

# Victoria Ward Notes



Notes of VWP meeting  
@ Salaam Centre,  
Murray Street – 31st  
January 2023

Next Victoria Ward  
Partnership meeting –  
9.30am (-11am, latest)  
Tuesday 14th march @  
Salaam Centre, Murray  
Street



## What is the Victoria Ward Partnership?

The Victoria Ward partnership is a collective effort to try and bring residents and organisations together to create a community within the Victoria Ward. This is seen through collaborative work to create community events and address issues that local people have.

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**Attendees:** Juli Simons (Facilitator), Sarah McCluskey (HBC Youth Service), Rachael Wanley (Changing Futures), Stephanie Bailey-Minton (Changing Futures), Fiona Cook (The Big League CIC), Jan Hollis (Hartlepool Carers), Sarah Parker (Play Out Hartlepool), Emilie De Brujin (Babybank), Victoria Auton (Tees Valley Sport), Louise George (Active Hartlepool), Maureen Leadington (Wednesday Mothers Club), Ronnie Bage (FE College), Rachel Garlick (HBC Youth Service), James Stubbs (Sustrans), Ameera Hussain (Sustrans) Carolyn Lakin (Lynnfield School), Billy Knight (START), McKayla Davenport (START).

## Wednesday Mothers Club

Maureen came along to show the wonderful work of the Wednesday Mother's Group. The organisation has been around for 60 years, and would really like to see new members come along and share in the various outings, arts, crafts and guest speakers. The group have had new posters made and are going around the town, they meet up every term-time Wednesday from 7pm-9pm at the Community Hub Central. We would welcome mothers of all ages and particularly hear from the young mothers of today, the difference from 60 years ago.

**Get in touch with Maureen Leadington: 01429 269 109**



**Wednesday Mothers Club**

A group for women of all ages to come together to enjoy weekly evening talks, demonstrations and presentations on:

- Craft
- History
- Health and Safety
- Games Evenings
- Coach Outings
- Meals
- and plenty of other activities!

**A warm welcome to all new members. New ideas for activities welcomed!**

Central Hub, York Rd, Hartlepool, TS26 9DE  
7pm-9pm

Wednesdays in school term time  
To find out more, please get in touch with either Maureen 01429 269 109 or Margaret 01429 296 994.

Kindly funded by the National Lottery - Awards for All

## Engagement Team

The Engagement team is beginning the year by focusing on schools across the ward. Already having a presence in Linfield, they are hoping to go into Sacred Heart as well. They have done lots of work and are going to be working with the following organisations.

**Get in touch with Rachael: [rachael.wanley@changingfuturesne.co.uk](mailto:rachael.wanley@changingfuturesne.co.uk) or Stephanie: [steph.bailey-minton@changingfuturesne.co.uk](mailto:steph.bailey-minton@changingfuturesne.co.uk)**

## Play Streets

In association with Sarah Parker of Play-Out Hartlepool, the first Play Streets event went very well. The team are hoping to take this and help to show other families in the Ward and town at large, how to setup and run their own events. There is money that the scheme has available to support interested parties in the scheme as well as experienced support.

**Get in touch with Sarah Parker: [playouthartlepool@hotmail.com](mailto:playouthartlepool@hotmail.com)**

## Sustrans



James and Ameera have been funded by the Tees Valley Combined Authority to help enable access to walking and cycling within Hartlepool alongside the work the Community Engagement Team are doing, they do multiple projects like a bike maintenance workshop and guided rides on Wednesdays from Greenbank. They do 1-1 sessions to teach people to cycle, arrange safe cycling routes for the community and help people to arrange travel plans to safely cycle to where they need to be. This coincides with the Community Engagement Team as the two have been making links to provide access to safe cycling at events as well as getting to them.

**Get in touch with James Stubbs: [james.stubbs@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:james.stubbs@sustrans.org.uk)**

## Social Service Community Support Team

The team is pushing to get itself centred back on the ward, as well as working with the Community Engagement Team within the new year. Given their focus on bringing people together, they are hoping to work closely with the Engagement Team to have referrals go to community-led events.

### Salaam Centre

Fiona has started the new year with a new arrival in Hannah from Poolie Time Exchange. They are also seeking another team member in the form of a Community Development Worker. Enquiries for which can be sent to [thebigleaguecic@outlook.com](mailto:thebigleaguecic@outlook.com). The Christmas Party, held at the Centre, was a great a success with over 100 people coming along from across the ward. a number of the Ukrainian families joined in the party in national garb and sang traditional Ukrainian Christmas songs.

**Get in touch with Fiona Cook: [james.stubbs@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:james.stubbs@sustrans.org.uk)**

### Salaam Centre Groups

On Mondays the Centre welcomes Ukrainian families to come together as well as offering them support around getting to know the town, from this, their is hope that other Hartlepool families can become hosts for other Ukrainian families.

Also on Mondays the centre acts as a Warm Hub between 1 and 6pm, This is also the case on Thursdays but from 1pm-4pm. During this time, everyone has access to IT equipment, food, games and books as well as being welcome to join in a natter.

On Saturdays everyone is invited to ESOL classes and on Tuesdays there is a Girl's Together Group which do different activities based on what group members want to do. The Centre was also successful in their bid to the Multiply Fund. Within 2 weeks, they hope to have classes and lessons to help people to learn basic skills that can help them in day-to-day life like numeracy and cooking.

The Salaam Centre is looking to expand in the new year with Hannah joining the team, alongside a volunteer from Poolie Time. The Centre is looking at making its open hours more flexible.

The Girls Group that's running from the Centre is going to expand it's age range due to demand.

The women's only swimming sessions had a lot of interest expressed but no feedback has been received.

The team are looking for a sessional worker for young people, which would help them reach out and help more people.

Finally, the Centre has been funded to create a toy library.



## Youth Provision Survey Outcome

The group is meeting to discuss the outcomes of the previous survey surrounding what children want to see out of their local area. The group have also been supported by the Youth Justice Fund to bring learning to local play areas like the skatepark. They give out free tickets to qualifying young people to attend the regular sessions while learning more about how to stay safe with collaboration with the local police force. The scheme is on Saturday mornings for 5 weeks.



### Reading is Fun

Led by Jack, Reading is Fun is a council run scheme to allow young people access to an after school reading/homework club. The Scheme has 8 places currently and runs out of Community Hub Central between 4-5pm and is on offer for 9-14 year-olds.

### Ronnie Bage

Ronnie came along to inform the board of his findings about the Victoria Ward. This was data that show disparities between male and females in Hartlepool and more specifically the Victoria Ward. One of the causes Ronnie was keen to stress his belief that this could be is fatherlessness.

His Idea for solutions to this issue is to have joint working areas that multiple organisations can provide joint services to give help to the young people but also providing them life skills and coping techniques that may be missing due to not having a parental figure.

**Get in touch with Ronnie Bage: [withronniebage@hotmail.com](mailto:withronniebage@hotmail.com)**

### Lynnfield School



The HAF project that ran from the school had a handful of attendees, though not as many as they would have liked, possibly due to timing as several schools hadn't yet closed for the holidays. They are hoping to run a similar HAF scheme in the summer holidays. The Hartlepool Huskies are running another afterschool club for the school but for years 3-6. SureStart have pulled out of the centre as they are moving to the Central Hub. The school are looking to host playgroups for their students to go alongside the adult ESOL courses on Tuesday at 9:30 and Alliance Incredible years Training on Thursdays. Hartlepool BabyBank will be meeting up to try and see if they can also collaborate. The school are also currently arranging coffee mornings, which you can find out more about by getting in touch.

## START - Substance misuse



Billy Knight is new in role and trying to find other organisations to assist with and link up to. Alongside his colleague Michaela, they are trying to pool community resources and learning to both reach the widest demographic possible. A proportion of their staff have lived experience of substance misuse so are best placed to provide relatable assistance to the service users. The group are seeking volunteering opportunities to allow their users chances to get out and find employment. They are hoping to link in with sports and social based groups as these can be two of the biggest motivators in combatting substance misuse.

### BabyBank

The BabyBank runs town-wide but is based in the Victoria Ward in **Crown Buildings Avenue Rd, TS24 8RZ, UK**. They have clothing, toys, cots, beds, prams, sports gear, hygiene nappies and everything in-between. The group currently see around 170 families a week for these, advice on parenting, benefits advice and signposting to other local services on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, however they do offer this support 365 days a year if contacted. They have a 'safe space' where people can come for discreet help and translators for Arabic, Kurdish, French and Spanish speakers.



Get in touch with Emilie de Brujin: [babybankhartlepool@gmail.com](mailto:babybankhartlepool@gmail.com)

### Tees Valley Sport



TEES VALLEY  
**SPORT**

With the aim of Tees Valley Sport to make people more active, the group have helped to fund multiple projects across the town, including; the Salaam Centre projects and Refugee and Asylum Seekers group at St. Josephs. They are still seeking to fund other projects around the town and as such have set up the **Together Fund** to enable projects to provide ways of getting people up and active. If support is wanted, you can contact Victoria Auton at [V.Auton@tees.ac.uk](mailto:V.Auton@tees.ac.uk) who can help you through the bid-writing process.

### Flippin' Pain

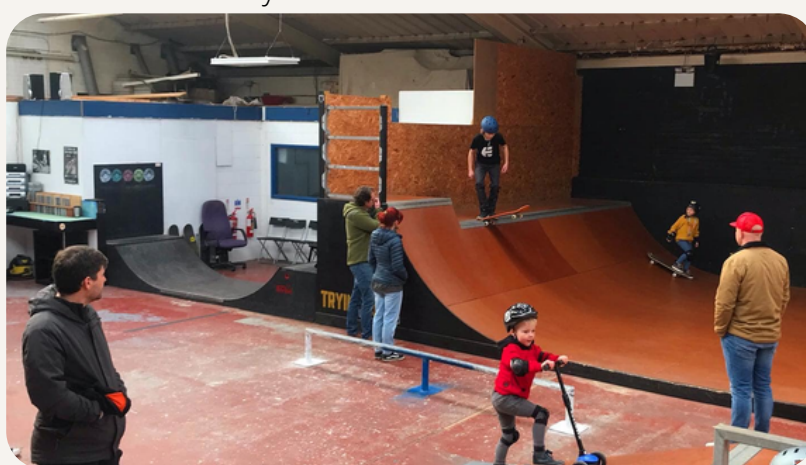
Flippin' Pain has been supported by Tees Valley Sport to influence how services that affect chronic pain sufferers are ran. They are looking for community groups, organisations and workers that work with people with chronic pain to an event at the Riverside Stadium on February 15th.



Get in touch with Victoria Auton: [v.auton@tees.ac.uk](mailto:v.auton@tees.ac.uk)

## Youth Justice

The team has had recent sessions within Tryin' HQ and the Millhouse Leisure Centre to help to encourage healthy habits and activities. This has been in line with the whole family approach that Youth Justice are hoping to take their service, which would ensure that the support young people are getting can also be provided by their care-giver. There will be a session on the 1st of February to engage less active young people and another session called Introduction to behaviour change on the 15th February. Previous online sessions have been well attended.



## Community-Led Businesses

Nancy is seeking feedback from local people groups and organisations as to what service they would like to see which might keep people from going into council funded or health services. This might be a home hairdresser as a way of providing social support to someone who is feeling isolated. She will then gather these opinions and aim to fund and support existing or set-new small enterprises which could deliver their own service but in a way that benefits the community. As such, she has released a brochure showcasing all of her previously helped businesses as well as how she can help to support others. To get a copy please email: [nancypout@hartlepower.co.uk](mailto:nancypout@hartlepower.co.uk). Nancy is very interested in community-led business ideas that will benefit the over 60's, transportation and people with disabilities, but any ideas which embody a community spirit are welcomed.

