

Brighter Futures Trustee Meeting Minutes

Date: 4th August 2026

Time: 17:00

Location: Online

Present:

- Caroline Allen
- Julie Simmonds
- Jamie Owen
- Ken Lewis
- Shane Owen

Apologies:

- None received

1. Matters Arising

The meeting minutes for June 2026 were agreed and approved.

2. Trustee Consolidated Report – July 2026

Trustees reviewed the July consolidated report covering finance, community groups and café activity, Kids & Youth Shed, kitchen activity and the Postcode Gardener programme.

Headline figures were noted: total funds of [REDACTED] as at 3 August; **£18,449.17** new grant funding received in July; 356 Shed members plus approximately 70–80 Community Café users; **551 Kids & Youth attendances; 770 meals and snacks served; and 1,127 people engaged** through the Postcode Gardener programme.

Strong delivery was noted across the organisation, alongside the need for continued oversight of year-end accounts, future funding, partnership working and capacity for the summer and autumn programme.

3. Finance and Accounts

Account balances as at 3 August were:

- Current Account – [REDACTED]
- Reserve Account – [REDACTED]

- Redundancy Account – [REDACTED]
- Total Funds – [REDACTED]

New grant funding received during July totalled £18,449.17. Trustees also noted approved and pipeline funding, including TNL funding of £99,921 over three years, £20,000 from Burbo Bank Community Fund and the in progress Save the Children partnership.

Pending applications and planned funding reapplications were discussed.

To improve resilience within the accounts function, it was agreed that Ken would work with Tim to improve his understanding of Xero. Tim will be asked to provide training and support, with the aim of ensuring a backup person is also able to use the system effectively.

4. Groups, Community Café and Wider Impact

Participation remained fairly strong, with 118 Men's Shed members, 140 Mixed Shed members, 98 Women's Shed members and approximately 70–80 Community Café users.

A broad range of practical, creative and social activities continued across the groups. Trustees particularly noted the positive Women's Shed case study demonstrating increased confidence, friendships and belonging.

The Community Café remained busy and volunteer support continued to be important. The Queen's Market "Bonkers Bingo" youth event was also highlighted as a positive activity.

Upcoming priorities include Women's Shed first-aid training, summer children and family activities and further community litter-picking.

5. Kids & Youth Shed

A total of 551 attendances were reported across June and July, comprising 236 Kids Shed and 315 Youth Shed attendances.

Activities included outdoor play, crafts, planting, music, gaming, sports, cooking and discussion sessions exploring subjects including anti-social behaviour and social media.

Trustees noted positive outcomes around young people's voice, skills, belonging and wellbeing.

The Queen's Market sessions were discussed. While the first session demonstrated positive youth engagement, communication around the second visit was less successful and some young people felt unwelcome. Trustees noted the importance of consistent communication, positive staff attitudes and relationship-based youth work.

An anonymous feedback form has now been introduced to strengthen young people's voice.

Future activities include movie evenings in partnership with Wicked Wales, fishing trips with Police, Fford Las sessions and summer food and family activities, Outdoor sports, Wildlife walks and foraging through CFIW funding.

6. Kitchen and Food Provision

The kitchen served 770 meals and snacks during the reporting period and continued to provide meals, snacks and cooking activities across the organisation.

Summer food activities include buffets, pizza making, healthy wraps and food provision linked to youth and family activities.

Food budget monitoring has improved and Shane and Nick have reviewed performance and agreed the food budget.

7. Postcode Gardener Programme

All core Postcode Gardener outputs were reported as achieved. From March to July the programme recorded:

- 37 litter picks
- 117 spaces greened
- 1,127 people engaged
- 25 groups and partners involved

Trustees noted continued partnership work across Rhyl, including Wales in Bloom activity, community growing projects and progress on the Alleyways Project.

Two of the three alleyway sites have now been cleaned, with greening and planters forming the next phase.

Upcoming work includes Clwyd Alyn engagement and allotment activity, CAMHS youth-led garden work and the Wales in Bloom awards presentation in November.

8. Trustee Report Format and Monthly Reporting

Trustees agreed that the consolidated report remains too long and should be shortened, with greater emphasis on key decisions, risks and matters requiring trustee attention.

Shane explained that limited time has been available to edit the report because some staff monthly reports have been submitted late. Shane will chase late reports and reinforce the need for timely submissions so future trustee reports can be properly edited before circulation.

9. DCC Communication and Community Liaison

Trustees discussed providing regular monthly updates to the DCC Chief Executive and improving communication with Denbighshire County Council over time.

Day-to-day working relationships with DCC officers were recognised as very positive, although communication with more senior officials can be more difficult, an issue experienced by other community and voluntary organisations as well.

It was suggested that discussions take place with DCC around creating a paid community liaison post linking the Council directly with community and voluntary groups in Rhyl.

Shane suggested speaking with DVSC to gauge their views and whether they could help develop the proposal.

10. DCC Children's Village Consultation

The forthcoming DCC consultation regarding the Children's Village development was discussed.

Concern was expressed that residents may feel the proposal has progressed significantly before genuine local engagement has taken place. Trustees stressed the importance of meaningful community involvement and clear communication as the project progresses.

11. Use Your Loaf Bakery Project

A discussion was held regarding the Use Your Loaf Bakery project.

The substantive content of this discussion has been redacted from these minutes.

12. Key Actions

- **Ken / Tim:** Work together to improve Xero knowledge and provide suitable backup cover.
- **Shane:** Chase late staff reports and ensure future consolidated trustee reports are shorter and properly edited.
- **Shane:** Continue regular updates to the DCC Chief Executive and work to strengthen senior communication.
- **Shane:** Speak with DVSC regarding the proposed Rhyl community liaison role.
- **Trustees:** Engage with the Children's Village consultation and continue to encourage meaningful local resident involvement.
- **Operational Team:** Continue delivery of August–September programme priorities.

Meeting Close

Time: 19:20