



Walk Derbyshire Learning Network

February 2025

Vision of Walk Derbyshire

To make everyday walking the norm for all residents of Derbyshire.

We will do this by adopting a systems approach to walking to create a culture of walking across the county.

Focusing on: Our less advantaged and less active communities

Principles

The principles below have been developed to provide a clear focus for the work of stakeholder consortiums to increase activity levels and create sustained behaviour change through walking across our County.

- Address local inequalities and invest in areas of greatest need
- Aim to embed coproduction in all elements of Walk Derbyshire
- Collaborate, share, and learn across local priority places
- Whole systems thinking considers the widest range of influences and interactions
- Ensure inclusive practice and opportunities
- Evidence impact and share learning across Derbyshire
- Connecting communities and ensuring people can access appropriate local opportunities
- Embedding the Walk Derbyshire vision at a local level

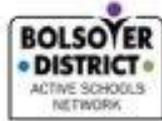
Bolsover

Active Neighbourhood Pilot - Shirebrook - Creating a generational shift in accessing physical activity through walking as part of everyday life

Highlights

- Lead partner – Bolsover CVS
- Creative engagement through seed packets
- Community Grants scheme based on engagement themes
 - Deaf-Initely Women accessibility and engagement
- Youth Ambassadors <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2beYPksCtq4>
 - BLAST benches project
 - Match funding for trail signage
- Creation of 'Bolsover Compass' brand which will be taken forward by Bolsover Active Schools Network
- Learning from Pilot used to support successful funding bid for 18 month Green Volunteering Project

BOLSOVER



BOLSOVER



Grant Funding Opportunity



Can your organisation alleviate any of these barriers to walking?



Paths - Safety - Health
Anti-Social Behaviour
Dog Mess - Weather
Awareness - Parking

Access - Time - Traffic - Litter

Grants range from £2500 - £6000
Joint applications are welcome.



We are holding a community conversations event at The Tangent in Shirebrook on 23rd January, 2pm - 4pm. If you would like to attend, please contact me on 01246 605075 or email steve.morris@bcvs.org.uk



Chesterfield

Active Neighbourhood Pilot - Holme Hall - Localised community approach to understand how every day walking can influence social and community connectivity and improve the health and wellbeing of residents.

Highlights

- Lead partner – Derbyshire Voluntary Action (DVA)
 - Coffee cart engagement
 - Holme Hall arts trail
- Holme Hall Explorer - summer creative activities
- Signage agreement to local community asset and park
 - Community connector
 - Links to local community hub and garden
- Volunteer 'Changemakers' from community starting to be identified



Erewash

Active Neighbourhood Pilot - Cotmanhay - Hearing the voice of Cotmanhay residents to enable them to walk more every day. Focus on adults with limiting conditions and links to unemployment and young people with links to employability.

Highlights

- Lead Partner – Parkside High CIC
- Walk 2 School Week engagement and banner
 - Community Safety key theme
 - Community Safety role plays in schools
- Locally held walk leader training and networks
- Community development officer and Coach Core apprentice
 - Accessibility report to Bennerley Viaduct
- Piloting Nordic walking for those with long term conditions





North East Derbyshire

Active Neighbourhood Pilot - Clay Cross/ Danesmoor - Walking for travel within and between our key communities, with an objective of achieving better connected communities and improving the health and well-being of our residents

Highlights

- Lead partner – Derbyshire Voluntary Action (DVA)
- Litter pick – engagement, leading to community run 'Handy Helpers'
 - Clay Cross Games
 - Match funding through Arts Council
 - Summer programme of local trails and activities
 - Winter trail involving local businesses and families
- Looking to align to other local priorities and job roles to ensure this approach continues following Pilot end

Clean up your town!

Danesmoor Community

Litter Pick




Join our Danesmoor community litter picking event.

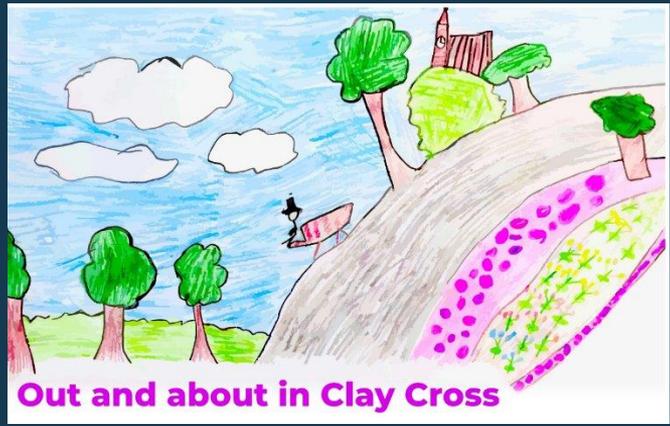
Everyone welcome! We would love for local residents to join us to help tidy up Danesmoor and the surrounding area. All equipment is provided. FREE refreshments afterwards!

Saturday 8th June 2024 - 10am
Meet at 10am at St. Barnabas Centre, Pilsley Road, Danesmoor S45 9BU.

For more information, contact:
Hayley Bramley, Walking Into Communities Development Officer
Tel: 01246 217435 or 07971 654854
Email: hayley.bramley@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk



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👏 Well, what about that then?! THANK YOU to everyone that came along to the first ever Clay Cross Games last Sunday. What a fantastic afternoon it was.

It was brilliant to see everyone joining in and having such a great time.

👏 Huge thanks to everyone that helped to make it happen including **Clay Cross Healthy Futures North East Derbyshire District Council**, **Derbyshire Voluntary Action - DVA Active Derbyshire Walk**, **Derbyshire Rykneld Homes**, all the stewards, all the artists, performers and workshop providers including **Community Games**, **Hands Down Circus**, **Circus Hub**, **Kenning Park Forest School**, **Raph & Mike**, **KCM inflatables & Entertainment Hire**, the tech crew, and many others.

👏 A special thanks to **Rumbles Coffee Lounge** for providing the food. Everyone pulled out the stops for a great day for the community.



Amber Valley

Community Engagement & Coproduction Pilot - Somercotes - Focus - People living with long term health conditions

Highlights

- Lead Partner – Amber Valley Borough Council (AVBC)
- Creation of Amber Valley Ambles by local resident
- Commissioned engagement through AVCVS and IbD – presented back in Sept
- Resident requests include indoor walking, which will be complimented by local neighbourhood scans

Living with a long term health condition or disability explained through the Spoon Theory -

Amber Valley Ambles

Check out our low-level walking groups in Riddings.

Meeting at Riddings Community Centre car park for a 12.30pm start.

The next two walks - Friday 4th and 18th October.

Walk as little or as much as you like...Its your choice!

Suitable for people with disabilities, limited mobility and long term health conditions





Derbyshire Dales

Community Engagement & Coproduction Pilot - Bradwell - Improve our understanding of the Bradwell community, build our insight and connections, and understand how walking impacts the lives of residents.

Highlights

- Lead Partner – Derbyshire Dales District Council
- Local transport and roads an issue - have fed into Hope Valley Active Travel Masterplan and bus service improvement team
- Focus on hearing voice of more isolated residents - group inc local councillors
 - Transport themes fed into NHS Green Plan Refresh
- Linking in with Farming Life Centre to develop rural social and wellbeing group with resident led activity and to develop safe walking routes and signage
 - Looking at delivering as part of curriculum around 'our local area'

High Peak

Community Engagement & Coproduction Pilot - borough wide approach - older people and people living with a long term health condition

Highlights

- Lead Partner – High Peak Borough Council (HPBC)
- Countywide approach (Gamesley, Fairfield, Ollersett, Hope Valley)
- Commissioned engagement piece with people with long term conditions and their linked health workers
- Responses presented early Dec with key recommendations for each place and aim to set up local community forums to agree with communities next steps.



South Derbyshire

Community Engagement & Coproduction Pilot - Cadley Park, Newhall and Church Gresley - Focus: Children & Young People & Families, SEND groups and Intergenerational (with a focus on those with Long Term Conditions) Understanding how to create sustainability beyond the Beat the Street funded initiative, to foster walking being the norm in our key communities.

Highlights

- Lead Partner – South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC)
- Countywide Beat The Street with specific data relating to some of Pilot aims
- Developing community led 15 to green mental maps and signage, linking in with recruiting and empowering local community champions (collaborative approach)



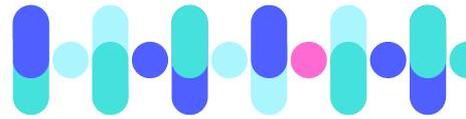
Breakout Rooms

15 mins (breakout rooms won't be recorded but feedback to group will)

Progress & Sustainability:

Where are we at now and what does sustainability look like?

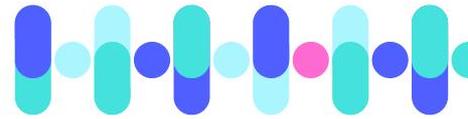
Facilitator to feedback to the group



Rebecca Sutton, our embedded PhD student conducted semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders, strategic leads, consortia lead members (previous, present and those who expressed interest to lead) and commissioners to develop a holistic overview of the initial consortia formation and development of the Walk Derbyshire programme. 27 interviews, averaging an hour in duration, between Nov 2023 and Jan 2024. These interviews took reflect consortium formation and stakeholder and strategic perceptions. Eight main themes were identified.

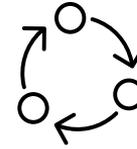
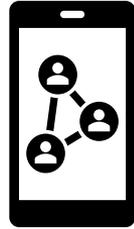
Follow up interviews with Pilot leads will follow at the start of 2025, along with focus groups with residents.

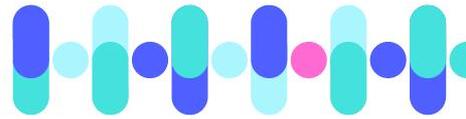




Headlines

Eight main themes were identified through inductive thematic analysis:





Themes

Background and vision of Walk Derbyshire

The vision of Walk Derbyshire is to make every day walking the norm across the county.

This theme had fairly consistent responses with all interviewees understanding the background and purpose of Walk Derbyshire.

- Responses included understanding around test and learn, system working (although the vocabulary used to describe this differed), promoting every day walking, with physical activity as a broader goal considered as a wider aim also.

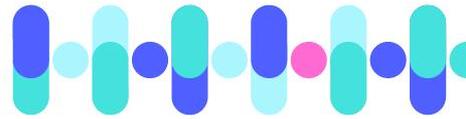
“Great potential for influence... Walk Derbyshire, that it lands and resonates with more wider system partners than physical activity and or sport or even move more.”

What this tells us:

There is recognition that every day walking can be used to influence many agendas and that is already being seen in through this work.

Having a shared understanding of the vision has been helpful given that the Pilot process was relatively non-prescriptive to allow consortiums to follow where the community engagement themes took them.





Themes

Strategic Direction and Partnerships

Areas explored – shared themes across partners / role and purpose for organisation / change or growth in consortia / existing and new collaborations / lead partner role etc.

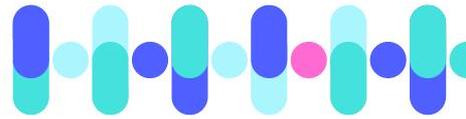
- The main theme that came out consistently was around challenging traditional approaches – most people were keen to do this but there was some tension where individuals were keen to explore new ways of working yet came from an organisation that worked traditionally.

“Some of the areas are being led... by Voluntary Sector Organisations, well that's fantastic yeah that's a complete shift in how to work.”

“I think the other thing is the partner working. It's been a real opportunity for us to link with different people in the area. And I feel that there's lots of learning and lots of sharing that we can do”

“They literally only ever said, we're going to learn. And that just really frustrated me. Because no, we're not, we're going to do something. So, so at the beginning, the learning... because of that, it underwhelmed me.”





Themes

Funding and Implementation Challenges (Impact and Effectiveness)

Inc adapting to changing circs / moving from solution focus to community led activity / impact of funding inc external funding pressures

"I think there's some as good work going on within the areas with 20 000 and it shows that it's not necessarily all about the money."

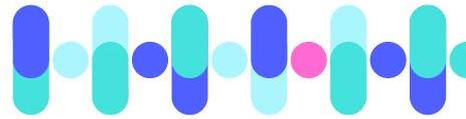
"I feel like it's been an enjoyable process and as I said before the flexibility with the funding and that allowing us to shape what that looks like for our district you... haven't felt pressured or that we've had to say something because we know it ticks a box for them. I think the programme allows that flexibility with it that we can still do that"

"The flexibility on the process itself...the theory behind it is great. And I think that work is really important from the public [health] ... point of view and that takes time"

What this tells us:

A significant perspective shared is that the success of the program is not solely dependent on large funding amounts. Several participants point out that valuable work is happening even with relatively modest funding levels, such as the £20,000 allocated for community engagement, which demonstrates that impactful outcomes are achievable without massive financial investments. This highlights the idea that money, while important, is not the only factor driving success but that shared vision and developing relationships with new partners has also been extremely valuable.





Themes

Consortium Development and Community Engagement

Discussions around the approach to community engagement and how consortiums developed and worked together including what the working approach and trust looked and felt like.

“More time was needed at initial formation of consortiums to build relationships.”

“...having deadlines makes it really difficult to recognise they'll all develop trust at different rates”

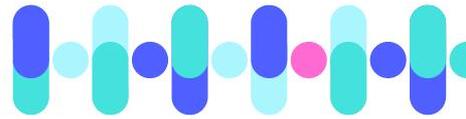
“I think the good thing about a consortium is that it does pull all those ideas together. And it causes people to work together rather than pulling in opposite directions. So that's got to be a benefit.”

What this tells us

Forming new working relationships does take time and effort and then building trust into this takes longer and is a constant process, especially where dynamics change and new ideas or people are brought in. However, where this works, there are clear benefits as seen in the quotes above.

There was recognition of the need to bring in community and resident voice and that this was something that needed to be built upon that hadn't always been seen in previous working.





Themes

Challenges and Drawbacks

This topic focussed on initial misunderstandings around the role of pilot lead, pre-existing tensions and constraints on capacity and resource.

“There was a bit of a misunderstanding about the lead applicant role. At first, it felt like I was expected to do everything, but that wasn't really the case. It's been about trying to balance that and make sure that responsibilities are shared.”

“there were a few tensions with some of the partners involved and from the discussions there wasn't a clear lead”, “as to the Council, at the time we didn't really want to force ourselves upon being the lead because it didn't have to be, it was meant to be collaborative...”

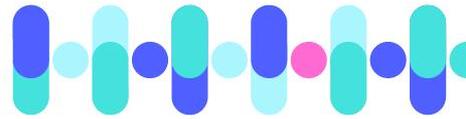
What this tells us

The challenges mentioned here around the lead role were reflections from Phase One and had been dealt with and roles understood by the time of the interviews.

This also tells us that partnership working is hard and it takes time to build trust between partners.

Many of the challenges mentioned throughout this piece have been addressed as they have arisen and realised as learning throughout the process, which is testament to the openness and honesty of participants. This has led to better collaborative working.





Themes

Achievements and Learning

This looked at learning and adaptation, network support, need for training and trust building.

“It’s making sure that we’re not duplicating efforts, and that we’re working smarter, not harder. By having that consortium group, we’ve been able to share what we’re doing and make sure that we’re all working towards the same goal.”

“It’s challenged some of the traditional partners, in the way that they work, you know and some have moved with that and some haven’t”.

“I think there’s a lot more flexibility and a lot more awareness of trying to do something bottom up instead of top down.”

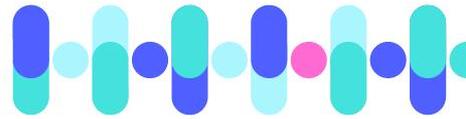
“It feels like the trust has built because we were happy to have some of those difficult conversations”,

What this tells us

Trust and developing trust is a major theme throughout the Pilot work – those places where there is trust appear to thrive and are able to communicate openly and honestly with a better sense of collaboration.

Trust isn't a given and does need to be worked on. Levels of trust can depend on differing personalities, ways of working and previous experiences.





Themes

Working approaches

This looked at a shift in focus towards learning, from solution focussed to community led approach / collaboration and 'new way of working' / 'integration of feedback loops' – how reacted to learning and how comm eng feeds back into system and reacting and responding

“And I know how to feedback appropriately as well and to make sure that top-down messaging can reach the resident. But also, more importantly, make sure the resident reaches the system, but not avoiding place in the middle. And I think sometimes that's where things get lost, you know. We can just jump from neighbourhood to system rather than involve place, and place really does need that reflective view because lots of things can be happening at place.”

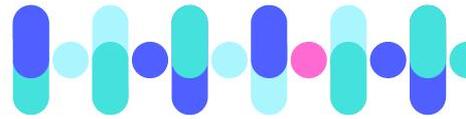
I think there's definitely things we've taken from the last six months, particularly that we wouldn't do again. But there's some things that we would definitely do more of, when we think about engagement specifically. But I think that's all part of learning.”

“There was a real vision and a real move from just working in isolation for districts”

What this tells us

The learning aspect to this work seems to have been something that has been appreciated across the County, with recognition that 'learning' is also about development and is a positive action in itself.





Themes

Impact and future direction

This dealt with sustainability of the Pilot work and feelings of uncertainty (now overcome to an extent), future opportunities and growth

“I feel quite optimistic that, again, some of those right foundations are being put in place... for that future impact and work to come to some fruition.”

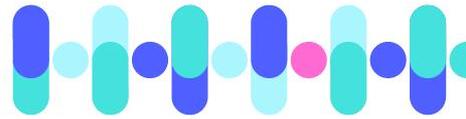
“this is about walking initially, but actually this consortium could be used moving forward... we're looking at this as a five, 10, 15 year programme about getting people active... And if we can... get momentum, to get more funding... [it] could be really key in driving that forward.

What this tells us

From an early stage, people were already recognising the potential for further collaborative working and impact post Pilot end.

These interviews were completed by January 2024 and the work that followed has created the foundations for sustainability for these collaborations moving forward.





Next Steps

- Community and resident engagement research phase
- Presenting learning at Conference / workshop
- Understanding impact on health inequalities and physical inactivity

The next 12 months will see the design, delivery and completion of study two, thesis write-up and conference presentation. The next research phase involves following the pathway of emergent findings in an adaptive evaluation approach. Qualitative data sources will be used to measure changes, enablers, and barriers in engagement with community voice.

