Name of meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
Date:13/09/2022
Title of report: Kirklees Community Anchor Network Development

Purpose of report:
The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress to date, describe the activity undertaken and share some of the emerging learning from the Community Anchor Network.

As part of our work on closer integration between health and social care, we developed a model that brings together the Primary Care Networks (PCNs), the Council and the Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise (VCSE) to develop local support arrangements to promote independence, health, and wellbeing for people living in Kirklees.

During the pandemic Community Anchors provided a vital role in strengthening and supporting our Kirklees wide community response offer. This work highlighted the impact that strong community networks can have in supporting the people of Kirklees.

As a result, a new contract was developed to strengthen the VCS network Kirklees wide. This was approved by cabinet on 27th July 2021 allowing a grant distribution of £360,000over a two-year period and commenced on the 1st of September 2021 with a robust VCSE led selection process to identify the key lead Anchors across Kirklees with them commencing work in communities from the 1st of October 2021.

Following the identification of the lead Anchors the network was strengthened by the addition of Local Anchors growing from 4 in October 2021 to 10 in July 2022.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	N/A
Key Decision - Is it in the **Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?**	N/A Private Report/Private Appendix – No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	N/A
Date signed off by **Strategic Director** & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Jill Greenfield 1/9/22 N/A N/A
Cabinet member **portfolio**	Cllr M Khan (Health & Social Care) Cllr Paul Davies (Corporate) Cllr Carole Pattison (Communities) Cllr C Scott (Deputy Leader Housing & Democracy)

Electoral wards affected: All Kirklees wards
Ward councillors consulted: Portfolio Holders Cllr M Khan, Cllr P Davies Cllr Pattison and Cllr Scott paper presented to cabinet on **27/07/2021.** Cllr E Smaje consulted on 17/08/2022 and 26/08/2022.
Public or private: Public
Has GDPR been considered? Yes. Does not include personal data that identifies a living individual.

1. **Summary**

   Kirklees Council aims to help residents to live full, healthy lives in thriving communities. The [Shaped by People](#), [Independent](#) and [Well](#) Council priorities make this clear, as does the commitment to a working partnership with the third sector to develop a strong, effective, sustainable and independent network of community and voluntary organisations. These networks also provide a large support to facilitating the councils work around [loneliness and isolation.](#)

   The Community Anchor Network Development project provides funds to "…*establish and maintain a strong network infrastructure of existing and new place-based anchor organisations to build flexible, resilient community capacity.*" The aim is to develop a network of established local third sector organisations who can enable the development and sustainability of community groups and activities which support health and wellbeing.

   The project is currently funded till March 2023.

2. **Background**

   Through the below aims the Anchor Network are supporting Kirklees to achieve the 5 inclusive approaches set out in the Inclusive Communities Framework. We are placing trust in our communities to form connections, identify gaps in community led provision and to form partnerships and support networks to help fill these gaps.

   The focus of the work is on relationship building and information sharing rather than specific target driven outcomes, however the work does achieve positive outcomes, supported by rich community stories.

   Anchors help community organisations to Get Support, Connect and Unite. These are the aims the Anchors have formed with their community partners to best facilitate support in their communities:

   1. Ensure Anchor organisations have the capacity and systems to deliver Anchor work.

      ● Help to build a network of community anchor organisations that work effectively together across Kirklees.

   2. Build relationships between Anchors and local community organisers.

      ● Listen to community organisers and understand their concerns and priorities.

      ● Understand community needs and opportunities.

   3. Bring community organisers together to share information and ideas and to build trust.

      ● Help community organisers to understand and support each other.

      ● Encourage them to work together.

4. Provide information, connections and support to community organisers and organisations.

- Help organisations to grow and develop, to be inclusive and to make a difference in their community.

- Help them to share learning and successes.

5. Enable community organisers to engage effectively with local decision makers and key partners

- Ensure good links with social prescribing services

- Encourage community organisations and partners to work together.

- Help community organisers to share views, learning and priorities from their community and organisations, and to influence decision making affecting their community

Notes & definitions

- TSL Kirklees will identify and support existing established third sector organisations to take on the Community Anchor role. TSL Kirklees will manage and coordinate the development of Anchors and the Network.

- Community organisers are the people who are involved in organising activities or groups or who are involved in leading community and voluntary organisations, as paid or unpaid workers. They may be involved in one project or many and may be experienced or new to the role.

- Community forums, network meetings and events can help bring people together to build trust, share information and work together. They may include local decision makers or not.

- Community organisations may be small unincorporated associations, charities or any other structure which is primarily for social benefit and not private profit.

- Key partners include public sector services, particularly Community Plus, the Council's Third Sector Team and Social Prescribing Services. It also includes TSL Kirklees, other third sector organisations and partnerships, funders and private sector organisations.

- Some activities may contribute to several aims. For example, a meeting of community organisers and partners to identify local priorities, might contribute to aims 2, 3 and 5.

Current Position

The Community Anchor Network is established and functioning well. Relationships and systems continue to develop.
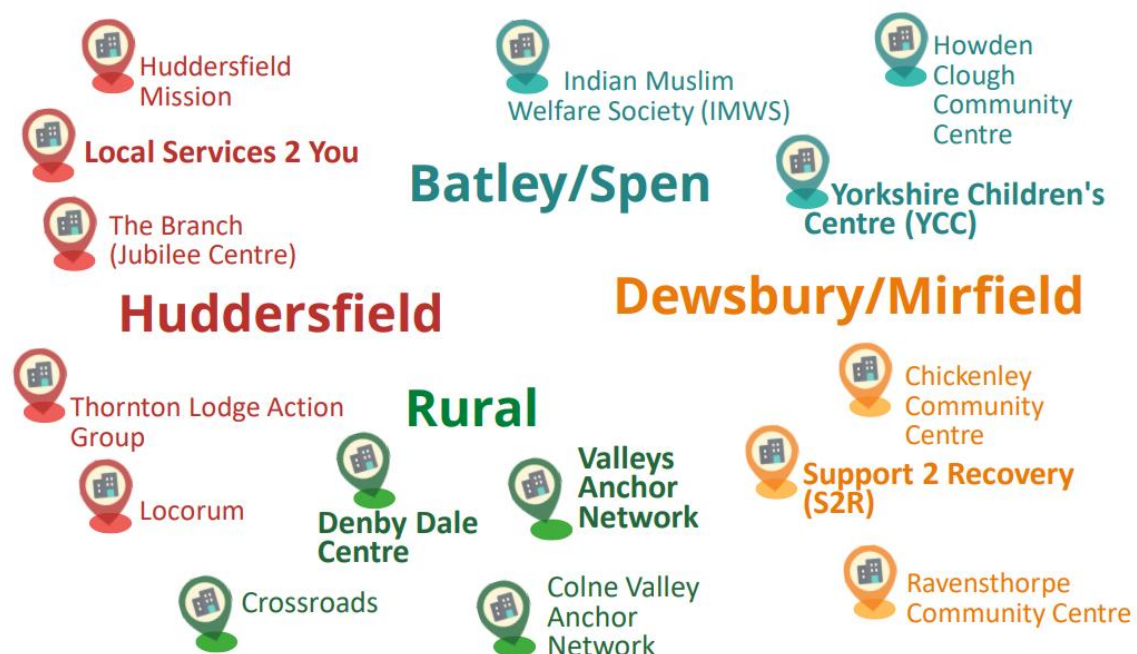
This is a developmental project, helping to build the resilience, capacity and responsiveness of communities across Kirklees. A key aim is to sustain existing community activity and organisations which have faced disruption and challenge in the last two years and continue to work in uncertain and demanding circumstances.

- Prior to the contract commencing there were 9 Anchor organisations already established that had supported the work though the pandemic. Learning from this model showed us how a much more hyper local offer was critical in the development of the new Anchor

roles. Organisations that are just working to support others in the same localities have a much greater understanding of the local needs.

- As a result of this learning a new model to establish 4 lead Anchors with multiple local Anchors was developed. This model allows the Anchor Network to have a great reach into all communities.
- The contract started in August 2021 with initial mobilisation and communication. In October, all lead Anchor organisations were established and some Local Anchors. Anchors work was funded from October 2021 and the first quarterly reports were for the Oct-Dec 2021 period.
- Fifteen Community Anchor organisations are now funded by the project (see below). There is one Lead Anchor taking a coordination role in each of the four areas of Kirklees – Rural, Dewsbury/Mirfield, Batley/Spen and Huddersfield.

The Community Anchor Network

Huddersfield Mission
Local Services 2 You
The Branch (Jubilee Centre)

Indian Muslim Welfare Society (IMWS)

Howden Clough Community Centre
Yorkshire Children's Centre (YCC)

Batley/Spen

Huddersfield

Dewsbury/Mirfield

Thornton Lodge Action Group
Locorum

Rural

Denby Dale Centre
Crossroads

Valleys Anchor Network
Colne Valley Anchor Network

Chickenley Community Centre
Support 2 Recovery (S2R)
Ravensthorpe Community Centre

- Anchors were selected through an open process with expressions of interest being considered by a panel including public and third sector members. Further development work has added anchor organisations in Rural, Spen and Dewsbury.
- Those selected as Anchors are required to be registered with the Council's GAP process to ensure all required policies and systems are in place. Lead Anchors are required to meet the highest standard of a GAP score of 5. Local Anchors must achieve a GAP score of 3.
- Community Anchor Network Meetings take place monthly (for Lead Anchors) and quarterly for all Anchors. In each of the four localities, Local Anchors meet more regularly. Anchors have also come together for training and development sessions.
- Community Anchors and TSL Kirklees working together have established community forums and other network meetings, bringing together community & voluntary organisations. Public sector colleagues often attend these meetings and events to allow greater information sharing.
- Community Anchors work closely with Social Prescribing managers and link workers, sharing information about community activities and gaps.

- Community Anchors provide practical and information support to community groups, voluntary organisations and individuals looking to start new activities or groups. They work with the Council's Third Sector and Active Citizen Teams to join up support where peer support might be more appropriate or beneficial to the group or organisation.

In summary, good progress has been made in establishing the network, systems and relationships. This has allowed them to quickly become a recognised in their local area by health services and other local partners.eg by local GPs

Contract Monitoring

Anchors were required to provide a high-level forward plan for the entire contract on which they report against quarterly. This plan allows for flexibility to support unforeseen circumstances e.g., Community transport support to Ukraine refugees

Grants are paid out of the funding provided though NHS contracts to the Anchors on a quarterly basis once monitoring reports have been signed off, including financial spend monitoring. These are monitored by Mags Rogerson and Noreen Abbas

Key points from reporting to date include:

- Over three hundred community and voluntary organisations or groups have been engaged in the Community Anchor network. Some have had considerable support with funding applications, policy development, providing space for activities or other assistance. Others have taken part in forums and network meetings, training or events. However, Anchors are not primarily about engaging the public, they are focused on engaging voluntary organisations and community groups. TSL Kirklees and the Anchors have worked together to run a series of events for those involved in voluntary and community organisations. These events are promoted as 'People Helping People' events, led by Community Anchors, and include time for networking as well as updates on funding opportunity, training and consultations. Some public sector colleagues attend too. People Helping People events have taken place in Meltham, Dewsbury, Denby Dale, Thornton Lodge and Batley – at least one event a month since March 2022, in community venues. Attendance is diverse and typically is 20-30 people. Future events and training is at: Find Free Training & Events - Third Sector Leaders Kirklees (tslkirklees.org.uk)
- Working in a co-productive way takes time as it is about building trusted relationships and reaching into hyper local and less formal networks Each community has its history, relationships, tensions and expectations that impact on any project or change. The Community Anchors are committed to working in an enabling, respectful way which values the contribution, knowledge and assets in every community.
- Anchors have helped community organisations to access many thousands of pounds of funding. Thornton Lodge Action Group has excelled at this, helping organisations access tens of thousands of pounds of European funding for an area with high levels of poverty and health needs.
- Many community groups rely on a few staff or volunteers, many of them elderly. The challenges of Covid, greater expectations on governance and management and financial pressures have led to a loss of key people, and especially volunteers, in the sector. Without Anchors some key community activities would have been lost, such as the long established Mirfield Over 50s Social Group which is sustained thanks to considerable work from S2R as a Community Anchor.
- Forums and network meetings which are genuinely inclusive and focused on community needs and links get good participation and feedback. Open public events on wellbeing

and other community concerns work well too. an example S2R ran an event in Mar for International Women's Day and attracted 52 residents. Other events have included a work and volunteering event at Ravensthorpe and a health & wellbeing event at Thornhill Lees. There have also been volunteer fairs across the Rural area.

Identifying Gaps

Examples of gaps currently identified thought the Anchor Network

Social isolation and loneliness – in people of all ages and abilities – continues to impact on health and wellbeing across Kirklees, particularly for those on low incomes or in communities with high levels of deprivation. Space and opportunity for informal, social connections, open to all, are needed for these activities. This Gap has been identified by all anchors

Community buildings are vital assets for community activity and when managed well by community groups enable communities to organise and respond to local needs and opportunities, building confidence, skills and supporting the local economy. New groups spend time setting up organisations and applying for grants in order to pay for community buildings hire. It would save time and release energy for the things that make a difference to people's health if we could find a way to fund community buildings to provide some free space for community activities that meet local needs.

There are both **gaps and duplication** across the whole system – that is, health, Council and third sector functions working with communities and community organisations around health. Anchors report that community organisations find it confusing to get offers of support from Council staff, TSL Kirklees and Community Anchors. Sometimes they ask everyone for help with the same issues.

Few voluntary and community organisations have highly developed i**nformation systems**. These require considerable investment and development, which is only possible with stability and long-term, adequate funding. As a result, analysis and evaluation relies on narrative and skilled, experienced staff perception and reporting is time consuming and not as data rich as it could be. Anchors have discussed how to improve data collection, referrals between organisations, case management in support of organisations and analysis of reach and impact.

Volunteers willing to take on trustee roles and other responsible positions are in short supply. We need to find ways to build confidence and make the work less onerous in these roles. Some organisations have run successful trustee recruitment campaigns and we need to learn from these.

Positive Result Examples:

Sustaining existing activity- S2R provided a significant amount of support to the Mirfield Over Fifties Social Group. This group collected membership fees from 60 members, often socially isolated without the group's activities.

The group encouraged regular attendance at social events with entertainment and activities. It was highly valued by Mirfield people, particularly a group of over 70's.

During lockdown the group stopped and when it started up again it became clear that one person had been doing all the membership work, communication and arranging activities. A small committee supported decision making.

The organiser decided they didn't want to continue as it was all too much and no-one on the committee could take it on. S2R provided support to keep activities going and helped them consider options. New organisers and committee members were sought.

After several weeks the committee and organiser decided to close the community organisation, to the dismay of regular attenders of activities.

S2R have taken up the organising of regular meetings and activities to keep it going and are supporting volunteers to gradually take on responsibility and rebuild.

Without S2R many older people in Mirfield would have lost a valuable social and community activity.

Building relationships and networks - This is a key role for Community Anchors, as it is only when we build trust and understanding in each other that we can work together well in communities. In Batley & Spen, Yorkshire Children's Centre facilitates 'Our Community Forum' with a membership of over 60 people involved in community groups and organisations. Regular online meetings help share information, build trust and encourage those involved to work together and support each other.

In the Valleys, the Colne Valley Anchor Network is a partnership of Marsden Community Trust, Crossroads and Pride in Linthwaite – a new partnership that aims to support community groups and activity and have been involved in the community response to Ukrainian refugees.

In Denby Dale and Kirkburton, Ravensthorpe, Thornhill Lees, Deighton, Thornton Lodge and Dewsbury there have been community events organised by Anchors, bringing Council services and third sector organisations together.

New networks are developing – The Branch has brought together those running Parent and Toddler groups for mutual support and to share experience and ideas. Locorum has helped members of the Nigerian community come together to build trust and set up an organisation to research community needs.

The TSL Kirklees Community Anchor Network now has fifteen Anchors working together, meeting regularly.

A new network of those in the third sector responsible for data and information is starting in September: [TSL Kirklees Information, Data & Reporting Network Tickets, Tue 20 Sep 2022 at 12:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Anchors learning from each other - Anchors and TSL Kirklees meet regularly to share information, respond to changing circumstances and learn.

They have developed an agreed 'Purpose and Aims of Community Anchors' document which shapes all plans and reports. As new Anchors join the network, Anchors have shared their plans and budgets to help new Anchors get up to speed.

All contract management reports and notes are shared across the network, for transparency and learning. This includes case studies, where an Anchor gives an example of how it has worked with a community organisation to sustain and support community activity.

Many voluntary and community organisations do not have well developed data systems, as developing them requires stability and investment. Anchors have identified the need for a shared data and information system to evidence impact and enable collaboration.

Anchors are developing 'Locality Plans', created by listening to community organisations and finding common themes and priorities. The aim is to share these plans across the Anchor Network and with partners, to enhance understanding of community priorities.

Joining up Personalised Care, Council services and the third sector - Mondays and the Museum is organised by the Huddersfield Mission in their role as a Community Anchor. It is a programme of free, open to all, health and wellbeing activities at the Tolson Museum. Social Prescribing and Wellness service staff are available at the events, for appointments and drop-in sessions. Activities include:

· Baby Boutique
· Morning Stroll and walks for parents and children
· Big Drum Workshop
· Crafts and making, arts sessions
· Coach Parker (outdoor group exercise)
· Grow@Tolson - therapeutic growing & healthy cooking
· MAGIC (movement & games in chairs)
· 50 Things to Do Before You're Five
· Yoga for All
· Stop Smoking Drop In

Community Anchors are working closely with local charities and the Council to help refugees and asylum seekers to connect to community activities and networks.

Community Anchors and TSL Kirklees help voluntary and community organisations to apply for funding, including the Council's Do Something Now grant scheme and Members Ward budget grants.

Social Prescribing managers have been involved in key decisions including deciding which organisations will receive Community Anchor funding.

Open to All – to encourage community activities and groups to welcome diverse new people, TSL Kirklees and Community Anchors have developed the Open to All scheme. Organisations can register as Open to All by agreeing to be welcoming, publicising their activities and trying to meet access needs. TSL Kirklees provides small grants for signage, equipment, training or other support that can help groups reach out and provide a warm welcome. This supports social prescribing by reducing barriers for those new to groups.

Organisations make a public statement (a poster is being developed) about being welcoming to new people, including those coming through social prescribing, and can apply for a small amount of funding (a few hundred pounds) to help them be 'open to all' – such as leaflets or signage in languages other than English or promotion activity. They include:
- Pride in Linthwaite CIC
- SEN KIDS
- Team Hanson
- The Branch
- Waterloo Tenants & Residents
- Serendipity Creative Writers
- Pony Pals Equine Therapy CIC
- Yetton Together
- Yorkshire Community Development CIC
- We In Front
- Dalton Together
- Roberttown CC & P S
- Aspire Creating Communities

- Lindley FOCAL
- Honeyzz Diabetes Support Group
- LISAS
- Jamaica National Council Huddersfield

Locality Plans

About Community Anchor Locality Plans

A Locality Plan aims to capture the key concerns, hopes and issues from community organisations and provide comment and analysis by Community Anchor organisations. The Locality Plan aims to complement and add to, but not duplicate, the information and plans made by public sector services and strategic bodies. They support the direction of work the Anchor undertakes.

The locality plans are still in early stages of development and being reviewed for how useful they are in real time delivery at a neighbourhood level.

Workshops to engage with elected members are in development to support to enhances this plan with their rich local knowledge.

The Community Anchor Locality Plans are developed by listening to those involved in community organisations and groups and working with them to identify the priorities and changes they would like to see in their community.

Because each locality is large (there are only four across Kirklees) they include many different communities. Plans may include issues or opportunities which are important for a particular community - an area or a community of interest - but are not important for others.

Locality plans will be managed by Community Anchors and shared widely.

The list of community organisations and description of how they have been involved, provides transparency about how the plan was developed. Contact the Lead Community Anchor to help fill in gaps or find out more about listed organisations.

The plan may include quotes, photos or documents to help to illustrate and evidence local concerns. Personal identifiable information will not be included unless explicit written consent has been obtained.

3. **Officer Recommendation**

   The Committee is asked to note the update in respect of the Community Anchor Network.

4. **Contact officer**

   Mags Rogerson, Service Manager Personalised Care – mags.rogerson@kirklees.gov.uk
   01484 221000

5. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**

   Background papers (the Tender Specification) are attached as an Appendix to this report.

6. **Service Director responsible**

   Jill Greenfield, Service Director Customer and Communities Integration

Appendix A – Example Locality Plans North and South

Introduction

In April 2022, we are piloting Locality Plans. These are developed by Community Anchor organisations listening to those involved in community organisations and groups and working with them to identify the priorities and changes they would like to see in their community. They may differ from strategic plans and priorities. For more details of Locality Plans and the TSL Kirklees Community Anchor Network, see the appendix.

Plan written by

Name: Paula Wood, Carmen Taylor (S2R) Inserts form Mr Aslam) RCCL) Paul Moor (CCH)
Organisation: S2R, RCCL and CCC
Contact details: carmen@s2r.org.uk   paula@s2r.org.uk

How was this plan developed? (Briefly describe any meetings, discussions, events or research)

The plan to date has been developed through a variety of Anchor action planning, consultation, meetings, community events, partnerships and fact-finding exercises during our work to build a local capacity community network in the Dewsbury and Mirfield district.

In April, Chickenley CC became our local Anchor organisation, along with S2R and RCCL, have developed this draft locality plan, that can be the foundation of a robust action plan in the coming months ahead.

S2R and Ravensthorpe CCL have undertaken a series of events, listened to local communities and provided support to groups and individuals in localities to assess the impact of pre-post pandemic and where the community feel they are now.

Chickenley CC have also recently been pro-active to find out what is happening and what has been lost and needed/wanted to bring back connectivity, continuity and a sense of community wellbeing.

Research and evidence from the CLik survey hi-lights areas of, - negative- clear relationship between deprivation and poorer health/wellbeing is evident throughout the data set.
 Positive - the general perception that people in the local area pull together to improve the local area has strengthened since 2016, with 55% of residents agree that their local area is a place where people trust each other.

The Anchor organisations want to build on this pull -together mindset for community self-resilience and a can-do attitude, enabling communities together to provide what is missing, inspire local aspirations and confidence to `*help local groups make great things happen*`

We also acknowledge the economic difficulties that exist and lay ahead, and how by working in partnership with local Cllrs, and services to bring a forward strategic set of actions to try and offset this worrying situation

Further learning and listening will be imbedded into the plan as local intelligence is gathered and groups input their information and idea moving forward.

List of community organisations, activities and groups contacted to develop this plan (not individuals' details or contact details. Contact Community Anchors to find out more)

Organisation, organiser or partner	Brief summary of work/contact (and any additional links or documents provided)
Partner Tamsin Mcdonald Kirklees	Find out about overlap with area coordination
Partner Mashuda shaikh Kirklees	Possible collaborations between cohesion team in Dewsbury and Mirfield (3 workers) who support groups
Partner Ryan Cross/Batley Anchor	Monthly catch ups regarding joint ventures and support with anchor forum ideas 2 Meetings regarding developing peer support between trustees/volunteers in the North with Third Sector Team This was changed due to TSL concerned over confusion with their buildings network on whats app and forthcoming meetings in May with building
Partner Andrew Dolman	Third sector team of Kirklees, discuss sharing intelligence and duplication/ working together
Dewsbury Wellbeing network (62 people)	24 organisations in attendance to present the anchor and what it means
Opportunities Centre Hannah, KAL	Stall to present the work of the anchor and engage with other services X3 Look at ways of meeting PCN health priorities
International Womens breakfast event RCC	10 organisations present to network with on the day including opportunities centre, TSL, community plus, RVS
West Yorkshire police	Made contact with west Yorkshire police to help find suitable contacts for community engagement events at Dewsbury soup
Partner Billy Tindle	Discuss roles and joint working, database from third sector of mapped community organisations shared and agreed. Discuss mapping and who to get intelligence from

	Discussions over the infrastructure of TLCC, governance and trustees and capacity Weekly catch up
Partner **Karen Wilby**	x 3 meetings regarding understanding social prescribers' role and how the anchor can support with connecting prescribers to activity for patients. Meeting new social prescriber Denum for Batley
Partner **Noel Whittaker**	Community plus worker for Dewsbury, discuss how roles overlap and support each other
Partner **Jackie Ingham** **Democracy and** **citizens service**	X 500 phone calls and emails X 2 place-based meetings to discuss anchor involvement X 2 meetings regarding listening to you Thornhill Lees and feedback X planning for Wellbeing network event
James McGill **Mark** **Wearmouth** **Lisa Waldron** **Wellness** **Manager** **Coms+** **Manager** Jo Boand PC manager	Serval meetings to discuss partner working and attending Anchor organised community events for information and signposting Look at how these key services can be imbedded into communities and provide better health outcomes To establish meetings with PCNs
Vicky **Strickland** **SPLW**	X2 Meetings about Mirfield social group, structure and continued support
Lyzette **Coms + team**	X2 Meetings and discussions about Mirfield social group, and coms+ involvement with Mirfield areas
Ravensthorpe **CC** **Team**	X 12 Regular Planned meetings of development of joint working /events/ outcomes/ impact/information gathering and working /partnership agreements
Chickenly CC **Paul Moor**	X2 Meetings to discuss becoming local Anchor, process, aims outcomes mentoring etc-
Mirfield Over **50s** **Social Group** **Susan Maycock** **Safer Kirklees**	X10 Weekly support to keep the group meeting, helping committee to carry out organisation and build in succession planning for new members, volunteers and committee members. Meetings to discuss outcomes of community safety survey, look at extending presence in some Anchor areas
ADHD support **group** **Corinne Hunter**	X4 meetings Provide regular check in meeting, information on local funding options pass on key contacts and new incentives
Thorn Hill Lees **CC**	X3 Meeting with Trustees to look at centre development plans and forge partnership with key services and TSL
Overthorpe **Nest**	X2 Meeting to discuss partnership working, development and capacity

Mirfield Community Centre	Meeting with trustee and manager to discuss activity at the centre, venue hire and gaps Donating centre goods and furniture to other groups from outbuilding Discussion over being involved in mental health awareness week Asked to be invited to a trustee meeting
St Marys CC Croft House CC	Looking to get GAP registered, marketing and development plans
Taleem Community Centre	X3 Meeting to see the centre and discuss any development needs or capacity issues Organise a volunteer engagement strategy, set up a meeting
Salfia Centre 20/20 PROJECT	Looking at joint working and development plans
Diamond Dazzlers	Meet at Dewsbury soup and PHP Batley organised a meeting to discuss aims of group and signpost to other possible help
Spenbougher Swimmers Volunteers Provide support 5-19 years Empathy group	X4 Meeting to see how we could support, sent over funding contacts Sport England and Kirklees Our Space X3 Meeting to discuss future development and holding session at THL
Creative Scene	Meetings to utilise building space for Anchor and how we can constructively work together
Ana, Every Body Active	X4 Working partnership and discuss future support developments for local areas
Connect Housing	X3 Meeting to utilise their premises as a contact and develop partnership work
Fr George Dewsbury Minster Salvation Army Zin Baptist Christ the King Savile Town and Ravensthorpe Mosques.	X3 Meeting to pass on information discuss how we can complement and work together
Paddock Trust Kirklees College Works Better teams	To establish better collaboration and joint community health events

JCP Out lookers NK Connect Housing Richmond Fellowship	

Community issues and priorities (A reminder: there are many perspectives in our communities. This aims to identify some key strengths, needs, opportunities that communities can work together on)

General comments

Within Kirklees, it has long been the perception by communities in the North especially Dewsbury area, that they have been left behind with regards infrastructure, amenities, opportunities, housing and social/recreational amenities. – *general comments from public engagement December 21*

We have however discovered a strong urge in some quarters to strengthen community capacity, and build levels of resilience, independence and innovation. But there are pockets on a local level of weariness and a sense of `we have heard it all before` In some areas there is a disparity of financial / economic situations ranging -between deprivation and uncertainty of the ability to cope with increasing cost of living for some – and relative comfortability and progression in others.

We also witness generational divides in all local communities, this could be faith, communication especially digital means, recreational/ social opportunities, and community expectations. Since the pandemic existing and new projects are struggling to attract new people who are new into areas. Age related social outlets are being highlighted as a priority, -Cradle to older citizens – isolation and lack of stimulation and general mental health and physical wellbeing have taken a knock in all areas.

The emergence of Kirklees community teams working in partnership with Anchors and key community leaders, in our view can support and strengthen links to priorities outcomes for community capacity and address needs but can create confusion amongst communities as there seems to be a certain overlapping in messaging of what Kirklees teams remit and specialisms are. There is a diverse range of services provided by the private, voluntary sector and local centres/ groups, that can be brought together and harnessed with an emerging network. There has been an eagerness to volunteer in some local areas, but for most community centres resource is limited, and operating costs are a feature and worry for most community provisions, this is an area in need of more development and resources if a true placed based community driven infrastructure can be maintained.

In the Dewsbury West area there is a growing mental and physical health priority, learning and other disabilities are also key health concerns, along with social isolation and loneliness. Antisocial behaviours are becoming more common such as knife and gun crime, drugs, binge drinking, and grooming are being raised in this community. The lack of sport activities in these areas could be one element pushing young people into crime and gang cultures. (General comments from RCCL)

The pandemic demonstrated the real value of 'community' and the strength of the third sector with groups having the ability to respond quickly to the needs of the community in what was unknown territory for everyone, with widespread fear and panic being prevalent in all communities. Many organisations began working together and diversifying the work they delivered. Volunteers were coming forward from all sections of the community and some groups became more resilient. The flip side is other organisations closed or did not manage to work through the pandemic. If the former approach could be harnessed in a more joined up way in conjunction with council services, it could create a powerful model that better

meets the needs of local communities, especially linked to health and wellbeing. (General comments Chickenely CCH)

The comments from RCC and CCC, bring together complexities of our communities, presenting social and health issues but also with the willingness to respond to situations for the good of their community. S2R has witness both sides of these dynamics in all areas/ communities of Dewsbury and Mirfield. The key issue is how in some areas to elevate the positive aspect and dispel the more negative trends that are genuine concerns.

Strengths, assets and opportunities

Strengths/Opportunities
Partnerships working has been successful, all Kirklees community services and SPLW, along with other voluntary partners, TSL, centres, local groups. Council support and resources for placed based working has generated opportunities to pull strands together, and the boundaries between council/ voluntary and community groups are shifting towards a more cohesive approach of empowerment to communities rather than a ` doing to` mentality within some quarters, but there is still development to be undertaken if the community is to fully feel empowered and in control of their localities and be decision makers .We need to grasp the current shift to provide the tools to enable communities to flourish their initiatives and provide good foundations for sustainability.

Recent community mapping and networking have given opportunity for shared experiences and identify common themes, linking centres, projects, groups, together-monthly meetings are now a key feature across thew Dewsbury and Mirfield areas, common themes and trends seem to be economic driven as centres struggle to meet growing overheads with trying to generate increased footfall of local residents' services being able to afford to hire and contribute to central costs. This has enables to pave the way for network and information events such as funding, training and development for groups or emerging activity interest ideas.

We have witnessed that some mutual aid groups now in a position to take the lead role to help and serve their community of interest.
More joint up approach with faith groups has been strengthened in the last few months and working well.
Dewsbury West ward Councillors are very active in supporting local environment activist and volunteers such as 'Ravensthorpe in Bloom'.
As an Anchor partner we have strengthen partnership working in Dewsbury and Mirfield.
(RCCL**)**
Community Building opportunities A number of community buildings in the Dewsbury area have closed – Options Centre (working with adults with learning disabilities), The Arena Centre (Kirklees owned facility for young people's

activities), Young Dewsbury operated from Dewsbury Town Hall. Other buildings used by small Tenants and Residents groups are currently under threat from lack of use/support. Existing centre's that remain have a mixed story with some flourishing and others struggling depending on levels of grant funding and financial sustainability planning developed by individual centres. That said, there are good cases of buildings that have been asset transferred to groups which can be used as examples of best practice. Better co-ordinatisation and deployment of some 'community' roles within Kirklees Council on a part time secondment type basis with clear objectives and outputs would be a practical way of supporting local assets/groups who are struggling. **(CCC)**

Assets/ support

The area has many community assets, but these are generally community resources in the way of singular localised activities. Requests for support are patchy but momentum is steadily growing, probably as we are uncurling after Covid and a complete shutdown of community facilities during the past two years, initiatives are starting to emerge.

The local groups in some areas are well-established hobby and interest groups that have managed to cling onto their identity after covid, we need to replicate these assets in order to generate a `see how it is done` feature or as we grow our network system generate a peer-led support rather than a competitive edge that some centres/group have, that historically again is finance driven not community led.

Further development has been reported as difficult smaller/medium funding pots are swallowed, along with very short-term timeline leaving gaping holes in sustainability plans that ae not achievable.

Some centres have a thriving local offer, from pre-school children and parent groups, through to Dementia support activities for carers and their loved ones. This can be harnessed and replicated with the community using and pitching in, a bottom-up approach of community resilience coupled with a building viability is evident.

Also, the offers of support from some services are overlapping, along with the added confusion as to what the Anchors are designed to do, this can lead to support overload or left un- touched as no clear methodology has been put into place for right service right job!

A positive support structure from the chain of service needs to be established to enable these structures to maximise their offer provide outcome focused systems for centres and emerging groups, we have a golden opportunity to truly bring together a `one stop shop` of everything community capacity needs to prosper and grow, rather than what could be a detriment to a positive support structure

Needs, problems, inequalities and gaps

What is needed

S2R-Providing appropriate resources – utilities, caretaking, and other services that come with buildings, central costs of the up-keep could undermine the viability and lead to restricted opening times especially during the onset of the winter months ahead.

Having spoken to many outlets in depth, also to emerging or potential groups or a person, of how new un-constituted groups gain support and start up to put their toe in the water and then develop to consider overhead funds, the theme is providing a safe affordable space to enable new groups to develop, and grow is much needed in the Dewsbury and Mirfield area.

Chicknley CC- A new problem starting to affect groups with buildings is the 50% increase in utility costs and the significant increase in costs to carry out pre-planned and emergency repairs. Especially when people/groups (including Kirklees Council) do not want to pay venue hire when using community venues. Many centres have capacity for new groups/activities to run. There is also the continued message that volunteers should run services where there are gaps – volunteers play a key role and can support but this needs to be dovetailed with professional/experienced staff and not used as a mechanism to replace some essential services such as youth provision/targeted youth provision with volunteers.

Some small groups shy away from become constituted with bank accounts etc and some older people's groups don't want the responsibility of GAP registration, dealing with money and applying for funding so provision/support for these groups need to be incorporated into the plan. Anchors or GAP registered organisations providing support with holding the ring-fenced money and assisting with distributing the grant and providing monitoring. This could also be supported by re-deployed Kirklees Council officers in community roles where there is cross over support available.

RCCL-

Youth services have long need to be priority, giving young people a deflection, rather than falling into negative past-times that leads to low aspirations and life achievements. This has to be a multi faith and culture investment from all walks of our community to ensure we capture young people from all backgrounds to achieve and gain civic pride

Gaps- Making better use of community spaces to enable community capacity to build is priority. As hi-lighted not all interest or social groups want the responsibility of self-governance, these groups should also be allowed to flourish as they too are providing a much-needed social connection, a sense of belonging and a purpose. Once groups do gain the confidence to take the step to become constituted and form a working governance then the process of applying for funds to generate room and resource hire can begin but until this time a sense of nurture must be

able to be fostered or new groups will not emerge and gaps in what is needed will not be filled.

Likewise, the issue of providing much needed space for centres, halls, venues seem, to boil down to cost and the ability of providing the interventions needed for health and wellbeing activities

- One solution is to generate an amicable set-up guided fund for small groups to access, Anchors can apply and hold the funds until groups are ready to fledge.
- We may look to work on this idea further next quarter with partners such as TSL, local Cllrs etc or sponsored possibilities and who could be approached.

- In our recent consultation with Dewsbury West Mutual aid groups, we have seen loneliness and isolations in the older women and older men in south Asian community is growing and there is a desperate need for an intervention
- Many emerging new groups are struggling to open bank accounts and having difficulties finding volunteers to take up key roles in the group. **(RCCL)**
- When third sector organisations commit time to helping with consultation exercises such as the Locality Plan what financial commitment is made available from Kirklees Council to cover the time of staff/volunteers from different organisations and how can this be built into this or future plans. Supporting Anchor organisations with a budget for staffing costs, especially to cover the costs of small community organisations that have no or limited staff and do not have really have the capacity to support this kind of work. Voluntary organisations with 'lived experience' are often expected to do it for nothing when they are often best placed to make invaluable contributions**. (CCC)**

Social prescribing or health links, issues and opportunities

The health and wellbeing issues have been references to in the general comments, these are not concerns for all areas but a genuine issue for disadvantaged areas to have lower health and wellbeing outcomes. Good partnership links have been made with the SPLWs. S2R arranges regular Anchor catch ups with the SPLW, attending the monthly meetings to discuss health priorities in the areas and engagement strategies to address better health outcomes in communities, from these meetings S2R Anchor has organised partnership community events to raise the profile of, SPLWs, Coms+ and other health and wellbeing services, what health advice they offer. Where there is an opportunity to provide wellbeing events from S2Rs other funded projects we have done so, likewise we can call on other partners to provide or accommodate health message and wellbeing type of activities.

Also, other projects and groups in localities providing a `what is on your doorstep` information and support. We are now working to better communicate / coordinate with PCN practices local Cllrs to promote the community offer in terms of health and well-being.

RCCL- We have provided many small groups with a space to develop, along with other partnerships we have successfully delivered Women in the Lead empowerment and Wellbeing events to address mental health issues

Linking health outcomes to social engagement activities is a vital connection to healthier messaging by bringing people together and providing positive affirmation is a way of being nonclinical and less associated to medicalisation, increases participation, motivation and the impetus to address or change certain negative health behaviours. As well as increasing social wellness and community bonding.

CCH-The opportunity for Chicheley to provide a sustainable/affordable food project has strengthened the volunteer opportunity within the local community, bringing together and connecting people. The health benefits of being able to purchase healthy food providing families with a balanced, will have many health benefits for the community.

Links to photos, video or other resources

Health Event Case Study.pptx

Comments, conclusions and priorities for action
   Timescale
(Anchor comments. Priorities may include actions for other organisations)   **(if applicable)**

The direction of travel with this draft locality plan is to address the resourcing of community outlets centres, so they have the means of security but a realistic development opportunity to provide a safe environment, for local interest groups, fledgling groups that want to further grow, established going concerns, provide interactive activities for their local residents that they have identified themselves as needed, and welcome and accommodate social functions and be part of community celebrations.

CCH-To further recognise and harness the collective strength of the voluntary sector and local community organisations that provide a small army of volunteers to make activities happen in their immediate neighbourhood and the wider area. These activities can be supported and developed with financial support, a variety of training to strengthen

governance and also ways to support increasing the capacity for the organisation, which for many small to medium organisations is a huge problem.

RCCL- Collaboration across all sections of services, Kirklees teams are an integral part of the community capacity building jigsaw but clarity of remit, and duplication layers make it unclear for communities and Anchors to navigate.

There are many issues that outreach Anchor capacity, e.g., community infrastructure but by introducing feel good incentives such as `In Bloom` to more areas, or schemes that provide food and social connection at an affordable price. These incentives don't run themselves, volunteers are not a free ticket to provide, they need resources and support like any other going concern, to make sure these can thrive and serve a community need, they require a supply of the right building blocks to create community Social Wellness.

- Collaboration between community, centres/outlets and local Cllrs
- Joint approach to enable equal access to social activities, e.g., cost, transport
- Continue to Support Place Based Standards, (Council must demonstrate communities are being listened to and be pro-active)

Appendix

About the Community Anchor Network

TSL Kirklees manages the Community Anchor Network Development project, under contract with Kirklees Council, with funding from Primary Care Networks in Kirklees.

The purpose of establishing the community anchor network is to help communities to organise and respond to community needs and opportunities in sustainable and inclusive ways, particularly around health and wellbeing. We are helping local groups make great things happen.

For more information contact Tom Taylor tom@tslkirklees.org.uk or Bridget Hughes bridget@tslkirklees.org.uk or see www.tslkirklees.org.uk.

About Community Anchor Locality Plans

The Community Anchor Locality Plans are developed by listening to those involved in community organisations and groups and working with them to identify the priorities and changes they would like to see in their community.

Because each locality is large (there are only four across Kirklees) they include many different communities. Plans may include issues or opportunities which are important for a particular community - an area or a community of interest - but are not important for others.

Locality plans will be managed by Community Anchors and shared widely.

How to write and use this locality plan

A Locality Plan aims to capture the key concerns, hopes and issues from community organisations and provide comment and analysis by Community Anchor organisations. The Locality Plan aims to complement and add to, but not duplicate, the information and plans made by public sector services and strategic bodies.

The list of community organisations and description of how they have been involved, provides transparency about how the plan was developed. Contact the Lead Community Anchor to help fill in gaps or find out more about listed organisations.

The plan may include quotes, photos or documents to help to illustrate and evidence local concerns. Personal identifiable information will not be included unless explicit written consent has been obtained.

Introduction

In April 2022, we are piloting Locality Plans. These are developed by Community Anchor organisations listening to those involved in community organisations and groups and working with them to identify the priorities and changes they would like to see in their community. They may differ from strategic plans and priorities. For more details of Locality Plans and the TSL Kirklees Community Anchor Network, see the appendix.

Plan written by

Name: Paul Jones MBE
Organisation: TIMEtogether
Contact details: 07794026056 / paul.jones@ddc.org.uk

How was this plan developed? (Briefly describe any meetings, discussions, events or research)

This Locality Plan was developed from consultations with local community group leaders on a one-to-one basis but also through online web meetings and face to face meetings for a group. An element of local knowledge and a rural lived experience is included from these individuals and groups.

There has also been a short study conducted regarding preferred support for local community groups, and also two needs assessments in two villages around the theme of rural transport.

List of community organisations, activities and groups contacted to develop this plan (not individuals' details or contact details. Contact Community Anchors to find out more)

Name of group, activity or organisation	
Shelley Village Association	Lepton Methodist Church
Shelley Village Hall	Home from Home Dementia Group
Shelley Church	Friendship Café
Parent Sanctuary CIC	Emley Church Men's Breakfast Club
Thurstonland Community Association	All Hallows/Denby/Denby Dale/Shepley Church
Stocksmoor Village Association	SEE Ahead CIC
Made in Clayton West	Darby & Joan Club
Emley Community Centre	Denby Dale Pie Hall
Nortonthorpe Sports Club	Denby Dale Community Partnership
Grange Moor TRA	Denby Dale Centre
NHS Jubilee Gardens (name tbc)	Denby Dale Methodist Church

Community issues and priorities (A reminder: there are many perspectives in our communities. This aims to identify some key strengths, needs, opportunities that communities can work together on)

General comments

There is an existing strength in rural communities, with established organisations continuing to operate within their own neighbourhoods, there are few that offer services beyond their immediate community.

However, the advent of Coronavirus took the top layers off that metaphorical barrier of parochialism, as communities were supported across territory. New networks have dawned, and healthy discussion has emerged from the pandemic period. The common message from community groups from across the area is that of covid-recovery, especially with groups operating with low numbers and with fewer volunteers.

Strengths, assets, and opportunities

Strengths

- **Unity** – there is an improved level of unity between tradition areas. We have seen cooperation and kindness being offered across settlements. An example of this is the Volunteer Fairs, where the first three venues have offered their community centre at no charge, in their determination to support other groups.

- **Kindness** – examples of kindness between community groups is not rare, with an example being where Emley Community Centre worked hard to support the work of the dementia support group of whom they were a landlord and offer appropriate rates whilst the group operated at low numbers post Covid.

Assets

- **Venue Range** – Anchor had invited community centre managers to the Kirklees Community Centres Conferences through later Covid times, and all appreciated the support and inclusion to reopen safely, as opposed to being seen as a competitor. Rural has a vast number of community centres, with each settlement having at least a church hall and sports club, with some villages having up to five venues. The venue range could also be seen as a weakness, as venues are competing for custom to make themselves self-sufficient.

Opportunities

- **Networking** – this has started and there has been definite interest in uniting community groups together, sharing (especially successes), and socialising.

- **Recruitment** – all groups have spoken about low numbers, in both terms of members and volunteers. The support study revealed that groups have asked for two things, one being volunteer management/recruitment and the second being financial support (referring to funding opportunities, see next).

- **Funding** – this is a competitive subject, however a common one. Groups have their own agendas and values in terms of who and where they would turn to for funding opportunities, however finding the right funder for their interest is important.

Needs, problems, inequalities and gaps

Needs

- **Networking** – continue to support, offering a bi-monthly networking meeting

- **Meet The Funder Events** – incorporate a meeting the funder at at least alternate network meetings

- **Volunteer Recruitment** – offer a continued volunteer fair, to support local community groups to recruit new volunteers as they emerge out of their shielding

Problems

- **Distance** – the reoccurring challenge of living in rural is the perception of distance, where for some it is not far into the nearest town, others is an absolute barrier. The economy of scale has led some services to be urban centric due to simple economics.

- **Funding Rules** – council funding only permits one grant per organisation per year, whilst that works great for numerous organisations, there are some larger groups who operate multiple projects but are limited to apply for only one. If they have a grant already, then see a new need in their settlement, they have to wait for the existing period to end.

Inequalities

- **Visibility** – some rural villages have strong local leadership, loud voices or larger numbers, leaving other villages with the same level of issue accepting their own struggle.

- **Logistics** – groups can be seen to operate in a parochial manner due to poor logistical connections. One village have a bus only on Thursday morning and Saturday morning, as an example.

Gaps

- **Youth** – provision is poor in comparison to other places, with the youth been spread out and isolated from each other. KYA has intention to connect the existing services together.

- **Third Sector Business Planning** – several discussions have highlighted the need for an improved understanding about the need for and the create a quality and achievable plan for a charity to operate with. Part of this is understanding the role of trustees and management and the differences. Several groups are at a post-covid recreation point and examples of an organisation have different perceptions across its management would point towards delivering a training for those wishing to re-create their own plan.

Social prescribing or health links, issues and opportunities

- **SPLW –** the local team of social prescribing link workers have networked extremely well with the existing community provision. They all have been reported as approachable and caring for the individuals that they are supporting.

- **SPLW Requests –** a question that has repeated, that SPLW have identified as an opportunity to support some of their patients, is for some form of improved Befriending scheme. There needs to be an understanding of whether a befriender is needed, or whether a Friendship Scheme is being referred to, as some patients are housebound and that will not change, so a medium-term scheme like a Befriending Scheme might not be the best answer, although it would address the immediate issue.

Links to photos, video or other resources

- www.ruralanchor.org.uk

- Facebook: @HD8ConnectingCommunities and @ValleysAnchorNetork

- Twitter: @ruralanchor

Comments, conclusions and priorities for action
      Timescale

(Anchor comments. Priorities may include actions for other organisations) **(if applicable)**

- Volunteer Fair delivery - Network events - Meet the Funder events - Support with Business Plan creation development - Support with volunteer management - Investigate Befriending Needs - Discuss with KYA how to achieve an improved youth provision	
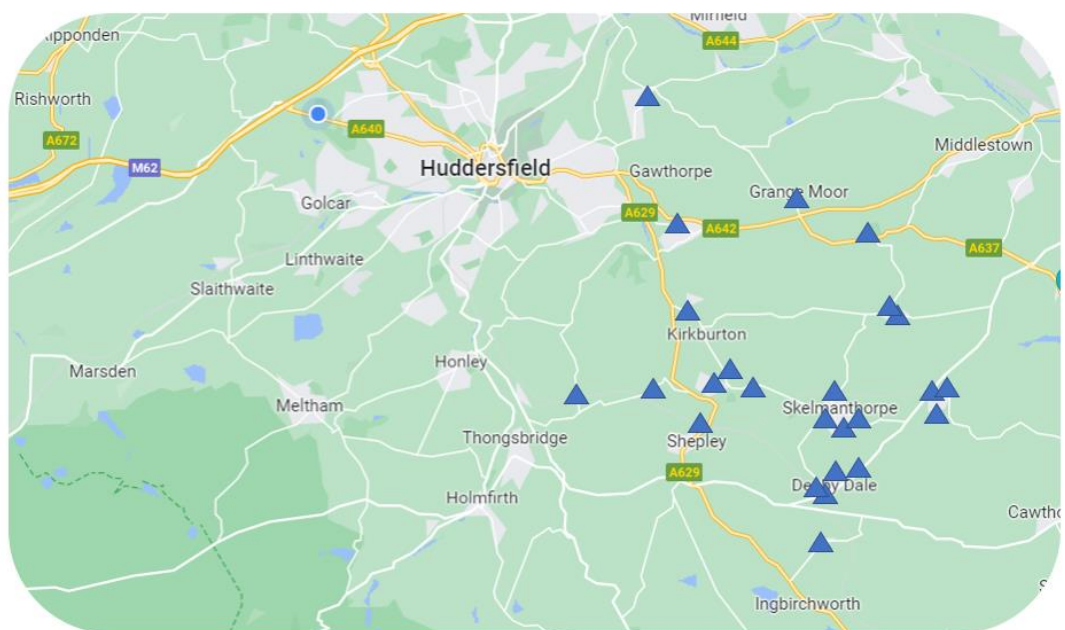
Map of the spread of Mast community groups connected to the Rural Anchor