

Year 1 update of Final ABL Plan

We are over just over 9 months in to our final 3 year plan, that runs until end of March 2022 with £442,288 of investment; meaning the area will have been awarded just over 1.1 million pounds throughout the 10 year period of our plans (the current plan it is available on the website). It has been an exciting year, with a mixture of ongoing successful provision delivered as part of the plan, one off events and new provision starting within the Allenton Big Local area.

On the back of the annual review carried out in 2018 including residents, we piloted a new project for families, including those with additional needs in the summer holidays. Due to it's success we continue to deliver during further activities in October & February half-terms.



We had the privilege of welcoming HRH Princess Anne to Allenton in July to officially open St Martin's Church and Community Centre. One of the last parts of the project to completed was the refurbishment of the garden and ABL has played a significant role in the development of this community resource right from the start of the project; £116,000 has been granted towards the refurbishment. You may have noticed that work continues on the building and roof is currently being replaced on the hall side ensuring that the place is fit for use by the Allenton community long into the future. We are pleased the new facility is being well used by local residents as well as by locally funded ABL and other community focussed projects. Look on our website for more details of the journey we have been on.

One off highlights have included a summer trip to Skegness for families and we were blessed with amazing weather for this day out. As part of this trip, we carried out a mini survey, details of which are included later on in the annual report. Our annual Christmas event, was delivered by St Martins Church for the first time on a model that we believe will be sustainable beyond this final 3 year plan of ABL funding.

Our aim during the final quarter of this financial year, is to build on the great work so far and more information on all that we have being delivering and supporting in the local community can be heard in more detail at our **AGM on February 11th 2020 @ 7pm in St Martin's Church Flint Street. We would love for you to join us!!**

Foreword by ABL Chair - Edith

Welcome to this our annual report. We have had a great year to date (Our accounting year ends on 30th March 2020).

Highlights include the visit by Princess Anne to the area and opening the commemorative garden with its beautiful arbour and seat along with the commemorative stone at St Martins. Our Community Chest Scheme has been well used to promote a happy and fulfilling Allenton Big Local area, as has our successful bursary scheme helping local residents attain qualifications to help them along the road to success in a working environment. Our Service Providers have continued to engage the young providing them with services not available elsewhere and we have made more use of St. Martin's Hall and Chatterbox café in the process.

We are now considering the way forward when the Big Local money is spent and how we can continue to help in the neighbourhood into the future.

So will you help us build a partnership with perhaps a wider local area encouraging support from local businesses and council? Will you volunteer some of your time to continue to boost the area making all our residents feeling they are valued, proud and happy to live in this area? Have you benefitted from what we have been doing? If so it would be great to have you on board bringing new ideas and enthusiasm to see us into the next 10 years. It would be good to have a number of you on board (three to five residents would be great) to take us forward on this exciting journey.

Please speak to us at the AGM or contact us directly for information on how to join with us.

Achievements so far

1

Strengthening the Community

Street Dance - Children & young people from the area have continued to enjoy the opportunity to participate in weekly sessions delivered in partnership with Trinity Warriors. An average of around 10 children/young people have attended weekly sessions. Numbers have been slightly down on previous years but they are actively recruiting new members through Schools and other projects in the area. The aim is to showcase some of the routines over the coming year ahead.

If you want any information on how your child could join in—then Please contact the Enthusiasm's office on 362479 and they will be happy to give you all the information.

Community Chest - All of the funding for this year has now been awarded.

Among those who have been awarded funding are:

Allenton United - Football Kit & Equipment

Brigden Avenue Allotments – Help with access to site

Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club

Lunches for families in School Holidays during activity sessions

Chatterbox Café – Towards a sign to help promote them

Merrill PTFA – Residential for 18 ABL young people



Events



This year has seen some great events for families within the ABL area. In the summer a coach full of families spent the day in Skegness on a beautiful sunny and hot day!! Families were most grateful for the opportunity to spend time with their kids and have fun away from some of the day to day stresses.

On the coach we carried out 21 mini surveys, 10 of which were completed by under 25's. Out of the 21 completed, only 3 people were not happy with the area or it's perception. Of those completed by people living in area all felt safe living in the community but 2 felt the community as a whole wasn't a safe place. There was a positive response to the work of ABL and that we are continuing to prioritise the correct provision with our spending.

Our annual Christmas event was co-ordinated this year by St Martin's Church. An estimated 700 people attended the event of which 350 were ticketed children excited to meet with Santa. A full day of activities was provided, including arts & crafts, themed Christmas movie, carol singing, hot dogs and refreshments and fun was had during the 6 hours of the day.

The aim is to make this annual event sustainable beyond March 2022, so that the local community can continue to benefit from such a great event during the festive period. A more detailed report of the day is available on our website.

Our AGM this year will be on Tuesday 11th Feb @ 7pm and all are welcome to attend



Priority 1 19-20 Budget £28,521

The New Allenton Big Local Plan for April 2019 to March 2022 is available to read on our website.

2

Improving Life Skills

Families and Children (0-7) - 56 parents have so far received solution focussed support in 2019, over a combined total of 334 sessions. Support has taken place in the family home on a weekly basis, with telephone/text contact of support offered in-between. Each parent has an experienced family support worker who makes the initial visit with the referring agency to be introduced to the family. On the 2nd visit a support plan is drawn up with the parents and set outcomes are agreed.

Comments from Families include:

'I am a good parent to my children' 'Helped me do things as a family with my kids and partner'

'I needed some reassurance' 'I don't shout at the kids as much, I try to explain to the kids why I say 'no''

'I don't feel alone and know I can phone for a chat if I need tips or hints as what to try'

Youth 8-12 and 13-18 - Over 500 young will have benefitted from a range of



activities delivered in the area during the year. These have included weekly youth hubs at St Martins, trips—including the theatre, winter wonderland, inflatable aqua park & 2 residential—all tailored at helping to develop the young people's self esteem, life skills & confidence, whilst having fun!! Young people also have the chance to become a volunteer to help deliver the activities. Weekly outreach also takes place at regular hot spots, to engage with those in these areas - to encourage them to come to the regular activities available and challenge any inappropriate behaviours.



Activities for Older residents - This last year has seen some of our older residents fall by the way as age and frailty has progressed. We have lost some wonderful residents in the last year and they are sorely missed. However we have some new faces on the block at Handyside Court but Slaney Court continues to be lower. Volunteers availability is becoming a challenge, so we have decided to do two coffee mornings a month – 2nd Wednesday will be Handyside Court and 3rd Wednesday will be Slaney Close. In the meantime if attendance at Slaney Close increases, we will reconsider our decision.

However we are looking to encourage older and isolated residents to attend a lunch at Chatterbox Café providing transport for a few who cannot get there under their own steam. We are currently exploring who will benefit from it.

School Holiday Activities - Over 150 children and young people have benefitted from attending school holiday activities. This new part of the latest plan was piloted over 4 weeks of the summer holidays and due to it's success, provision was extended to also happen in October Half Term and also February Half Term. Along side the sessions a free lunch was provided through a Community Chest Application, enabling families to be able to have lunch as part of the day. Sessions are a mixture of educational & fun activities encouraging parents and their children to participate in activities together. One parent benefitted so much from the taster session of Makaton, that they have now gone on to explore this course further to enhance their skills. The aim over the coming activities is to produce a textile legacy that will be displayed in St Martin's Church & Community Centre.



Priority 2 19-20 Budget £85,720

And finally...

Youth mentoring - 5 ABL young people at risk of anti-social behaviour & offending, have been supported by a 1-2-1 mentor. The support they have received has been individually tailored to meet their needs and has enabled them to divert their negative influences in to positive activities and opportunities. This has led to: 1 YP being back on to a full timetable at school and their attendance is increased from 42% to 89%. 1 YP has completed their referral order contract and has not reoffended in the last 6 months and their self-belief and communication skills are much improved. Both now also volunteer on a weekly basis. Others are being supported with multi-complex issues including—family breakdown, loss of home, gang & knife related activity, exploitation & trauma. 2 new young people have been identified for support through their attendance at the weekly ABL dance sessions.

3

Opportunities for Training & Employment

Reduce Barriers to Improve Skills - 33 sessions have been already delivered during this financial year, with the aim to complete 48 by the end of March. During these weekly sessions and average of 8 people have attended, totalling in 37 different people attending sessions of which 9 have been from the ABL area. 21 of those who have attended have received Information, Advice and Guidance support from a trained careers advisor and have subsequently be referred for further employability/learning based activities. Many individuals who attend the sessions are low in confidence and belief in their potential and a lot of work is done to encourage and individual to see their own potential. Some individuals have additional needs and have struggled with the changes in the benefit system which has hindered their transition in to work based opportunities. We are thankful for the volunteering opportunities that some individuals are able to access which helps enhance their suitability for work, builds their confidence and helps them get past the barriers, anxiety and emotional stress of their current situations.



Opportunities for work experience, training and employment - The Bursary Scheme has been able to support more members of the community this year with a mixture of Course & Exam fees, clothing needed for work & also driving lessons where access to work or college has been a hinderance. We were able to award 16 different Bursary segments over this financial year from the £4000 we have available this year, helping to contribute towards residents of the ABL area progressing in their dreams and aspirations.

Our next funding year begins in April - check out the website for more information or please contact us direct by phone or email—all information is available at end of this page.

Priority 3 19-20 Budget £16,484.50

Annual General Meeting—Tuesday 11th February 2020

Remember to save the Date!! Our Annual General Meeting takes place on Tuesday 11th February 2020 @ 7pm in St Martin's Church & Community Centre on Flint Street. All are welcome for this opportunity to hear an update of what has been happening over the year through the work of Allenton Big Local and also an opportunity to ask questions with regards to the work. The meeting will only last approx. 1 hour and will be followed by light refreshments. We look forward to seeing you there!!



Website:

www.biglocalallenton.co.uk