



Transformation
Partners
in Health and Care



Waltham Forest

Community chest

in Waltham
Forest



Pilot impact report



01 Report scope



This report provides an overview of the Community Chest (CC) pilot in Waltham Forest and what the impacts were. It covers:

- the process behind setting up the CC grants
- the activity that was funded through the grants
- the outcomes that were achieved both through the process of setting up the grant programme and as a result of the funded activities
- learnings and next steps

01 REPORT SCOPE

1

02 APPROACH

4

03 OUTPUTS

6

04 OUTCOMES

9

05 RELATIONSHIPS AND SOCIAL PRESCRIBING

11

06 NEXT STEPS



02 Approach

WHO WAS INVOLVED IN SETTING UP THE COMMUNITY CHEST AT PLACE-LEVEL?

- An initial steering group was set up consisting of Michela Pomati who led on VCSE engagement for the LA's Communities team, Barbora Etlova and Sharon Hanooman - the Social Prescribing leads - and Patroklos Sesis, a LA commissioner. Barbora led on coordinating logistics for the steering group and everyone else played a joint role in decision making.
- The first goal of this group was to recruit additional membership from the VCSE sector for the steering group to ensure the CC pilot was co-produced.
- To achieve this, the steering group and ACO/SODA put on an information event for the VCSE in Waltham Forest as part of their regular VCSE forums run by the LA. The feedback from attendees of the VCSE forum was that there should be a minimum of 50% representation on the steering group from VCSE members.
- A simple application process was launched which resulted in 4 new VCSE members being added to the steering group. Applications were assessed by the original steering group who were looking for a breadth of well-connected individuals with insights into different aspects of the VCSE ecosystem.
- To satisfy the requirement to have at least 50% VCSE representation, Sharon and Patroklos stood back from regular attendance in the process. Meanwhile, Althea Bart - Head of Community Participation at Barts Health NHS Trust and Suzia Riasat - Primary Care Network Liaison Manager Team Lead at Waltham Forest GP Federation - also joined the group providing NHS representation.

The image shows a 'Social Prescribing' form from Waltham Forest Clinical Commissioning Group. The form is titled 'Social Prescribing' and includes fields for 'Age' (18+), 'D.o.B.', and 'Name (including forename) and address' (Waltham Forest residents). It also has a 'Pharmacy Stamp' section with 'Dispenser's endorsement' and 'Pack & quantity'. A list of activities is provided, including 'Join a local walking group or art class', 'Attend a befriending scheme', 'Get debt advice', 'Get advice on jobs and training', 'Get help with a cold home or fuel bills', 'Start volunteering for a local organisation', and 'Become more active or eat more healthily'. The form is branded with the NHS logo and Waltham Forest Clinical Commissioning Group. At the bottom, it says 'Waltham Forest Social Prescribing Service for Local Residents' and includes the Waltham Forest logo.

Waltham Forest Social Prescribing advert

02 Approach

WHAT WAS THE PROCESS FOR SETTING UP THE COMMUNITY CHEST? WHAT WAS UNIQUE ABOUT THIS GRANTS PROGRAMME COMPARED TO OTHER GRANTS PROGRAMMES?

- Once the larger steering group was assembled, the group met bi-weekly to plan the CC pilot.
- The group began working towards a traditional grant model whereby applications would be reviewed by the steering group and decisions made collectively.
- Priorities were set during an in-person workshop facilitated by ACO/SODA. This workshop focused on identifying areas of high need in the borough - drawing on insights from across the group as well as the recently published Marmot Review of Health Inequalities in Waltham Forest, as well as identifying types of VCSE-led activities that might address those priority areas. These were then rationalised into a formal Community Chest evaluation criteria for the grant programme by Barbora and another member of the council who was supporting her - Jacob Farr.
- The group continued to meet to align around an approach for communicating the opportunity to the VCSE and establishing a monitoring and evaluation approach. The format for this process tended to be Barbora bringing some pre-prepared options from the CC toolkit and tweaking these in collaboration with the wider steering group.
- A number of information events (online and in-person) were delivered to communicate the opportunity to the sector, with LA and VCSE steering group members often acting as joint hosts.
- Grant guidance and the application process were hosted by the Council's website.
- The full list of applications were split in two and distributed equally between two sub-groups within the steering group to reduce the time burden of reviewing them. Once scores had been assigned, the group met for a decision making session. This consisted of each application being discussed in turn with different members of the steering committee pitching in with additional thoughts and context. Through these conversations a decision was made on the final grantees and the LA led on liaising with them to receive the funding and onboard them to the M&E process.



Community Chest Grants – Guidance Notes

Introduction and purpose

As part of **Waltham Forest Council's** commitment to improving the health of those in the borough, we want to ensure that everyone has equal opportunities to lead long and healthy lives.

We recognise that not-for profit organisations have access to, and are trusted by, communities in a way that the statutory sector often is not and therefore they are also well placed to address some key health inequalities we have in Waltham Forest.

Waltham Forest Council, working closely together with the Waltham Forest Place based Partnership, a partnership of health, care and community and voluntary sector organisations, are committed to enhancing social prescribing approaches and supporting the voluntary and community sector to deliver services and activities which improve the health and wellbeing of the residents and advance access to services for the communities that are currently underserved.

[Guidance from Waltham Forest Council website](#)

02 Approach

WHAT PRIORITY AREAS WERE SET FOR THE CC (IF ANY)?

Programme had 5 priorities:

- Cost of Living
- Digital Exclusion
- Mental Health and Loneliness
- Learning Disabilities
- Health Access and Health Literacy

A DIVERSE STEERING GROUP - WHAT WORKED WELL

- **Diversity of voices on the steering group** (reps from VCSFEs, residents, NHS and the council) enabled the comms about the programme to be shared through different channels and networks within the community so the pilot generated a lot of interest and a high number of applications
- **All steering group members were local residents** which played a positive part in building trust within the steering group and helped to cross the divide between the LA, NHS and VCSE sectors. Steering group members appreciated an opportunity to meet new people and found out more about other sectors and groups and learned a lot from the experience.

SUPPORTING GRANTEES AND PROMOTING THE COMMUNITY CHEST

- **High commitment from the VCSFE and resident reps on the Steering group** who all gave extra time to attend at least one live information session about the Community Chest also encouraged community groups to apply
- **Live information sessions in the community – steering group run a community event dedicated to information on CC and application process**, this event took place in the South of the borough in the area of higher deprivation. Barbora and Jacob also took part in two more live community events to promote and inform on CC. Each event was also supported by another steering group member from VCSE. High number of applications in general and a high proportion of applications from groups based in the South of the borough indicates that live sessions were a successful way reached the right audiences for the grants.



Steering group meeting

Approach 02

FURTHER REFLECTIONS AND LEARNING

The CC pilot included a significant amount of learning from the VCFSE Steering Group while establishing and carrying out the process, and a number of reflective sessions were included as part of this to develop a best practice going forward. There were a series of thoughts and considerations around the approach taken that may give insight to those who want to run a similar process, sharing what worked well and what didn't.

WHATS WORKED WELL?

- Traditional grant model taken allowed for group to make use of existing know-how from the LA (Communities team) and make use of the templates for application forms and guidance which, which together with the templates provided by the NEL, enabled to speed up the design of the application process. It also allowed for the grants administration and disbursement to be relatively straightforward, although some delays in grants disbursements still occurred.
- It was helpful to meet in person for the decision on the awards and discussion about the projects was meaningful and constructive given the high number of applications to consider and a tight time-frame
- Group felt they made good decisions and funded the best applications which would make a difference to residents

WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED?

- Steering group had a limited time to design the programme and award the grants within less than three months, some discussions on design and scoring process had to be cut short in the interest of delivering on time
- The group met bi-weekly between 19th January and 28th March with one extra meeting to split the application and start scoring them. Most decisions and work on design and process took place during the meetings, it was much harder to get steering group members to respond to e-mail follow ups – Barbora and Jacob usually followed up with a phone call to one or two individual steering group members if they did not attend a meeting to get their views on whatever was discussed - both design of the programme and the scoring system.
- Steering group started with four reps from VCSEs , one person had to leave the steering group after the initial two meetings due to time constraints and another person delegated their place to another colleague from their group after the design stage, some of the group members could not attend some of the meetings due to ill health- it proved to be useful to have the council - Barbora and Jacob- managing the process and leading on the meetings and agenda, thanks to the initial support from Oli Clayton from ACO/SODA who chaired first couple of meetings. Oli later took on the role of an adviser and an observer in the process which worked well.

Approach 02

REFLECTIONS AND LEARNINGS

There were some specific challenges faced within the approach. These are identified below, along with ways in which they were overcome to inform any future use of the approach.

HOW HAVE THE CHALLENGES BEEN OVERCOME?

Time pressures

- High amount of applications to assess in a short space of time, steering group decided to split the applications so each application was assessed by 4 people rather than by 7 people (1 steering group member volunteered to assess all the applications - whilst this was a fair and efficient process, the steering group reflected that for the future rounds of community chest awards it would be preferable to have more time and for everyone to score every application.
- Time commitment from steering group members – not everyone could attend all the meetings but all the VCSE members of the steering group made an effort to attend at least one engagement event on top of the meetings. 1 VCSE steering group member stepped down after the design process.
- Some delay in processing funding and disbursement of funds – slight delay in delivery and small underspend for 4 out of 12 projects – project were asked to submit information on using the underspend to complete the delivery of the projects and granted an extension . Jacob and Barбора kept a log of all the hurdles in the processes and will pre-empt these for the next round of funding.

Difference of views across the sectors

- Having all local people on the panel helped to bridge the differences -shared values and commitment to own community

Conflict of interest

- steering group members also applicants – process was robust and fair and as a result neither of two applications submitted by the steering group reps was funded. It is a credit to the steering group's impartiality but it also poses a challenge on how to provide the right support to all the groups including the ones represented on the steering group.

Low number of funded projects from global majority-led groups -

- All applications which were not successful were offered a feedback session and signposted to further sources of funding. In addition to this, Public Health team pro-actively contacted all global majority-led groups even if they did not score high in the applications and offered a feedback session and advice on developing a new funding application for round 2. Another global majority-led group which intended to but did not manage to apply from this round was contacted and supported to submit a bid for the round 2.

Approach 02

REFLECTIONS AND LEARNINGS

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HOW HAVE THE CHALLENGES BEEN OVERCOME?

High number of applicants turned down and potentially disappointed/ discouraged to re-apply

- Groups which were not successful were signposted to other sources of funding and kept on a mailing list for any future funding opportunities.
- High scoring applications which narrowly missed on funding were encouraged to apply again in round 2.
- All global majority-led groups were encouraged to apply again and offered support with developing their bid.

Scoring system

- Some question marks about consistency as everyone was scoring their projects individually and a “practice scoring session” or some examples of scoring would have been helpful for all steering group members to feel more confident
- For next round steering group agreed to allow more time for scoring all the applications and also more time for the live discussion about the awards



Disability resource centre exhibition

03 Outputs

HOW MANY APPLICATIONS WERE RECEIVED?

39 out of which 36 were eligible

HOW WAS THE GRANT MONEY SPENT?

- Twelve community groups were awarded funding of £69,617 in total which was almost the full available pot of £70,000. The remaining sum of £383 was kept for the next round of the funding.
- The groups were able to bid for funding between £1,000 and £10,000. Funding amount for the twelve who received the funding ranged from £2,492 to £9,990.
- Further £6,000 from NEL was paid to LA for administration of the programme, of this amount £800 was paid to VCSE and resident representatives for their participation on the steering group, with further £600 to be paid to one of the VCSEs on the steering group once their bank account is opened.

- Further £1,000 was spent on two engagement events in the community to promote the programme with the VCSEs and on refreshments for the two in person meetings of the steering group – one to set up priorities and another one to decide on grant awards. Remaining sum of cca £4,400 was kept for the next round of the funding.

FEEDBACK FROM GRANTEES ON THE PROCESS

- The application form was easy to fill out and the process was nice and simple to complete.
- There were always offers for support and support was always provided when needed.
- We felt well supported in making new partnerships and linking with other local community groups too.
- Delays in receiving the funding made it difficult to advertise prior to starting the project.



Gleaners group picking up surplus groceries

Outputs 03

WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS WERE FUNDED?

Three funded projects are directly aimed at the young people and adults with learning disabilities or disabilities in general, one funded project supports parents of children and young people with a disability. (The Together Space, Waltham Forest Disability Resource Centre, The Mill and WF Parent Forum).

Three funded projects are run by people with lived experience and offer peer-lead support to participants. (WF Parent Forum, Life After Cancer, WF Hearing Voices Group).

All twelve projects focused on improvement of mental wellbeing and loneliness.

Five projects also addressed the cost of living priority by focusing on increasing food security: (Meet&Eat, Communita, Leftovers Club, Bags of Taste and The Farm Community Kitchen).

Two projects focused also on Health Access and Health literacy (We Flock, WF Hearing Voices Group).

None of the funded project focused on Digital Exclusion which was also one of the programme priorities. Concurrently with the CC grants, LA run another small grants programme with a sole priority on addressing digital exclusion.

Adult Learning Service also run a community learning small grants scheme within the weeks of CC awards.

Some of the projects which were not funded by CC were later funded by LA digital exclusion fund or by Adult Learning Service community learning fund.

One project focused on including people with experience of homelessness into design of services (Forest Churches Emergency Night Shelter) and one project focused specifically on older people over 50 (We Flock) and another on women-only activity - cycling sessions (Joy Riders)



COMMUNI-TEA
Wellness Afternoon Sessions for Ages 50 and Over

EVERY THURSDAY 14:00 - 16:30
20th April - 20th July 2023
Good Shepherd Studios
15a Davies Lane, E11 3DR



**CHAIR BASED YOGA
REFRESHMENTS
ENTERTAINMENT**

Contact: Jessica Green
07904 517465
www.goodshepherdstudios.com



Waltham Forest

Outputs 03

WHAT TYPES OF GROUPS WERE FUNDED?

Twelve groups were funded and they fall under the different categories below:

Type	Number
Community Interest Companies	6
Registered charities	3
Voluntary groups or organisations	2
Company Limited by Guarantee	1

Demographic	Number
Global majority led	4
Led by women	9
Had not previously received funding from local authority	2

Types of activities
Homelessness support and co-production training for staff and clients
Creative and wellbeing activities - visual art, storytelling, yoga sessions, cycling training
Cooking courses, communal meals and recipe swapping
Peer support social group and peer social activities
Information and advice sessions
Support for people living with long term condition or recovering from cancer
All-family sessions for families with children and young people with disabilities, learning disabilities and autism



The Mill poster

04 Outcomes

This section shares how the grants impacted capacity and skills of VCFSEs as well as the residents they served, what were gaps filled, how this related to their ability to tackle health inequalities. And on the individual person level, what was the impact of activities on the recipients, in terms of health, wellbeing and more.

WHAT WERE THE OUTCOMES OF THE FUNDING FOR VCSFE CAPACITY?

The funding has helped the grantees in:

Upskilling staff:

- “Yes; our staff have all been trained in the basics of co-production. Staff have learned from positive interactions with service-users who have returned for training; staff are ready to embrace lived experience co-production in our work.”
- “The forum reps who managed the meals were able to develop communication skills and to offer advice and information on a number of topics. Hopefully they will now feel more confident to attend more meetings with the local authority and health.”



WF hearing voices group - trip to the seaside

Raising profile of funded groups and their other services among residents:

- “After attending the support groups, individuals have gone on to explore the other support services that we provide; 1/3 of attendees have gone on to attend our other free online workshops or coaching programmes. Funding has helped us increase the capacity of our services, without the funding we would not be able to facilitate or market our services, leaving adults post cancer in Walthamstow with no alternative post cancer support.”
- “The Community Chest funding has helped us to really step into our role as a community cafe as being able to run Leftovers Club financially has allowed us to directly share our skills with people to gain confidence with cooking, as well as having a wonderful communal meal together.”
- “The funding has helped us continue our services in the community. It increased the knowledge of our catering service. As we are closed for our summer break to prepare for a hard winter ahead we have only seen a slight increase to our meal services, this is the only thing we continue to run throughout our break. We hope to see many of our parents return to us when we reopen.”

Increasing a number of beneficiaries:

- “The funding has meant that we can continue to offer our service to more people and the need is greater than ever.”
- “We increased our membership by 21 people , mainly through promotion in schools which is great.”

04 Outcomes

This page continues to share outcomes for the grantees of the community chest in Waltham Forest.

WHAT WERE THE OUTCOMES OF THE FUNDING FOR VCSFE CAPACITY?

Paying groups for work they often do for free:

- “To have some money to pay Caz for her advocacy work and project management was great. We are looking at a way to ensure some more pay for our regular volunteers and Caz who runs the project daily.”
- “Thanks to the funding we have been able offer five young adults work at our events.”

Upgrading resources and environment so beneficiaries get sense of self-worth

- “We've increased the number of participants taking part who live with mental health problems, and complex disability conditions. It has allowed us to buy specific materials that are necessary when working with groups with diverse needs. We have been able to buy some good quality materials which are reflected in the outcomes and how people feel about themselves when they are given professional grade equipment to work with.”

Launching new initiatives:

- “We will be launching a lived experience forum in our service in September.”
- “We have been able to advertise more widely and therefore have increased the families who are involved. Parents are both volunteers helping to run the group and also beneficiaries. So in addition to the 34 young people who attended we have at least one active parent engaged/helping to run the activity. Parents from Chingford are keen to start a group in the north of the borough.”
- “It has most definitely helped us to increase the well-being of our members. It has enabled the 2nd group of the HVG to be established which is specifically for those aged 18 - 35 years.”
- “Funding has released funds to collaborate with local businesses to create further employment opportunities for young adults as well as training in this area and what is best practice for employing young disabled adults. We are excited to have kickstarted this other branch of the social enterprise. Also thanks to the funding we have been able to run holiday horticulture and fitness sessions for young adults with LD.”



FCENS Art Workshop

Outcomes 04

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES & TACKLING INEQUALITIES

WHO ACCESSED VCFSE ACTIVITIES?

Funded activities were accessed by a wide variety of residents. Facts about the demographics are below.

981 residents attended 12 funded activities

199 (20%) of participants were male

780 (80%) were female.

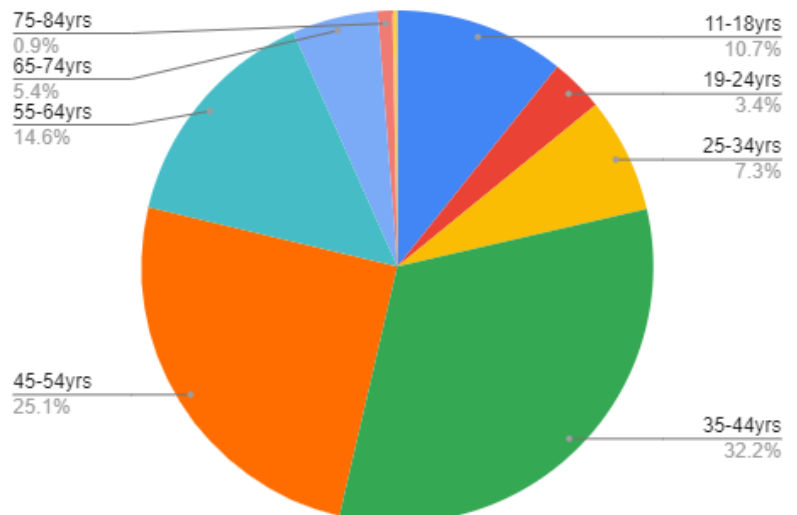
2 participants were non-binary.

237 (24%) participants have a disability

509 (52%) participants were from the global majority.

403 participants (41 %) live in the south of the borough in the area associated with the higher levels of health inequalities

Age breakdown of residents accessing activities



Gleaners CIC

Outcomes 04

OUTCOMES FOR RESIDENTS

BAGS OF TASTE

1. "It's a great programme, fantastic to be honest with you. I liked the cost of the food, its very well organised with the recipes being sent to you with all the ingredients. The mentors are very encouraging you, which was very good to help motivate me to finish the course. When you cook the dish you feel really good about it, and I often thought Yay! I've achieved this, which really motivates you to cook the next one. The recipes are also easy and quick which is very useful! I am much more confident at cooking now, I used to cook once a week and now I'm cooking 3-4 times per week so the course has made me much more motivated."
2. "It's a kind of therapy as it can occupy your mind and when you finish, you get to enjoy your work."

LEFTOVERS CLUB

1. "If it wasn't for your Leftovers club I wouldn't have the imagination and confidence in making something from my fruit and veg wasting away in the cupboard. In addition, the minerals and vitamins from a produce was informative. I'm less reliant on ready meals and snacking."

LIFE AFTER CANCER

1. *100% of participants said they felt more connected and less isolated
2. *100% of participants would recommend to others
3. *100% felt the group had a positive impact on their mental wellbeing
4. I really enjoyed the informal and relaxed set up of the group. I felt comfortable to express myself, understood and less isolated."

FOREST CHURCHES EMERGENCY NIGHT SHELTER

1. "It has given me a toolkit to apply in my everyday life" (The training gave me)"support to understand our aim in life".
2. "I think one of the loveliest things about this training was to see the amount and effort that everyone put into the course and the amount of support and respect everyone had for each other whilst participating. One of the things that I found really helpful was the work we did on personal values - I had never thought about this before in depth and it is something I've reflected on since the course and modified my behaviour and relationships based on this. This has had a significant impact particularly on trauma loops being lessened in many areas."

WFDRC

1. "My brother and sister came to see all our art at the exhibition. I felt really proud." (Course participant)

Outcomes 04

OUTCOMES FOR RESIDENTS

JOY RIDERS

1. "Most important things on our rides apart from actually getting women on bikes is bringing communities together. We had women from all communities, Muslim, Sikh, LGBTQ+, Roma, Black, Christian etc on our rides who formed connections and friendships across the communities they belong to. Some of the women who gained more confidence went out riding together using the routes and we have a whatsapp group for all participants so they can all remain in contact with each other."

WF PARENT FORUM

1. "My son's school does not arrange any coffee mornings or gatherings for SEN parents, I feel lonely, not being aware if there are kids at the same school with similar struggles. I feel uncomfortable and sometimes upset when chatting with other school parents (with high achieving children) who do not understand or are insensitive. The WFPF evening meals have provided a much welcomed opportunity to feel supported, chat with other carers who understand, and to share information and experiences in a relaxed setting. I have offered to help some attendees with the ECHP process, as I know what a daunting ordeal it can be. There are plans to meet up locally with kids in the future, and it is nice to be able to meet carers in person rather than just having contact via the Facebook group."

THE MILL

1. "We have only been once, however it led to an open discussion with my son around ,acceptance and anxiety ,also taking attempts to achieve goals.. (we took time out as initially T found it too much but when we went back in ,instead of being frowned at or looked at like a nuisance we were both truly welcomed back in."; "They have started to make friends for the first time in 15 years! This has allowed them to begin to feel more confident about walking to school with other people for the first time

WF HEARING VOICES GROUP

1. One male with an SMI who rarely leaves his home because of the severity of his voices expressed how much the day had been of great benefit to his mental health. He felt comfortable to be amongst people who all had a similar mental illness and saw how it doesn't always have to stop you from doing "fun" things. He is a man in his late 50's and he had never been to the coast before and found standing bare footed at the water edge, with the sea covering his feet "a wonderful experience"

05 Relationships and Social Prescribing



FCENS activity

QUOTES AROUND SOCIAL PRESCRIBING

“A social prescriber attended our support group sessions after seeing our presentation at the online meeting of the 12 projects funded by the Community Chest. The individual had experienced cancer themselves and came to our support groups with an open mind about how we could support them after cancer treatment. The individual has since provided feedback on our services which will be useful for creating our programmes in the future.”

WHAT WERE THE OUTCOMES FOR CONNECTEDNESS BETWEEN VCFSE ACTIVITY AND SOCIAL PRESCRIBING SYSTEMS?

- LA social prescribing leads ran a video conference for all the grantees and social prescribers and link workers where the community groups introduced themselves and the funded projects.
- This generated a relatively small number of referrals to the VCSE activities (around 40 for all 12 projects together from social prescribers and around 30 for all 12 projects together from Health and Wellbeing Link workers) which given the short delivery time for the awarded projects (4 months) was still a good outcome.
- All awarded VCSFEs reported an increased awareness of social prescribing and better connections to social prescribing systems - which over time might lead to more referrals from social prescribers.

“We have engaged with representatives from NHS Social Prescribing across the borough and attended a Social Prescribing team meeting. We are actively working with the team to explore opportunities for shared projects to benefit service users in the future. The project has helped to connect NHS Social Prescribing with homeless people in our borough. We are more aware of other projects funded by the same fund.”

“Yes absolutely, one of our volunteers started recently working as social prescriber so is extremely aware of our offers and always happy to put people forward, It was also very beneficial to have attended the recent event at the Leyton sports ground (organised by social prescribers at Forest Integrated PCN*)”

05 Relationships and Social Prescribing



Funmi Peter Omale



Self portraits from community chest activity

WHAT WERE THE OUTCOMES OF THE CC PROCESS FOR PARTNERSHIP WORKING BETWEEN VCFSE AND STATUTORY PARTNERS?

Better links with primary care

- “Better links with social prescribers, social care and health services including mental health services”

Thanks to increased publicity VCSEs build new links with statutory services and started new partnerships

- “3 schools have distributed our poster (that we know of) on their mailing lists and CAMHS have displayed it in their reception. We have also been contacted by the LBWF Autism Lead Ellie Miller about supporting other parents to start similar groups for different age groups.”
- “We were contacted by a NHS psychologist about the project and a community link worker as well as spoken to another referrer via a local arts chat group.”

Better knowledge among the VCSEs to signpost their clients to:

- “The 12 recipients of funding also had their information circulated. We now know about more organisations and activities going on in the borough that we can signpost our members to.”

06 Next steps

CHANGES TO BE IMPLEMENTED FOR NEXT THE FUNDING ROUNDS?

- Some minor changes in application form (explain what was meant by Health Access priority),
- Partnership bids encouraged but essentially the same application and scoring process

ANY KEY LEARNINGS / TAKEAWAYS FROM THE APPROACH?

- Design: clarify the application form and guidance (wording of Health Access priority was changed to Increasing community access to health services and health information)
- Application process – continue with live networking events – working with other teams in the LA to utilize their expertise and linking with grant/funding opportunities, host information on the website



Community chest event at the Waltham Forest Community Hub

- One to one developmental sessions for VCS that are less experienced are needed for this approach to work well
- Live events for VCSE for networking and partnership building opportunities also important
- Increased lead-up time for applications and assessment to give the groups time to apply and to give steering group time to review a high volume of applications
- Support local and support sustainable – supporting local VCSEs to capacity build from the Community Chest programme opportunities, to build partnerships with each other and to be able to apply for funding from other sources in the future
- Alignment with other council funded community projects- e.g., Community Living Rooms groups were invited to work to apply for Community Chest grants in a joined bid with smaller organisations.
- Re-assess the criteria for applying after round 2 – the number of bids have increased from 36 in the pilot round to 45 in round 2 and only one in 6 applications can be funded, the open to all process leads to a high volume of applicants – many of them from outside of the borough, trying their luck.

Next steps 06

WHAT HAS IMPACTED THE CONVERSATIONS REGARDING CONTINUATION OF THE COMMUNITY CHEST?

- The ICB Place based partnership has been kept informed about the progress of the programme through its ICB oversight group, Project leads also regularly attended the NEL Health Inequalities Fund Community of Practice to check in with other projects from 7 NEL boroughs
- The project has been delivered on time and with clear milestones and in comparison to some other projects funded by WF ICB Place-based partnership as part of Health Inequalities Fund the progress has been generally good and this was noted by the oversight group.
- Project leads presented with an update on pilot round of CC grants to the oversight group in June 2023 and further funding from ICB Place was approved for next 48 months starting from August 2023,
- Funding for round 2 of CC to be delivered in 2023/24 £40,000 was approved from ICB Place and the additional funding of £20,000 was provided by LA
- For round 3 of CC which is to be delivered in 2024/25 , £40,000 is approved from ICB Place with no additional funding from LA currently available.
- The future plans for supporting VCSEs to deliver social prescribing activities include a PH team working in partnership with Addison Road GP practice in Walthamstow to deliver a pilot enhanced social prescribing service based on the Bromley-by-Bow model. Addison Road practice has created a new role of a Social prescriber/Community development worker with a view to create a bespoke programme of activities and initiatives for the patients at Addison Road practice (and Central Walthamstow PCN) . Local funding for this pilot will be sourced to enhance the offer of VCSEs in the neighbourhood of Addison Road practice.



Food from Paulette from Gleaners CIC