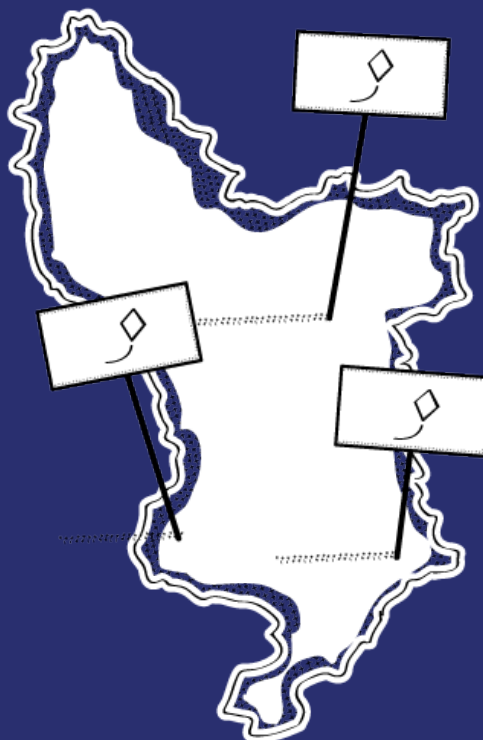


# Thriving Communities

Improvement and Scrutiny - Places  
16 November 2022



# Today's update

- Recap on Thriving Communities aims
- Progress since the last update
- Communities where the work is happening
- Strategic direction of Thriving Communities approach
- Questions

# Recap on Thriving Communities aims

**We must find ways to prevent people hitting crisis point.**

Existing services and support are failing to prevent people from falling into crisis, leading to increasing demand for high-cost and unsustainable support.

**We must unlock the power and potential held within our communities.**

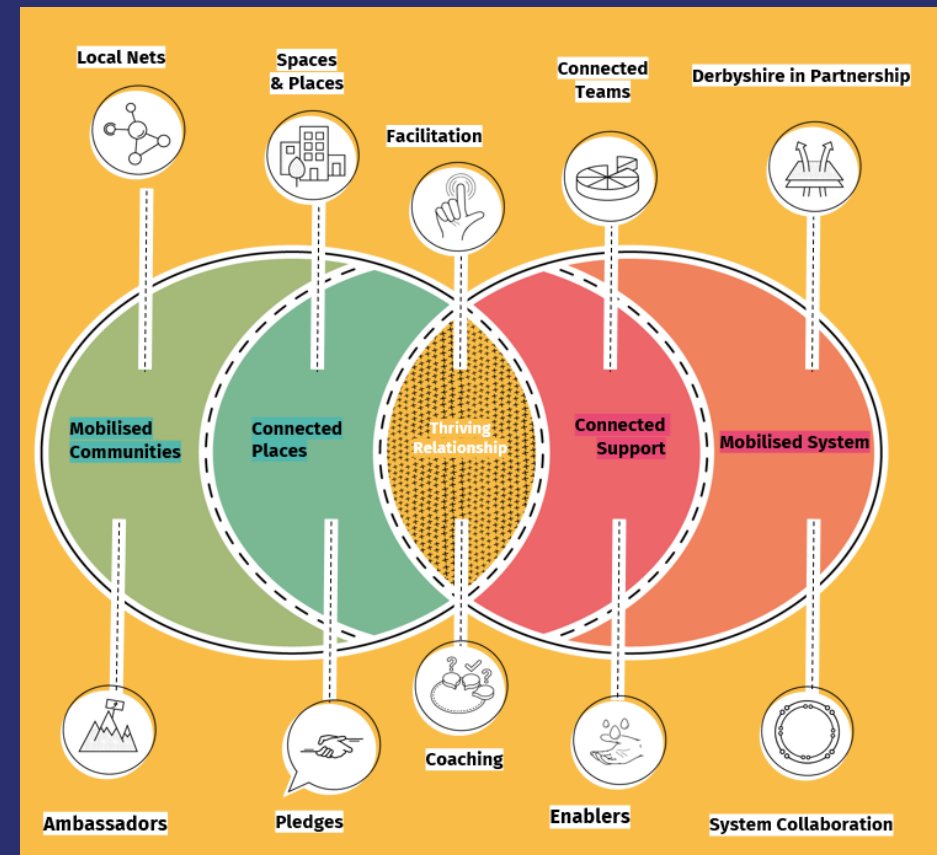
Too often, our existing services and ways of working fail to create the conditions for people and their communities to support themselves and each other.

**We must raise people's aspirations and skills to be enterprising and to thrive.**

Today we focus too much on the short-term needs of our people and communities, leading to reactive and paternalistic relationships, instead of building people's skills for the future.

# Progress since May 2022

- Continuation of work to develop the Thriving Communities Model and Ways of Working physically in communities through Connected Teams
- Connected Teams (in different stages of development) in Shirebrook, Gamesley, Cotmanhay and Newhall, with new teams being established in Langley Mill and Ashbourne
- 37 staff and 35 local people developing thriving relationships and supporting hyper local activity
- Number of times local people benefitting from this activity in last quarter – 3,478
- Progress has been made to develop the model in all areas but pace is slow due to the capacity of existing staff to be freed up to support practical ‘hands on’ activity in local community spaces





Self-managed, hyper-local **Connected Teams** of existing staff and local people, working creatively and flexibly together on community priorities

Growing ideas together, unlocking potential and unblocking barriers

Connected with decision makers



**Community based welcoming 'front-doors' where anyone can walk in**

Human connection  
– time to listen - no judgement - trust

Run by public services, voluntary groups and communities together

People helping each other – no hierarchies

Connections to services but without organisational siloes

Initial help without eligibility criteria or assessments

Staff networking, satellite space and touchdown points

Catching people before they fall into crisis

Access to responsive and flexible budgets to meet local aspirations and need



**Deeply understanding, always learning and adapting** - story-gathering and storytelling - co-designing – co-producing - measuring what matters – local action - system, policy, organisational and cultural change

# Existing Areas

## Gamesley, High Peak

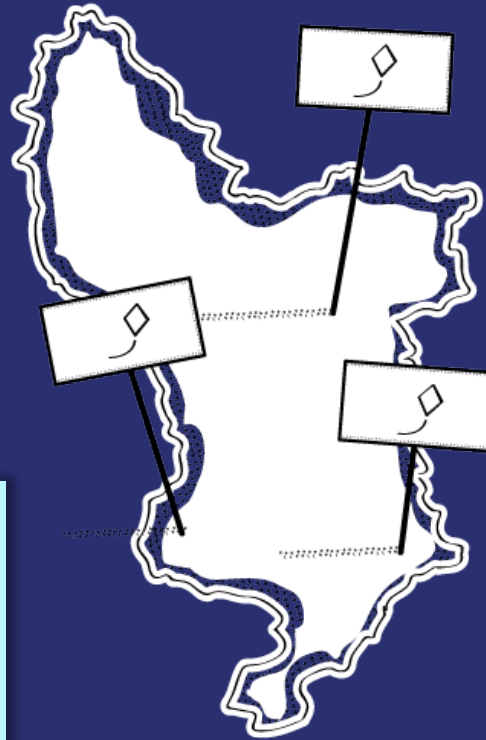
The local team has continued to support the community during Covid, picking up many gaps that disappearing services have left. Commitments have been made to offer more support from services but this is proving to be a challenge due to DCC resources being focussed on targeted help.

Enabler: Linda Elba-Porter (ASC) and Andrew Stokes (HPBC)  
Contact: Pat Javanaud  
[pat.javanaud@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:pat.javanaud@derbyshire.gov.uk)

## Newhall, South Derbyshire

A local team has reconnected and work is predominantly focused on looking for space to begin working collaboratively together face to face and with community members.

Enabler: Emma Alexander (CST)  
Contact: Scott Clayton  
[scott.clayton@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:scott.clayton@derbyshire.gov.uk)



## Shirebrook, Bolsover

The local team is still predominantly made up of community volunteers, with many services lacking capacity (or still unable to working face to face). A small number of services are jointly re-opening the community space at Carter Lane and the community drop-in on a Tues morning. Significant improvements funded to Carter Lane property for community use, with shared work and responsibility between DCC and local community group.

Enabler: Ellie Houlston (ASC/ Public Health)  
Contact: Ian Maddison  
[ian.maddison@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:ian.maddison@derbyshire.gov.uk)

## Cotmanhay, Erewash

With changes in local staff, there is a fresh start for leading the work in Cotmanhay. With a strong local network, services are beginning to re-connect with community activity and re-open spaces. 25 year lease for local community group in Bennerley community suite.

Enabler: Chris Caley (CS)  
Contact : Kate Kenny  
[kate.Kenny@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:kate.Kenny@derbyshire.gov.uk)

# New Areas

## Ashbourne and surrounding area, Derbyshire Dales

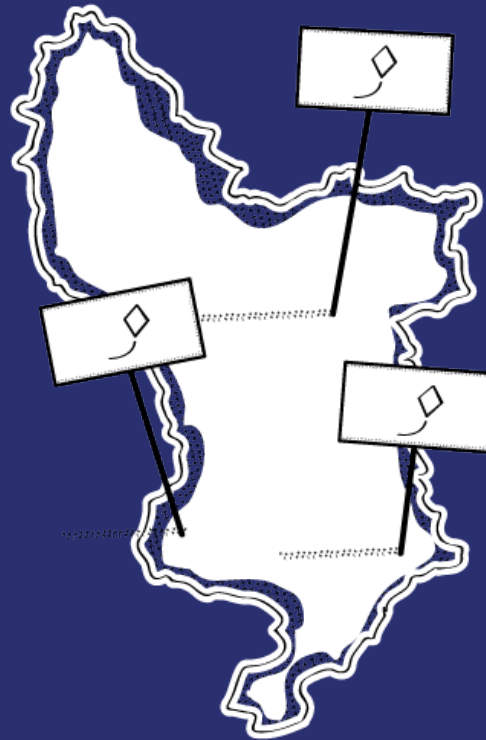
Connected Team growing and exploring relationships. A local network already exists linked to the active church, providing a great opportunity to learn together and shape the work collaboratively. Potential opportunity to co-locate some support and services in the Adult Education space.

Enabler: tbc  
Contact: Kate Kenny  
[kate.Kenny@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:kate.Kenny@derbyshire.gov.uk)

## Langley Mill, Amber Valley

Small Connected Team growing and a local networking beginning to connect people who work in the community and build relationships and ideas.

Enabler: Emma Crapper (CST)  
Contact: Scott Clayton  
[scott.clayton@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:scott.clayton@derbyshire.gov.uk)



## Staveley, Chesterfield

Early conversations have begun to connect the work with the Towns Fund and local partners, with a positive reception in principle. Currently exploring capacity to deliver with key partners.

Enabler: Pete Handford (CST)  
Contact: Becky Lomas  
[becky.lomas@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:becky.lomas@derbyshire.gov.uk)

## Homelessness

Story gathering was planned and staff trained during 2020 but unfortunately two planned research periods were postponed due to Covid lock downs.

Enabler: tbc  
Contact: Becky Lomas  
[becky.lomas@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:becky.lomas@derbyshire.gov.uk)

# Progress since May 2022 (continued 2)

- Thriving Communities Board held on 19 October 2022
- Recognition of the good work achieved in communities over recent months, despite limited capacity of staff. Potential for the Connected Team model to unlock additional capacity and 'people power' within communities and respond quickly to local need, but difficulty in all areas in taking this activity forward
- Service pressures/priorities currently making it difficult for staff to work creatively on a community agenda, as part of a flexible Connected Team
- A different strategic direction for the Thriving Communities approach may be required, given current circumstances within both the public sector and communities post Covid
- Discussions about the strategic alignment of plans and strategies with the Thriving Communities ethos and approach have recently taken place
- Further strategic discussions to take place in November and December to agree a corporate direction, which ensures deliverability and the most effective ways for the Council to deliver its strategic Thriving Communities commitment to work more closely with people and communities



# Questions

**'Removes barriers** - whatever your role (councillor, officer, volunteer or member of the public) everyone is approachable and the basic aim is the same, to serve the community. Everyone speaks openly and freely. It helps us not to lose sight of what we are trying to achieve. **Gets results** - allows easier access to the right decision maker and can get problems solved without the usual frustrations. **Increases understanding** - thrown in at the deep end in 2017, new to Local Government, I found Thriving Communities an invaluable way to understand how the whole system works. So many organisations play a role in communities. Bringing key players together on the ground helped me to understand how things work and who to contact to get important issues resolved. **Builds trust** - the approach is people-centered around positive working relationships rather than faceless emails with people you don't know. **Saves money** - for me it's about driving change with the philosophy of achieving results quickly and easily. Helps us take a step back, look at what policies and procedures are actually necessary and switch to a more outcome-based mindset. A beneficial side effect of reduced wastage and targeting finances where they are needed'

**Cllr Robert Flatley, Cotmanhay**

‘Thriving Communities engages officers and the public on an equal basis. It’s an informal approach which encourages public participation and saves on costs by encouraging community members to help run groups and activities. Everyone integrates, enjoying each others’ company, making friendships, supporting each other through difficult times and growing inner confidence through working together. Officers are available in the background to give support when needed and County Council allows the use of its premises to run things from. On a Tuesday morning we run a drop-in where people come along who would never approach a formal office environment for help; those who are ‘off radar’. This helps with mental health problems and social isolation. Thriving Communities enables us to give assistance to many people with a wide variety of problems, in friendly environment over a cup of coffee’

**Cllr Christine Dale, Shirebrook**