

The Centre for Collaboration in Community Connectedness

Information sheet

This information sheet is designed to tell you about two projects that the Centre for Collaboration in Community Connectedness (C4) is working on in partnership with Black Mountains College. We are asking whether you'd like to be involved in a Talgarth and Future Connections Community Event being held in November and/or a Young People and the Future of Talgarth: Participatory film making project. More information can be found below. If you would like to take part or want to find out more please contact **Dr Vita Terry, Action Research Fellow:** vita@blackmountainscollege.uk

What is The Centre for Collaboration in Community Connectedness C4)?

[The Centre for Collaboration in Community Connectedness](#) (C4) is being led and set up a year ago by Sheffield Hallam University. This UK-wide programme, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), brings together communities and researchers through a "Community Catapult" model. This means the national research programme is taking place in five locations across the UK: Lambeth, Sheffield, Belfast, Alloa and Talgarth with the aim to co-create practical solutions to local societal challenges.

C4 aims to conduct community led enquiry to understand what is needed to build stronger and more connected communities across the UK. The Centre uses a community-led approach, which aims to put local communities at the heart of research, supporting the Centre to develop new tools and resources, test research methods and models, and create new knowledge and capacity.

What is Black Mountains College involvement in C4?

C4 is working in collaboration with the Black Mountains College. Over the next four years, an Action Research Fellow (Dr Vita Terry) will be based at the Black Mountains College who aims to co create and co deliver community led research. The aim is to understand not only *why* social connection matters, but *how* it develops and can be strengthened, with a particular emphasis on driving change at a local level. At Black Mountains College, a key research interest is exploring: **How can local communities prepare for social, climate and economic system shocks?**

This involves understanding how communities such as Talgarth are adapting, preparing and responding creatively to challenges, and building more connected communities for the future. The Action Research Fellow has undergone a process of deep listening with the community to understand local priorities which has helped shape the next stage of this research.

How can students get involved in C4?

BMC students are developing practical skills in systems thinking, community engagement, and change-making through their studies. As part of the degree programme, the Action Research Fellow will be teaching throughout the year on topics such as community organising, action research methodology, community engagement principles and building research skills such as active listening, interviewing, facilitation and creative methods.

Talgarth Future Connections community event, 2nd November 2026 @ 5-8pm

Talgarth Future Connections is a community event organised by the Centre for Collaboration in Community Connectedness (C4) in partnership with Black Mountains College. Its purpose is to bring together local residents, community groups, volunteers, students and partner organisations to explore what the future for Talgarth could look like.



The event builds on conversations from the earlier *Connecting Talgarth* event and responds to current challenges facing communities, including economic uncertainty, environmental change and pressures on local services. At the same time, it recognises the strengths, skills and creativity that already exist within the community. Through creative activities, facilitated discussions and informal conversations, participants will share ideas, build new relationships and identify opportunities for future action. The event is particularly relevant to Black Mountains College students because it creates opportunities to connect learning and research with community knowledge, develop ideas for practical collaborative projects, and contribute to positive local change. If you would like to get involved in the design and/or the delivery of the community engagement event please do get in touch, it's a perfect opportunity to learn how to hold community events. Book a place using the QR code above.

Future of young people: Participatory film making project, January- April 2027

The *Future of Young People* project is a community-led research initiative developed by BMC and C4. It responds to concerns raised through extensive community engagement, which identified a strong desire to better understand young people's experiences, aspirations and role in shaping Talgarth's future. The project will create a supportive space for young people to share their stories, explore issues that matter to them, and influence local conversations and decision-making. Young people will be trained in participatory film making by a professional film company based locally and young people will work together to co-design and co-deliver the research. Recruitment and project set-up will take place between October - December, followed by workshops and fieldwork from January to February, culminating in a public showcase in March/April. The project is particularly relevant to BMC students either by applying to be a participant in the project or when appropriate can align with a placement assessment as part of Change in Practice.

Pathway to action

To support a pathway for action, a small grant fund will be available through the C4 programme to enable selected community-student collaborations to progress beyond the event itself. Funding may support research activities, creative projects, community engagement initiatives, or other forms of community-led action that emerge from the conversations and connections developed during the event/ or wider conversations. Projects will be required to focus on Talgarth community and the BMC research question outlined above.

Find Out More

Further information about these opportunities will be available soon through Black Mountains College website. To learn more about C4, visit: <https://c4.ac.uk/>. If you have any questions about the research or would like to get involved, please email vita@blackmountainscollege.uk.