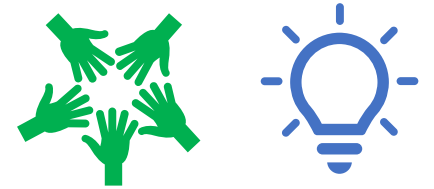


Greenwich Community Innovation Grants Programme 22-23



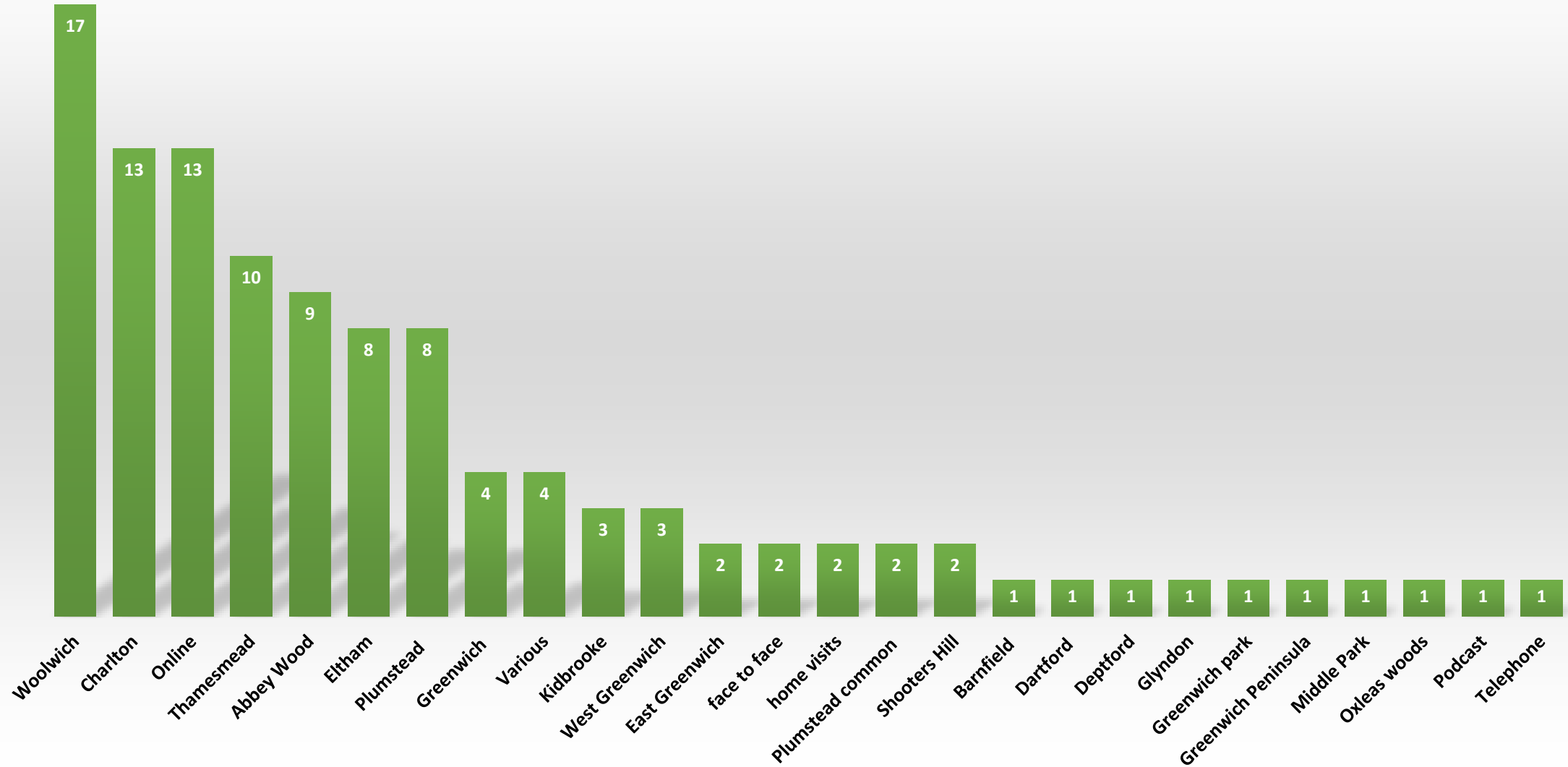
Background

- The Community Innovation Grants Programme launched in January 2022, aiming to fund **projects led by communities** to help **improve unfair health differences**, with a focus on **improving mental health and wellbeing** and/or increasing **access to health services**.
- Smaller **grassroots groups** who had less experience of accessing funding were encouraged to apply through offering small grants and the support of a sponsor organisation.
- Project **partnerships** were also encouraged through two or three organisations being able to apply for larger grants together.
- Almost **half a million** (£491,000) of funding of MHCLG, Members, Public Health and local NHS combined funding was awarded to **75 local projects** (success rate of 48%) in May 2022.

Key project themes/Communities of focus:



Geographic areas of focus and other types of reach



What's going well? Key themes summarised from the three CIG network meetings

Resident outcomes:

- Positive feedback and engagement from participants, happy and enthusiastic
- New interest, new people engaging
- Enjoyment, building relationships and connections
- Trust is building, they want to continue with us
- Participant confidence, learning and motivation
- Addressing loneliness, getting out, improving socialisation
- Improved wellbeing
- Attendance, Lots of attendees and great 'buy-in'
- Peer support
- Sharing experiences



Reach:

- Reached different communities at different venues through this grant
- Enabled us to create more inclusive spaces with targeted provision
- Helping the vulnerable
- Great diversity of participants, being inclusive-getting BSL interpreters
- Found out what people want and what stops them accessing services
- Door to door work, meetings in the community, support and signposting.
- Getting to build more and deeper network in the community

Partnerships/networks:

- Looking to move our work to a consortium
- Partnership. We're not the best to deliver certain aspects/address needs so we partnered.
- Met and collaborated with black female entrepreneurs through this grant
- Meeting different people connected to different areas.
- Building relationships and networks
- Different communities working together
- Bringing other charities together - good networking system
- Collaborating with other orgs within CIG



Development/sustainability:

- Planning time and time to deliver
- Safe and consistent spaces, more spaces - projects growing
- More resources, more activities
- Completed our sessions and now creating a wellbeing resource
- Learning for staff



Support:

- Support from RBG and stakeholders
- Training offered has helped apply for funding
- Bringing us altogether for this network meeting - should continue, Community networking sessions



What are the key challenges? Key themes summarised from the three CIG network meetings

Promotion/Publicity

- Promotion and publicity - not all online
- Reaching the right people to attend
- Not being able to advertise on RBG platform
- Advertising, promotion, recruitment
- Competing with other summer activities e.g. Jubilee, holidays etc.



Communications

- A platform for accessing trainings with recordings
- Sending whatsapp/text messages about training/events rather than just emails



Project development/delivery:

- Knowing how to take project forward
- How to build/systematise the project
- Logistics of project delivery
- Getting BSL interpreters



Sharing information and resources

- Gatekeeping of sharing contacts with other groups
- People staying in organised groups. Can we encourage them to explore other groups/activities/events?
- Sharing and letting everyone know what you're doing and who it's for
- Onward signposting
- Can we see crossovers between projects to form partnerships and overcome funding bottlenecks
- Helpers/volunteers to support me. Could we share volunteers as well as participants?



Resident engagement

- Confidence and mental health issues can mean residents are reluctant to share/feedback impacts of project
- Inconsistent attendance
- Not always enough people/time/funding to talk to people face to face about offers so they are more confident to attend
- Engaging with the wider community
- Getting participants on board as our project was for a certain group of people



What are the key challenges? Key themes summarised from the three CIIG network meetings

Weather challenges

- Heatwave
- Covid/illness going into winter – vulnerable residents
- Dark and cold can be a barrier to getting out
- Weather for outdoor activities



Venues

- Suitable/appropriate local venues
- Ongoing venues for sustainability
- Cheaper venues
- Safety - crime rate rising (knife and rape)



Stat/vol sector relationships

- Building relationships within RBG changes in leadership
- Statutory and voluntary sector divide
- Local relationships scramble for funding
- We have been unable to reenergise some of our original relationships in the care sector



Sustainability

- Sustainability – thinking a few steps ahead. Not wanting to overpromise to the community
- Takes time to build a group and only a year funding.
- Reaching and building trust with vulnerable and isolated people takes time
- Knowing how to exit safely but connect the dots with projects still running - effective signposting
- Sustaining the momentum we have built in terms of human and financial resources

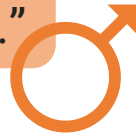


Budget/capacity

- Providing additional support to what we have been funded to provide
- Budget - impact of cost of living on venue costs, sub-contractors - having to be creative, rising costs
- Budget-emerging need for more targeted 1-1 support
- Budget management and reporting
- Accessing further funding, cash flow, more funding for paid staff and facilitate project logistics
- Recruiting volunteers
- Staff turnover a challenge for wider capacity



“The project reached hard to reach men who would not ordinarily attend these type of events.”



Resident reach and outcomes

- **84%** of the projects responding agreed their project **reached all the groups it intended to reach**. 11% said they had reached some of the groups.
- **67% strongly agreed and 32% agreed** that the project **reached new people** who had not engaged previously.
- The most effective way of promoting projects was **‘word of mouth’ (30%)**, followed by outreach (21%), social media (19%), posters/flyers (16%).
- 39% said the project had been able to find and get support for **all** of the issues these groups were facing, and 58% said for **some**.

“We reached people from a variety of communities: older adults and BME including Nepalese, Irish, Nigerian and Ghanaian and people with mobility and other disabilities.”



“We carried out extensive outreach to engage LGBTQ+ people especially older people and those vulnerable to mental health issues caused by isolation. We did this by hosting activities and online sessions.”



“We had a specific focus of working with the parents and siblings of SEND children of African and Caribbean heritage from the local community of Abbeywood and Thamesmead, spanning across a range of socio-economic backgrounds, ages and abilities, and we were able to achieve this.”

List the top three issues experienced by residents you worked with...



“English Club was attended by 57 different people representing 23 different nationalities.”






Activities and Deliverables

- 41% of projects ran for up to one year, whilst 18% ran for up to 6 months, 16% for up to 9 months and 11% up to 3 months.
- The most common type of activities run were regular e.g. weekly activities (73%), followed by workshops/trainings (57%), community/social events (41%), support groups (32%), online activities and 1-1 sessions (both 27%)



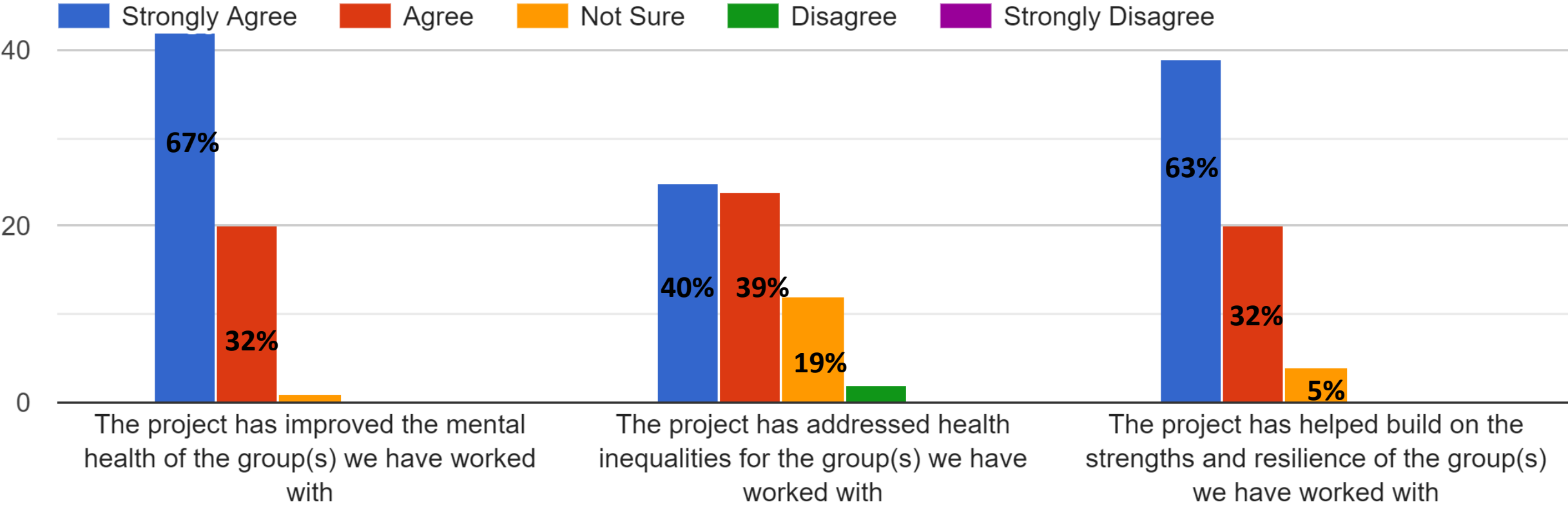
“Our project engaged about 30 women from different migrant backgrounds and with different migration journeys. We even exceeded our target.”



Total spend of projects that responded to survey: 	£399, 832.50
Approx. total number of people reached: 	10 380 total (£38.52pp) 2036 CYP 8344 Adults
Approx. total hours of activity delivered number of adults reached: 	8140 hours (£49 per hour)

“The project has increased its reach to engage with 29 people living with, or affected by, Parkinsons. It has developed into a thriving local health and wellbeing hub and is now established as a referral route for local services.”

Please answer how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:



Outcomes for residents engaged in the projects....

Better mental health & wellbeing

Peer support & mentorship

Empowered & informed

Friendships

Belonging

Higher aspirations

Having fun

Safe space

Social connection

More service awareness & uptake

Sharing stories

Resilience

Connecting & strengthening communities

Getting active

Built confidence

Developed skills

“The project provided sewing skills to women refugees of our community.”



“We have been able to create a peer group where disabled people can meet and discuss issues.”

“The project provided a space for women to connect with each other, learn new skills, improve their confidence and feel part of a group. As some of the ladies said: "now I try to look after myself", "I go out more often, and see things more positively", "they accepted me as I am when I came first time so I am a part of the community.”

“Project has made greater difference, in life of many, through our daily office space activities, members building stronger communities and social connections.”

“The project gave the parents an opportunity to build relationships with other parents, learn from experts and gain different experiences in order to be more equipped and proactive in relating with their SEND children, while also being able to find solutions to their own personal challenges; depression, stress, etc.”



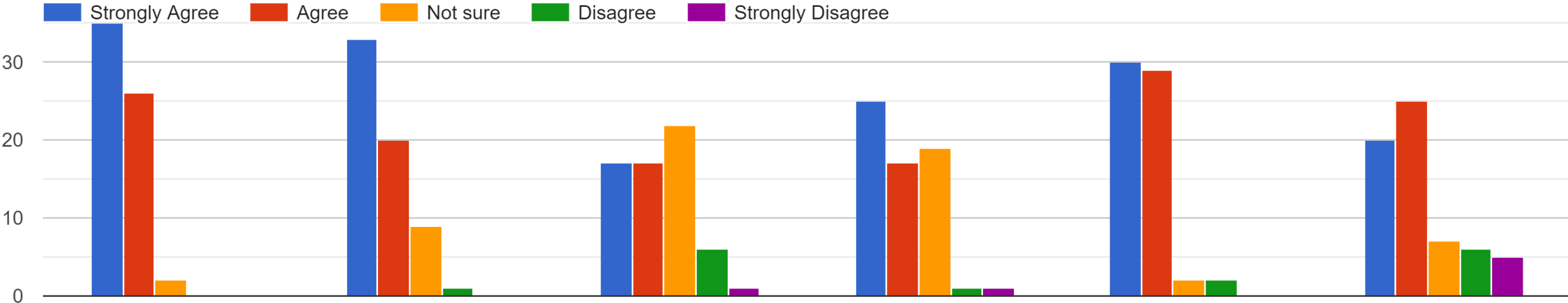
“The ladies received free sessions breaking economic access issues to exercise. It also included all ages and abilities to encourage all groups and those new to exercise to enhance their lives.”

“The group provided English Practice, but also had visits from various community groups who were able to help with other issues, plus the peer support within the group has been really helpful for many.”

“Teaching cooking skills and building confidence in young people.”



Please answer how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:



Delivering the project has improved our knowledge of services/projects in the community

The project signposted people to other services/projects /further support in the community

The project signposted people to other CIG projects

Other services/projects in the community have signposted to our project

The project worked with other groups/ organisations

Some or all were projects/services I have not worked with before

“If we are not able to support with issues presenting, we know where we can advocate and signpost the clients to other agencies.”



“Roots4Life has been working with Live Well Greenwich to signpost any service users to additional support including housing needs, costs of living, health etc.”

Networks, partnerships, sustainability

- 86% attended at least one of the three CIG network events.
- 38% rated the CIG network events as very useful, 30% as useful and 16% as somewhat useful.
- **78% of projects said they would stay in touch with other CIG projects** beyond the programme.
- **89% planned to apply for future funding** and 18% were in the process of doing so. 11% had already applied and been successful, whilst 11% had been unsuccessful.
- 79% of **jointly funded partnership projects** agreed or strongly agreed that the partnership had been successful and **71% would work together again.**
- 80% of **sponsored projects** agreed or strongly agreed that the arrangement had been successful and **80% would work with them again.**

“Care team in an event in Glyndon, helped address health inequalities for the residents in Glyndon as well the different communities that were invited (Somali, Gurkha, Nepalese and BME).”



“It was great connecting with other projects, sharing best practices, finding out about other projects working within my sector and discovering project we could future partnership work with.”

ClG Project creations left behind.....

Social media networks

Champions/mentors

Women only swim session

Scrapbook

Cookbook

Regular in-person meet-ups

Young person baking group

WhatsApp group

Friendships

Diary

Community panel

Training/workshop plans

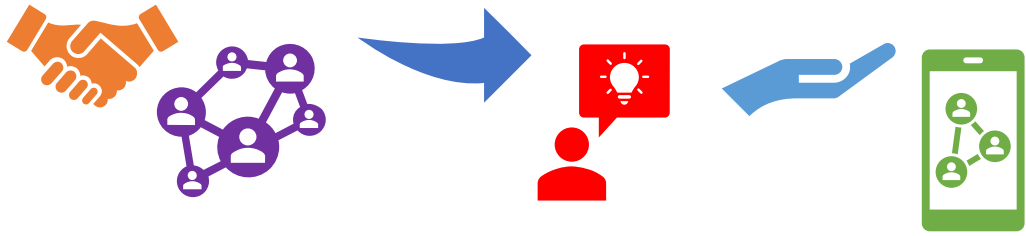
Community informed report

Free gym membership

Photos and videos

New partnerships

Printed resources



“The workshops were able to directly respond to individual needs and therefore offer the right support to people. If we were not able to help, we were able to signpost people to the right service.”

Lessons learnt

- Projects were **highly co-productive**; listening, understanding and adapting in relation to community needs in terms of shaping the engagement, offer/support for both current and future projects (if planned).
- Clear themes from face-face network meetings, survey responses and informal contacts and visits include projects describing the:
 - need for **culturally appropriate support** to support improved engagement
 - need for **sustained, longer-term projects/interventions** for greater impact, building trust, supporting complexity etc.
 - value of **peer support** and development of **social networks** for improved wellbeing and sustainability
 - value of **creative, informal activities** that enable people to share, connect, build engagement, trust and wellbeing
 - value of working with **partnerships and local services** to maximise strengths and the offer to residents through combining knowledge and expertise.

Based on extensive feedback, there is an appetite for the Programme **network** to be sustained. Projects also fed back about wanting more **practical support** across a range of areas.

Conclusions



- The grants programme allowed local individuals and grass roots groups to be supported (using a sponsorship model) as well as for existing and new partnerships to evolve.
- The programme has been successful in reaching out, engaging and working with a broad range of our communities known to be at higher risk of poor mental health and health inequalities in a flexible and co-productive manner.
- The approach has also allowed projects freedom to innovate, take risks and learn.
- This has generated positive outcomes that broadly align with key community needs identified, including improved mental health and wellbeing, social connection, and improved service uptake.
- It has also left behind social and friendship networks, as well as practical wellbeing resources for both residents and projects for the future.
- There have been major benefits for funding recipients too, including new learning, experience and collaboration. This may have been the very start or a continuation of a journey, enabling the realisation of ideas, innovation, collaboration, as well as applying for future funds.

"The opportunity to develop projects based around innovation has been very rewarding and applaud RBG in steering in this direction."



"RBG grant programme has given projects confidence and enabled projects to fundraise for future work."



"Because of the implementation of this project, we are able to serve many BAME people who were disengaged and unaware of the opportunities and help that could enable them to climb the economic ladder. The project has been successful in social integration and health enablement, especially for isolated individuals."



"It was the ideal opportunity, as being a carer to a child with a complex disability, I did not have time and energy to constitute or set up a CIC. I just wanted to get the group established and this sponsor arrangement was perfect. I wish the funding was renewable but grateful for what it's helped me to achieve. Thank you."

"With new and existing partners, we were able to develop a community informed report outlining our impact and blueprint for future programming."



"Residents from both estates (Barnfield and Woolwich Common) took part in the activities offered as part of the project. Some of the activities also attracted participants from other wards, who joined in with the targeted residents. Activities cater for people of all the age groups we planned to engage."



"The project was to offer low level support with tools that can be used life-long to benefit mental health. It also supported the development of friendships and community."

