



Co-operative Councils Innovation Network

COMMUNITY



Billingham Town Council

Collaboration through Covid and Beyond

Billingham Town Council, in conjunction with local organisations BCT Aspire, Fighting Chance Boxing Club and BERP launched its Covid Response on 23rd March 2020.

Working with existing organisations within the town meant we were able to scale up a solution that saw over 100 local residents volunteering to assist with shopping for food items, making up emergency food parcels and distributing them to residents that were unable to visit local shops or access supermarket deliveries. By collaborating with Stockton Borough Council's Covid Helpline, we were able to support residents not only with food parcel deliveries, but also delivering their prescriptions, dog walking and making weekly wellbeing calls to local residents to check on their wellbeing and just for a chat.

One of the issues we were able to identify early in the lockdown was the lack of access to good quality fresh food. As a result of this, we reimagined our Community Lunch service which had, prior to Covid, brought together isolated residents for a free three course meal in the Town Council managed Café in the Park. With just a small amount of tweaking, we were able to launch a free meal delivery service to shielding residents which saw in excess of 200 hot three course lunches being delivered each week ensuring residents, often with complicated health needs, had access to a nutritiously balanced hot meal. This service was such a success that we have continued this service with funding secured through to March 2022. To date, we have cooked and delivered over 10,000 hot meals and our small team of

volunteers won the Mayors Award at the most recent Stockton Borough Council Civic Awards.

As we started to emerge from lockdown, we were keen to build on the great relationships we had established with local organisations and regularly deliver collaborative solutions to shared problems. We continue to work in partnership with organisations such as BERP, BCT Aspire and Billingham Boxing Academy as well as other new organisations to ensure a coordinated holiday enrichment project which provides local residents with access to holiday activities and a free meal throughout the school holidays with over 1000 residents supported across every holiday in the last year.



For further information contact:

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