

The difference we make in our communities

Impact Report | April 2025-March 2026



Our Mission:

We promote wellbeing,
we foster independence,
we cultivate a sense of belonging.



It has been two years since we published our first impact report, which covered the financial year 2023/24. It's fair to say that a lot has happened since then! We have initiated new projects, expanded services, and continued our role as the North Yorkshire Council Community Anchor Organisation for Nidderdale and the Washburn Valley.

Rather than delving straight into our impact reporting by service/project, we are beginning our report by celebrating and focussing on our wonderful volunteers. We were thrilled to get an amazing survey response from them: well over 70 of our regular volunteers (team total now over 100) responded to our impact survey. Our work and reach would not be possible without the

dedication and commitment of our volunteers. Not only do we want to use this report as a way of thanking them, but also to show the difference volunteering makes to the quality of life of our volunteers. This is another area of significant impact for Nidd Plus.

So we are proud to present our second impact report in the following pages where you can read about: each of the services we offer to our community; the projects and partnerships we have undertaken; and the volunteering experience we offer. We hope that you find this a stimulating and interesting read and please do get in touch with us if you want to find out more.

Helen Flynn, CEO

Our Volunteers – THANKS!

Vanessa Appleby	Maggie Dalton	Emily Gosling	Jackie Kerr	Mal Parsons	Jacky Staniforth
Jacqueline Baker	Hannah Davies	Felicity Hallam	Heatha Kitchin	Jane Petty	Barbara Thorpe
Sue Banner	Joyce Dale	Jane Hallam	Gill Lazonby	Joanna Platts	Karren Tulley
Jude Barter	Alison Davis	Helen Hattan	Tessa Lee	Claire Porter	David Turley
Chris Beaumont	Tracey Dawson	Jo Hayes	Dee Longfellow	Angela Raw	Sarah Turnbull
David Bird	Malcolm Dawson	Rosemary Haynes	Dawn Lowe	Alastair Reid	Christie Turnick
Judith Blackburn	Eleanor De Souza	Rosemary Helme	Jill MacCandlish	Aidan Roberts	Paula Waggoner
Carol Blades	Ruth Dodsworth	Margaret Helme	Edward March	Simon Robinson	Sandra Walker
Ronald Blyton	Richard Dutton	Mike Holt	Nigel McDonald	Jane Robinson	Alison Walker
Sandra Bradley	Mike Edwards	Paul Howells	Suzanne Mellor	Fiona Robson	Judy Wallace
Peter Brambleby	Josh Elston	Sam Inglis	Jackie Miller	Aidan Saunders	Vicki Watson
Richard Bruce	Kelly Elston	Andy Ives	Lorna Mills	Julia Saunders	Roger Wensley
Phil Burke	Judy Evans	Pat Jackson	Mary Moor	Terri Scarborough	Carol White
Ann Carman	Helen Flynn	Emma Jones	Sophia Morgan	Lawrence Sherrington	Tom Whiteside
Andy Chapman	Anita Fraser	Sue Jones	Cindy Morrisette	Duncan Sloane	Tim Wright
Kath Chapman	Karen Gallagher	Alan Jordan	Andrew Murday	Thelma Spain	
Alan Cottrill	Emily Gaster-Woods	Julia Kent	Gordon Murdoch	Judith Spencer	
Carole Cottrill	Kathie Gill	Anne Kent	Judi Northfield	Jenny Spruce	



Volunteering at Nidd Plus

The impact we have would be tiny without the services and help of all our volunteers. We rely on volunteers to deliver virtually all our services. They are an amazing group of people and their motivations for volunteering are almost certainly as numerous as the total number of volunteers is! However, there are common themes, which you can read about in the survey results below. What all our volunteers would doubtlessly agree with is the benefits of volunteering are just as significant as the help they are providing to members of their own community. Our heart-felt gratitude goes out to you all.

Total number of volunteers in service throughout the year: 106

Total number of volunteer hours: 9,246.5

We carried out a survey of our volunteers* in March 2026 and here are the headline responses:

- 56% of our volunteers reported that there had been an increase in their wellbeing since they started volunteering at Nidd Plus.
- 92% of volunteers rated their experience of volunteering at Nidd Plus as excellent or good, with 64% giving their rating as excellent

We asked the volunteers a number of qualitative questions about how volunteering had affected their lives and wellbeing. You can find these questions below with a selection of responses given beneath each question:

If you have told us that your wellbeing has increased since you started volunteering at Nidd Plus, tell us how things have changed.

"I feel a greater sense of purpose, both in keeping active and helping others."

"I enjoy meeting people and chatting with them. Knowing you are helping someone else, especially those who live alone, has a positive effect on me too."

"I have a sense of purpose and reason to get up in the morning. It's a good feeling to be benefiting the community."

"I feel that I am doing something genuinely useful, which gives more purpose to life as a retired person. It's interesting driving the minibus and working in the shop. I feel more part of the community."

"I have met new people and made new friendships. I have been able to use the skills from my working life in my retirement."

What would have happened if you did not have the opportunity to volunteer at Nidd Plus?

"I probably would have been less outgoing after I had retired."

"I would still feel confident and good about myself, but without the additional element that comes from helping in the community. I would probably have taken up fishing and done more gardening!"

"I would have found another role which enabled me to have an impact, though it would not necessarily have been in this community (which would be a pity)."

"I would still be busy but doing things less worthwhile."

"I would have looked at volunteering in a different setting. But it is good that I am able to volunteer close to where I live."

*73 volunteers responded to the survey



New Initiatives and Projects

1. Service Navigator Pilot

We began the Service Navigator Pilot in partnership with North Yorkshire Council Adult Social Services in September 2024. The initial design of the project was that there should be holistic support in the community for people in receipt of a care package, or on the waiting list for a care needs assessment, so that individuals would be able to access more support from their local community. Barriers to accessing help in many domains would be broken down, as the role of Service Navigator (SN) would be embedded in the community and the SN would help people across a whole range of services, not just one service area.

Here are some examples of the types of support that the SN can offer:

- Benefits advice and applications
- Digital support
- Befriending
- Help with navigating admin and bills
- Referral into Nidd Plus services such as Community Transport, Minibus Days Out, Home Library Service, etc
- Signposting to local activities and groups

The outcomes that the pilot is hoping to produce include:

- Reducing hospital admissions
- Reduced reliance on statutory and commissioned services
- Improves a person's connection to their community and reduces social isolation
- Improves quality of life
- More personalised, holistic service offer for the person

There were 176 interactions with the service in the year under review. Some of these were people who used the service once to solve a particular issue. Others are people who need to access the service we are offering more regularly.

We carried out a survey of a sample of the service users in March 2026, and here is a snapshot of the answers they gave us when asked about the kind of help Zoe Crossley, as Service Navigator, had been able to give them:

"Zoe has helped me fill out a debt relief order, rent update on universal credit and my PIP review form which were really stressing me out."

"I would have struggled to apply for the benefits on my own"

"Zoe did research for me and my wife and then helped us to make decisions about care."

"Zoe assisted me with my phone and is going to help me get a pendant alarm"

"I was able to get help from mental health services owing to your support."

We also asked them what would have happened if they had not used the service. Here are some of their responses:

"I would get more confused and this makes me feel more scared and vulnerable."

"I wouldn't have known what to do."

"I would not have completed a debt relief order as she has helped me through every stage of this. I would have had my case closed without Zoe helping me with emails."

"I don't know. I would have struggled for longer on my own."

This is a growing area of work for Nidd Plus. We would like to thank North Yorkshire Council for working with us on this pilot and for funding the project. It has been a great help for our community in Nidderdale so far.



2. Together in the Dale

Following to our greater involvement with vulnerable, older clients needing support (arising from the Service Navigator pilot), we saw there was a need to set up a day care provision in Nidderdale, as no such service existed. We partner with Radfield Home Care, a local care company, to devise and run the activity.

“Together in the Dale” was set up in November 2025 to offer respite care for carers and also day opportunities for people who need to socialise and do different activities to relieve loneliness and social isolation. It operates once a fortnight from 10am-3pm at Christ Church Community Centre in Darley.

When asked to provide more detail on why they had enjoyed their day, the following are some of the responses given:

“It helps get me out of the house. I feel well treated and I enjoy the company.”

“I feel the session is so important for the community and getting together; the activities are wonderful and there are great guest speakers. Lovely company and good fun.”

“I like that this group is small and more peaceful.”

“It’s nice to see people and have a chat.”

Each session provides:

- Cooking and baking activities
- A shared lunch (provided freshly cooked by the Wellington Inn Darley);
- Guest speakers
- Craft activities
- Board games, quizzes and other enjoyable activities.

We attended two sessions to survey the people in attendance and here is what they told us.

When asked whether they had enjoyed their day, 100% of respondents answered “yes”

100% agreed with the statement:
“I felt safe and welcome”

100% agreed with the statement:
“My personal needs were catered for”

82% agreed with the statement:
“I enjoyed the food provided”





Community Transport

We acquired our own electric vehicle (EV) to serve as our community car in September 2024, owing to a successful bid into the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority's Net Zero Fund. This has made a great difference to our service, as we are now saving a significant quantity of carbon for all our journeys, as well as offering increased comfort for our passengers! Drivers also drive their own cars, when the capacity of our EV is full, so the scheme continues to be a hybrid scheme. We supplement the service with our minibus when we need to transport people in wheelchairs.

We know that the service is an absolute lifeline to many local residents who have no access to private or public transport, owing to the remoteness of where they live. Over 70% of the journeys are health related, either to the hospital, the GP surgery or to other health appointments such as the dentist, chiropodist, optician, etc.

Number of journeys completed:	2,705
Mileage covered in the year:	20,936
Number of volunteer drivers:	24
Number of clients served:	262
Number of volunteer hours given:	2,141

Survey results

We surveyed a sample of our CT clients* during March 2026, asking them how strongly they agreed or disagreed with the following statements about our service:

- **I feel safe when I use the service:** 68% strongly agree; 32% neutral; 0% disagree
- **I am charged fairly for my travel:** 64% agree; 36% neutral; 0% disagree
- **I am treated with respect:** 64% strongly agree; 36% neutral; 0% disagree

*Based on the responses of 25 service users

Here is a sample of what our clients told us, when asked: "What difference has the Community Transport Service made to you?"

"Lots of difference – I would be housebound otherwise"

"Allowed my main carer to take holidays knowing I can get to appointments."

"I can't get out of the house without it. I have no family who live up here."

"Allows Mum to get out independently – Life-saver."

"It's made a world of difference. I've been stuck in for 3 months because I've not been able to go out (due to husband's illness), but now I can get out again."

"It means I can go to the gym and keep fit and meet an amazing group of people."





Community Minibus Service and Group Hire

Our minibus days out programme is specifically designed to counter social isolation and loneliness, by giving people the opportunity to get out to new /different places, see new things and meet others. We consult with the people who like to use the service regularly to design the programme of trips for each year, to ensure that the day trips we run are the ones that people would most appreciate.

Number of days out, incorporating Ripon market runs:24
Number of passengers served:185
Number of minibus volunteer drivers:14
Number of volunteer hours given:145

Survey results

We surveyed a sample* of our CT clients during March 2026. Here is what they told us:

The driver is always friendly and helpful: 100%

- **I am treated with respect: 100%**
- **I feel safe when I use the service: 100%**
- **I am charged fairly for my travel: 80%**

*Based on the responses of 6 service users

When asked the question: “What difference have the minibus day trips made to you?”, here are some of the responses we received:

“It has allowed me to get out and about more.”

“It means I can get out of the Dale, as I have no car.”

“The day trips have made a lot of difference, it helps me go out and I really enjoy them.”

Minibus Group Hire

We hire our minibus out to local not-for-profit groups, schools and local charities, usually providing a volunteer driver. We are fulfilling needs and contributing to the wellbeing of people in Nidderdale through being able to offer this resource. The bus was hired out **78 times** during the year in focus (often for trips of more than one day) to 20 different organisations. The types of organisations who hired the minibus included: schools, WIs and ladies groups, scouts, church groups, local charities, etc.

We feature below some feedback from some of our regular Group Hire clients:

“It has allowed us to deliver some really great and affordable walking experiences that, without the bus, would have been overly costly due to needing to fund multiple cars over the same mileage. As a church we have committed to the Dioceses Carbon Zero targets and this has contributed and will continue to significantly contribute to this.

On a more personal basis it has helped us open up access to our wonderful countryside for some people who may not make it out without the security and comfort of others to explore. This helps us contribute to supporting our communities mental health and social isolation activities, an ever-

growing concern. A huge asset to the community, thank you Nidderdale Plus”

St Cuthbert’s Church, Pateley Bridge

Our school is incredibly grateful for the community minibus service. Commercial transport costs are simply too high for our budget, which threatened to cancel our extracurricular plans. Thanks to this affordable hire, our students can reliably get to their play rehearsals and sports competitions. It is an essential lifeline that ensures our pupils do not miss out on vital opportunities outside the classroom.

Kirkey Malzeard C of E Primary School



Community Library

We run a busy community library, working in partnership with North Yorkshire Council (NYC). The library is mainly run by volunteers with 7 hours per week of staff time provided by NYC. We were very pleased to have re-launched our Home Library Delivery Service during this year, where volunteers hand deliver books to people who are housebound or cannot access the library, having discussed with them their reading preferences.

Number of active borrowers:	338
Number of books borrowed:	7,925
Home Library Delivery Service clients:	9
Number of volunteers:	13
Volunteer hours:	951
Number of children joining the Summer Reading Challenge:	79

NYC carried out a survey of library users in 2022* and recorded the following results:

- 100% of respondents considered that the standard of customer care at the library was either very good or good, with 83% agreeing that it was very good.
- 86% of respondents thought that the choice of books at the library was either good or very good, with 36% agreeing that the choice was very good.
- 95% of respondents thought that the information provision in the library was either very good or good, with 50% agreeing that it was very good.

*41 people responded to the survey

Hub users were surveyed in March 2026 and asked to leave comments about the library and below is a selection of what they told us:

"I use the library frequently. It's an excellent asset to the community and all the staff and volunteers are friendly, very helpful."

"The caring staff helped me tremendously to find books for the old gentleman I care for."

"I wouldn't be able to enjoy reading, which is how I switch off from everything I have to do. It's my sanity!"

Jigsaw Library

We started the jigsaw library during the pandemic and it has gone from strength to strength. All our jigsaws are donated by members of the public. We get lots of jigsaw donations, so regularly take up batches to sell in our charity shop, ensuring that we have a constantly changing library of jigsaws to keep our regular customers happy.

We have a satellite jigsaw library in Darley to which we loan and rotate jigsaws on a regular basis.

We loaned out 365 jigsaws during the year, meaning that, on average, we loaned out a jigsaw every day of the year! We have 50 regular users of the service and 13 new users joined us throughout the year.

We surveyed our jigsaw library customers in March 2026 and 100% of respondents rated the service from front desk staff as excellent, and 72% rated our selection of jigsaws as very good/excellent.

We asked people "What difference has the jigsaw library made to you?", and some of their responses can be found below:

"I and my wife enjoy the jigsaws, it's good fun for us both. We very much appreciate the service it provides—long may it last. Thanks to the staff who maintain it."

"It's great to have this service, as jigsaws are expensive, especially if you only do them once."

"The jigsaw library makes a lot of difference, especially through the winter months and ill health. We also get jigsaws for our grandchild whenever we are likely to see them."



Digital Champion Service



We started our Digital Champion service in November 2021, to enable people to get on line or improve their digital skills. “Coffee, Click and Connect” sessions were held during this year weekly at 6 locations in Nidderdale, and we also offered bespoke support at the hub when needed. Maybe it’s testament to the fact that the service has been running so long and been so successful that we gained a huge response to our on-line survey that went out to learners in March 2026: 77 people responded!

Number of interactions:867

New learners joining in-year:76

Number of Digital Champion volunteers:13

Volunteer hours:926

Loan bank and SIM cards: 6 devices loaned and 5 gifted; 12 SIM cards gifted

Locations of weekly sessions: Darley Methodist Church, Pateley Bridge Memorial Hall, Hampsthwaite Village Hall, Fewston Village Hall, Lofthouse Memorial Hall. We also attend Summerbridge Methodist Church regular Wednesday coffee mornings.

Here are some of the learner responses we received when people were asked: “What difference has the service made for you?”:

“I’m less afraid of my phone.”

“Independence! Able to make better use of my tablet.”

“I knew nothing about digital phones until I started going to class, so Jo and the other ladies taught me a great deal, with still more to learn”

“It has helped me find information on my late husband’s computer, work out how to use my new laptop and shown me the possibilities on my smartphone.”

“I did not feel foolish asking for help with some small things. The ladies who I met have been patient, efficient and skilled. The venues have been warm and easily accessible; and the tea and biscuits were lovely.”

“Helped me when I was scammed, when my printer stopped working and got me a 5G SIM card for my mobile which allowed me to use it at home where the signal isn’t good.”

We carried out a survey amongst a sample* of our learners during March 2026. Here are the results:

How useful are the sessions for helping you improve your digital skills?

Very useful: 90%

Somewhat useful:10%

Have the sessions helped you gain confidence with digital skills?

Yes: 84%

Maybe: 13%

No: 3%

*77 respondents completed the survey





Nidderdale Meals on Wheels

We run the Meals on Wheels service to meet local need, when people struggle to make a meal for themselves, so the client base changes regularly according to need. We are lucky to have the services of local commercial caterer, Dusty Miller, who are based at Low Laithe, preparing delicious, locally made food. Two 2-course meals are delivered each week to our clients by a separate team of Meals on Wheels volunteer drivers.

Number of meals delivered in the year:741
Number of service users throughout the year:16
Number of Meals on Wheels volunteer drivers:11
Volunteer hours:104.5

Survey results

We conducted a telephone survey of a representative sample* of our clients during March 2026 and this is what they told us:

- **100% of respondents rated the service from the volunteer drivers at 5 stars**
- **100% of respondents rated the service of our office staff at 5 stars**
- **85% of respondents rated the quality of the meals at either excellent or very good**

*We spoke by telephone to 6 of our clients to carry out our survey

We asked our clients:

“What difference has the Meals on Wheels service made to you?”
Some of their responses are below:

“Lots of difference. I don’t have to cook as much and I get more variety than what I would cook for myself.”

“As I live on my own and am having increasing medical problems I find the meals are invaluable.”



“Makes me eat more meat which is good for me! Can’t get to the shop easily so the service is really helpful.”

Charity Shop and Nidderdale Plus Community Fund



We set up Nidderdale Charity Shop in February 2022. The premise behind the charity shop is that it should support the local community, and is a good example of the circular economy in action! So, local people give unwanted items to the shop, local people (or tourists) buy the items – minimising waste and boosting recycling – and the money we make is directly invested back into local communities in 2 ways:

1. To provide a local grant fund each year –The Nidderdale Plus Community Fund (see below) – that local charities and not-for profit groups can apply to each year. In this way, we are able to meet needs in the community that may not have been on our radar.
2. To help fund the charitable activities of Nidderdale Plus, in particular, the Community Transport service and Meals on Wheels.

Number of shop volunteers:36

Volunteer hours:4,667

Number of Gift Aid donors:893

We surveyed our shop volunteers during March 2026 and here is a snapshot of what they told us about their volunteering experience at the charity shop.

"I love living in a community so helping in the Charity Shop is a way of giving back – also for me a way to meet many new people I would probably not meet otherwise."

"I love meeting people in our local community, and tourists to give advice when they ask about eg, best coffee houses, restaurants etc. I find we get our regulars that nip in for a chat everyday which is great, especially for our older community."

"The enjoyment of feeling involved again and meeting new people, has made volunteering so worthwhile for me."

"I love getting to know the regular locals who visit the shop for a chat and all the holidaymakers who visit wanting to know about Pateley Bridge. I go home knowing I've made a difference and brightened someone's day"

The Nidderdale Plus Community Fund

We carried out the third round of the fund in April 2026, and you can read the separate impact report prepared by Two Ridings Community Foundation (who administer the scheme for us) at Appendix 1. We aim to give out £20,000 a year from shop profits to local charities and not for profit groups. **In this third round, we allocated £24,075 to 16 different groups/organisations in Nidderdale and the Washburn Valley.**



Information, Advice and Guidance

As a community hub, we have agreements in place with North Yorkshire Council and North Yorkshire Police to be a front desk to report incidents to the police and to be a customer access point for council services and applications. Inevitably, this morphs into members of the public coming in to ask us—anything! So, the staff and volunteers who sit on front desk at the hub are skilled and resourceful in answering a wide variety of questions and often signposting people on to other services. We are also the Tourist Information Point for Nidderdale.

Council queries including benefits advice/signposting:	801
Police front desk:	70
Tourist Information:	6,454
Volunteers on the front desk:	2
Volunteer hours:	312

Survey results

We surveyed a sample of people using the hub in March 2026 and here are their responses:

- **100% of people answered “Yes” when asked “Were we able to help you today?”**

The most popular services that people access at the front desk are:

- Recycling enquiries and picking up recycling bags
- Purchasing Pateley Bridge Car Park permits each year
- Police Lost & Found service
- Blue badge applications
- Bus pass applications
- Tourism enquiries
- Accessing office services such as photocopying and laminating



Our Partnership Working and other Projects/Activities

We work with funding bodies and other charities/partners to both deliver local services and offer a space for local groups to meet. We were involved in three significant projects in this year, and you can read more about our activities as part of these projects below:

Northern Gas networks (NGN)

We were successful with a bid to NGN's **Affordable Warmth and Safety Scheme** in July 2025. The main work we carried out between September 2025 and March 2026, involved signing up local residents to the Priority Services Register, making them aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide (CO), handing out CO alarms, and advising on measures to help keep people warm over the winter months.



NHS Research Engagement Network (REN).

We began working with the NHS on REN project work in December 2024. The REN project seeks to ensure that more people know about and get involved in health research opportunities. There are currently a significant number of demographic groups who do not typically take part in health research, meaning that the results of any research project are not truly accurate and cannot reliably be applied to the whole population.

Our work involves recruiting local people who can act as Research Ready Community Champions to spread the word about the importance of health research and how people can get involved.

We recruited 10 Community Champions to carry out this work and the REN work is ongoing.



Department for Work and Pensions

Trailblazer Programme: We were successful with a bid to secure national Trailblazer Community Grant funding to provide personalised support for local residents facing barriers to employment, helping them improve confidence, wellbeing, skills and access to opportunities. Working closely with local skills agency, Next Step, the project offered one-to-one guidance, practical support and connections to training, volunteering and work-related activities tailored to individual needs. The programme took place between October 2025-March 2026, and focused particularly on young people, 16-24 years old, who were economically inactive or at risk of exclusion, helping them take positive steps towards greater independence and, where appropriate, employment.



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Ongoing local partnerships

In the section below, we include information about our ongoing local partnerships



MIND, the mental health charity, attends at Nidderdale Plus Community Hub one day per week to offer a drop-in session to support people in need. They also offer a local befriending service.



Citizens Advice offer a monthly surgery at Nidderdale Plus. People ring Nidd Plus to book onto one of the appointment slots that Citizens Advice offer on the day they are here.



Nidderdale Group Practice, prescription deliveries:

To assist our local GP practice, we delivered 134 prescriptions using volunteer drivers during the year in focus to 30 recipients (many of them on repeat prescriptions), using the services of local contacts or volunteer drivers.

During the year we also carried out the following projects/activities:

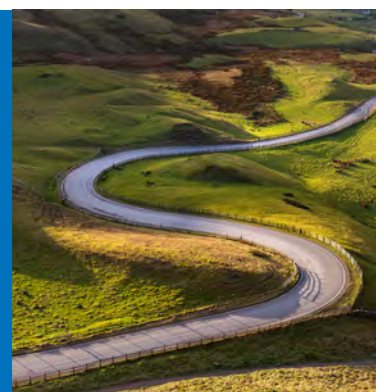
Emergency Food support: We supported a number of individuals and families with emergency food when they were short of money to buy food, owing to the Cost of Living crisis

Slow Cooker Demonstration: In partnership with the Yorkshire Energy Doctor, we held a session in Darley for local families (predominantly) about the benefits—of using a slow cooker to make meals and free slow cookers were handed out at the session. This was in response to the pressures of the Cost of Living crisis. 19 people attended.

The Future

As we look to the future, there are more developments either happening now or in the pipeline.

We continue to align service development with need, and of course, our mission statement. We acknowledge there will be challenges ahead, and top of this list is of course, the state of the public finances. However, we feel we are developing our scale as an organisation, the momentum and the financial resilience to meet any challenges we may face.



Thanks

We are a small staff team and a small army of volunteers! You can see the list on page 2 in the Volunteer section. However, the people who are in charge of the strategy and day-to-day running of Nidderdale Plus are our trustees, who are also local volunteers!

We thank our trustees for all their invaluable help, support and guidance over the past year:

Richard Bruce (Chair)

Malcolm Dawson (Treasurer)

Peter Brambleby

Sue Jones

Jackie Kerr

Andrew Murday

Roger Wensley

And also Gordon Murday who stepped down during the year.



Nidd Plus Staff

Our amazing staff team always goes the extra mile. So thanks go to: Helen Flynn, Sandra Walker, Angela Raw, Tracey Dawson, Jo Hayes, Zoe Crossley, Carole Cottrill, Dave Bothamley, Jacqueline Baker, Pollyanna Robinson

**Huge thanks to all our partners and funders.
We could not offer the services we offer without your support!**



Department
for Work &
Pensions





16

grants awarded



£24,075

total distributed



1,803

people supported

Impact Report, Round 3: 2026

for the period: April 2025 to March 2026



Nidderdale Plus Community Fund

An introduction

The Nidderdale Plus Community Fund was set up so that money raised through the Nidderdale Charity Shop in Pateley Bridge could be put straight back into supporting local people. Since opening in February 2022, the shop has sold good-quality second-hand clothes, books, household items and more, with every penny of profit used for two purposes: to run an annual grant fund for community groups across Nidderdale and the Washburn Valley, and to help fund key Nidderdale Plus services.

The community fund provides a steady, reliable source of support for local charities and community organisations. Its priorities reflect what local people say they need most. In its third year, applications focused on improving wellbeing, helping people stay independent, strengthening community connections and tackling local energy challenges. Groups applied for help to run activities and services, improve sports and play facilities, cover essential running costs and deliver small but important capital projects. Nidderdale Plus supports community-led ideas that show how a small amount of funding can make a real difference.

In Round 3, the 2025/26 financial year, 16 grants were awarded, totalling £24,075 to groups across Nidderdale.

The Aims of the Fund:

- Promoting wellbeing
- Fostering independence
- Cultivating a sense of belonging
- Addressing community energy needs

in Nidderdale & surrounding areas, North Yorkshire



The groups and people supported

Of the 16 groups supported, 5 were new applicants to Two Ridings and 11 were groups we had previously funded.

81% of the groups were charities with a turnover of under £20,000.

All work with local people, improving their lives. Only four of the groups had employed staff with the rest run entirely by volunteers.

Grants awarded by area



Round 3 Funded organisations

Darley Cricket Club began renovating their kitchen to install fridges, a dishwasher and an oven so they can provide food and refreshments on training and match days. **£2,000**

Nidderdale Community Energy Initiative used funding to progress their FCA registration as a Community Benefit Society and to commission a feasibility study. **£2,000**

Focus on Darley purchased a gazebo and games to support activities for villagers in Darley. The equipment creates a central, shared space for community events and is loaned out to other village groups and families. **£500**

Darley Playing Field Association (DPFA) invested in a new see-saw and installation costs for the village play area. As part of their wider support for local families, this addition enhances a well-used rural space where children can play safely. **£2,000**

Dancing for Wellbeing covered venue hire for their long-established dancing and social group supporting older people in the Nidderdale area, particularly around Hampsthwaite. **£1,500**

Nidderdale Brownies purchased equipment and uniforms to create a library for girls who can't afford their own items. They also bought group resources and created a small fund to cover subs for families, ensuring every child can take part. **£1,100**

Fewston Parochial Hall installed broadband and additional electric sockets, including necessary replastering. **£2,000**

Washburn Valley Sports Club purchased an indoor bowls starter kit to offer year-round bowling as part of the club's relaunch. This investment encourages new members from across the area. **£1,260**

Hampsthwaite Memorial Hall purchased new carpets and a children's bookcase to create a drop-in children's library. This new space offers families a welcoming, accessible resource for the community. **£2,000**

Markington Memorial Institute installed energy-efficient LEDs, smart thermostats and additional sockets to make the village hall more efficient and appealing to hire. A small contribution towards heating costs also helps keep the hall affordable for community use. **£2,000**

Nidderdale Stitchers funded speakers, workshops and minibus hire for a group day trip. This supports a sewing group with a majority of older members, helping them learn new skills and socialise. **£1,475**

Hampsthwaite Indoor Carpet Bowling Club covered venue hire costs, ensuring older residents can continue enjoying regular social activity and gentle exercise. **£750**

Dacre Banks Bowling Club purchased a gazebo and outdoor cooking equipment to support special events and provide meals for members on event days. **£1,000**

Warsill Gardening Club funded coach hire for day trips that provide significant social interaction for rural isolated older residents. **£590**

Nidderdale & Pateley Bridge Men's Shed CIO covered unexpected costs from the North Yorkshire Council and rising utility bills. This support helps keep the Shed open as a vital space where men can connect, share skills and support one another. **£2,000**

Focus on

New Beginnings Peer Support

New Beginnings Peer Support funded staff time, marketing and travel to understand the need for after-crisis domestic abuse support in Nidderdale. New Beginnings is a peer-led charity founded by survivor Lindsay Oliver, offering trauma-informed support for women and their children. Their work combines mindfulness, practical help, signposting and a positive social network to help families rebuild their lives.

At the heart of the charity is the principle of survivors supporting survivors. Through peer groups, signposting, family and career support and a client-to-volunteer pathway, women are empowered to take control of their healing journey. Their services promote emotional resilience and self-awareness, and as partners of IDAS, they continue the support journey long after crisis intervention. **£1,900**



Rounds made by the Nidderdale Plus Community Fund

ROUND 1

March 2023 - April 2024



11

grants awarded



£13,425

distributed

ROUND 2

March 2024 - April 2025



15

grants awarded



£24,712

distributed

ROUND 3

March 2025 - April 2026



16

grants awarded



£24,075

distributed

ROUND 4*

March 2026 - April 2027



13

grants awarded



£22,295

distributed

*The Impact Report for Round 4 will be published in January 2027



www.tworidingscf.org.uk

Call us on: 01904 929 500 Email us: info@tworidingscf.org.uk

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