

2019/20 REVIEW



Residents organise a community litter pick in East Herringthorpe

Community Organising in Springwell Gardens

Our 2-year grant from Tudor Trust came to an end in August 2019, however we were successful with a one-year continuation of the project and will be able to continue our support until August 2020. In the third year, the role of our community organiser working on the project will focus more on training and support. Although we will continue to door knock and listen to local people, the key focus in year three will be more about training Springwell TARA and steering group to embed organising in their activities, ensuring the group is sustainable and community activity is ongoing for the long term in Springwell Gardens. This project is an example of how community tenacity can win through over a sustained period of time.

Introduction to Community Organising delivered to local organisation in Masbrough



Enabling Community Voices

Throughout 2019 we have been able to deploy a team of 5 Community Organisers funded through grants from Big Lottery, Tudor Trust, CO Ltd and RMBC, to listen to, engage with and support the residents of Rotherham. Our Reaching Communities project "More Voices and Choices" funded by Big Lottery which started in January 2019, has focused on the 4 areas of Dinnington, East Dene, East Herringthorpe and Masbrough with Community Organisers working to give people a voice, build confidence and support them to take action/drive change in their own communities. The team has also supported formal and informal community groups to form and develop their capacity throughout the year. From environmental projects to improving social isolation, our team have been instrumental in helping groups and individuals to make a difference to their selves and their communities.



Thurcroft Big Local host a Job Fair

Thurcroft Big Local

Our proposals for the big local plan spend for the next 2 years have been submitted to the Local Trust. This includes funding to enable staff support from Rachel Cole from Rotherham Federation.

In March 2019 Thurcroft Big Local Partnership approved the recruitment of an Employment Coach to provide local unemployed people with all aspects of support as they looked for work. Our Coach, Louise Johnson, has been based at various locations in Thurcroft since May 2019 and has provided support to over 50 people, 24 of which had progressed into employment by the end of the year. A fantastic example of how the project has supported the needs of local people.

As the project moves into its last few years, a key focus now will be legacy and sustainability. The group, with Rotherfed's support, will work hard over the coming year to ensure that as many elements as possible for community support are in place before the grant term ends. Youth work, community events and usage of the Hub are emerging as what are most important to the people of Thurcroft going forward.

Social Action Hub

Rotherfed have been able to offer a range of Community Organiser training to people from across the borough. The sessions have been well attended through the year by: local volunteers who want to become leaders and learn more about how to motivate their community, groups who want to become stronger in how they deliver their activities and frontline staff in other organisations.

The sessions we have delivered are:

- Introduction to community organising
- Listening in community organising
- Building Power in community organising
- Taking action in community organising

The funding for this project ends in March 2020 after 3 years. We would Like to thank CO Ltd for their support and investment in our work and look forward to working with them on new and different projects in the future.



TPAS Accreditation celebration event at Springwell Gardens



Rotherfed and RMBC at the Rotherham Show 2019

Working with RMBC

HRA Funding: We went through an open tender process in Autumn 2019 for the Tenant Federation contract and RMBC have confirmed we were successful. Our new contract begins on 1st April 2020. Our aspirations are to engage with and get more tenants involved in housing services in the future, support TARA's to achieve their ambitions and improve social isolation throughout the borough.

Tenants Conference: RMBC's Tenant Conference at New York Stadium on 10th July 2019 was hailed as a big success with over 100 tenants attending and positive feedback from most of those people there. The Community Group awards were a highlight of the morning with 12 groups achieving and gaining awards and cash prizes in 6 quality areas. Staff awards were also presented to those staff from RMBC, Fortem and Mears who had all achieved that little extra.

Listening event with residents and partners



Shaping the Future of Area Housing Panels:

Rotherham federation have been involved in the delivery of 3 pilot projects in the areas of Boston Castle, Wingfield and Wales wards. These "pilots" have been used to try out different approaches and methods which support tenants to become involved in a range of ways, such as how we can improve online decision making on projects and support panels to develop in more areas. The key is for local people to have their say on the improvements they want to see in their neighborhoods.

Tenant Scrutiny: Tenant scrutiny gives tenants the power to hold their landlord to account for their decisions, performance and conduct and involves empowered tenants working together to research issues and make recommendations for change based on the evidence they find. All these reports are available publicly for anyone who wishes to read them. Rotherham Council has responded positively to all previous reports including Young Tenants, Repairs and Maintenance and ASB, developing action plans to address issues raised and improve services for all tenants. In 2020 the scrutiny panel will complete the review of "Aids and Adaptations" on the home and present that to the Senior Managers at RMBC.

Awards	Gold Winner	Silver Winner
Involving people	The Lings Monday Club	Swinburne Social Club
Making a difference	Swinton Community Focus Group	Canklow Rainbow Kids Club
Governance	Bakersfield Tara	Manor Farm Tara
Communication	Friends of Rawmarsh and Parkgate Green Spaces	Friends of Rosehill at the Pavillion
Policies	Kimberworth Park Tara	Crafty Ladies
Finance	Aston Tara	Treeton Community Centre

Celebrating Success: On July 10th 2019, our member community groups were presented with awards in six quality areas at the Tenants Conference, New York Stadium. Gold awards were presented with a certificate and a £150 cash prize, and silver with a certificate and £50 cash prize.

New Federation Member Groups 2019

- Other words for Anger (January 2019)
- Canklow Kidz (May 2019)
- Brinsworth and Catcliffe Local History Group (June 2019)
- Springwell TARA (October 2019)



Services to Community Led Organisations and TARA's

Developing Community Strength: 4 of our Welcome2Rotherfed Fund and Stationary Packs were given out to groups in 2019. Remember, as a Rotherham Federation Member, you are intitled to apply for both grants. A wide range of practical advice and services are available including constitutional and group structure support, community accountancy, legal, insurance advice, various collective services, help with funding bids, marketing and communication services including advice and practical resources to produce newsletters, posters/leaflets, mentoring and support for community leaders

100 years of council housing at Tenants Open Day in July 2019

Minion met Leo the On-Lion at Rotherham Show

and organisations in relation to safeguarding including DBS checks. Support with bookkeeping and yearly examination of accounts is also provided. Training for Community Strength is delivered in committee, organisational, community development, diversity and practical skills and increasing tenant's knowledge in mentoring, housing issues and confidence building. We have also delivered a range of group training sessions such as food hygiene, health and safety, equality and diversity and safeguarding.



