



Big Local Central Jarrow

Our Story
Our Legacy

2012-2022



Local Trust | Big Local

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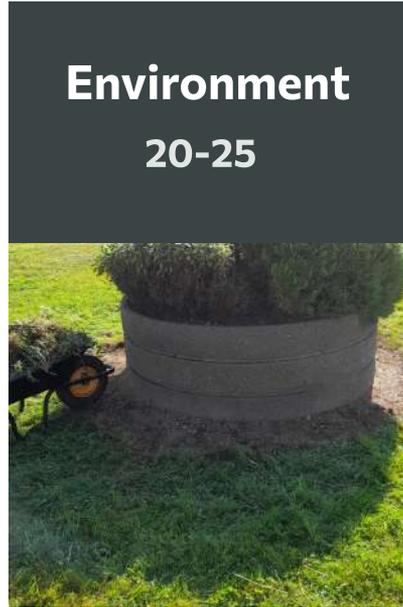
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Foreword

It is a great privilege to write this foreword for what has been an amazing 10 year collaboration between residents, board members, partner organisations and the Local Trust network.

We must also thank the National Lottery for giving residents in Central Jarrow this opportunity...together we have created a movement!

In particular, I would like to express my appreciation to colleagues of the Big Local Partnership Board and Big Local workers for all their efforts and commitment and our locally trusted organisation, Groundwork South and North Tyneside, who have been on this journey with us since 2012, providing invaluable support.

This report has really brought to the fore the massive achievements of our Board Members and residents and I feel honoured to have been chair for the last few years of Big Local Central Jarrow.

This is not the end of our journey, and we have an exciting future ahead of us which will include expansion of the brilliant work already underway.

So, whilst this report marks the end of one chapter, another opens and we continue to strive to make our future Jarrow a great place for residents to live, work and enjoy!

Hannah Burman

Hannah Burman
Partnership Board Chair
Big Local Central Jarrow

Welcome

We are Big Local Central Jarrow.

For the last 10 years we've been working with some amazing and inspirational people to make life in Central Jarrow better for all.



This is our story...

How We Began

Big Local was a unique opportunity for residents in 150 areas around England to use at least £1m to make a 'massive and lasting positive difference' to their communities. It was about bringing together all of the local talent, ambitions, skills and energy from individuals, groups and organisations who wanted to make their area an even better place to live.

Big Local has been run by Local Trust, working with over £200m from the Big Lottery Fund, and a range of partners, providing expert advice and support for residents.

The four intended programme outcomes for Big Local were:

- Communities will be better able to identify local needs and take action in response to them.
- People will have increased skills and confidence, so that they continue to identify and respond to needs in the future.
- The community will make a difference via the needs they prioritise.
- People will feel that their area is an even better place to live in.



In February 2012...

...Central Jarrow was announced in Phase 2 of the Big Local Initiative!



The Central Jarrow area is home to around 4,200 people in 1,950 households. Many households live in terraced houses or flats, of which a high percentage are social, council or privately rented.



4,200

People



1,950

Households



59%

Social, council
or privately rented
homes



Our Steering Group

As Big Local Central Jarrow, we formed an Interim Steering Group in July 2012. The group produced terms of reference and set out on the journey of getting people involved, exploring the Big Local vision for Jarrow and forming the Big Local Partnership for Jarrow.

We had access to £1 million over ten years to make a lasting difference to the area!

Groundwork South Tyneside and Newcastle act as the Local Trusted Organisation for the project.



One of the best things we did in the early days of Big Local was getting the right people in place, to help coordinate the project and to consult with residents.

Partnership Board Member



Our Partnership Board

From the very beginning, our Partnership Board was diverse. It came to include local councillors with political connections, representatives from local charities (who provided us with important links to this sector), a community clinical psychologist (who helped us to think about wellbeing from a whole community perspective) and of course local residents, who have deep and lasting relationships with our area and provide invaluable advice about the wants and needs of Jarrowians. **You can meet some of our current Partnership Board Members on pages 58-59.**

Located in a small office in the heart of Central Jarrow, our base enabled us to employ workers to support the Board and residents to build partnerships and connectivity, support grassroots organisations and our local, social entrepreneurs.

Our Vision (or Legacy) Statement

It was important that we set out a statement of what we wanted to achieve... a vision for Jarrow:



***“We will celebrate our proud past. We will support our present communities.*”**

We will strive to deliver our future Jarrow - a great place for residents to live, work and enjoy”.

“Our Past, Our Future, Our Jarrow”.

To achieve this vision, we knew it was important to ask residents what their local priorities were...

Gathering Initial Thoughts

So we held events and were visible at other community and local events in the shopping centre. We spoke to community groups, leafleted thousands of homes, undertook an internet survey and spoke to statutory and third sector organisations delivering services in the area as well as the local business forum.

This consultation process produced a number of local concerns and ideas about how Big Local could be used to benefit the area. A number of common themes began to emerge and we were able to establish a number of priority areas by grouping together similar points.



Following the feedback received from this community engagement activity, alongside some research assembling facts and figures, a task group of the Partnership Board was set up to consider the information. The task group met and, as a preliminary step, grouped the feedback and ideas into the six Big Local Central Jarrow priorities.



The Big Six...

And these were the six, really important priorities that everyone decided upon:



Children & Young People

Young people are able to access services that support their health and wellbeing and provide a range of leisure and training opportunities.



Environment

Central Jarrow is a more attractive place, where the community feel safe, with green spaces that are welcoming to all.



Economy

Local people are supported in their management of their debt and small local businesses are supported through social investment.



Health

Local people are provided with a range of information and advice to encourage a healthy lifestyle.



Communities

The community are involved with a range of opportunities to develop the plan, build capacity, encourage involvement and engagement, and develop a community festival. Consultation will continually seek their views.



Communication

Marketing and publicity encourages engagement and involvement in Big Local.

These six priorities connected really well, and we realised that there would be some overlap between them.

Why These **Six Priorities**...?

Whilst our six priorities were determined by local residents, they also aligned really well with South Tyneside Council's vision for a borough with:

- **Stable and independent families**
- **Healthier people**
- **Increased business and jobs through a regenerated South Tyneside**
- **Better housing and neighbourhoods.**

Who **We Aimed to Support**

While these were always our resident-led priorities, we aimed to support anyone and everyone in the community! Including youth, older people, people with mental health needs, parents and families, those feeling socially isolated and local businesses. In short, Jarrowians and beyond!

The Support **We Wanted to Provide**

We set out to support people with funding, time, experience, knowledge, skills, belief, local know-how and signposting - sharing our capacity through good practice and inspiration. We also wanted to provide mentoring and peer support on a 1:1 basis.

So, let's take a look at what we achieved within each of the six chosen priorities ...



Children & Young People

The Big Local Central Jarrow Aim:

Young people are able to access services that support their health and wellbeing and provide a range of leisure and training opportunities.



Some key children & young people facts

What we found:

- Around 20% of Central Jarrow's residents are aged 0-15.
- 44% of Big Local residents said their key priority was youth, with accompanying concerns about anti-social behaviour in Jarrow.
- A higher than average percentage of children live in out of work households (29% compared to 20% in the North East).
- More than 1 in 3 children in Jarrow are living in poverty.



What we set out to do:

- Ensure young people were able to access services in Jarrow that supported their health and wellbeing.
- Provide a range of leisure and training opportunities.
- Commission YMCA programmes to provide residentials, days out, young people's cooking, art and craft sessions and outreach work.
- Set up a 'Swap Shop' sharing toys and children's' clothes for families with young children.
- Provide school holiday activities including Science Buddies, crafts, clogging, family first aid and a weekly drop-in for young people in need of tenancy support and mediation.
- Provide grants to organisations and schools which supported youth.
- Provide apprenticeships with Groundwork.

Children & Young People: What We Helped to Make Happen

Over the last eight years, as Big Local Central Jarrow, we've funded and supported a wide range of children & young people projects. One of the main projects we commissioned was a Young People's Detached Youth Project, via YMCA North Tyneside.

This project funded detached young peoples' workers, services and activities in the Central Jarrow area. It included:

- A centre-base/drop in facility within the area.
- A range of techniques to engage young people in the area.
- Considering issues of gender, drug and alcohol misuse and young people with complex needs in service delivery.
- The ability to deliver 'Accredited' programmes.
- Signposting to information, advice and guidance through partnership working.



Children & Young People: What We Helped to Make Happen

This commission included a vast array of youth programmes and activities. There are so many that we can't list them all here! However, let's list just a few!

YMCA/Detached Youth Programmes, Services and Activities:

- Detached and outreach youth sessions
- A weekly drop-in for young people in need of tenancy support/family mediation
- 1-2-1 support
- Saturday youth club sessions
- Friday evening detached youth work sessions
- Jarrow Cemetery clean-up programme
- Curran House Mews performing arts project
- Residential and days out
- European Exchange
- Young people's cooking
- Film club
- Young people's representation at national Big Local Connects events
- West Park volunteering
- Street based activities involving parents
- First aid training
- Recycling fashion shows
- Outdoor sports and games sessions
- Drama workshops
- Science Buddies
- Film clubs
- First aid courses
- Recycling events with Groundwork
- Community Christmas Lunch and other Christmas activities
- Linking up with national educational/awareness campaigns and events
- Art and craft sessions
- Volunteering at Queens Road Garden
- Support during lockdown and after, such as clarifying government announcements, providing family welfare packs, and socially distanced exercise, bingo and more fun/safe activities
- Trips and events
- Basketball court artwork
- Gateway sign project
- Trips to places like Kielder Water
- Hadrian's Wall Walk Challenge
- Painting of the World War One Mural in the underpass
- Intergenerational coffee mornings.



Children & Young People: What We Helped to Make Happen

We also supported a number of local groups with community grants...

Sea Cadets - funded to enable sailing of the Caledonian canal, purchasing camp beds for use at residentials and purchasing archery equipment and training.

Chapps - a group of “supported placement” childminders, (with children placed in their care by social care and health) were able to take children to Preston Park Butterfly World.

Clervaux Toddler Group - purchased indoor and outdoor resources for the toddler group.

Friends of West Park Jarrow - set up a programme to encourage physical fitness, social inclusion, integration and ownership.

New Hope - supported with an after-school club for ethnic minority families with children with disabilities to meet in the local community.

Bede Church - purchased resources and equipment for their Youth Club.

Jarrow Children’s Centre - used a number of grants to support crèche provision, purchase resources to run a parenting course for vulnerable families, a summer trip for the most vulnerable of families in Central Jarrow and provided a paediatric emergency response course free of charge to parents of young children.

Tynegateway Comic Capers Workshops - created their own comics, word searches, poems and jokes, supporting the work in Jarrow schools in reducing the attainment gap amongst children living in poverty.



So, let's take a look at the impact of some of the children and young people's programmes and work we funded...

Children & Young People **Impact**

The Jarrow World War One Underpass Mural

YMCA Art /Local History Project 2018 saw the centenary of the end of the first world war, and Community Arts Project North East had been working with local groups to commemorate this. They approached Big Local and YMCA North Tyneside to explore the possibility of an art project in Central Jarrow, as local residents had reported to Big Local that they would like to see improvements in the underpass in the town centre.

Discussions followed with the Local Authority and permission was given for this to be the focus of the art installation. Work began in May 2018, as part of Jarrow festival week, when young people met with members of the Jarrow and Hebburn History Society to hear stories of how the 1st World War impacted the people and workers of Jarrow. The young people worked on the designs for the mural with an artist from the YMCA and over the six weeks holiday those designs were turned into a reality on the walls of the underpass.



The response to the finished work was described as '**phenomenal**'. The depiction and interpretation of the impact on Jarrow by the young people was very emotive. Residents and visitors to the town were overwhelmed by the finished artwork, and the young people were proud of their achievements. This brought a new found **pride** and **respect** between our young people and our older members of the community.

In November, the young people met the Mayor at the opening of the World War One Mural. This was described as '**a fantastic day**, highlighting the **lasting effect** the project will have on the community'. Many parents were present and were very **proud**.

It was significant that over a year after the painting was completed, there was reduced graffiti seen on local walls.



Children & Young People **Impact**

The Jarrow Cemetery Clean-Up Project

In 2020, young people at the Central Jarrow Detached Youth Project felt that they should help tidy up the many “forgotten” or overgrown graves in the local cemetery. This idea came from Grace, Kayla and Kye - three young people attending the YMCA sessions, who when they walked through the cemetery felt sad that so many graves had been neglected, and thought it seemed that nobody cared. After chatting to the Friends of Jarrow Cemetery, Grace and a group of other young people applied for funding to get some tools and equipment and began volunteering there every Sunday morning. The YMCA told us: "It was **amazing** to see the group turn up every Sunday, **full of energy** to help out!"

A local historian gave invaluable insight into so many of the important people who lived in Jarrow over the years, and the young people were also able to identify many of the graves of people who were killed in the WW1 Zeppelin raid...linking the names from the mural that many of them had helped to paint a couple of years before.

The cemetery group also sourced funding to buy flowers for some of the graves that they worked on. They identified some of the most overgrown and forgotten graves, to show that thought was being given to those buried there.



The young people have been **thanked online by hundreds of people** each week, grateful for their commitment to looking after the graves and respecting their passed relatives or friends. Some of the online posts detailing the work have reached over 10,000 people, with many, many 'likes'!

Children & Young People Impact

Also in 2020, as part of International Women's Day, two the Detached Youth Project's young participants, Kayla and Grace, were nominated for the North East Youth Most Inspirational Young Women award. Kayla was a runner up for the award and Grace won it! Both received flowers and prizes and plaques and Grace was even invited by BBC Radio 5 Live and Radio Newcastle to be interviewed!

During the Coronavirus pandemic, the challenges that young people faced were helped by the YMCA Programme:

"During lockdown, we've done things such as online bingo, social distanced walks, mental health talks and we have even been treated to McDonald's and other items in gift bags. We even enjoyed watching and participating in Warren's tik-tok challenges. This has left a great impact on us kids individually in Jarrow and as a group. We've been able to experience a lot of great things even through a pandemic. People such as Warren and Georgia have been able to help and guide us through these difficult times. With all these activities they've kept us motivated and entertained. This whole experience has been the most amazing part of this year so far and I'm sure it's bound to get better".

Big Local Central Jarrow Detached Youth Project Participant

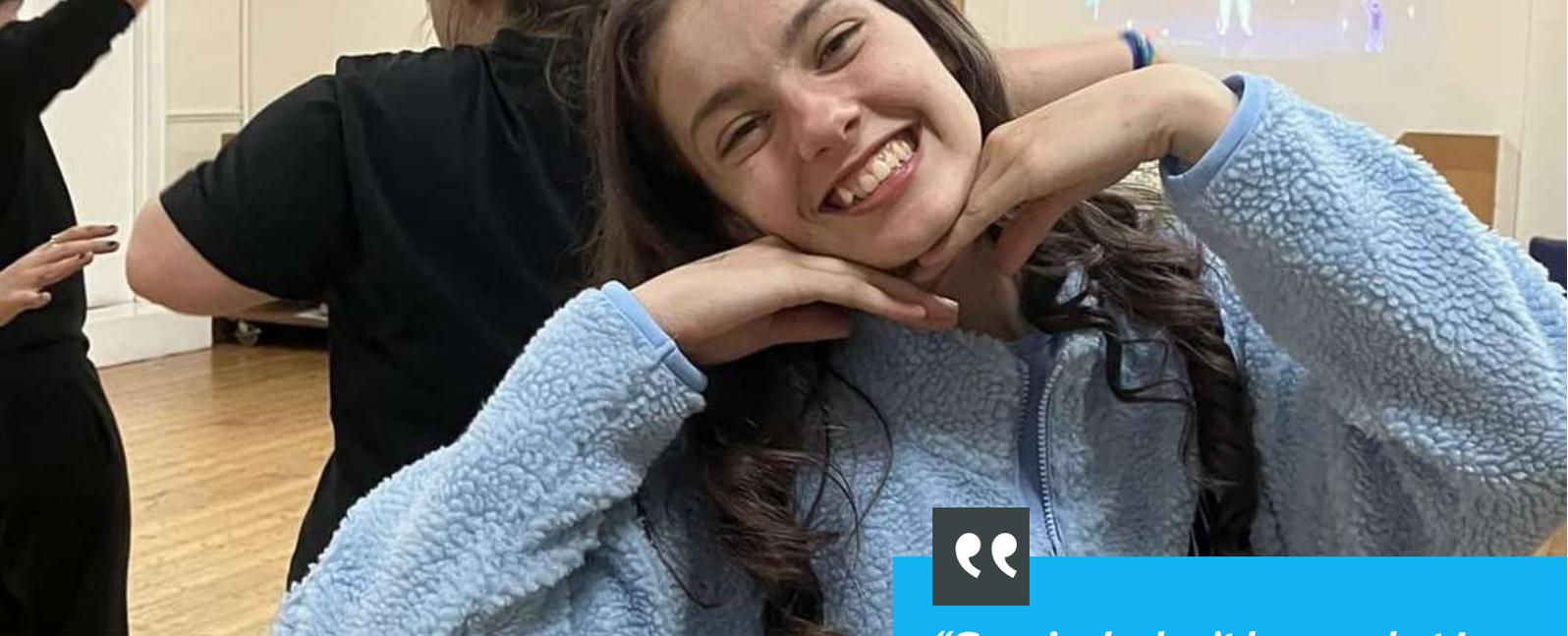


Here's what a parent of two Big Local Central Jarrow Detached Youth Project participants had to say:



"Two of my sons both use the activities and both can't wait every week to go there...they are always buzzing when they come home and can't wait for the next session to come around".





Children & Young People Impact

The YMCA Detached Youth Project also reported that:

"In Central Jarrow we actively ensure that the young people recognise the necessity to be part of their community – to be involved in things like coffee mornings, sponsored walks, painting walls and walkways, being part of community parades, delivering drama and dance performances to local care homes and even taking up places on local partnership boards. The young people need to be part of the community to have an impact on the community; in doing this they raise their aspirations, they are open to more life chances and opportunities and feel happier and have chance to succeed. Simple things such as workers being recognised by local residents also illustrate the impact of the project. On many occasions we've been stopped by parents and thanked for the opportunities that we give their children. We are certainly seen by many of the residents as being "local" to the area and part of it".



"Genuinely don't know what I would do without this youth project... it is the only thing that keeps half of us going".

"I've been coming for more than 8 years...it's a way to get away from things, find new opportunities and make friends".

"I love this club. It's an enjoyable experience and I would recommend coming here! Thank you!"

"I've taken part in almost every activity offered to me. Before I joined, if I was introduced to a family friend or somebody else in my class I wouldn't talk or look at them. But after attending the YMCA's youth project for years, my confidence and self-image have both greatly improved, shaping me into the young person I am today".

Big Local Central Jarrow
Detached Youth Project Participants



"We estimate that at least 75% of all of the young people in Central Jarrow have been involved with the project".

Children & Young People **Impact**

Anti-Social Behaviour in Central Jarrow

While not adopting a “hot spot” approach, the YMCA's work with young people helped to contribute to **a decrease in reports of nuisance and anti-social behaviour in Central Jarrow**. Northumbria Police reported that crime/calls to them vastly decrease when sessions are running:

“The number of calls have reduced dramatically since the start of the YMCA in Central Jarrow; some halved. There are no longer ASB reports coming in from McColls, and Morrison’s staff are more than happy with what has been done. The YMCA Project does work ...and I think it is important to keep it going”.

Agency Referrals

Other agencies, such as South Tyneside Homes, FOCAST and Carers Association also referred young people to the Detached Youth Project – illustrating the trust these agencies had in the team and the project. Northumbria Police also asked if their Young Cadets could gain some worthwhile experience of working with young people by supporting some of the YMCA sessions.

Clervaux Nursery School Family Campfire Cooking Day

As mentioned, we also provided many grants to local organisations and groups. A community grant given to Clervaux Nursery School was used to fund a Family Campfire Cooking Day. The day was described as a '**huge success**', with a real sense of **enjoyment, family and fun**. Here's what people said:



“This was a fabulous morning. Every activity was perfectly planned and so much fun.”

“Everyone sat together at the end of the session to enjoy the food and there was a real sense of community. People were talking with each other and sharing stories”.

“It was wonderful to see the children and their families working together on a common goal”.



Environment

The Big Local Central Jarrow Aim:

Central Jarrow is a more attractive place, where the community feel safe, with green spaces that are welcoming to all.



Some key environment facts

Let's also take a look at what we achieved in terms of our ENVIRONMENT priority.



What we found:

- Just 58% of residents were happy with the area where they live.
- Just 30% of residents were happy with how the area looked.
- Central Jarrow has more green space (4.4%) than the North East as a whole (1.7%).



What we set out to do:

- Ensure Central Jarrow is a more attractive place for residents, local workforce and visitors.
- Ensure that the local community feel safe in their home or place of work.
- Make green space areas welcoming to the whole community.



Environment: What We Helped to Make Happen

Over the last eight years, we've funded and supported a number of environmental projects. Let's take a look at just some of these...

The Landscaping and Gardening Project - working with young people (leading to employability) and local partner organisations to deliver a high profile "Gateway" scheme and a variety of small-scale gardening projects. The project set out to:

- Put together a delivery structure to work with young people, specifically 16-19 year olds not in education, employment and training (NEETs).
- Provide work for young people to lead them into an employability pathway via an accredited programme or into other education and/or training.
- Work with schools to develop a volunteer/peer led scheme that focuses on small-scale gardening projects within and for the benefit of the local community.
- Work with local partners, public, private, voluntary and community and businesses to develop a high profile 'gateway' scheme for the Big Local Central Jarrow area.
- Encourage partnership working via a strong network of links to other projects, providing the best support for those engaged in the project and possible additional funding and resources.
- Support and involve young people in all stages of work, including linking with the Partnership.
- Deliver 'Accredited' programmes.

Family learning courses - children and their families were encouraged to explore the outdoors and use their gardens in a positive way.

Friends of Jarrow Cemetery - as mentioned in the Children & Young People section, children and young people volunteered to help with tidying up graves.

Clervaux Nursery - turning an area of the garden into an allotment patch.

Harrison's Field Allotment Association - contributing part of the cost of a steel container for the allotment, to provide safe storage for equipment and tools.

Jarrow Cross - young people completed their Conservation Skills Level 1 Course, improving the willow dome and tunnel in the Forest School area.

Queens Road Day Centre - establishing and maintaining a community garden and wildlife pond.

Environment: What We Helped to Make Happen

And more...

The Epinay Garden Club - purchasing plants, seeds, clothing and garden tools and equipment.

Friends of Jarrow Cross School - supporting the school gardening group with the purchase of seeds and plants.

C.R.E.W. Residents Association - landscaping a small area of land on the estate that was an eyesore.

Workshop activities - an ongoing programme of events, e.g. willow weaving to create large minibeasts for the Gateway feature.

Green Gym - weekly sessions in Central Jarrow designed to mentally and physically benefit participants and the local community, via green space improvement/development.

St. Bede's School - improving the allotment space and supporting the ongoing gardening group.

Gateway features - green spaces decided by public vote, followed by site improvements and ongoing maintenance.

Bulb planting - in various locations, e.g., Quay corner, Salem Street, High Street.

Curran House Mews Residents Association - purchasing a greenhouse, shed, equipment and plants for the communal garden.

Abbey Drive - planting and maintenance of plants.

School and young people engagement - the majority of schools in Central Jarrow took an active role, with pupils volunteering to help develop outdoor gardening spaces.

Friends of West Park Jarrow - promoting the park, purchase of plants and equipment, children and young people volunteering to help with planting and weeding.

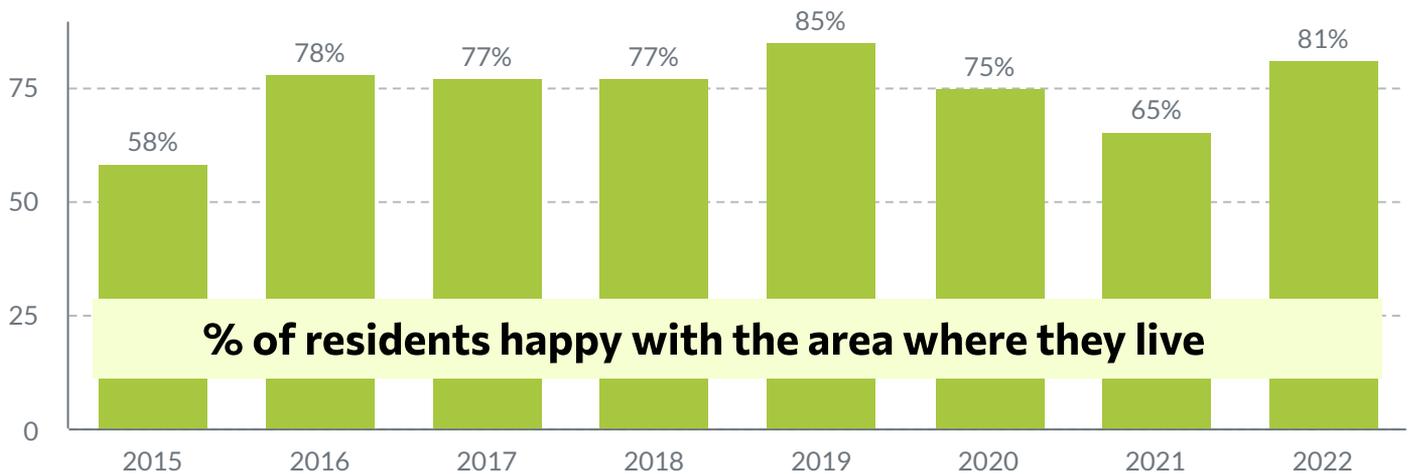


Environment Impact

We can also take a look at the impact of our environment priority...

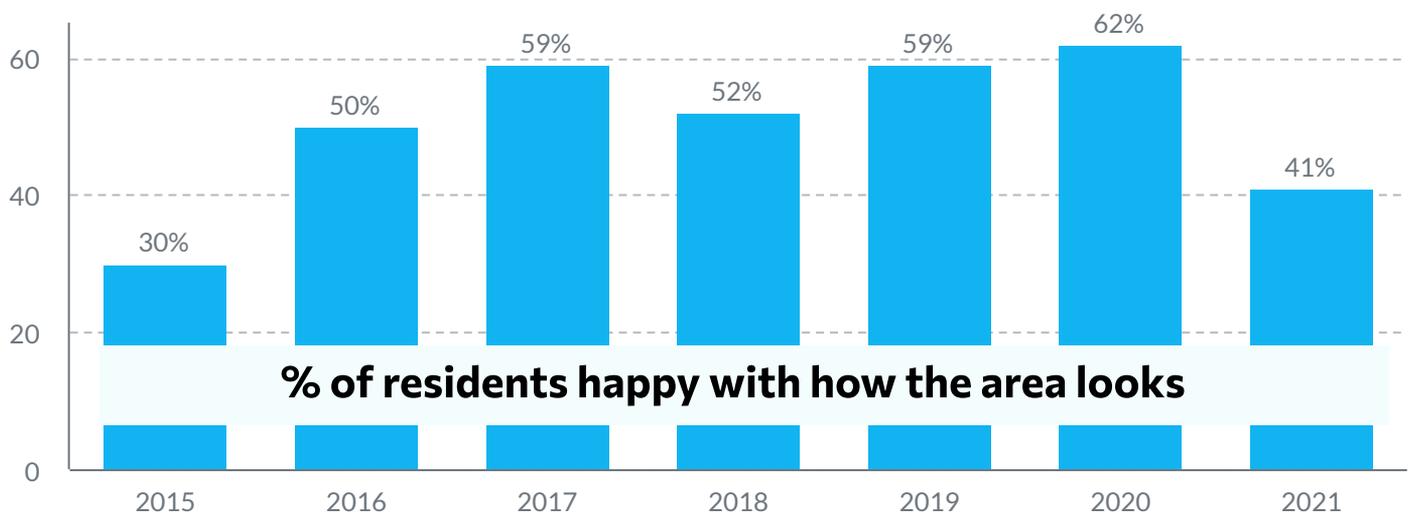
How Residents Feel About the Area

In the early days of Big Local Central Jarrow, our research found that **just 58%** of residents were happy with the area where they live. We continued to ask this question every year. Our latest research (please see page 43 for details of this) shows that this figure is **now over 80%**.



How Residents Feel About How the Area Looks

In the early days of Big Local Central Jarrow, our research also found that **just 30% of residents** were happy with how the area looked. We continued to ask this question every year, and every year this percentage has **been higher than this figure. By 2020 it had more than doubled.**





Environment Impact

Gateway Features

A number of gateway features helped to give Central Jarrow residents an identity, whilst also welcoming visitors to the area. Residents were consulted as far back as 2014 about potential sites for the features, with young people often involved in their designs and the features erected by the Landscape and Gardening Project with the help of Groundwork.

Listening to the Community

Environmental projects also worked to improve the green spaces - with improvements directly reflecting the requests of the local community. The weekly practical volunteering session saw environmental improvement and maintenance work being completed by volunteers - including removing litter and fly tipping, repainting fencing, clearing shrub beds, bulb and vegetable planting and footpath maintenance.

Enthusiasm in Schools

A majority of schools in Jarrow participated in environmental projects - embracing the opportunity really positively.

In the first year alone, four settings benefitted by receiving support to improve their grounds: Clervaux Nursery, St Bede's, Jarrow Cross and Jarrow Children's Centre and a further two schools supported outreach activities in the community.

This helped to raise awareness of the programme and encourage increased enthusiasm with young people for spending time in the outdoors. As a result, the numbers of young people attending the gardening clubs with the settings and using their outdoor space increased. **25**

Economy

The Big Local Central Jarrow Aim:

Local people are supported in their management of their debt and small local businesses are supported through social investment.



Some key economy facts

Let's take a look at some key economy statistics for the Central Jarrow area.

What we found:

- There is approximately 40% less self-employment in Central Jarrow compared to the North East as a whole
- Annual household income in the Central Jarrow area is £27,700, compared to the North East average of £34,588
- 24% of Big Local residents were interested in setting up their own business in the Jarrow area
- 33% of people have no qualifications in Central Jarrow, compared with 26% across the North East
- 45% said their main barrier to setting up their own business in the Jarrow area was funding
- There are almost twice as many Housing Benefit claimants in Central Jarrow (27.4%) compared to the North East average (14.8%)

What we set out to do:

- Provide support to access training and capacity building.
- Provide support to community groups to access grant funding.
- Provide funding to support 'new ideas' that continue beyond Big Local.
- Run events that bring more people into Jarrow to raise its profile.
- Provide support for job opportunities, for example in uniform and transport costs and driving lessons.
- Build partnerships with JobCentre, Moving in Tyne & Wear, Autismable, Blissability, WiseSteps, and training providers.
- Support young people through apprenticeships.
- Provide support into training and employment with Bright Futures.



Economy: What We Helped to Make Happen

Over the last eight years, we've funded and supported many different economy projects/initiatives. Let's take a look at just some of these...

Our Partnership with UnLtd - the leading provider of support to social entrepreneurs in and around the UK - created a budget of £50k as an awards pot for local social entrepreneurs to access to develop their ideas and to establish new social ventures in the Big Local area. It was confirmed that decision making on applications would be a joint undertaking. Our partnership with UnLtd:

- Raised awareness and conducted marketing and promotion of the programme of support available to social entrepreneurs in Central Jarrow.
- Delivered a support programme for social entrepreneurs who are starting or growing their enterprises (to include technical workshops, training events and one to one coaching).
- Established a peer support network to support new and existing Social Entrepreneurs.
- Supported young people developing social enterprises.



Williby Rocs - support to set up a community interest company (CIC) to develop and use local green space for play, connection, therapy and learning - providing inspiring and engaging environmental education sessions to all.

Bright Futures Peer Mentoring Program - support into training and employment with Bright Futures. Mentors received training including safeguarding and communication skills.

Little and Loud - support to set up a company offering music sessions for 0-4's delivered by a professional musician. (See page 31).

Auxillia Youth Services - support to set up a CIC to run youth clubs, and also detached youth programmes throughout South Tyneside. (See page 30).

Even Better - support to set up a CIC offering access to wellbeing services for those who, due to health inequalities, would be unlikely to access statutory services. (See page 29).

Bridges Community Bank - working with South Tyneside Credit Union Ltd. offering saving and loan products and clubs.

Basic Income Pilot - this year we've also been listening to people to gather their thoughts on a pilot scheme which could potentially provide people with a basic income and collect evidence on how basic income payments changed their lives. Basic Income is a no strings attached monthly or weekly payment that everyone would receive unconditionally. We've recently hosted events to find out what local residents think of Central Jarrow acting as a pilot project. To do this we've been working with the Basic Income Conversation and Northumbria University.

The Even Better Success Story

In 2018, Big Local Central Jarrow's commitment to a three-year partnership with UnLtd led to real impact and success stories. Our joint funding and support was there for individuals with a social enterprise idea designed to benefit Central Jarrow residents. One of those individuals was our very own Partnership Board Chairperson, Dr. Hannah Burman, who set up Even Better. As Hannah explains:



"I got involved in Big Local Central Jarrow during my own recovery from mental health issues. Volunteering with Big Local in our local community made me aware of the mental health need in our area and helped me to build up my confidence to do something about it! As a Clinical Psychologist myself I already understood the mental health side, but the Big Local grant really helped in setting up a new not for profit organisation".



Championing Lived Experience in the Provision of Mental Health Services

Hannah was supported to set up Even Better through a competitive community grants process coordinated through Big Local Central Jarrow and UnLtd. Even Better is a thriving Community Interest Company offering access to wellbeing services for those who, due to health inequalities, would be unlikely to access statutory services. Even Better CIC has gone from strength to strength. Hannah was supported throughout the process of developing the company, with funding application advice, business planning and equipment, and valuable one-to-one business coaching and mentoring, in addition to the initial grant of £5,000 to develop the idea.

The company now employs seven staff and offers services provided from community centres in Jarrow. Even Better gives Jarrow residents access to drop-in coffee wellbeing mornings, drop-in one to one community connector sessions, wellbeing workshops and booklets, and is supporting a local group of people to set up their own peer-led mental health buildings based service in Central Jarrow (Jarrow Mindset). They organise community events including World Mental Health Day events and activities. Many of these services and events take place at the Big Local Central Hub. They also offer valuable support for other not-for-profit organisations and workplace wellbeing services for the corporate sector, with all profits funding further community support in Jarrow.

The Auxillia Youth Success Story



Let's also tell you about Auxillia Youth. Auxillia Youth are a Community Interest Company based at Bilton Hall, where they run youth clubs, and also detached youth programmes throughout South Tyneside. Sam Harrison is a Director at Auxillia, which received £5,500 funding in 2018/19 and 2020.



"A group of five others and I used to work for a charity. We saw that there was a real need for increased employability support for young people – things like job searches and application forms and intensive 1-1 mentoring support. We wanted to be able to provide that as a real focus, rather than just an add-on to projects.

I had heard about the UnLtd/Big Local funding from other people who had received it. I was helped with the application process from a Support Manager at UnLtd, who chatted with me about how to complete the funding application and throughout the process. Even after I had received the grants, the Support Manager was still there and able to answer any questions I had. We had to change things slightly after Covid hit as I wanted to use some funding to move things online, and he also helped me with that.

We set out to work only with people aged 16-25 but we've now expanded beyond that. We now run youth clubs for those aged 8+, as well as mental health support and getting people out of the house. We help support other businesses too and we also build the skills of those slightly older young people who we work with to take on a leadership, peer mentoring role – they're a really valuable asset to us! We've taken on 4 youth staff and volunteers and we probably see around 80-100 young people across the year.

The funding gave us the opportunity to cover our start-up costs, buying business insurance and purchasing IT equipment such as laptops. From there, we've been able to expand. Without that funding we would never have been able to buy the resources we needed".

www.facebook.com/AuxilliaYouth





little & LOUD

The Little & Loud Success Story



We'd also like to tell you about Little & Loud - a local independent business offering music sessions for pre-school families, nurseries and primary schools. Laura Connolly owns and runs Little & Loud and received £5,000 funding from Big Local Central Jarrow and UnLtd. Here's what Laura had to say about her experience:



For many years I worked for other companies, but when I came back from maternity leave the funding I'd been accessing had completely vanished - so I chose to go ahead and set up a company on my own steam.

I don't know if it was fate, but I saw on Facebook about the funding available from Big Local Central Jarrow. I talked to Anne, who was really supportive and signposted me towards the UnLtd funding for business start-up.

They helped me to think about what I needed to run a company on my own. I received £5,000 which I used to help brand my company, design my logo/website and buy equipment. Big Local also let me use their space in kind while I was establishing my company. They accommodated us running sessions bashing and crashing, singing and jumping around in their office - which was so kind of them! It also meant that my costs were kept low and I could therefore charge less to help those families who might not be able to afford very much for a session.

I've seen the positive impact my services have on families and on the language development of children and I'll always be grateful for the encouragement and support from Anne and Ros at Big Local and the fact that Big Local was on my doorstep.

www.littleandloudmusic.co.uk



Health

The Big Local Central Jarrow Aim:

Local people are provided with a range of information and advice to encourage a healthy lifestyle.



Some key health facts

Let's take a look at some key health statistics for the Central Jarrow area.



What we found:

- The vast majority (99%) of people living in Central Jarrow live in what is known as a health deprivation hotspot. This compares with just 48% in the North East.
- Central Jarrow is one of the most health deprived neighbourhoods in England.
- Around 40% more men claim mental health related benefits in Jarrow than in the North East.
- 30% of people in Central Jarrow are physically inactive, compared to 26% in South Tyneside.
- 13% of people receive PIP in Central Jarrow compared to less than 9% in the North East.

What we set out to do:

- Work with local people to help identify and develop services to support healthier lifestyles.
- Direct local people to a range of opportunities to encourage them to develop and maintain a positive, safe and healthy attitude towards their own and their family's health.

Health: What We Helped to Make Happen

Over the last eight years, we've also funded and supported many different mental and physical health-based projects. Let's take a look at just some of these...

The Healthy Living Network - we commissioned Age UK to establish a network of organisations to work with local people to help improve local services, encourage participation, and improve health outcomes. The Network set out to achieve this aim by:

- Creating an active network of local services and projects which pro-actively promote health and wellbeing to all residents.
- Sharing information, skills, knowledge and advice about activities and services in the area, with each other and local residents.
- Developing local service provision in response to local need.
- Supporting each other to organise and run regular events providing a variety of healthy living activities, in partnership with local residents.
- Increasing the use of health and wellbeing services and facilities by local groups.
- Encouraging and supporting participation in community led activities, including volunteering, which may lead to participation in social, economic and cultural activity.
- Promoting what works well and sharing good practice.
- Promoting an holistic approach to health and wellbeing across the community, through partnership working.

Personal training - for people within their homes, aimed at people suffering from mental illnesses such as depression, general anxiety, Agoraphobia and PTSD.

Queens Road Day Centre - purchase of a TV/DVD player to play gentle exercise tapes to increase physical activity.

Let's Chat tea in the afternoon event - part of Mental Health Awareness week, providing a range of practical activities and information provision.

Friends of Epinay School - working with the school's community café to provide seating and facilitate healthy food choices.

Food for Thought Pantry - providing affordable meals and cooking guidance and delivering food-based and cooking workshops.

Nolan Hall sheltered housing accommodation - funding gym equipment to help residents keep fit and active.

Tai chi taster sessions - providing free sessions for 10 weeks, regularly attended by 15 people.

The Cafe at Primrose - providing healthy eating taster sessions for families with young children.

Health: What We Helped to Make Happen

And more...

The Over Fifties Friendship Club - implementation of a regular exercise class.

Friends of West Park Jarrow - providing a summer play scheme to encourage physical fitness.

After School club at Jarrow Cross Primary School - providing hula hoop sessions to improve physical activity/socialisation and tackle obesity.

Beacon Peer Group - providing access to activities for members suffering or who have suffered from mental health issues.

Tynegateway - a roving chef working with five vulnerable families from the Central Jarrow area, promoting healthy meals.

YMCA North Tyneside - work with Dunn Street school to pilot a term on a Saturday afternoon with a physical instructor on the school's playing fields.

Bright Futures - funding for wellbeing activities for the Young Mums and Mums to Be Groups and their children, including a range of family fitness sessions. (See page 39).

Even Better - wellbeing workshops, facilitated by a Clinical Psychologist and Lived Experience Peer Support Worker, focusing on managing wellbeing in the light of COVID-19 restriction changes.

Complementary therapy - packages for local individuals who may be suffering with emotional and mental health difficulties.

Listening Ear Jarrow - Mental health support initiative, requested by members of the community, offering free mental health support and helping build volunteers skill sets. (See page 37).

West Park Community Group - coffee mornings and music in the park events to combat social isolation and assist with mental health.

World Mental Health Day 2019 - activities and information resources to raise awareness of stress, suicide prevention and positive mental health and wellbeing.



So, let's take a look at the impact of our health priority...

Health Impact

The Healthy Living Network

In its first two years, the Healthy Living Network:

- Gained the interest of 95 organisations, agencies, community groups, services and individuals who signed up for their mailing list, with the network improving coordination of healthy living projects and services in the area.
- Set up a regular newsletter highlighting events, current and new services and activities. This, and pop-up events (at least once a month), increased awareness among local health service providers, particularly beneficial to small community groups often previously isolated from the bigger picture of health.
- Saw attendance at the pop-up session of at least 30 residents per session.
- Encouraged local community groups to apply for small grants.
- Expanded information sharing amongst providers and community groups.
- Enabled local volunteers to get involved in training and skills development.
- Recruited and trained 12 'Wellbeing Champions' from the local area.

Positive feedback from Healthy Living Network members showed that they undoubtedly valued the Network, finding it useful to be able to share information and resources with other projects. In some cases, they had been unaware of the services available and were able to more effectively signpost their project users to other services. For example, mental health services were unaware of local community groups which could provide ongoing local support for patients once they had completed their 'acute' treatment and no longer required 'clinical' intervention; but still required some ongoing support.

Local community groups (many with limited time available to run groups and are entirely staffed by volunteers) also welcomed the opportunity to access training and support from the coordinator, together with support to allow them to continue to participate in local training and network events. One such group was The Peer Support Group at Christchurch, who increased their skills and confidence via the Healthy Network Coordinator, whose support led to them being able to self-organise activities with decreasing amounts of support.



Health Impact

Listening Ear Jarrow

- Listening Ear Jarrow scored 4.8 out of 5 in user feedback ratings.
- 89% of Listening Ear Jarrow users said that speaking with a listener decreased their feeling of loneliness.
- 75% of Listening Ear Jarrow users agreed that speaking with a listener helped their mental health and wellbeing.



I am so grateful for this service. Using Zoom felt very different to making a telephone call...seeing the listener was much better and easier to connect with.

Listening Ear Jarrow user



World Mental Health Day Events

Attendees described a warm welcome in a calm and pleasant environment. They felt that they had benefitted from:

- A network of people on hand to offer support.
- Taking part in creative and relaxing activities.
- Learning about mental health awareness with helpful and practical strategies for dealing with stress.
- Meeting others - with a real sense of community.



"It was a brilliant event...well organised, friendly and supportive."

Health Impact

Feedback collected from the Green Gym Programme - designed to benefit both participants AND the local environment/community, revealed that:

- Almost two-thirds (65%) of those attending Green Exercise sessions took part for more than 20 weeks.
- 95% felt happier and more cheerful.
- 90% had an increased sense of pride and ownership.
- 85% had an increased sense of responsibility.
- 80% felt more confident.

All attendees felt that they had:

- Met and spoken to new people.
- Tried and heard about new physical activities.
- Become more likely to venture into new green spaces.
- Gained a greater understanding of healthy lifestyle choices and the benefits of exercising outdoors.



Green Gym

rated
9.4
out of 10
for session
content/activities

rated
9.8
out of 10
for staff delivery
sessions

38



Green Gym

A Health Success Story



Remember the funding support we mentioned we gave to Bright Futures? This helped the organisation to provide activities for the Young Mums and Mums to Be Groups and their children, including a range of family fitness sessions.

'K' self-referred to the Young Mum's Group at Bright Futures. She left education at 14, due to self-confidence and anxiety issues. She was home schooled and had no qualifications. 'K' moved to South Tyneside from outside of the area and regularly attended the Young Mum's Group. This is what she had to say about the impact on her:



'K's Story at Bright Futures

"Hello!

I thought I'd share my feedback with you about how Bright Futures has impacted me and my son!

I first started attending Bright Futures around two years ago, as a young mum when my son was just a few months old! I was very new to the area and I felt very closed off and isolated. I'm so pleased to say that Bright Futures helped me massively, in more ways than one. Not only physically in terms of providing friendships and a way of getting out of the house, but mentally in terms of building my confidence and allowing my social anxiety to almost completely diminish!!

Now, thanks to Bright Futures, I'm able to go out of the house on my own and feel completely comfortable. They also helped me to advance academically and I now have many certificates to add to my CV".

Communities

The Big Local Central Jarrow Aim:

The community are involved with a range of opportunities to develop the plan, build capacity, encourage involvement and engagement, and develop a community festival. Consultation will continually seek their views.



Some key **community** facts

What we found:

- Up to 2010, Central Jarrow had received less Big Lottery grant funding per head than the North East as a whole.
- Sense of belonging to the local area is approximately five times less in Jarrow compared to the North-East as a whole.
- In 2008, just 30% of residents in Central Jarrow felt that they could influence decisions in their local area.
- Just 11% felt that they had been involved in decisions affecting their area.



What we set out to do:

- Encourage active participation.
- Host regular weekly activities and events hosted in Big Local spaces that celebrate the sense of place.
- Provide grants to local enterprises that actively support community.
- Provide funding to local enterprises that actively support the community.
- Provide funding to support 'new ideas' driven by local residents.
- Forge links and networking opportunities for organisations and people in the area.



Communities: What We Helped to Make Happen

Over the last eight years, we've funded and supported a huge range of community activities and events. Let's take a look at just some of these...

- Jarrow Festival
- Picnic in the Park
- Puppet shows
- Jarrow Community Choir
- Queens Road Day Centre craft sessions
- MacMillan Coffee mornings
- Change 4 Life meetings
- Older Persons social events
- Evening drop-ins
- Halloween events
- Christmas parties
- Clervaux Nursery Playgroup
- Jarrow and Hebburn History Society Exhibition
- Art Exhibition - local artists sold a number of pictures
- Jarrow Library Festival activities
- Jarrow Children's Centre Festival activities
- Jarrow Festival Dance in Jarrow Civic Hall
- Digital inclusion - increasing access, connectivity and digital skills
- Mental Health & Well Being days
- Health Awareness drop-in sessions
- Sing and Sign sessions
- Welfare calls made to those who have expressed a wish for that support
- Sharing information and links to support via phone, email, Facebook and networking online
- Little and Loud sessions and MIND drop-in support
- COVID lockdown activities to involve the local community, e.g. Zoom coffee mornings
- Weekly Big Local coffee mornings
- Camera-less photography sessions
- Ceramics classes
- Rug making
- Card making sessions
- Older Persons Celebration event - afternoon tea, music, bingo and a raffle
- Intergenerational coffee mornings and intergenerational garden project at Roseway House
- Therapy Dolls given to local residential care homes and other projects in Central Jarrow or beyond.



Our Impact on Communities



Our Most Recent Survey

In October 2022, we commissioned an independent survey of 115 households across Central Jarrow.

We wanted to find out about residents' awareness and perceptions of Big Local Central Jarrow, and also about the area itself now. Residents aged 16- 65+ were surveyed, from over 30 different streets.



"I think it's great that people can get together and not feel isolated"

"Big Local have organised things for all ages..."

"They've brought things back to the people"

Central Jarrow Residents



Community Impact Headlines

Our survey showed that in overall terms, **81% of residents are now happy living in Central Jarrow.** We also found that...

79%

of residents are proud to live in Central Jarrow

43%

of residents feel that life in Central Jarrow is improving

65%

of residents feel part of a community in Jarrow

80%

of residents would recommend Central Jarrow to other people

74%

of residents are happy with services and support in the area

64%

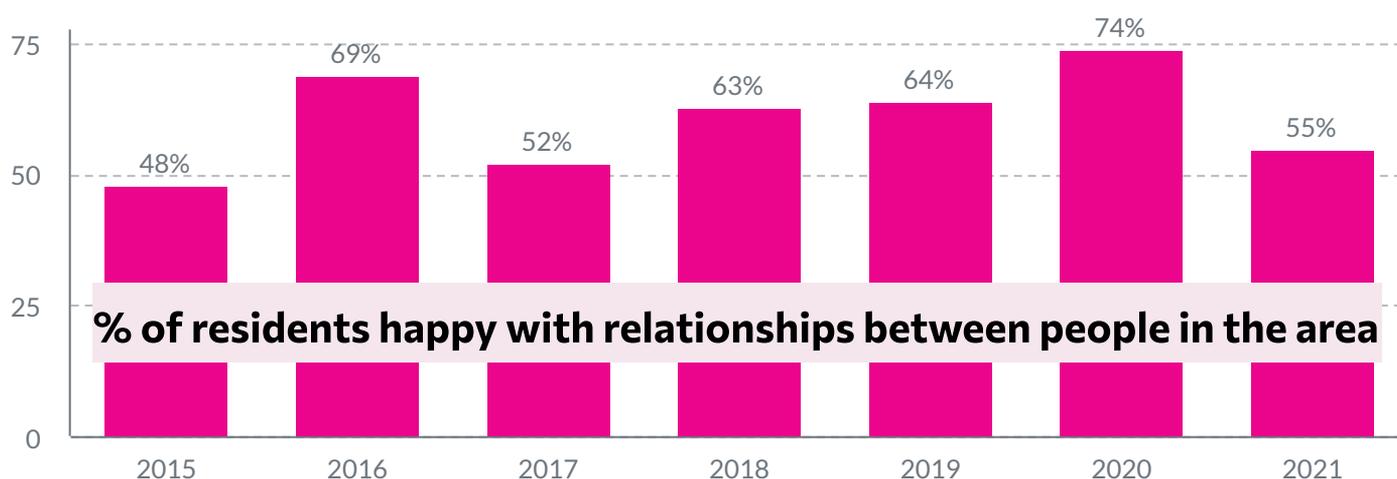
of residents are happy with leisure facilities in the area

Community Impact Over Time

A key indicator of progress is how residents feel things have changed over time.

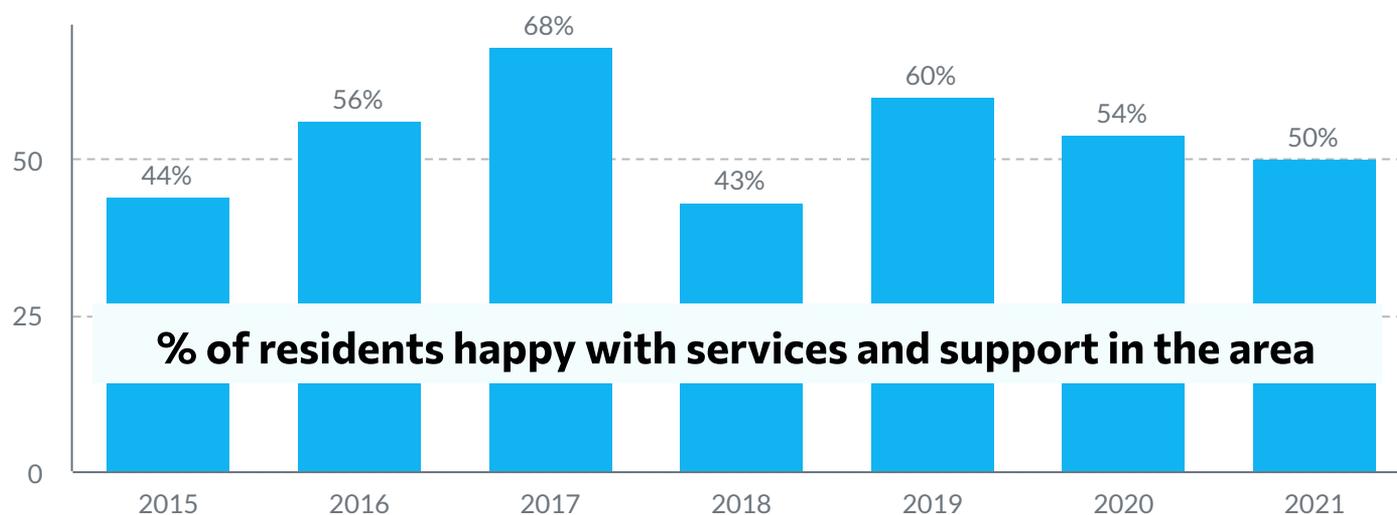
How Residents Feel About Relationships Between People in the Area

In the early days of Big Local Central Jarrow, our research found that **just 48%** of residents were happy with relationships between people in the area. We continued to ask this question every year, and **every year the percentage has been higher than this.**



How Residents Feel About Services and Support

In the early days of Big Local Central Jarrow, our research also found that just 44% of residents were happy with services and support. We continued to ask this question every year, and in every year bar one (2018) **more residents have been happier.**



Community Impact Over Time

But that's not all. In **every year from 2018 to 2021**, more than **60%** of residents said they were happy with changes in the local area as a result of Big Local Central Jarrow.

83%

of residents surveyed in our latest research (who were aware of Big Local Central Jarrow), **rated the programme positively**, describing it as either 'great' or 'good'.

What residents were most positive about...

- They found out what was going on in the local area.
- They had more opportunities to get involved in activities.
- There were activities for all ages.
- The area received investment.
- Local services were funded.
- Community spirit was boosted.
- Residents being brought together.
- Services provided help and support.

What residents said...

“ Big Local has been uplifting for the community. ”

“ People need things to look forward to. ”

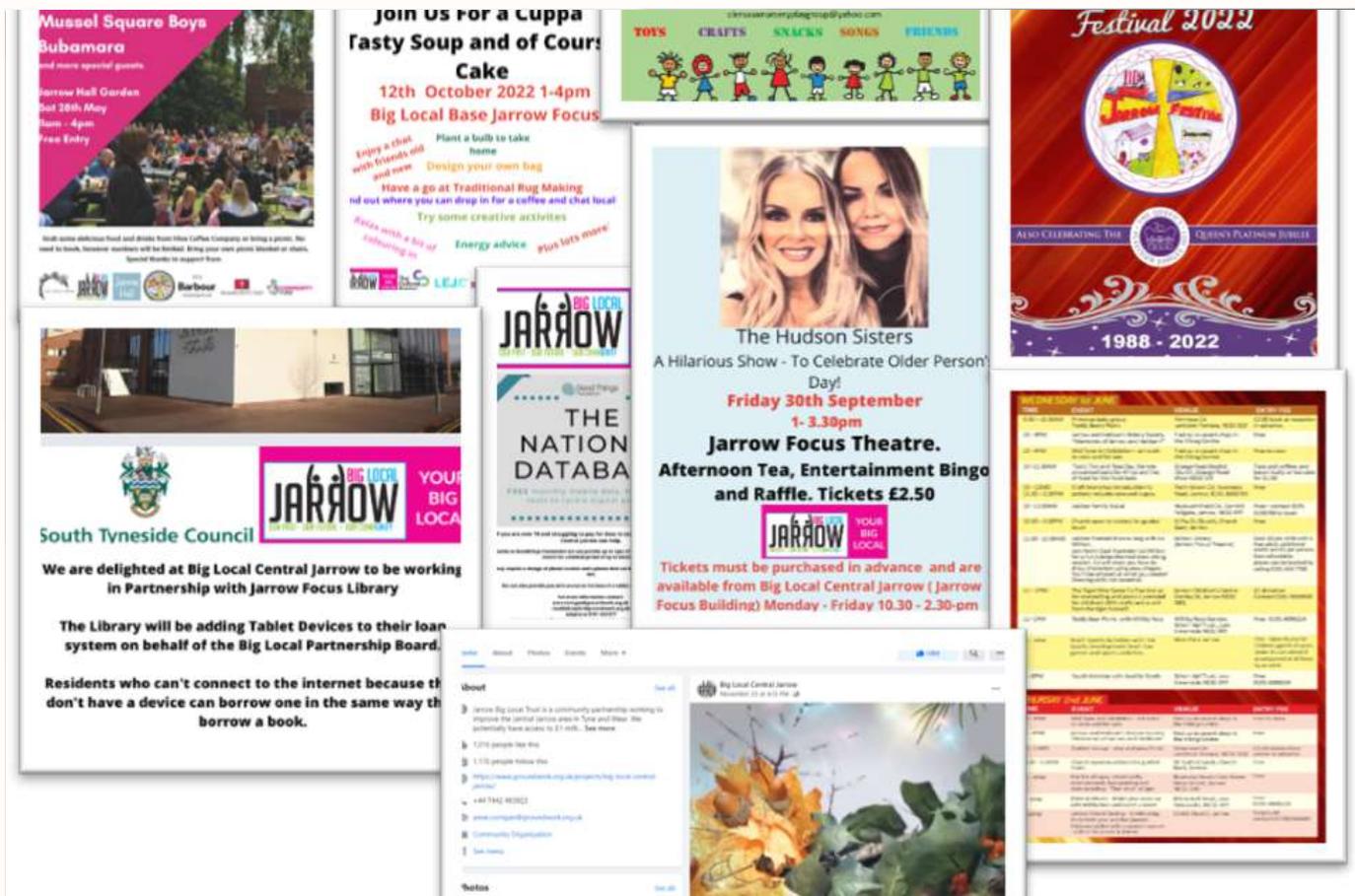
“ Family activities have been great for the community. ”



Communication

The Big Local Central Jarrow Aim:

Marketing and publicity encourages engagement and involvement in Big Local.



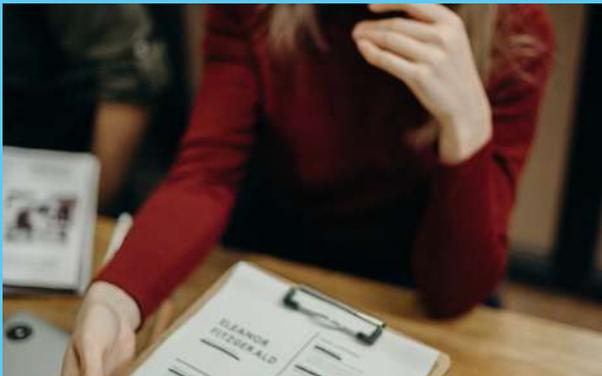
Some key communication facts

What we found:

- 51% of households in Central Jarrow have no car, compared with 31% across the North East.
- The “Connectedness” index (measuring connectivity to key services, public transport, digital infrastructure, isolation and strength of the local jobs market) scored 35 for Central Jarrow - lower than the North East average of 45.
- However, average broadband download speeds in Central Jarrow of 61Mbs are higher than the North East average of 46Mbs.

What we set out to do:

- Establish the overarching priorities of Central Jarrow's residents.
- Connect with local residents to disseminate information about Big Local Central Jarrow and what it has to offer.
- Encourage local residents to take part in community based and individual activities.
- Collect feedback from local residents and service providers about the local area and its services and opportunities across the lifetime of Big Local Central Jarrow.
- Collect feedback from activity/service participants about the quality of their experience.



Communication: How We Communicated

We held a series of community events across the first two years of delivery, in addition to ongoing face-to-face work with individuals, community groups and organisations to find out the issues, needs and wants for the area.

Since 2016, we've employed a Community Development Worker - Ros - to collect the views of local residents. Ros has worked hard to engage the community, organise community events and support the Big Local Co-ordinator, using a variety of different tools, techniques and channels. Here are just some of those:

Annual surveys of residents - establishing their thoughts on what's good and what needs improvement.

Articles in South Tyneside Homes Newsletter - disseminated to residents of Joseph Collins House.

Our Big Local Central Jarrow Facebook page - followed by almost 1,200 people. Used to share information and network.

On-site engagement and information dissemination at organised events - including Jarrow Festival, Picnic in the Park, Mental Health Awareness Day, Science Buddies and more.

Visits to local cafes, pubs and shops - talking to patrons of these establishments and disseminating information such as posters and leaflets about Big Local.

An email contact list - used to disseminate information.

Telephone calls - to local organisations and residents.

Delivery of our Big Local Magazine/Annual Report - on an annual basis to all households in the area.

YouTube videos - publicising what we've done, we have a compilation of videos highlighting our work.

School and Children's Centre visits - asking children and young people for their thoughts about Jarrow. Giving children 'what's on' leaflets to take home to their parents.

Visits to local community groups - the History Group, Pins and Needles, Queen's Road, coffee morning at Joseph Collins House, toddler groups and more.

Leaflets and fliers - distributed to local tower blocks of flats.

DWP at Jarrow Job Centre visits - giving out information and collecting feedback from users.

Zoom coffee mornings - particularly useful in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The information we've collected has been used to inform and shape delivery as Big Local progressed.

A Few Words from Our Community Development Worker - Ros



Ros - a resident of Jarrow herself - has used a combination of engagement methods - both face to face and online - to get people involved, and to find out their views.

"Everything that we organise, we collect feedback information about.

Sometimes feedback is anecdotal or ad hoc ... people will ring the Big Local entrance buzzer and say can you tell us about what's going on and about Big Local. There's a lot of word of mouth...people will hear from other people about what we have on and what we're doing. People will even stop me in Morrison's and have a chat!

I love working with people. It's satisfying that people have got involved in activities and that we've been able to support them doing that. We can signpost people to other services and give them advice. We've met some really talented people and have encouraged them to take part in things. It's been lovely to see people trying something new and creating and producing things. We've given people opportunities which they might not have had. People gain confidence and self-esteem. We also act as an informal, listening ear and have built up so much trust in the community.

Every year there is a Big Local Connect event - we went there with some local residents and the people there had heard all about Jarrow, which was really nice.



Communication Impact

Awareness of Big Local Central Jarrow

Our most recent (2022) survey showed that **1 in every 3 residents in Central Jarrow have heard of Big Local Central Jarrow**, with a similar percentage having taken part in at least one activity or event organised by us.

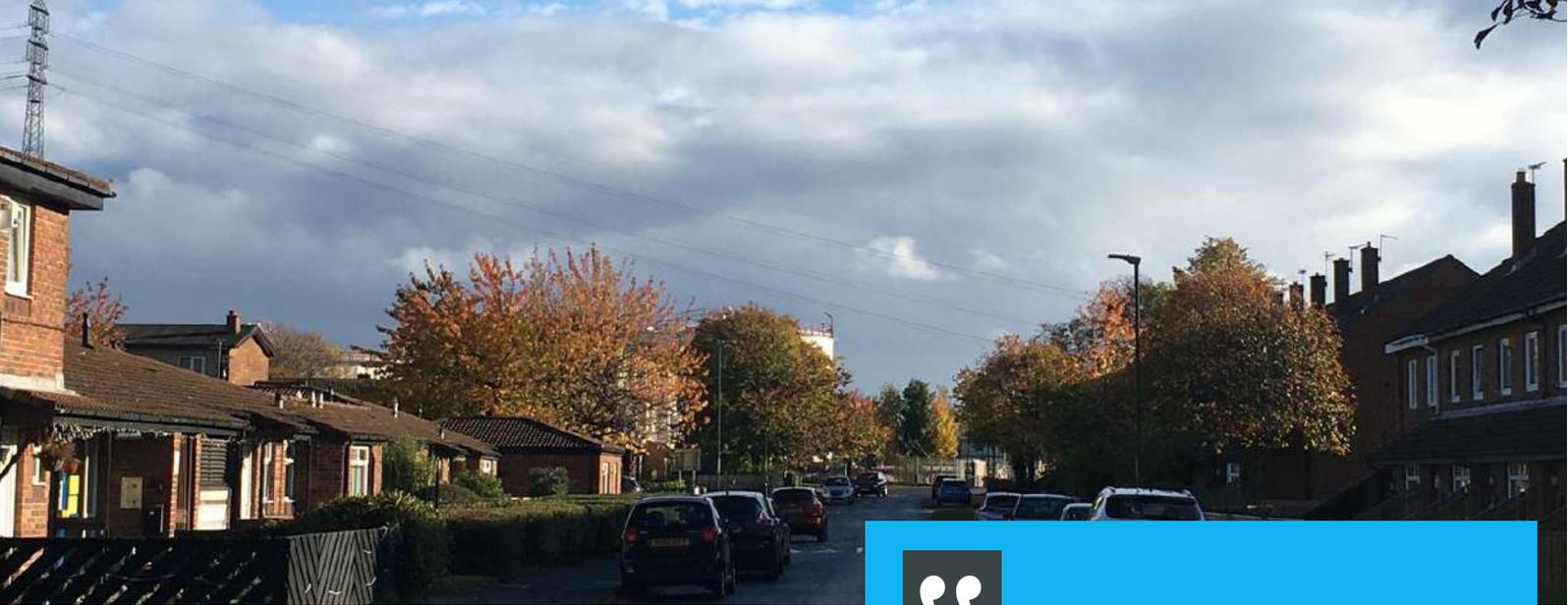


33%
of residents
have heard of
Big Local Central
Jarrow

29%
of residents
have taken part in
activities/services
organised by
Big Local Central Jarrow



Over 4,000
attendances at
our community
base events
in a typical year



Our Big Local Magazine

Since 2014, we've produced our Big Local Central Jarrow magazine which was delivered to every household in the area every four months in the early years of Big Local.

To keep costs down and route more money into local projects, we moved to an annual distribution. Magazines were also available at our central hub base and in local churches.



"It's good to hear about what's happening and to find out about events".

"It's very informative and great to see what's going on locally...".

"I recognised the people on the front cover".

Central Jarrow Residents



The collage features several magazine covers and a large vertical graphic. On the left, a yellow cover asks 'WHAT IS DIGITAL INCLUSION?' and discusses digital skills. Next to it is a pink cover for the 'PEER MENTOR PROJECT WITH BRIGHT FUTURES', highlighting support for young mums. The central cover is the 'ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22' for 'JARRROW', featuring a group of people in a garden. A large vertical graphic in the center reads 'CONNECT'. At the bottom, there are smaller covers for 'COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES' and 'LANDSCAPE & GARDENING PROJECT'. Logos for 'Local Trust | Big Local' and 'COMMUNITY FUND' are visible at the top left.

Despite limiting distribution to just once a year, our most recent survey showed that around **28% of residents had seen our magazine.**

What We Spent

We wanted to get maximum value from the funding we had been given!



An Overview of What We Spent

Since we began, we've spent just under £1 million of funding.



	2014	2015	2016-2017	2018-2019	2020-2021	2022	Total
Communities/ Communication /WellBeing & Economy	34,352	31,981	154,029	114,184	65,497	60,066	460,109
Children & Young People	22,500	30,000	60,000	70,000	36,000	36,000	254,500
Community Events	-	3,000	5,703	16,731	-	2,000	27,434
Environment	30,000	30,000	30,000	52,600	13,000	-	155,600
Community Grants	-	10,000	12,180	10,330	3,054	3,000	38,564
Legacy Project						10,000	10,000
TOTALS	86,852	104,981	261,912	263,845	117,551	111,066	946,207

Our Reflections

Our Partnership Board Members - who have constantly helped to guide and shape our work - have also reflected on the work of Big Local Central Jarrow over the years.



What we've strived to do

- ✓ We've **tapped into local expertise** to get the most efficient return on our funding.
- ✓ We've **shone a light on** - and **given opportunities** to - **local service providers** to deliver the kinds of services and programmes that **resident priorities** identified.
- ✓ **We've made a difference** to local, community groups and local businesses and organisations - who've been able to **progress with confidence and funding**.
- ✓ We've helped to build **pride** in the community - with a number of physical improvements - elevating perceptions of the area.
- ✓ We've built **trusting relationships** in and with the community, with connectivity and strong partnerships.



"Being able to give continued funding and support to organisations like the YMCA enabled an important continuity to services being delivered".

Partnership Board Member



- ✓ We've ensured **inclusivity** and continually **collected feedback** from the community about **what they felt was needed** and **how we have performed**.
- ✓ We've **provided support** to community organisations who have in turn provided valuable support to members of the community.
- ✓ We've **strengthened links between organisations**, encouraged **collaborative working** and helped to **create new links**.
- ✓ We've helped **bring together community members** from different generations.

What we've strived to do

- ✓ We've constantly ensured that we've **worked to the underlined priorities of residents** - many of which overlapped.
- ✓ We've been **fluid in our delivery** - ensuring that we responded to changing resident needs.
- ✓ We've provided **free, safe space** for our community and our local entrepreneurs.
- ✓ We've ensured **accountability**.
- ✓ We've **encouraged Partnership Board membership** and worked together **harmoniously** for the good of Central Jarrow.
- ✓ Young people tell us that their **aspirations have been raised** - and they now have a **more positive outlook**.
- ✓ We've supported the development of **social enterprise in the area**, benefitting residents and **encouraging sustainability** beyond Big Local.



"We learned that the smallest gestures can make the biggest difference".

"Being on the Partnership Board helped me develop my own personal and professional skills".

Partnership Board Members



And a Few Words from Some of Our Individual Partnership Board Members...

We're **really grateful** and would like to say **thanks** to all of our Partnership Board Members who have helped to guide and shape our work.

Roy

Roy has been with Big Local Central Jarrow since it began. Roy is a previous Chair of the Board:

"One of the best things we did in Big Local was getting excellent staff in place in the early days, to help co-ordinate the project and to consult with residents.

I think Big Local has made a big difference...we invested in people...helping them to transform their lives. It was exciting to see us meeting objectives and getting things done. I very much hope that our legacy will live on in the form of a Community Interest Company which is in the process of being set up.

Personally, I gained new friendships as a result of Big Local".



John and Meg have been with Big Local for almost three years.

"We got involved with Big Local soon after it started and became Board Members to help improve/ make a difference to the area.

We've taken part in lots of different activities like ceramics, glass cutting and IT classes. We were able to find out about everything that's going on in Jarrow.

We hope it won't end in March and that something will continue as it's been really good. It needs to keep going".

John & Meg

And a Few Words From Our Youngest Partnership Board Members!

Our youngest Board Members are Grace (17) and Kayla (16). Both live in Central Jarrow and have been friends for many years. They joined the Partnership Board when they were just 12 and 13, after they had been attending the YMCA Youth sessions.

Grace

“We knew that us being there would open up a different perspective to the older people on the Board. We knew that some people in Jarrow had a poor opinion of young people and we wanted to show them that we are not bad and we can help and look after our community. We also knew that being on the Board would be an opportunity that not many young people would get and we were very grateful for that. When we first went, everyone was very welcoming. We went every month and even when Covid hit we still attended virtually. We were able to show the Board and the community that we have done supportive things in the area. Anne made the Board interesting and fun for us. It's a great thing for us to be able to show people when we get older.

When Big Local finishes we know that we've done as much as we can. We've provided so many opportunities for people and we hope the legacy is carried on”.



Kayla

“At the first Board Meeting I knew that everybody there would be a lot older and a lot more experienced than me. However, as nervous as I was, I also knew I would make a difference for the other young people in the area.

The Big Local meetings give me insight into what's happening behind closed doors. As a young person I never understood where the money for the activities at YMCA or other groups actually came from. I also get information and input about task groups to help improve our area. It's a whole new adventure to be able to be part of such a big project which has such an impact on the entire community.

Grace and I bring a new perspective to our meetings. When discussing the young people prior to our presence, the other members may not have understood the needs of the youth in the area. Now, Grace and I act as advocates for all of the young people. The whole environment is so welcoming. I've got to know some of the other members and I know that they all accepted both me and Grace with open arms, willing to make changes for the good of the community. Now, I go into the meetings looking forward to see what other improvements we can make that day and any updates on previous projects”.

Returning to Our Legacy Statement...

***“We will celebrate our proud past.
We will support our present communities.***

***We will strive to deliver our future Jarrow - a
great place for residents to live, work and enjoy”.***

As we come towards the end of the Big Local Project we hope to leave behind an Incorporated Group – made up of residents and community groups - to continue to support and connect people in the area and provide a place to meet and support new and emerging social enterprise.

The greatest legacy we will leave is the help, encouragement and equipment we have given people on an individual, group and community level. Residents and groups have been given a voice and have been supported to develop skills and expertise to address some of those needs and support them beyond the end of the Big Local programme. The Project has also allowed us to be creative and to think outside the box, to try things and to change the way things have been done.

In short - we created a movement!

We upskilled local people and built confidence to continue to identify and respond to needs in the future. We aimed to have inspired sufficient people to take this forward, and, while there is no guarantee of this, nor of being able to access funding, we are hopeful!

In the words of a leading coach, author and speaker - *Terrie Davoll Hudson*:

***“Deposit your best in people, not your bank
account, to leave a legacy that counts...”.***

Thank YOU!

**For all your support, ideas, trust and belief
in Big Local Central Jarrow.**



We'd like to say...

... a really big thank you to all those who were so important in helping us along the way:

- Amazon Hebburn Base
- Auxillia Youth Services
- Barbour Foundation and Tesco's
- Basic Income Conversation
- Bede Calligraphy and Art Group
- Bright Futures
- Change 4 Life Partnership
- Churches
- Cultural Spring
- Even Better
- Food banks
- Food for Thought Pantry
- Friends of West Park Jarrow
- Goodthings Foundation
- Groundwork South & North Tyneside
- Inspire South Tyneside
- Jarrow and Hebburn Local History Society
- Jarrow Civic Hall
- Jarrow Community Choir
- Jarrow DWP
- Jarrow Festival Committee
- Jarrow Focus
- Jarrow Hall
- Jarrow Library
- Jarrow Sea Cadets
- Jean's Hairdressing Salon Jarrow Focus
- Kind Mind Community
- Little and Loud
- Local Councillors
- Local Groups
- Local Trust
- Morrisons Jarrow
- Other Big Locals
- Police Community Engagement Team
- Queens Road Day Centre
- Residential homes
- Residents
- Schools, Nurseries & Children's Ctre's
- Social Enterprises
- South Tyneside Council
- South Tyneside Homes
- Sports Development Team
- Starting Point Stockport
- The Alberta Social Club
- Third Sector Organisations
- Tyneside Mind
- Universities
- UnLtd
- Viking Centre and local pubs
- WEA
- West Park Community Group
- Williby Rocs
- Workshop leaders
- YMCA North Tyneside

Together, we inspired people, increased wellbeing, strengthened community cohesion, raised community spirit, improved employability, increased social connection and...

...listened to, served and empowered the Central Jarrow community!

We made a difference.



**Thank you all...for being
a part of the journey.**

We loved every minute.

Local Trust | Big Local

