Community Projects Team

Lancashire County Council's Community Projects team use their skills and experience to work with the people of Lancashire to support projects to strengthen communities and improve wellbeing.

Project Activity 2017/18

42 projects supported, with a value of over £633,137

An additional £9.33 raised for each £1 invested by the Community Projects Team.

The total Lancashire County Council spend on projects supported in 2017/18 was £61,299. These projects attracted £571,838 from external funding sources. Additional funds were secured from both public and private sources such as Lancashire Environmental Fund, lottery programmes, local councils, charities, businesses and group fundraising. In addition many volunteers contributed their time to delivering these projects.

What support does the team offer to projects?

- Feasibility studies and project scoping
- Public consultation
- Preparation of briefs for architects and landscape architects
- Preparation of business cases
- Fundraising and grant applications
- Liaising with contractors
- Liaising with other LCC services and commissions.
- Monitoring & Evaluation Support
- Assisting with the implementation of robust financial systems
- Critical Friend
- Technical Support

CASE STUDY: ACTION FOR DEMENTIA
Total project cost £650

Action for Dementia are a Hyndburn based dementia charity with the aim of raising awareness of dementia and it's impacts on affected people and families and to strive to improve the care and quality of life for people living with dementia. As well as being pro-active members of the Hyndburn Dementia Alliance, Action for Dementia also have links with local GPs, one of which is a trustee of the charity.

Services offered by Action for Dementia include advising and signposting both sufferers of dementia and their carers, running awareness raising sessions, providing dementia information and facilitating Memory Catcher life story projects

The Community Project team were approached for assistance to help put on a series of Memory Catcher life story projects in Clayton-le-Moors. The sessions ran for 5 weeks during February and March 2018 and offered individuals, relatives and carers the opportunity to work together with facilitators to capture memories and experiences and record them in a keepsake book which can be used by family members and carers in years to come. The sessions can be a valuable, meaningful, stimulating, and fun activity for people living with dementia and importantly, their carers

CASE STUDY: CHERRY FOLD SCHOOL MEDIATION
Total project cost £3,500

A governor from the school raised concern that conflict in the playground was spilling over into the classroom and that training in mediation could possibly assist the school in managing pupil behaviour.

Liaising with Smile the mediation provider, the head teacher and the governor we developed a plan and agreed how the project could be managed to ensure long term changes to pupil behaviour. As Smile was keen to see if this could be rolled out to other schools, we designed it as an action research pilot to ensure the project is properly designed and evaluated so that further funding for other schools in East Lancashire could be sought. We intend to support the project to reach further schools through promotion to local schools and seeking funding from national funding sources.

The Head teacher is thrilled with the outcomes and intends to find the funding from her own budget for continuation. "Kids are now solving each other's problems, anticipating issues arising, appreciating help and listening respectfully to one another" she said at the first evaluation meeting.

What kinds of projects were supported?

The team supports a wide array of projects, with a wide range of groups. These include:

- Projects to support Health & Wellbeing, particularly where they are led by local community members
- Improvements to green spaces, particularly in urban areas
- Food-growing and healthy eating projects
- Improvements to community buildings, and support to community asset transfer projects.
- Training and development support.

The team works with a variety of partners including local residents associations, groups working with people with disabilities, local businesses, parish councils, groups working with people recovering from addiction.
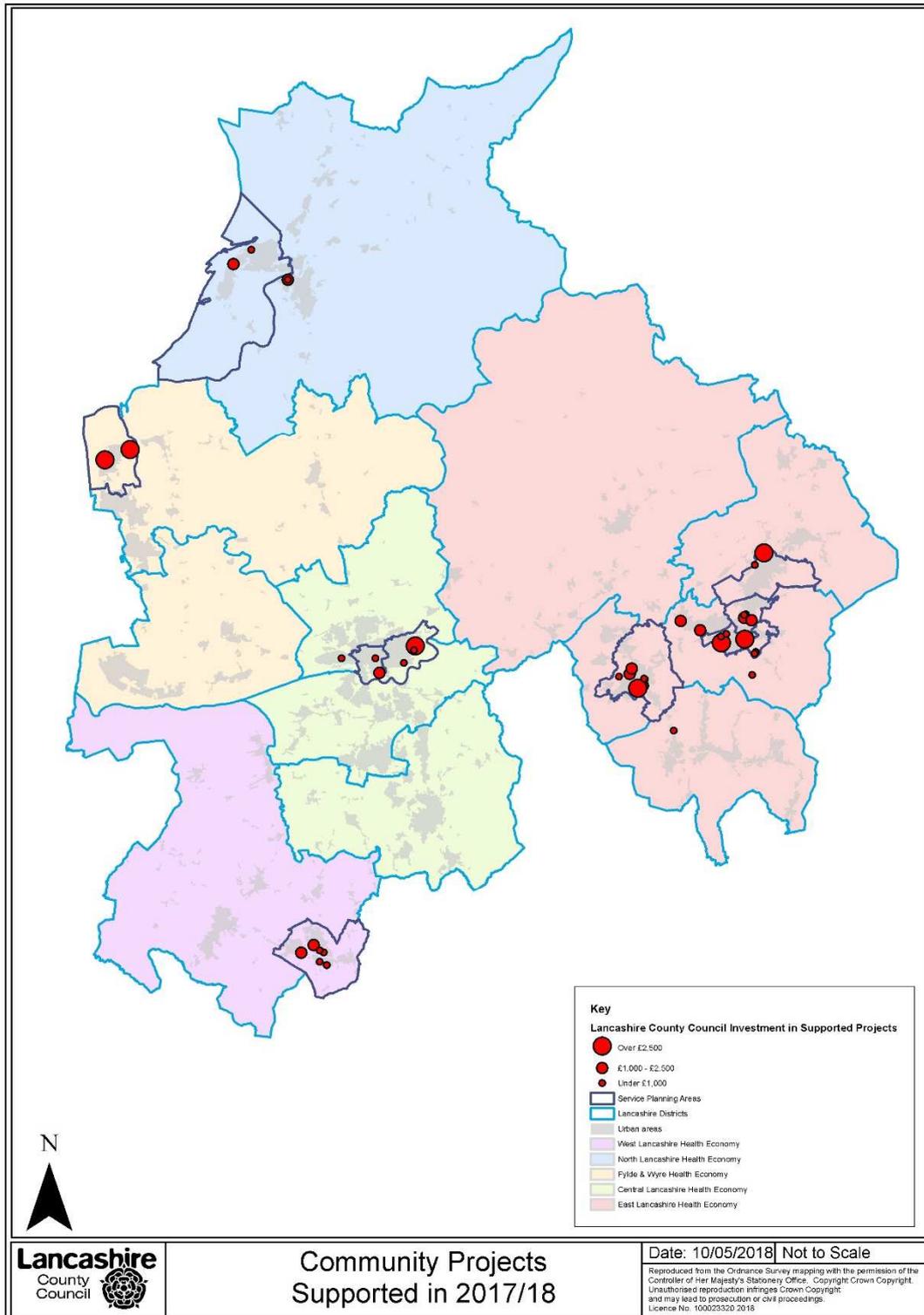
The team takes an asset based approach looking to build on the existing strengths of the community.

Key Performance Indicators

A project evaluation form has been sent out to all of the projects that have been supported during the 2017/18 year, 100% of all responses stated that they received all of the required support from the team.

Where are these projects?

The projects that the team delivers spread right across the county. The map reflects the team's shifting emphasis from being mainly responsive to requests for assistance to a more targeted approach where we have a much greater presence in areas of the highest need.

Community Projects
Supported in 2017/18

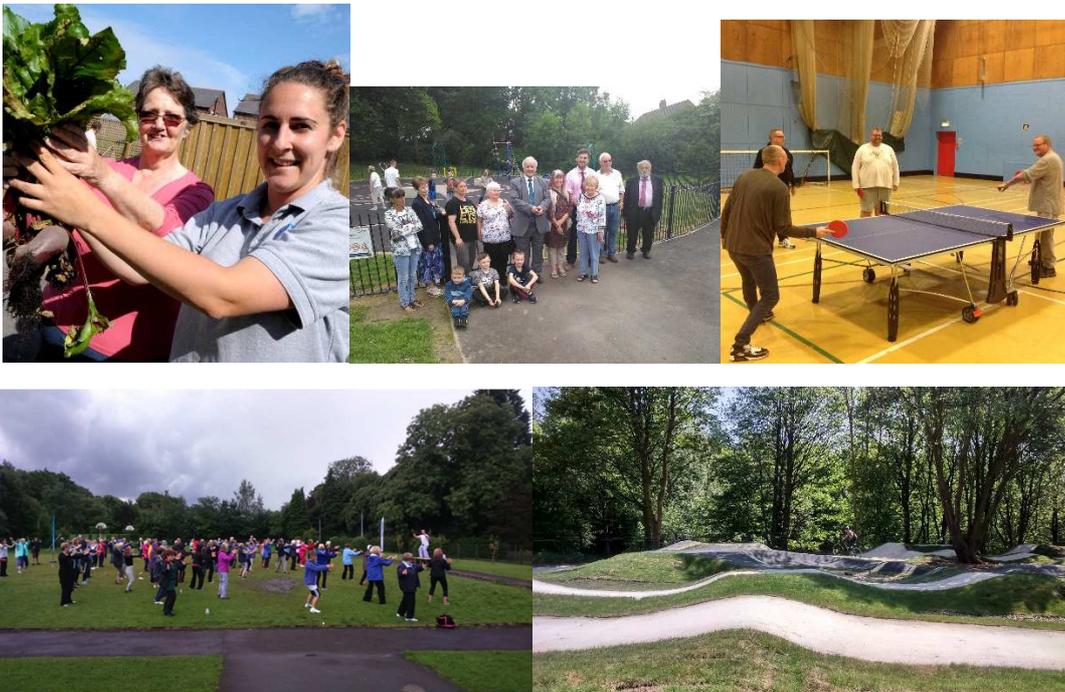**Comments from partners we have supported**

Foxton Centre - *I was particularly pleased with the trust that was given to us by the team to deliver the project.*

Victoria Park, Nelson – *[the experience of working with the team] was excellent and so helpful*

Woodnook Centre - *the meetings we had, the advice given, and the support was brilliant*

The Seedlings - *I have always found the Community Projects Team very helpful and supportive, and couldn't ask to work alongside such nice knowledgeable people. They take a real interest in your project and assist you from the start to the end!*

Pyramid Christmas Lunch Project Burnley – [*the team] is always very helpful and supportive of the work we do within Community Restart*.

A selection of photographs from some of the projects the Community Projects have supported this year

For more information about the team, a copy of the longer version of this report or details of any of the team's projects please contact: projectsteam@lancashire.gov.uk or

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Or visit us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/LancsECP