

Well Doncaster



A Community Centred Approach to Reducing Health and Wealth Inequalities

2022-2023 Annual Report

Emma Nicholas-Hernandez
Vanessa Powell-Hoyland
and
Rachael Leslie
Dr Rupert Suckling



Well Doncaster

Community Led Health and Wealth

Empowering people in Doncaster to live better, healthier, and happier lives.

www.welldoncaster.uk

Well Doncaster
**Community
Wealth Builder**

Well Doncaster
Be Well



City of
Doncaster
Council

FOREWARD

I am privileged to introduce the 2022 – 2023 Annual Report from Well Doncaster. The report provides an insight into the day to day work of Well Doncaster and illustrated accounts and testimonies of the impact that community centred approaches to reducing health and wealth inequalities have on individuals and communities.

Over the last year, the evidence-based principles and methods embedded in the Well Doncaster approach have been further tried and tested in the context of the cost of living situation. Well Doncaster has driven and supported a range of activities aligned to the essentials for wellbeing – access to food, welcoming spaces and opportunities to learn and develop skills. Through Locality Commissioning, communities have attracted investment to grow local ideas, assets and initiatives to strengthen resilience at a hyper local level.

I hope you enjoy watching and reading about the range of Well Doncaster programmes and the progress and achievements that have been made at individual and community level. Bold leadership continues to support and challenge at an organisational level to enable whole systems change to reduce health and wellbeing inequalities - involving, strengthening, scaling and sustaining communities to keep people well, safe and independent.

Rachael Leslie
Acting Director of Public Health
City of Doncaster Council



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2015 Well Doncaster has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to utilising and embedding community centred approaches in creating a community led health and wealth approach to reducing health and wealth inequalities. Well Doncaster is creating whole systems change through leading change at an individual, community and an organisational level.

Well Doncaster is based on evidence based community centred approach principles including:

- Bold leadership
- Co-production with communities
- Building capacity
- Resilient and sustainable participatory investment

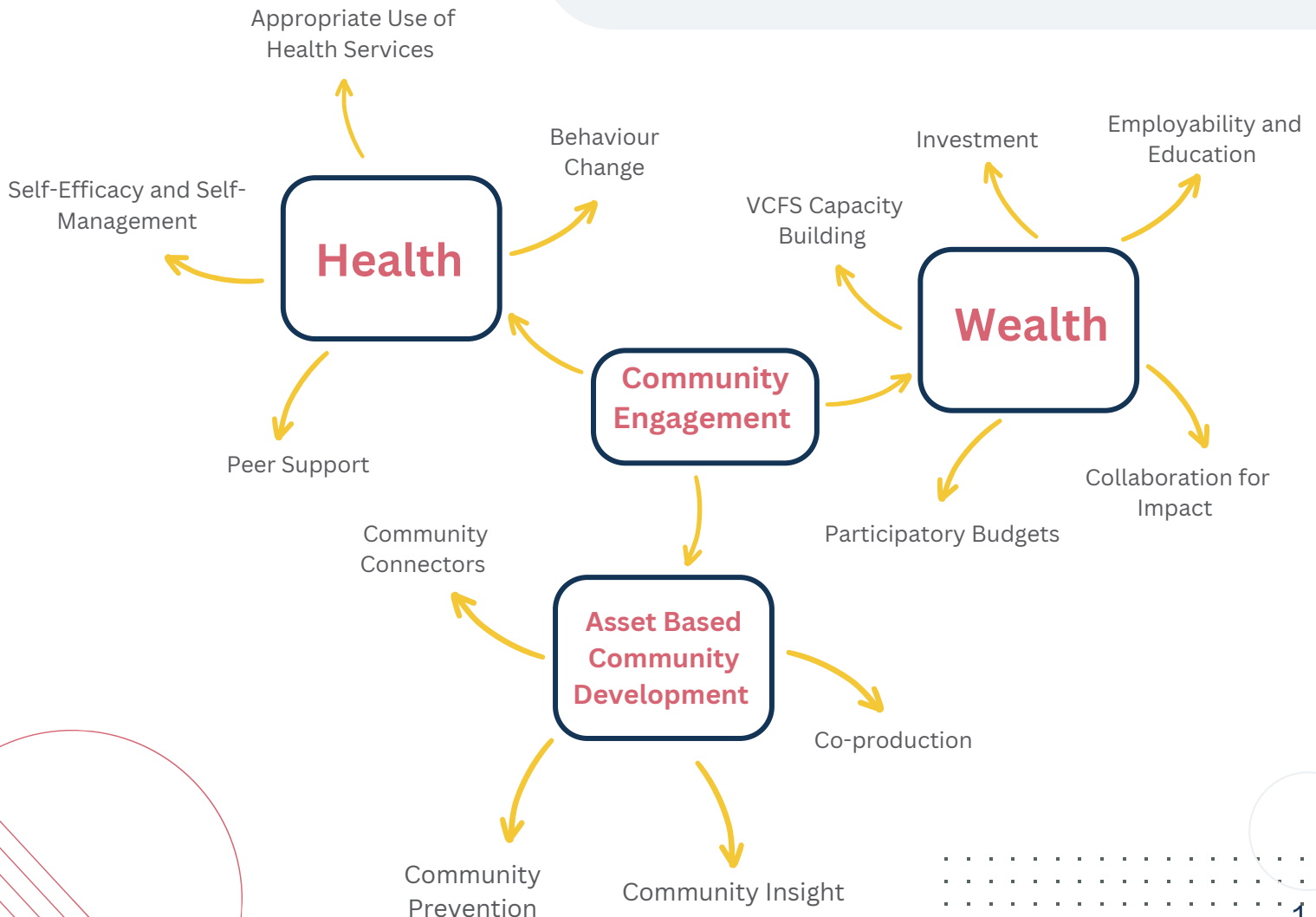
This report will highlight the impact on both people and place of a range of evidence based community centred approaches used by Well Doncaster and will spot light key approaches from 2022-23 including:

- Peer support and leadership
- Community capacity building
- Participatory investment and budgets

These principles and approaches enable us to act as a lightning rod in redesigning systems and ways of working and facilitate positive change on people and place.



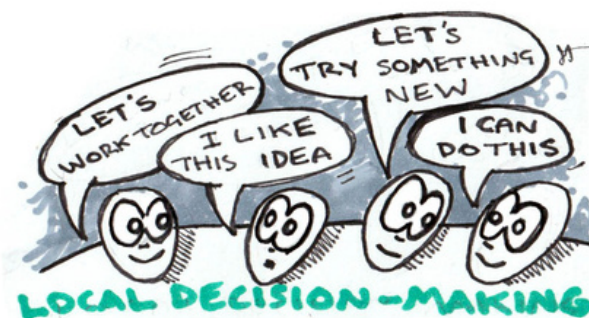
Community Led Health and Wealth



OUR VISION

We strongly believe that we cannot close the health gap without involving and hearing from those most affected. Communities need to own and be a direct part of the design and delivery of solutions, working together with public services to build healthy communities and sustainable change. Some of our defining characteristics include:

- A commitment to utilising community centred approaches in addressing health and wealth inequalities
- Encouraging and facilitating asset-based conversations with residents
- Ensuring communities are involved in decision-making about where they live, work and play



We see every day that our communities are brimming with energy and innovation, and we maintain a major focus on building capacity and releasing grass roots energy and ideas.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

DONCASTER DELIVERING TOGETHER

Doncaster Delivering Together is about Thriving People, Places & Planet. It sets out Team Doncaster's plan to improve the quality of life for residents, communities and businesses through 6 Wellbeing Goals achieved through the Great 8 Priorities.

Well Doncaster directly supports the achievement of the these priorities by building on evidence based community centred approaches which focus on the lived experience of individuals and families and work together to unleash the power of communities, opening the door to increased local decision making and address inequalities through a health and wealth lens.

LOCALITY MODEL

The locality approach is a way in which Doncaster Council and partners are striving to get closer to communities to understand their strengths and different needs. It is built on 4 strands, 2 of which Well Doncaster is the strategic lead:

1-Asset Based Community Development: Empowering local communities, understanding their strengths and supporting them on their own terms.

2-Locality Commissioning: Attracting investment into communities and making best use of our existing resources. Ensuring funding, supports the changes that local people want to see.

COMMUNITY CENTRED APPROACHES

A family of evidence based approaches has been developed which focus on promoting health and wellbeing in community settings, rather than service settings. These approaches are recommended by the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and have been further embedded in Well Doncaster throughout 2022-23:

- Strengthening communities
- Volunteer and peer roles
- Collaboration and partnerships
- Access to community partnerships

INDIVIDUAL

We cannot close the health gap without involving, listening and engaging with those most affected.

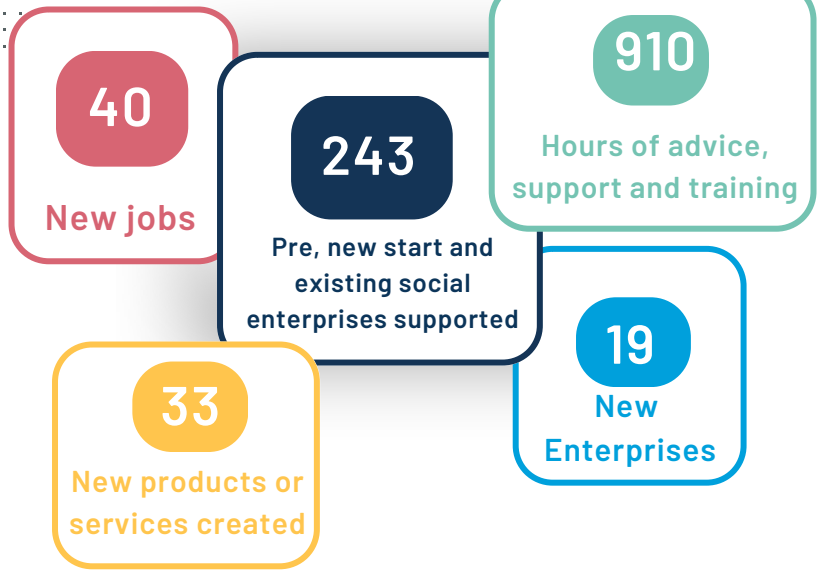
Learn more about what happens when we work in partnership with residents in embedding community centred approaches in addressing local challenges and opportunities.

[Click to watch a short video which explains more about our work at an individual level and how we are growing vibrant and resilient communities whilst tackling health and wealth inequalities](#)

Community Wealth Builder

Community Wealth Builder (CWB) is a person-centred approach to local economic development, providing support to new and existing social enterprises.

Starting in January 2020, funded through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) until September 2022, the approach worked to make employment via community based social value work a viable option for residents across the borough. This was achieved through building capacity via tailored 1:1 support, training and mentoring. CWB secured UK Shared Prosperity funding and continues to provide tailored 1:1 support, training, networking and investment opportunities across the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS).



The training was amazing! I learnt so much and it clarified a lot of things I was unsure about. I really couldn't have started this career without the support of the Community Wealth Builder team. You really are the 'dream makers'. Please pass this on to the whole Well Doncaster family. The level of support has always been over and above what you would expect. Thank you.

Lou, Community Wealth Builder Member

COMMUNITY CONNECTORS

Community Connectors (CC) are residents with lived experience supporting residents from underserved population groups to connect with their community and access services. Well Doncaster secured funding for 14, paid CC, hosted by 9 Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) organisations and Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDaSH). Additional funding has been secured to continue the approach until March 2025.

The CC approach has led to innovative cross Sector partnerships, capacity building and investment at a grassroots level and residents accessing hyper local support.

Examples of community connections include:

- Supporting a resident to access domestic abuse support and a community art group which is supporting their mental wellbeing.
- Recognising the skills of residents and supporting them to set up sessions such as growing food and reading in schools.
- Supporting women where English is not their first language in sharing their experience as part of Doncaster's Fairness Commission and Appreciative Inquiry.
- Supporting physical activity by setting up private gym sessions for Muslim women.
- Working with Doncaster College students in creating an educational comic about being hearing impaired.

I am able to assist people further to access the wider community. A gentleman and his mother attended a group and he felt comfortable to disclose that his son was autistic and non-verbal. He felt isolated as he felt he could not take his son to groups as he had previously been judged. His son loves art. I was able to speak to the facilitator of Arty Farty and as they are all inclusive, they were more than happy for the gentleman and his son attend. They have now been attending on a weekly basis for months and thoroughly enjoy it.

Kathryn, Community Connector

CHARLOTTE, COMMUNITY CONNECTOR

I started in June 2021 as a Community Connector and it was all very new to me. I have had a lot of experience within the care sector, however, being a person with disabilities, this was a great way for me to expand my skills, knowledge and experience. Live Inclusive is for people with disabilities and long term conditions, of which I can empathise with and share my experiences.

So much about being a Community Connector and having a disability is listening and hearing individual stories and knowing that “I’m not alone” and that I can share my experience with them to show them that they are not alone too. It is interesting to hear what residents in the community have been saying about their communities, their homes, their disabilities and many more areas where Doncaster could improve.

Ever since I started this role, my confidence has improved and I am able to speak up more. I have made new connections and attended meetings and events which have given me a bigger picture perspective and the ability to be more openminded.

As a Community Connector, I have learned so much and have gained so many new skills, and I look forward to learning more. My proudest moments are knowing and sharing the similar experiences of others.



COST OF LIVING SUPPORT

The rising costs of fuel, food and other essentials are combining with existing disadvantaged and vulnerability within our communities to put many households at greater risk of both immediate hardship and reduced opportunity and wellbeing. Key disadvantage groups affected by the cost of living crisis and cold homes are children, people with disabilities, older people, low income households and people from ethnic minorities.

Much work was undertaken to minimise the affects of the cost of living crisis including increasing access to advice, establishing a network of warm and welcoming spaces and supporting foodbanks.

HYPER LOCAL ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

In June 2022 Citizens Advice Doncaster Borough (CADB) were commissioned to expand their community based outreach support. Residents can now access free impartial advice from 20 outreach locations across Doncaster.

To respond to the impacts of the cost of living crisis and support residents up the poverty ladder, 10 of the outreach sites are located in foodbanks.

Hyper local locations has contributed to more accessible support with a 12% increase in access by those with a long term health condition. Mapping of the postcode of residents accessing support shows an increase from more affluent communities as the impacts of the cost of living crisis continue to be felt.



20 Outreach Locations



1271 Residents Supported



2276 Issues Supported



£70,131 Income Gains

FOOD SECURITY

More residents are seeking support, not just as emergency food parcels, but longer term support from foodbanks as they struggle to manage the effects of the cost of living crisis.

Doncaster has 26 active foodbanks and food pantries offering a range of support and many are working in partnership with other services to provide wrap around support and support people up the food ladder.

Well Doncaster provides ongoing support to foodbanks in meeting the increasing demand and raising food prices through linking with wider partners, CWB support and administering funding through the Household Support Fund. Doncaster Hygiene Bank was also funded through the Household Support Fund to work directly with foodbanks in proving hygiene products.

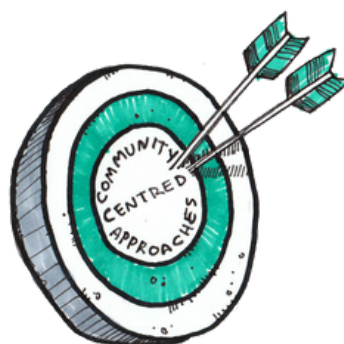
WELCOME SPACES

To support the residents of Doncaster through the winter period a network of warm and welcoming spaces was established across the borough offering free, safe and warm places in hyper local locations for residents of all ages.

Doncaster has a host of trusted community spaces which offer targeted and universal support to residents. These venues were highlighted to residents as welcoming, safe, non-judgemental, warm spaces where they can relieve the pressure on residents to heat their home and provide more access points to information advice and guidance.

It was recognised that not all organisations have the same levels of resources, skills and capacity and to ensure the correct level of support was available to each Welcome Spaces, a menu of different tiers of support was developed which included, free training from CADB, locally developed resource booklet, Community Wealth Builder support and the option to be featured in City of Doncaster Council communication channels.

Funding was made available to support Welcome Spaces and £40,736 was accessed to support increases in energy bills and service delivery costs



Peter expressed his gratitude at our warm space being open as he was living in a house with no heating and no hot water - the boiler being broken. His routine had been disturbed, and this was a big thing for him, as one of his traits in having autism was the need for consistency. His new routine of meeting his new friend Paul at the Welcome Space, on a regular basis, gave him back a feeling of order.

DARTS, Welcome Space

Be Well

1003
Residents supported 2022-23

95%
Reported Making Positive Lifestyle Changes

97%
Had Time to Talk About Things That Mattered to Them

89%
Signposted to Local Groups and Services

94%
Would Recommend BWD to Friends and Family

HEALTH COACHING

Be Well (BW) provides person-centred, one to one behaviour change support through trained Health and Wellbeing Coaches. The approach utilises motivational interviewing techniques and evidence based behaviour change tools to provide person-centred support to identify and address the root causes of ill health. BW is delivered in partnership with North, South and East Primary Care Networks. This collaborative approach is enabling smoother and more joined up referral pathways, appropriate use of Primary Care and joint working across Sectors. BWD coaches feed insight from supporting residents into Well Doncaster's wider community development work to ensure appropriate and accessible hyper local support is available and understand any gaps in community services, providing population health approach to addressing inequalities.

BWD went live in March 2021 and has grown in its reach, supporting 1003 residents in 2022-23, double the number of residents in 2021-22. BWD has fully embedded Prescribing Lifestyle Medicine (PLM) into its practice which builds on 4 pillars of change- Eat, Sleep, Move and Relax. In March 2023 BW presented at The PLM conference in London, sharing how we have effectively embedded health coaching into a community setting.

Elaine is 68 and lives alone in Thorne, she has multiple health conditions including fibromyalgia and had recently lost her husband. She has been attending the Be Well Fibromyalgia and Chronic Pain Peer Support Group for around 18 months. Elaine has made close friendships since joining the group and often goes out for coffee with the other members.

Elaine shared that since joining the Peer Support Group she has found out about many local groups in the area that offer activities that help with pain management, this has helped to manage her symptoms. Elaine has started a walking group nearby and has found the confidence to ask her G.P for different medication. She shared that she used to feel really alone since her husband had died but now she feels that she isn't alone and when she comes out she forgets about her pain. Elaine is a regular member of the group and is now supporting others who attend.

Peer Group Member

PEER GROUPS

BW has built a network of 23 community based peer groups to support the management of long term health conditions such as Fibromyalgia, Respiratory Conditions and Diabetes. Peer support is when people use their own personal experience and knowledge to help each other, supporting each other through sharing similar, relevant experiences. Everyone in the group is viewed as an expert of their own health and wellbeing and everyone's views and experiences are viewed equally.

Peer groups encourage people to develop their knowledge, skills and confidence to self-manage their health conditions, develop peer relationships and connect with local services/activities. 1174 residents have attended a peer group since their launch in April 2021. The peer groups are shaped around the preferences, needs and values of the members. This has led to guest speakers from a range of health and VCFS services including: clinical pharmacists, GP's, Dietitians, Tai chi teachers, mindfulness teachers, respiratory nurses, aromatherapists and Yoga teachers.



BW utilises a range of validated evaluation and monitoring tools to understand the impact of health coaching. Each tool has demonstrated that residents who access BW experience significant increases in their wellbeing, self-efficacy and self esteem. 95% reported making positive changes to their lifestyle after seeing a Health Coach

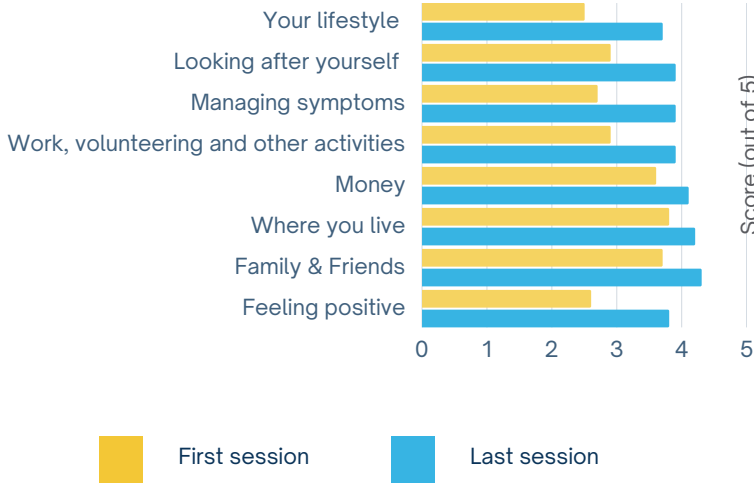


Figure 1: Mean changes in Wellbeing Star scores for Doncaster residents across the 8 categories from the first to last coaching session, March 2021- March 2023 (n = 97)

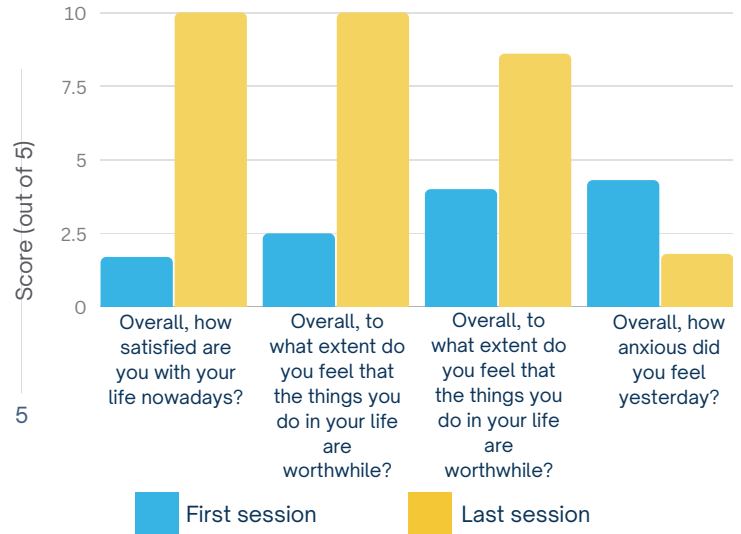


Figure 2: Mean changes in Personal Wellbeing scores (Office for National Statistics, ONS4) for Doncaster residents across the 4 categories from the first to last coaching session, November 2021- March 2023. 0 is “not at all” and 10 is “completely” (n = 59)

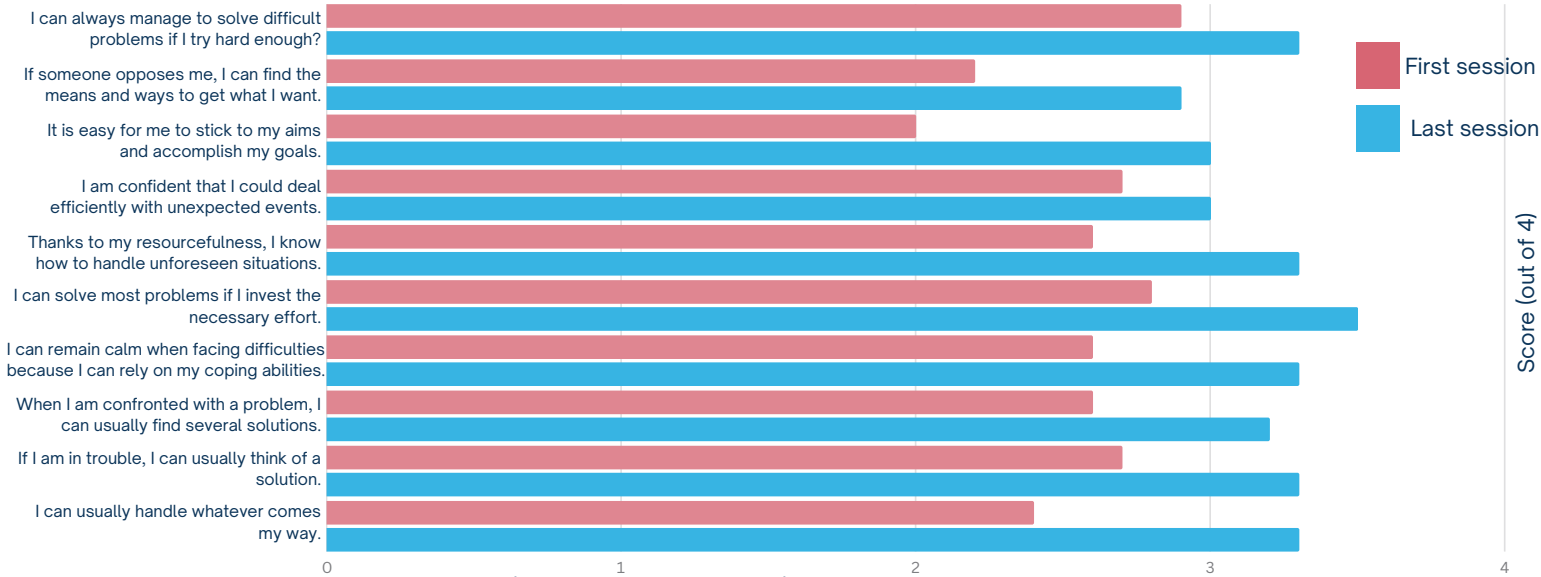


Figure 3: Mean changes in General Self-Efficacy Scale (Schwarzer & Jerusalem, 1995) for Doncaster residents across the 10 categories from the first to the last coaching session, November 2021- March 2023. Residents responded to the following statements using these response categories: 1 = Not at all true 2 = Hardly true 3 = Moderately true 4 = Exactly true (n=59)

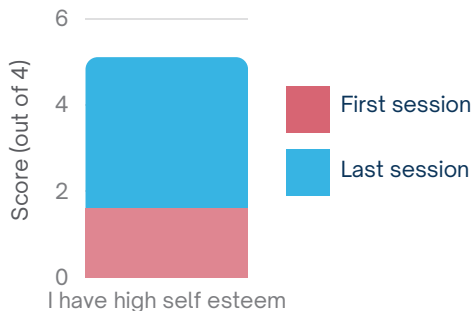
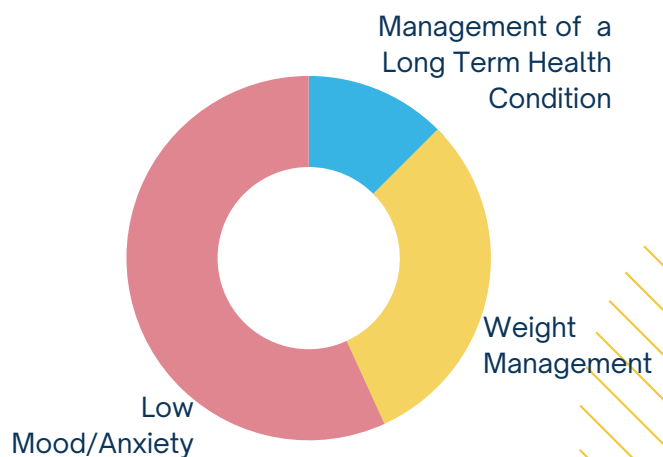


Figure 4: Mean changes in Single Item Self-Esteem Scale score (SISE, Robins et al., 2001) for Doncaster residents from the first to the last coaching session, from November 2021- March 2023. Rated from 1 (not very true of me) to 5 (very true of me) (n=59)

Top Reasons for a Referral



JOHN, BE WELL DONCASTER RESIDENT

John was referred to Be Well Doncaster for support to help manage his weight. John explained to his coach that he wanted to lose weight but he had recently been in a road traffic accident and had since suffered a serious fall, as a result his confidence was heavily knocked.

John spoke to his coach about his diet and identified a number of areas in which he wanted support. These choices included; portion sizing, snacking and making healthier food choices. To begin with John completed a food diary which helped him become more aware of his food choices and gave him a foundation for discussion at the second session. During this session John informed his coach that he had identified and had already made a number of healthier changes such as cutting down on portion sizes and bulking up meals with side salads/vegetable portions.

As the sessions progressed John maintained this approach and grew in confidence to recognise and act in situations where he could make healthier, manageable choices. These included no longer ordering a cake when having a coffee, cutting down on his consumption of bread and only having one packet of crisps in the evening. By the 5th session all the healthy behaviours John was practicing had become part of his day to day routine.

As a result John lost 10lbs whilst seeing his coach and was able to lie in his own bed after spending 9 months sleeping on a reclining chair. John also noticed an increased range of motion in his arm. The knowledge and confidence built from working with his coach helped John make these behaviours part of his day to day routine.



COMMUNITY

We see every day that our communities are brimming with energy and innovation. We strongly feel that communities need to own and be a direct part of the design and delivery of solutions.

We have been a leader in using community centred approaches in addressing local challenges and opportunities and feel embedding these ways of working is crucial to reducing inequalities and building thriving and resilient communities.

[Click to watch a short video which explains more about our work at a community level and how we are growing vibrant and resilient communities whilst tackling health and wealth inequalities](#)

COMMUNITY CO-PRODUCTION

Undertaking Appreciative Inquiries within communities have been a core part of our approach since 2015. It is used to gather insight to support co-designed action plans with the community, drawing on their strengths and assets from past and present positive experiences. The Appreciative Inquiry seeks to identify and build on the successes of the past and present, to discover new potentials and possibilities. Appreciative Inquiries strengthen a growing base of community insight, help identify residents who want to be involved in change and raise the aspirations of the community

The Appreciative Inquiry involves 4 elements:

Discover – Deliberately “let go” of focusing on deficits and systematically seek to isolate and learn from even the smallest wins

Dream – Visions of the future emerge out of real examples from its positive past

Design – Creating the ideal community in order to achieve its vision

Deliver – A collaborative way of working, turning the new vision(s) of the future into reality

Starting in the Spring of 2022, we continued to build on the work of the past and initiated Appreciative Inquiries in an additional 10 communities, providing in depth understanding and insight. This has led to innovation, new connections, capacity building and community leadership. Over 60 community workshops have been delivered across the borough. This has led to the establishment of new and strengthening of existing Positive Active Groups across the borough delivering community leadership and community activity.



NORTH LOCALITY

Conversations in Woodlands and Carcroft highlighted that residents enjoyed having local groups to attend. Through community workshops, the community was supported to find a venue, a line dancing tutor and formed the group ‘Carolina’s’. The weekly groups sees 15 people attend regularly. Carolina's was supported and successful in an Active Communities Grant (ACG) to cover venue hire and start up costs. Carolina's is now sustainable and supporting residents of all ages to connect and be active.

SOUTH LOCALITY

A community workshop in Rossington saw residents talk about how they had attended a forest school workshop at Sandall Beat Wood in the Centre of Doncaster and how they wished they had something like that in Rossington. Residents, Ward Councillors and local grassroot organisations Craft and Creations and Empowered in Nature worked in partnership to set up a local, weekly forest school open during the school holidays.

EAST LOCALITY

Residents in Hatfield Woodhouse shared how they wanted to develop a new group that engaged all ages groups, focussing on intergenerational activities. A number of residents suggested setting up a ‘Board Game Cafe’ and this was well received by the community. Well Doncaster supported residents to form a constituted group and apply for funding for room hire and equipment. The group started in February 2023 and has been well attended so far, with over 30 people of all ages attending. The Board Game Cafe is combatting social isolation and creating opportunities for shared learning between age groups.

CENTRAL LOCALITY

The residents from Balby shared past experiences of beautiful, tidy streets and wanted to focus on recreating pride in their community. During community workshops, residents volunteered to do community litter picks and were supported in accessing equipment. In the first 4 weeks, the group collected 157 bags of rubbish. The litter picks have created a movement across the community where social media is used to share details of upcoming litter picks and everyone is invited to join.

KERRY, WELL DONCASTER TEAM

I am a Public Health Officer in the Well Doncaster Team and support Stainforth, Thorne and Moorends communities within the East Locality. My role is to work with communities to gather community insight and build stronger, resilient communities.

I am a resident of Stainforth, my great grandad moved from Ireland to come and sink the pit when it first opened. My family have always been big advocates of the community and I have inherited their passion.

My journey started in 2013 when I was heavily pregnant with my third child. I became homeless due to difficult circumstances which left me having to live at my parents with three children. I often visited the local Family Hub, where I spoke about my difficulties. The Family Hub staff supported me, signposted me to the right organisations to help me back up on me feet and gave me hope. I really wanted to give back to the Family Hub and I offered my time to volunteer as a Parents Voice and helped lead and coordinate gathering voices of parents and feeding them back to management to improve service delivery. I trained to be a Parents Champion, this gave me a better understanding about the services at the Family Hub and the wider services available within Doncaster Council to signpost families to.

Whilst I was volunteering, I gained a level 3 Diploma in Children and Young People Workforce. During this time, a job opportunity came up at the Family Hub for an Early Year's Development Worker, I applied and was successful. I was proud and used my story throughout my time in the Family Hub to show parents that it doesn't matter what background you come from, if you put your heart to it, you can achieve anything.

I am studying a degree in Public Health and I am proud of where I am today, I am proud that I can show my children that you can make a difference in the area you are from.



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT



LOCALITY INVESTMENT

The Local Solutions Community Investment Fund (LSCIF) was administered in 2021 and demonstrated that embedding community centred approaches such as community insight through Appreciative Inquiry, World Cafés, participatory budgeting and participatory appraisals leads to innovative, hyper local support that is tailored to each community.

Building on this learning, Locality Commissioning was launched in 2022, providing a per capita funding split totalling £2.039 million from the Better Care Fund.

Well Doncaster facilitated forums for locality based VCFS organisations to collaborate for impact in addressing community priorities identified through the Appreciative Inquiry. £1,546,144 has been invested in communities through 67 VCFS organisations.



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

The Community Investment Fund (CIF) was launched as the participatory budget stream of the locality commissioning model. CIF is aimed at supporting grassroots organisations to access funding which meet community and locality priorities. Grants of up to £2000 are available for single applicants and up to £10,000 for collaborative applications.

Applications are scored by bespoke community panels which consist of a range of community stakeholders and residents. Four VCFS organisations from across each locality act as hosts for CIF, and are providing administrative management of applications.

Launched in March 2023, applications have been scored by their local panel to review and consider awards. The first successful applicants include funding grassroots organisations such as the New Vision Photography Club based in Moorends, and the Barnby Dun Cricket Club.



MULTIPLY

Multiply is a Department for Education funded programme where local authorities can work in innovative ways to invest in and enable meaningful participation numeracy education that boosts people's ability to use maths in their daily life, at home and work and enable adults to achieve formal qualifications.

The Multiply fund was launched in January 2023 and saw 11 successful applications from across the borough providing a diverse range of numeracy session through music, cooking, digital skills and creating crafts for sale to over 300 residents.





Get Doncaster Moving (GDM) is a key partner of Well Doncaster, working together to influence whole systems change and build healthier and more active communities. Our community centred approach supports local people and communities to lead the change and create the conditions for their communities to be healthy, vibrant places where people can move, be active and play sport in their everyday lives.

ACTIVE COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Active Communities Grants programme is a small grants scheme of up to £500. In 2022-23, 33 Active Communities Grants were awarded with a total of £14,790 being distributed to fund ideas from local people, groups and organisations to create the right conditions for people to 'get out and about more' and be active where they live. Amongst the successful groups, Woodlands Community Library Champions were awarded the 100th grant to help set up a new sit fit class at the re-launched Library. In total since 2020, over £48,000 has been awarded through 106 grants.



COMMUNITY CONNECTORS

GDM and Well Doncaster fund CC within VCFS anchor organisations, to support residents to get out and about more where they live. Initially in Bentley, Wheatley and Intake, Balby, Edlington, and Stainforth, CC provide information on existing opportunities available to residents in their area and also encourage the community to create a healthy and active lifestyle.

Over the year, the CC started a total of 23 new activities including walking groups, community trails, bat walks, neighbourhood street sports and bike loan schemes. The CC have organised 11 community events including Family Sports Days, Improve Your Groove and Bentley Festive Fun. At the end of March 23, the approach expanded with new Connectors being introduced in Conisbrough and Denaby.



WALKING GROUPS

In partnership, GDM and Well Doncaster support volunteers to organise and lead walking groups for all ages and abilities to get people together and enjoy walking in and around Doncaster, being active and making new friends.

Throughout the year, 63 new walk leaders were trained, and the total number of regular walking groups increased from 14 to 30. This results in 341 residents enjoying community led walks in green spaces each week.



Pickleball is an accessible and inclusive racquet/paddle sport combining elements of badminton, tennis and table tennis. Through the Active Communities Grant, GDM and Well Doncaster supported Doncaster Pickleball to set up the first regular Pickleball provision in South Yorkshire. The initial sessions proved very popular and there are now two sessions every week for adults in Hyde Park and Rossington. We continue to work with the group and hope to branch out to more communities in 2023 and introduce a permanent outdoor Pickleball court in one of the parks

EMMANUEL, TENNIS ACTIVATOR

Hexthorpe Community Tennis started in 2020, when Emmanuel, a resident from Hexthorpe discovered a passion for Tennis during lockdown. After making new friends by inviting others in the park to have a 'knock around' with him, he applied for an Active Communities Grant for new equipment to enable more residents to join in his informal sessions. Having the equipment attracted more residents to play, including 3 who are now volunteers and being trained to lead tennis sessions themselves.

Working with The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), GDM introduced the LTA Serves programme, which takes tennis into the heart of local communities. This sparked a collaboration with local VCFS organisation, Flourish Enterprises CIC, a GDM Community Connector and Emmanuel to work in partnership, offering more accessible tennis opportunities to residents. From this the 'Doncaster Community Tennis Programme' was born which recently won the 'Connecting Communities' category at the Regional Tennis LTA Awards and was Runner Up in the National Awards. Emmanuel has continued to develop his love for the game, completing LTA Serves and Level 1 coaching qualifications and is funded by GDM as Doncaster's 'Tennis Activator' working 5 hours a week for Flourish Enterprises CIC to deliver free tennis sessions for children and adults every week in Hexthorpe Park.



SHAPING STAINFORTH

Shaping Stainforth (SS) is a three year funded approach with The Health Foundation. Focusing in one community in the East of Doncaster, Stainforth, the approach aims to lay the foundations for long-term change that will lead to a community that has the conditions that are conducive to good mental health.

Insight and engagement activity throughout 2022-23 highlighted key learning points for targeted support and interventions:

1-Local opportunities for young people

Many young adults move away from Stainforth and build their life elsewhere. A community priority is creating environments and opportunities for children and young people to grow up and ultimately, live and work in.

2-Building a stronger community through special events

Recognising the need to build community cohesion, a range of special community events have successfully brought together the community and utilised community assets.

3-Building community cohesion through intergenerational connections

Reconnecting generations has been identified by the community as a priority in supporting community cohesion, trust and promote good mental health.

4-Relieving pressure on acute mental health services through community based support

Understand pressures on mental health services and work across Sectors to move to a prevention model and develop a range of bespoke community based support.

Local Opportunities for Young People

In the summer of 2022, Doncaster College hosted a series of weekly sessions for 12–17-year-olds on subjects chosen in consultation with local schools. The sessions focused on ‘hair and beauty’ and ‘gaming’. 17 young people completed the course and were presented with certificates at a special event in front of their families.

A Stainforth hairdressing salon expressed an interest in becoming a hair academy. The SS team supported the salon to secure funding for training materials and linked the salon with young people who had completed the college sessions. The salon is in the process of becoming a Community Interest Company to provide wider community support.

Building Stronger Community Cohesion Through Special Events

A Stainforth Events Committee has been set up and are developing a programme of events. This included a community gala style event at an underused park which saw local business, community groups and residents come together. The committee is resident led and the SS team have provided practical support, including putting procedures and policies in place, linking them to useful contacts and setting up a bank account.

Building Community Cohesion Through Intergenerational Connections

In partnership with Doncaster College, local students are capturing the voices of the mining generation. Students are recording conversations with former miners about their memories and stories. This will be developed into a lasting resource for the community and has strengthened understanding and connections across generations.

Relieving Pressure on Acute Mental Health Services Through Community Based Support

A range of test and learn approaches to community mental health support have been developing including peer support sessions delivered in a community setting which provides a space for residents to share their lived experience and support each other. Support for school age residents has been put in place through a partnership approach to one-to-one mentoring sessions which support good mental health and wellbeing.



ORGANISATIONAL

We continue to demonstrate and champion a continued commitment to utilising evidenced based community centred approach principles across partners to enable a whole systems change.

[Click to watch a short video which explains more about our work at an organisational level and how we are influencing change](#)

COMMUNITY PREVENTION

All Team Doncaster partners undertake a range of activities with and in communities that keep people safe, well and independent. These include targeted activities such as seeing residents as part of case work. Further to this, Team Doncaster, have a range of specialist community prevention approaches such as Well Doncaster, Communities' Wellbeing, Stronger Families, Think Families and Locality Investment, all of which contribute to our locality ways of working.

Involving, strengthening, scaling, and sustaining communities as part of our community prevention approach within Well Doncaster provides us with an extensive range of learning. Through this, we understand that our residents want and must have a stronger voice, focussing on their wellbeing and preventing ill health. We must create and utilise opportunities for early intervention approaches that are developed with and for residents, their families, and the communities where they live, work and play.

We have gained great insight that shapes a place-based approach which supports the redefinition of services and places with individuals, families and communities at the heart. Consistent conversations make it clear that our residents want opportunities to build happy healthy communities which offer independence, employment, and warm homes.

Our community centred approaches, undertaken with and for our residents, is part of Team Doncaster's asset-based approach that recognises and builds on bold leadership, with the determination to reduce health and social inequalities.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

DONCASTER ADVICE NETWORK

A working group of key VCFS and housing partners was set up by Well Doncaster during the Covid-19 pandemic to respond to the impact of the pandemic on delays to Personal Independence Payments. From this the Doncaster Advice Network (DAN) emerged as a forum for all advice providers in the borough to come together to collaborate around key challenges and investment, refine pathways across services and, advocate for local and national change. The working group has coordinated sector engagement, gathering insight in the opportunities and challenges around providing information, advice and guidance. Well Doncaster has pump primed a VCFS organisation to co-ordinate and manage DAN as it moved towards sustainability.

FOODBANK FORUM

In 2022 Well Doncaster facilitated the establishment of a Foodbank Forum. At the Forum members share learning, challenges and investment opportunities. Working collaboratively through the Forum has led to an agreed monitoring form which Well Doncaster completes with each foodbank monthly. This approach provides not only valuable data on usage which is informing investment but the frequent conversations provide insight and opportunities to provide tailored support.



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Well Doncaster has been creating opportunities to test and learn local approaches to participatory budgeting since 2016. A micro grant was established in our first priority community of Denaby Main, offering grants of £500 to pump prime new and existing grassroots organisations. Groups could submit a simple application form or present to a panel of local residents.

Learning from the micro grant was used to inform the GDM Active Communities Grants and scaled out boroughwide. From 2021 a variety of different approaches have been used to invest in grassroots and anchor organisations in sustainable ways. These have included the VCFS Fund which is administered by a Third Sector organisation and applications are reviewed by a Third Sector lead panel. A number of small grants such as the Barrier Buster and CWB micro grants were set up to pump prime grassroots organisations, creating local solutions from those living and working in each community.

Building on the momentum of the LSCIF, the Locality Commissioning model saw £1,546,144 invested into communities through 67 VCFS organisations. It was a test and learn approach to strength based, collaborative commissioning as VCFS collaborators developed business cases to address local priorities rather than competitive applications. This approach opened up new ways of working, not only for the VCFS but for City of Doncaster Council in regards to procurement and commissioning such as the recent Environmental Pride Grants.

An after action review was conducted and highlighted key learning to inform future working. Stakeholders reported that they appreciated the approach as an opportunity for them to work differently.

Stakeholders shared through the after action review process that new relationships were developed leading to organic wider collaborations drawing in other investment streams in to Doncaster.

Moreover, this work has been able to influence wider commissioning practices with all new tenders having to include how they will work with existing local VCFS organisations operating in the same geographical place or theme of work.

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING TIMELINE

Total Invested in Communities
£3,569,468

2016

DENABY COMMUNITY MICRO GRANT

- Up to £500 grants
- Resident panel making decisions
- Support grassroots ideas
- Test and learn in one community

2020

ACTIVE COMMUNITY GRANTS

- Up to £500 grants
- Accessible to groups or individuals
- Community led panels
- Accessible Boroughwide

2021

DRAGONS DEN

- Grants of £10k and £2k
- Organisations 'pitch' to community audience for votes
- Locality model

2021

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

- Single organisations grants of up to £25k or more for collaborations
- Support grassroot organisations
- Bespoke residents panels for each community

2021

LOCAL SOLUTIONS COMMUNITY HUB FUND

- Grants of up to £60k with 10% match
- Support established community anchor organisations
- Bespoke residents panels for each community

2022

LOCALITY COMMISSIONING

- £1.5m investment through collaboration for impact
- Local solutions for community priorities
- Strengths based commissioning

2023

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

- Single organisation grants of up to £2k and up to £10k for collaborations
- Bespoke community panel per locality
- Local solutions for community priorities

IN FOCUS FOR 2023-24

In 2022-23 we have scaled out our approach pan Doncaster, with in-depth, targeted support in 30 communities. This has provided opportunities to try new ways of working, continue having conversations with residents and facilitate collaboration across Sectors.

In 2023-24 we will step up our focus on sustaining the strategic and long-term ambitions of strengthening communities through regenerative and community centred approaches, delivered via multi-agency working, in ways that are shared and communicated with communities. This will support the development of hyper-local and locality wide co-produced community plans.

To capture our growing understanding of each targeted community, the population health management community profiles will be refreshed, providing more insight and understanding of each community.

Well Doncaster will be focusing on the following key areas as we continue to work towards reducing health and wealth inequalities, strengthen communities, embed community centred approaches across partnerships and improve the health and wellbeing of all:

- Enable and champion community decision making
- Address and challenge the conditions that drive poor health
- Use learning from local community asset based practices to further re-shape commissioning and community investment approaches
- Strengthen co-produced, collaborative and sustainable solutions with the VCFS that respond to community priorities
- Build on existing practices to establish a robust and sustainable approach to community prevention at a primary and secondary level and the key role of universal services
- Develop interactive, digital platforms that demonstrate our impact on communities and services



JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Find out more about Well Doncaster and
contact us with how you can get involved:

www.welldoncaster.uk

welldoncaster@doncaster.gov.uk

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