



Burrington Community Hub Impact Report

2025/26

Year 2 of Burrington Community Hub has been about partnership at every level

One of the things I am most proud of is seeing people move from simply coming through the door to actively shaping what happens here.

Community members have become volunteers, gained qualifications, developed new skills and started running the activities they want to see in their community. People don't just want to use the Hub; they want to contribute to it.

Our partnerships have grown too. The strongest work has happened when organisations have become part of the fabric of the Hub, building relationships, listening and working alongside local people rather than simply delivering a service. It reinforces something we already knew: relationships are at the heart of what we do, and meaningful change takes time.

Our priorities last year were:

— Strengthen social connections

Creating opportunities for people to meet, contribute and feel part of their community.

— Grow food confidence

Building skills, confidence and opportunities around food.

— Support mental health

Creating a welcoming space where people can connect and access support.

— Deepen our local role

Listening, advocating and working with others to make a positive difference in Honicknowle.

This report shares some of what that work has looked like over the past year, the difference it is making, and what we are learning along the way.

Rachel Earley

Community Engagement Lead

“

People don't just want to use the Hub; they want to contribute to it

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— Contact

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— Follow us

Follow us on social media for updates on events, support groups and more.

  @burringtoncommunityhub

Our Impact 2025/26



3,200+
Teas & Coffees
Shared



3,122
Total Participants
Engaged



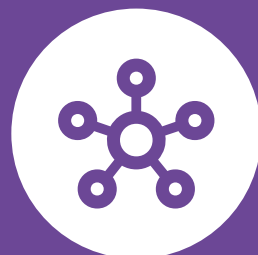
21,600
Meals
Served



450+
Community Space
Hours Offered



255
Free Community
Sessions



40
New Partnerships
Formed

Our Aims & Values

The Burrington Community Hub will be a welcoming and open space that builds upon the school's strengths and actively collaborates with the broader community.

— Our Mission

To create meaningful experiences and opportunities that enable the entire community to thrive and flourish.

— Theory of Change

We believe that happy communities make happy children and happy children do well at school.

— **If:** We strengthen the system around children and families by working together across schools, families and local partners.

— **Then:** Support becomes earlier and transitions will be smoother and families will feel more connected.

— **So that:** Young people are more likely to stay engaged in education training and employment and children feel safe, more connected and more supported to succeed in school and in life.

Our Values



Love: Kindness and compassion at all times.



Legacy: Build something greater than ourselves.



Bravery: Dare to be better.



Strengthen Social Connections

This year we ran 17 different projects, giving people different reasons to come through the doors of the Hub and connect with others.

From community arts and crafts to family activities and our Cancer Champions coffee mornings, people come together around something they enjoy, need or that matters to them.

But often, the activity is just the starting point. People come for a group, but they stay for the relationships.

One community member came to the Hub following a long period of illness and rehabilitation. Getting involved led to volunteering, completing courses, joining meetings and growing in confidence.

“The Hub has changed my life for the better. I got stuck in and have loved every minute of it. My confidence grew, I’ve joined meetings, done courses and passed! The Hub is still growing and it’s a fabulous place to be it cheers you up in your day.”

We see this journey in different ways. One mum first discovered the Hub through activities for her children, before finding other groups, building friendships and eventually becoming a volunteer herself.

“I’ve made close friendships here and it has become a safe, welcoming space where people who were once strangers have become like family. The Hub has had such a positive impact on me that I decided to volunteer and give something back.”

These connections also reach beyond the Hub. Jasmine, a freelance artist working with our creative arts group, describes how the community has helped her become more locally connected too:

“Working with the Hub has helped me feel much more connected to my local community. Confidence has soared in the people I’m working with and opportunities are being grabbed which previously may have been shied away from. Members have also inspired me to look more locally. I’ve been introduced to community fun days and fairs I never knew were happening.”

For us, strengthening social connections is about what grows from bringing people together friendships, confidence, new opportunities, volunteering and a stronger sense of belonging in the wider community.

**17
Projects
—
255
Sessions**

Grow Food Confidence

This year, food has continued to be an important way of bringing people together, helping families save money and creating opportunities to build skills and confidence.

One of the biggest developments has been the introduction of a Food Co-op, bringing together 20 local people who each contribute £3 a week to collectively buy surplus food through FareShare South West. FareShare redistributes good-quality surplus food from supermarkets and other food businesses to community groups and organisations.

By providing the Hub space free of charge, every penny members contribute can go directly towards buying food. But the Co-op has become about much more than saving money on the weekly shop. Members share recipes, swap ideas, bake cakes and spend time together over a cup of tea. The Hub becomes their space each week.

“The space they use has become a community hub for members. They feel safe and welcome, often using it like a living room with tea, cake and lots of chat. Members feel free to make decisions about the space they use — it very much feels like their space for that time each week.”

- Kelly, Food Co-operation Town

The impact has been significant. Over the year, 9,030kg of food was redistributed through the Co-op, with an estimated retail value of £31,320 equivalent to 21,490 meals. Almost 72% of the food redistributed was fruit, vegetables, dairy and ready meals.

Food has also created opportunities for learning and connection beyond the Co-op. Working with On Course South West, we ran family cooking sessions during the school holidays, giving families the chance to cook, learn and eat together.

We also continued our partnership with Barnardo's, delivering Chicken and a Chat sessions for young people. Using surplus KFC chicken, the sessions provide something simple but valuable: a chance for young people to share food and have an informal conversation with a youth worker.

Together, these activities are helping us make food about more than meeting an immediate need. They are creating opportunities for people to save money, build confidence around food, learn from each other and connect with their community.





Support Mental Health

Supporting mental health this year has meant thinking carefully about who we bring into the Hub and how our community space can be used differently.

Through our partnerships, we have created space for work with young people around body confidence, for young people whose parents have a diagnosed mental illness, and for those who have experienced or are at risk of domestic abuse. Holding this work at the Hub has been intentional. It gives young people a welcoming community space away from school, where the environment can feel more informal and like it belongs to them.

Our partnership with The Body Happy Org has also shown how using a community space can create opportunities for different generations to come together.

“Running the Body Happy Belonging project at the Hub has been instrumental to its success. We’ve been able to engage multiple generations to create a really impactful intergenerational project, co-designed with the community and continuing to develop alongside them. The Hub is more than just a space to run our sessions from; it’s a living, breathing, active community home which continues to draw more people in every week.”

Supporting mental health also happens through connection. This year we started our Cancer Champions coffee morning, creating a space for people affected by cancer to meet others with shared experiences and support one another. Trevi has also joined our arts and crafts mornings, bringing support into an existing community activity rather than expecting people to go somewhere new to find it.

For us, this is an important part of the Hub’s role: bringing support into a familiar community space, reducing barriers and creating opportunities for connection alongside more targeted support.

Deepen Our Local Role

For us, deepening our local roots is about time, relationships and working alongside others. We know the Hub is only one small part of a much bigger community, so an important part of our role is bringing people and organisations together and making our space available to others.

We have provided **over 450 hours of free space** to community organisations, enabling them to work directly with and support local families. Our online community has grown too, with **357 people now following the Hub on Facebook**, helping us share what is happening locally and reach people beyond those who come through our doors. Each of these connections helps make the Hub more embedded in Honicknowle not by trying to do everything ourselves, but by creating space, joining things up and working with the people already here.

This year, alongside The Zone, we created a network for services working with 16–25-year-olds, looking at how we can better support young people as they age out of existing support. We have also been an active part of the Honicknowle Cluster, bringing local schools and organisations together to work more strategically, as well as participating in wider local VCSFE networks.

This year we have supported 10 people into training or volunteering



What's Next for The Hub

This academic year, we plan to be even more ambitious in our work. We aim to strengthen collaboration with our school partners and continue to develop the Honicknowle Cluster.

Alongside the Reach Foundation, we will further expand our neighbourhood-based approach, building stronger connections between the Community Hub and the positive outcomes we want to see for young people across our area.

We are committed to working with parents, families, and local residents, and firmly believe that investing in and supporting our community creates lasting change, although we recognise that this takes time.

Through the Honicknowle Cluster, our key priorities will be early help, belonging, progression, and pathways. To support these priorities, we will work closely with local primary schools and partner agencies to develop new roles and opportunities that strengthen our collective impact.

There are many exciting plans already in development for the year ahead, and we look forward to continuing to grow, learn, and strengthen our work alongside the community we serve.

Acknowledgements

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our funders, whose generous support made it possible for us to run the Hub and support our community throughout the year. We are incredibly grateful to The National Lottery, Plymouth City Council, through its Warm Spaces funding, and the Nineveh Trust. Your support has enabled us to provide a welcoming, safe and supportive space for local people, and to make a meaningful difference in our community.

If you would like to contribute to the work of the Hub and help us continue supporting our community, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch to find out how you can support us.



Partners



