

star project

Executive Summary 2021

Building safer, more connected and resilient communities

The STAR Project (est. 1999) is an award-winning community organisation that delivers long lasting positive social outcomes, building safer, more connected and resilient communities in Renfrewshire.

Community members access the Project through agency referral or word of mouth and between 2016 and 2021 we delivered significant interventions to just over 22,000 individuals.

STAR Project has a solid track record of positive impact across vulnerable or disengaged individuals, families facing disadvantage and likely poor outcomes. Based in the heart of Paisley's North End, where individuals and families face well documented challenges, we facilitate opportunity and aspiration, boost life chances, engender community ownership and celebrate every success.

Vision:

Our vision is safer, more connected and resilient families and communities where opportunity is equal and diversity is embraced.

Mission:

Using a person centred approach to build genuine positive relationships, we will deliver diverse, responsive and creative supports and services which recognise community need, aspiration and potential.

"There is nowhere else in Renfrewshire like STAR Project! Their compassion and creativity is unrivalled and their holistic and innovative approach changes lives" – Health Partner

"A shining example of the incredible impact third sector organisations in Scotland can have for our most vulnerable families..." – Scottish Book Trust

"I've never worked with a Project where the community are so integral, so invested..."
– Renfrewshire Council

"The dedication and values of staff are next level. Impressed again and again with the work, commitment to community and quality they deliver on (with tight resources). Every area should have a STAR team" – Statutory Partner

"Best practice? Go to STAR!" – Third Sector Partner

Just under a quarter of children in Renfrewshire are living in poverty. The nature of poverty is changing too, with poverty rising amongst the young and those in work. Two thirds of children living in poverty are living in a household where at least one person is working.

Many families and individuals in our community face poverty and disadvantage resulting in:

- **Poorer life chances**
- **Ill health**
- **Social and familial tension**
- **Low aspiration**

The statistics paint a very bleak picture of need, deprivation and vulnerability in Paisley's North End. STAR Project's impact is to be found in our unique approach, not meeting the needs of the community but meeting them in their need. Our methodological and direct approach to build positive relationships and work alongside our community and partners is successful and sustainable, cited as best practice, documented in academia, and offers a tailored, live way of working that fits its focus, its purpose and its community.

Over our 22 year history we have seen an increase in footfall year on year. The North End has a population of just over 4000, Paisley North West ward around 20,000, and in the last year we worked with our communities in more than 100 different ways: Families who are care experienced, individuals who are wholly benefit dependant or repeatedly benefit sanctioned, individuals who suffer/have suffered abuse and those living with long term poor mental health. Over 92% of our intervention last year contributed to local and national Strategy outcomes: most notably Poverty and Social Justice, Mental Health, Play, CLaD, Renfrewshire's Council and Community Plans, Social Renewal Plan, Culture, GIRFEC, Early Years, Empowering Communities and Climate Change. Our work is robustly evaluated and shows notable impact in relation to tackling the impacts of poverty/deprivation, social inclusion, creative capacity, well-being, improving resilience and accessing other services. In 2018 we also successfully delivered a satellite Project in Glenburn to 300 community members, evidencing that STAR's model is not only impactful but also replicable.

The STAR Project features in the Fairer Scotland Action Plan for leading the community engagement work for Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission and amplifying that dignity and respect for users were crucial to successful public services. This engagement has led to an increase and improvement in the way that people can be heard. As a direct result of this the governments Socio Economic Duty was launched at STAR Project in July 2017 in recognition of this work as well as the recent Anti-Stigma campaign the Project led for Renfrewshire Council.

The STAR approach allows us to see the person, not a label, not a statistic, which ultimately makes people feel safe and accepted and ready to take a step towards realising more of their potential. No other service in Renfrewshire, that we are aware of, supports our most disadvantaged citizens in such an innovative, comprehensive and effective way.

We are Fearless – We are Playful – We are Here

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