

The Youth Resilience Programme, Barkerend, Bradford (Year 1 Case Study)

Background¹

- Bowling and Barkerend is one of 30 wards within Bradford, with a population of 22,757.
- 49.7% female, 50.3% male.
- 31.1% of the population are aged between 0-17 years.
- 54.4% are Asian, 35% White, 3.6% Black, and 7.0% other ethnic groups.
- Bowling and Barkerend is ranked the 3rd most deprived ward in Bradford. 14 out of the 30 wards in Bradford fall into the 10% deprived nationally.
- History of violence sparked through the 2001 'race riots' led to marginalisation, deprivation, aggression, and violence becoming the norm, exploitation of young people into criminality, and low school attainment.



Born in Bradford (BiB) are a research organisation that have been involved in the feasibility, discovery, and co-design phase of the project. Following an application, they were chosen by the community steering group as the lead delivery organisation for the project.

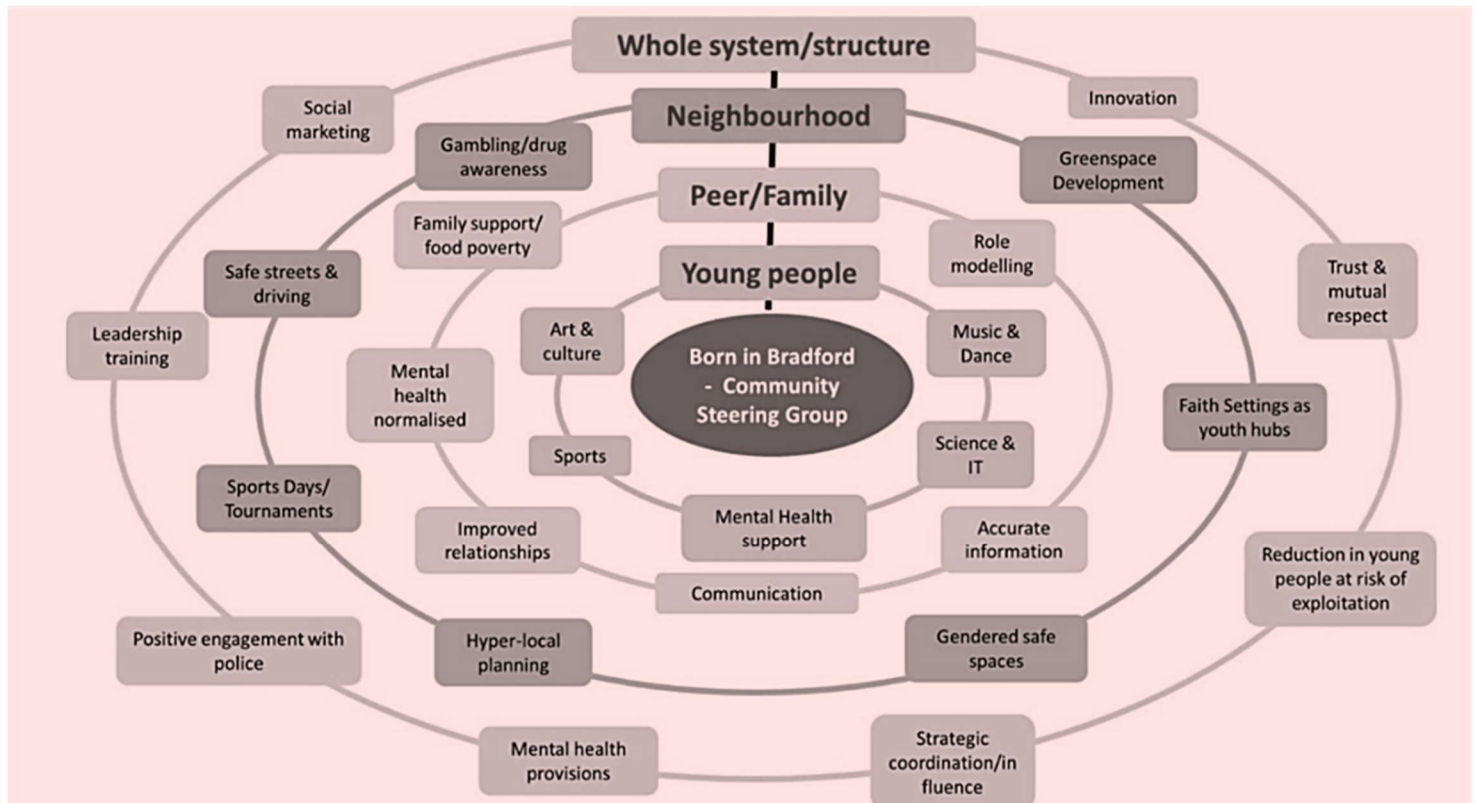


The Action Plan

Bradford's local action plan has been co-produced with over 160 people as part of in-depth community research and consultation and follows a place-based public health approach to violence reduction in which different forms of intervention will be utilised over five years. The programme operates at different levels, illustrated in the multilevel diagram below. The action plan will be delivered over a 5-year period.



Figure: Born in Bradford multilevel operational programme



¹ Demographics and deprivation data sources:

https://www.citypopulation.de/en/uk/yorkshireandthehumber/wards/bradford/E05001345_bowling_and_barkerend/;
<https://ubd.bradford.gov.uk/media/1644/bowling-barkerend.pdf>; <https://ubd.bradford.gov.uk/media/1535/indices-of-deprivation-2019-ward-level-analysis.pdf>

Action plan themes



Strategic Theme A: Build capacity through partnerships, collaboration, training, and small grant facilitation. Key activities:

1. Capacity building.
2. Training.
3. Young people's forum.
4. Small grant facilitation.



Strategic Theme B: Engaging vulnerable young people for better mental health. Key activities:

1. Youth Worker support.
2. Awareness and education on vulnerabilities.
3. Connecting with mental health support.



Strategic Theme C: Role modelling, mentoring and career pathway support. Key activities:

1. Promotion of positive role models.
2. Mentorship.
3. Career pathways support.

Key achievements – what has been delivered in Year 1?

- Recruitment of an independent 3rd party organisation (Faith in Communities) to administer the small grants applications.
- Community groups agreed a transparent/anonymised, process of small grant allocation.
- Agreed funding under the small grants process for five organisations to deliver activity.
- Community steering group met to provide updates and inform about small grants processes. Offers of support to organisations in preparing applications/project ideas.
- Young people's forum established and engagement with 25 young people to discuss ideas of culture and design a logo.

- Recruited organisations to deliver projects on *Engaging Vulnerable Young People for Better Mental Health*. Due to challenges with capacity and timing, the community steering group decided to recruit a collaboration of three community groups.
- BiB have transferred the available programme funding to community partners.
- Partners have planned collaborative working to commence delivery.
- Local secondary schools engaged and agreed to host programme activities.
- Rolling out key project activities (badminton sessions, DJ workshops, and GCSE support).

- Recruited organisations to deliver projects on *Role Modelling, Mentorship, and Career Support*. Due to challenges with capacity and timing, the community steering group decided to recruit a collaboration of two community groups.
- BiB have transferred the available programme funding to community partners.
- Partners have planned collaborative working to commence delivery.
- Local secondary schools engaged and agreed to host programme activities.
- Rolling out key project activities (Girls' self-defence and Boys' Street-smart training).

Wider achievements for year 1

- YEF Programme Manager, Learning Partner and Evaluator visit to Bradford to meet with lead coordinator, statutory, and community partners.
- Dissemination of project work at national academic conference.
- Consortium agreement signed to meet compliance requirements by NHS Finance, information governance, and research administration departments.
- Networking/relationship building with wider stakeholders.
- Theory of Change serves as a reference point for measuring progress in reducing youth violence. In year 1, positive changes in community networks and opportunities for young people have been noted.

Anticipated outcomes*

Creating safe spaces for young people



“The hope is that we’ve done all that we can do, and we just have to live out the safe space that we are going to create. And when word gets out, hopefully it’ll just grown and grow.” (Delivery Partner)

Building young people’s confidence



“The young people are our future, to be able to have some, you know, that having that little bit of confidence and it's about that empowerment to make informed choices.” (Delivery Partner)

Providing support for children and young people



“A connection to a responsible adult that can help navigate their life journey.” (Delivery Partner)

Allowing community groups to have experience managing grants



“The local community groups to have the experiences of managing kind of grants and... one of the benefits to having the small grants is being given that experience you know kind of evidence that the community groups will then be able to evidence their experience of managing grants and so that in the future, they'll have those skills to continue to apply for grant funding to deliver the activities” (Site Lead).

One of the major successes of the delivery phase of this was harnessing power in the hands of grassroots community groups who have historically been excluded from decision making. (NhF Learning Report March 2024)

Development of partnerships



The strengthening of networks and partnerships between community groups through collaborative approaches to commissioning and delivery of programmes. (NhF Learning Report March 2024)

Next steps

- Community engagement and upskilling the community.
- Launch of further small grants.
- Role Modelling, Mentorship and Career Pathway Support: implementing self-defence and awareness.
- Role Modelling, Mentorship and Career Pathway Support: working with young people in schools for better educational outcomes.
- Engaging Vulnerable Young People for Better Mental Health: Creative Expression workshops.
- Meet with statutory area teams to agree sustainable means of communication.
- Training community groups on collaborative working and safeguarding.
- Continue to be flexible.

“I think continuing community engagement and community trust is the most important thing.” (Site Lead)

“It’s vital that things are flexible at the same time the programme is being delivered.” (Delivery Partner)