



# **Bradford-on-Avon Area Board**

## **End of Year Report**

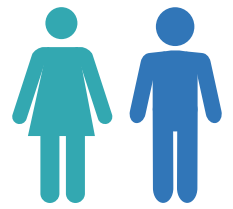
### **May 2021 - March 2023**

# Bradford- on-Avon Area Board

Bradford-on-Avon Community Area is made up of the market town of Bradford-on-Avon and nine parishes.

The Area Board is Bradford-on-Avon's local cabinet for Wiltshire Council, bringing local decision making into the heart of the community area. The Area Board is made up of 5 unitary councillors, 2 of whom are also members of Bradford-on-Avon's 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.



**Total  
Population  
18,469**

## 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

£42,043	£15,475	£8,981
<b>Community</b>	<b>Youth</b>	<b>Older and Vulnerable Adults</b>
<b>Total Community Contribution</b>		
<b>£1,536,394</b>	<b>£79,931</b>	<b>£43,111</b>

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

# Local Priorities

The Bradford-on-Avon 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



Mighty girls encourage girls to, increase their well being and self esteem. Through grants from the Area Board they have paid youth workers to run their Thursday group and projects , including, Body Positive Workshops, Self Defence Workshops, 3 day Summer Camp and a Musical Gathering

## Addressing climate change

The Area board supported Bradford on Avon Town Council and Climate Friendly BoA to host the he Bradford on Avon Great Big Green Week which provided information and ways to engage with biodiversity, tackle domestic heating fuel prices, and carbon emissions, reduce food and plastic waste and consider how to make your diet greener and food more sustainable.



## Reducing isolation and loneliness



The Area board supported Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Nature Based Therapy (NBT) programme. The sessions involve meaningful outdoor occupation in a supportive environment. Skills in practical conservation and wildlife identification as well as ways of managing mental health and loneliness through nature connectedness, reflection and mindfulness will be taught. Group discussions and individual support as well as the proven effects of 'nature as therapist' are all essential aspects of the course.

## Supporting the local economy

The Bradford on Avon Area Board, actively engaged with the Green Man festival . The festival is now one of the most impressive Green Man festivals in the Country with 450+ performers)Many people came for the festival and stayed for the weekend in Bradford on Avon using the guest houses, campsites, restaurants, cafes and pubs



## Improving transport and access



The Area Board is supporting the Town Council who are working in partnership with Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon, to procure two electric bikes and then run a 'Try Scheme' where the public can hire the bike(s) for a period of time to see how they can get on with them. Once funding is confirmed and the Council formally adopt this scheme, the bikes will be purchased.

## Community-led projects



The Bradford- on-Avon 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 Area Board was able to make a huge difference to a local charity who were struggling to pay for equipment. The SAXON Ridding for the Disabled Charity provides time on or with horses to children and adults with physical or mental disabilities, learning difficulties, autism or complex emotional needs. Horse riding provides them with physical therapy and exercise, as well as providing opportunities for achievement, fun and socialisation.

Whether it is through physical disabilities or mental health issues, that these people are in danger of social isolation, and the visit to the Saxon RDA for many is there only outing in the whole week. The ramp and the mounting block, which were designed and built by the Brunel Mens Shed, provide wheelchair access to watch the riders, and easier mounting for disabled riders respectively, both reducing the number of volunteers needed so activities can be more frequent thereby extending their reach in the community.

These activities help a number of riders a week, as well as elderly people who attend the "Tea with a pony" weekly event. These events improve people's physical health, mental well being, confidence, communication and enjoyment.

A key mission of Wiltshire Council's Business Plan is to help Wiltshire be a place where 'We live full, healthy and enriched lives', and it aims to help support communities to be more resilient in the face of challenging times and setbacks.

# Engagements

The Bradford-on-Avon Area Board works alongside other organisations to make things happen in the local community. These groups include the city 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.

**Area Board  
Business meetings**

**7**



**Attendances**

**2 3 3**

**Area Board  
working groups**

**4 2**



**Attendances**

**3 2 4**

**Engagements/  
events/ activities**

**2 9**



**Attendances**

**5 9 7**

**Area Board  
surveys**

**1**



**Responses**

**4 9 1**

# 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
- **Census 2021 results**: results from the 2021 census are being released in a phased manner, which started in June 2022
- **VCSE research - Wessex Community Action**: state of the Wiltshire voluntary and community sector 2022
- **Annual report - Wiltshire Citizens Advice**: Wiltshire Citizens Advice annual report 2022
- **Needs Analysis for Wiltshire and Swindon** Wiltshire community foundation Annual Review 2021-22

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**
- **Improving transport and access**

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.