



Spennymoor Youth and Community Association

**Spennymoor Youth and Community Association
Annual Report**

January 2023 – December 2023

2023 marks the fourth anniversary of Communities Together supported by The National Lottery Community Fund and the start of the first year of our Communities Together Stepping UP project which is taking our partnership project to the next level; more sustainable organisations, more sustainable community buildings and more involved volunteers and trustees.

Over the last 5 years, The National Lottery Community Fund grant of £296,966 to date has allowed us to secure additional funding of £600,400.

We have continued to develop and deliver a community programme which is supporting increasing numbers of struggling families and adults, isolated older residents, people with lived experience of mental and physical health problems as well as the wider community.

We were delighted to have secured a three year National Lottery Community Fund grant and cost of living crisis uplift of £196,755 for this second phase; Communities Together Stepping UP, which began in October 2022.

In project year 1, we were able to secure £74,451 in additional grant funding which has funded new activities and helped to sustain our established activities. As well as generating £14,670 this year from new projects to make our programme more sustainable.

4,913 project users benefited in Year 1 across our two community venues. This report highlights some of our achievements over the last 12 months and our plans for next year.



Activities for struggling families and adults have included access to free and affordable food. We are part of the Feeding Families service which provides basic food parcels to residents in emergency need, The Bread and Butter Thing Project providing bags of food surplus to 80 customers every week packed by our Centre Friends, Fareshare food surplus allowing people to fill a bag of food for a small donation and our Eating Together project which provides weekly breakfast, brunch, Cuppa Club and community café sessions.

Activities for isolated older residents have included a programme of Look Out trips for older centre user groups throughout the year, as well as targeted activities providing social space, social contact and exercise as part of a co-ordinated programme to reconnect older people with their communities.

Activities for people with lived experience of mental and physical health problems have included wellbeing group sessions, our young people's Chillax CREE and partnership working with County Durham Wellbeing For Life, becoming one of their recognised wellbeing hubs, promoting health campaigns and our staff trained to signpost to services and people who can help.

Residents looking for new skills, to become volunteers, learning, training and employability activities have been delivered in partnership with DurhamLearn teaching ESOL English, Multiply Maths and Business Studies. Eden Academy has delivered Driving Theory training sessions. Triage has delivered employability support and other training partners have delivered construction site certificates, door security courses and Health & Social Care for residents looking to gain sector specific employment.

Project Worker Danielle has supported our team of Centre Friends, a core group of 25 regular volunteers, to identify training and development needs as well as increase their confidence and involvement within the Centre. We achieved Hallmark accreditation during the year which recognises good governance and management. Kitemark accreditation is in progress recognising the work we do with our volunteers which we hope will be awarded later this year.



Some of the activities and events delivered over the last 12 months:

	Activities	Partners and funders	Beneficiaries
#Eating Together	<p>Food has continued to be a big part of the project. Weekly access to free and affordable food has provided families and residents in food need with emergency food and access to food surplus.</p> <p>We have given out 520 free Feeding Families emergency food boxes.</p> <p>634 Fareshare food surplus bags in return for a pay as you can afford donation.</p> <p>12,480 Bread and Butter food surplus bags at £8.50 for three bags per customer (groceries, fruit, veg, meat, fish and dairy).</p> <p>The Bread and Butter Thing hub at Spennymoor Youth and Community Centre is one of their biggest with 1039 members.</p> <p>Twice weekly community café sessions. Café Together offering cooked breakfasts popular with older residents and a family café offering small meals, snacks and kid's lunch boxes with free Stay and Play for preschoolers and their grown-ups. We were pleased when Café Together was given a Food Hygiene Rating of 5 with a kitchen and Café well managed by Cook Ashley, Project Worker Danielle and volunteers, in particular Josie who commits 12 hours every week in helping us make it happen.</p> <p>By layering up food projects we've been able to develop an offer which helps residents with different levels of need; residents in crisis, residents struggling with the cost of living and residents who want to reduce food waste. Café Together has provided a place for residents and parents to meet and eat. It has also created a space where centre users from different activities come together before or after sessions helping people and groups integrate.</p> <p>Our food projects have been our biggest source of volunteer help. 20 regular volunteers are involved weekly in delivering the centre's food projects.</p> <p>Project Worker Danielle has supported our Centre Friends building confidence and capacity to run activities with minimal staff involvement, developing the group as a team with a commitment to the partnership and involvement in other aspects of</p>	<p>The National Lottery Community Fund</p> <p>Kingdom Culture Church</p> <p>Places for People</p> <p>Feeding Families</p> <p>The Bread and Butter Thing</p>	<p>1,124 including struggling families, older residents and low income isolated residents, residents in food need.</p>

	Communities Together including growing our management committees.		
#Growing Together	<p>Our community allotment was used most during the year by children from North Park Primary School who attended weekly growing sessions with Project Worker Gemma and Josh from OASES, a partnership project teaching children how to grow and harvest food. It is hoped OASES will continue to access the allotment for group sessions next year, growing for food, learning, volunteering and offering social contact.</p> <p>Chosen as a Co-op Good Cause, grant funding of £1,239 has paid for new equipment, compost, plants and signage for both the allotment and our Spennymoor Courtyard green space which has been well used by groups for breaks, outdoor eating and by Learning a New Way for play and learning sessions.</p> <p>Volunteers from Durham University, The North East Autism Society and Esh Group have all taken part in action days on the community allotment.</p> <p>A Fun and Food session in October brought together children and their grown-ups on the community allotment to carve pumpkins and access holiday food and North Park Primary students have been back to harvest the vegetables they grew to make soup students.</p>	<p>The National Lottery Community Fund</p> <p>Spennymoor Youth and Community Association</p> <p>OASES</p> <p>Co-op Community Fund</p> <p>Fun and Food County Durham Council</p> <p>Durham University</p> <p>North East Autism Society</p> <p>Esh Group</p>	<p>54 including Key Stages 1 & 2 children, SEND children, autistic young people and employee volunteering.</p>
#Moving Together	<p>Exercise and dance sessions:</p> <p>Baby Movers and Little Movers, sensory, music, movement and dance following Early Years Curriculum for birth - crawling, walking - 5 years, Tuesdays and Thursdays at Spennymoor Youth and Community Centre.</p> <p>Hartbeeps sensory, music, movement and dance for 2-12 months, Wednesdays at Spennymoor Youth and Community Centre.</p> <p>North Park Primary School weekly term time yoga.</p> <p>Multi Sports, games and exercise for children and young people 7-12 and 12 plus delivered by Moors in the Community sport coaches as part of our weekly term time youth sessions at Spennymoor, Tudhoe and outreach.</p> <p>Gentle Circuits for adults with long term health conditions, new to exercise or looking to increase</p>	<p>Sedgefield North Integrated Health Coach Service</p> <p>Little Movers Durham, Seaham, Spennymoor and Peterlee</p> <p>Hartbeeps South Durham Bishop Auckland Spennymoor, Coxhoe and Hartlepool</p> <p>PCP Happiness Hub/NHS North East and Cumbria</p> <p>Welcome Spaces Point North</p>	<p>458 babies, toddlers, adults, parents, carers and older residents.</p>

	mobility and strength, Friday and Monday evenings at Spennymoor Youth and Community Centre.	North Park Primary School Moors in the Community	
#Being Together	<p>Improving wellbeing is a priority for the project. For residents who are isolated, we have developed social sessions in both centres which combine with our community café (Café Together), access to free and affordable food and food surplus, Look Out Trips and volunteering opportunities through our Centre Friends programme. We have been able to build a committed community of weekly sessions with good crossover:</p> <p>Breakfast Buddies at Spennymoor aimed at men, offers breakfast buns and round table conversation. The group is well established and growing with 10-12 Buddies meeting every Monday morning. Kurling in the hall adds a physical activity and regular Look Out trips this year with group member Steven volunteer driving and making good use of our community vehicle funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.</p> <p>The Monday Club is another well established group at Spennymoor for older women offering traditional round table chat, snacks and bingo. The group is attended weekly by 14-16 women and managed by Centre Friends including providing transport where needed.</p> <p>On Wednesdays we open the Lounge at Spennymoor and encourage parents/carers attending baby and toddler classes to stay and have a coffee. We are grateful to Centre Friend Moira for serving and chatting to those who drop in. Open Lounge has also been used for fundraising, as part of our support for local student Amelia to travel to Africa to be part of a community development project with her school and Learning a New Way has used the space for information sessions and as a Warm Space.</p> <p>We have also opened the Lounge around our Gentle Circuits session on a Monday evening as a Welcome Space. And at weekends free pop up Stay and Play for parents/carers and their children delivered 34 hours of social space, music and toys over 17 sessions.</p> <p>Where we have funding and capacity, we are trying to encourage people to stay and socialise as part of a wellbeing group or before and after stand alone activities</p>	<p>The National Lottery Community Fund Cost of Living uplift</p> <p>County Durham Community Foundation Welcome Space</p> <p>Spennymoor AAP 7 Day Centre</p> <p>Places for People</p>	<p>337 residents, parents and carers taking part in regular wellbeing sessions and accessing social space.</p>

	<p>Our Survive and Thrive wellbeing group meets every Thursday with typically 8-10 members attending for people with lived experience of mental health problems and/or addiction. With staff trained in mental health wellbeing, we can offer low level 1:1 support and have worked with mental health professionals during the year to support some of the group members as needed. As a social group, sessions offer snacks, chat and a game of bingo with good friendships formed.</p> <p>A Book Club meets fortnightly at Spennymoor and volunteer efforts have been made to establish a Pride Group with our help and support. Although a group hasn't yet established within the Centre, it has led to an online social LGBT+ group with 14 members.</p>		
#Learning Together	<p>We have continued to host a range of adult learning and training providers, making full use of our improved training spaces and facilities over the last 12 months.</p> <p>Durham Learn delivered ESOL for our group of Arabic speaking refugees. The group has become part of centre life, volunteering, benefiting from food surplus, socialising, cooking and sharing food and celebrations with other Centre Friends. Some of the learners featured in a mural, sketched by Rach (The Live Sketcher) and Hazel (Nocciola The Drawer), as part of Spenny Mural Fest.</p> <p>Other training delivered for residents included Multiply Maths and basic English, Health & Social Care, Sewing, Triage employability skills, Wellbeing for Life cooking skills, Youth Justice restorative cooking courses, learning and employment support with the Educational Development Trust, Eden Academy Driving Theory, Tea & Tech digital drop ins with Digital Durham, Business Support, CSCS and Security.</p> <p>It is a real challenge for many of the training and learning providers in filling courses. Barriers to participation such as transport, confidence and lifestyle often prevent learners from taking up opportunities, but we have found that when people take the first step, the centres act as a stepping stone towards employability and/or further learning and skills.</p> <p>We were able to offer work experience placements during the year in partnership with Employability Durham, The North East Autism Society and directly through our own volunteering opportunities.</p>	<p>Durham Learn</p> <p>Social Prescribers Link Workers Network</p> <p>Durham Community Action</p> <p>Triage</p> <p>Youth Justice</p> <p>Eden Training Academy</p> <p>Digital Durham</p> <p>DurhamWorks</p> <p>Employability Durham</p> <p>Noth East Autism Society</p> <p>E Learning at Work</p> <p>Crafty Kitz</p>	<p>140 adults taking up learning, training, employability and work experience opportunities.</p>

	Building staff and volunteer confidence and capacity, we have also invested in more training this year on safeguarding, COSHH, trustee responsibilities, good governance and food safety.		
#Celebrating Together	Weekend venue hire has increased significantly during project year 2. The employment of two weekend workers funded by Spennymoor AAP and The National Lottery Community Fund at Spennymoor has allowed us hire out the centre for 42 children's birthday parties, welcoming 1,594 people and generating £3,888 in venue hire. Our party package including large bouncy castle, soft play, speaker, lights and member of staff offers families an affordable large venue to celebrate.	The National Lottery Community Fund Spennymoor AAP	1,594 children, families and friends
#Young People Together	<p>For struggling families, our youth work team has delivered a programme of term time and holiday activities for children and young people. Youth sessions adapted to suit different needs, in particular including SEND, tailoring activities to be inclusive.</p> <p>Open youth sessions were well attended at Spennymoor Youth and Community Centre; Mondays for Juniors and Wednesdays for Seniors offering young people aged 8-11 and 11-16 years 4 hours of traditional youth provision with access to games and crafts as well as space to socialise.</p> <p>Partnership working with Moors in the Community brought in a Sports Coach for Seniors at Spennymoor and the Monday Youth Club session.</p> <p>Outreach youth work has allowed us to engage young people out on the streets. This has been strongly supported by community safety partners as part of multi-agency efforts to reduce antisocial behaviour. Funding from Spennymoor AAP, Livin and Government Trailblazer grant has allowed for 5 hours weekly outreach and pop up activities for young people aged 8-16 in hotspot areas.</p> <p>Chillax continued to be funded by Public Health as a wellbeing CREE for young people aged approx. 8-13 years with additional needs, SEND, low confidence or anxiety, where a smaller more structured youth session is more appropriate.</p> <p>Learning a New Way CIC continued to operate from Spennymoor growing its activities for SEND children, delivering training for families around autism and ADHD and providing group and 1:1 tuition for home ed young people as well as tea time</p>	The Ballinger Charitable Trust Public Health Learning a New Way CIC Moors in the Community Spennymoor AAP Livin Government Trailblazer Durham County Council	1,206 children, young people and their families.

	<p>and lunch clubs for struggling families and children with additional needs. Their programme is meeting a huge need for families with children and young people with additional needs. Learning a New Way which grew out of our Learning Together COVID catch up project for children who had fallen behind with functional skills during COVID restrictions, complements the work of Communities Together with users a key part of other activities and events.</p> <p>In July we organised the Spenny Youth Fest which brought together 400 young people and their families with 30 youth organisations, clubs and service providers to showcase, signpost and sign up young people with local provision.</p> <p>We also again took part in the Gala Parade under the theme of diversity. A great opportunity for our young people to create costumes, decorate umbrellas and parade together, raising the profile of who we are and what we do.</p>		
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Funding and Sustainability

We increased the amount of grant funding on the previous year and have broadened our funding base over the last 12 months. Smaller grants have been secured from more grant funders, allowing us to develop new relationships with funders.

We have also increased revenue from project activities including funds raised from our Community Café (Café Together), weekend venue hire party packages, venue hire for centre based CIC, Learning a New Way.

Where we've had successful activities which were previously 100% grant funded, we've introduced charges to help sustain them while keeping them affordable and accessible for beneficiaries:

Eating Together food sales: £6,690

Weekend party package venue hire: 4,888

Youth session membership subs: £1,824

Fareshare donations: £1,26

Grant funding secured during the year included:

Funder	Project	Funding secured
Public Health	Chillax Wellbeing CREE	£3,000
Livin Holiday Activity Fund '24	School holiday youth activities; Spennymoor and Tudhoe	£2,000
Spennymoor AAP	Youth Connect Outreach	£5,962
Livin and Government Trailblazer Grant	Youth Connect Outreach Dec '23 – July '24	£2,500
Co-op Local Community Fund	Outdoor space and community garden grant	£1,239
Places for People, Community Connector Fund	Youth session venue hire, Community Café food, Survive and Thrive, learning and training refreshments	£1,000
Spennymoor Area Action Partnership	Better Together	£5,178
Spennymoor Area Action Partnership / Department of Education	February Half Term Fun and Food '24	£1,005
Spennymoor Area Action Partnership	7 Day Centre	£6,112
Spennymoor Area Action Partnership	Spenny Youth Fest '24	£2,125
Durham County Council	Spenny Youth Fest '24	£500

County Durham Community Foundation	Welcome Space	£3,890
Wellbeing for Life	New Age Kurling set and Community Café equipment	£500
ASDA	Volunteer coin collection	£145
Kingdom Culture Church	Christmas donation	£200
Kingdom Culture Church	Stay and Play venue hire	£720
	Total	£30,076



Priorities for the year ahead as we enter year 2 of Communities Together Stepping UP, is to consolidate our programme and work towards a more sustainable project as we continue to step up how many people we support, strengthen our governance, train staff, involve our trustees and volunteers and broaden our income to include directly generated revenue, fundraising, giving and sponsorship, as well as grants.

We have further developed our Communities Together partnership between Tudhoe Community Centre and Spennymoor Youth and Community Centre over the last 12 months. Joint regular Trustee meetings and new members to both management committees have helped us better co-ordinate and share ideas.

Achieving Hallmark has helped us improve governance, policies and procedures. We are working towards Kitemark, working closely to make sure that our volunteers have the support and development that they need to play more active roles in the partnership.

Hiring more space at both centres with Learning a New Way CIC and Kingdom Culture Church, making better use of our kitchen spaces for ourselves and private hire, growing our youth work services, upgrading the boiler management system and funding other energy saving measures recommended in our independent energy assessment are all priorities in progress for next year.

Thank you to all our funders and supporters.

Thanks particularly to our trustees, Centre Friends and staff who deliver what we do.

Their time, energy and dedication made a difference to 4,918 people this year and everything Communities Together has achieved over the last 5 years; helping people get through COVID, supporting struggling families with the cost of living, bringing people together to celebrate, working with children and young people to develop and grow, helping people improve their confidence, health and wellbeing, helping people on their first steps to learning and employment and reconnecting older people with their communities. Let's keep going!

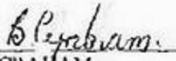
SPENNYMOOR YOUTH & COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023


RECEIPTS	2023	2022	PAYMENTS	2023	2022
Rental Income	16245	21057	Cleaning	7277	4453
			Gas & Electric	5876	4998
			Water	858	772
			Building Insurance	1148	1058
			Telephone & Internet	324	443
Youth Club Resources		11488	Office/General Admin Expenses	30	20
Chillax Sessions	2900	4000	Sundry Expenses		2265
			Accountancy Charges	354	354
			T V License	159	159
CDCF Food Products/Hall		257	Living Holidays Activities 21-22	120	1822
AAP Fun/Food/Healthy Relationship	15150		PPL-PRS Fees		564
Ballanger Trust	17795		Bank Charges	174	174
NCLF – Stepping Up	42193	38270	NLCF Stepping Up	505	
Happiness Hub		4000	Sports Funding		238
AAP Learning/Making Links		62022	AAP Learning Together		
GDigital Drive		1747	/AAP Covid	8261	25898
Clothes Bank Donation	56		Funding	21609	
Fun & Food	2110		Jubilee/Duke of Edinburgh		2333
SYACS – F&F	1139		Computers/ICT	3814	736
Tudhoe CC Income	9622		Youth Club Activities	7651	7428
			Grants Expenses	1820	1664
Non Profit Income	25305	11208	Photocopier Expenses	1000	629
			Chillax Expenses	1413	2993
Uncategorized Income	31906	3508	Repairs		176
			Vehicle Expenses	2253	
			Living Holidays	2086	
Grants	24520	1774	Wages Expenses	104076	78990
			Your Neighbour Expenses		75
Living Holiday Act		2100	D of E Expenses	1635	200
			Reaching Communities	67	3746
			PayPal Fees		
			CDCF Hall/Covid 19 Food Packs		
			Covid 19 Take Away	1200	1600
			Eating Together	645	
			Ballanger Trust	1678	
			Cassop F&F Summer Exp	240	
			DBS Checks	255	
			Defibrillator	156	
			Food & Fun	500	
Excess of Payments - over Receipts			Plus Excess of Receipts - over Payments	11581	17819
	<u>188941</u>	<u>161431</u>		<u>188941</u>	<u>161431</u>

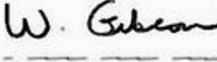
SPENNYMOOR YOUTH & COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
SUMMARY

	2023	2022		2023	2022
Balance as at 01.01.23	159179	141360	Balance as at 31.12.23		
<u>Less</u> Excess of Payments over receipts for the Year			Unity Trust Bank	171086	161219
			Debtors	46237	32387
			Creditor	(46863)	(34727)
<u>Plus</u> Excess of Receipts Over payments for the Year	11581		Cash in Hand	300	300
	<u>170760</u>	<u>141360</u>		<u>170760</u>	<u>141360</u>

Approved by


B GRAHAM
Chairperson


COUNCILLOR N FOSTER
Secretary


W GIBSON
Treasurer

We have compiled these unaudited accounts from the books and records of Spennymoor Youth & Community Association and from information given to us. We have not performed an audit therefore we do not express any opinion on the financial information.

45-47 Cheapside
Spennymoor DL16 6QF

Henniker & Co Ltd
1st March 2024

