



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE AGM

DECEMBER 2020

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Reference and administrative information

Committee members:

Rosie Buxton	Chair
Lesley Stephenson	Treasurer
Joanne Bedingfield	
Councillor Musarrat Khan	
Councillor Naheed Mather	
Councillor Peter McBride	

Advisors:

Cheryl Reid	Kirklees Council
Louise Nardini	S2R
Sally Dowell	Business Support

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1. History and background

Ward Councillors, Peter McBride, Naheed Mather and Musarrat Khan alongside their Council ward support officer (Cheryl Reid), have for some time now been hosting and facilitating Ward Partnership Meetings as part of their commitment to ward partnership working and have regularly discussed their vision for improved ward working in order to **develop a whole ward partnership approach Being Ward Wise** (was then, a working title) to:

- **Strengthening partnership working** and putting in place governance arrangements across the ward
- **Providing generous leadership across the ward** to enable Councillors, the community, and partners to champion shared goals
- **Responding to shared community priorities** and needs through new partnership working arrangements
- **Increasing the effectiveness and sustainability of community groups** across the ward (existing and newly emerging ones – of all sizes and abilities)
- **Sustaining current provision** and develop essential community facilities across the ward
- **Developing new activities and services** and build on strengths and assets that exist across the ward
- **Undertaking volunteer succession planning** – by supporting existing volunteers and growing new generations of younger volunteers across the ward by putting in place a Volunteering Strategy bespoke to the area
- **Developing strategic communication, community engagement, ward/funding plans** for the ward to support ward working

So, the Councillors hosted two partnership residentials held at Northern College in Barnsley to help local partners, local community groups and residents work through some of the opportunities and challenges to make the above ambitions a reality.

The work undertaken on the residential then culminated into a creative but intense visioning session which Cummins, a multi-national organisation, kindly hosted, on behalf of the Dalton Ward Partnership. Following this engaging process, the message triangle (above) was created which sets out the vision for a new community led partnership organisation – named Dalton Together.

Third Sector Leaders were then approached to work with the partnership in order to formalise its status and put in place all the relevant governance requirements for it to function in an open and transparent way, in order that it could also attract investment into the area. The Councillors then invested a significant amount of Council funding to Dalton Together to help get it up and running and responding to local needs. Syngenta, another multi-national organisation, then offered to host at their site, a Dalton Together ward partnership meeting, and invited over to Huddersfield – Keighley Big Local – a successful organisation who established itself to create lasting change in its communities. Dalton Together picked up lots of learning, inspiration, lessons learnt and good practice which proved beneficial and Dalton Together is now in an exciting place to be able to promote more widely what it can offer to residents, partners, community groups and local businesses because as a community partnership ... ‘together we make good things happen.’

Dalton Together was formally established at a meeting on 2 September 2019.

2. Report from the Committee

The new committee and other advisors developed a business plan for the new organisation. The key milestones for the first year of the organisation and progress against them are set out below:

Year 1 milestones

Details of activity/milestone	Outcome
Visioning Sessions- to agree vision/mission statement	Complete
Dalton Partnership Meeting to agree vision and proposed constitution	Complete
First meeting of Dalton Together and regular meetings thereafter	Complete
Appointment of organisation to lead on Volunteering workstream	Complete
Opening of Bank Account	Complete
Appointment of organisation to lead on Communications workstream	Complete
Developing Dalton Together priorities for community projects/activities; developing work plan for their implementation	Complete
Agreement of Communications/Engagement Plan by Management Group	Complete
Initial funding applications submitted e.g Do Something Now funding	Complete
Application to register organisation as a CIO	In progress
Appointment of Governance/ Secretary support	Complete
First Report of volunteering work to Management Group	Complete
Dalton Together basic policies developed and adopted, as a minimum to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and safety • Equalities and diversity • Safeguarding • GDPR • Volunteer policy 	Complete
Production of flyers/branded goods/other products	On going
Website Development	Complete
Start of Resident Engagement Work	Covid affected
Volunteering Celebration Event	Covid affected
Dalton Together partnership residential	Covid affected
CIO established and transfer of assets from unregistered charity	Not yet completed
First meeting of trustee board of new charity and monthly meetings thereafter	Not yet completed

This is the agreed **Statement of Purposes: Mission, Aims & Values for Dalton Together** **Vision for the organisation**

- **Speaking up for our area**
 - A partnership of those living, learning, working and volunteering in our area
 - Championing the strengths, needs and hopes of local people
 - Open to everyone in our community
- **Seizing opportunities to build a thriving community**
 - Knowing and understanding our communities' needs
 - Bringing people and ideas together to benefit our area
 - Making good things happen with local people
- **Working together to make a bigger impact in our community**
 - Attracting new resources, funding and ideas
 - Creating pride and belonging in our community
 - Encouraging community connections and sharing experiences

Values

We are:

- collaborative
- inclusive
- resourceful
- passionate

Objects

To regenerate Dalton Ward by taking a lead in most aspects of economic, social and community regeneration in partnership with other agencies to provide the conditions and infrastructure for the restoration of community self-confidence, self-esteem and economic prosperity.

As a committee, we are proud of the work we have completed establishing the organisation so it is 'fit for purpose' but it is the work that we have been able to do and the funding that we have received that has made it all worthwhile. Details of this are laid out below:

3. Chair's report

Since the forming of the Executive Committee this organisation has had to adapt and change to make Good Things Happen in Dalton. From an organisation that was going to have a public launch and enable community groups and individuals to deliver inventive and new initiatives for the community they live in by working in partnership with the four identified groups - community groups, individuals, partners and local business. To an organisation that has had to lead to provide help and services in this Covid 19 influenced world.

We have been able to respond quickly and in a Covid 19 secure way to the requests made of us by our community. At this point I want to thank all those who helped, this is an organisation run by and involving volunteers.

We would like to thank all those who have helped us to get to this point.

We have had to develop quickly, moving forward we need to engage with more people from the community and our partners so that they can make this a truly collaboratively effort. If we do not do this Dalton Together will not grow and prosper, so during the next year we are going to look to change and develop by strengthening our Executive Group, becoming and Incorporated charity, engaging with more people who want to volunteer, ensuring that they are helped, encouraged and supported. As groups emerge again into the world and community that adapts and copes with the Covid 19 situation, we hope to involve more people to make this a growing and thriving organisation.

What we have learned over recent months is that we can help each other, we can do things for our community together and we need to realise that we all have a responsibility for our neighbours and the places we live and work. Good things do not happen in isolation only when we work together, with respect and care for each other.

4. Ward Councillor report

Without doubt the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is the biggest crisis to hit the UK in living memory and the impact on our young people, residents and local businesses in the Dalton Ward are definitely feeling the impacts. The increasing toll of local people testing positive with the virus and the high number of COVID deaths is growing evidence that this is a genuine health emergency. But the impact on job losses, business failures, people's mental health and rising domestic violence are a reminder this is also an economic and social crisis that will have its own impact on our wards health and the

combined effect of the virus and the restrictions imposed by government have compounded existing health inequalities across our neighbourhoods in the ward. Those residents and children/young people living in our poorest areas – who already had lower life expectancy than those in better off areas in the ward – are now facing worsened long-term health outcomes linked to intense financial hardship. As Councillors we are extremely proud of what the Dalton Together Partnership has achieved since the lock down started in March and we are fully supportive through our leadership roles and the ward budgets we manage to respond to shared priorities in tackling the growing health inequalities. We are committed to supporting several important initiatives over the next 12 months which include:

- Ensuring our Covid Emergency Ward Fund continues to be available to residents who experience unexpected emergencies because of Covid (administered by Dalton Together)
- Continuing to support food sharing projects which encourage and support people to grow their own produce, share food and help reduce waste
- Encouraging approaches which aim to maximise people's household incomes such as health eating/cooking on a budget, timely support to those experiencing money worries/managing debt, raising awareness of illegal money lenders, improving access to savings and loan opportunities through the credit union and supporting people on their employment and learning journeys
- Identifying opportunities to support our local businesses – by encouraging residents to 'go local' – through Dalton Together we aim to better engage and raise the profile of what our local businesses offer
- Putting in place a range of accessible interventions that aim to have a positive impact on people's mental health eg increasing access to outdoor spaces and local walks and training up local mental health champions

As Local Ward Councillors – we know by working in partnership Together ...we can make good things happen.

5. Volunteering

Volunteers are at the heart of Dalton Together. All our partners work with volunteers and a key aim of the organisation is to increase volunteering across the ward. Volunteering is integral to our vision and our first strategic priority is:

Helping people find rewarding ways to give time

Following from this priority we have three objectives:

Objective a: To develop new forms of volunteering opportunities e.g. micro volunteering

Objective b: To encourage more diverse volunteering opportunities e.g. volunteers from local businesses

Objective c: To celebrate volunteering and show our appreciation to those that give their skills, time and knowledge so freely to benefit others

We have been helped in developing our work with volunteers in a variety of ways – S2R, a local support organisation, have been working in the ward for a number of years and Louisa Nardini has led on the Time to Connect Project and been an advisor on our Executive group; we were awarded a Kirklees Council grant to support and develop our volunteering work and Third Sector Leaders have supported the development of our policies and procedures.

Our first Dalton Together volunteer opportunities became available earlier this autumn; to develop our newsletter, website and social media comms – we welcome our new volunteers (Sharon, Ryan and James) and look forward to working with them over the coming months and (hopefully) years.

Local businesses are also starting to get involved with the Dalton Together Partnership which are keen to foster going forward. We were hoping to run a volunteer celebration event this summer but Covid meant we had to rethink. Instead we sent a thank you with cards and cake to the local HD5 mutual aid volunteers who have worked so hard during the pandemic to support people in our community e.g. with food parcels, prescriptions, befriending services.

Our future plans are:

- To build on from the good work S2R have started and continue with the Time to Connect Project, through the Dalton Together Partnership, and encourage more volunteering opportunities across the ward
- We hope to create a local job – a Volunteer Mentor – in the new year, so we can support existing and new volunteers across the ward
- Dalton Together also want to plan – post Covid – a celebration event for all our local community groups, volunteers and partners to acknowledge the amazing resilience and generosity shown through Covid and continue to plan how we work together to build back up our amazing communities.

6. Project Reports

To 31 March 2020

Much of our focus during the first six months of operation was on developing the organisation's internal values and structure but other project work included:

Communications and website development:

Dalton Together secured funding from the Ward Councillors to put in place a robust marketing and comms plan which has included creative and informative visioning and setting the strategy planning sessions with Dalton Together partners. The name itself ... Dalton Together culminated from several suggestions sent in by members of the community and went to the partnership vote before it was chosen. Dalton Together represents the whole of the Dalton Ward and the work of the organisation aims to be fully inclusive and accessible. The logo itself was founded on the shape of the Dalton Ward boundary map and the colours represent the key target groups we aim to work with; local residents, local community groups, local businesses and local partners, because as our strapline states 'together we make good things happen.' In our social media comms plan we aim to ensure our posts/news articles focus on:

Facts

Encouragement

Good News (Local)

Belonging

Community

Positivity

Improvements in people and community

Simple words

And we are trying hard that they do not come across as:

Passive Voice

Vague statements

Generic / Dull statements

Negativity

Political

Controversial

Jargon

Please visit our newly created website - <https://daltontgether.co.uk/> - save it as one of your favourites and share it. Our social channels are all set up and we will be building up content over time – please like and share widely:

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DaltonTogether>

Insta: <https://www.instagram.com/daltontgether/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Dalton-Together>

From April to September 2020

Like everyone our focus turned to working within and supporting the needs of the local community because of the Covid 19 pandemic. The Councillors set up an emergency support fund administered by Dalton Together and other funding was secured. Examples of the projects we have been and are continuing to support are:

Keeping Connected IT Project

When social distancing and mass closure of public buildings became the norm, access to free internet was no longer available and it made the struggle for some families even more difficult. Dalton Together recognised that there was a need to ensure that vulnerable households had access to appropriate IT equipment that fulfilled their individual needs. Some of the families targeted were already connected to the internet but were under connected because they relied on mobile phones, which were not capable of carrying out the required tasks effectively. For Dalton Together, with the support of a grant from the Community Foundation, to be able to give families the equipment that they desperately needed was a good opportunity to raise the profile of our emerging group.

The project also allowed Dalton Together to fulfil some of its other objectives by establishing excellent working partnerships with service providers and local businesses, as well as, contributing to the local recycling agenda by refurbishing and reusing old laptops, when possible.

Ward Emergency Hardship Fund

The ward councillors, in response to the impacts of Covid, have funded an emergency fund which Dalton Together administers on their behalf e.g. by supporting those who have lost jobs, been furloughed and seen a loss in income, have experienced poor health and/or money worries. The fund aims to help individuals across the ward who present to partners with an emergency which they cannot get help for from any other organisation/service. Some of the residents and young people we have been response to and supported have been around:

- A young man with history of poor mental health and broken family relationships has recently moved into the area to make a fresh start and wants to get back into the labour market but realises the impacts and barriers of Covid put him further away from the labour market. So, we have funded him with some IT kit and a sewing machine to improve his learning and employment journey. He is now enrolled on an on line course, is applying for jobs and is putting his creative skills into good use by making Covid masks for young people which he will also provide to Dalton Together by way of saying thank you and giving back to his community.
- A older resident was discharged from the hospital after an operation which left him incontinent – due to Covid he was unable to receive timely support and help from the NHS services and couldn't afford £10 per day to purchase incontinent pads to help improve his quality of life. Dalton Together funded a number of months of pads for him until he could receive the help he needed from the incontinence service.

- Another resident – sadly had to flee from a Domestic Violence situation – it left the woman having a pelvis fractured in several places and a fractured coccyx, this resulted in constant pain and incontinence of urine. So, Dalton Together funded for several months incontinence pads to help alleviate some of the financial pressures on this individual.
- A family moved to the area after fleeing domestic violence which meant she had to set up a new home from scratch – she had no income to fund any devices for her children to undertake their school work on so Dalton Together provided some IT kit so she could feel connected to the outside world and help her children engage with on line lessons with their new school.

Summer 2020 Kids Food Project

At times of crisis Dalton Together recognised the importance of coming together to support our community and made sure families and individuals did not have to worry about where their next meal is coming from, under these extraordinary circumstances.

We particularly wanted to ensure local children, families and isolated older individuals had access to free, freshly cooked healthy meals throughout the summer holidays. So funding was generously given from the Local Ward Councillors to Dalton Together who then partnered up with the Mission Café and Lost Property Kitchen to prepare us x160 meals a week through the 6-week holidays.

Greenfields Family Centre and HD5 Care Packages secured enough donations to be able to create fifty high quality food parcels. Each parcel contained sufficient food to feed a family of four for seven days, as well as a selection of toiletries and cleaning products.

Colleagues from Kirklees Council, Moldgreen United Reformed Church, Kirkheaton Community Centre and Greenfields Family Centre helped distribute 960 meals throughout the summer and gave out 39 food parcels.

We ensured that with every meal families and individuals had access to local helpline numbers such as the Mission, Kirklees Local Welfare Support Service and the Council’s Covid Helpline to ensure more longer-term support could be accessed if needed.

With the meals, we also distributed a recipe book, children’s books and gardening kits & activities by partnering up with One 17 Trust and the Grow to Schools Initiative. Syngenta also kindly donated hand sanitiser and face masks for each of our weekly collection points.

The support didn’t stop there, Dalton Together attracted additional support from 3 local volunteers helping out at the collection points and donated items from Humpit, Tesco’s, Morrisons and Moldgreen United Reformed Church’s community growing garden so we could give out extra treats with the meals and food parcels each week.

This has truly been a collaborative project between Ward Councillors, Council Services, community organisations, local businesses and residents which is what Dalton Together (the partnership) aimed to achieve from the offset.

Covid Lottery project

In September Dalton Together received a grant of £7,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund. This money will go towards a number of projects to address loneliness and isolation in the Dalton area so that people feel more “in touch” and connected. We are addressing issues around food – maintaining supply and influencing healthier food habits to reduce vulnerability due to Covid-19. We

are also addressing issues around IT skills and kit needed to improve social contact in these new circumstances. By engaging residents, we can also offer employment support, money/benefits advice, befriending and volunteering opportunities.

7. And finally

As a committee we would like to thank everyone who has been involved in Dalton Together over the past year – we would not be where we are without you.

8. Financial report

Dalton Together's financial year end is 31 March and the finance report we present at this AGM is from September 2019 to 31 March 2020. There was little activity in the account during this period with most funding being received in the current financial year. In the period to 31 March 2020 we had spent £900.33 and had £2,199.67 in the bank with one bill of £100 outstanding.

Since 1 April 2020, several grants have been received from Kirklees Council and the National Lottery. This has enabled us to both develop the organisation itself and start the project work discussed above.

Dalton Together statement of accounts 2 September 2019 to 31 March 2020

	£	£
Income		
Kirklees Council business support funding	3,000.00	
Total income		3,000.00
Expenditure		
Business support fees	456.25	
Insurance	408.08	
Bank charges	36.00	
Total expenditure		900.33
Balance @ 31/03/2020		2,099.67
Balance in bank 31/03/2020		2,199.67
Outstanding invoices to pay		(100.00)
Balance @ 31/30/2020		2,099.67