Spennymoor Youth and Community Association

Annual Report

January 2025 – December 2025

Spennymoor Youth and Community Association

Charity Number 1170497

Spennymoor Youth and Community Association

This report highlights what we have achieved over the past year. Over the last 12 months, Spennymoor Youth and Community Association (SYACA) was able to support over 4000 residents and groups.





Supporting Struggling Families

Our youth and community centre operates within deprived neighbourhoods which makes low income a long standing problem, made worse by the cost of living crisis which has added to the number of families who are struggling financially and socially. During the year we added a community pantry to our food offer which is providing struggling families and residents with low cost groceries and cleaning products. Our Feeding Spennymoor programme now offers emergency food help working with Feeding Families. Having learned how best to target help, we support families with children directly through our school partnerships. Our community café offers low cost hot food. The Bread and Butter Thing and FareShare offer families food surplus. Our community allotment volunteers grew fruit and veg. through the year which went directly to families who could use it while offering the gardeners a place to socialise and exercise, promoting their mental and physical wellbeing.

We provided a full programme of term time youth provision and outreach (15 hours per week over 38 weeks) for children and young people, and we increased the number of holiday sessions delivered by our partners from both centres. All of these sessions included access to food. Learning a New Way CIC continued to grow their support sessions for low income and SEND families. Taken together, we have been able to deliver a co-ordinated programme of good quality youth provision and family activities which are accessed and enjoyed by an increasing number of struggling families.

We were also able to help families with access to laptop loans, sim cards, clothes, toys and baby essentials. In opening up centre spaces, we have encouraged families to stay and talk or stay and play. Our community team and centre friends have been better able to get to know the families we've been able to help, and the centres have become places where families know that they are welcome and can get the support they need when they need it.

"A huge thankyou for such a lovely Xmas Party. My child and grandchildren really enjoyed it. Special thanks to the volunteers.

These memories mean so much. Heartfelt thanks."



Connecting isolated older residents

Our Monday Club, Breakfast Buddies, Community Café, Lads and Lasses Art group and Open Lounge have all been well attended informal ways for older residents to meet and make friends. Many of the older people we have supported, have gone on to become active Centre Friends helping to pack food or repair centre equipment for example. We have used our Lottery funded passenger van for Look Out Trips, health checks as a recognised Wellbeing for Life hub, talks on scams from Newcastle Building Society and our Community Team has helped individuals with a

range of online applications and queries. Most recently we helped Linda whose stairlift had broken completely to successfully apply for a bungalow and make the move.

Our approach is informal, using the centres as open, accessible, affordable places where people can find their place and become increasingly involved to suit themselves and meet their needs.



Engaging people with lived experience of mental and physical health problems

PCP Happiness Hub funding in 2025 enabled our wellbeing groups to run across both centres. Survive and Thrive offering a weekly session for people with lived experience of mental and physical health problems.

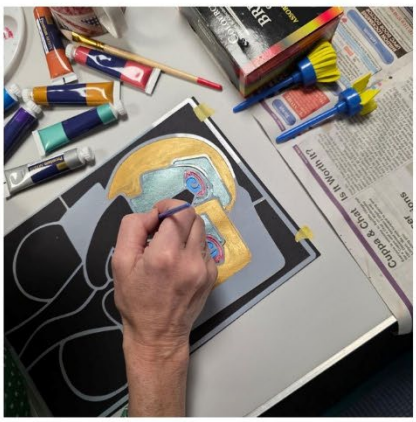
Twice weekly gentle circuits were well used with a regular weekly attendance of 20 plus adults, designed to boost wellbeing and help people with low levels of fitness and confidence exercise together.

Through all of our activities, we have made improving wellbeing an outcome priority, including through our youth sessions, volunteering, play and learning. Growing our network of wellbeing

partners has been another priority and we are pleased to report that over that last twelve months we have involved new support services in what we do.







Helping residents find new skills, learn, train, move towards employability and become volunteers.

We have been lucky since COVID to have grown and hold on to a great team of Centre Friends who help us do so much. We have also worked over the last 12 months to support Centre Friends to become Management Committee members. 4 centre users are joining our SYACA Youth Work Team as Youth Work Assistants (two of these, Alyssa and Charlotte, were previously members of

our youth clubs). Three local councillors and one of our Centre Friends have joined our Management Committees and we were pleased to add Chloe as a fourth SYACA Trustee at the start of the year.

The Community Team funded by The National Lottery Reaching Communities has worked to increasingly involve our volunteers in running both centres and what they deliver. It means that we have become more sustainable with a stronger partnership made up of the two charities.

Our partnership with Durham Learn delivered more learning and training sessions, particularly for our refugees and asylum seekers, with more leaners from more countries adding to the diversity of the centres and providing us with more volunteers who are actively involved in centre life. One of our original Refugee learners, Basma, will join our staff team in 2026.

Key activities and events delivered over the last 12 months:

	Activities	Parters and funders	Beneficiaries
#Eating Together	With a successful application to Newcastle Building Society Community Fund, we were able to convert an old store room into a new Community Pantry where we are now able to sell groceries and cleaning products at low prices. The pantry is a popular add on for our Bread and Butter Thing customers, allowing the 70-80 weekly customers to top up on essential items. With the addition of fridge and freezer, we are now able to keep some of our FareShare food surplus stock for longer while offering FareShare customers a bag of food and access to the Community Pantry. Kingdom Culture Church which is established in the centre has partnered with us to donate food. Sales help us keep the pantry stocked. While we are still giving out Feeding Families emergency food boxes, 480 boxes last year, we have now partnered with North Park Primary School to support referrals directly from the school ensuring that we reach the most vulnerable families. For single adult residents in need of emergency help, we have	The National Lottery Community Fund FareShare North East Places Impact Foundation Feeding Families The Bread and Butter Thing Kingdom Culture Church	1,288 struggling families, isolated low income residents, families with preschoolers accessing our community café and older residents meeting and eating for breakfast brunch.

	a number of partners who can offer support from the centres as well as us signposting to the nearby food bank or help from our own FareShare, Community Pantry and the Bread and Butter Thing. Over the year we have given out 650 FareShare bags and 11,250 Bread and Butter food surplus bags at £8.50 for three bags per customer (groceries, fruit, veg, meat, fish and dairy). Our Community Café has built up a small but regular group of customers. This year we made the café menu and our cooked breakfast brunch available twice weekly.		
#Growiing Together #Feeding Spennymoor	Our Spennymoor and Tudhoe Community allotment enjoyed its most successful year to date with a small team of regular volunteers and partnership working with North East Autism providing a weekly placement and support worker (Aaron and Ian) and continued support from Oases Project Officer Josh Radner. Corporate action days in the Spring with Newcastle Building Society and then Story Contracting helped us get the garden growing-ready with some heavy digging, weeding and new raised beds. We worked closely with Food Durham and enjoyed a showcase event in the Summer organised by Food Durham's networking group which brought together 15 people to learn more about growing food for the community. In the autumn we entered produce at Binchester and Spennymoor Town shows. Picking up some prizes.	Spennymoor Town Council Outdoor and Sustainability Education Specialists (OASES) North East Autism Society	21 volunteers (5 being regular volunteers)

	Most importantly we grew a lot of fruit and veg, helped and often hindered by hot weather, which was used to top up FareShare bags and was given directly to struggling families and low income residents.		
#Moving Together	We were able to add to our programme of physical activities for all ages from babies to older residents: Weekly Baby Movers and Little Movers, sensory, music, movement and dance following Early Years Curriculum from birth to crawling, walking to 5 years. Weekly Hartbeeps sensory, music, movement and dance for 2-12 months. Our own weekly Stay and Play session for preschoolers with community café at Spennymoor Youth and Community Centre. Chair exercise tasters delivered by Wellbeing for Life and Intertwined NE for Parkinsons UK North East at the centre. Twice weekly adult Gentle Circuits. A free daytime session with Public Health trained tutor Leanne and an evening session. This was grant dependent but now sustains itself. We also secured grant funding to bring in Sports Coaches as part of our weekly term time youth sessions working with Moors in the Community and Stoker Football Coaching. Spennymoor Youth and Community Centre has been used weekly by North Park Primary for dance practice, yoga and sports.	Little Movers Durham, Seaham, Spennymoor and Peterlee Hartbeeps South Durham, Bishop Auckland, Spennymoor, Coxhoe and Hartlepool The Luxury Little Play Company Moors in the Community (Spennymoor Town Football Club) Stoker Football Coaching	394 babies, toddlers, adults, parents, carers and older residents.
#Being Together	Bringing people together through our wellbeing groups has had a big impact in reducing isolation and improving wellbeing.	The National Lottery Community Fund PCP Happiness Hubs	205 residents and centre users taking part in regular wellbeing

	Weekly sessions of Breakfast Buddies offers men a space to meet, eat and for those who enjoy it, take part in kurling. Weekly sessions of our Monday Club is a space for women to meet, eat and play fun prize bingo. This year the group has involved younger women (Centre Friends and members of Learning a New Way), making it more intergenerational. We have continued to open up the centre, encouraging residents to drop in term time Wednesdays to meet and eat, helping themselves to free tea, coffee and toast. We've also encouraged parents/carers to use our communal spaces before and after sessions which is working well. Artful Lads and Lasses was a new wellbeing group during the year in partnership with Daisy Arts which encourages residents to get creative and try out different forms of art. Our Survive and Thrive group for people with lived experience of mental health problems met weekly through the year for tea, coffee, snack, chat and bingo, with lasting friendships formed. Durham County Carers Support also used our meeting rooms to deliver 1:1 counselling and Families First for family contact sessions. Kingdom Culture Church which meets every Sunday at Spennymoor Youth and Community Centre attracts up to 100 people and includes social space, refreshments, support and space for young people to meet. All of our wellbeing groups have made use of our community vehicle for Look Out trips and met for Christmas Dinner.	Durham County Council / NENC ICB Durham Community Action Durham County Carers Support Families First	sessions and accessing support and social space.

#Learning Together	As one of Durham Learn's contracted venues, we increased the number of learning sessions during the year to include Adult Social Care and Maths as well as English. Our ESOL sessions expanded to 4 days each week. We welcomed more nationalities including Japanese, Italian, Ukrainian, Afghan and Syrian learners. We worked with Kingdom Culture Church to deliver a Jobs Club based on the successful CAP model. Job Centre referrals benefitted from support and the strong social element which is part of the CAP model. Digital Durham delivered a rolling programme of basic IT courses which were well attended particularly by older residents and learners with low levels of IT confidence. The courses were incentivised with a free tablet on completion! The centres were used for team meetings and training/learning sessions throughout the year including The Social Prescribing Link Workers Network, Triage, Eden Training, Spennymoor Town Team, Wellbeing for Life and Public Health. In February, Durham County Council's Humanitarian Support Team brought together 120 refugees and asylum seekers from across the County to connect with support services. In July we attended a Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Local Communities Seminar at Horden Centennial Centre. Helping our learners become part of their new communities will be a priority over the next three years. We continued to invest in staff training through our Reaching Communities grant	The National Lottery Community Fund Durham Learn Digital Durham Kingdom Culture Church/Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Durham Community Action/SPLWN Triage Eden Training eLearning at Work Wellbeing for Life Public Health	228 adult learners, staff and partner organisations.

	including Safeguarding, Emergency First Aid at Work, Paediatric First Aid, GDPR and Prevent.		
#Celebrating Together	Spennymoor Youth and Community Centre hosted 60 birthday parties during the year which generated £5,770 and welcomed 1,824 people into the centre thanks to our Reaching Communities grant uplift which employed weekend workers. Our party package which includes large bouncy castle, soft play, lights and party speaker offers an affordable large venue option for local families and is well used with positive feedback. We worked closely with local enterprise Stoker Football Coaching to offer Football parties suitable for older children alongside our own package which works well for toddlers and infants. We also hosted a Local Business Showcase event where 22 local enterprises spent the day promoting their offer/products to residents and networked with each other. In December a community Christmas Party brought residents together again to celebrate with food and music. Santa Doorstep visits and a Fun and Food funded family Christmas Party were all part of a busy festive programme which was either free or affordable for families. Our Christmas Panto, Sleeping Beauty performed by Touring Panto Company, Beverley Artistes Ltd welcomed 100 children and adults. The event introduced many children to panto for the first time and gave families an affordable evening. Thanks to	The National Lottery Community Fund Stoker Football Coaching Livin Cake and Cupcakery	1,954 families and residents accessing affordable activities and facilities.

	funding from Livin, ticket sales generated £500 for SYACA.		
#Young People Together	Our SYACA youth work team delivered another year of good quality term time and school holiday youth provision alongside direct SEND support delivered by Learning a New Way CIC and Holiday Camps delivered by partners, Moors in the Community and Stoker Football Coaching plus STEAM Ahead Education. For struggling families, we know from their feedback that these regular meals help with the cost of living and tackles holiday hunger. Our Duke of Edinburgh programme group achieved their Silver Award following a successful expedition and we were able to establish a new group during the year. We involve the groups in centre life which contributes to their volunteering hours at the same time as connecting our group teenagers with their communities. Our CHILLAX wellbeing CREE was funded again through Public Health and were active in the CREE network facilitated by Durham Community Action. As the only young people's CREE in County Durham, our weekly term time sessions offered more structured, quieter youth provision for children with additional needs and/or lower levels of confidence. Their development as young people and as a group has been notable. In August, CREE member John won the County Durham Youth Council's Young People's Award for the amazing journey he has been on during his time with CHILLAX. For kids who don't want to come into the centres or are at risk of causing or becoming a victim of antisocial behaviour, we continued to work with Livin who funded our outreach	The National Lottery Community Fund Spennymoor Town Football Club/Moors in the Community Stoker Football Coaching STEAM Ahead Education Banks Community Foundation Sport England	461 children, young people and their families.

	work enabling our youth workers to go out onto the streets and into the parks to engage young people, signposting where possible into local clubs, groups and youth sessions. We are working with Livin, Spennymoor Town Team, Police and other partners to develop what we hope will become a programme of activities in Jubilee Park and in community hubs across Spennymoor and Tudhoe from 2026. Community Workers Gemma and Danielle were involved in the YouthPrint network which brings together youth organisations across County Durham to promote young people's development. Learning a New Way CIC were based in Spennymoor Youth and Community Centre and continued to grow their offer providing learning, support and breathing space for SEND families, for young people with additional needs and struggling families through lunch clubs, learning, holiday, support groups, training, activities and trips. While our own youth provision continued to include more SEND children and young people with challenging behaviours, the specialist work that Learning a New Way continues to pioneer as a rapidly growing CIC is a valuable partnership. In 2026 we hope to hold our next Youth Fest if funding can be secured. Spennymoor Youth Fest is a one day event which showcases local youth groups, clubs and service providers to Spennymoor and Tudhoe children, young people and families. In 2024 it attracted 400 young people and their families with 40 organisations attending.		
		Total beneficiaries	**4551**

Spennymoor Youth and Community Association

Grant funding secured over the last 12 months included:

Funder	Project	Funding secured
Newcastle Building Society Community Fund	Creating a Community Pantry as part of our Feeding Spennymoor food offer.	£4,575
Durham County Council Section 106	Investing in energy saving technology (smart radiator thermostats, boiler optimisation, hot water timers, energy reducing equipment on fridges and freezers).	£4,984
Durham County Council Community Economic Development	Heating system upgrade with remote control function and zoned heating.	£2,604
Public Health Durham	Chillax Wellbeing CREE (2025 youth sessions).	£3,000
Mayor's Opportunity Fund	SYACA youth provision and food	£7,220
Sport England	SYACA youth provision and equipment	£7,070
Durham County Council / NENC ICB	Open Loung Health Hub, smoking cessation project	£4,981
PCP Happiness Hub	2025 A Centre for Wellbeing – SYACA	£5,488
Point North Welcome Space	2025 Open Lounge offering warm space and access to food, hot drinks, social connections and support services.	£4,000
Livin Holiday Activity Fund	2025 holiday activities for families and children.	£2,000
Spennymoor Town Council Christmas Community Chest 2024	Santa Doorstep visits and community event.	£1,017
Spennymoor Town Council Christmas Community Chest 2025	Wellbeing groups Christmas/New Year celebrations and food support for families.	£1,642
Fun and Food County Durham	SYACA Christmas Party 2024	£1,681
	Total	£50,262

Next steps and priorities

In 2026 and beyond we will continue to use National Lottery Community Fund grant to support residents.

Over the next three years we want take what we know works to bring more people and parters together and meet their needs. Sustainability will be our priority as we work to:

- Make our communities more sustainable in partnership with others including the Spennymoor Town Team,
- Make our centres more sustainable as we continue to invest in green technology and in the spaces, equipment and facilities we can offer beneficiaries,
- Make our partnership more sustainable as the two organisations grow together, share resources and co-ordinate what we do.

For SYACA our priority will be to ensure the centre is generating a wide range of income and that partnerships with funders allow for the sessions and support which are making the most difference can develop and be sustained long term.

We are very grateful to our staff and all our Trustees and Centre Friends who give their time and energy to help others, working hard to bring our communities together.

Spennymoor Youth and Community Association

SPENNYMOOR YOUTH & COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

RECEIPTS	2025	2024	PAYMENTS	2025	2024
Building Room Hire	34938	19745	Building & Cleaning	9873	9053
AAP Youth Connect Income	10186	5962	Gas & Electric	8614	7644
Fairshare Income		500	Water	1249	906
Paypal Income		20	Building Insurance	1408	1163
Pool Table Income	110		Service Direct Repairs		288
			Telephone & Internet	136	797
Livin Grant 2023 Income	3900		Office/General Admin Expenses	690	555
NECA Mayors Fund Income	7220		Christmas 2024 F & F Exp 649	1045	
Chillax Sessions	3000	3000	Accountancy Charges	354	354
Bank Interest Received	216		T V License	170	159
Christmas 2-24 F & F Inc		1682	Bank Interest	646	
			PPL-PRS Fees	551	440
*National Lottery Community			Bank Charges	248	124
Fund - Stepping Up Grant	42194	84387	*National Lottery Community		
			Fund – Stepping Up	1267	578
*National Lottery Community			Tudhoe Youth Club	9502	7029
Fund – Sustaining Communities	31257		AA Community Café	7	
Place for People		1000	DCA Smoking Cessation	57	
Sales of Product Income	2028	90	Point North Community Patry	5132	
Sedgefield YC Wages Income	8736	3380	AAP Youth/Health/Covid		2013
Clothes Bank Donation	138	236	Computers/ICT	110	497
Spennymoor Town Council	395				
Fun & Food	1400	5499	Sports England	1140	
CDCF Grant 2024	4000		Photocopier Expenses	956	1203
Tudhoe CC Income	7498	5354	Chillax Expenses	1140	1890
Tudhoe YC 2024 (PointNorth)		4810	Youth Club 13-19	217	
Non Profit Income	15844	20198	Vehicle Expenses	3076	2799
Ultra Connect A4A Income	15097	Living Grant	3446		
Comm Pantry Point North Grant	4575		Fairshare Exp	1200	600
DCA – Smoking Cessation Income	4981		Wages Expenses	104527	114703
DCA – Energy Grant	5000		Sedgefield YC Wages	522	115
Energy Feed in Tarriff Income	104		Move It Project		160
Party Room Hire	5564		D of E Expenses	406	489
Spennymoor TC Grant Inc	852		Quickbooks	921	858
Sports England Grant	7070		Co-op Grant	15	472
Grants		14530	CDCF 2024 Grant Exp	480	2399
			CDCF Health Grant	1525	
			Eating Together	1061	1154
			Ballanger Trust		1678
			Solar Panels Funding	9984	
			DBS Checks	191	105
			Defibrillator		156
			Food & Fun	622	4414
			Uncategorised Expenses		57
			Ultra Connect A4A Exp	11021	
Excess of Payments - over			Plus Excess of Receipts -		
Receipts			over Payments	28324	8571
	200811	185489		200811	185489
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Spennymoor Youth and Community Association

* Restricted funds: the National Lottery Community Fund RC North East and Cumbria Region

SPENNYMOOR YOUTH & COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
SUMMARY

	2025	2024		2025	2024
Balance as at 01.01.25	179346	170774	Balance as at 31.12.25		
Less Excess of Payments over receipts for the Year			Utility Trust Bank	157268	180666
			Utility Trust Bank Saving	50493	
			Debtors	65818	56036
			Creditor	(66209)	(57657)
Plus Excess of Receipts Over payments for the Year	28324	8571	Cash in Hand	300	300
	207670	179345		207670	179345

Approved by

B. Graham.

B GRAHAM	N FOSTER	W GIBSON
Chairperson	Secretary	Treasurer

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We have compiled these unaudited accounts from the books and records of Spennymoor Youth & Community Association and from information given to us. We have not performed an audit therefore we do not express any opinion on the financial information.

45-47 Cheapside
Spennymoor DL16 6QF

Henniker & Co Ltd
31st March 2026

Trustees

Spennymoor Youth and Community Association

Chair – Barbara Graham
Secretary – Neil Foster
Treasurer – Wayne Gibson
Committee:
Chloe Horn (Trustee)
Diana Charlton (Management Committee Member)
Jim Graham (Management Committee Member)
Vicky Junor (Management Committee Member)
Macy Pritchard (Management Committee Member)
Cllr Billy McAloon (Town Council Rep)

Staff
Michael Fishwick – Development Manager
Danielle Clarke – Project Worker
Helen Riley – Centre Administration
Ashley Court – Cook
Val Richardson – Caretaker

Spennymoor Youth Work Team
Claire Peat – Youth Worker
Alyssa Carr – Youth Work Assistant
Joel Johnson Srinivasan – Youth Work Assistant

Tudhoe Youth Work Team
Claire Bissett – Youth Worker
Danielle Todd – Youth Worker
Alyssa Carr – Youth Work Assistant

Sedgefield Youth Work Team
Victoria Robinson – Youth Worker
Kerry Nicholson – Youth Work Assistant

Spennymoor Youth and Community Association

Thank You to all of our Trustees, Centre Friends and Staff who support the centre on a daily basis, it really could not happen without your help and involvement.