

Exploring community, place and belonging



BRIDGING AND BELONGING PROJECT

Community group information



WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in being a part of our new Bridging and Belonging project! In this document you will find information on what the project is, the role of the community group, and how you can get involved.

We know from our work in West Yorkshire that community members want to connect with each other, influence change, and have great ideas and skills to offer which will benefit the community. We also know there is a need for events and activities to help make this happen, especially those which **bring people from different backgrounds together**. We hope to help make this happen, through this project. If you are passionate about your community and want to contribute to shaping its future, **this is your chance to make a difference**.

If you are interested in being a part of the community group, please apply via our online application form: <https://forms.gle/TDqv52f5Lqi2kCh88>

If you have any questions about the project, the role of the community group, or need support to apply, please contact us: info@jocoxfoundation.org.

We all have a story to share. **Join us on this exciting journey to build a stronger, more connected community!**



ABOUT THE PROJECT

02 ●

We're pleased to have received funding from the National Lottery Community Fund for an 18-month project to help us bring communities together through a series of events in Batley, Dewsbury and Heckmondwike. These events will explore the themes of **community**, **place** and **belonging**, and will help us create a shared vision for the future of the area.

AIMS OF THE PROJECT

- Provide structures to **connect and listen deeply to the community**.
- **Create connections** in and between communities in different areas.
- **Increase social support networks and feelings of belonging** in individuals who take part.
- **Celebrate the strengths and skills** that we know exist in our communities.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The project runs from **May 2024 – December 2025**, and the main activities of the project will be:

- **Recruit and work with a group of community members** from across Batley, Dewsbury, Heckmondwike who will receive skills training and peer-support and help us shape the project activities.
- **Run regular community events** across Batley, Dewsbury and Heckmondwike for anyone with a connection to the area to connect, listen, and share stories on the themes of community, place and belonging.
- **Bring together what we are hearing and produce a vision for the future of the area**; capturing the issues, needs and skills of the community and what action they want to see.

For more information on the project, see our website:

www.jocoxfoundation.org/yorkshire

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY GROUP

The community group will play a crucial role in **organising and running community events** in Batley, Dewsbury, and Heckmondwike. These events aim to **bring people together** to listen and share stories focused on themes of **community, place, and belonging**. Community group members will receive **skills training** and **peer-support** to enhance their ability to engage and work effectively within the community. This is an excellent opportunity for individuals with a passion for community engagement and those looking to **meet new people and make a positive impact**.

WHO WE'RE LOOKING FOR

We are bringing together a group of people from the area with a mix of backgrounds and experiences to form our community group. We are looking for people who:

- **Live, work, volunteer or have a connection to Batley, Dewsbury, Heckmondwike.** This is where the community-based events will take place.
- Have some experience in **community engagement** and **attending or organising community events**.
- Are happy to **contribute your views and experiences** as a community member.
- Have an **interest in your community, listening to others, hearing different views** and **meeting new people**.
- Can commit to attending **one meeting per month**.
- Are committed to showing up with **openness, honesty, a lack of judgement** and a sense of **fun** and **positivity**.



ABOUT THE COMMUNITY GROUP

BENEFITS OF JOINING

We hope this experience will be rewarding for everyone who takes part. We have thought a lot about the different benefits of taking part and offering a range of experiences to match different people's needs. Through this project, you will:

- **make meaningful social connections** with people from different backgrounds to your own.
- **build your skills** related to listening, storytelling, running events and other themes related to the project.
- **help create a vision for the future of your community**, capturing the issues, needs and skills of the community.
- better **understand the experiences and needs of the communities** in Batley, Dewsbury and Heckmondwike and surrounding areas.
- **help organise a range of community events** which promote and celebrate the strengths in our communities.
- have the opportunity to **engage in a range of creative activities** which build on existing skills or try out new ones. This might include taking photos of the area, drawing illustrations, storytelling through objects, collage making to showcase feelings or creative writing.
- **We will cover reasonable expenses** to help you take part in the project, including local travel, child care or other support required.



We all came with our own stories. Our own rough edges. I learned a great deal about the area. I arrived with some preconceptions that were challenged positively.

Quote from participants in our 2022 community belonging project.



ABOUT THE COMMUNITY GROUP

COMMUNITY GROUP MEETINGS

We will hold **monthly community group meetings** for the duration of the project, which all community group members will be expected to attend.

What's happened so far?

We have brought together an initial Community Group that we'd love you to be a part of!

We have met four times – in September, October and December 2024 and in January 2025.

We have started planning our first three listening events – a walk, an online event and a 'pop-up' in a busy precinct.

HOW TO APPLY

- If you are be interested in being a part of the community group, **please apply via our online application form:**
<https://forms.gle/ng7hSLtzst0EXkz5A>
- If you have any questions about the project, the role of the community group, or need support to apply, please contact info@jocoxfoundation.org

WHAT'S NEXT

We will review all applications and invite you to join the group based on the information in the 'who we're looking for' section. We will contact all applicants to let you know if you have been successful or not. You can expect to hear from us soon after via phone or email.



I am because you are, you and me both

Translation of the philosophy of [Ubuntu](#), which embraces the idea that humans cannot exist in isolation. We depend on **connection**, **community**, and **caring** — simply, we cannot be without each other.

