

Area Based Grants Report for Area 3 Committee

For the financial year of 2020/21, 14 organisations are funded under the 4 streams of Area Based Grants. The funded organisations are:

A Place to Be Me – Youth & Play
And Sew it Begins – Support for Older People
Aspley Partnership – Youth & Play
Beechdale Community Centre – Support for Older People
Bilborough Over 55's Tai Chi – Support for Older People
Empleo CIC – Employment & Skills
Evolve CIC – Youth & Play, Employment & Skills, VCS Support
Groundwork – VCS Support, Management Fee
NCS – VCS Support
Strelley CC – Youth & Play, Employment and Skills, Support for Older People
SupportNet – Support for Older People
Switch Up CIC – Youth & Play
Toy Library – Youth & Play
Woven- Youth & Play

Covid-19 Emergency Community Response

Our partners are currently supporting their beneficiaries online and through their regular emergency response with delivering food packs, hot food for take away, medical supplies, clothing banks, befriending support, telephone support calls, and activity packs. They also use social media to promote their work and engage with the community. As we are coming out of lockdown, our partners are working on re-commencing their face-to-face activities in a safe and flexible way.

Below a brief report from Area 3 funded organisations, theme by theme:

Youth and Play

A Place 2 Be Me (Counselling)

1:1 and group counselling sessions by phone and text, and face to face in schools from a safe distance for vulnerable and keyworker children and young people. Issues discussed - anger, emotional wellbeing, DV, COVID-19, bereavement, self-confidence, self-esteem, cannabis reduction, sex, and relationships.

Session outcomes:

1. For those with the issues of dealing or using cannabis, all had reduced their drug use and received health awareness in respect of taking drugs.
2. Improved mental health, especially those with relationship issues. Following the end of a violent relationship, supported by the counsellor, one girl said: "I feel happy for the first time in a long time".
3. Improved relationships with parents.
4. Improved anger management following bereavement and other issues.
5. A knife carrier who has threatened peers is now not carrying a knife and attending college virtually.
6. COVID related discussions - worries, fears, loss of parent and loss of grandparents

Aspley Partnership

Aspley Partnership modified their service delivery due to the national lockdown by providing outreach work in the community. Their work has been supported by volunteers who have assisted with the creation and distribution of activity packs for the families in Aspley.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, at this moment in time, there are no sports centre-based activities running, therefore contact with young people has been out in the community. Aspley Partnership are seeking to expand their work with young people and their families by continuing to provide regularly, activity packs, and with an educational feature until face-to-face activity sessions can restart outdoors.

Recognising the financial constraints on families, they have launched a free hot food take-away service taking place once a week through a booking system. Priority families can pre-order hot food for their children and collect it from Minver Sports Centre car park.

Evolve CIC

Delivery of activity packs with arts, crafts, toys, and chocolate. Emergency food parcels, holiday hunger-free school meals, and door knocked delivering and checking up on vulnerable members of the community.

Strelley Community Club

Delivery of food packs, regular telephone support, and checking up on vulnerable people.

The Toy Library

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, The Toy Library are still not able to operate the 'Normal' Play sessions at Birchover Community Centre due to the difficulty in making the environment COVID-19-Safe.

Because The Toy Library have been unable to deliver their usual sessions, regular telephone contact is maintained with the majority of the registered families, and in some cases, safe doorstep visits are carried out, often when delivering activity packs. This has resulted in additional support being given to families, such as food supplies, referral to other organisations, and providing information on services and help available.

Woven

Online drama sessions consisting of interactive games, drama exercises, and an activity, which could be done alone or with others. These drama sessions are aimed at 7–to 10-year-olds and can be accessed through a private YouTube link. Furthermore, Woven put together and delivered craft packs, consisting of some colouring essentials and some activities.

Switch Up CIC

SwitchUp offer online boxing classes during the lockdown and are promoting their work through Social Media.

Employment and skills

Evolve CIC

Offer all manner of support from online signposting, CV writing, mental health, and welfare support.

EMPLEO CIC

All employment support is currently taking place online via email (most regular), text (highly popular), telephone (popular with one new member of staff), Facebook Messenger, Google Messenger, One drive (multiple view applications), Instagram, Facebook fan page, UC Journals, Work coaches, Twitter.

GOV. UK is still reported as the most useful site for jobseekers. EMPLEO are also building a new bespoke website with a community area for clients and a contact button to book services. They are also working closely with organisations such as the Refugee Forum, Nottingham College, and local Lead Providers.

Support for Older People

And Sew it begins

Provided phone calls, newsletter, activity packs, and socially distanced visits to check on the welfare of group members. Activities have resumed online through Kindle Fire tablets, but our partners are reporting high evidence of loneliness and appreciation from their beneficiaries for a simple call. They feel that the older generation is lacking confidence when it comes to technology, but the team is offering phone calls to improve connection among its members and provide support with mental health distress.

SupportNet

Currently, activities are taking place through Zoom. The coach is delivering stretching exercises.

Strelley Community Club

Whilst the centre has not been open for usual sessions, the space has been utilised as a food bank for the community enabling the creation of food parcels and hot meal deliveries.

Beechdale Community Centre

Are currently helping the local community to collect their shopping and prescriptions etc.

Bilborough Over 55's Tai Chi

Online Tai chi classes have been offered through Zoom. Once a week as usual on a Monday morning starting at 11 am for all those registered on the usual sessions.

Voluntary and Community Sector Support

NCVS

Delivered one-to-one online group support sessions including Charity registration, best practice advice and support on governance, funding, policies and procedures, and volunteering. NCVS also continued to offer learning opportunities, webinars, and online training. A dedicated Coronavirus Emergency Resource page is set up on the NCVS website which provides reliable sources of information and guidance for voluntary and community groups. Through regular e-bulletins and social media channels NCVS have shared information about grants, VCSE sector updates, urgent appeals, campaigns, surveys, the latest jobs, etc.

Groundwork Greater Nottingham

We have provided advice regarding the continuation of activities in the area following the COVID-19 government guidelines on social distancing, while gave the opportunity to our partners through one-to-one online meetings to raise any issues and concerns they had. On a regular basis, we shared good practices and ideas via emails and meetings. Our partners linked with each other for practical support, for example, one of our partners offered to help with the delivery of activity packs of another. Through helping our partners link with each other we feel that we have enabled a level of resilience-building when it comes to supporting community needs.

We have also spoken to our partners regarding the new emerging needs they are noticing in the area such as mental health difficulties, social isolation, digital exclusion, and food poverty. We have discussed the development of new activities and encouraged the delivery of packs as an immediate response to the concerns raised.

Groundwork Greater Nottingham **Activities in Area 3 not funded by ABG**

YEIX Step into Work

We continue to deliver support for 16 to 29-year-olds facing barriers to finding work within Area 3. Currently, delivery is carried out remotely via telephone/internet.

Towards Work - National Lottery Building Better Opportunities Programme

We continue to deliver support into employment and training for those furthest from the workforce who face multiple barriers. The Programme is delivered throughout D2N2 and we have a dedicated Area 3 team who delivered via remote communication face-to-face meetings with appropriate safety measures. This has now gone back to online/telephone support with the third national lockdown.

Smile – Telephone Befriending Service

We continue to deliver our befriending service to reduce isolation and loneliness particularly for older people in Area 3. All new referrals welcome. Please contact our Partnership and Programmes Manager, Kat Navrouzoglou, in the first instance.

Green Doctor Programme – Fighting Fuel Poverty

Our Green Doctor is actively working on referrals. You can self-refer or refer someone else via our website: <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/hubs/eastmidlands/> or call us at 07771 362 853

These are some of the free services we offer when someone signs up:

- Identifying causes of heat loss in the home.
- Helping identify and tackle damp or mould problems.
- Offering useful tips for saving energy and water whilst ensuring your home stays safe and comfortable.
- Installing small energy and water efficiency measures, such as draft excluders.
- Supporting you to switch energy providers to save money.
- Supporting you to access other support, such as emergency heating, government subsidies or grants, advice on energy or water debt.