

**Wiltshire Council** 

# **Trowbridge Area Board**

Trowbridge Community Area is made up of Trowbridge, the county town of Wiltshire and five parishes which are characterised by villages set in a well farmed rural landscape. The town itself is rich in heritage with it's iconic buildings and museum. Trowbridge is one of the most populous community areas in Wiltshire.

The Area Board is made up of 9 unitary councillors, 7 of whom are also members of Trowbridge Town Council. The Councillors are the voting members of the board, and all those who engage in the board's work are equal members, able to influence decisions, shape and deliver on local priorities.

The community area has a rich range of physical and human resources, including vibrant and active community, cultural and sporting hubs, a range of voluntary and community sector support organisations and a collaborative Town council.



### **Area Board Investment**

The Area Board invests in local community projects and initiatives that meet local priorities and deliver exceptional outcomes for residents. The Area Board aims to work in partnership to achieve maximum value for its investment. They take a long term view to invest in prevention and early intervention, focusing on tackling inequalities and improving social mobility.

### **Total Area Board Investment**



The total amount invested in projects through additional community contribution, from fundraising, grants, services in kind or volunteering

### **Local Priorities**

The Trowbridge Area Board reviewed available local data and evidence and integrated this with local knowledge and community conversation to agree the following local priority themes. The Area Board has undertaken a series of more specific local actions to positively address them, including the key achievements below:



#### Youth engagement, employment and positive activity opportunities

The Amber foundation supports up-to 30 young people, with complex challenges. Through Area Board grants Amber were able to provide workshops on topics like Managing stress and uncertainty ,healthy relationships and adult literacy and numeracy. They also refurbished 2 shower rooms and bedrooms, one resident commented," My bedroom is a nicer place to be-its made a big difference."

#### **Addressing climate change**

Trowbridge Environmental Community run GROW, a community project at Gloucester Road allotments and came to the Area Board needing tools. Participants of GROW work together to plant, nurture and harvest vegetables. As part of its activities, the group aims to reuse and repurpose materials needed eg as plant supports. The project also tends and maintains a wildlife area on the allotments increasing biodiversity.





#### Supporting positive mental health and wellbeing

An Area board grant helped Families Out Loud, an organisation who supports families of drug & alcohol users in Wiltshire, to continue their support work with around 28 clients. The grants also contributed to a much needed professional email system, and new equipment for their craft stall

#### Supporting low income individuals and families

Trowbridge Debt Advice Service were granted money to replace and increase IT equipment to support the increased the number of Debt Advisors to keep pace with client demand. 3 machines will become "Kiosk" machines and can be used by the growing number of clients who do not have IT access to make their online applications for things like housing benefit whilst receiving advice.





#### Supporting the local economy

The Area Board has been working with Trowbridge Chamber of Commerce and the Future High Street Fund to support growth, improve the experience for everyone visiting the town centre, and ensure a sustainable future for Trowbridge .

# **Community-led projects**



The Trowbridge Area Board has developed a strong, well established and highly functioning network of local partners, organisations and residents in the town. The Board recognises the talents, expertise and knowledge of the local community and empowers and facilitates community led action to co-deliver local services.

The Chairman of Trowbridge Area Board for 2022-2023, is delighted to highlight Trowbridge Future as an example of a group that the Area Board invested in. We are proud to support Trowbridge Future Youth projects which engaged with 228 young people in 2022 alone.

Through Area Board funding two youth workers in the Studley Green Drop-In project were able to provide a safe and supportive environment, redirecting the energy of the young individuals towards positive activities and worked to foster a sense of community responsibility. Funding also helped employ an apprentice, who came from the heart of the community, to be trained as a youth support worker and act as a positive role model. The Area Board also support Longfield Portakabin a dedicated youth and community space in the heart of the Longfield estate. Through these projects 1617 youth sessions places were provided in 2022.

The Trowbridge Area Board enthusiastically voted to support these projects fostering community-led action and creating a more resilient and inclusive Trowbridge. They exemplify Wiltshire Council's key mission of helping Wiltshire be a place where 'we live well together.'

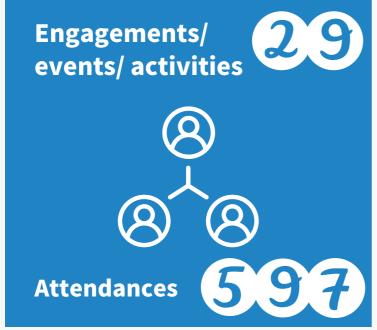
### **Engagements**

The Trowbridge Area Board works alongside other organisations to make things happen in the local community. These groups include the town council, voluntary and community groups, youth organisations, sports clubs and local charities.

The Area Board wouldn't be able to achieve what they do without these partners working on the ground with them. The Area Board hosts regular business meetings, engagement activities, events, surveys and working groups to stimulate and support local community action.











# Agreeing and delivering priorities for 2023/24

By agreeing and delivering to local priorities, the Area Board is able to proactively address issues by focusing its resources and working in partnership with local organisations, volunteers and residents. To effectively select local priorities it is important that there is a regular review of the evidence available and the views of the residents are sought. To aid Councillors to agree their priorities, the list below provides some of new sources of data and evidence:

- **JSNA Wiltshire Intelligence**: The 2022 Wiltshire JSNA presents data on the current and future health and wellbeing needs of people in Wiltshire
- <u>Census 2021 results</u>: results from the 2021 census are being released in a phased manner, which started in June 2022
- <u>VCSE research Wessex Community Action</u>: state of the Wiltshire voluntary and community sector 2022
- Annual report Wiltshire Citizens Advice: Wiltshire Citizens Advice annual report 2022

As well as being evidence led, priorities should be selected where the Area Board believes it can realistically make a positive impact upon them. To aid the delivery of the chosen priorities, the Engagement and Partnerships team will support the Area Board councillors through the development of the Area Board local action plan.

Based on the work undertaken in 2022/23 and the new evidence available, some of the key priorities that the Board may wish to consider are as follows:

- Youth engagement, employment and positive activity opportunities
- Addressing climate change and reversing biodiversity loss
- Supporting positive mental health and wellbeing and reducing social isolation
- Supporting under represented groups
- Local economy

It is recommended that for each priority selected, an area board councillor takes responsibility for overseeing its delivery and reporting back to the Area Board on progress. The Engagement and Partnerships team will support the Area Board councillors in undertaking this work.

