

Notes from South Yorkshire Green Network meeting 16.3.26

Present:

Cathy Slater	Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust
Cassa Townsend	Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust
Zoe Fuggle	RootsOT
Helen Taylor	SOAR
Kelly Brindle	TCV (The Conservation Volunteers)
Nicola Spence	ZEST
Marianne Turner	Public Health Doncaster's Active Travel team
Mark Lampitt	Canal & River Trust

Cathy welcomed everyone to the group and everyone introduced themselves.

Karen Walke joined us and presented about the services and support available to groups and organisations based in South Yorkshire. It is free to subscribe to the **SYFAB weekly news bulletin**, they offer much more (see Karen's presentation [here](#))

Questions:

Cathy asked about whether there are any specific pots of funding aimed at nature connection and getting outdoors. Karen outlined that many funders might find this sort of work, especially if it links to connecting communities together. Cassa mentioned in the chat some specific funds which were advertised in last week's SYFAB newsletter, that could potentially fund this sort of work, one around summer activities and one around social and environmental change projects.

Cassa asked about who can apply for funding, is it just charities and CICs? Specifically can private practitioners apply for funding? Karen suggested that it would be unlikely that an individual would be funded (Arts Council is an exception where they fund individual artist's commissions) It is more likely that any individuals would need to collaborate with other charities or community groups. Karen explained some of the complexities of being a CIC, and that some funders don't want to fund CICs as they don't favour the crossover of private sector interests with community benefit.

Cathy gave brief updates around the following:

Shared Investment Fund update:

A partnership of NHS South Yorkshire's Integrated Care Board, the Mayoral Combined Authority, VCSE leads, South Yorkshire's Community Foundation, national partners and the four local authorities in South Yorkshire is working to establish a S Yorks community health and wellbeing fund, to bolster the ability of the VSCE sector to deliver health creation within communities most impacted by health inequalities in our region.

Some initial funds have been secured from public sector partners for 2026-28 and an Expression Of Interest has been submitted to the National Lottery Community Fund to help in establishing and developing this shared investment fund. The hope is that this will support a modest initial grants programme to run in the first phase from spring/summer 2026, for two years.

Making the case for Workforce Wellbeing:

At the January meeting of the Green Network, it was agreed that there is an that there is an appetite for gathering some case studies and making a short report/paper to help make the case for future investment in the region in green social prescribing workforce wellbeing and recognising the role of nature connection for wellbeing.

Natural England launching a new guide to measuring health outcomes

Join Natural England and partners for the launch of the Healthy Outdoors guide, a new resource to help improve the way that health outcomes and wellbeing impacts of outdoor and nature-based interventions are measured. You are welcome to forward this invitation on to colleagues, partners and networks who may be interested. This will have relevance to anyone with interest in health, environment, community engagement, local government, outdoor activity provision and investment. The guide can be found on this webpage [here](#).

Register [here](#): Healthy Outdoors Webinar – 15 April, 1011am

Any other business

Helen from SOAR mentioned the Spring Celebration event of the North East Sheffield “This is Us” Growing Network – Saturday 11th April at Harry’s Café in Firth Park, Sheffield.

Also this 2 day course coming up at Northern College (Barnsley) in April (25th & 26th) <https://www.northern.ac.uk/course/roots-to-rise-step-into-nature-to-pause-reflect-and-rise-wit-h-a-clearer-sense-of-purpose-introduction/>

Future topic suggestions for future meetings

- Working with young people
- Projects that involve growing
- Evaluation methods
- Revisiting the findings from the 4 year “Green Social Prescribing test & learn programme 2021-25
- Individuals sharing an update of their work and practice (Zoe Fuggle, Roots OT offered to do this)

Actions:

- Sign up to the SYFAB news if you haven’t already - <https://www.syfab.org.uk/>
- Offer a short case study around your work to support Workforce Wellbeing – email Cassa on greenprescribing@wildsheffield.com and she’ll send you a template to use as a prompt.

Future dates for meetings: (joining links to be shared nearer the time)

Thurs 14th May 2pm - 3.30pm; Wed 15th July 10am-11.30am; Thurs 17th September 2pm - 3.30pm; Tues 17th November 2pm - 3.30pm

Other useful resources:

[South Yorkshire Green & Blue Social Prescribing website](#)

Notes from previous Green Network meetings online [here](#)

NASP Innovation Hub for Green Social Prescribing: **Sign Up: Welcome to the Social Prescribing Innovation Network platform: <https://www.naspinnovation.online/>**

A national network for anyone helping people connect with nature for health and wellbeing .

Whether you work in healthcare, local government, the environment or the voluntary sector, this is a space to share ideas, access resources, and collaborate.

Join a growing movement making Green Social Prescribing more inclusive, accessible, and effective—so more people can benefit from the power of nature.