



# Co-operative Councils

## Innovation Network

### YOUNG PEOPLE



## Seaton Valley Community Council

### Youth Services

In June 2023, Seaton Valley Community Council (SVCC) was advised by a representative of Northumberland County Council (NCC) that sessional youth workers had been served with their notice of redundancy and advised that their services would no longer be required from September 2023.

As a result of NCC's decision, the youth clubs and outreach provision in each of the five villages in Seaton Valley, which were part-funded by SVCC, would end abruptly in September 2023 unless either the parish council or local community groups could find ways to deliver the service independently.

In response to the county council withdrawing its service, a Seaton Valley Youth Provision Working Group was formed in August 2023 to bring together local community groups invested in sustaining the youth service across Seaton Valley. The group has been chaired by Cllr. Susan Dungworth, Chair of Seaton Valley Council, and membership consists of representatives from the village community associations, Blyth Valley CVA, the Scouts, and councillors and staff from Seaton Valley Council.

At a meeting on the 7 August 2023, the working group met with Mandy Brown, the Operational Lead for Children NE to explore options for sustaining youth provision in the area.

As a result of the initial discussions, Children NE proposed to deliver a weekly youth club in Seaton Delaval, and youth outreach activities in New Hartley, Seaton Sluice and Seghill by working in partnership with local community associations to provide suitable venues.

The working group accepted the proposal from Children NE and agreed to work collaboratively to apply for external funding with support from Blyth Valley CVA.



Alongside working in partnership to provide local venues and suitably qualified staff, the working group also wanted to engage with young people to help define the type of youth service they would value. To get their feedback, Children NE developed an online young person's survey. The survey asked young people what activities they would value most and what they would like a local youth club to look and feel like. Thanks to support from the Seaton Valley Federation of schools and the local Scout group in distributing the survey, the response rate was very good, and the results have been used to inform improvements to the venues and applications for capital funding to help buy equipment and resources that young people will value.

In December 2023, on behalf of the newly formed Seaton Valley Youth Provision Working Group, Children NE applied to the Community Foundation for a grant of £14,000 with match-funding of £10,000 confirmed from Seaton Valley Council. If successful, the grant will help to fund sessional youth workers and activities for young people across the Seaton Valley area. The group is optimistic about the outcome which should be notified in early Feb 2024. There is also a contribution of £10,000 from the now dissolved Seaton Valley Community Partnership, that was ringfenced to be used for youth activities.

Going forward, the Working Group will become a Governance Group and we are looking to have young people represented on the group. With support from Blyth Valley CVA, the

group are now working to identify more sources of funding, and it is hoped this will allow continuation of new and improved youth provision across the Seaton Valley area.

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**For further information contact:**

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