



Lambeth Community Fund Evaluation Report

March 2016

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1

Abstract

The evaluation was commissioned by The London Community Foundation (LCF) to evaluate the impact of investment from the Lambeth Community Fund between April 2013 and December 2015 in order to inform LCF's future grant-making strategy in Lambeth. Quantitative and qualitative research methods were used including analysis of monitoring, financial, and project data, desk-based research on Lambeth, project case studies, applicant/grantee questionnaires and a focus group of Lambeth-based voluntary groups. This report presents the main findings and conclusions of the evaluation, focusing on the benefits the funding brought about in Lambeth and the future role and purpose of the Fund.

The evaluation shows that the Fund is an effective vehicle for bringing about change locally but that it should continue to adapt and respond to locally identified needs. Research on the borough combined with consultation with the local voluntary sector suggests that a future focus on community resilience and resourcefulness, community cohesion and young people would be beneficial to Lambeth.

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Executive Summary

This section summarises the key findings from the main evaluation, along with the highlights from the consultation with applicants and grantees, and the research on Lambeth.

Key findings – Applications and Grants

- **£484,441** was awarded in 87 grants within the period to 65 Lambeth based organisations.
- Grants ranged from £250 to £32,500 and averaged just under **£6,000**.
- 208 organisations applied for just over **£1m** within the period, in 11 rounds of funding.
- The overall success rate was **41%**.
- The most common (44%) type of applicant was a Registered Charity/Registered Charity and Company.
- The most common income bracket for an applicant organisation was **£50,001 - £100,000**.
- Registered Charities and Charitable Companies had a higher success rate (43.2% combined) and were more likely to be funded than unregistered groups (32.3% success rate).

Key findings – People

- **54,221 people** in Lambeth benefited either directly or indirectly from grant funding in the period, representing 1 in 6 people resident in the borough.
- **NEETs** (those not in education, training or employment) saw the biggest investment financially, with £136,708 awarded to projects working with NEETs as the sole or main beneficiary group.
- **Children and Young People** saw the second biggest investment, with £111,846 awarded to projects working solely or mainly with this beneficiary group.
- **Local Residents** saw the third biggest investment, with £74,614 awarded to projects working solely or mainly with local people of all ages.
- Aside from NEETs and Young People, most projects addressed the needs of the general population of Lambeth, rather than specialist beneficiary groups such as those with mental health conditions, LGBT groups or those with learning disabilities.

Key findings – Geography

- Applicant organisations tended to be based in and around **Brixton**, with Stockwell, Kennington and Streatham also showing clusters of applications.
- Far fewer applications came from organisations based in the far north of the borough (Waterloo, South Bank), and no applications came from the area directly east of Clapham Common. This is broadly in-line with the spread of deprivation across the borough.
- Where projects had a specific geographic focus (as opposed to delivering work borough-wide), **Coldharbour** ward saw the biggest investment (£58,527), followed by Larkhall (£42,302) and Vassall (£27,891) wards respectively.

Key findings – Impact, Issues and Outcomes

The top three outcomes in terms of people benefitting were:

- **48,042 people** benefitted from **strengthened community cohesion** and better social capital.
- **4,986 people** benefited from **improved mental and physical health**.
- **833 people** improved their **employability prospects** and life skills.

The top three outcomes in terms of financial investment were:

- **£222,464** was invested in projects that improved **life skills, education and employability**.
- **£144,369** was invested in projects that strengthened **community cohesion** and improve social capital.
- **£106,672** was invested in projects that advanced people's **mental and physical health** and improve their well-being.
- Projects addressing skills, education and employability were generally resource-heavy and required bigger investment. They worked with small numbers of people but were intense in nature, with sustained engagement.
- Projects addressing community cohesion and social capital required less investment and tended to work with greater numbers of people less intensely or in one-off interventions.
- In terms of issue or 'problem' addressed, crime saw the biggest investment with £211,233 awarded to 12 projects (the Path Programme funded organisations).
- The Path projects, compared to more general-community orientated projects, had the potential to be transformative for the young participants in that they aimed to remove them from gangs and criminal lifestyles. Path projects saw 56 direct beneficiaries helped to move away from crime and towards a positive pathway. All projects funded saw reduced offending rates in the majority of participants.

- Capacity building and strengthened voluntary organisations was also a major focus of the Fund, with 15% of funded projects reporting this outcome, and 13,352 people benefiting from stronger community groups in their area.

Key findings – Lambeth as a place to live, work, grow and age (summary from accompanying report *Lambeth Profile*)

- Lambeth's population is **322,000** (est. 2015). It is the 8th most populous borough in London with a rapidly increasing population.
- Lambeth is **relatively deprived**, and ranks 44 out of 326 in the country on average IMD score (where 1 is the most deprived).
- Lambeth is one of the highest performing areas in the country for the attainment of pupils at GCSE; it is **above national averages at all education key stages** for most groups of pupils.
- Lambeth has the **7th highest overall crime rate in London** (out of 32 boroughs).
- However, **crime is falling**; the overall change since 2005 (in overall rate) is a reduction of 30.8%.
- While overall crime is falling, **violent crime is showing an alarming rise**.
- The median **house price** in Lambeth is **£420,000** (UK median £195,000).
- Private sector renting accounts for 34% of households (UK 18%).
- Lambeth, in spite of being close to the centre of London has over **64 areas of parks** and open spaces.
- Life expectancy for men in Lambeth is lower than the England average. Life expectancy is 5 years lower for men in the most deprived areas of Lambeth than in the least deprived areas.
- Lambeth fares particularly badly on **childhood obesity**, but much better on adult obesity and adult fitness levels.
- Lambeth benefits from generally **high levels of employment** and skills due to its younger population profile.
- Lambeth has a **high employment rate** compared to the London and UK average.
- However a high proportion of people are in **low paid jobs** in Lambeth.
- Lambeth has **excellent transport** accessibility around town centres, which is beneficial to its economy and to local jobs.
- Lambeth makes a significant contribution to London's economy, with the north of Lambeth being an integral part of **London's Central Activities Zone (CAZ)**.

Key findings – top issues in Lambeth right now

- Lack of affordable housing, lack of opportunities for young people, a breakdown of community cohesion, and rising inequality are seen as the top issues facing Lambeth.
- The borough's top assets according to survey respondents and focus group members are its diverse mix, its community-minded people and its green spaces.
- Crime, recreation and leisure and the borough's physical state/environment are viewed as getting better generally.
- Services for older people, social inclusion and poverty/disadvantage in the borough are viewed as getting significantly worse.
- The gap between rich and poor in the borough is viewed as increasing.
- As with many areas of London, Lambeth is seen as becoming more homogenised, blander and less unique.
- Voluntary groups are concerned about spending cuts generally, cuts to vital services like libraries, and pressure from the council.

Key findings – views from the Voluntary Sector in Lambeth

- Lack of funding, lack of capacity and sustainability pressures are the biggest issues for voluntary groups in the borough.
- Groups feel that Lambeth Council is becoming less supportive of the voluntary sector and adopting a 'short-term thinking' approach.
- Groups feel larger, longer-term grants are more beneficial than smaller grants for one-off or short-term projects.
- Groups want help and advice with sustaining projects.
- Groups want help with developing partnerships and networks of similar groups.
- Community Cohesion and Community Resilience are seen as possible priority themes for the Lambeth Community Fund from 2016 onwards.
- LCF is generally viewed by voluntary groups as an accessible and trusted funder in Lambeth.

Conclusions

The Fund has brought tangible and measurable benefits to local people and local organisations in Lambeth. Reaching over 54,000 people directly and indirectly since 2013, it has helped to strengthen community cohesion in the borough, improve the mental and physical health of its residents, improve the employability prospects and life skills of its young people, and build the capacity of its resilient voluntary sector. However the local environment is changing and the Fund needs to respond to evolving local needs in order to stay relevant.

Many of Lambeth's main issues place a high demand on services and are preventable. However, there are opportunities for local upstream preventative action to help mitigate issues by improving local conditions and helping to further strengthen the increasingly under-pressure voluntary sector in Lambeth. Funds like this one therefore have an increasingly important role to play.

Recommendations.

Based on the key findings and the research undertaken, the evaluation has identified three possible priority themes for the future of the Lambeth Community Fund. These priority themes are intended to address problems early on and focus on what can be done locally in the context of a changing borough and budgetary constraints in the voluntary and public sectors. These are:

- **Community Resilience and Resourcefulness** - grants that help communities work together, respond to the changing nature of the borough and the threat of cuts, and become more visible and more empowered.
- **Community Cohesion** - grants to help people with little or no social capital to come together and share skills and knowledge, celebrate diversity, and make social connections.
- **Young People and Crime** - to continue with the focus on helping young people at risk of gang involvement and criminal activity by funding projects through the Path Programme and other similar initiatives.

Groups favour longer-term, larger grants that offer them more stability. The Fund therefore may want to consider offering two levels of funding, as follows:

- **Strategic grants for up to three years** - £15,000-£50,000, aimed more at registered charities and charitable companies.
- **Smaller one-off grants** - £500-£5,000 for one year or less, with a proportion **ring-fenced for very small unregistered groups** who find it more challenging applying for grants and tend to be unsuccessful more often.

Beyond the financial investment, supported/facilitated networking amongst and between the funded groups to enable them to share, and/or pool, knowledge, data and skills, and helping groups with networking opportunities with delivery partners and/or corporate funders and businesses would be beneficial to groups, helping with groups' reputations and helping them to gain connections, receive advice and expertise.

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Background

THE ACTIVITY

The London Community Foundation is a London-wide funder dedicated to improving the lives of London's most disadvantaged. Child poverty, unemployment, isolation, homelessness, domestic violence and gang crime are just some of the issues it tackles through its grant making. In 2014-15, LCF awarded £5.2 million in grants, raised £8.1 million in donations and ended the year with total endowment funds of £18.1 million. In the course of 2015-16, it is on track to hit a cumulative total of £50 million in grant giving since its inception for the benefit of London and Londoners. It runs and manages a number of funds and programmes on behalf of individual donors, companies, local and regional government and existing trusts and foundations. **The Lambeth Community Fund** is one such example.

The Lambeth Community Fund exists to provide sustainable and growing support for Lambeth's charities, community groups and social enterprises. The Fund, established in 2008, aims to be a simple and effective vehicle for local philanthropy. It was initially set up through a transfer of the Pedlar's Acre Trust from the trusteeship of Lambeth Council, into the trusteeship of The London Community Foundation.

LCF is based in Lambeth - in the heart of Brixton – **and awards 40% of its total grant funding to groups based in the borough**, both via the Lambeth Community Fund and a number of other funding programmes open to groups in the borough and more widely. It has long standing relationships in Lambeth, spanning the public, private and voluntary sectors, and works to bring them together to collectively apply skills, talents and resources to benefit communities in the borough.

The Fund consists of an ever-growing number of component funds, established by a range of donors – corporate, philanthropic, public sector and others. Two of the major funders include the NHS Lambeth Clinical Commissioning Group and Lambeth Borough Council.

The headline objectives for the Fund are:

- A sustainable source of funding for Lambeth's Third Sector organisations.
- Stronger, better supported community organisations.
- Outcomes achieved that matter locally
- A change in the local culture of giving to support local community organisations.

An initial strategy for the Fund was developed in 2009/10 after consultation with local agencies and in-depth research from sources including the Lambeth Sustainable Community Strategy, Lambeth Communities First, State of the Borough report, Joseph Rowntree Foundation reports, London Child Poverty Commission, and Lambeth Voluntary Action Council. This initial strategy focussed on **supporting charities and community groups working to support those who were unemployed** by increasing self-esteem, confidence and personal skills, and by addressing barriers to training and employment opportunities. Guidelines were set to award small grants of up to £5,000, and to consider awarding larger grant for outstanding projects with longer-term impact.

A new strategy was developed in 2011 which focussed on the impact of gangs and crime, with a particular emphasis on **helping to divert young people from gang activity**.

The Lambeth Community Fund is an umbrella grant programme that consists of the following sub-programmes, as of January 2016:

Lambeth Path Programme

This programme focuses on tackling the issue of young people involved in **gang culture and criminal activities**, with the aim of providing positive interventions and diversionary activities with a clear pathway for the young people to cease gang related or criminal activities.

Covered in this evaluation: Rounds 20 (2013/14), 26 (2015/16) and 29 (2015/16)

Cooperative Challenge Programme

This was set up in partnership with the London Borough of Lambeth to help engage groups in Cooperative ways of working as part of the cooperative council agenda, with a focus on **supporting organisations and residents to deliver local services in a cooperative way**.

Covered in this evaluation: Rounds 21 (2013/14), 22 (2013/14), 24 (2014/15) and 27 (2015/16)

Lambeth Well-being and Happiness Programme

This programme is supported by Lambeth Public Health. The programme is to support activity that improves the physical and mental health and well-being of Lambeth residents, focussing on people in Lambeth who are at highest risk of having poor health now or in the future.

Covered in this evaluation: Round 23 (2013/14)

Lambeth Festivals Fund

This programme was set up in conjunction with Lambeth Council to support community festivals and events in the borough, whilst also helping to tackle worklessness.

Covered in this evaluation: Rounds 18 (2013/14) and 19 (2013/14)

Portuguese Speakers Community Fund

This was set up to improve the lives of **Portuguese-speaking Lambeth residents**, focusing on improving the mental and physical well-being of Portuguese speaking residents, creating happier, healthier and less isolated residents, *and* providing those not in education employment or training with the tools to get back onto a pathway to employment.

Covered in this evaluation: Round 25 (2014/15)

Lambeth and Southwark Well-being and Happiness Fund

This programme is supported by Southwark and Lambeth Public Health (who run a shared public health service). The programme is to support activity that will improve the physical and mental health and well-being of Lambeth and Southwark residents (data on groups based in Southwark was excluded from this evaluation).

Covered in this evaluation: Rounds 1 (2014/15) and 2 (2015/16)

Positive Activities Fund

A programme for local disadvantaged children and young people, providing opportunities to take part in extra curricular activities and educational support to provide an equality of opportunity.

Covered in this evaluation: 2014/15

EVALUATION PURPOSE AND DESIGN

PURPOSE

To evaluate the impact of investment from the Lambeth Community Fund from April 2013 to December 2015 in order to inform future grant-making strategy in Lambeth, focussing in particular on:

1. What themes and patterns have emerged across projects, organisations, beneficiaries and geographical areas for all grants awarded in Lambeth from all of London Community Foundation's grant programmes.
2. What themes and patterns have emerged across unsuccessful grant applications from Lambeth, in particular the focus of projects and capacity of applicant organisations.
3. What impact did the funding awarded have on organisations and individuals that benefitted.
4. What's happening in the borough of Lambeth right now in terms of the local community, the economy, local demographics that may be relevant and of interest.
5. What should the focus of future grant making in Lambeth be, including theme areas, type of support needed, size and length of grant.

Period: Grants awarded between April 2013 and Dec 2015, covering funding Rounds 20 to 29 of the Lambeth Community Fund and the Lambeth and Southwark Health and Well-being Fund rounds 1 and 2.

DESIGN

When designing the evaluation approach, three broad sources of data were considered: 1) project specific data already available through London Community Foundation monitoring reports and application forms; 2) data and opinions to be collected through grantee questionnaires and face-to-face questioning; 3) demographic and borough data to be collected through research of reliable sources such as the Census, Public Health data and local government.

The purpose of the application and monitoring research was to extract facts, figures, and narrative in order to find themes and patterns emerging from the funding rounds. For example how much funding was requested, awarded and rejected overall, and what types of beneficiaries are groups working with.

The purpose of the questionnaire and demographic data research was to find out in detail what Lambeth as a borough is like to live in, work in, grow in and age in, and to find out people's opinions on what the issues are in the borough, what makes it unique and what Lambeth-based groups think the priority themes for the Fund should be in the future based on their experiences of delivering services and interventions in the borough.

The purpose of the case study research was to look more closely at the impact on beneficiaries and funded organisations that the funding has had.

There were 84 funded projects organised and managed through 11 rounds of funding in the Lambeth Community Fund as well as two rounds of another related programme, the Lambeth and Southwark Well-being and Happiness Fund, and all project data was collected using monitoring reports submitted by the grant holders. The projects were varied in nature, scope, and activity.

METHODS

Quantitative

The following quantitative methods were used:

- Compilation and analysis of standard application, financial and grant information held on the grants database (Salesforce) including amount awarded, purpose, number of beneficiaries reached, rejection reasons.
- An online questionnaire provided to funded groups – 68 questionnaires were issued and the response rate was 28%.
- An online questionnaire provided to unsuccessful groups – 109 questionnaires were issued and the response rate was 10%.
- Compilation and analysis of local authority data, Census data and other relevant data on Lambeth, e.g. Metropolitan Police, Public Health Data.
- Analysis and mapping of grant applicant/project locations using postcode information.

Qualitative

Qualitative research was undertaken to complement the quantitative approach and to provide a richer narrative about the impact of different interventions on individuals, groups of beneficiaries and /or the funded organisations. This included:

- Case studies from funded groups.
- Analysis of standard LCF monitoring reports submitted by funded groups.
- A focus group of representatives from funded groups.

Limitations:

The following limitations have been identified, which impacted on the scope, reach and size of the evaluation:

- The evaluation was not designed at the start of the funding programme. Ideally, a framework for evaluation should be designed at the time of programme planning and set-up; designing an evaluation during and after the intervention is more challenging from both a technical and ethical standpoint.
- Not all grant monitoring had been received at the time of analysis as some projects are still ongoing.
- Monitoring reports were in most cases not tailored to the specific sub programmes meaning that data collected was generic. While there is baseline data for all grants, this evaluation would have benefited from more bespoke monitoring information.
- There was no before/during/after intervention type evaluation undertaken.
- There was no correspondence or interviews with any individual beneficiaries of the grantee organisations.
- The quality of data held on grants database varied between rounds. All efforts were made to standardise and improve data quality.

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Overarching Findings

This section aims to address the evaluation’s purpose and objectives as well as providing key facts and figures and answers to the evaluation questions.

Key facts and figures

Over **£1m** was applied for by 208 applicants for between April 2013 and December 2015. Almost half of this, **£484,441**, was awarded in grants for **87 projects**. The table 1 shows some key financial headlines covering all programmes that fall under the Fund.

Table 1

Overall stats 2013-15

	↕ Lambeth Community Fund
Average grant amount	£5,568
Average amount applied for	£5,154
Smallest grant	£250
Largest grant	£32,500
Total Applications	208
Total number of grants	87
Overall amount applied for	£1,072,233
Overall amount awarded	£484,441
Overall success rate	41%

Breakdown of Applications

Table 2 shows how the 208 applications are broken down by type of organisation (legal status). The data shows that the fund has favoured more formal structures; organisations with a legal status of registered charity and company made up 44% of applicants but received 53% of the awards. Unregistered groups, such as small clubs or constituted community organisations, accounted for 16% of applications but only 12% of awards. This is perhaps a reflection of unregistered groups' lower capacities and skills, compared to that of registered charities and companies who are more likely to have permanent employees and/or fundraisers, with more experience of applying for grants.

Table 2 Legal Status

Type of organisations

	Applications count	Applications %	Awarded Count	Awarded %
Community Interest Company	13	6.25%	4	4.5%
Company Limited by Guarantee	63	30.2%	24	27.5%
Constituted Community Group/Club	34	16.3%	11	12.6%
Registered Charity/Charitable Company	92	44.2%	46	53%
Other/Unknown	6	2.8%	2	2.2%

Table 3 Income of funded organisations (where data was available)

Income of funded organisations

Annual income	Number of grants	Total value of grants	Average grant
Under £10,000	15	£25,664	£1,711
£10,001 - £20,000	10	£25,113	£2,511
£20,001 - £50,000	10	£52,434	£5,243
£50,001 - £100,000	16	£145,287	£9,080
£100,001 - £250,000	15	£140,484	£9,365
£250,001-£500,000	11	£65,554	£5,959
£500,001+	4	£30,905	£7,726
Unknown	6	£29,000	£4,833

Table 3 shows a summary of the size of funded organisations in terms of their annual turnover. As with most of LCF's programmes the fund focusses on lower capacity groups, and this can be seen in the distribution of grants; **75% of grants were awarded to organisations with an income of under £250,000**. The £50,001-£100,000 income category saw the highest number of grants (16), and also the highest average grant, at over £9,000.

Table 4 Summary of Funding Rounds

Summary of funding rounds

Round	Financial Year	Number of grants made	Total value	Programme
18	2013/14	9	£4,017	Festivals
19	2013/14	9	£82,065	Festivals
20	2013/14	4	£80,000	Path
21	2013/14	3	£6,586	Cooperative Challenge
22	2013/14	4	£11,995	Cooperative Challenge
23	2013/14	8	£15,967	Well-being & Happiness
24	2014/15	14	£37,733	Cooperative Challenge
25	2014/15	3	£38,750	Portuguese Speakers
26	2015/16	3	£29,941	Path
27	2015/16	4	£11,951	Cooperative Challenge
28	2015/16	0	£0	Beaufoy Fellowship
29	2015/16	5	£101,292	Path
L&SWH01	2014/15	10	£16,000	Well-being & Happiness
L&SWH02	2015/16	10	£38,460	Well-being & Happiness
Positive Activities	2014/15	1	£5,000	Positive Activities

People

People reached



54,221

Number of people who benefited from Lambeth Community Fund grants between March 2013 and Dec 2015. That's about 1/6 people in the borough.

An incredible **54,221** people resident in the borough benefitted from Lambeth Community Fund projects within the period, based on reporting figures from grantees (this is direct and indirect beneficiaries). This is impressive given that the population of the borough is 322,000 (2015); therefore representing almost 1 in 6 people in the borough. Table 5 shows a full breakdown of beneficiary groups.

Table 5

Primary Beneficiary

Primary Beneficiary	Number of beneficiaries
Adults	43
Black, Asian and minority ethnic	624
Carers	230
Children and Young People	2,416
People in poverty/ low incomes	1,210
Ex Offenders and Prisoners	30
Families	1,560
Homeless people	2,515
Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual & Transgender	120
Local residents	41,457
Long term unemployed	215
NEET	1,234
Older People	340
Others	57
People with learning difficulties	700
People with mental ill-health	905
Refugees / Asylum Seekers	30
Women	535

The beneficiary categories are available to the grantees as a list, which they select from in order to inform LCF of the **main type** of beneficiary involved in the project. Each category is not mutually exclusive, meaning that some cross-over between categories is possible (but people will only be counted once). For example if the main beneficiary group is Carers, it is likely that a proportion of them will be Black, Asian or Minority ethnic. However, the main purpose of the project is to help Carers specifically. Therefore the grantee would select Carers as the Primary Beneficiary.

Chart 1 shows how the beneficiary groups are broken down by amount invested, highlighting that **NEETs and Children/Young people attracted by far the most investment** compared to other groups.

Beneficiary Group

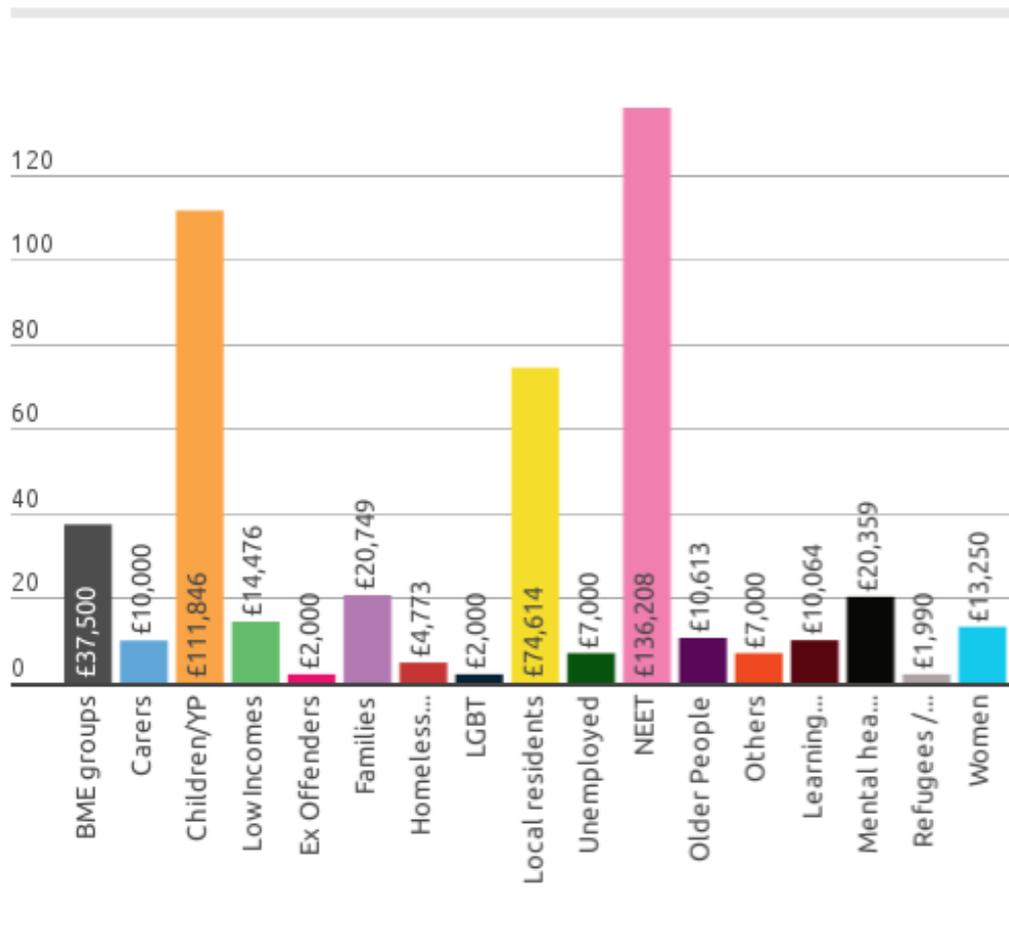


Chart 1

Direct vs Indirect Beneficiaries

The figure of 54,211 is the total number of people who benefited across all funded projects and is a combination of direct and indirect beneficiaries. Direct beneficiaries are the regular project attendees who benefit directly from the intervention themselves, while indirect beneficiaries are further removed from project activity, but still benefit from the results of the project. For example, a volunteering project that involves the planning and delivery of a community fun day using young people as volunteers might select the 12 young volunteers as direct beneficiaries, as

they would be involved regularly throughout the project and benefit from increased skills and experience. While the indirect beneficiaries would be the 120 one-off attendees on the day, who benefited from a fun experience.

Unfortunately insufficient data was collected on direct project beneficiaries, meaning that the overall number (direct and indirect) has formed the basis of the analysis.

Geographic Location

Map 1 plots all grants made in the period, based on the primary postcode of the grantee organisations. This shows most grants were awarded to organisations based in either the north or far south of the borough, with a large central gap in the Clapham Park and Streatham Hill areas north of Tooting Beck. Large clusters are in Brixton, Stockwell, Oval and Kennington. Several grantee organisations were based outside of the borough, but were delivering projects within Lambeth.

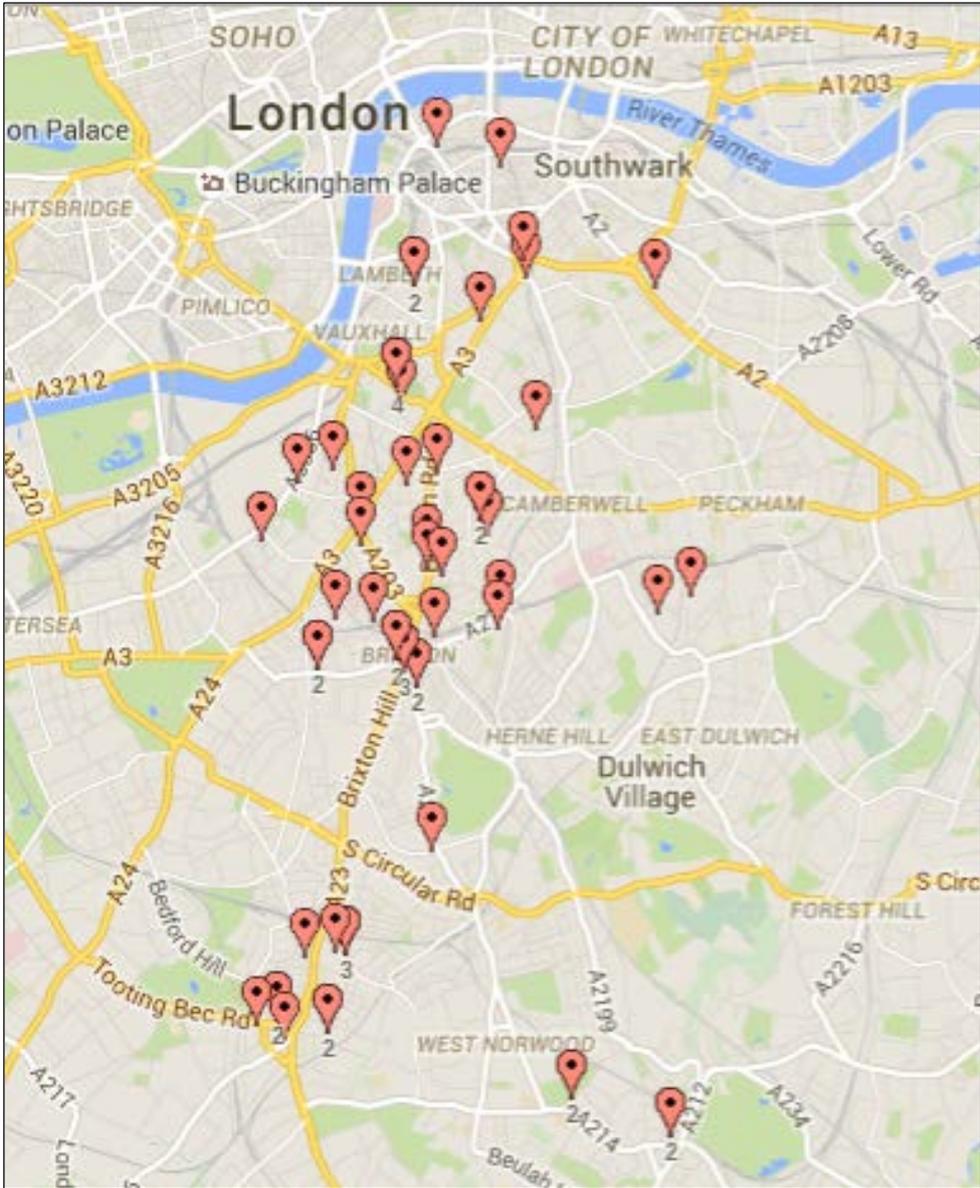


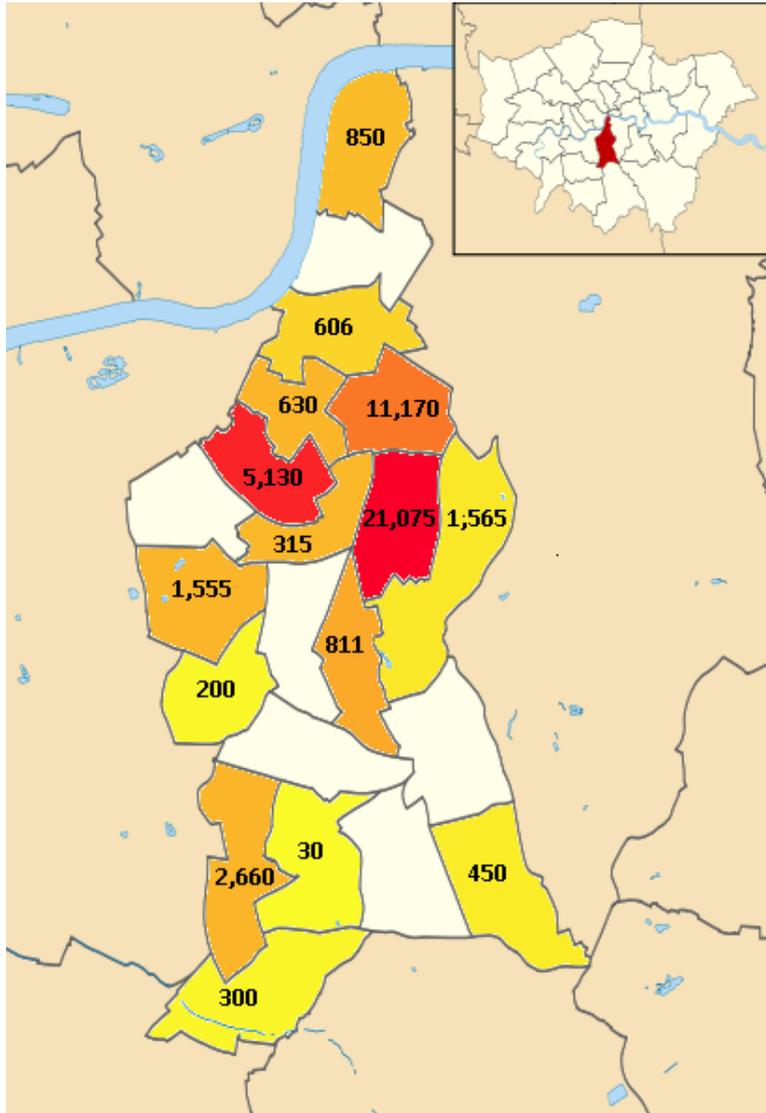
Table 6 shows grants made in the period, broken down by ward. This shows **Coldharbour** ward (covering central Brixton) to be the area with the most investment, both in terms of value of grants awarded and beneficiaries reached. This data is mapped on page 20.

Larkhall (the area between Clapham and Stockwell) and Vassall wards (Kennington, parts of Oval and parts of Brixton) are also hotspots for investment. This mirrors the deprivation statistics for the borough, which show Coldharbour and Vassall to be the two most deprived wards (see table 7). They are also major population centres in the borough.

Table 6

Investment by Ward

	Total Amount Awarded	Number Of Beneficiaries
Bishop's	£12,380	850
Clapham Common	£13,819	1,555
Coldharbour	£58,527	21,075
Ferndale	£13,494	315
Gipsy Hill	£4,500	450
Herne Hill	£5,475	1,565
Larkhall	£42,302	5,130
Oval	£9,443	606
St Leonard's	£13,814	2,660
Stockwell	£13,550	630
Streatham South	£2,995	300
Streatham Wells	£2,000	30
Thornton	£2,500	200
Tulse Hill	£18,296	811
Vassall	£27,891	11,170



Key

£0

£30,000

£60,000

Coldharbour and Larkhall wards are shown in red on the map, and Vassall in dark orange.

Table 7 – Lambeth Wards deprivation 2015 (source: Local Government Association)
IMD: Overall (2015) - score

	2015			
	score	Rank w ithin Lambeth Wards	Rank w ithin London Wards	Rank w ithin England Wards
Coldharbour	42.714	1	19	352
Vassall	36.090	2	73	708
Gipsy Hill	33.220	3	123	938
Tulse Hill	33.000	4	127	956
Stockwell	31.824	5	150	1059
Larkhall	31.739	6	152	1066
Ferndale	31.440	7	158	1092
Knight's Hill	30.720	8	167	1172
Oval	29.575	9	183	1281
Prince's	29.468	10	184	1285

Impact Category

All funded projects are divided into six broad Impact Categories, which describe the main impact that the intervention or project is trying to make. These are either self-selected by the grantee as part of the monitoring process, or selected by LCF. The categories, with a brief narrative, are outlined below.

Improve people's life skills, employability and enterprise - We want to support a thriving city that creates opportunities for people to fulfil their potential, to become more self-sufficient and to build their confidence.

Maximise people's ability to strengthen community cohesion and build social capacity - We want to strengthen and connect local organisations and improve local facilities so that people can live happier lives alongside each other.

Promote reduction of isolation and disadvantage and access to services - We want people to be connected in their local communities and to their local services, so everyone has a chance to be included.

Advance people's physical and mental health, well-being and safety - We want people to feel safe and connected in their communities, and to have more opportunities to improve their physical and mental health.

Connect people with the arts culture and heritage - We want to create a city that values and takes pride in the excellence and diversity of arts and culture, where everyone feels encouraged to participate, and their efforts create a lasting legacy.

Transform people's access to, and engagement with, their environment - We want to create a city that promotes and creates a safer, healthier, and more sustainable environment, where people in urban areas feel free and welcome to access community spaces.

This framework was introduced in 2015 and was developed by UK Community Foundations. It is intended to standardise monitoring across all grant-giving administered by Community Foundations in the UK. Not all the projects included in this evaluation will have used this framework, as the grants were awarded before it was developed. Therefore many project's Impact Categories and the related Outcomes and Indicators (see below) were selected by LCF post-award, based on its analysis of the project. This does mean that not all projects studied here will have collected the evidence needed to inform the evaluation framework. Once the framework is fully-adopted and in place with all funded projects, future evaluations should be more robust.

Chart 2

Number of people helped by impact category

Each person in the chart below represents about 185 people reached through the projects funded.

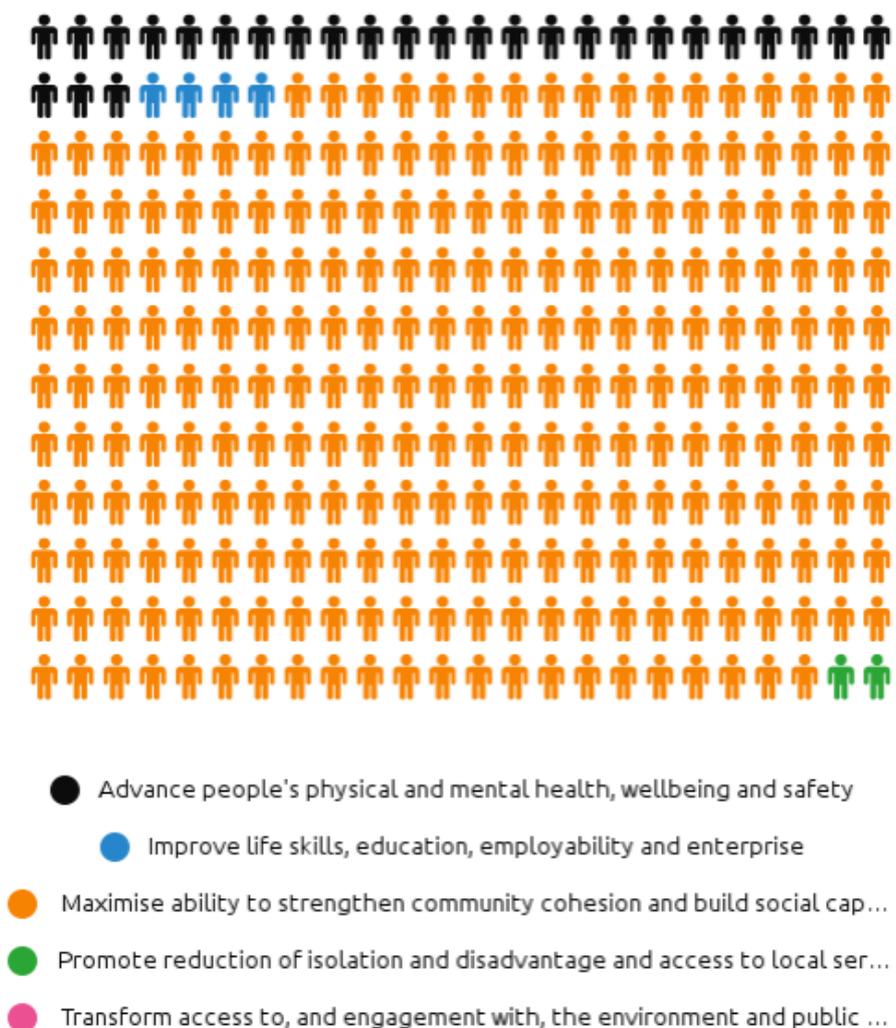
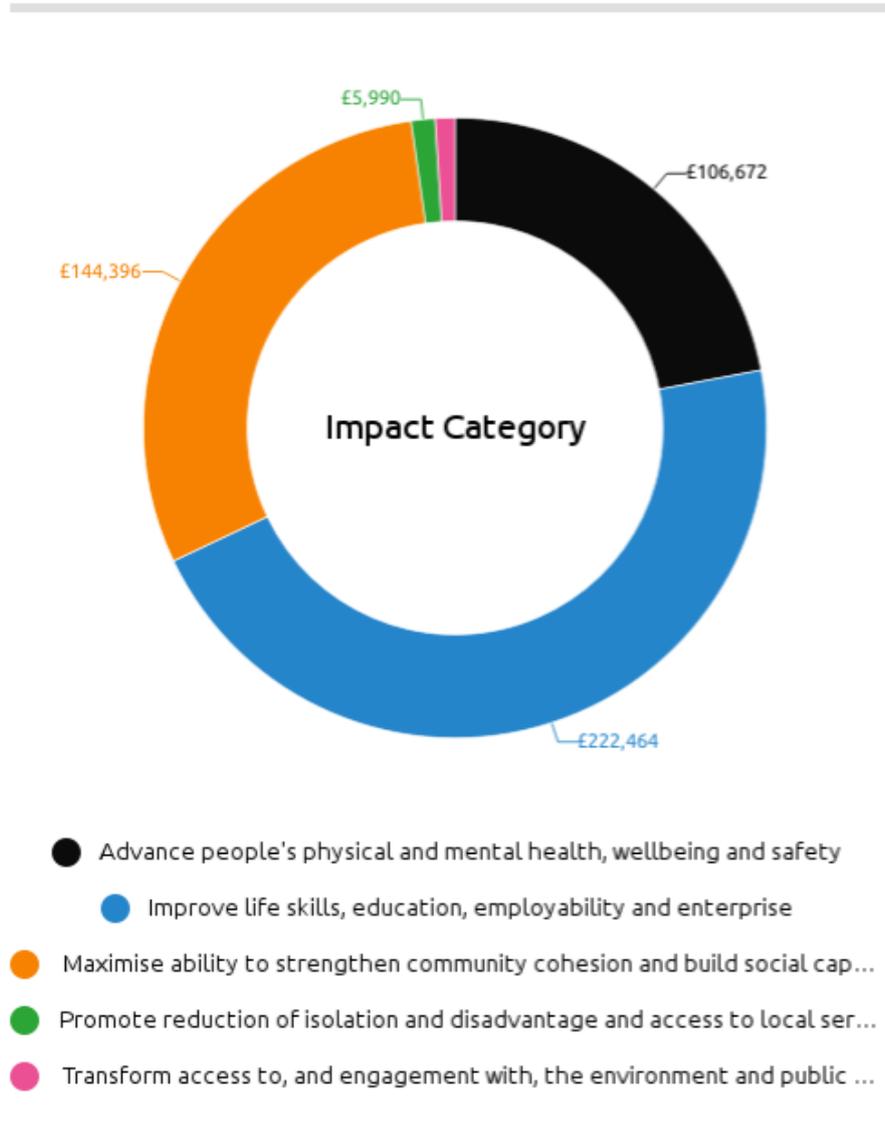


Chart 2 above shows that, in terms of number of people helped, the vast majority of projects addressed the **Maximising ability to strengthen community cohesion and social capital** category. This is quite a general category and encapsulates initiatives such as community events, social gatherings, older people's lunch clubs, social activities for children and young people, along with other more general community activities that are not as specialist as some projects in the other categories. Projects that fit into this category are more likely to be attended by larger numbers of people compared to others, for example a summer fete attended by 250 people. The category *Transform people's access to, and engagement with, their environment* is not represented on the chart as less than 185 people benefitted from projects funded under that category.

Chart 3

Amount Awarded by Impact Category



When the same Impact Categories are used to compare to the amount invested, the **Improving life skills, employment, education and enterprise** category comes out on top, with over £222,000 invested. This is due to the fact that these types of project (for example the Path projects which work with NEET and/or gang affiliated young people) are more likely to work with much smaller numbers of people, but are very resource intensive due to the nature of the specialist intervention. This notion is further reinforced by the chart 4 below, which directly compares investment made and beneficiaries reached when looking at three different project issues - **crime** (*Improving life skills, employment, education and enterprise*), **community support** and **arts/culture** (both *Maximising ability to strengthen community cohesion and social capital*). These three were chosen to highlight the disparity between the investment required and people helped when it comes to addressing certain issues.

Chart 4

Direct beneficiaries vs £



Primary Issues

Projects are further broken down by Primary Issue, which provides an extra level of detail on what issue or issues the initiative is hoping to address. For example a project with the Impact Category *Advancing people’s physical and mental health, well-being and safety* may have a Primary Issue of *Mental Health* because it is specifically concerned with helping people who are recovering from mental ill health. A project specifically concerned with helping young people increase participation in community sports may fit under the Impact Category *Maximising the ability to strengthen community cohesion and social capital* and have a Primary Issue of *Sports and Recreation*. A full breakdown of Primary issues in Table 8.

Table 8

Primary Issue	Beneficiaries	Total Amount Awarded	Number of grants
Arts & Culture	30,206	£54,890	11
Caring	60	£5,000	1
Community Support	11,541	£34,585	10
Counselling	35	£2,000	1
Crime	470	£211,233	12
Education	1,364	£45,858	6

Employment	200	£2,000	1
Health & Well-being	8,700	£82,205	29
Mental Health	30	£5,000	1
Poverty	630	£9,856	4
Social Inclusion	210	£9,750	4
Sport/recreation	700	£10,064	1
Family Life	30	£2,000	1
Violence	30	£5,000	1
Unknown	15	£5,000	1

Issue by amount spent



The word cloud (Graphic 1) above shows the primary issues by amount awarded, with greater prominence given to issues with a bigger investment. Crime and Health are the issues with the biggest investments.

Issue by people helped



The word cloud (Graphic 2) above shows the primary issues by number of people helped, with greater prominence given to issues with larger numbers of people benefiting. Initiatives addressing Arts and Culture saw the most people reached, followed by Health and Community Support respectively.

Outcomes

As part of the monitoring and evaluation framework, every funded group is asked to select up to three main Outcomes to identify the main changes that their project is trying to make. The framework defines Outcomes as the 'changes, benefits, learning and other effects that you can attribute to your project's activities. They're the difference your project makes'. A list of the Outcomes is provided in Appendix X. As with the Impact Categories, projects which were unable to self-select their own Outcomes, were assigned appropriate Outcomes post-award, based on the information provided in the application form and/or monitoring report. Graphic 3 below shows the top three Primary Outcomes achieved across all funded projects within the period, based on reporting by the grantees. This analysis shows that, in fitting with the aims of the Fund, Improving Community Cohesion, Improving Health (physical, mental and emotional), and Strengthening Organisations (i.e. capacity building) were the changes which occurred the most.

Top 3 project outcomes



Improve Community Cohesion

was the primary outcome of 30% of funded projects



Improve health (physical/mental/emotional)

was the primary outcome of 25% of funded projects



Strengthen Organisations

was the primary outcome of 15% of funded projects

There are many ways to analyse the data on outcomes, but one way is to look at the number of beneficiaries who, according to the grantees, benefited from the changes. The analysis in table 9 shows that:

- **33,833 people benefitted from improved community cohesion**
- **13,352 people benefited from strengthened organisations in their local community**
- **2,910 people benefited from reduced isolation**

Table 9

Primary Outcome	Total Amount Awarded	Beneficiaries
Improve access to volunteering	£3,906	503
Improve community cohesion	£213,794	33,833
Improve health (physical / mental / emotional)	£95,122	2796
Improve the community working together	£5,000	230
Increase access to services	£2,000	30
Increase access to sport, exercise and leisure activities	£7,583	70
Increase employability	£2,981	70
Increase in beneficiary training, education, accreditation and employment	£43,240	60
Increase in leadership skills and voice	£20,000	120
Reduce crime, violence and anti-social behaviour	£29,941	217
Reduce isolation	£9,467	2,910
Strengthen organisations	£42,413	13,352
Support vulnerable/disadvantaged people	£2,000	30

Focus on Path Programme (Rounds 20, 26 and 29)

This programme has been a major focus of the Fund and has seen the largest amount of money awarded (£211,233 over 3 rounds). It was set up in reaction to the increasing requests for support to tackle the issue of young people involved in gang culture and criminal activities, and represents London Community Foundation's core response to the issue of gangs and gang violence. Grants were made to enable local organisations to provide positive interventions for young people involved in these activities, and to get young people out of gang related activities and onto a positive path.

The obligatory outcomes expected of all groups were:

- To reduce the number of young people actively involved in gang related activities and criminal acts in the set geographical area.
- An increase in the mental and emotional well-being of the beneficiaries.

This section focuses on three organisations that were repeat-funded through Rounds 20, 26 and 29 of the Lambeth Community Fund (Round 29 funding was awarded in December 2015 and so the findings below relate to Rounds 20 and 26 only, spanning 18 months of activity). The funded organisations have been anonymised.

All three organisations delivered projects that directly engaged young people at risk of, or already involved in gang activity, benefiting **56 direct beneficiaries** during the period. Despite the complex and challenging nature of these interventions, all projects observed **reduced offending rates amongst most participants**, as well as an increase in college and university admissions, reduced arrests, increased volunteering and a number of employment opportunities created. All funded groups struggled with the hard to reach nature of beneficiaries and found that their capacity restraints compounded this.

Organisation A

This charity was funded under Round 20 to deliver a programme providing creative workshops, accredited training and mentoring to 10 young people involved in gangs. The programme covered Production: music, video, drama, live performance; Mentoring: personal development, support, engagement, support, mediation and intervention; and Accredited Training: English/maths, music/video production, sound/studio engineering, creative arts/writing. It was re-funded under Round 26 to continue delivery over 6 months with 10 young people.

Outcomes

- 25 young men took part against the target of 10. Of those, one has gone onto university and has written a business plan for his own creative business; one is coordinating anti-gang workshops with the charity; two are attending college; and one has gone into employment.
- 12 direct beneficiaries gained and improved skills in multimedia production
- 4 out of the 10 direct beneficiaries continuously sought refuge at the charity to escape their hectic street life and eventually volunteered their services every day from the time it opened until it closed.

Organisation B

This charity was funded under Round 20 to deliver a targeted programme between July 2013 and February 2014 in Tulse Hill, Coldharbour and Stockwell, involving a team made up of the a

Director, a Caseworker, two Volunteer Outreach Workers, two Volunteer Keyworkers and three Social Work Student Interns. The team worked with 13 young men aged 13-18 years, providing support to leave gangs. Support was offered through sustained outreach and one-to-one work, which included needs assessments, re-integration into mainstream education, and social welfare advocacy. They were re-funded for a further six months delivery under Round 26, to continue with similar work involving six new participants and seven existing ones.

Outcomes

- Of 13 direct beneficiaries, 10 were not arrested again after their participation in the project.
- 4 have started attending Lambeth and Westminster College and are in education for the first time in up to 4 years.

Organisation C

This organisation was funded under Round 20 to develop a fast-paced, interactive group choices programme addressing complex and multi-stranded, challenging issues facing young people, especially young offenders. The programme uses thought-provoking exercises to address topical issues, including knife crime, alcohol/drugs, friends, money, stress and loyalty. It targets young people aged 10 - 25 from across Lambeth who are involved in criminal and/or gang activity or at high risk of becoming involved in these activities through early initiation of gang culture within their environment. It was also funded under Round 26 to continue delivering, and to provide an 8 week environmental carpentry course to 18 young people.

Outcomes

The group encountered some difficulties running the programme in Lambeth as schools were not willing to pay for their service. As a result, they were only able to run one session. This session had low attendance due to a variety of issues. However some positive outcomes were realised:

- Under Round 26 the group worked with 18 direct beneficiaries and saw reduced offending activity, improved relationships with families, and improved educational engagement amongst the group.
- The carpentry workshop gained two community commissioned projects to complete for January 2016.

Challenges

Capacity of groups is a major challenge for this programme. Organisation C came up against multiple challenges and at the time of initial funding was one of the lowest capacity groups on the programme (although it has since grown in size and income). It found cooperation from schools difficult due to their decreasing budgets and rigid timetabling. It also found working with young people over the summer holidays particularly challenging, and was not able to support the young people in group settings, as their availability was sporadic over such periods.

Organisation C did receive assistance from the two other funded organisations when some young people were behaving at a heightened aggravation level, which placed them at an increased risk of personal danger whilst on the street. This involved Organisations A and B speaking to influential 'elders' to ensure the young people were left alone, until they had settled down. While it was positive that other groups in the programme were able to step in and assist in this manner, this was very much a fluid interaction based around the immediate issues presented to Organisation C, as opposed to a programme of formal partnership work. There is a definite need to increase more formal partnerships between the groups under this programme.

Feedback from Path groups generally suggests they would like LCF to meet some of the programme's partner agencies, which could help develop the perception of smaller charities having little support, outside of the immediate referral chain. It could also help schools, Social

Services, Youth Offending Services and the Police realise that significant investment is going into community development work for young people and the wider community and that it is a wider joint partnership effort. Work has already begun on this, with a Coordinator now in post funded by LCF and employed by Safer London Foundation. This Coordinator works across the three Path boroughs (Lambeth, Camden and Brent) to help the funded organisations develop their partnerships and networks. At this early stage it is not possible to measure the impact of this.

Summary of Challenges

Collated from feedback across all three repeat-funded groups:

- **The groups do not have enough engagement time for beneficiaries.** Groups reported insufficient funds to deliver the amount of direct engagement work required to bring about stronger results for the beneficiaries.
- **Groups underestimated the level of contact required,** which resulted in additional costs, outreach and project promotional work. The lesson learnt from this is the need to recognise the issues of working with young people from hard to reach communities.
- Sharing expertise / models between groups is required as it **difficult for small groups to offer a 'complete' service.**
- The low capacity groups funded under this programme **don't have the resources and/or staff to always support the most vulnerable and hard to reach young people,** due to the intensity of the intervention required, especially when intervening late. Therefore **early intervention is key.**
- There is a **clear link between school exclusions and young people entering the criminal justice system.**

Recommendations are outlined in detail in section 7.

N.B. There is a separate external evaluation of the wider Path programme being undertaken, covering the work of the programme across Lambeth, Brent and Camden 2015-17. Findings from this will be published separately.

Unsuccessful Groups

Table 10 shows the rejection rates for each type of organisation legal status for the Fund as a whole. As highlighted earlier, this shows that Registered Charities and Companies Limited by Guarantee have much lower rejection rates than CICs and unregistered community groups.

Table 10

Rejection rate by legal status

	Application count	Rejection count	Rejection rate
Registered Charity	89	46	51.69%
Company Ltd by Guarantee	63	39	61.90%
Constituted Community Group	34	23	67.65%
Community Interest Company	13	9	69.23%
Unknown	6	6	100.00%

A full list of unsuccessful applicants is available in the Appendices (3 and 4).

The most common rejection reason amongst all applications was **'not a priority for the fund'**. This generally means that that the project proposal was not strong enough to meet the aims of the Fund. Unfortunately, insufficient information is held by LCF to reach any significant conclusions or find any trends in the rejection reasons. The one conclusion that can be drawn is that lower capacity, unregistered groups and CICs fare the worst. **The lowest rejection rate is for registered charities.**

Feedback on unsuccessful applications is not generally provided to applicants, although this is something that emerged from the online survey and focus group, with respondents suggesting this would be beneficial to them.

5

Evaluation Conclusions

Bringing together the key findings from the evaluation of funded projects, along with results from the online survey and focus group, the narrative from the case studies and the up-to-date data on the borough, the evaluation is able to reach a number of conclusions on the Fund's achievements, role and future purpose in the borough.

Summary of Fund key findings:

- **54,221 people** in Lambeth benefited either directly or indirectly from grants from the Lambeth Community Fund in the period, representing 1 in 6 people resident in the borough.
- **£484,441** was awarded through the Fund, and **£1,577,883** was awarded to over 200 projects in Lambeth across **all LCF's programmes** in the same period, representing about 40% of LCF's grant spend.
- **NEETs** (those not in education, training or employment) saw the biggest investment financially, with £136,708 awarded to projects working with NEETs as the sole or main beneficiary group.
- **Children and Young People** saw the second biggest investment, with £111,846 awarded to projects working solely or mainly with this beneficiary group.
- **Local Residents** saw the third biggest investment, with £74,614 awarded to projects working solely or mainly with local people of all ages.
- **48,042 people** benefitted from **strengthened community cohesion** and better social capital.
- **4,986 people** benefited from **improved mental and physical health**.
- **833 people** improved their **employability prospects** and life skills.
- In terms of issue or 'problem' addressed, crime saw the biggest investment with £211,233 awarded to 12 projects (the Path Programme funded organisations as of Dec 2015).
- Path projects saw 56 direct beneficiaries helped to move away from crime and towards a positive pathway. All projects funded saw reduced offending rates in the majority of participants.

- Capacity building and strengthened voluntary organisations was also a major focus of the Fund, with 15% of funded projects reporting this outcome, and 13,352 people benefiting from stronger community groups in their area.

Issues and services in Lambeth:

- Lack of affordable housing, lack of opportunities for young people, a breakdown of community cohesion, and rising inequality are seen as the top issues facing Lambeth.
- The borough's top assets according to survey respondents and focus group members are its diverse mix, its community-minded people and its green spaces.
- Crime, recreation and leisure and the borough's physical state/environment are viewed as getting better generally.
- Services for older people, social inclusion and poverty/disadvantage in the borough are viewed as getting significantly worse.
- The gap between rich and poor in the borough is viewed as increasing.
- As with many areas of London, Lambeth is seen as becoming more homogenised, blander and less unique.
- Voluntary groups are concerned about spending cuts generally, cuts to vital services like libraries, and pressure from the council.

Views from the Voluntary Sector in Lambeth:

- Lack of funding, lack of capacity and sustainability pressures are the biggest issues for voluntary groups in the borough.
- Groups feel that Lambeth Council is becoming less supportive of the voluntary sector and adopting a 'short-term thinking' approach.
- Groups feel larger, longer-term grants are more beneficial than smaller grants for one-off or short-term projects.
- Groups want help and advice with sustaining projects.
- Groups want help with developing partnerships and networks of similar groups.
- Community Cohesion and Community Resilience are seen as possible priority themes for the Lambeth Community Fund from 2016 onwards.
- LCF is generally viewed by voluntary groups as an accessible and trusted funder in Lambeth.

The Fund has undoubtedly brought tangible and measurable benefits to local people and local organisations in Lambeth. Reaching over 54,000 people directly and indirectly since 2013, it has helped to strengthen community cohesion in the borough, improve the mental and physical health of its residents, improve the employability prospects and life skills of its young people, and build the capacity of its resilient voluntary sector. However the local environment is changing and the Fund needs to respond to evolving local needs in order to stay relevant.

It is no secret that public resources are extremely constrained. Cuts in local authority budgets and a financial crisis in the NHS are the backdrop against which this Fund has operated over the past 3-5 years, and which will no doubt continue or become worse. The voluntary sector in the borough is feeling squeezed for all sides - Lambeth Council is facing a 56% reduction in its core government funding by 2019, with estimates that it will have to find an additional £62 million in savings - and there is a feeling amongst the sector that the mood or 'climate' has completely changed and that support from the Council is in decline. Support from other sources such as the Lambeth Community Fund will therefore be more relevant and more in demand than ever before.

Many of Lambeth's main issues – be it a breakdown in community cohesion, violent crime or social isolation - place a high demand on services and are preventable. Most people want to avoid these problems and agree that Lambeth would be a better place to live without them. Many of these issues are the result of the same social and economic challenges, and some of these, for example inequality, are linked with national policy, meaning that they are difficult to tackle on a very local level, especially with modest grants. However there are opportunities for local upstream preventative action to help mitigate issues by improving local conditions and helping to further strengthen the increasingly under-pressure voluntary sector in Lambeth. Funds like this one therefore have an increasingly important role to play.

Lambeth also has some unique and highly valued assets, such as a hugely diverse mix of people, a rich cultural heritage, a young and largely highly skilled workforce, and great parks and green spaces. The Fund should encourage these assets to be built on and celebrated, especially as there is growing concern that the borough is beginning to lose its identity, becoming more homogenised, blander and gentrified, like many other areas of the capital.

6

Lessons Learned

This section is a short summary of strengths and weaknesses in the concept, design, and implementation of the Lambeth Community Fund that affect performance, outcome, and impact. Lessons learned have the potential for wider application and use. For example, lessons can be transferred to the next cycle of the Lambeth Community Fund or to other LCF grant programmes.

- The Lambeth Community Fund is an invaluable resource for the voluntary sector in Lambeth, helping a diverse range of groups from voluntary-led TRAs working to one housing estate to borough-wide registered charities delivering services to hundreds of people.
- A unique place-based funding scheme such as this that focusses on a particular borough is an effective vehicle for bringing about change locally. It allows sufficient scope to respond to locally identified need and the criteria and priorities of the Fund can be adapted accordingly.
- However many of the issues brought to light in this evaluation are not unique to Lambeth and are linked to national policy. This makes it difficult to address them locally through reasonably modest grant-giving. The focus should therefore be on what can realistically be achieved on a local level.
- The Fund has the potential to do more for the groups it serves. Consultation and engagement with the Lambeth's voluntary sector is key and the Fund's focus should be reviewed every 2-3 years to ensure it stays relevant to rapidly changing borough.
- The majority of feedback on the Fund and LCF was positive and the Fund is viewed as accessible, with a 7.7 rating out of 10 on accessibility.
- Efforts have been made to improve data collection and storage, and an online monitoring form is now used for all funded groups. However large gaps in electronic data existed for historical grants, which required backfilling and made analysing data challenging. Continued efforts should be made to capture the right data and store it electronically and consistently.
- To help reach meaningful conclusions on why some groups are unsuccessful LCF should consider storing more information on why applications are unsuccessful on its grants database.
- Feedback to unsuccessful groups would be welcomed and beneficial, LCF resources allowing.
- The framework, resources and materials for future evaluations should be considered, designed and prepared at the start of the relaunched Fund.

7

Recommendations

The evaluation has identified three possible priority themes for the future of the Lambeth Community Fund, along with a number of other recommendations on the level and length of funding. The priority themes are intended to address problems early on and focus on what can be done locally in the context of a changing borough and budgetary constraints in the voluntary and public sectors.

The recommendations were arrived at based on the direct feedback obtained from Lambeth's voluntary and community groups that took part in the focus group and online survey, and by bringing together key findings from the accompanying report on Lambeth borough, which highlighted topical social, economic and demographic issues in Lambeth.

1. Priority Themes for the fund

Community Resilience and Resourcefulness - grants that help communities work together, respond to the changing nature of the borough and the threat of cuts, and become more visible and more empowered. The general view in the borough is that there's a real lack of engagement with communities on important issues, with people feeling powerless. Agencies, Lambeth Council and corporate developers are often seen as the 'enemy' by local residents and voluntary groups, with a view that they are doing things 'to people', not 'with people'. Funding for projects that address these issues would be welcomed by voluntary groups in Lambeth.

In order to be resilient and resourceful, as well as **resources** (such as funding, space, advice), people and groups need **connections** (ways of communicating, learning, connecting and participating) and **control**. Control is about experience of influencing decisions that affect one's own life, and overcoming a sense of powerlessness. Research has shown that a greater sense of control brings about wider health and well-being benefits.

Community Cohesion - grants to help people who have very little social capital to come together and share skills and knowledge, celebrate diversity, and make social connections. A small amount of money can bring a lot of benefits and reach large numbers of people. Funding for projects involving ESOL, skills sharing, and food are seen particularly beneficial.

Young People and Crime – to continue with the focus on helping young people at risk of gang involvement and criminal activity by funding projects through the Path Programme and other similar initiatives. While crime overall in Lambeth is falling, violent crime is on the rise and the good work that has been started by groups addressing this need is still in the early stages. This type of intervention is resource-heavy and highly complex and therefore needs a bigger investment. These and other similar groups would also benefit from assistance with capacity building, organisational development, networking and partnership forming.

2. Size and length of grants

Groups feel **larger, longer-term grants** are more beneficial than smaller grants for one-off or short-term projects. However, the much smaller unregistered groups do appreciate and value small contributions and tend not to operate in such a strategic manner. While larger grants would mean fewer grants would be available, they would provide some longer-term stability to successful groups, enabling them to divert more of their resources and attention to service delivery and less to 'chasing' funding year on year. The Fund therefore may want to consider offering two levels of funding, as follows:

- **Strategic grants for up to three years** - £15,000-£50,000, aimed more at registered charities and charitable companies.
- **Smaller one-off grants** - £500-£5,000 for one year or less, with a proportion **ring-fenced for very small unregistered groups** who find it more challenging applying for grants and tend to be unsuccessful more often.

3. **Beyond grants**

Beyond the purely financial investment that the Fund offers, discussions with grantee organisations via the focus group and comments received through the online questionnaire suggests that a more hands-on approach, especially with some of the lower capacity groups, may be beneficial in helping them grow and develop. Funding for projects enables service delivery but groups often find themselves 'standing still' with insufficient time, resources or connections to further the strategic aims of their organisation. Possible solutions include:

- There is an identified need for supported/facilitated networking amongst and between the funded groups, particularly amongst the Path groups to enable them to share, and in some cases pool, knowledge, data and skills. While this may be seen as a role the local CVS would take on, feedback from the community groups and charities involved in this evaluation suggests that Lambeth Voluntary Action Council is inactive in this regard.
- Helping funded groups to collect the right data from the start of the projects is key to understanding the impact of the funding both for the groups and LCF. Customising monitoring forms for certain programmes may be useful.
- Offering funding for overheads /core costs as well as project delivery to support longer term impact and capacity building should be considered. This has already been implemented for the Portuguese Speakers Fund, with LCF helping the grantee to set strategic targets to work towards.
- Using LCF's influence to organise facilitated meetings or networking opportunities between funded groups and delivery partners and/or corporate funders and businesses would be beneficial to groups, helping with groups' reputations and helping them to gain connections, receive advice and expertise.
- Group would appreciate initiatives that bring the voluntary sector in Lambeth together more, with LCF playing more of an infrastructure role. Again, Lambeth based groups are not currently receiving this support from the CVS in the borough.



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