

Scholemoor Beacon is a community centre and adjoining sports and play area in the heart of Scholemoor. It is a charity that works alongside local people to improve health and wellbeing, increase the wealth of the local area and bring the community together. We do this by providing a range of activities, by working in partnership with other organisations including CHAS@St Vincents, Margaret Carey Foundation and the Big Swing. We also offer a warm welcome, listening ear, support and a cup of tea if you call into the centre.

Our vision is to ensure that all residents living in Scholemoor have opportunities to develop new skills, meet friends and keep healthy in a safe, strong and prosperous community. A hub for local people to grow learn and enjoy.

Tell us about your organisation –

We are a small charity based on the Scholemoor estate providing activities and services to the whole community and surrounding areas of Lidget Green, Clayton and Great Horton. We are open to all ages, nationalities and backgrounds and have an open door policy to all.

Why was the organisation founded (what was the initial aim/need) –

We were founded in 2006 and were an amalgamation of the local tenants and residents group and local young people's association. The initial aim of Scholemoor Beacon was to improve the environment, in particular the regeneration of the former Scholemoor sports centre which had been demolished and left derelict. The area is and was a deprived area and we have always been passionate about helping the people within the local vicinity and improving opportunities and the quality of life for people in the community

How has that changed if at all? –

We have now developed a community sport and recreational ground and are based in the community centre both of which Scholemoor Beacon now lease and are the main overseer of the facilities delivering weekly activities and services on a daily basis. We are also now known as a community hub and with us being run by local residents we see a lot more footfall coming into the centre rather than walking by.

What are you most proud of about your organisation –

As an organisation we are most proud of the fact that we are still able to deliver activities and support the community in 2019. We pride ourselves on delivering quality services to local people and are also proud of the fact that we have many local people who volunteer for the organisation.

What is your greatest challenge in the industry and how could others help you overcome it?

Funding is our largest challenge, any funders or local businesses looking to support communities could help by becoming involved in helping to fund projects or offer expertise. Other challenges include continuing to recruit volunteers who give their time to the organisation and whose support really helps us to deliver activities.

Have you received any support from Community Action along the way?

Clive is our VOSO and we have used him to help us with structural things and advice such as helping us to become a CIO company and funding advice. We like to use Diva and appreciate that it helps us to reach a wider audience and advertise what we do and what opportunities are here for people.

Do you have anything you would like to let others know about?

Here is our weekly timetable. We also provide half term activities and a range of events throughout the year which we will list on Diva when they are upcoming.

We have our AGM coming up on Thursday 31st January 2019 17.30pm anyone wishing to attend please let us know so we can arrange catering.