



Clarrie's Story

The Beginning:

Clarrie lives in Seacroft and met the ABCD Community Builder during lockdown, when she responded to an ask for volunteers to help prepare activity packs for children. Clarrie was recently retired and lacked local connections. Volunteering provided an opportunity for Clarrie to get out of the house and build connections with her local community. Clarrie stayed in touch with the Community Builder who discovered that Clarrie had a passion for crocheting and was keen to share her skills and talent with others. Clarrie was a community connector without knowing it, and with support from the Community Builder Clarrie made plans to set up a local group and to discover other locals with a passion for craft!

I've watched friendships develop, people blossom and grow.

I have benefited from time and space to discover more about myself and develop new skills. There's always tea, and often cake!! **Clarrie**



The Journey:

Clarrie applied to the ABCD Small Sparks fund to kick start her idea the purchase of knitting and sewing machines and took to social media to get the message out. Tuesday evening sessions were held monthly at a local community centre, regularly attracting up to two dozen participants as the group went from strength to strength. This location required the Community Builder to be on site which acted as a barrier to the group's autonomy. Self-sustaining groups are run with people, by people, so they worked with the Community Builder to move to the LS14 Trust space. Taking ownership of a set of keys and managing their own meeting space was a significant milestone on the journey the group had travelled. Clarrie's strengths as a community connector in building links with local partners helped secure additional craft materials and crochet items, self-sustaining and self-resilient!



Crochet & Knitting Group

@LS14 Trust
Leeds LS14 1BT
Tuesday Evenings 6.30 pm - 8.00 pm

this is a group of local residents who are keen crafters that have decided to meet up and share skills so if you're a novice or experienced knitter/crocheter you are welcome to join.

The Impact:

The crochet sessions are an asset for the local community, building new connections amongst residents and contributing to community wellbeing. Whether it's slippers for the Hedgehog Trust, or hats and gloves for users of the Pantry Club, the crochet sessions have demonstrated that residents can self-resource to meet local need. The crochet group has strengthened community relations by forging new connections amongst neighbours and leading to a growth in volunteers at the LS14 Trust. Meanwhile, Clarrie has become an enthusiastic advocate of local action and has taken up a role as an activist with Climate Action Seacroft. Clarrie has gone on to use her skills and knowledge in connecting with people to support to deliver ABCD training and to speak about ABCD at this year's ADASS conference in London.

