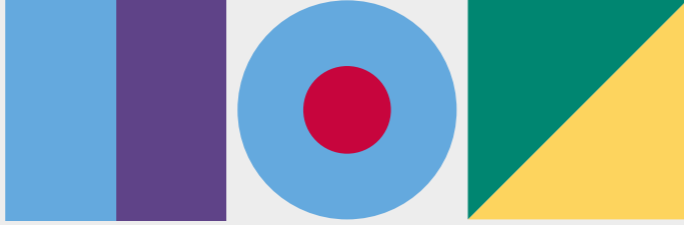
From a candidate perspective, giving them the questions beforehand meant a more thorough and confident response during the interview, whilst giving the interviewees an informed answer to each question rather than the interview being a memory test. This approach to the recruitment process allowed us to find the best candidate from the pool of applicants, based on the attributes required for the role.

*If the job application hadn't mentioned the word 'creative', I wouldn't have applied at all. Given my passion for poetry I saw it as a chance to gauge the actual level of creativity in the role. If they appreciated my poem as part of the application process, it assured me that the job was indeed the right fit for me. It also made the application process an enjoyable experience; it's therefore unsurprising that I am also finding the job itself so enjoyable!*

**Kate Burns**  
(Successful job candidate)







## Orchestras Project - Feb 2024

The project was held over the course of three days in a dynamic program of mini-concerts and workshops. They were valuable opportunities for participants to engage in music, fostering creativity and community bonds.

Based on the positive response and feedback, the community centre managers are now independently in conversation with Orchestras Live to plan the next phase of activity, which is provisionally set to take place in the summer term. This might include more in-depth sessions in Doe Lea and Glapwell, as well as more performances, potentially in New Houghton and extending to other villages. After initial, positive conversations, they hope to include Pleasley Pit Museum in the summer activities.



*So great to have this opportunity, thank you! Amazing quartet and leader, very engaging!*

*I would love to see more of these lunchtime concerts!*

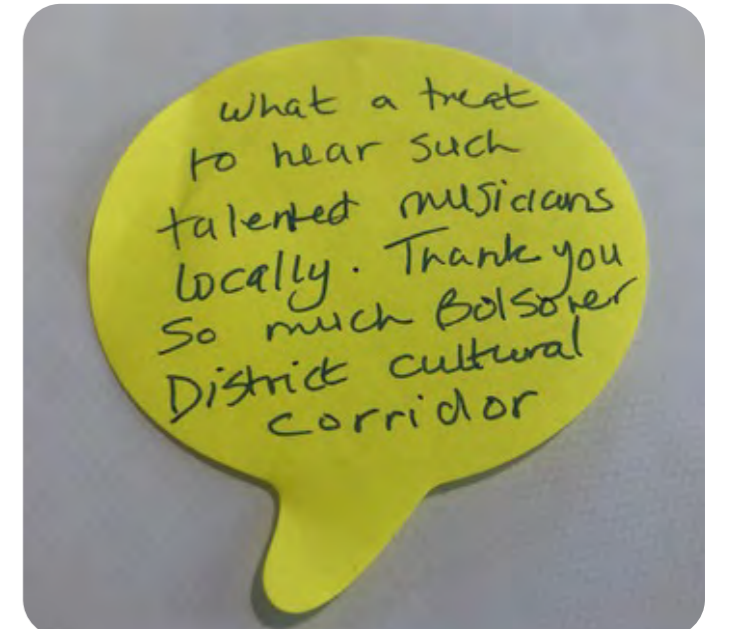
*It brought the culture to the centre and the community.*

### Community members

*Creating music from nothing, getting all the children involved and comfortable performing.*

### Mixed age group session

*(when asked about their favourite part of the session)*



*what a treat to hear such talented musicians locally. Thank you So much Bolsover District cultural corridor*



*It was excellent, good and magical. I enjoyed every little bit of it!*

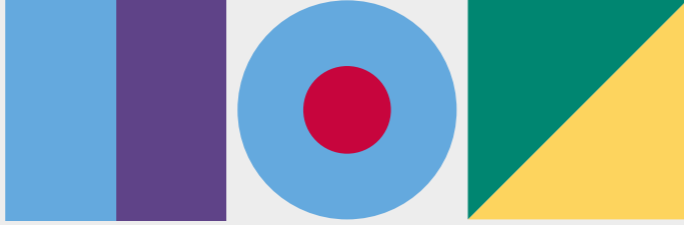
*When all of them played the music, it was like a magical portal to another world!*

*It is all very nice and it is making [me] more confident in music!*

### Bramley Vale School pupils







Project Name:

# Digital Connect

Project Lead:

**Citizens Advice Mid Mercia**

Funding Source:

**Public Health**

Partners:

**Public Health, Bolsover Partnership, NEDCAB**

**The project has delivered digital awareness, advice, training and support to people who are digitally excluded; equipping people with the skills and confidence to effectively use computers and other devices associated with digital technology.**

## The project had two main overarching aims:

Improving connectedness, reducing isolation and enhancing health and wellbeing by providing access to support, information, services and networks.

Providing signposting/access to opportunities for people to improve their computer skills and enhance their employability skills.

The project will address the 5 themes of digital inclusion:

- ◆ Affordable & easy access to equipment
- Affordable & easy access to the Internet
- ▶ Building confidence with appropriate support
- Suitable & easy to access training opportunities
- ◆ Appropriate ease to use services

Technological changes present significant challenges, with local jobs estimated as being at high risk of automation. Those who lack the requisite digital skills may find themselves increasingly excluded in a world of work where it is estimated that 90% of new jobs require digital skills. The pandemic has also accelerated the need to address the digital divide and changed digital usage, highlighting the need to improve the capacity of people to engage in a digital society by gaining essential life skills.

The COVID-19 Committee report, "Beyond Digital: Planning for a Hybrid World", highlighted that the most disadvantaged were being further marginalised because: they did not have the money to pay for an internet connection and a computer; did not have the appropriate space at home; or did not have the skills and confidence to fully participate in the online world.

On the Average Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) digital exclusion index rank, Bolsover ranks as 30,550, on a scale of between 1 and 42,616 where the greater the value indicates higher digital exclusion. In 2021/22 Bolsover Partnership commissioned the Digital Connect Project, which aimed to increase digital inclusion amongst Bolsover residents. This is being funded through Public Health Locality funding until the end of July 2024.

## Delivery and Impact

The project adopts a test and learn approach, enabling a "Tablet Lending Service". It works within local communities in outreach locations and offers a personal service using face-to-face or remote delivery. It is led through 1-2-1 and group sessions, aiming to achieve five digital skills:

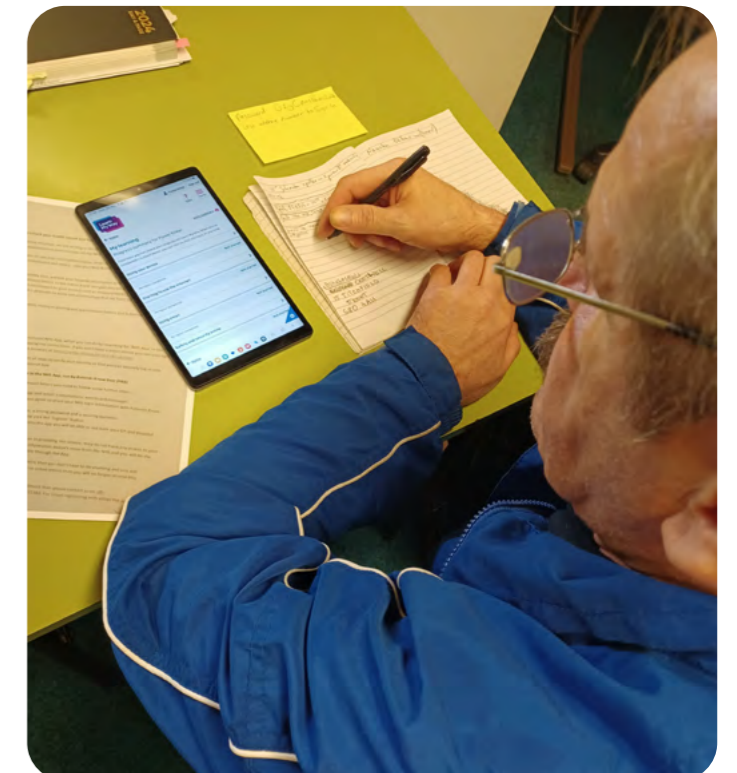
- Using devices, tablet/phone/PC
- Handling information
- Communicating
- Making transactions
- Staying safe and being responsible online

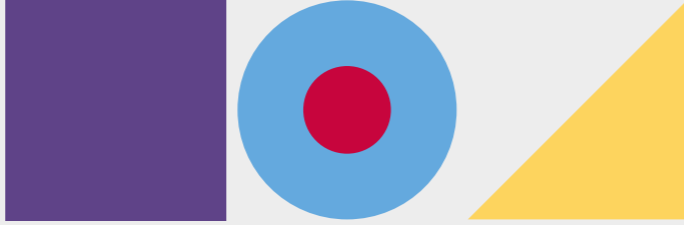
This service will empower residents using a flexible learning and training service, tailored to their individual needs and digital capabilities. Local residents will learn new skills whilst growing in confidence and, hopefully, making the digital world a more comfortable place to be.

Some residents will be accessing online services for the first time. We will help reduce social isolation and give them opportunities that were not possible before, for example, joining new online social groups, managing finances online and giving them access to new online interactions and connections with friends and family.

## Key Figures (outcomes/benefits):

| Outcome  | Number |
|--|--------|
| Separate individuals supported                       | 52     |
| Digital support sessions delivered                   | 341    |
| Partners working with the project                    | 252    |
| Events attended                                      | 23     |
| Volunteers (Digital Champions)                       | 9      |
| Referrals  | 52     |
| People signposted to attend further training/courses | 13     |
| Improved IT Skills                                   | 60     |





*The program has given me more confidence and I will now not be as afraid to try things. It has made a big impact, especially Skype. It will have a huge impact for shopping and enable [me to gain my] independence. I am able to see people on Skype. I've gone from knowing nothing to being able to pick my computer up and use email, Skype and order shopping.*

## Case Study 12/2023 (Bolsover)

### Client Background

The Client lives in a homeless project and doesn't have a computer, tablet, or mobile phone. He is trying to put his life back on track and realises this means interacting with the digital world. He was referred to Digital Connect by a work coach.

### What we have done

The Client had no device to bring to the sessions, so initially, we worked on the library computer to get him up and running. We created an email address for him to use as a means of verification for other services. The lack of a digital footprint can be an issue for certain security processes, such as, signing up for Learn My Way, since things like 2 factor authentication and account verification cannot be carried out.

After some tuition on the library computers and practicing with Learn My Way, the client felt that he was confident enough to try learning outside the sessions. We loaned him a tablet and this encouraged the client to continue practicing digital skills throughout the week.

We gave the client instruction on using email to communicate. This was something he had not used before, and to begin with, he found it somewhat confusing. After a few sessions he was able to check for incoming emails and reply to them where necessary. He was also confident in composing and sending an email to addresses he had been given.

As the client progressed with the loaned tablet, we were happy to be able to gift him a tablet along with a MiFi device and a SIM card loaded with six months of data. The client was very happy with this and has brought it to each session since he has had it, with the battery charged and ready to go.

The client has made progress in many areas. When he first came to us, he had no digital skills at all, now he is confident using email, researching things using a search engine and finding his way around the internet.

He can use online platforms such as, Learn My Way without needing somebody to guide him through each stage.

### Impact

The client has since provided feedback, in which he says that he is now more confident in all 5 digital skills. He stated that he knew nothing about digital skills before starting his training with Digital Connect, and that now, he is very confident using his newly acquired skills and knowledge.

The gifted tablet, MiFi and data SIM card has had a massive affect, helping the client to feel connected to the digital world and no longer excluded from society.



Project Name:

## ESOL

English for Speakers of Other Languages

Project Lead:

**Vision, West Nottinghamshire College**

Funding Source:

**Building Resilience**



### The project was created by Bolsover Partnership together with West Notts College (WNC) for a cooperative and tailored approach to the delivery of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses.

Knowing the specific needs represented by the diverse community, WNC participated in various conversations about the adequate content of ESOL course programmes. This resulted in the partnership with BDC, and the project to deliver classes which are focused on practical elements of communication. These courses aim to mitigate language barriers, are delivered by experienced staff, and the classes are popular among our residents.

Mrs AL is from Poland and came to the UK with her husband. She is employed full-time, in her late 50s and has never learned to speak English. Before starting the course, Mrs AL needed help with things like contacting (via phone or website) the local GP, requesting medication or sick notes, booking appointments, or requesting the services of an interpreter.

### Delivery and Impact

Bolsover Partnership, together with WNC have delivered ESOL courses once a week in Shirebrook to improve residents' language skills. Mrs AL attended all the sessions and was always happy to do extra work (completed at home) given by the teacher.

*I have made some good friends on the courses and my confidence grows. I am able to book appointment with GP, order medication, and have simple conversation with other services as well. I am now ready to start volunteering to improve and practice my English.*

Mrs AL

**LEARN FOR FREE!\***

VISION West Nottinghamshire College

## ESOL (BEGINNERS)

Get started on your ESOL journey with our Beginners Course.

Our skilled tutors will teach you the techniques and knowledge to build your confidence with the English language.

Start date - Monday 20 November  
Course length - 4 weeks  
Location - Tangent Business Hub  
Total cost - £42 (Pay weekly or upfront)

**Mondays | 9.30am-1pm**  
Tangent Business Hub (NG20 8RX)

For more information, please contact **Pat White**, Learning Engagement Officer  
01623 900229 | 07484053284  
patl.white@wnc.ac.uk





Project Name:

# Bright Winter Nights and Bolsover Lantern Parade

Project Lead:

**Junction Arts**

Partners:

**The Freedom Project, English Heritage, Bolsover District Council, Old Bolsover Town Council**

**December 2023 marked the 30th year of the Bolsover Lantern Parade, which is now one of the biggest and longest running light processions in the UK. To celebrate this, Junction Arts delivered a new light show at Bolsover Castle.**

Bright Winter Nights was an immersive light experience that took place within the castle's walls on Friday 1st December – the day before the lantern parade. Light projections, images and sounds from the last three decades brought the castle walls to life and featured the stories of local people and their lantern parade experiences.

Visitors could also view a newly commissioned community film as part of the magical evening, created from the stories and memories of local people.

## Delivery and Impact

The event was organised in partnership with a local Bolsover-based charity, The Freedom Project, and English Heritage. During October, community workshops were held in Bolsover, to create work for the event and participants were invited to view the culmination of their efforts on the night of Friday 1st December.

Mark North, Freedom Founder and CEO said: "The Lantern Parade has been an important part of our community for the last 30 years. It has given us a sense of togetherness and excitement."

The ticketed event attracted more than 750 people to Bolsover Castle. With a further 4000 turning out for the 30th anniversary of the Bolsover Lantern Parade on Saturday 2nd December.



## Stats for the 30th Bolsover Lantern Parade

- ◆ 314 community participants
- 461 children took part in school workshops
- ▴ 1084 people in the parade
- 400 lanterns in the parade
- ◆ 4000 spectators

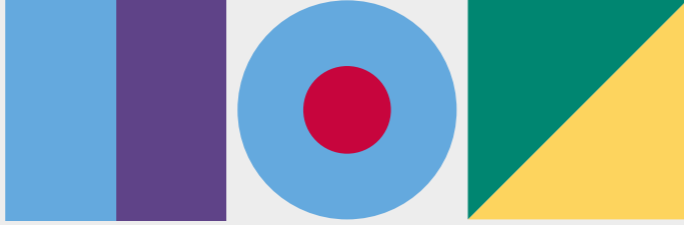


*It's a great asset to Bolsover, it makes a difference to people's lives. The workshops that Junction Arts organise empower people to create and make things, it brings families and communities together.*

**One participant of the parade**







Project Name:

# Hyper Local Net Zero Innovation Programme

Project Lead:

**Lisa Fox**

Funding Source:

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund,  
Nottingham Trent University,  
Bolsover Partnership**

**The project has engaged with micro-businesses, small and medium enterprises and VSCE sector organisations to overcome barriers relating to net zero. This intervention is designed to accelerate the progress of those businesses that have started their transition to net zero but need some support and direction for their next steps.**

Net zero is similar to carbon neutral, but it refers to all greenhouse gases being emitted into the atmosphere – such as methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) and other hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). As with carbon neutrality, net zero requires that the emission of greenhouse gases is equivalent to the removal of those gases from the atmosphere.

A key finding in a recent survey by the British Business Bank, was that smaller businesses account for around half of total greenhouse gas emissions from UK businesses. Yet approximately 53% of those businesses are not ready to prioritise decarbonisation and 56% say they have taken no actions to improve knowledge and capability to address the challenges of the transition to net zero to minimise the environmental impacts of climate change.

In a district with over 2400 small and medium enterprises, an intervention to support local businesses that have not yet started – or those at an early stage in their transition to net zero – will make a significant contribution to achieving the Council's own ambitions towards achieving net zero in the Bolsover District by 2030.

This type of support will also help businesses become more energy efficient and introduce more renewable energy, not only to help address a climate emergency, but also to

protect the “bottom line”. This will become increasingly important for businesses that have not fully recovered from the impacts of the pandemic, as they face higher energy costs, increasingly volatile supply chains, and rising inflation.

A series of national data sets identifies Bolsover as an economically vulnerable area; across a series of metrics, it scores much lower than average in the East Midlands region including average pay and educational attainment. Specifically, with regard to income deprivation, Bolsover is ranked 57 out of 333 authorities (based on the IMD average), and is ranked 11th in terms of economic vulnerability in the transition to net zero by the Local Government Association.

A recent report completed by Nottingham Trent University, shows that this socio-economic profile means many Bolsover-based businesses are vulnerable to being left behind in a post-pandemic economy. This is because they often do not have either the knowledge, capacity, or the resources to act without further support. This was clearly demonstrated by the Net Zero Innovation Programme, which was based on a series of hyper local workshops for businesses.

These workshops included stakeholder engagement to identify the key barriers preventing action on net zero. It found there was confusion over the mass of information on the subject, and that the presence of multiple agencies with similar offers, created added complexity. There were also specific concerns related to taking time away from the core business, costs and applicability of the net zero agenda to their business.

The follow-on workshops addressed these concerns by providing those businesses that had started their transition to net zero, with direct access to experts from the universities of Derby and Nottingham. For those at the start of their journey, they were given bursaries to attend a net zero “boot camp” led by Nottingham Trent University. These four events were deemed to be successful by all three universities and the boot camp especially so, given that 100% of the businesses attending accepted the offer of consultancy to calculate their current carbon footprint and implement a carbon reduction plan. This offer is also open to VSCE organisations.







## Delivery and Impact

This intervention will include the completion of a feasibility study for a future green skills centre in the Bolsover District, based on the needs of businesses and informed by this programme of business engagement.

In addition, this programme has created networking opportunities with in-person events scheduled across each year, alongside providing the infrastructure for a business-to-business network on social media channels and web-based resources.

A series of hyper local net zero workshops to deliver a programme of interventions that will assist Bolsover-based businesses and VSCE organisations to:

- Take on green skills.
- Provide green jobs.
- Transition to net zero.

Over the longer term this will increase their competitiveness, productivity, and profitability which will enable them to:

- Provide and create better paid jobs.
- Improve pay.
- Increase employment.
- Increase productivity.
- Increase public investment in research and development.

This programme also includes net zero boot camps to improve the carbon literacy of businesses that have not yet started their transition to net zero and provide access to consultancy support to identify their carbon footprint and implement a Carbon Reduction Plan (CRP).

This programme will also include a series of seminars led by local universities to help businesses cut through the complexity of multiple offers – from various carbon reduction companies and schemes – and facilitate better access to additional support and funding.

| Outcome                                    | Number |
|--|--------|
| Businesses receiving non-financial support | 129    |
| Decarbonisation plans developed            | 2      |
| Feasibility studies supported              | 1      |

With over 1,000 new followers to the Business in Bolsover network since the start of the social media programme, the total number of online followers has increased by 1,063 (224%). There are now also 444 subscribers on the email distribution list who are interested in knowing about Business in Bolsover support and events.

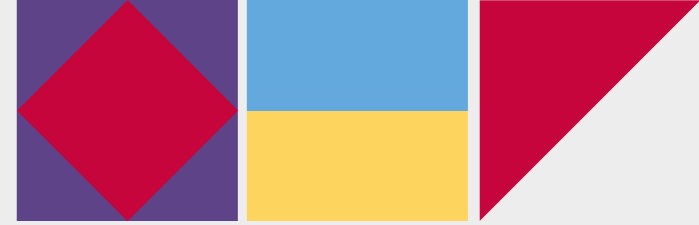


## Examples of business networking events

| Event name  | Date     | Theme   |
|---|----------|---|
| Rate Social Net Zero Event  | 17.07.23 | Net Zero  |
| Business Detox - Networking Breakfast for Businesses in Bolsover District | 27.07.23 | Systemise Your Business to Optimise Your Time<br>Save Money, Save the Planet                            |
|   | 30.08.23 | Unlocking the Potential of Neurodiversity in your Business<br>Budgeting for Business Growth             |
|   | 27.09.23 | Green computing practices in 2023:<br>Keeping your business safe and future proof<br>Websites that Work |







Project Name:

# Community Grants

Project Lead:

**Bolsover Community Voluntary Sector**

Funding Source:

**UKSPF, Garfield Weston Foundation, BCVS reserves**

**Bolsover Community Grants programme has been co-designed by volunteers from priority target communities in Bolsover District. This will ensure that community voice and transferable skills are developed within the design and delivery of the Community Grants programme, in addition to the outcomes of projects funded by community grants.**

The Community Grants Scheme aims to improve well-being by increasing skills, confidence, and positive progression routes through the voluntary community sector; with increased numbers of volunteers and community groups developed, and progression to more formal and higher-level learning and skills provision.

We know in Bolsover there are fewer registered charities than any other district in the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire area as evidenced by the NCVO 2021 Almanac data. There are 89 registered charities in Bolsover which equates to 1.1 charity per 1000 population, compared with Derbyshire Dales – the district with the highest levels – which has 373 registered charities and 5.2 per 1000 population. The average number in Derbyshire is 229 registered charities per district.

The lack of local groups in Bolsover means fewer opportunities to volunteer, and lower levels of social capital and community engagement. This has a strong correlation with the low levels of skills within Bolsover, as evidenced in the Bolsover Skills Audit February 2022. By involving target communities and those with lived experience, in identifying priorities and grant assessment, it builds transferable skills, confidence, and moves people closer to the labour market. These findings are consistent with multiple evaluations from previous programmes.

## Delivery and Impact

Courses, including basic, life and career skills

Enrichment and volunteering activities

Delivery of the Community Grants Programme

10 projects funded through Community Grants (9 under £15K and 1 over 15K).

£72,000 awarded from the 2023/24 allocation of £80,000

*My philosophy is to empower our clients to be empowered, to rebuild confidence and self-belief which comes from them being proactive. We run one-to-one support, guidance, and mentoring to really get alongside people and find out what we can do to help and I think that's what really differentiates us from other job clubs.*

**Mark North**

## Case Study

### Freedom Community Project's Job Club

Freedom Community Project's Job Club is a project that helps clients find meaningful employment through networking, training, and coaching opportunities. Clients who attend Freedom Community Project's Job Club, will be assisted by our Project Lead who conducts mock interviews, helps create resumes and cover letters, provides job leads, assists with application processes, and conducts training on specific job skills. This project will also provide clients with the opportunity to network with other members of the community.

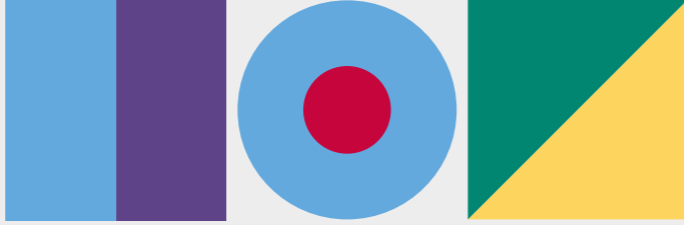
Community Grants has helped Freedom Community Project to set up our project: Job Club. The Job Club has plugged a gap in Bolsover's support services especially since our nearest Job Centre is Staveley – which, for some of our clients, is not only inaccessible, but can also be daunting. The work we are doing is making an incredible difference within our local community by providing valuable services to clients who are looking for a job. We can also help organisations that are looking for entry-level candidates, and help experienced clients find positions that match their career goals and interests. Freedom Community Project's Job Club provide all clients with the opportunity to learn valuable skills which they can use throughout their careers.

| Outcome  | Number |
|--|--------|
| People supported to access basic skills  | 36     |
| People supported to participate in education   | 89     |
| Volunteering opportunities supported   | 80     |
| People in education/training   | 27     |
| People experiencing reduced structural barriers into employment and into skills provision            | 6      |
| People familiarised with employers' expectations, including, standards of behaviour in the workplace | 9      |
| People gaining a qualification or completing a course following support                              | 16     |

*I was unemployed and in search of work. I had come to Freedom Community Project for support with applying for UC and potentially PIP. I explained that I would love to get back into the workforce but didn't know where to start. I was directed to the Job Club that had only just opened (fate) and not only began volunteering there, I accessed the services myself.*

*Since joining the Job Club, I can already tell my confidence has grown. Even though I don't feel ready to apply to jobs myself yet, I am enjoying socializing with other people who are in a similar situation and learning alongside Jeanette (Project Lead) on how to support people with job applications, CVs and Cover letters. I sat alongside Jeanette in a 'mock interview' for a client and then felt confident to have my own. Through volunteering for the Job Club I am learning so much about the expectations and what I need to prepare in order to enter the world of work. For now, I look forward to my Tuesday mornings with Jeanette and welcoming our lovely clients.*

*I'd recommend Freedom Community Project's Job Club for the friendship and the specialist help they offer – I think it's a brilliant balance of the two.*



Project Name:

# Physical Activity and Lifestyle Services

Project Lead:

**Craig Barnes**

Funding Source:

**Bolsover Partnership/Public Health**

**PALS brings together different agencies and services to provide support to individuals and families in their households and within their lives. It helps to assess their needs, unpick situations, provide consistency and become more physically active.**

The PALS approach recognises that there are three key elements when attempting to create behaviour change:

◆ Capability to change

● Opportunity to change

▶ Motivation to change

Alongside these, there are also five key factors that can affect the above:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Age
- \_\_\_\_\_ Socio-economic status
- \_\_\_\_\_ Disability or condition
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gender
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnicity

## Delivery and Impact

It's more than just signposting, it's about supporting! There are many agencies and organisations working hard to provide services to the people within their community, with the aim of improving overall community health and wellbeing; a PALS coordinator's role is to help people find the support they need.

We create packages and personal plans that help people find and stick to a path leading to a more active and healthier lifestyle, while working with other agencies to find what is available for the individual.

Over the last 12 months we have helped and supported over 260 clients with the PALS programme. During this time, we have had direct contact with our clients over 900 times, whilst also working with existing and new partners and groups to offer a complete package of support for residents of Bolsover district.

This year, our target number of clients to be seen was 200, we have exceeded this by 66 and delivered over 860 classes across the district. We now have a running average of 15 agencies, clubs, and groups we regularly work with to offer the external support required for some of our clients.

Over 90% of people who complete our programmes say they have increased physical activity levels since starting the programme, with improved health and wellbeing. Our retention rates of people staying active following the PALS support is around 65% which is the highest in the county.

We have received over 140 case studies where clients have written to say how much the programme has helped them, along with how essential they think the programme is.

|                                       | Target | Outcome |
|---------------------------------------|--------|---------|
| Individuals Supported                 | 200    | 266     |
| Sessions Delivered                    | 800    | 862     |
| Partners working with                 | 50     | 59      |
| Individuals completing 12wk programme | 110    | 266     |

## Case Study

### Mandy Bradder

"Since starting on this journey I feel so very different about myself and in myself. It was hard starting on this journey as it meant I would have to go out. See new people and push my own boundaries. After being on my own for so long then learning to rely on someone else and trusting them was very hard to do when: no.1, you are not used to anyone offering to help you, so no.2, you can't imagine how hard it is to trust in the help you are given. I have pushed myself more than I ever imagined I could do and now I go into a class with my head up and I'm smiling, and I join in the conversation. It is so uplifting to have a face-to-face conversation and not on the phone.

For the first time that I can remember in such a long time, I now look forward to the sessions. I look forward to swimming and the classes on a Wednesday and Friday I really enjoy them. My disabilities limit my movement, but my depression limits my life, my whole being and my future. I didn't used to see a future at all it was always out of reach but now my depression has lifted so much I can feel again.

All of this I can sincerely say could not have been done without the help of the PALS programme. I have received care, and the attention to my needs and wellbeing have come before all else.

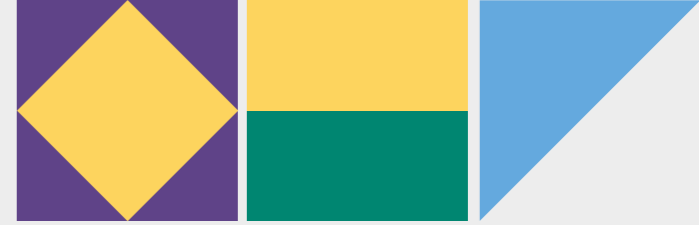
The guidance from the staff I have learned to accept as real, not only at the Arc, but out of hours too. The staff are always only a phone call away whenever I need them. The staff have amazed me how good and caring they are, not just with me but with everyone and all of us older people. Their patience makes you feel like you are not alone anymore, and you are a person and not a nuisance. The staff's manners make them so approachable and we have a laugh so many times. I had forgotten what it was like to have a laugh it's been so long.

My trial period has now ended, and I have signed up for the full membership, so watch this space because the team has me starting in the wellness hub to see where that takes me, so I am hopeful there. I am so pleased to have been given a place on the PALS programme."

Thank you.  
Mandy Bradder







Project Name:

# The Pickled Pear

Project Lead:

**Adam Taylor**

Funding Source:

**Rural Development Fund**

**The village of Palterton has always been a very tight-knit farming community, at one point it had 14 farms within the village and nearby surrounding area. This has been reduced to just one. The community still has a number of residents that are multi-generational, although the village has recently seen an increase in new housing and new people moving in.**

I have lived in the village for over 24 years now and have noticed a decline in interaction with residents both old and new. When we purchased the property, we had no intention of turning it into a pub, but realised the village needed a social hub.

Hence, the idea of a small village micro pub catering for all the community was born.

## Delivery and Impact

Looking at the property, and knowing it had been an old post office at the turn of the century, the concept started to take shape. We would try to bring back some of the building's heritage - along with using as much material sourced from the village as possible.

We had many afternoons and evenings discussing options and styles for the new pub - while ensuring the village was on board with the plan. We went from house to house asking for options and thoughts both good and bad on our proposed plan. I am glad to say that, apart from a few, the whole village was completely behind the project from day one.



Once we received notification from Bolsover District Council (BDC), the work began immediately because the deadline for opening was extremely tight. After removing both the internal plaster and external render, we realised that the project was going to be a much larger job than first envisaged. We managed to bring in additional workers and set about making the repairs to the property, hand cutting most of the external brickwork to suit. Reinstating the old decorative brick work was crucial to us. The project doubled in cost from our initial estimate - which hasn't helped cash flow - but we have managed to work around it.

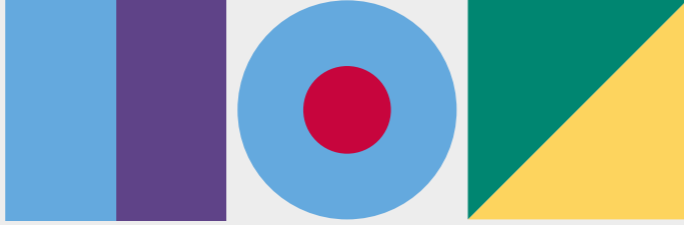
The internal walls have all been restored to the natural brick along with old beams reclaimed from various buildings - some coming from as far away as France. The hearth has been made from the original entrance steps to Palterton Hall. Help has been on hand from a number of residents, with jobs including stripping off old wallpaper, ripping down ceilings, painting, and even unblocking drains! The commitment and dedication has been quite emotional from my point of view and will never be forgotten.

The impact on the village has been great, we couldn't have asked for more. The pub has already become a regular meeting place for both young and old. We have even had people decide to move to the village because of the pub's vibe and community spirit. We have already done two wine tasting evenings - free of charge to the community - which have gone down a real treat and we have gin and whisky tasting evenings coming soon.

It has given residents who wouldn't normally socialise or mingle the opportunity to come together and enjoy evenings chatting and exchanging stories. The only downside is that it now takes a few hours to walk the dog around the village due to the number of times you stop and chat!







Project Name:

# Re-Deployable CCTV Cameras

Project Lead:

**Matt Liddy**

Funding Source:

**UKSPF**

**Safety and security are top priorities for our residents and Bolsover District Council. Capital funding will be used to build on existing work delivered by BDC's Community Safety Partnership. This will include the purchase of re-deployable CCTV cameras and will contribute to Mission 9 of the UKSPF: pride in place.**

This project can respond to actual, or fear of, crime in a timely manner. The changing locations of these cameras will be determined by analysing relevant crime data and a full community safety review across the district will identify Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Hotspots. This will complement a council funded CCTV monitoring suite within the district which will be staffed by a trained officer to monitor the cameras upon completion of their installation.

Members of the District Council Enforcement Team will have access to the system through Wi-Fi technology available on a number of approved computer tablets. Match funding will be used to provide staffing for the system as well as devices for mobile monitoring throughout the district. A professional security company will be procured for the purchase of the re-deployable cameras. The guiding principle for this work is, that if people feel safe and secure in the district, it maintains and increases footfall in town centres, contributes to health and well-being, and improves resident and visitor perceptions of the area.

Bolsover District has experienced a number of high-profile complex and serious crimes, including murder. In addition, the area suffers from the effects of other notable crimes that affect both victims and the community. Derbyshire Constabulary reports that Bolsover has the 4th highest incident rate in Derbyshire for anti-social behaviour. This is significantly worse than the Derbyshire average. Due to numerous deep-rooted factors, Bolsover District suffers from

acts of Anti-Social Behaviour that has resulted in a number of areas having to put in place Public Spaces Protection Orders in an attempt to dilute and remove this type of behaviour.

## Delivery and Impact

### CCTV Specification Determined

Site surveys of the Council's Independent Living Facilities have now been completed and an order has been submitted for cameras and DVRs for these locations. These facilities house a number of vulnerable people.

Bolsover District Council submitted an initial purchase order for £38,750.24 on CCTV equipment. This is hardware for the monitoring suite and cameras for street monitoring and Independent Living Facilities.

Improvements undertaken in three neighbourhoods: Parkfields, Victoria House, Ashbourne Court. So far, 37 residents have declared Improved perception of safety in recorded parish consultations where the CCTV cameras have been deployed.



Project Name:

# Trade Union Safety Team

Funding Source:

**Grants To Voluntary Organisations**

## Outputs Achieved Between April 2023 and March 2024

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Enquiries from people experiencing ill health or health and safety issues                 | 18          |
| People reporting improvements in mental health as a result of the service after 12 months | 18          |
| Amount recovered in benefits and compensation   | £178,130.92 |

## Case Study

In December 2022, Juliet's husband Ralph was diagnosed with Mesothelioma just five days before he died. The speed with which he became ill and died greatly affected Juliet, and yet added to the shock and grief, was the discovery that his death had to be reported to the coroner.

In March 2023, Juliet was referred to DAST (Derbyshire Asbestos Support Team) by the coroner's office. During a home visit it was established that Juliet needed bereavement support, she was also entitled to claim posthumous benefits and compensation for Ralph's illness. Juliet found the process of dealing with the coroner daunting and upsetting. We were able to talk her through each step and explain everything to her. When the inquest found that death was caused by industrial working conditions - namely, asbestos exposure in the workplace - Juliet was further upset and was also concerned for her husband's old workmates.

We were able to put her in touch with two other widows whose husbands had worked at the same place. We assisted Juliet in claiming DWP benefits and put her in touch with a solicitor to explore the option of a civil claim.

After several home visits and telephone conversations, Juliet began attending one of our Bereavement Support Groups. Here she found the ongoing support she needed at the time and has been able, in turn, to give support to other members, new and old. They have an active WhatsApp group and participate in the Facebook group: DAST Bereavement Support Group.

She tells us that DAST appeared at a time when she was feeling very isolated and couldn't imagine a future anymore. DAST helped her to understand and work through her grief. It also introduced her to a supportive community that took away that sense of isolation.

*It's really reassuring to know that DAST is only a phone call away if ever I have a wobble. Thank you DAST.*

**Juliet**





Project Name:

# Rural Action Derbyshire

Funding Source:

**Bolsover District Council  
Grants to Voluntary Organisations**

**5 residents assisted with transport through “Ways to Work”**

**420 volunteer hours undertaken**

## Case Study – anonymised

“A” was referred by Derbyshire County Council Discretionary Fund staff. She is a single mum struggling to make ends meet on Universal Credit. She had already been helped with the maximum number of awards through the Discretionary Fund scheme, but an increase in rent and removal of direct housing support meant that she had insufficient funds to pay for food and electricity costs. She was already using a food bank. She also had some debts and was being supported by the Freedom project and Step Change to resolve her debt situation. She suffered from anxiety and was having difficulty managing it, while also looking after her 4-year-old daughter and trying to get back into work. We were able to support A with two cash grants totalling £300 during July and August 2023 which enabled her to buy food, a small present for her little girl’s birthday, pay off the energy debt on her meter and add sufficient credit to avoid using emergency credit again before her next UC payment was paid.

Giving someone peace of mind and breathing space is priceless.

*Thank you for your help I really appreciate it. The hardship fund has helped me greatly during a very stressful time as I have been able to meet basic needs for myself and my daughter. It has helped to take some pressure off with the increase in living costs, whilst I look to improve my financial situation. I would like to thank the team also for being very efficient and helpful.*

**“A” via text message**



Project Name:

# Derbyshire Law Centre

Funding Source:

**Bolsover District Council,  
Grants to Voluntary Organisations**

**Outputs Achieved April 2023 to March 2024**

**Enquiries from Bolsover District residents – 529**

**Volunteers recruited – 32 (with 13 currently active in the team)**

## Debt – Bolsover

Mary contacted us because her benefits had been suspended due to a misunderstanding over some payments she had received. Mary was a carer for her significantly disabled husband, who was eligible for, and received, Personal Independence Payments (PIP). Owing to benefit problems, Mary and her husband had accrued debts with the council that they were struggling to pay. Mary herself, also suffered from extreme fatigue and had recently recovered from breast cancer the previous year.

After taking full details from Mary, we examined the background to all her debts. We helped Mary to prioritise making affordable repayments to the council for her rent arrears. Following this, we also helped Mary set up an affordable repayment plan for her council tax. Mary and her husband also had deductions from their benefits for debts that had built up. The rate at which these debts were being deducted was causing significant hardship. We helped Mary negotiate with the DWP to get the rate of deduction reduced, which made a big difference to her and to the household budget, it meant that Mary was much less stressed going forward.

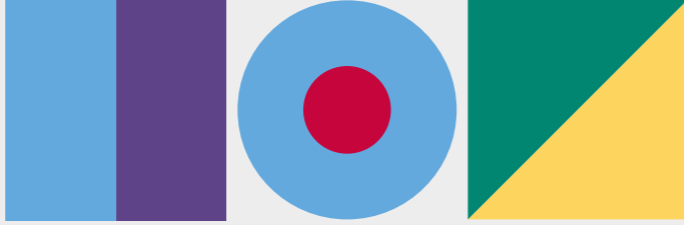
## Housing – Bolsover

A client contacted us because they had been served a section 21 notice (the first step in a “no fault eviction process”), we advised them that we did not think this was valid and the client instructed us to defend this claim. However, during the proceedings, the client and his family found another privately rented property and we agreed a date the client would give up possession of their current property. The client was able to leave in their own time and avoided becoming homeless.

In another case, a client’s landlord – who is also her father – sought to evict her from her private rented property. She had spent thousands of pounds renovating it in the belief that the property had been bought for her and it was therefore hers. He brought a claim for possession on the grounds of rent arrears over many years of unpaid rent. We represented her in defending the proceedings and brought a counterclaim for the extensive renovations and work she had put into the property over a decade.

*I so appreciate all of your help, I have a house in the most amazing place, with amazing schools, and the most amazing scenery you could ever imagine. I can now enjoy my new life free of everything in the best surroundings I could wish for. I cannot thank you enough for all of your help and support when I had no one at the most difficult time. I just wanted to let you all know you are appreciated for sure and you are amazing*

**Feedback from the Client**



Project Name:

# NEDCAB

Citizens Advice North East Derbyshire

Funding Source:

**Bolsover District Council**  
**Grants to Voluntary Organisations**

## Outputs achieved from April 2023 to March 2024

4725 debt/benefits enquiries received

913 housing specific (including homelessness) enquiries received

1000 volunteer hours

Thanks to the Bolsover District Council (BDC) grant, we were able to build on our core service – along with other funded projects – to provide face-to-face advice at 9 different locations in the Bolsover District, including outreaches at Bolsover Library and the Brook Centre Food Pantry. Through an established long-term project funded by Derbyshire County Council, our Public Health Advisory Service provides advice in the following outreach locations throughout the district:

Castle Street Medical Centre (Bolsover)

Friendly Family Surgery (Bolsover)

Welbeck Road Health Centre (Bolsover)

Shires Health Centre (Shirebrook)

Springs Health Centre (Clowne)

The Village Surgeries in South Normanton and Pinxton

Blackwell Medical Centre

Creswell Medical Centre

Langwith Medical Centre

*Absolutely fantastic!*

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*All I can say is the advisor was very helpful and the home visit helped so much*

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*Everyone I spoke to was really helpful, they went above and beyond to help me. I would definitely use them again and have already recommended them to other people. Thank you so much!*

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*Excellent, knowledgeable staff who took the time to listen when I was going through such a very stressful situation with E-On*



Project Name:

# DUWC

Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre

Funding Source:

**Bolsover District Council**  
**Grants to Voluntary Organisations**

## Outputs Achieved April 2023 to March 2023

**£753,378 recovered from appeals tribunals**

**2250 volunteer hours**

**£97,420,02 of additional benefits claimed**

### Case study

A man from Creswell accessed our outreach at Creswell in relation to a long-standing PIP claim. He had been receiving assistance from another organisation in Worksop but had been refused PIP after assessment and Mandatory Reconsideration. He had been informed that they would not be able to assist any further and he needed to appeal but since the decision had been made over a month ago, he would not be able to do this. He was advised by one of his friends to come in and see if we could help.

He had complex mental health issues and the decision to refuse had been made over five months prior to seeing us. However, when speaking to him it became clear he had good cause for a late appeal request. We helped him to submit an appeal and also did a benefit check. We were able to help him make a claim for Universal Credit (UC) which he had not been advised to claim before. We advised that he submit fit notes and helped him make sure his UC claim was correct.

He received a phone call from DWP conceding the PIP appeal and he was awarded standard Daily Living and enhanced mobility. He was also assessed for Universal Credit Limited Capability for Work RA, because he was not fit for work. The result was:

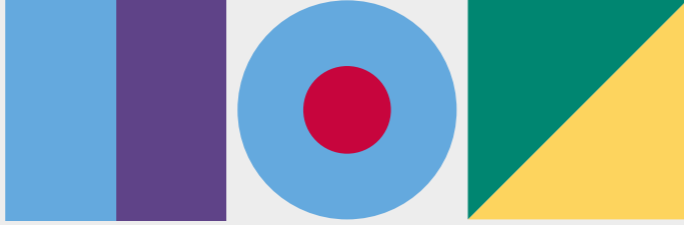
PIP standard Daily Living: £68.10 enhanced mobility: £71.00  
£505.40 every 4 weeks

PIP back pay: £5685.75

UC: £1139.40 per month







Project Name:

# Shirebrook Market Place Re-Imagined

Project Lead:

**Chris McKinney**

Funding Source:

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

**The aim of Shirebrook Market Place: Reimagined is to significantly improve the physical and environmental quality of the Market Place. To make this important civic space better used, more frequently visited, and to reinvigorate the retail beating heart of Shirebrook.**

Additional funding is being sought through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to expand the already begun Phase 1, to deliver the full package of the public realm improvements. Accelerating the benefits from the investment in the town centre by taking advantage of the completed procurement process and with the contractor already in place and ready to start on site.

## Objectives

To resurface 1000m2 of public space with an enhanced and attractive surfacing.

To improve the physical and environmental score of the Market Place within the annual Town Centre Health Check assessment.

To work with Shirebrook Town Council and market traders to increase the number of market stalls across the four market days.

To work with Shirebrook Town Council to increase the financial investment in market equipment and facilities.

To support increased footfall in the Market Place.

To support the reduction of vacant shops and buildings in the Market Place.

To deliver a traffic controlled Market Place; a public space that addresses the anti-social behaviour concerns of traders and pedestrians about cars driving across the Market Place.

## Delivery and Impact

### Physical works

Resurfacing the Market Place.

Installation of mining memorial and creation of public memorial gardens.

New town council building, including public toilets, market stall lockup and commercial retail or public space. Creation of outdoor seating area orientated towards mining memorial.

Tree planting in selected locations to improve character.

Boundary treatment improvements to provide greater control of vehicle access.

Highway works to calm traffic and make pedestrian access safer.

Potential redevelopment of surrounding vacant sites.

### Complementary activities to draw people to the Market Place

Enhance the market offer, supporting the existing traders and introducing new themed markets, for example: craft, arts, flea markets, continental food markets, Christmas markets.

Establish wider event usage of the Market Place, such as music events, outdoor theatre or cinema, throughout the year.

Greater policing and enforcement of traffic and anti-social behaviour rules to transform the perception of the town centre to residents and visitors alike. town centre events, markets, and visits.

### Town Centre management

Greater publicity to promote town centre events, markets, and visits.

Greater business and trader engagement to understand their operations, aspirations and concerns.

Work with property landlords to help advertise and where possible manage business locations to help locate them in their optimum location to maximise their impact, e.g., cafés in locations where greater outdoor seating can be achieved.

### Programme to help improve the appearance of shop fronts

Continue to tackle the number of vacant town centre buildings.

Work with potential suitable investors to attract complementary uses / businesses to the town centre.

Council Leader, Councillor Steve Fritchley said, "High streets are changing, and we must adapt to make sure that what is in our town centres represents what people need and expect.

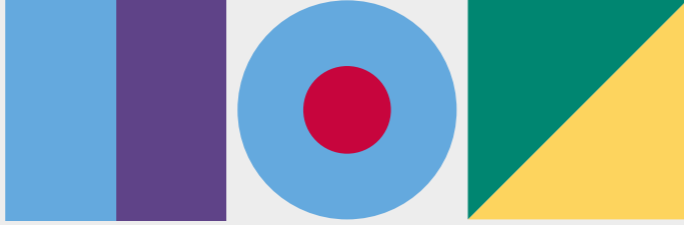
*High streets are changing, and we must adapt to make sure that what is in our town centres represents what people need and expect.*

*The plans we have will significantly improve the market place, make better use of the space and provide a central area that people will want to visit, where they can relax and have a cuppa or a bite to eat and watch the world go by, whilst also providing more footfall for our businesses.*

**Councillor Steve Fritchley  
Council Leader**







Project Name:

# Small Business Support

Project Lead:

**Caroline Daghsh**

Funding Source:

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

Partners:

**Clowne Enterprise**



**Business advisers assist local residents and SME businesses within the Bolsover District by providing access to hyper local on the ground business support. Pre-start, start-up and existing businesses can all receive assistance to develop a new product, become investor-ready, or improve the productivity of their business through innovation and technology implementation.**

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) reported that in 2020 the number of start-up businesses in Bolsover was 240, however, the number of business closures was recorded as 210. Of the 2,305 businesses in the Bolsover District (ONS UK Business Count 2021), the number of micro businesses with between 0-9 employees was 2,010 or 87.2% and a further 220 or 9.5% of businesses have between 10-49 employees. It is these businesses this project is aiming to engage with, to offer a wide variety of support to ensure their survival and growth. During consultation events, businesses have expressed an interest in accessing services and support such as those offered by this project.

This scheme is also considerate to those businesses that the local authority supported with Government grants and financial interventions during the COVID-19 lockdowns and “opening back up”. There were over 200 individual businesses supported by discretionary grants – many of which had used savings and cash to maintain business operations.

Bolsover District Council is the landlord to two local business centres and is seeing a high number of businesses that continue to experience cash flow issues and are unable to pay their commercial rent arrears. These businesses would benefit from support to ensure they are able to manage

their debts, but also, to grow and diversify their business operations and bring in additional cashflow.

## Delivery and Impact

The Small Business Support project aims to cover pre-start and newly established businesses and will build on existing provisions. Bolsover district residents can freely access mentoring and financial support that could help them to launch a new business.

| Businesses receiving non-financial support and grants | Number |
|---|--------|
| Businesses receiving non-financial support            | 86     |
| Potential entrepreneurs helped get business ready     | 50     |
| Jobs created  | 20     |
| New businesses created                                | 17     |
| Businesses introducing new products to the firm       | 12     |
| Businesses with improved productivity                 | 4      |
| Businesses engaged in new markets                     | 8      |

## Case study

### Feral Piercing

In May 2023, Kelly Baker contacted Clowne Enterprise for support with establishing her own business which offered body piercing services in Clowne. A coach worked with Kelly to identify her current situation, where she would like to be, and what would help her achieve her goals.

Starting a business can be overwhelming, and Kelly was experiencing self-doubt. With guidance from Clowne Enterprise, and through the project mentorship and encouragement, she gained the confidence to take the next steps. With support, Kelly created a business plan and successfully applied for a £500 start-up grant from Bolsover District Council. This enabled her to attend a body piercing course in Manchester to equip her with the latest knowledge, skills, and trade contacts. She received the essential resources, guidance, and mentorship that she needed to navigate the complexities of launching a new venture.

By tapping into the support, Kelly gained the knowledge and confidence necessary for her to move forward. Kelly partnered with Fine Point Tattoo Studios to launch Feral Piercing. This collaboration has enabled her to leverage an established brand and work from an established studio in Clowne town centre. The business launched on 6th January 2024.

Kelly had a vision of creating a body piercing business that would not only provide great service, but also embody the values of empowerment and self-expression. With the support of Clowne Enterprise and Bolsover District Council’s Start-Up Grant Scheme, Kelly’s dream became a reality. Her journey with Feral Piercing demonstrates that effective collaboration and support can help get a business from an idea, to a fully operational reality. By seeking assistance from the Hyper Local Business Support Programme, delivered by Clowne Enterprise and Bolsover District Council’s Start-Up Grant Scheme, Kelly received the necessary tools to launch her business and gained the confidence to overcome self-doubt. Feral Piercing is now established and offering services to customers.







Project Name:

# Tourism & Culture

Project Lead:

**Natalie Etches / Therasa Garrod**

Funding Source:

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

**The key aims of this project are a “tourism place audit” and developing a Visit Bolsover website. The purpose of a tourism place audit is to better understand the local area and economy, by analysing:**

Accessibility and accessible tourism (including accessible tourism for people with physical and learning difficulties).

The signage and place identity.

Movement of people in and around the district and its attractions.

Local accommodation and provision.

The opportunity to increase visits, either by enhancing current events or introducing new strategic events (including arts and culture).

The audit findings will be used to create a new, cohesive tourism and culture proposition and delivery plan that takes advantage of place strengths, whilst addressing the product gaps.

In addition to the audit, a leading place branding and place marketing company – thinkingplace – were commissioned to lead a new “positive place” narrative project. To consult with key stakeholders in the area about the strengths and opportunities, and what should be the focus of a new place-led programme. The narrative will be used across the district to promote the area as a great place to live, visit, work, and learn. It will also be consistently used in funding applications, inward investment, and in communications to identify the area’s ambition and strengths; ultimately to try and change perceptions, raise awareness of the local area, and to benefit the local visitor economy.

Bolsover Partnership has allocated funding from Bolsover District’s allocation of the UKSPF because, according to the latest STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, ARTS and Maths) figures (volume and value data – Tourism trends), Tourism in Bolsover in 2018 was worth £139.84m, an increase of over 8% on the previous year. However, this figure is pre-COVID and is comprised of a low level of staying visitors, with higher than average (for Derbyshire) day visits, and of those visitors who stay, do so with friends and relatives. The duration of stays is also lower than other comparable areas: staying visitors spend an average of 2.3 days in the district during their overall stay, compared to an average of 2.9 days in Derbyshire and 3.4 days in Cumbria.

The average direct spend per visitor in Bolsover District is £38.52, which is £2.12 lower than the Derbyshire average and £9.14 lower than Cumbria. The percentage of overnight visitors as a percentage of all visitors in Bolsover District is 22%, compared to 23% in Derbyshire and 36% in Cumbria. With day visitors accounting for 89.2% of all visits to the district, and only a small number of staying visitors, this shows that the district is underperforming.

## Delivery and Impact

Improving the value of tourism by attracting the purple pound (accessible tourism market) and using a positive new narrative to promote the tourism offer of the area.

In the town including The Artisan Market from 1st June – 18th September 2023, around 2,350 people browsed the Visit Bolsover website; an increase of 755 compared to the previous three-month period of March – May. The engagement level is high with 67.44% of visitors collectively viewing over 6,290 pages during this period.

## Good Practice

Aligned with this project is a separate project being led by The Lloyds Bank Foundation. Working with community and voluntary sector partners in Bolsover, to raise aspirations in the district using an asset-based narrative instead of the deficit-based language that is sometimes used when describing the place and people from the area. The project complements the thinkingplace work, focused on a positive place narrative. We have managed to align the two separate projects to ensure value for money, provide a wider impact that engages businesses, the local community, and voluntary sector. And more importantly, to ensure long-term sustainability, since the delivery of the positive place narrative will be on-going. The value of the Lloyds Bank Foundation contract is £10,000 and is additional match funding for this project.

Changing culture and perceptions within the district is no easy task. We have consulted with the Bolsover District Citizens Panel and Bolsover Youth Council, asking them to rate their current satisfaction with the place. This will provide a benchmark that will enable us to monitor impact in the future.

Project Name:

# Visitor Economy

Project Lead:

**Natalie Etches / Therasa Garrod**

Funding Source:

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

**A business support programme for businesses within the Visitor Economy to grow key areas including: digital, zero carbon, and sector specific business skills. It will also contribute to accessibility, international tourism, and sector specific support for the cultural, historic, and heritage sector – supporting Mission 1 of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), to improve pay, employment, and productivity.**

According to the latest Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor (STEAM) figures (volume and value data – Tourism trends) Tourism in Bolsover in 2018 was worth £139.84m, an increase of over 8% on the previous year. However, this figure is pre-COVID and is comprised of a low level of staying visitors, with higher than average (for Derbyshire) day visits, and of those visitors who stay, do so with friends and relatives.

## Key figures

### Staying Visitors

Accounting for 10.8% of all visitors but generating a much higher 29% of value. Specifically, 296,000 staying visitors generate £47.39 million, and on average, each staying visitor generates £160.10 into the local economy. The duration of stays is also lower than other comparable areas; staying visitors spend an average of 2.3 days in the District during their stay, this compares to an average of 2.9 days in Derbyshire and 3.4 days in Cumbria. There is scope to try to increase the length of stay to 4.5 days.

### Day Visitors

Day visitors account for 89.2% of all visitors but only generate 71% of value. Specifically, 2.43 million day visitors generated £92.45 million, with each staying visitor, on average, spending £37.93 into the local economy. Therefore, the amount generated by staying visitors is 4.3 times HIGHER than the amount generated by day visitors.

## Summary

The average direct spend per visitor in Bolsover District is £38.52, which is £2.12 lower than the Derbyshire average and £9.14 lower than Cumbria. The percentage of overnight visitors as a percentage of all visitors in Bolsover District is 22%, compared to 23% in Derbyshire and 36% in Cumbria. With day visitors accounting for 89.2% of all visits to the district, and only a small number of staying visitors, this shows that the district is underperforming.

In addition, Bolsover must develop its events offering so that it can attract visitors – as well as locals. By developing its visitor offering it can attract visitors to its town centres and provide a strong visitor proposition that will convert day visitors into staying visitors. This was also highlighted through consultation with businesses in the district.

The visitor economy was disproportionately affected by both Brexit and the pandemic. Moving into 2022/23, the sector faced new challenges, including recruitment and the rising costs of supply chain goods, energy prices, and fuel – with inflation rates at an all-time high. Businesses were rightfully concerned, citing an unpredictable year ahead. Businesses had to adapt their offer, with consumer behaviour moving towards last minute bookings. Consumer choices also changed with many deciding to take only one main holiday a year, as they juggled with the increased household costs. During 2022, there was also a surge in overseas holidays which created a very competitive marketplace, both domestically and internationally, which meant that businesses had to remain competitive in order to survive and grow.

## Delivery and Impact

Business workshops have been delivered throughout the year to support local businesses.

Businesses have been supported through a programme of workshops that endorse innovative ways of working and business adaptations. Industry experts have delivered workshops such as: Search Engine Optimisation (SEO), social media, online booking channels, and Business resilience focused sessions.

| Intervention   | E17: Development and promotion of visitor economy |                 |                 |
|--|---|-----------------|-----------------|
|  | Target  | Actual          |                 |
| Outputs  |   | Apr 23 – Sep 23 | Oct 23 – Mar 24 |
| Number of businesses receiving non-financial support (numerical value) | 50  | 165             | 283             |
| Number of local events or activities supported (numerical value)       | 12  | 70              | 14              |







Project Name:

# Fusion Learning

Project Lead:

**Engineered Learning/DEBP**

Funding Source:

**Robin Hood Line Community Rail Partnership  
Cross Country Trains  
East Midlands Railway  
Community Rail Network  
Bolsover Partnership**

## **Fusion Learning is an enhanced offer for Year 10 learners across schools in the Bolsover locality who like working practically, would excel in a workshop environment, or are interested in engineering.**

The programme was developed by the Bolsover Partnership, which engaged “Engineered Learning”, a provider in Derby City specialising in supporting young people to develop work-related skills within fabrication and welding, and Direct Education Business Partnership (DEBP) CIO to engage with local schools and provide the wraparound support, including pastoral care, careers guidance, and progression planning.

DEBP worked to identify two secondary schools that would commit their time and resources for the duration of the pilot phase, with expectations for support from staff including the identification of the cohort, promotion of the offer, engagement with parents/carers/guardians, and facilitating access to the learners for careers guidance and

### **The programme offers:**

Work-based learning in a workshop for 1 day a week over 20 weeks for students in year 10

Weekly pastoral support

Introductions to post-16 providers

follow-on support. A total of 12 learners were identified and have been participating in Fusion Learning: 6 from Heritage High School and 6 from The Bolsover School.

The offer was optional for the twelve identified learners. It was introduced to them via the sharing of key information, a letter for parents/carers/guardians, an information session in June to learn more about the project and meet the team, and taster activities. Two taster days were arranged (18/07/23 and 03/10/23) and successfully delivered on-site at ‘Engineered Learning’ in Derby. Since then, all 12 learners have started their work-based learning experience and Engineering Ltd. (Derby), where they hope to achieve an NCFE-Northern Council for Further Education Accredited Level One Aware in Industry Specific Engineering Skills

Each week whilst on placement, they continue to learn new fabrication and welding skills with specialised equipment (including plasma cutters, pistol drills, electric drills, files, chisels, etc.) to create fit-for-purpose items including money boxes, rocket stoves, and engineering squares.

These skills will then be put to the test as they work together on a community project with the established Community Rail Partnership to showcase their development by creating a public art piece, commissioned by Bolsover Council, which will eventually be put on display at a train station in the local community.

Development of work-related fabrication and welding skills

Careers advice and guidance

Opportunity to showcase skills to employers

## **Project Need**

The unseen legacy of COVID, compounded by the Cost of Living (COL) and experiences within education, as reported by senior leaders within Bolsover schools:

- ◆ Fear of failure
- Avoidance
- ▴ Lower resilience levels
- Anxiety of group settings
- ◆ Friendship issues
- ▲ Self doubt
- ◆ Inability to self regulate emotions
- Social skills impacted
- Low self-esteem
- ▲ Reduced expectations
- Aspirational decline

Quality Alternative Provision was highlighted as a gap in secondary schools to help the students that may be struggling in a normal educational setting.

## **Project Delivery**

This project empowered 12 young people to weld and fabricate and offered students an NCFE accredited Level 1 Certificate in Industry Specific Skills for Engineering, developing their hands-on skills and experience, in an authentic workshop that offered alternative provision not based in a traditional educational setting such as school or college where students would gain the opportunity to manufacture for industry.

This project showcased what KS4 learners can achieve when offered an opportunity that both matches their interest and skill level. The learners who took part represented the qualities below and/or they were disadvantaged by one or more external barriers:

Currently at grade 4/level 1 or below in English, Maths and Science and aspiring to achieve above this

A positive interest in engineering, in particular rail engineering or showing similar skills and abilities that relate to this sector i.e. good dexterity, excellent problem solving, ability to use equipment safely etc.

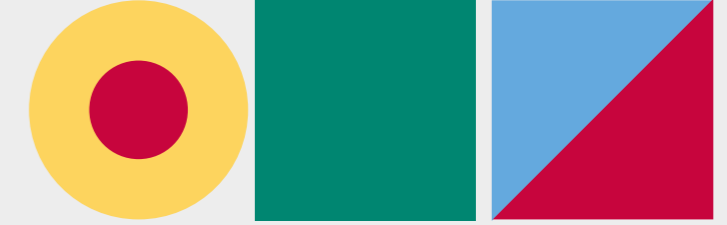
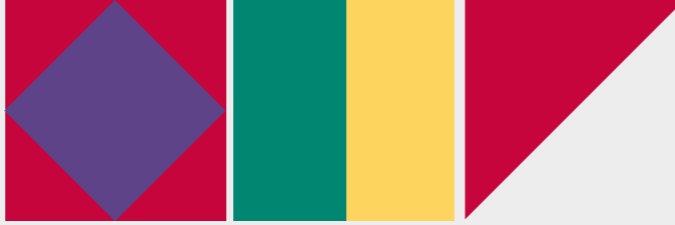
Undertaking a related GCSE such as Engineering, Design & Technology, Construction or similar in school or as off school provision. They can secure a short reference from the teacher that demonstrates their ability/interest.

They aspire to follow a work based post-16 pathway such as an Apprenticeship, Traineeship, or Internship.

They have special educational needs, a learning difficulty or disability that requires a different pathway into this profession.

They have experienced challenges within a full time mainstream educational setting and whose strengths are well suited to alternative provision.

They have experienced challenges within a full time mainstream educational setting and whose strengths are well suited to alternative provision.



## Impact

All attendees have made excellent progress, learning new skills and completing a number of metal items. They have all learned basic skills within a manufacturing workshop such as:

- ◆ cutting metal to size
- preparing the metal for welding
- ▴ using an angle grinder
- use of a slitting disc
- ◆ manual metal arc welding in basic positions
- ▴ use of hand-held drilling machines
- ◆ use of band saw

Furthermore, all attendees completed their workshop familiarisation session and Health and Safety sessions.



One of our students, Kory, has worked very hard to achieve the desired outcomes. When Kory arrived, his confidence in his abilities was low and his self-esteem was low. Since taking part, Kory has been empowered to achieve the desired outcomes, where all welds are polished back so that the welded joint is not visible, which is a fantastic outcome and shows great professionalism. He has gained confidence in the use of power tools such as an angle grinder, where he has used a slitting disc to cut the caps, a grinding disk and then a flat pad to polish the welded areas and remove sharp edges and corners. He has also used a drill as well as gaining skills in the use of manual metal arc processes. Kory's work has been documented in his folder, and will support the awarding of the NCFE-accredited Level 1 Certificate in Industry Specific Skills for Engineering, for which the certificate will be sent to Kory in the summer.

All students will continue to be supported by Stuart Rooker from DEBP during the summer term to secure their post 16 pathway progressions. Indications so far are looking very impressive with aspirations to gain apprenticeships and college places by all students

*I had the pleasure of visiting Engineered Learning and was blown away by the focus and enthusiasm of the pupils who were previously disengaged in the school environment. The work of Dan and the Fusion project and partners is nothing short of transformational.*

**Rich Topley**  
Assistant Headteacher at The Bolsover School

*I've got no complaints about them at all. They are all so motivated to work that it's hard to encourage them to take a lunch break. I don't have the words to tell you how good this group is. We look forward to having them with us every week!*

**Dan**  
Tutor at Engineering Ltd

## The Future

The project will continue to support the learners involved in Fusion Learning as they finish their placement and prepare to sit their GCSE exams, whilst exploring with partners the possibility of another programme taking place in the 2024/25 academic year.







Project Name:

# Rail Safety Awareness - Train Trip

Project Lead:

**Justyna Majer**

Funding Source:

**East Midlands Rail (EMR)**

**This project offers rail safety awareness talks to young people, to raise awareness of how to stay safe on the railway. The aim is to help keep young people as safe as possible on station platforms and on trains, highlighting the dangers and risks in and near railways which can lead to fatal consequences.**

The Community Rail Partnership (CRP) aims to educate and persuade young passengers to behave safely when at the train stations, and how to safely use level crossings and other rail services. At the end of the talk every attendee receives a copy of, Arlo's Adventures There and Back, a "pick-a-path" railway safety book. After the talk there is a train trip to a local destination such as Willow Tree Farm or Creswell Crags.

## The project's key aims are:

to build on the rail safety aspects of our workshops in a real-life scenario.

to increase attendees' confidence leading to independent travel and future sustainable, accessible and healthy travel choices.

to develop life skills through journey planning and management.



to promote sustainable travel as a viable option for school trips in the future.

to raise out of school experience for students.

to raise aspirations of the students.

to increase social mobility.

*The nursery children, parents/carers and staff of Creswell Infant and Nursery School had two wonderful days out together visiting Willow Tree Farm in Shirebrook. The children learnt some railway safety facts before we travelled and then got to put them into practice on our visits. The train was the perfect way for us to travel, having Creswell train station on our doorstep, and we were lucky to have the support of a Community Rail Officer. We are very grateful to Bolsover District Council for this experience.*

**Andrea Alder**

Church of England Infant School

## Case Study School Trip

The Robin Hood Line Community Rail Partnership (RHL CRP) arranged complimentary travel funding for students from Creswell Church of England Infant School to take a trip by train along the RHL line, giving them the opportunity to put their learning of rail safety and confidence into practice.

It is our belief that all young people should have the opportunity to travel by train. Giving the opportunity to experience travel by the rail network to all age groups. We are not selective about which educational establishments or what age groups we work with.

Four trips were delivered in June with two different local destinations: Willow Tree Farm in Shirebrook, and Mansfield Football Club in Mansfield. The first trip was to Willow Tree Farm in Shirebrook, for children aged between 3 and 4 years old. The second destination was Mansfield Football Club, and for slightly older children, aged 5 and 6 years old.

All 120 kids were buzzing with excitement, interest, and curiosity to be on a train. Over 30% of the group had never been on a train before, and the journey with RHL rail travel from Creswell allowed the children to experience train travel in a safe environment.

Before the trips, Rail Safety Awareness was delivered in school as part of the project. RHL CRP purchased a book called Arlo's Adventures There and Back that demonstrates rail safety in a fun and interactive way, which children and parents can both enjoy. A parent of one of the pupils from Creswell School said, "My son asks me to read it every day before bedtime and it is in the first place in the ranking of books."

The Lead Officer from RHL CRP supported the school children, escorted them to the train, and stayed with them to their destination.

## Delivery and Impact

The CRP approaches schools alongside the Robin Hood Line (RHL) and offers Rail Safety Awareness talks in school and train trips to local destinations.

Number of young people - 300

Total number of adults (including school staff) supporting the trip - 60



Project Name:

# Raising Aspirations

**DEBP is a charitable organisation, intrinsically motivated to create a social impact by creating and delivering programmes that are of real value to young people. DEBP recognises that to assume one programme is suitable for all children and young people, is to undermine and oversimplify the complexities of the barriers many of them face towards education. As such, most of the support offered through Raising Aspirations is aimed at a specific audience – those identified by their respective schools as being vulnerable, having complex needs, or are at risk of NEET.**

The mission is to provide these children and young people with targeted interventions that support them to identify and set goals for the future, whilst motivating them in the present to start or keep working towards those goals. To DEBP, that is the definition of “Raising Aspirations”.

Raising Aspirations aims to provide all of the children and young people involved, with personal development opportunities which can help equip them with the foundational skills and knowledge they need to positively transition into the next phase of their education, employment, or training.

Through bespoke interventions, children and young people are encouraged to think about who they are as individuals, what their skills and interests are, and what they want to achieve in the future. They are connected with relatable

role models who can provide real insights into the world of work and motivate them to pursue their ambitions – no matter the challenges they might face. DEBP believes that this is particularly important in the SEND community, who are often an unrecognised talent pool, and aims to lead the way in advocating for these young people and support their integration into the workplace.

Raising Aspirations varies between each locality because it is specific to the needs of those involved. These needs are identified by means of:

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Initial planning meetings with educators and pastoral support staff to discuss the needs of the young people, existing support already on offer, intended outcomes, and any ongoing challenges within the school setting.

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Conversations with Public Health, locality networks, and other delivery organisations to share updates and learning from ongoing projects.

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Pre-programme self-assessments completed by young people, including the DEBP Skills Stars and the Short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental-Wellbeing Scales (SWEMWBS).

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Discussions with young people during introductory sessions, to identify their goals and learning preferences.

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Ongoing discussions with young people throughout the project, to make sure they are still finding the interventions beneficial, and if not, what aspects should be revised or what else could be implemented.

---

Ongoing discussions with school staff throughout the project.

Project Lead:

**Direct Education Business Partnership (DEBP)**

Funding Source:

**Public Health**



## Delivery and Impact

### Shine

In Heritage High School, learners have been participating in “Shine” sessions delivered by Taylor Hogan (Careers and Employability Worker) on a weekly basis. Participating in a variety of intense small-group activities, these learners have explored themes including:

---

How to deal with change and overcome challenges

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The use of creative arts and self-expression for supporting positive levels of wellbeing

---

How to communicate thoughts and feelings to others

---

Where to find wellbeing support if needed

### Right Routes

In The Bolsover School, 19 learners from Key Stage 4 have been engaging in “Right Routes” sessions delivered by Taylor Hogan on a weekly basis. During a series of bespoke small-group activities, these learners have been encouraged to think about their goals for the future, the skills, knowledge, and experiences they might need to achieve these goals, and how school can help them.

### “What Next?”

A networking event for young people with additional needs and their families, that supports post-16 and post-18 transition planning. Around 27 providers for education, employment, and social care pathways were present to offer information and guidance. This event was originally delivered as a pilot in 2023, but due to demand, was scaled up for 2024 so that young people from schools across the whole of North Derbyshire could attend. Learners, teachers, and support staff from eight different schools signed up to attend the event, from 10am–5pm on Wednesday 28th February 2024.

## Move On Move Up

Last summer as part of the Move On Move Up programme, Eric Bowyer (Employability Worker and Job Coach) facilitated various group sessions in primary schools to support 12 learners from each, with the transition to their secondary education at Tibshelf Community School. These sessions explored themes including what to expect throughout the transition process, how to positively deal with change and overcome challenges, support networks, and where to find additional support. In September and October 2023, 22 of these learners continued to work with Eric and participated in three more Move On Move Up sessions in their new secondary school. Though many learners did not know each other before they transitioned to Tibshelf Community School, they were all able to come together as one group to discuss their experiences, recognise and celebrate each other’s achievements, and support one another through any ongoing challenges by sharing their own positive coping strategies. The learners also explored how they could support their peers who had not engaged in Move On Move Up and created a series of posters, reassuring others that they were not alone, sharing their own tips for coping with the transition, and outlining who was available in-school to offer more help if needed.

## Supported Insight Scheme

Four learners from Key Stage 5 in Stubbin Wood School have completed their classroom theory and are now engaging in experiential work-based learning, hosted by Bolsover District Council and Go! Active @ The Arc. Over the next half term, these learners will be working closely with staff from different departments to develop their transferable skills and learn more about the world of work in preparation for their post-18 journey.





*I was treated like a grown up and the jobs I did at the Arc helped me learn what it may be like in the world of work. I saw different jobs that people do, I had no idea of some of the things, it was really interesting.*

**Harry, student at Stubbin Wood School**  
(hosted by Go Active! @ The Arc)

*I have always worried about him and his future because of people not giving him a chance and seeing beyond his additional needs, but he has found this placement really beneficial and is now looking forward to going onto Project Search.*

**Parent, Ashgate Croft School**  
(hosted by Henry Boot Construction)

*So many students developed confidence, self-esteem, and even new friendships through being on the programme.*

**Teacher, Heritage High School**

*I enjoyed being able to share my thoughts. I felt included and part of something.*

**Student, Tibshelf Community School**

*I now have a much better understanding of what resilience is and why it is an important skill.*

**Year 10 Student, The Bolsover School**

## Case Study

### Supported Internship Scheme at Stubbin Wood School

Harry joined the Supported Insight Scheme not knowing what he wanted to do when he left school, just that at some point in the future he wanted a paid job. To prepare for his placement at Go! Active at The Arc, Harry worked alongside Karen (his DEBP Careers and Employability Worker), to explore the skills needed to succeed in the workplace and what behaviours would be expected of him as a member of staff.

Harry really grew in confidence during his placement. He showed willingness to try any job that was asked of him and always did his best - which is reflected in the comments from staff at The Arc, stating that his enthusiasm and attitude towards work was commendable. At the end of the programme Harry said:

*"I was treated like a grown-up. It is good to work as a team. The jobs I did at The Arc helped me to know what it may be like in the world of work. I saw different jobs that people do. I had no idea of some of the things like checking the water in the pool, it was really interesting."*

As a direct result of participating in the Supported Insight Scheme, Harry is now interested in project SEARCH as an option when he leaves school. He feels it will give him the practical skills and experience he wants to get a paid job - which is his goal.

#### Outcomes:

- Increased motivation to be employed in the future
- Improved communication and teamwork skills
- Increased levels of confidence and self-esteem
- Increased independence and ability to make own decisions
- Increased self-management and levels of resilience

Stubbin Wood School are delighted to be able to offer such an impactful programme to their students and speaks highly of the opportunity this affords them and their families. A previous student from the programme has this year met the eligibility criteria for the Project Search Supported Internship at Chesterfield Royal Hospital and has accepted his place to start in September.

The Supported Insight Scheme is instrumental in preparing young people for a successful transition onto vocational post-16 or post-18 pathway.

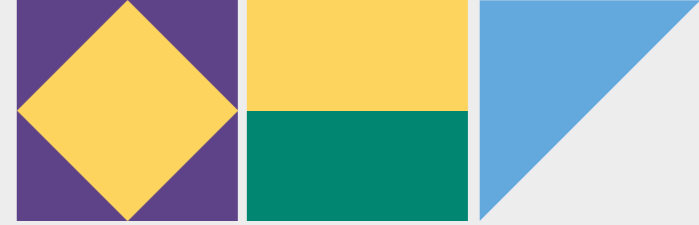
100% of school leads\* said Raising Aspirations met any identified needs and they would recommend it to others.

\*who completed the 2022/23 feedback survey.

*So many students developed confidence, self-esteem, and even new friendships through being on the programme.*

**Mrs Newton**





Project Name:

# Youth Intervention/ Be Creative

Project Lead:

**Daniel Oakley**  
**Bolsover District Council**

Funding Source:

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

**The Be Creative project is focused on engaging young people in being creative using technology. Exploring graphic design, print design, and textiles, to design and create their own unique artwork and designs that can be used to make exciting products such as stickers, t-shirts and mugs.**

**This project fills the need for a local creative provision for young people; to enhance skills using technology, provide a safe space to foster relationships and start new friendships. Working as part of a group, creating something they can feel proud of and share with others.**

Offering a group in a local venue that young people can access for free to engage in design and creation. Teaching skills in an applied way, with tangible products, and enabling all participants to engage - no matter their skill level. Bringing the groups of young people together in a relaxed yet constructive way to help them make connections and find new friendships. Allowing them to create something they can share with others and that they are proud of.

“R” has grown in confidence and ability during the project. They came with a friend and to begin with, didn’t really have an active voice. Over time, their confidence has grown, and they now feel able to verbalise their own opinion irrespective of what the group consensus is. They have also developed a new friendship with other participants outside of the group.

R’s digital ability has grown; they have created a digital character from beginning to end using the graphic design software package, Affinity Designer. Although this process is a difficult and time-consuming one, and they have stuck with it week-by-week, even when given the option to change focus. The result is a wonderful cartoon that has been printed onto stickers and a mug.

*I learnt how to create designs on the computer, design and make stickers, make badges and use apps on the iPad to be creative.*

**R**



| Outcome                                       | Number |
|---|--------|
| Organisations receiving non-financial support | 2      |
| Local events or activities supported          | 3      |
| Volunteering opportunities supported          | 8      |
| People reached                                | 36     |
| Improved engagement numbers                   | 11     |
| Volunteering numbers as a result of support   | 8      |





Project Name:

# This Girl Codes, Junction Arts

Project Lead:

**Junction Arts**

Funding Source:

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund  
Third Party Funder VCS**

**Junction Arts will deliver a programme of innovative activity, including a series of pop-up heritage science, technology, engineering, art, and maths (STEAM) labs in historic houses, castles, festivals, trips, events, and even caves. With direct involvement and interaction, local heritage will be explored, redefining its meaning for participants from historical, artistic, technological and scientific perspectives. This will provide positive experiences with creative technology, using influential role models, and inspirational teaching - including inspiring workshops with local female entrepreneurs. The aims are to:**

Bring young girls out of digital exclusion.

Support local digital capacity skills.

Provide sustainable activities and valuable skills development.

Support community engagement.

Open heritage sites for local people.

Raise the aspirations of young people in the area.

Bolsover Partnership has allocated funding from Bolsover District's allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) because two phases of this project have already been delivered between 2018 and 2022. Conversations with local heritage partners and communities, reveal it is evident there is a disconnect between local people - particularly young people - and the heritage sites that are on their doorstep. This Girl Codes aims to address this challenge, using digital creativity as a tool to make these sites more accessible and relevant for the next generation.

The first two phases of This Girl Codes provided a strong platform to build on; working with young people, female residents and their families, and delivered with key partners such as local schools, English Heritage and the National Trust.

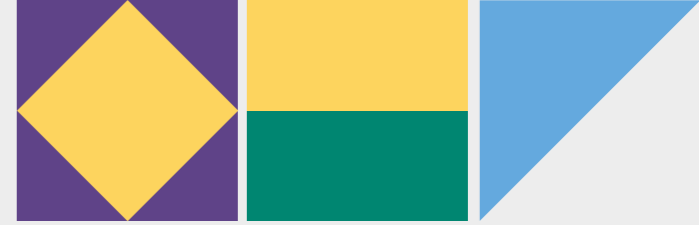
The phrase, "if you can't see it, you can't be it", is often used to describe the visibility of women in STEM. Digital exclusion, limited science, cultural infrastructures, and lack of opportunities for women are challenges that affect their ability to feel connected to opportunities presented by modern technology. The feedback we received from participants - and those heritage partners who would like to engage in the future - demonstrates a real need for the development of more activities on a larger scale.



| Outcome   | Number |
|---|--------|
| Events and participatory programmes   | 12     |
| People involved in events   | 2201   |
| Beneficiaries engaging in cultural activities<br><i>(for at least once a month for two months over a 12-month period)</i> | 19     |
| Jobs safeguarded  | 2      |
| Increased footfall to local arts and cultural heritage  | 24.5%  |







*I saw Bolsover Castle in a new light.*

*A great interactive experience, my children had lots of fun and learnt new things.*

*The interpretation of Creswell Crags' prehistory is different to how it is usually interpreted. This use of art, technology and poetry will have meant that participants had a more hands-on and sensory experience... TGC [This Girl Codes] has been highly inspirational for me. I wish I could have seen more of the sessions, but what I was able to witness was incredibly creative, and I will be feeding this back to my colleagues. The interactive nature of the exhibition is also something to aspire to when we create future in-house exhibitions. The best thing has been having new perspectives, interpretation, and activities on site. The showcase day was particularly great, with so many activities going on at once; the site felt really lively and fun. I imagine TGC has encouraged people to engage with Creswell Crags, who might not otherwise have done so. The exhibition has been engaging for visitors, which is particularly beneficial for the busy Easter period.*

**Angharad Jones**  
Curator at Creswell Crags

## Case Study

### Good practice in working with Heritage Partners

This Girl Codes works with heritage partners in new and unique ways to explore their histories with fresh techniques, engaging local audiences, and making new connections with the site. In 2023/24 This Girl Codes and Junction Arts worked with two local heritage partners in Bolsover District: Creswell Crags and English Heritage's Bolsover Castle.

This Girl Codes has worked with both heritage sites in the previous phase of the project, while Junction Arts has worked with both sites and their staff on numerous occasions over the past 30 years - though some were new to the project. It is not only the participants of this project that get to see the heritage site in new ways, but also the staff as well. We often ask for bespoke tours to fit the theme of the day and to uncover histories not usually seen by the public.

The heritage sites offer a lot in-kind to the project, including staff time, a workshop space on-site (if possible), and free entry and tours for participants, staff, and artists. In return, the project offers creative interpretation of histories and new ways of looking at the stories connected to their site. This Girl Codes also brings local audiences that might otherwise be unable or uninterested in visiting the site, while the project also brings much needed younger audiences and viewpoints.

When working in partnership, and especially with heritage sites, clear communication is important, because they have a responsibility to protect and preserve their history. It can sometimes be difficult for co-creational projects to be specific; since activity and outcomes can be vague, this is where good relationships and trust are essential. In 2023/24 there were new artist leads for the project, but with not a lot of experience working with the heritage sites, which has been a problem. As Project Coordinator I believe we could have worked more effectively with heritage sites had the artists been clearer with what they wanted. We began the project very quickly in August 2023 after recruiting the artists with little time for planning,

research, and meetings with heritage partners. In 2024 we hope to have at least two months of planning time before workshops begin, and during this time, also to be able to evaluate what we learned from last year.

Overall, This Girl Codes had a great year and created some fantastic artwork, inspired by the histories of Bolsover District. The project brought new connections, perspectives, and meaning to local families, introducing them to innovative thinking and skills.

## Case Study

### Promoting Bolsover heritage stories and sites to families in the region

This Girl Codes is a unique and innovative project which draws inspiration from Bolsover District's amazing heritage sites and interprets them in new ways, particularly looking at women's stories. Artistic outcomes are uniquely distinctive for their incorporation of science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) and are co-created by local participants and professional artists.

During 2023/24 the project entered a new phase and took on the challenge of linking two heritage sites within Bolsover District under a common theme. English Heritage's Bolsover Castle and Creswell Crags were brought together with the theme of "How Voices from the Past Affect the Future", delivered and devised by lead artists Rachel Scanlon and Sian Watson-Taylor. Throughout the project we also brought in specialist guest artists to lead sessions.

Since August 2023, This Girl Codes has delivered 11 days of activity, including a trip to The Pankhurst Museum in Manchester, and two showcase events that celebrated the fantastic artwork created so far. Through the project, families are not charged entry or tour fees at the heritage site and learn about different aspects of the site's history. Heritage and STEM subjects are explored creatively and workshops are open to those aged five and above. We find that since workshops are exciting and unique, they are

accessible to all ages - including parents and grandparents because everybody is doing something new.

We found that 71.4% of participants had been to This Girl Codes workshops before. This shows the project deeply engages families and continues to offer new and interesting opportunities.

With 28.6% of participants having never been to the heritage site before, and an additional 28.6% visiting as part of This Girl Codes, we pride ourselves on making heritage sites more accessible to local people.

An impressive 85% of people felt their perception of the heritage site had improved a lot since visiting and taking part in This Girl Codes.

*Even if you've been to the heritage site before this is totally different and a different look at the heritage.*

#### Participant quote

*It was equally available to both my girls and boys, but really educated my children about powerful women throughout history in our local area.*

#### Participant quote



Project Name:

# You vs Train

Project Lead:

**Adam Norman**  
**Bolsover District Council**

Funding Source:

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund**  
**Robin Hood Line Community Rail Partnership**

**BDC Leisure Department will deliver this project to improve well-being and pride of place, building on existing work to continue to address ASB ( Antisocial Behaviour) and issues relating to rail safety. Coaches will facilitate engaging physical activity sessions. This will attract young people to engage with partners about ASB, rail safety, jobs and career pathways specifically along the rail network. The network across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire provides opportunities to access higher level apprenticeships, higher education, and skilled jobs.**

Bolsover Partnership has allocated funding from Bolsover District's allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) because two phases of this project have already been delivered between 2018 and 2022. Bolsover Partnership has allocated funding from Bolsover District's allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) because Bolsover District has poor transport links, but it does have access to the rail network via The Robin Hood Line. The stations within Bolsover District are located in some of the most deprived communities - as defined by the Index of Multiple Deprivation. Recent data shows that these areas also suffer from increased anti-social behaviour (ASB), low car ownership, poor health, and social isolation.

## Delivery and Impact

Sessions are delivered in Creswell, Bolsover, Shirebrook, Whitwell, and Whaley Thorns every week all year. The programme's focus is on competitive sport that engages with and distracts young people from ASB. The results of the programme show a good connection between each team that contributed to the Community Safety Partnership. Soft intel is collected between sessions and shared at ASB tasking meetings, ensuring all ASB incidents are recorded and are on each services radar (see case study for further information). We are also identifying young people who show potential leadership skills who we can work with to attain Sports Leaders Qualifications. These qualifications can help young people to secure potential employment, delivering this programme and similar ones within the Bolsover District.

## Outcomes

### ASB reduction

Between 2022 and 2023 (calendar year) data collected by Safer Derbyshire Research and Information saw a reduction in ASB in the 5 areas we have been working, showing that the project is doing more than achieving its initial aims.

Number of reports of ASB in Creswell, Bolsover, Shirebrook, Whitwell and Whaley Thorns

| 2022 | 2023 |
|------|------|
| 1058 | 851  |

Difference = -207

## Case Study

To support the reduction of ASB in Bolsover, we work closely with Bolsover Community Safety Partnership. This group consists of the police and local safer neighbourhood teams, Bolsover DC Enforcement team, Bolsover DC Leisure, Bolsover DC Housing, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue and Derbyshire CC. The group meet bi-weekly to report back on ASB issues and how they are going to be managed and monitored. You. vs Train staff are briefed on all ASB issues and are asked to monitor situations and report back findings and any other intel they find. More serious incidents are reported to 101 or 999 at the time of the session.

## Results

Since the start of the UKSPF funding in April 2023 (Q1 and Q2)

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Incidents reported: 7 including assault, drugs, arson and public disturbance.

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ASB warning letters issued: 1 (re-issue)

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Specific individuals monitored: 7

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In addition to the official data collected above there have been lots of cross-department conversations about individuals and instances that have occurred in our villages and towns. These conversations are helping the police and Bolsover DC housing department to build evidence in cases against individuals.

The cross departmental approach has created a split mindset among the young people. Young people in some areas are aware of the relationships we have with the Police so their behaviour is good to an extent, but their level of trust has been reduced. When it comes to monitoring the programme, young people refrain from giving their details or will only give their first name through fear of the information being passed onto the authorities.

# Appendix 01

## Priority 1 Communities and Place

| Intervention Ref and Name                  | Yr 1 Actual    | Yr 2 Forecast   | Yr 1 Actual     | Yr 2 Forecast   | Total           |
|--|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| E1. Shirebrook Market Place Re-imagined    |                | 55,806          | 55,806          | 249,789         | 305,595         |
| E5. Bolsover CCTV redeployable cameras     |                | 30,000          | 16,550          | 13,450          | 30,000          |
| E6. Cultural Arts Corridor                 |                | 29,087          | 29,087          | 48,000          | 77,087          |
| E8. Place audit and Visit Bolsover website | 14,995         | 28,005          | 28,024          | 34,980          | 78,000          |
| E9. You vs Train                           |                | 18,721          | 17,237          | 9,466           | 26,703          |
| E9. Youth Outreach Intervention            |                | 30,000          | 27,751          | 47,249          | 75,000          |
| E12. This Girl Codes                       |                | 25,000          | 24,062          | 25,938          | 50,000          |
| <b>Funds Committed</b>                     | <b>£14,995</b> | <b>£216,619</b> | <b>£198,517</b> | <b>£428,872</b> | <b>£642,385</b> |

## Priority 2 Supporting Businesses

| Intervention Ref and Name               | Yr 1 Actual   | Yr 2 Forecast   | Yr 1 Actual     | Yr 2 Forecast   | Total           |
|---|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| E17. Tourism and Culture                | 995           | 52,005          | 23,934          | 63,071          | 88,000          |
| E22. Business growth grant scheme       |               | 100,036         | 74,988          | 153,223         | 228,212         |
| E23. Hyper local small business support |               | 45,000          | 45,000          | 50,000          | 95,000          |
| E29. Net Zero innovation programme      | 2,491         | 137,509         | 94,244          | 203,265         | 300,000         |
| <b>Funds Committed</b>                  | <b>£3,486</b> | <b>£334,550</b> | <b>£238,166</b> | <b>£469,559</b> | <b>£711,212</b> |

## Priority 3 People and Skills

| Intervention Ref and Name                    | Yr 1 Actual | Yr 2 Forecast  | Yr 1 Actual | Yr 2 Forecast   | Total           |
|--|-------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| E35. Aspire Bolsover (Raising Aspirations +) |             |                |             | 60,000          | 60,000          |
| E36. Digital Inclusion                       |             |                |             | 30,000          | 30,000          |
| E33. Skills to Thrive 16 - 24                |             |                |             | 61,836          | 61,836          |
| E33. Skills to Thrive 19+                    |             |                |             | 30,000          | 30,000          |
| E35. Fusion Learning                         |             |                |             | 50,000          | 50,000          |
| E35. Community grants scheme                 |             | 80,000         | 80,000      | 220,000         | 300,000         |
| <b>Funds Committed</b>                       |             | <b>£80,000</b> |             | <b>£451,836</b> | <b>£531,836</b> |

# Appendix 02

## RDF

| Project               | Organisation                | Intervention | Allocation 23/24 | Allocation 24/25 | Total Spend 23/24 | Total Spend 24/25 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Grants                | Half Acre Farm              | B1           | 2,241.77         |                  | 2,241.77          |                   |
| Grants                | Upper Mill Farm             | B1           |                  | 71,988.00        |                   | 71,988.00         |
| Grants                | Renshaw and Sons            | B1           |                  | 75,000.00        |                   | 75,000.00         |
| Grants                | Happy Roots Farm            | B1           | 17,496.50        |                  | 17,496.50         |                   |
| Grants                | Creativefive - Pickled Pear | B2           | 33,390.00        |                  | 33,390.00         |                   |
| Grants                | Glapwell Guardians          | C2           | 5,404.62         |                  | 5,404.62          |                   |
| Grants                | Rhubarb Farm                | C7           | 9,033.05         |                  | 9,033.05          |                   |
| Grants                | Stainsby Festival           | C3           |                  | 17,211.09        |                   | 17,211.09         |
| Project/SN Mural      | Economic Development        | C5           |                  | 20,000.00        |                   | 20,000.00         |
| Project/Bolsover Loop | Economic Development        | C6           |                  | 80,000.00        |                   | 80,000.00         |
| Grants                | Freedom Community Project   | C8           |                  | 20,000.00        |                   | 20,000.00         |
| BGG                   | BDC - Caroline              | B1           |                  | 75,000.00        |                   | 75,000.00         |

|                  |             |                            |  |                     |                                      |  |
|------------------|-------------|----------------------------|--|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Total Businesses | £275,116.27 | 64%<br>(Awarded split 41%) | Funders are aware of these award split changes | Underspend £1118.97 | Total project spend 23/24 £67,565.94 | Total project spend forecast 24/25 £359,199.09 |
|------------------|-------------|----------------------------|--|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--|

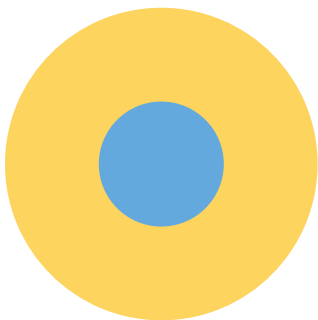
|                   |             |                            |                                 |                                 |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Total Communities | £152,767.73 | 36%<br>(Awarded split 59%) | Total 23/24 & 24/25 £427,884.00 | Total Awarded 23/24 £177,000.00 |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|



# Appendix 03

## Summary Of Spend 2023/24

| Project Name                     | Public Health/<br>Partnership Funding | BDC     | UKSPF   | Other | Total   |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| Raising Aspirations              | 123,000                               |         |         |       | 123,000 |
| Bolsover Countryside Partnership | 10,000                                |         |         |       | 10,000  |
| Digital Connect                  | 29,940                                |         |         |       | 29,940  |
| Grants to Vol Organisations      |                                       | 102,045 |         |       | 102,045 |
| VCS Support                      | 32,625                                | 23,000  |         |       | 55,625  |
| Small grants                     | 11,000                                |         |         |       | 11,000  |
| UKSPF                            |                                       |         | 544,830 |       | 544,830 |



Bolsover Partnership  
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