



Know Your Neighbourhood Fund: Outcome Evaluation of UKCF-Funded Projects

Prepared for: DCMS, UKCF and KYN Fund community foundations
and projects

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ABBREVIATIONS AND GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Beneficiary:	A person who is the recipient of services provided by a project. They are not taking part as a volunteer.
CF:	Community foundation.
CLS:	Community Life Survey. A nationally representative annual government survey of adults (16+) in England that tracks the latest trends and developments across areas that are key to encouraging social action and empowering communities.
DCMS:	Department for Culture, Media and Sport.
KYN Fund:	Know Your Neighbourhood Fund.
LGBT+:	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender
Loneliness:	An unwelcome feeling of lack or loss of companionship that occurs when our subjective need for social relationships is not met in terms of quantity and/or quality. Chronic loneliness is defined as those who feel lonely often or always.
ONS:	Office for National Statistics.
Participant:	A person who has taken part in a KYN Fund project either as a beneficiary, a volunteer, or both.
Respondent:	A person who has completed a KYN Fund evaluation survey.
UCLA:	University of California, Los Angeles.
UKCF:	UK Community Foundation.
Volunteering:	A voluntary act of an individual or group freely giving time and labour to do something that benefits others. These actions can be activities carried out through groups or organisations (formal volunteering), or by giving unpaid help to someone other than a relative (informal volunteering).
Wellbeing:	A positive outcome that involves both mental and physical health and is connected to self-perceived health, longevity, healthy behaviours, illness, social connectedness, productivity, and environmental factors. How people evaluate their life in general, how they feel about it and how they function on a personal and social level.

HEADLINE FINDINGS

Between January 2023 and March 2025, the Know Your Neighbourhood (KYN) Fund invested up to £30 million to widen participation in volunteering and tackle loneliness in 27 disadvantaged areas across England. Originally scheduled to end in March 2025, in April 2025 the KYN Fund was extended until March 2026, with up to an additional £4.5 million of funding.

Of the original up to £30 million, up to £15 million of government and match funding was delivered by UK Community Foundations (UKCF) and a consortium of nine community foundations.

The KYN Fund's objectives were to:

- ∞ Increase the proportion of people in target high-deprivation local authorities who volunteer at least once a month.
- ∞ Reduce the proportion of chronically lonely people in target high-deprivation local authorities who lack their desired level of social connections.
- ∞ Build the evidence to identify scalable and sustainable place-based interventions that work in increasing regular volunteering and reducing chronic loneliness.
- ∞ Enable targeted high-deprivation local authorities, and the local voluntary and community sector in these places, to implement sustainable systems and processes that encourage volunteering and tackling loneliness.

The KYN Fund's outcomes were measured through self-completion surveys completed by participants when they joined and left the project. A counterfactual was not available at the time of writing; therefore, we can't attribute findings to the KYN Fund. Nonetheless, results from these surveys provide positive indications that the UKCF-funded projects were successful in achieving key outcomes for participants.

The following statistically significant results were found.

UKCF-funded projects attracted people at risk of chronic loneliness:

Higher levels of groups that research identified as being at increased risk of chronic loneliness took part in a UKCF-funded project than are in the general population:

- ∞ 29% of participants were 16-34 years old, compared to 20% in the general population¹.
- ∞ 56% of participants had a disability or long-term health condition, compared to 18% in the general population².
- ∞ 34% of participants had a mental health condition, compared to 23% in the general population³.

¹ [ONS population estimates 2023](#) [accessed 2 December 2025]

² [Census 2021](#) [accessed 2 December 2025]

³ [NatCen Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey 2023/24](#) [accessed 2 December 2025]

People considered to be at risk of, or experiencing chronic loneliness, have increased levels of social connection:

- ∞ 72% of respondents who were chronically lonely at the start, experienced loneliness less frequently at the end.

Projects have attracted people to volunteer for the first time or return to volunteering:

Of respondents who said they were volunteers on the KYN Fund project in the baseline survey:

- ∞ 69% were either new or returning to volunteering.
- ∞ 50% said the KYN Fund project was their first time volunteering.

Of respondents who said this was not their first time volunteering:

- ∞ 39% said that they began volunteering again on the KYN Fund project after stopping for a year or more.

Of respondents who said they were volunteers on the KYN Fund project in the endline survey:

- ∞ 89% said they have volunteered at least once a month on the KYN Fund project, including 75% who volunteered weekly or more.
- ∞ 76% said they plan to volunteer again after the current experience. Of these, 69% say they will do so at least once a month.

Participants have improved wellbeing:

- ∞ At least three-quarters of respondents who reported 'low' levels of wellbeing in the baseline survey, reported an improvement in the endline survey.
- ∞ 58% of respondents who reported 'high' levels of anxiety in the baseline survey, reported 'medium', 'low' or 'very low' levels in the endline survey.

Participants have improved their skills and/or confidence:

- ∞ Over two-thirds of respondents who had 'low' confidence (a score of 0-4) in their abilities in the baseline survey, reported an improvement (a score of 5 or more) in the endline survey.

Participants have increased social cohesion and pride in the local area:

- ∞ 54% of respondents who reported that they were dissatisfied with their neighbourhood in the baseline survey, reported that they were satisfied in the endline survey.
- ∞ 46% of respondents who reported that they didn't feel a strong sense of belonging in the baseline survey, reported that they did have a strong sense of belonging in the endline survey.
- ∞ 44% of respondents who reported that they disagreed that people in the neighbourhood pull together to improve the neighbourhood in the baseline survey, reported that they agreed in the endline survey.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview

Between January 2023 and March 2025, the Know Your Neighbourhood (KYN) Fund invested up to £30 million to widen participation in volunteering and tackle loneliness in 27 disadvantaged areas across England⁴. Originally scheduled to end in March 2025, in April 2025 the KYN Fund was extended until March 2026, with up to an additional £4.5 million of funding.

Of the original up to £30 million:

- ∞ £15 million of government funding, including up to £1.5 million of match funding, was delivered by UK Community Foundations (UKCF) and a consortium of nine community foundations. This funded 115 projects, and supported activities enabling volunteering and tackling loneliness in nine targeted disadvantaged areas⁵.
- ∞ £5 million of government funding was delivered by Arts Council England and The National Lottery Heritage Fund, in partnership with Historic England, to support people to participate in volunteering and connect with others through expanding the existing offer of arts, culture and heritage activities.
- ∞ The National Lottery Community Fund invested up to £10 million of their own funding to top up existing projects that supported the KYN Fund objectives in the same 27 areas.

The objectives of the KYN Fund were, by March 2025, to:

- ∞ Increase the proportion of people in target high-deprivation local authorities who volunteer at least once a month.
- ∞ Reduce the proportion of chronically lonely people in target high-deprivation local authorities who lack their desired level of social connections.
- ∞ Build the evidence to identify scalable and sustainable place-based interventions that work in increasing regular volunteering and reducing chronic loneliness.
- ∞ Enable targeted high-deprivation local authorities, and the local voluntary and community sector in these places, to implement sustainable systems and processes that encourage volunteering and tackling loneliness.

This report covers outcome evaluation findings for the projects UKCF funded between April 2023 and March 2025. Other KYN Fund evaluation reports are available on gov.uk.

⁴ DCMS defined deprivation and place-based need with reference to two broad dimensions:

i) People and local economy factors (e.g., household incomes, local labour markets, economic and multidimensional deprivation); and ii) Strength of civil society and community factors (e.g., depth and breadth of local voluntary, community and social enterprise activity and funding, level of volunteering and community participation). They used the 2019 English Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) to identify high-need areas based on people and local economy factors, and the Community Needs Index (CNI) to identify high-need areas based on the strength of civil society and community factors. They chose to combine these two indices to provide a good coverage of indicators relevant to the objectives of the KYN Fund, and their associated definition of deprivation/place-based need.

⁵ Barrow-In-Furness, Blackpool, County Durham, Fenland, Great Yarmouth, Kingston-Upon-Hull, South Tyneside, Stoke-On-Trent and Wolverhampton.

Methodology and interpreting the findings

The KYN Fund's outcomes were measured through a self-completion survey, and participants were asked to complete it up to three times:

- ∞ **Baseline:** upon joining a project.
- ∞ **Midpoint:** after seven months, where applicable.
- ∞ **Endline:** upon leaving the project.

The survey measured changes in loneliness, wellbeing, skills and confidence, and pride in the local area, and used validated questions from national sources where possible.

The survey data was exported on 18 November 2024. This was over four months before the end of the grant delivery period at the end of March 2025. The export included 721 linked baseline and midpoint/endline surveys. At that point, 2,234 participants had finished their time on the project. This provides an approximate response rate of 32%.

The surveys captured respondents' feelings at a given time, but they did not ask respondents to explain why they felt that way. A counterfactual was not available at the time of writing. Therefore, we cannot attribute causality, i.e. state that their participation in the KYN Fund project is the reason for these feelings. However, responses to an open-ended question about the benefits of the project provides some evidence of the difference they felt it made to them.

UKCF-funded projects attracted people at risk of chronic loneliness...

The KYN Fund was designed to target those at risk of, or experiencing, chronic loneliness, defined as *"feeling lonely often or always."* DCMS advised on key groups, identified through research, as being at increased risk of chronic loneliness, which included young people (16-34), people with disability or long-term health condition, people with a mental health condition, people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT+), people in the lowest income quintile, people who live alone, new parents, people who are widowed, people who recently moved, people who are unemployed.

The survey covered some of these factors and found that higher levels of groups that research identified as being at increased risk of chronic loneliness took part in a UKCF-funded project than are in the general population:

- ∞ 29% of participants were 16-34 years old, compared to 20% in the general population⁶.
- ∞ 56% of participants had a disability or long-term health condition, compared to 18% in the general population⁷.
- ∞ 34% of participants had a mental health condition, compared to 23% in the general population⁸.

⁶ [ONS population estimates 2023](#) [accessed 2 December 2025]

⁷ [Census 2021](#) [accessed 2 December 2025]

⁸ [NatCen Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey 2023/24](#) [accessed 2 December 2025]

Projects successfully reached participants who are chronically lonely...

In the baseline survey, 15% of respondents said they were chronically lonely (feel lonely 'often or always'). National findings from the CLS 2023/24 show that 7% of respondents said they feel lonely often or always.

People considered to be at risk of, or experiencing chronic loneliness, have increased levels of social connection...

The following statistically significant results were found for loneliness.

In the baseline survey, 15% of respondents said they were chronically lonely, this reduced to 8% in the endline survey.

Nearly three-quarters of respondents who were chronically lonely at the start, experienced loneliness less frequently at the end (72%).

Furthermore, most respondents who reported often experiencing other aspects of loneliness, also reported experiencing them less frequently at the end:

- ∞ 20% of respondents felt they often lacked companionship at the start. Of these, 61% felt they lacked companionship less frequently at the end.
- ∞ 19% of respondents often felt left out at the start. Of these, 74% felt left out less frequently at the end.
- ∞ 19% of respondents often felt isolated from others at the start. Of these, 66% felt isolated from others less frequently at the end.

Most respondents agreed they have built connections with new people through the KYN Fund project (90%).

"The group keeps my spirits lifted, I feel I belong and have formed many friendships."
(Participant)

Projects have attracted people to volunteer for the first time – or return to volunteering – and to volunteer at least once a month...

The following statistically significant results were found for volunteering.

Over half of baseline respondents said they were volunteers on the KYN Fund project (55%).

Half of respondents who said they were volunteers on the KYN Fund project in the baseline survey, said the KYN Fund project was their first time volunteering (50%). Nearly two-fifths of respondents who said they were volunteers on the KYN Fund project in the baseline survey, and said this was not their first time volunteering, said that they began volunteering again on the KYN Fund project after stopping for a year or more (39%).

Most respondents who said they were volunteers on the KYN Fund project in the endline survey, said they have volunteered at least once a month on the KYN Fund project (89%), including 75% who volunteered weekly or more.

... and most plan to volunteer again at least once a month on their next project...

Over three-quarters of respondents who said they were volunteers in the endline survey, said they will volunteer again (76%). And of them, 69% said they will do so at least once a month, including 50% who said they will do so at least once a week.

*"Volunteering gives me a purpose, keeps me active... and keeps me involved socially."
(Volunteer)*

Participants have improved wellbeing...

ONS recommends using four questions to measure different aspects of personal wellbeing and anxiety. These questions have a scale from 0 (not at all) to 10 (completely), and ONS present these scores as thresholds:

- ∞ Those scoring 0-4 in the three wellbeing questions are classified as having 'low' levels of wellbeing; and
- ∞ Those scoring 6-10 in the anxiety question are classified as having 'high' levels of anxiety.

The national average refers to ONS national scores reported for October to December 2024 (Quarter 4).

The following statistically significant results were found for wellbeing.

Satisfaction with life:

The baseline survey showed that nearly one-fifth of respondents had 'low' satisfaction with life (19%). This reduced to 7% in the endline survey.

Three-quarters of respondents who reported 'low' levels of life satisfaction in the baseline survey, reported an improvement (i.e., a score of 5-10) in the endline survey (75%).

Feeling worthwhile:

The baseline survey showed that 15% of respondents reported 'low' levels of feeling that the things they do in life are worthwhile. This reduced to 7% in the endline survey.

Over three-quarters of respondents who reported 'low' levels of feeling that the things they do in life are worthwhile in the baseline survey, reported an improvement (i.e., a score of 5-10) in the endline survey (76%).

Happiness:

The baseline survey showed that over one-fifth of respondents had 'low' levels of happiness (21%). This reduced to 9% in the endline survey.

Three-quarters of respondents who reported 'low' levels of happiness in the baseline survey, reported an improvement (i.e., a score of 5-10) in the endline survey (75%).

Anxiety:

The baseline survey showed that 35% of respondents reported 'high' levels of anxiety. This reduced to 29% in the endline survey.

Nearly three-fifths of respondents who reported 'high' levels of anxiety in the baseline survey, reported an improvement (i.e., a score of 0-5) in the endline survey (58%).

"[The benefits of the project are an] improvement to my mental health, lower anxiety. It's given me a reason to get up and get on, which some days is a real problem." (Participant)

Participants have improved their skills and/or confidence...

The following statistically significant results were found for skills and/or confidence.

The endline survey showed that nearly three-fifths of respondents used at least three skills during the project (58%). The most frequently reported were communication, working with others or team-working skills, and using their creativity.

The endline survey also showed that over four-fifths of respondents agreed they have developed their skills as a result of this [KYN Fund] project (83%), and over three-fifths agreed that they have made improvements to their local area because of the skills they developed on the project (62%).

Confidence was measured using five questions developed for the KYN Fund evaluation. These questions used a scale from 0 (not confident at all) to 10 (extremely confident). These scores were presented as thresholds and classified into the same levels that ONS uses for wellbeing. Therefore, those scoring 0-4 were classified as having 'low' levels of confidence.

Over two-thirds of respondents who had 'low' confidence (a score of 0-4) in their abilities in the baseline survey, reported an improvement (a score of 5 or more) in the endline survey:

- ∞ 79% who reported 'low' confidence in working with other people;
- ∞ 77% who reported 'low' confidence in using creativity;
- ∞ 76% who reported 'low' confidence in communicating with others;
- ∞ 73% who reported 'low' confidence in dealing with problems;
- ∞ 68% who reported 'low' confidence in taking on responsibility.

"Since I have been involved in the project, I have gained work skills and a good work ethic. I feel I am so much more employable than before." (Volunteer)

Participants have increased social cohesion and pride in the local area...

Three questions from the CLS 2023/24 were used to measure different aspects of social cohesion and pride in the local area.

The following statistically significant results were found for social cohesion and pride in the local area.

Feelings of belonging to the neighbourhood:

Over half of respondents felt that they 'fairly strongly' or 'very strongly' belonged to their immediate neighbourhood at the start of the project (53%). This increased to 64% in the endline survey.

Nearly half of respondents who reported that they didn't feel a strong sense of belonging in the baseline survey, reported that they did have a strong sense of belonging in the endline survey (46%).

Feelings that people in the neighbourhood pull together to improve the neighbourhood:

The baseline survey showed that nearly half of respondents agreed that people in the neighbourhood pull together to improve the neighbourhood (48%). This increased to 60% in the endline survey.

Over two-fifths of respondents who reported that they disagreed that people in the neighbourhood pull together to improve the neighbourhood in the baseline survey, reported that they agreed in the endline survey (44%).

Satisfaction with the local area as a place to live:

Over three-fifths of respondents were satisfied with their local area at the start (62%). This increased to 73% in the endline survey.

Over half of respondents who reported that they were dissatisfied with their neighbourhood in the baseline survey, reported that they were satisfied in the endline survey (54%).

*"I feel part of the community and like I have people I can rely on – I didn't before this group."
(Beneficiary)*

Conclusion: There are positive indications that the UKCF-funded projects were successful in achieving key outcomes for participants...

The results from the evaluation surveys indicate that participants have experienced positive changes during their time on a UKCF-funded KYN Fund project.

The evaluation surveys didn't measure the reasons why respondents gave their answers, or what would have happened in the absence of the KYN Fund, and so we cannot determine why these changes have occurred, or attribute them to the KYN Fund directly. However, responses to the open-ended question "How have you benefited from being involved in the project?" were overwhelmingly positive and highlight the tangible differences the projects have made.

"The project has massively improved my confidence and communication skills. Working alongside others, I have learned new skills and I have been completely supported by others in the group. I have made friends for life." (Volunteer)

"The project has given me something to look forward to, a sense of routine and a sense of belonging, which is incredibly important to me as I am currently unemployed. I feel more connected to this neighbourhood and feel like I've got purpose in my life by volunteering here." (Volunteer)

"Since losing my fiancé to a heart attack, this project has helped me get through that loss, by being with other people who are happy and caring. I've joined other groups at the centre, as well as volunteering for adults with learning difficulties like myself, that are also part of this project." (Volunteer)

1: ABOUT THE KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND

Between January 2023 and March 2025, the Know Your Neighbourhood (KYN) Fund invested up to £30 million to widen participation in volunteering and tackle loneliness in 27 disadvantaged areas across England⁹. Originally scheduled to end in March 2025, in April 2025 the KYN Fund was extended until March 2026, with up to an additional £4.5 million of funding.

As part of the programme, there was a three-month 'test and learn' phase that took place from January to March 2023. This helped inform delivery from April 2023.

Of the original up to £30 million:

- ∞ £15 million of government funding, including up to £1.5 million of match funding, was delivered by UK Community Foundations (UKCF) and a consortium of nine community foundations. This funded 115 projects, and supported activities enabling volunteering and tackling loneliness in nine targeted disadvantaged areas¹⁰.
- ∞ £5 million of government funding was delivered by Arts Council England and The National Lottery Heritage Fund, in partnership with Historic England, to support people to participate in volunteering and connect with others through expanding the existing offer of arts, culture and heritage activities.
- ∞ The National Lottery Community Fund invested up to £10 million of their own funding to top up existing projects that supported the KYN Fund objectives in the same 27 areas.

The objectives of the KYN Fund were, by March 2025, to:

- ∞ Increase the proportion of people in target high-deprivation local authorities who volunteer at least once a month.
- ∞ Reduce the proportion of chronically lonely people in target high-deprivation local authorities who lack their desired level of social connections.
- ∞ Build the evidence to identify scalable and sustainable place-based interventions that work in increasing regular volunteering and reducing chronic loneliness.
- ∞ Enable targeted high-deprivation local authorities, and the local voluntary and community sector in these places, to implement sustainable systems and processes that encourage volunteering and tackling loneliness.

⁹ DCMS defined deprivation and place-based need with reference to two broad dimensions:

i) People and local economy factors (e.g., household incomes, local labour markets, economic and multidimensional deprivation); and ii) Strength of civil society and community factors (e.g., depth and breadth of local voluntary, community and social enterprise activity and funding, level of volunteering and community participation). They used the 2019 English Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) to identify high-need areas based on people and local economy factors, and the Community Needs Index (CNI) to identify high-need areas based on the strength of civil society and community factors. They chose to combine these two indices to provide a good coverage of indicators relevant to the objectives of the KYN Fund, and their associated definition of deprivation/place-based need.

¹⁰ Barrow-In-Furness, Blackpool, County Durham, Fenland, Great Yarmouth, Kingston-Upon-Hull, South Tyneside, Stoke-On-Trent and Wolverhampton.

2: ABOUT THE EVALUATION

Overview of the evaluation

The KYN Fund has been evaluated at a programme level by RSM UK Consulting LLP, with the National Centre for Social Research. This included the process, impact and economic (Value for Money) evaluations for activity awarded by UKCF, the National Lottery Community Fund, and the Arts Council England, National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic England consortium. The programme evaluation included activity that took place until the end of the programme's delivery period in March 2025.

Forever Consulting has evaluated the outcomes of projects awarded by UKCF and community foundations between April 2023 and March 2025 – and this report covers those findings. Other KYN Fund evaluation reports have been produced, which can be found on the Know Your Neighbourhood Fund page on gov.uk.

This section highlights the methodology, robustness and limitations of the data, and how to interpret the findings in this report.

Key evaluation outcomes

The programme evaluation outcomes were developed as part of the Theory of Change (see Appendix 1). They are:

- ∞ People considered to be at risk of, or experiencing chronic loneliness, have increased levels of social connection.
- ∞ An increase in the number of people volunteering for the first time or returning to volunteering.
- ∞ Participants have improved wellbeing.
- ∞ Participants have improved their skills and/ or confidence.
- ∞ Participants have increased social cohesion and pride in the local area.
- ∞ Local authorities and community organisations have access to evidence and will have learnt about approaches to increase regular volunteering and reduce chronic loneliness¹¹.

Methodology

The evaluation outcomes of the UKCF-funded projects were measured through a self-completion survey, which was designed by the programme level evaluators.

The survey was administered by project staff and provided to participants through an online link, with the option for participants to complete a paper version, with support from project staff if required. Easy Read versions were also available. Participants were asked to complete the survey up to three times:

- ∞ **Baseline:** as soon as was feasibly possible when participants started the project.

¹¹ This outcome is explored in the programme evaluation and has not been covered in this evaluation of UKCF-funded projects.

- ∞ **Midpoint:** once participants had been on the project for seven months. Therefore, this may not have been applicable for all participants.
- ∞ **Endline:** when participants left the project.

The survey covered the following topics, and was developed using validated survey questions where possible:

- ∞ **Volunteering:** These questions were developed for the KYN Fund evaluation survey.
- ∞ **Loneliness:** The Office for National Statistics (ONS) recommends using the harmonised loneliness measure, which combines four questions to capture different aspects of loneliness directly and indirectly. Three of these questions were developed by the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and the fourth question came from ONS.
- ∞ **Wellbeing:** A set of four standardised questions used to measure personal wellbeing were developed by ONS.
- ∞ **Skills and confidence:** A set of general statement questions were developed for the KYN Fund evaluation survey.
- ∞ **Pride in the local area:** These questions were taken from the Community Life Survey (CLS), developed by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).
- ∞ **Reasons for taking part in the project and anticipated benefits:** These free text questions were developed for the KYN Fund evaluation survey.
- ∞ **Demographics:** These are the Government's harmonised questions¹². They were asked in the baseline survey only.

A copy of the survey is provided in Appendix 2.

Survey robustness and limitations

Projects, participants, surveys and responses included and excluded

- ∞ Eight of the 115 UKCF-funded projects did not take part in the surveys because they received a very small grant or they did not work directly with participants.
- ∞ Participants aged 15 or younger, or who only attended the project once, were not asked to complete the survey.
- ∞ UKCF-funded projects started delivery at different times from April 2023 onwards, and the surveys were launched in October 2023. This report includes surveys that were completed by participants in a UKCF-funded project up to 18 November 2024. The programme evaluation report includes survey data exported at the end of the grant delivery period (31 March 2025).
- ∞ This report includes responses from participants who have completed a baseline and a midpoint and/or endline survey. Responses from individual participants' surveys have been analysed together (or 'linked') so that differences in their views and experiences over time can be measured. If a participant has completed a midpoint and an endline survey, the

¹² The classifications of ONS' gender identity questions were changed from 'official statistics' to 'official statistics in development' on 12 September 2024. More information can be found in the [sexual orientation and gender identity quality information for Census 2021](#), and in the National Statistical blog about [the strengths and limitations of gender identity statistics](#) [accessed 17 February 2025]

endline survey has been analysed. If a participant has completed a midpoint only, that has been analysed as if it was an endline. For brevity, this report refers to 'endline' for both midpoint and endline surveys.

- ∞ All 'unlinked' surveys (i.e. baseline surveys completed by a participant who didn't complete a midpoint or endline, and vice versa), have been excluded from analysis.
- ∞ 'Prefer not to say' responses have been included in the analysis but are not presented in the narrative or the charts – therefore, figures may not sum to 100%. Data tables showing responses from all respondents are provided in Appendix 3. These tables include 'prefer not to say' responses.

Response rates and confidence intervals

- ∞ The UKCF-funded projects' survey data was exported on 18 November 2024 and included 721 linked baseline and midpoint/endline surveys. Of these, 386 were linked with the midpoint, and 335 with the endline.
- ∞ According to organisations' monitoring forms, as of 18 November 2024, 2,234 participants had finished their time on the project. This provides an approximate response rate of 32%¹³, and a margin of error of $\pm 3\%$ ¹⁴.
- ∞ 95% confidence intervals were calculated and are indicated by error bars on charts. They show the range that we are 95% confident the true value for the population falls between.
- ∞ Data was analysed at the area level where a combination of the following criteria were met: approximately 100 linked surveys, around 20% response rate, $\pm 5-9\%$ margin of error. Three local areas met these criteria: Blackpool, Stoke on Trent and Wolverhampton.
- ∞ Differences between groups (i.e., between volunteers and beneficiaries, and between all respondents and the respondents from Blackpool, Stoke on Trent and Wolverhampton) are reported where they are statistically significant. That means that the differences between results are unlikely to have occurred by chance.
- ∞ However, the three local areas should not be compared with each other. Community foundations awarded funding based on the needs and nuances of their local area, and the funded projects differed in their aims, objectives, target audience and delivery approaches.

The KYN Fund evaluation survey and national government surveys

- ∞ Survey questions relating to loneliness, wellbeing and pride in the local area were taken from national government surveys. Findings from these surveys are included when discussing the reach of the UKCF-funded KYN Fund projects for reference purposes only.

Interpreting the findings

The KYN Fund evaluation surveys collected data about **how** respondents feel about certain aspects of their life at that moment in time, but they do not ask respondents to explain **why** they feel that way. A counterfactual was not available at the time of writing, therefore, we

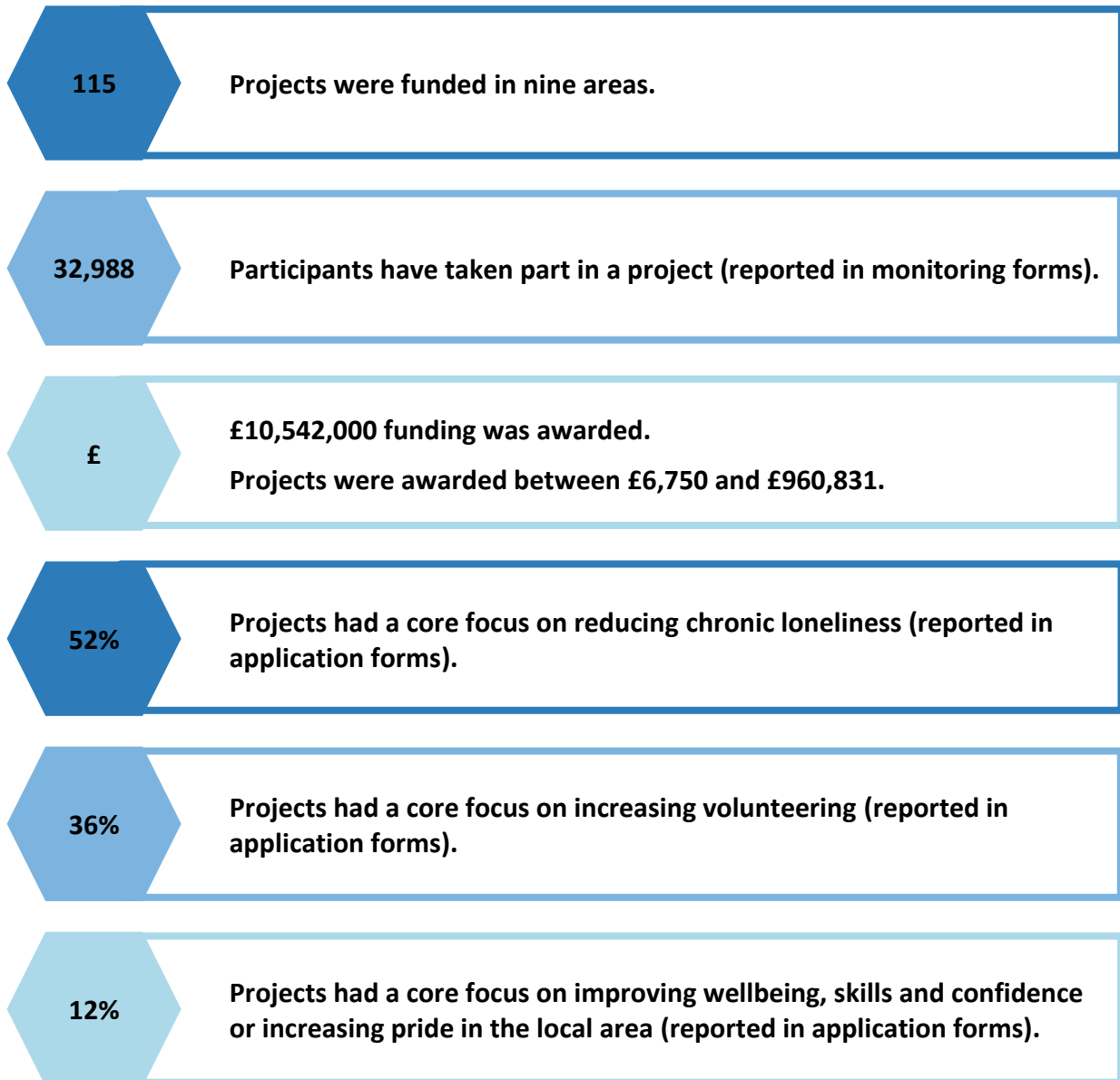
¹³ Response rates cannot be accurately calculated, as midpoint surveys were treated as endlines, and monitoring information wasn't collected on how many participants took part in the project for at least seven months.

¹⁴ The margin of error was calculated for 95% confidence, based on 721 linked surveys and a population size of 2,234.

cannot attribute causality, i.e. state that their participation in the KYN Fund project is the reason for these feelings. However, an open-ended question in the endline survey asked “How have you benefited from being involved in the project?” Analysis of these responses provided some evidence of the difference they feel the project has made to them.

3: ABOUT KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECTS

Overview of UKCF-funded KYN Fund projects in years 2 and 3



Appendix 4 profiles the projects funded by UKCF and community foundations in the nine areas.

4: REDUCING CHRONIC LONELINESS

A Know Your Neighbourhood Fund evaluation outcome was:

- ∞ People considered to be at risk of, or experiencing chronic loneliness, have increased levels of social connection.

Chronic loneliness is defined as ‘feeling lonely often or always’.

This section reports statistically significant results for the loneliness survey questions.

Measuring loneliness...

ONS recommends using the harmonised loneliness measure, which combines four questions to capture different aspects of loneliness directly and indirectly.

The first three questions are from the UCLA, and are referred to as ‘indirect’ survey questions:

- ∞ How often do you feel you lack companionship?
- ∞ How often do you feel left out?
- ∞ How often do you feel isolated from others?

Responses to these questions can be combined to create a loneliness score between three and nine; three being the least lonely and nine being the most.

The fourth question is a direct question that asks how often the respondent feels lonely:

- ∞ How often do you feel lonely?

In addition to the KYN Fund survey, all four questions are used in several national surveys, including the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing and the CLS.

UKCF-funded projects attracted people at risk of chronic loneliness...

The KYN Fund was designed to target those at risk of, or experiencing chronic loneliness. DCMS advised key groups, identified through research, as being at increased risk of chronic loneliness, which included young people (16-34), people with disability or long-term health condition, people with a mental health condition, people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT+), people in the lowest income quintile, people who live alone, new parents, people who are widowed, people who recently moved, people who are unemployed.

The baseline survey covered some of these factors and found that higher levels of groups that research identified as being at increased risk of chronic loneliness took part in a UKCF-funded project than are in the general population:

- ∞ 29% of participants were 16-34 years old, compared to 20% in the general population¹⁵.
- ∞ 56% of participants had a disability or long-term health condition, compared to 18% in the general population¹⁶.

¹⁵ [ONS population estimates 2023](#) [accessed 2 December 2025]

¹⁶ [Census 2021](#) [accessed 2 December 2025]

∞ 34% of participants had a mental health condition, compared to 23% in the general population¹⁷.

Projects successfully reached participants who are chronically lonely...

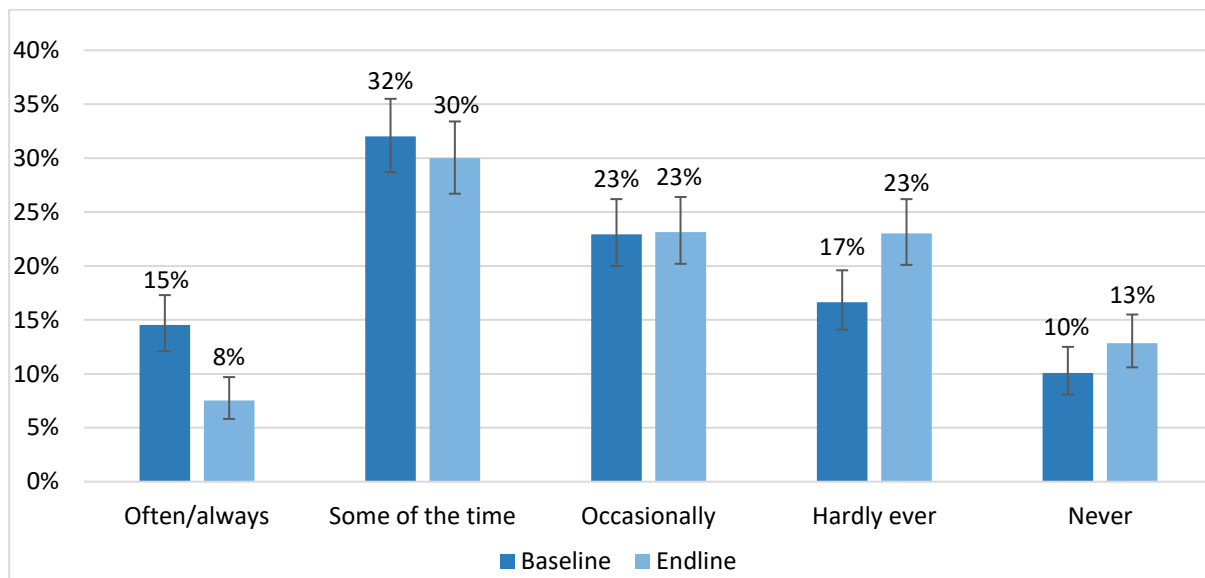
In the baseline survey, 15% of respondents said they were chronically lonely (feel lonely ‘often or always’). National findings from the CLS 2023/24 show that 7% of respondents said they feel lonely often or always.

Most respondents who were chronically lonely at the start, experienced loneliness less frequently at the end...

In the baseline survey, 15% of respondents said they were chronically lonely, this reduced to 8% in the endline survey.

Chart 4.1 shows how frequently respondents felt lonely in the baseline and endline surveys.

Chart 4.1: How often do you feel lonely?



72%

of respondents who identified as chronically lonely in the baseline survey, reported that they experienced loneliness less frequently in the endline survey.

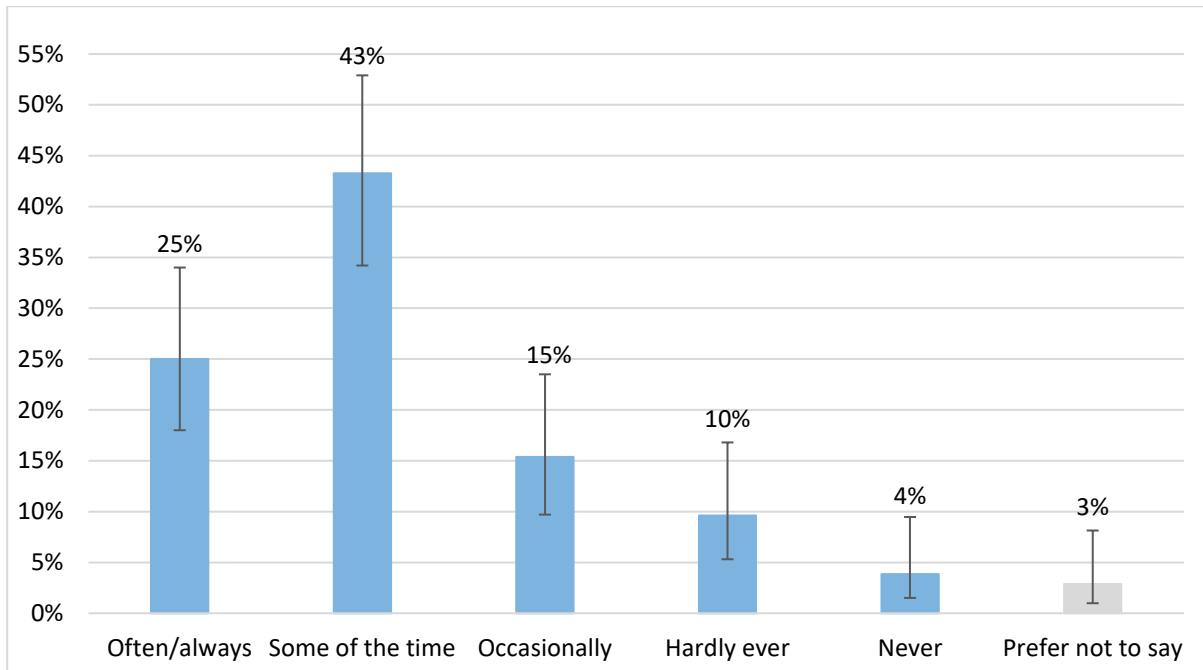
One-quarter of respondents who said they feel lonely often or always at the start, experienced loneliness at the same frequency at the end (25%).

A small percentage of respondents ended the project feeling chronically lonely, although they were not at the start (4%).

Chart 4.2 shows the change over time in how often respondents who identified as chronically lonely respondents at the start, experienced loneliness at the end.

¹⁷ [NatCen Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey 2023/24](#) [accessed 2 December 2025]

Chart 4.2: Change over time in how often respondents who identified as chronically lonely respondents at the start experienced loneliness at the end



Feelings of other aspects of loneliness were also reported less frequently at the end of the project ...

As noted above, responses to UCLA’s three ‘indirect’ survey questions can be combined to produce a score¹⁸. The lowest possible score is 3 (indicating less frequent loneliness) and the highest is 9 (indicating more frequent loneliness).

Nearly one in five respondents scored 8 or 9 in the baseline survey (17%). This dropped to 9% in the endline survey. National findings from the CLS 2023/24 show that 10% of respondents scored 8 or 9.

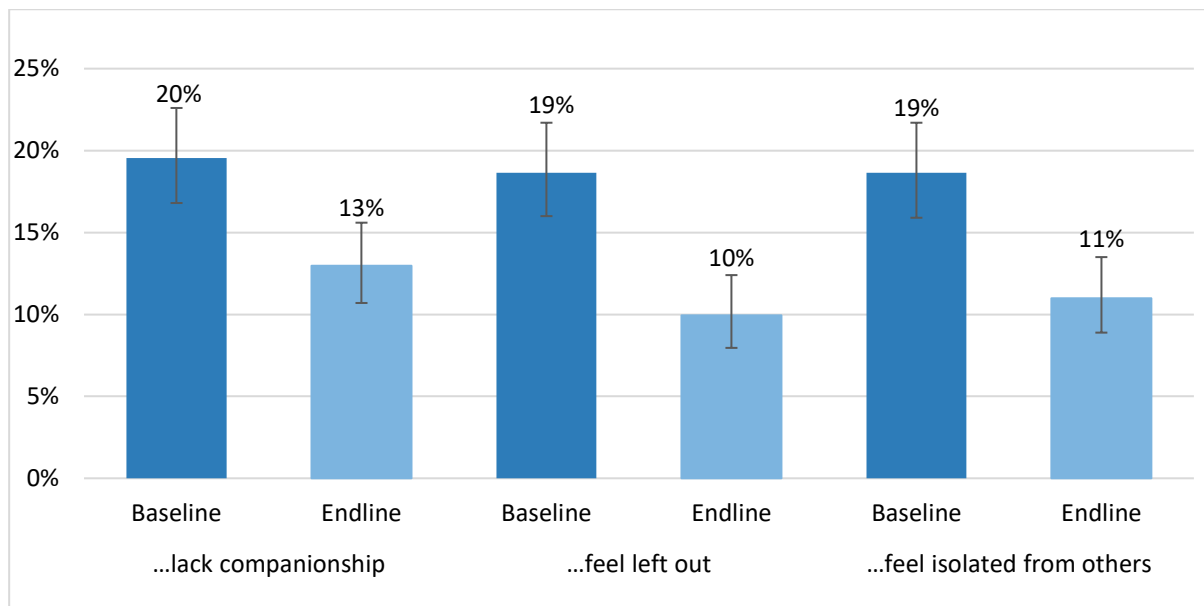
Of those who scored 8 or 9 in the baseline, 69% had a lower score at the end. This indicates that they experienced other aspects of loneliness less frequently.

Most respondents who often lacked companionship, felt left out and isolated from others at the start, experienced them less frequently at the end...

In the baseline survey, just fewer than one in five respondents said they often lacked companionship, felt left out and isolated from others. This reduced to around one in 10 in the endline survey.

¹⁸ For information about how this score is calculated, please visit: ONS (2018) [Measuring loneliness: guidance for use of the national indicators on surveys - Recommended measures for adults](#) [accessed 5 February 2025]

Chart 4.3: Percentage of respondents who often lack companionship, feel left out, and isolated from others



Of those who said they often experienced these aspects of loneliness in the baseline survey, the majority experienced them less frequently at the end, i.e., some of the time, or never.

61%

of respondents who reported that they often lacked companionship in the baseline survey, reported that they felt this way less frequently in the endline survey.

74%

of respondents who reported that they often felt left out in the baseline survey, reported that they felt this way less frequently in the endline survey.

66%

of respondents who reported that they often felt isolated from others in the baseline survey, reported that they felt this way less frequently in the endline survey.

There was no change for 35% of those who reported often lacking companionship, 31% of those who reported often feeling isolated from others, and 24% of those who reported often feeling left out.

The endline survey showed there were a small proportion of respondents who said they often felt these aspects of loneliness, although they didn't often feel that way at the start.

Table 4.1: Change amongst respondents who often felt aspects of loneliness at the start and at the end

	Felt lonely more frequently (Not 'often' in the baseline, and 'often' in the endline)	No change ('Often' in the baseline and endline)	Change from 'often' in the baseline to 'some of the time' in the endline	Change from 'often' in the baseline to 'hardly ever or never' in the endline
... lack companionship	8%	35%	44%	17%
... feel left out	6%	24%	52%	21%
... isolated from others	6%	31%	47%	20%

Fewer volunteers than beneficiaries felt chronically lonely at the start and the end, and both groups experienced a reduction during their time on the project...

The baseline survey showed that 11% of volunteers were chronically lonely when they joined the project, compared to 19% of beneficiaries.

The endline survey showed that 5% of volunteers were chronically lonely by the end, compared to 10% of beneficiaries.

Of those who identified as chronically lonely at the start, 77% of volunteers experienced loneliness less frequently at the end, compared to 72% of beneficiaries.

Fewer volunteers than beneficiaries often experienced other aspects of loneliness...

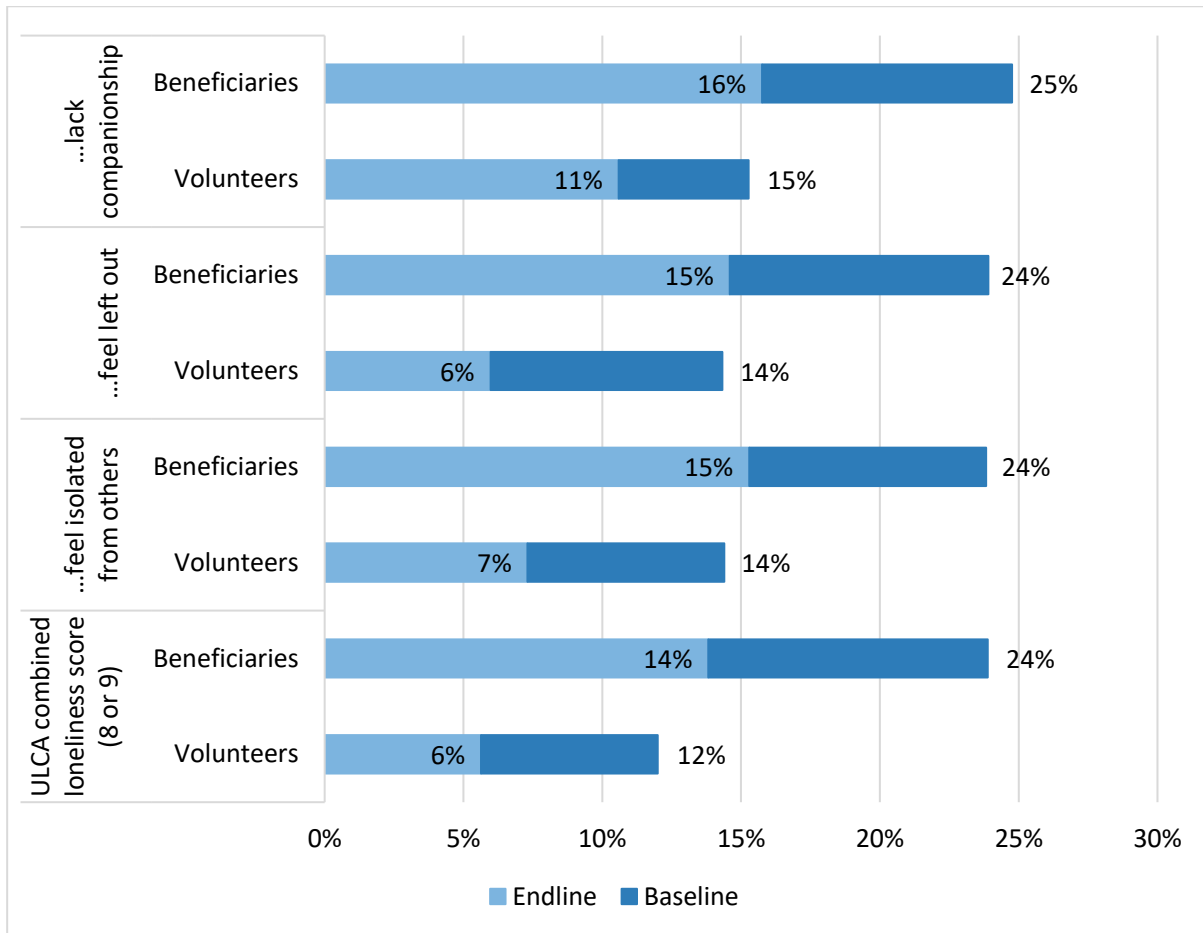
Fewer volunteers than beneficiaries reported that they often lack companionship, feel left out and isolated from others, as shown in Chart 4.4.

Furthermore, fewer volunteers than beneficiaries scored 8 or 9 (indicating more frequent loneliness) on the UCLA combined scores:

- ∞ 12% of volunteers scored 8 or 9 at baseline, compared to 24% of beneficiaries.
- ∞ 6% of volunteers scored 8 or 9 at endline, compared to 14% of beneficiaries.
- ∞ 81% of volunteers who scored 8 or 9 at baseline, had a lower score at the end, compared to 65% of beneficiaries.

Projects targeted participants to volunteer or at risk of, or experiencing, chronic loneliness. Therefore, it makes sense that we would see these differences.

Chart 4.4: Percentage of volunteers and beneficiaries who often lack companionship, feel left out and isolated from others



Most respondents agreed they have built connections with new people, and many said reduced loneliness or greater social connection has been a key benefit...

90%

of respondents agreed they have built connections with new people through this project.

When asked “How have you benefited from being involved in the project?”, 274 respondents (47% who provided an answer) mentioned they had met new people and/or formed lasting friendships.

"It has changed our lives! It was good mixing with people and I've made lots of friends."
(Volunteer)

"The group keeps my spirits lifted. I feel I belong and have formed many friendships."
(Participant)

"It's improved my social life." (Volunteer)

"It gets me out of the house and mixing with lots of nice people." (Participant)

"I only feel lonely at night but I feel like there are lots of KYN groups going on throughout the week. I have made new friends and become more confident in myself." (Volunteer)

"Making good connections and friends within the group. I had no friends before and this has greatly improved." (Participant)

"My confidence has increased and I feel part of a family. I am less lonely." (Volunteer)

5: INCREASING THE NUMBER OF FIRST TIME VOLUNTEERS

The Know Your Neighbourhood Fund aimed to:

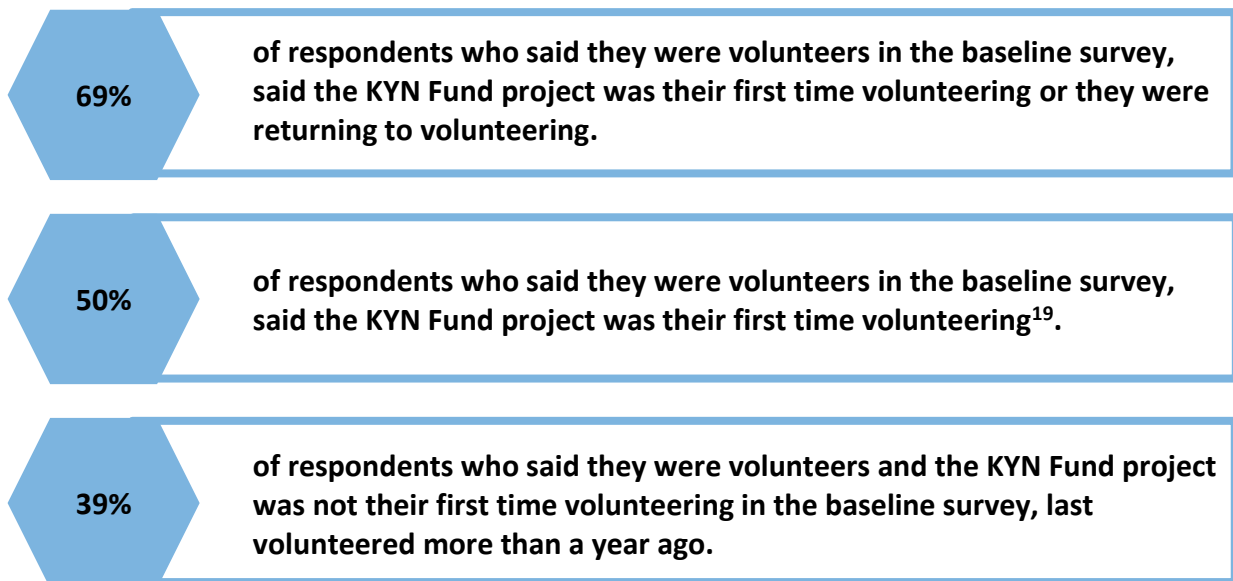
- ∞ Increase the proportion of people in targeted high deprivation local authorities who volunteer at least once a month.
- ∞ Increase the number of people volunteering for the first time or returning to volunteering.

This section reports statistically significant results for the volunteer survey questions.

Half of volunteers did so for the first time, and nearly two-fifths last volunteered more than a year ago...

55% of baseline respondents said they were volunteers; this decreased to 54% at the endline.

Of the respondents who started as a volunteer, 12% stopped at some point during the project and ended as a beneficiary. The same percentage started as a beneficiary and became a volunteer.



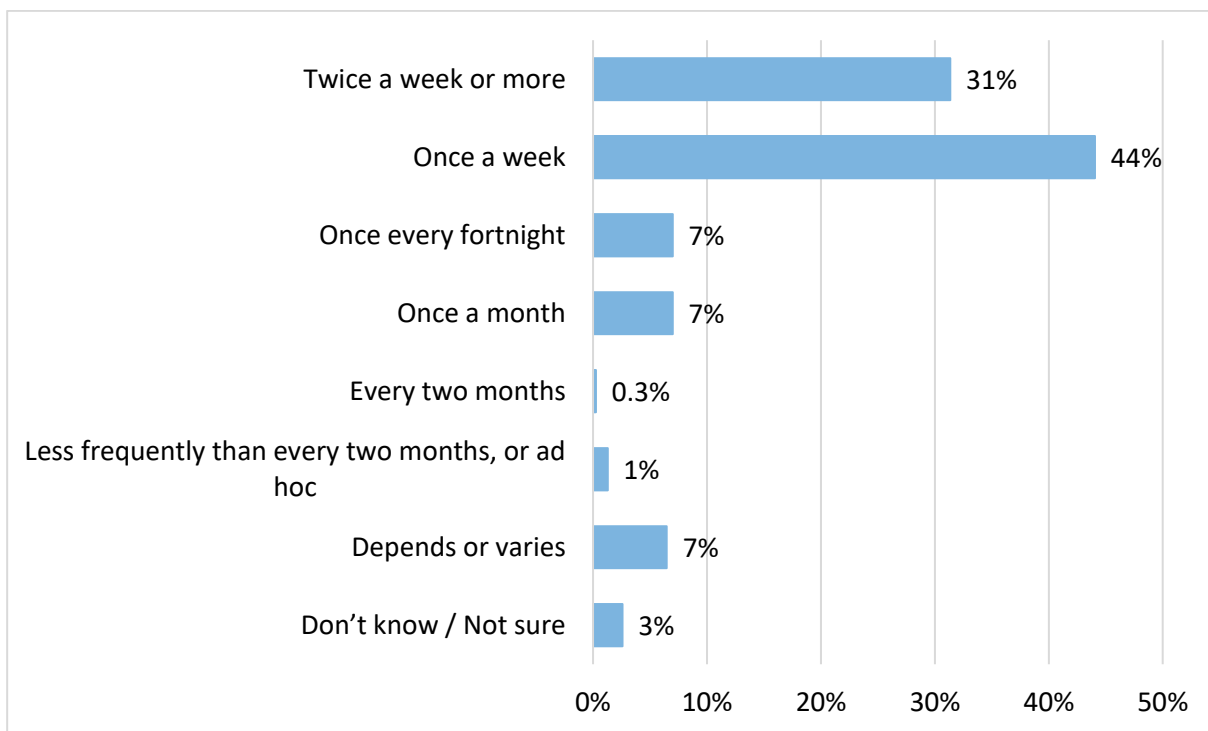
Of the baseline respondents who said they were volunteers and had volunteered before, most could be described as regular volunteers: one-third had volunteered at least once in the past month (34%) and one-fifth had volunteered at least once less than a year ago (20%).

¹⁹ 58% of Wolverhampton respondents who said they were volunteers in the baseline survey, said the KYN Fund project was their first time volunteering.

Most volunteered at least once a month on the KYN Fund project...

89% of respondents who said they were volunteers in the endline survey, volunteered at least once a month on the KYN Fund project, including 75% who volunteered weekly or more.

Chart 5.1: Frequency of volunteering (endline survey respondents)



... and most plan to volunteer again at least once a month on their next project...

76% of respondents who said they were volunteers in the endline survey, said they will volunteer again.

69% of respondents who said they were volunteers in the endline survey and who said they will volunteer again, said they will do so at least once a month, including 50% who said they will do so at least once a week.²⁰

²⁰ 89% of Wolverhampton respondents who said they were volunteers in the endline survey and said they will volunteer again, said they will do so at least once a month, including 81% who said they will do so at least once a week.
42% of Blackpool respondents who said they were volunteers in the endline survey and said they will volunteer again, said they will do so at least once a month, including 13% who said they will do so at least once a week.

A sense of purpose, belonging and helping others were key benefits of volunteering...

When asked “How have you benefited from being involved in the project?”, 114 respondents (20% who provided an answer) mentioned their volunteering role.

“This project helped me a lot because I used to feel quite sad that I was getting nowhere but with the support from [project], volunteering has really helped me focus on something positive and the steps I needed to take to get to my goal... They have really given me the confidence to progress with my life.” (Volunteer)

“Volunteering gives me a purpose, keeps me active, gives me worth, and keeps me involved socially.” (Volunteer)

“I feel I am making a difference in my community helping people who need support which makes me feel good.” (Volunteer)

“I’ve taken on a leadership role, by preparing a quiz and leading it in the group. This has helped with my confidence to start applying for volunteering roles and work, especially at food banks, because I think this will help in my neighbourhood.” (Volunteer)

6: IMPROVING WELLBEING

A Know Your Neighbourhood Fund evaluation outcome was:

∞ Participants have improved wellbeing.

This section reports statistically significant results for the wellbeing survey questions. Results that are not statistically significant are specified in the commentary.

Measuring personal wellbeing...

The ONS recommends using four questions to measure different aspects of personal wellbeing:

- ∞ How satisfied are you with your life nowadays?
- ∞ To what extent do you feel that the things you do in your life are worthwhile?
- ∞ How happy did you feel yesterday?
- ∞ How anxious did you feel yesterday?

Respondents answer on a scale from 0 (not at all) to 10 (completely). ONS present these scores as thresholds in defined response categories.

ONS classify responses for the first three questions into the following levels of wellbeing:

- ∞ 0-4 = low
- ∞ 5-6 = medium
- ∞ 7-8 = high
- ∞ 9-10 = very high

ONS classify responses for the fourth question about anxiety into the following levels:

- ∞ 0-1 = very low
- ∞ 2-3 = low
- ∞ 4-5 = medium
- ∞ 6-10 = high

It is important to note that lower scores denote 'low' levels of wellbeing for the first three questions. Conversely, a 'low' score on the anxiety question denotes a positive aspect of wellbeing.

In developing the questions, ONS undertook cognitive testing to understand how respondents choose their score on the 11-point scale, and what they considered to be 'very low', 'low', 'medium', 'high' and 'very high' ratings of personal wellbeing²¹.

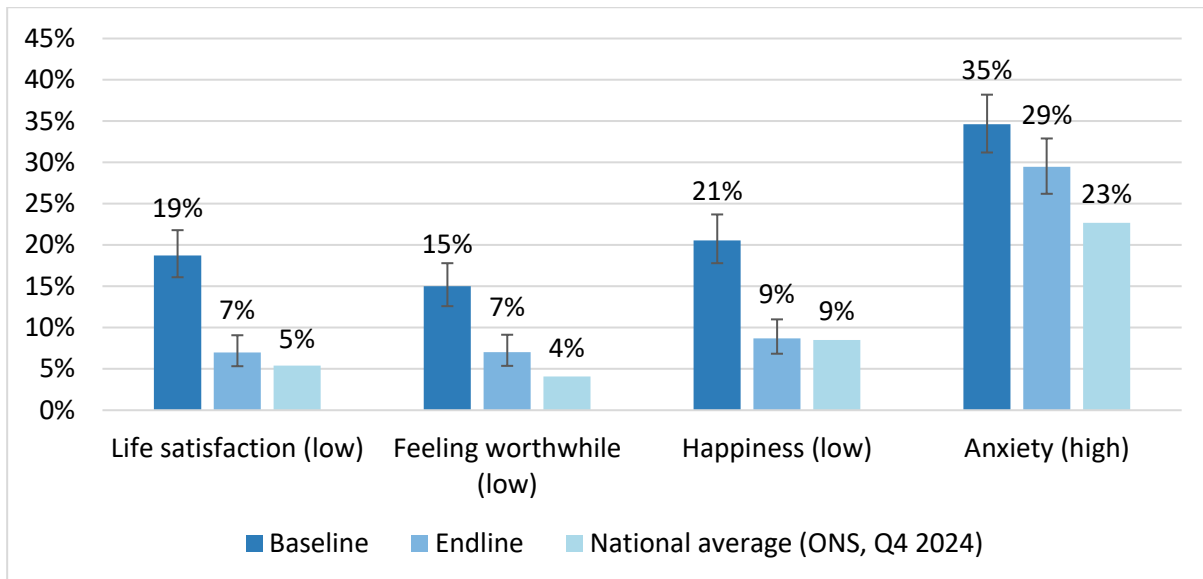
In addition to the KYN Fund survey, all four questions are used in several national surveys, including the Annual Population Survey and CLS.

²¹ More information about ONS' cognitive testing can be found in their report: [Overview of ONS phase three cognitive testing of subjective well-being questions](#). [accessed 13 May 2025]

The proportion of respondents with ‘low’ wellbeing and ‘high’ anxiety at the start reduced to similar to the national average by the end of the KYN Fund project...

More respondents reported ‘low’ levels of wellbeing and ‘high’ levels of anxiety in the baseline survey than did in the endline survey. Reported responses to the endline survey are similar to the national average²².

Chart 6.1: Percentage of respondents with low levels of wellbeing and high levels of anxiety in the baseline and endline surveys and the national average



Most respondents’ wellbeing and anxiety improved between the start and the end of the KYN Fund project...

75%

of those who reported ‘low’ levels of life satisfaction in the baseline survey, reported ‘medium’, ‘high’ or ‘very high’ in the endline survey.

76%

of those who reported ‘low’ levels of feeling that the things they do in life are worthwhile in the baseline survey, reported ‘medium’, ‘high’ or ‘very high’ in the endline survey.

75%

of those who reported ‘low’ levels of happiness in the baseline survey, reported ‘medium’, ‘high’ or ‘very high’ in the endline survey.

²² National averages refer to ONS national scores reported for October to December 2024 (Quarter 4).

58%

of respondents who reported 'high' levels of anxiety in the baseline survey, reported 'medium', 'low' or 'very low' in the endline survey.

Table 6.1: Change amongst respondents who had 'low' levels of personal wellbeing in the baseline and in the endline survey

	Decreased wellbeing (Change from 'medium', 'high' or 'very high' in the baseline to 'low' in the endline)	No change (('Low' in baseline and endline)	Increased wellbeing (Change from 'low' in baseline to 'medium' in endline)	Increased wellbeing (Change from 'low' in baseline to 'high' in endline)	Increased wellbeing (Change from 'low' in baseline to 'very high' in endline)
Satisfaction with life	3%	25%	38%	25%	11%
Feel things in life are worthwhile	4%	24%	40%	20%	17%
Felt happy yesterday	5%	23%	37%	22%	16%

Table 6.2 Change amongst respondents who had 'high' levels of anxiety in the baseline and in the endline

	Increased anxiety (Change from 'very low', 'low' or 'medium' in the baseline to 'high' in the endline)	No change (('High' in baseline and endline)	Decreased anxiety (Change from 'high' in baseline to 'medium' in endline)	Decreased anxiety (Change from 'high' in baseline to 'low' in endline)	Decreased anxiety (Change from 'high' in baseline to 'very low' in endline)
Felt anxious yesterday	24%	41%	19%	17%	21%

Volunteers tended to report higher levels of wellbeing than beneficiaries, and both groups reported an improvement during their time on the project...

- ∞ **Happiness:** At the start, more beneficiaries than volunteers reported low levels of happiness (24% compared to 17%). At the end, both had reduced to 9% and 8% respectively.
- ∞ **Feeling worthwhile:** At the start, more beneficiaries than volunteers reported low levels of feeling worthwhile (19% compared to 12%). At the end, both had reduced to 8% and 6% respectively.
- ∞ **Feeling satisfied with life:** At the start, more beneficiaries than volunteers reported low levels of satisfaction with life (21% compared to 17%). At the end, both had reduced to 8% and 6% respectively. However, none of the difference between beneficiaries and volunteers were statistically significant.
- ∞ **Anxious:** At the start, more beneficiaries than volunteers reported high levels of anxiety (37% compared to 33% - although this was not statistically significant). At the end, beneficiaries had reduced to 36%, and volunteers had reduced to 24%.

Respondents reported that projects have improved their wellbeing by providing a sense of purpose and encouraging connections...

When asked “How have you benefited from being involved in the project?”, 107 respondents (18% who provided an answer) mentioned that some aspect of their wellbeing had improved.

“I am living the best life I can hope for.” (Volunteer)

“My life at the moment is extremely good. I have gone from strength to strength throughout my programme and I am very satisfied with where my life is leading.” (Volunteer)

“Improvement to my mental health, lower anxiety. It’s given me a reason to get up and get on, which some days is a real problem.” (Participant)

“I feel much happier and healthier when involved in group activities. It can make such a difference to quality of life and to one's health.” (Volunteer)

“Getting me out and about and mixing with other people helps with my mental health.” (Volunteer)

7: IMPROVING SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE

A Know Your Neighbourhood Fund evaluation outcome was:

∞ Participants have improved their skills and/or confidence.

This section reports statistically significant results for the skills and confidence survey questions. Results that are not statistically significant are specified in the commentary.

Measuring skills and confidence...

General statement questions were used to capture respondents' perceptions of their skills and confidence. These measures were developed for the KYN Fund evaluation survey.

Skills

In the endline survey, participants were asked:

∞ Which of the following skills have you used during the project?

- Communication skills
- Leadership skills
- Problem solving
- Using your creativity
- Working with others OR team working skills

∞ How much do you agree with the following statements:

- I have developed my skills as a result of this project.
- I have made improvements to my local area because of the skills I have developed on the project.

Confidence

Confidence is made up of different elements. To measure this concept and changes over time, respondents were asked to respond to five questions on a scale from 0 (not confident at all) to 10 (extremely confident). How confident do you feel about your ability to:

- ∞ ... work with other people?
- ∞ ... deal with problems?
- ∞ ... communicate with others?
- ∞ ... use your creativity in your daily life?
- ∞ ... take on responsibility in your daily life?

Responses were classified into the same levels that ONS uses for the wellbeing (see Chapter 6):

- ∞ 0-4 = low
- ∞ 5-6 = medium
- ∞ 7-8 = high

∞ 9-10 = very high

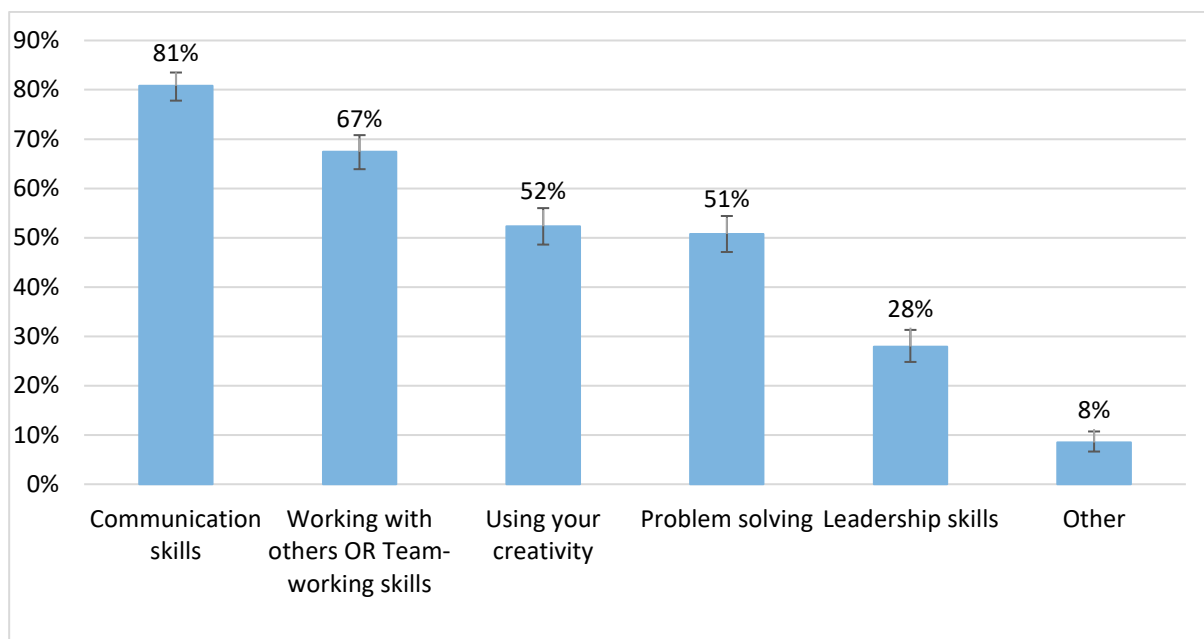
Most respondents agreed they have developed their skills: communication was the most common...

83% of respondents in the endline survey agreed they have developed their skills as a result of this project.

62% of respondents in the endline survey agreed they have made improvements to their local area as a result of the skills they have developed on the project.

Nearly three-fifths of respondents used at least three skills during the project (58%). The most frequently reported were communication, working with others or team-working skills, and using their creativity.

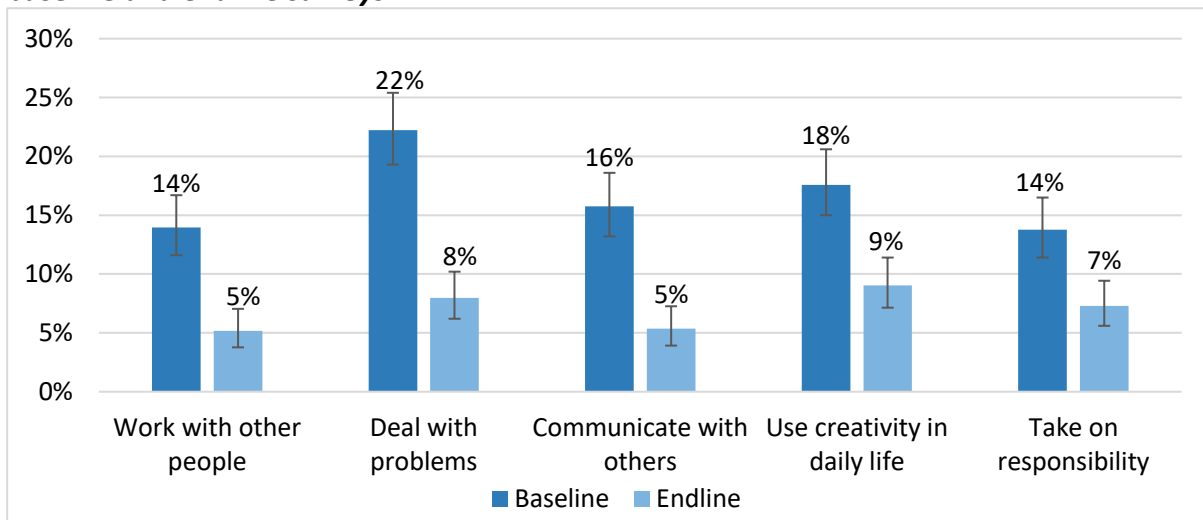
Chart 7.1: Percentage of respondents using skills during the project (endline survey respondents)



The proportion of respondents with ‘low’ confidence in their abilities at the start reduced by the end of the project...

In the baseline survey, at least one in eight respondents reported ‘low’ confidence in various abilities. More respondents reported ‘low’ confidence in their ability to deal with problems than the other abilities (22%). This decreased to less than one in ten across all the abilities in the endline survey.

Chart 7.2: Percentage of respondents with ‘low’ levels of confidence in their abilities in the baseline and endline surveys.



Most respondents who reported ‘low’ confidence in their abilities at the beginning of the project had greater confidence at the end...

Of the respondents who reported ‘low’ confidence in their abilities in the baseline survey, most reported an increase in their confidence levels in the endline survey. The greatest change was amongst respondents who started with ‘low’ confidence in their ability to work with other people: 79% reported an improvement in the endline survey.

Table 7.1: Change amongst respondents who had ‘low’ levels of confidence in their abilities in the baseline and in the endline

	Decreased confidence (Change from ‘medium’, ‘high’ or ‘very high’ in the baseline to ‘low’ in the endline)	No change (‘Low’ in baseline and endline)	Increased confidence (Change from ‘low’ in baseline to ‘medium’ in endline)	Increased confidence (Change from ‘low’ in baseline to ‘high’ in endline)	Increased confidence (Change from ‘low’ in baseline to ‘very high’ in endline)
Work with other people	3%	19%	31%	36%	12%
Deal with problems	3%	25%	40%	24%	9%
Communicate with others	2%	21%	34%	32%	11%
Use creativity in daily life	6%	22%	35%	25%	17%
Take on responsibility in daily life	4%	29%	31%	30%	8%

Volunteers were more likely to have used several skills than beneficiaries, and both groups reported an improvement in confidence during their time on the project...

Two-thirds of volunteers used at least three skills during the project (66%), compared to nearly half of beneficiaries (49%).

More beneficiaries reported low levels of confidence than volunteers at the start and at the end. Both groups made improvements, and by the end, results were so similar that the only statistically significant difference between beneficiaries and volunteers was for **dealing with problems**: At the start, 34% of beneficiaries reported low levels of confidence dealing with problems compared to 13% of volunteers. At the end, both had reduced to 9% and 7% respectively.

Working with other people: At the start, 20% of beneficiaries reported low levels of confidence working with other people compared to 9% of volunteers. At the end, both had reduced to 6% and 4% respectively, which was not a statistically significant difference.

Communicating with others: At the start, 23% of beneficiaries reported low levels of confidence communicating with others compared to 10% of volunteers. At the end, both had reduced to 6% and 4% respectively, which was not a statistically significant difference.

Using your creativity: At the start, 22% of beneficiaries reported low levels of confidence using their creativity compared to 14% of volunteers. At the end, both had reduced to 10% and 8% respectively, which was not a statistically significant difference.

Taking on responsibility: At the start, 19% of beneficiaries reported low levels of confidence taking on responsibility compared to 9% of volunteers. At the end, both had reduced to 8% and 7% respectively, which was not a statistically significant difference.

Respondents reported that projects have helped them improve a range of skills and boosted their confidence...

When asked “How have you benefited from being involved in the project?”, 168 respondents (29% who provided an answer) mentioned skills they had developed. This included skills for employment, hobbies and general life skills.

More confidence and/or better communication skills were mentioned by 153 respondents (26% who provided an answer).

“Since I have been involved in the project, I have gained work skills and a good work ethic. I feel I am so much more employable than before.” (Volunteer)

“Since joining the project, I have grown in confidence and engaging with new people. My confidence has grown so much that I have ended up getting employment as a Lived Experience Coach.” (Volunteer)

“My public speaking, working in a team and overall confidence has grown as a result of the course. I learnt new skills and developed connections that have helped me in numerous situations and I’m greatly appreciative for the opportunity.” (Volunteer)

“The project has massively improved my confidence and communication skills. Working alongside others, I have learned new skills, and I have been completely supported by others in the group. I have made friends for life.” (Volunteer)

“My confidence is back. I’m thriving. I’m less angry. I’m able to take responsibility for things. Overall, I’m very happy.” (Volunteer)

“My confidence has grown, and I believe in myself more. I genuinely believe I make a difference. I’ve met some great people and formed new friendships.” (Volunteer)

8: INCREASING PRIDE IN THE LOCAL AREA

A Know Your Neighbourhood Fund evaluation outcome was:

- ∞ Participants have increased social cohesion and pride in the local area.

This section reports statistically significant results for the pride in the local area survey questions. Results that are not statistically significant are specified in the commentary.

Measuring pride in the local area...

Three questions from the CLS 2023/24 were used to measure different aspects of pride in the local area:

- ∞ How strongly do you feel you belong to your immediate neighbourhood? Please think of the area within a few minutes walking distance from your home.
 - Very strongly / Fairly strongly / Not very strongly / Not at all strongly
- ∞ To what extent would you agree or disagree that people in your neighbourhood pull together to improve the neighbourhood?
 - Definitely agree / Tend to agree / Tend to disagree / Definitely disagree / Nothing needs improving
- ∞ Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your local area as a place to live? Please think of the area within 15-20 minutes walking distance from your home.
 - Very satisfied / Fairly satisfied / Neither satisfied or dissatisfied / Fairly dissatisfied / Very dissatisfied

At the end of the project, nearly two-thirds of respondents felt that they belonged to their immediate neighbourhood...

The baseline survey showed that over half of respondents felt that they 'fairly strongly' or 'very strongly' belonged to their immediate neighbourhood (53%). This increased to 64% in the endline survey.

Nearly half of respondents who reported that they didn't have a strong sense of belonging in the baseline, reported an increased sense of belonging in the endline (46%), as shown in Table 8.1.

Table 8.1: Change in perception of feelings of belonging between the start and end of the project

Increased perception of belonging (Change from 'not very strongly' or 'not at all strongly' in the baseline, to 'fairly strongly' or 'very strongly' in the endline)	46%
Decreased perception of belonging (Change from 'fairly' or 'very strongly' in the baseline, to 'not very strongly' or 'not at all strongly' in the endline)	14%

At the end of the project, two-thirds of respondents agreed that people in the neighbourhood pull together to improve the neighbourhood...

The baseline survey showed that nearly half of respondents agreed that people in the neighbourhood pull together to improve the neighbourhood (48%). This increased to 60% in the endline survey.

Over four-fifths of respondents who disagreed that people pull together to improve the neighbours in the baseline, reported an increased sense of belonging in the endline (44%), as shown in Table 8.2.

Table 8.2: Change in perception of feelings that people in the neighbourhood pull together to improve the neighbourhood between the start and end of the project

Increased agreement that people pull together to improve the neighbourhood (Change from 'tend to disagree' or 'definitely disagree' in the baseline, to 'tend to agree' or 'definitely agree' in the endline)	44%
Decreased agreement that people pull together to improve the neighbourhood (Change from 'tend to agree' or 'definitely agree' in the baseline, to 'tend to disagree' or 'definitely disagree' in the endline)	16%

At the end of the project, nearly three-quarters of respondents were satisfied with their local area as a place to live...

The baseline survey showed that over three-fifths of respondents were satisfied with their local area (62%). This increased to 73% in the endline.

Over half of respondents who were dissatisfied in the baseline, reported that they were satisfied in the endline (54%), as shown in Table 8.3.

Table 8.3: Change in perception of satisfaction with the local area between the start and end of the project

Increased satisfaction (Change from 'fairly' or 'very dissatisfied' at the start, to 'fairly' or 'very satisfied' at the end)	54%
Decreased satisfaction (Change from 'fairly' or 'very satisfied' at the start, to 'fairly' or 'very dissatisfied' at the end)	4%

Volunteers tended to report a greater sense of pride in their local area than beneficiaries, and both groups reported an improvement during the project...

Volunteers were more positive than beneficiaries at the start and the end, and both groups reported an increased proportion with positive perceptions in the end.

Belonging to the immediate neighbourhood: At the start, 58% of volunteers reported that they strongly feel that they belong to their neighbourhood, compared to 48% of beneficiaries. At the end, both had increased to 68% and 59% respectively.

Satisfaction with local area as a place to live: At the start, 66% of volunteers reported that they are satisfied with their local area as a place to live, compared to 57% of beneficiaries. At the end, both had increased to 77% and 67% respectively.

People pull together to improve their neighbourhood: At the start 51% of volunteers reported that they agree that people pull together to improve their neighbourhood, compared to 44% of beneficiaries – although this difference was not statistically significant. At the end both had increased to 65% and 53% respectively.

Projects have helped respondents feel like they belong to a community...

When asked “How have you benefited from being involved in the project?”, 56 respondents (10% of who provided an answer) mentioned making a positive difference to the community or achieving a sense of belonging – although for most this related to the community at the project, and not necessarily the physical neighbourhood.

“I feel I am making a difference in my community: helping people who need support, which makes me feel good.” (Volunteer)

“It is lovely feeling being part of something, ‘belonging’.” (Volunteer)

“I feel part of the community and like I have people I can rely on – I didn't before this group.” (Beneficiary)

“The project has given me something to look forward to, a sense of routine and a sense of belonging, which is incredibly important to me as I am currently unemployed. I feel more connected to this neighbourhood and feel like I've got purpose in my life by volunteering here.” (Beneficiary)

9: CONCLUSIONS

The results from the evaluation surveys provide positive indications that the KYN Fund was successful in achieving key outcomes for the participants of the UKCF-funded projects. Findings reported in this section are statistically significant.

UKCF-funded projects attracted people at risk of chronic loneliness...

Higher levels of groups that research identified as being at increased risk of chronic loneliness took part in a UKCF-funded project than are in the general population:

- ∞ 29% of participants were 16-34 years old, compared to 20% in the general population²³.
- ∞ 56% of participants had a disability or long-term health condition, compared to 18% in the general population²⁴.
- ∞ 34% of participants had a mental health condition, compared to 23% in the general population²⁵.

People considered to be at risk of, or experiencing chronic loneliness, have increased levels of social connection:

- ∞ 72% of respondents who were chronically lonely at the start, experienced loneliness less frequently at the end.

Projects have attracted people to volunteer for the first time – or return to volunteering – and to volunteer at least once a month:

- ∞ 55% of baseline respondents said they were volunteers on the KYN Fund project.
- ∞ 50% of respondents who said they were volunteers on the KYN Fund project in the baseline survey, said the KYN Fund project was their first time volunteering.
- ∞ 39% of respondents who said they were volunteers on the KYN Fund project in the baseline survey, and said this was not their first time volunteering, said that they began volunteering again on the KYN Fund project after stopping for a year or more.
- ∞ 89% of respondents who said they were volunteers on the KYN Fund project in the endline survey, said they have volunteered at least once a month on the KYN Fund project, including 75% who volunteered weekly or more.

Participants have improved wellbeing:

- ∞ At least three-quarters of respondents who reported 'low' levels of wellbeing in the baseline survey, reported an improvement in the endline survey, including:
 - 76% who reported low levels of feeling that the things they do in life are worthwhile;
 - 75% who reported low levels of life satisfaction;

²³ [ONS population estimates 2023](#) [accessed 2 December 2025]

²⁴ [Census 2021](#) [accessed 2 December 2025]

²⁵ [NatCen Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey 2023/24](#) [accessed 2 December 2025]

- 75% who reported low levels of happiness.
- ∞ 58% of respondents who reported 'high' levels of anxiety in the baseline survey, reported 'medium', 'low' or 'very low' in the endline survey.

Participants have improved their skills and/or confidence:

- ∞ Over two-thirds of respondents who had 'low' confidence (a score of 0-4) in their abilities in the baseline survey, reported an improvement (a score of 5 or more) in the endline survey:
 - 79% who reported 'low' confidence in working with other people;
 - 77% who reported 'low' confidence in using creativity;
 - 76% who reported 'low' confidence in communicating with others;
 - 73% who reported 'low' confidence in dealing with problems;
 - 68% who reported 'low' confidence in taking on responsibility.

Participants have increased social cohesion and pride in the local area:

- ∞ 54% of respondents who reported that they were dissatisfied with their neighbourhood in the baseline survey, reported that they were satisfied in the endline survey.
- ∞ 46% of respondents who reported that they didn't feel a strong sense of belonging in the baseline survey, reported that they did have a strong sense of belonging in the endline survey.
- ∞ 44% of respondents who reported that they disagreed that people in the neighbourhood pull together to improve the neighbourhood in the baseline survey, reported that they agreed in the endline survey.

Respondents reported that taking part in the KYN Fund project has made a positive difference to them...

The survey didn't ask questions about why respondents gave their answers, and so we cannot determine the reasons these improvements have occurred. However, three questions in the endline survey specifically asked about the impact of the projects. Responses show that involvement in the project has been positive:

- ∞ 90% agreed that they have built connections with new people through this project.
- ∞ 83% agreed they have developed their skills because of the project.
- ∞ 62% agreed they have made improvements to their local area because of the skills they have developed on the project.

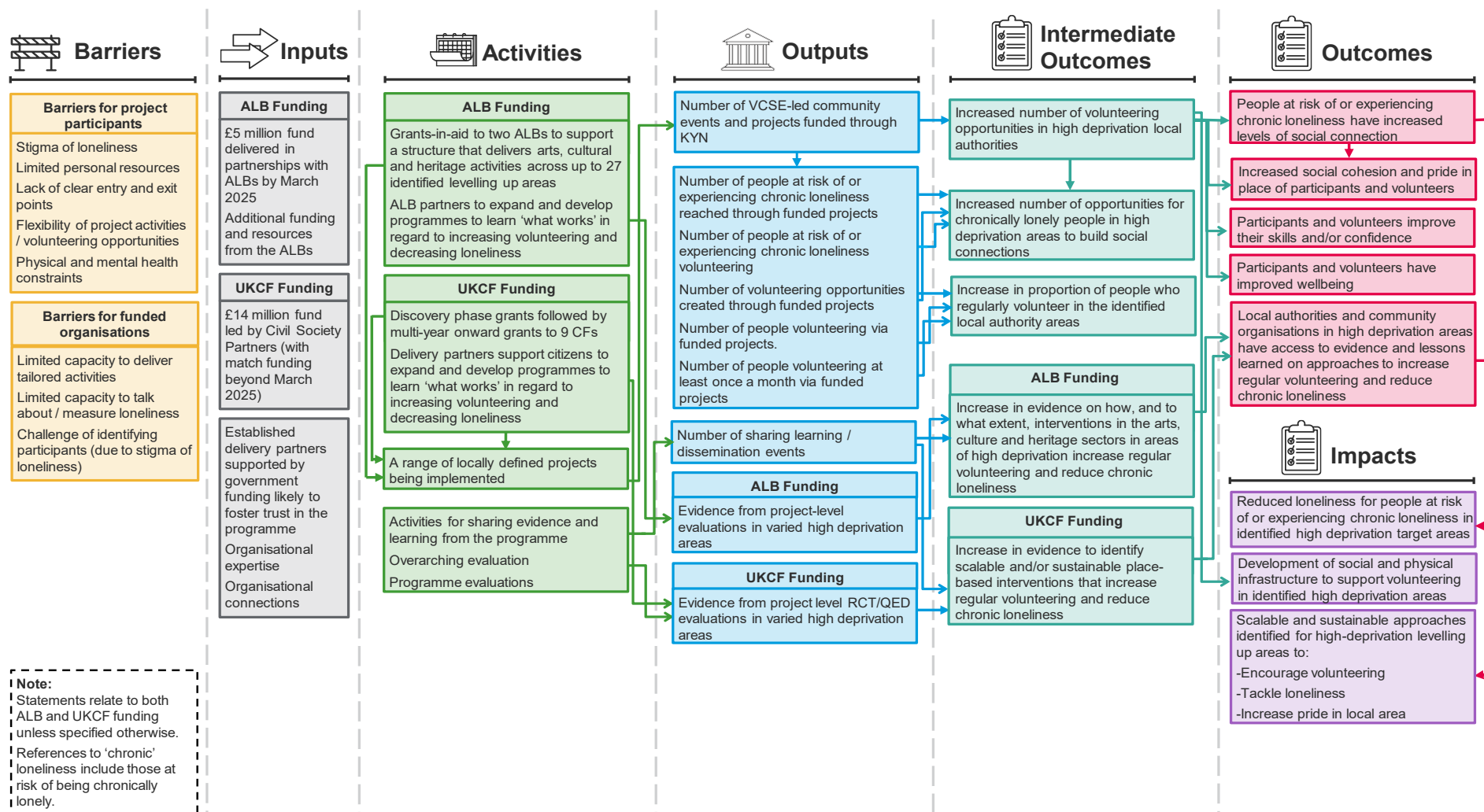
Furthermore, when asked "How have you benefited from being involved in the project?", hundreds of respondents cited the positive difference the project has made to them.

“The project has massively improved my confidence and communication skills. Working alongside others, I have learned new skills and I have been completely supported by others in the group. I have made friends for life.” (Volunteer)

“The project has given me something to look forward to, a sense of routine and a sense of belonging, which is incredibly important to me as I am currently unemployed. I feel more connected to this neighbourhood and feel like I've got purpose in my life by volunteering here.” (Volunteer)

“Since losing my fiancé to a heart attack, this project has helped me get through that loss, by being with other people who are happy and caring. I've joined other groups at the centre, as well as volunteering for adults with learning difficulties like myself, that are also part of this project.” (Volunteer)

APPENDIX 1: KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND THEORY OF CHANGE



Source: Department for Culture, Media and Sport

APPENDIX 2: SURVEY SCRIPTS

Please note, this appendix presents the questions in the baseline survey. Differences in the midpoint and endline surveys have been indicated.

Introduction – baseline survey

Thank you for agreeing to take part in the Know Your Neighbourhood evaluation by completing this short survey.

We want to understand if your feelings change during your time on the project, and so we would like to ask you questions again at the end – and maybe in the middle too.

These first questions are only included to help us link your answers from the start, middle and end surveys. They will be stored separately from the rest of your responses and will not be used to identify you.

Introduction – midpoint survey

Thank you for agreeing to take part in the Know Your Neighbourhood evaluation by completing this short survey.

You may remember completing a similar survey at the start of the project. We want to understand if your feelings are changing during your time on the project, and so we would like to ask you some of these questions again. We will also ask you these questions at the end of your time on the project.

These first questions are only included to help us link your answers from the start, middle and end surveys. They will be stored separately from the rest of your responses and will not be used to identify you.

Introduction – endline survey

Thank you for agreeing to take part in the Know Your Neighbourhood evaluation by completing this short survey.

You may remember completing a similar survey at the start of the project. You may also have completed another survey mid-way through your time on the project. This is the final survey we would like you to complete now that your time on the project has come to an end. The survey is about how you feel since being involved in the project.

These first questions are only included to help us link your answers from the start, middle and end surveys. They will be stored separately from the rest of your responses and will not be used to identify you.

1. What is your name? (open text)
2. What is your surname? (open text)
3. What is your date of birth? → Please use the format DD/MM/YYYY, i.e. 01/01/1980

The next questions help us understand when you joined the project and what you are doing.

4. Roughly when did you join the project? Please use your best guess if you can't remember exactly. → Please use the format DD/MM/YYYY, i.e. 01/08/2023

– This question was not asked in the midpoint or endline surveys.

5. Some people may be taking part in the project as a volunteer. By 'volunteer' we mean someone who willingly offers their time for free to carry out tasks that will benefit others. Are you taking part in this project as a volunteer? → Please select one.

Yes → Please go to Q6.

No → Please go to Q10.

These questions are about volunteering.

6. Is this your first time volunteering? → Please select one.

– Endline survey: Was this project your first time volunteering?

Yes → Please go to Q8.

No → Please go to Q7.

7. When did you last volunteer? → Please select one.

In the past month

Less than a year ago

1-2 years ago

More than 2 years ago

Can't remember / Not sure

8. How long do you think you will volunteer on this project? → Please select one.

– Endline survey: How long did you volunteer on this project?

Less than a month

1-2 months

3-6 months

More than six months

Don't know / Not sure

9. How often do you think you will volunteer with this project? → Please select one.

– Endline survey: How often did you volunteer on this project?

Twice a week or more

Once a week

Once every fortnight

Once a month

Every two months

- ∞ Less frequently than every two months, or ad hoc
- ∞ Depends or varies
- ∞ Don't know / Not sure

- Endline survey asks two additional questions about volunteering:
- Do you plan to volunteer again after the current experience? → Please select one.
 - Yes – sometimes / not regularly
 - Yes – regularly
 - No → Please go to Q11.
 - Don't know / Not sure
- How often do you think you will volunteer on your next project? → Please select one
 - Twice a week or more
 - Once a week
 - Once every fortnight
 - Once a month
 - Every two months
 - Less frequently than every two months, or ad hoc
 - Depends or varies
 - Don't know / Not sure

The next questions are about how you feel about different aspects of your life and your experiences on the project. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is 'not at all' and 10 is 'completely', overall...

10. How satisfied are you with your life nowadays?
11. To what extent do you feel that the things you do in your life are worthwhile?
12. How happy did you feel yesterday?
13. How anxious did you feel yesterday?
14. How often do you feel you lack companionship? → Please select one.
 - ∞ Hardly ever or never
 - ∞ Some of the time
 - ∞ Often
 - ∞ Prefer not to say
15. How often do you feel left out? → Please select one.
 - ∞ Hardly ever or never
 - ∞ Some of the time
 - ∞ Often
 - ∞ Prefer not to say
16. How often do you feel isolated from others? → Please select one.
 - ∞ Hardly ever or never
 - ∞ Some of the time
 - ∞ Often

Prefer not to say

17. How often do you feel lonely? → Please select one.

Often / always

Some of the time

Occasionally

Hardly ever

Never knew

Prefer not to say

18. Which of the following skills do you think you will use during the project? → Please select all that apply to you.

– Endline survey: Which of the following skills have you used during the project?

Communication skills

Leadership skills

Problem solving

Using your creativity

Working with others OR team working skills

Other

Prefer not to say

– Endline survey asks two additional questions about skills:

– Thinking about the above statements, how much do you agree with following statements? → Please select one.

▪ I have developed my skills as a result of this project

▪ I have made improvements to my local area as a result of the skills I have developed on this project

▪ I have built connections with new people through this project

– Answer options are:

▪ Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree / Prefer not to say

On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is 'not confident at all' and 10 is 'extremely confident', these days, how confident do you feel about your ability to...

19. Work with other people

20. Deal with problems

21. Communicate with others

22. Use your creativity in daily life

23. Take on responsibility in your daily life

24. How strongly do you feel you belong to your immediate neighbourhood? Please think of the area within a few minutes walking distance from your home. → Please select one.

Very strongly

- Fairly strongly
- Not very strongly
- Not at all strongly
- Prefer not to say

25. To what extent would you agree or disagree that people in your neighbourhood pull together to improve the neighbourhood? → Please select one

- Definitely agree
- Tend to agree
- Tend to disagree
- Definitely disagree
- Nothing needs improving
- Prefer not to say

26. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your local area as a place to live? Please think of the area within 15-20 minutes walking distance from your home. → Please select one.

- Very satisfied
- Fairly satisfied
- Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
- Fairly dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Prefer not to say

27. Please let us know why you joined the project, and how you hope you will benefit from being involved. [Open-ended.]

- Endline: Please let us know how you benefited from being involved in the project.

About you

We want to understand whether feelings and experiences vary between different types of people. Therefore, these last few questions are about you. Completing these questions is really important to help us understand which projects work best for different types of people. Therefore, we hope you'll answer them all, but please select the 'prefer not to say' option if you do not want to respond.

28. How old are you? → Please select one.

- 0-15
- 16-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75-84
- 85+
- Prefer not to say

29. What is your sex? → Please select one. A question about gender identity follows next.

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

30. Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth? → Please select one.

- Yes → Please go to Q32.
- No → Please go to Q31.
- Prefer not to say

31. If the gender you identify with is not the same as your sex registered at birth, please let us know your gender identity: [Open-ended.]

32. What is your ethnic group? → Please select one.

- Asian/ Asian British: Bangladeshi
- Asian/ Asian British: Chinese
- Asian/ Asian British: Indian Does your condition(s) or illness(es) reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities? Please select one.
- Asian/ Asian British: Pakistani
- Asian/ Asian British: Any other background
- Black/black British: African
- Black/black British: Caribbean

- Black/black British: Any other black background
- Mixed race: white and Asian
- Mixed race: white and black African
- Mixed race: white and black Caribbean
- Mixed race: Any other mixed background
- White British
- White Irish
- White: Any other background
- Any other ethnic group
- Prefer not to say

33. Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expecting to last 12 months or more? → Please select one.

- Yes → Please go to Q34.
- No → Please go to Q35.
- Prefer not to say → Please go to Q35.

34. Does your condition(s) or illness(es) reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities? → Please select one.

- Yes, a lot
- Yes, a little
- No
- Prefer not to say
- Not applicable

35. Do you have any health conditions or illnesses which affect you in any of the following areas? → Please select all that apply.

- Vision (for example blindness or partial sight)
- Hearing (for example deafness or partial hearing)
- Mobility (for example walking short distances or climbing stairs)
- Dexterity (for example lifting and carrying objects, using a keyboard)
- Learning or understanding or concentrating
- Memory
- Mental health
- Stamina or breathing or fatigue
- Socially or behaviourally (for example associated with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) which includes Asperger's, or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD))
- Other
- None of the above
- Prefer not to say

Thank you so much for answering these questions, we really appreciate your time. Please place your survey in an envelope named 'KYN evaluation survey' and give it to a member of the project team.

We have created a list of wellbeing and financial support services – these are being provided to everyone taking part in the project. We hope you, or someone you know, may find them useful. Please ask a member of staff if you would like a copy of them.

APPENDIX 3: DATA TABLES

BL: Baseline survey question.

EL: Midpoint/Endline survey question.

BL Q5. Some people may be taking part in the project as a volunteer. By ‘volunteer’ we mean someone who willingly offers their time for free to carry out tasks that will benefit others. Are you taking part in this project as a volunteer?

	All respondents	
Response	N=721	
Yes	55%	397
No	45%	324

BL Q6. Is this your first time volunteering?

	Volunteer respondents	
Response	N=392	
Yes	50%	197
No	50%	195

EL Q4. Some people took part in the project as a volunteer. By ‘volunteer’ we mean someone who willingly offers their time for free to carry out tasks that will benefit others. Did you take part in this project as a volunteer?

	All respondents	
Response	N=721	
Yes	54%	389
No	46%	332

EL Q5. Was this project your first time volunteering?

	Volunteer respondents	
Response	N=389	
Yes	46%	179
No	54%	210

BL Q7. When did you last volunteer?

Response	Volunteer respondents	
	N=194	
In the past month	34%	65
Less than a year ago	20%	39
1-2 years ago	11%	21
More than 2 years ago	28%	54
Can't remember/Not sure	8%	15

BL Q8. How long do you think you will volunteer on this project?

Response	Volunteer respondents	
	N=390	
Less than a month	3%	11
1-2 months	4%	15
3-6 months	11%	42
More than 6 months	52%	203
Don't know/Not sure	31%	119

EL Q6. When did you last volunteer?

Response	Volunteer respondents	
	N=207	
In the past month	42%	87
Less than a year ago	22%	45
1-2 years ago	11%	23
More than 2 years ago	17%	35
Can't remember/Not sure	8%	17

EL Q7. How long did you volunteer on this project?

Response	Volunteer respondents	
	N=383	
Less than a month	2%	9
1-2 months	8%	30
3-6 months	20%	75
More than 6 months	53%	203
Don't know/Not sure	17%	66

BL Q9. How often do you think you will volunteer with this project?

Response	Volunteer respondents	
	N=391	
Twice a week or more	36%	141
Once a week	35%	137
Once every fortnight	5%	20
Once a month	4%	16
Every two months	1%	3
Less frequently than every two months, or ad hoc	1%	2
Depends or varies	11%	42
Don't know / Not sure	8%	30

Question not asked in baseline survey.

EL Q8. How often did you volunteer on this project?

Response	Volunteer respondents	
	N=386	
Twice a week or more	31%	121
Once a week	44%	170
Once every fortnight	7%	27
Once a month	7%	27
Every two months	<0.5%	1
Less frequently than every two months, or ad hoc	1%	5
Depends or varies	7%	25
Don't know / Not sure	3%	10

EL Q9. Do you plan to volunteer again after the current experience?

Response	Volunteer respondents	
	N=380	
Yes – sometimes / not regularly	31%	117
Yes - regularly	46%	173
No	4%	15
Don't know / Not sure	20%	75

Question not asked in baseline survey.

EL Q10. How often do you think you will volunteer on your next project?

Response	Volunteer respondents	
	N=172	
Twice a week or more	17%	29
Once a week	33%	57
Once every fortnight	8%	13
Once a month	12%	20
Every two months	0%	0
Less frequently than every two months / ad hoc	1%	2
Depends or varies	14%	24
Don't know / not sure	16%	27

BL Q10. How satisfied are you with your life nowadays?

	All respondents	
Response	N=715	
0 (not at all)	2%	16
1	1%	8
2	3%	22
3	5%	33
4	8%	55
5	15%	110
6	14%	98
7	17%	119
8	14%	102
9	8%	57
10 (completely)	11%	75
Prefer not to say	3%	20

EL Q11. How satisfied are you with your life nowadays?

	All respondents	
Response	N=717	
0 (not at all)	1%	5
1	<0.5%	3
2	2%	11
3	2%	14
4	2%	17
5	12%	87
6	9%	63
7	18%	126
8	26%	189
9	14%	103
10 (completely)	13%	90
Prefer not to say	1%	9

	All respondents	
Response	N=715	
0-4 low	19%	134
5-6 medium	29%	208
7-8 high	31%	221
9-10 very high	19%	132
Prefer not to say	3%	20

	All respondents	
Response	N=717	
0-4 low	7%	50
5-6 medium	21%	150
7-8 high	44%	315
9-10 very high	27%	193
Prefer not to say	1%	9

BL Q11. To what extent do you feel that the things you do in your life are worthwhile?

Response	All respondents	
	N=712	
0 (not at all)	2%	16
1	2%	12
2	2%	11
3	5%	32
4	5%	36
5	14%	102
6	12%	87
7	14%	102
8	17%	123
9	11%	75
10 (completely)	14%	100
Prefer not to say	2%	16

EL Q12. To what extent do you feel that the things you do in your life are worthwhile?

Response	All respondents	
	N=712	
0 (not at all)	1%	5
1	1%	4
2	1%	6
3	1%	9
4	4%	26
5	11%	80
6	7%	51
7	14%	100
8	27%	190
9	16%	111
10 (completely)	17%	119
Prefer not to say	2%	11

Response	All respondents	
	N=712	
0-4 low	15%	107
5-6 medium	27%	189
7-8 high	32%	225
9-10 very high	25%	175
Prefer not to say	2%	16

Response	All respondents	
	N=712	
0-4 low	7%	50
5-6 medium	18%	131
7-8 high	41%	290
9-10 very high	32%	230
Prefer not to say	2%	11

BL Q12. How happy did you feel yesterday?

Response	All respondents	
	N=710	
0 (not at all)	3%	19
1	3%	24
2	3%	20
3	7%	51
4	5%	32
5	12%	85
6	12%	86
7	14%	99
8	18%	128
9	10%	69
10 (completely)	12%	85
Prefer not to say	2%	12

EL Q13. How happy did you feel yesterday?

Response	All respondents	
	N=713	
0 (not at all)	1%	6
1	<0.5%	3
2	2%	14
3	2%	16
4	3%	23
5	12%	83
6	11%	75
7	14%	99
8	22%	158
9	17%	120
10 (completely)	15%	106
Prefer not to say	1%	10

Response	All respondents	
	N=710	
0-4 low	21%	146
5-6 medium	24%	171
7-8 high	32%	227
9-10 very high	22%	154
Prefer not to say	2%	12

Response	All respondents	
	N=713	
0-4 low	9%	62
5-6 medium	22%	158
7-8 high	36%	257
9-10 very high	32%	226
Prefer not to say	1%	10

BL Q13. How anxious did you feel yesterday?

Response	All respondents	
	N=708	
0 (not at all)	12%	86
1	7%	47
2	12%	88
3	9%	65
4	8%	57
5	14%	99
6	8%	55
7	9%	65
8	9%	63
9	4%	30
10 (completely)	5%	32
Prefer not to say	3%	21

EL Q14. How anxious did you feel yesterday?

Response	All respondents	
	N=713	
0 (not at all)	19%	136
1	10%	71
2	12%	83
3	10%	69
4	7%	51
5	11%	80
6	8%	57
7	10%	74
8	6%	40
9	4%	26
10 (completely)	2%	13
Prefer not to say	2%	13

Response	All respondents	
	N=708	
0-1 very low	19%	133
2-3 low	22%	153
4-5 medium	22%	156
6-10 high	35%	245
Prefer not to say	3%	21

Response	All respondents	
	N=713	
0-1 very low	29%	207
2-3 low	21%	152
4-5 medium	18%	131
6-10 high	30%	210
Prefer not to say	2%	13

BL Q14. How often do you feel you lack companionship?

	All respondents	
Response	N=716	
Hardly ever or never	28%	201
Some of the time	47%	339
Often	20%	140
Prefer not to say	5%	36

BL Q15. How often do you feel left out?

	All respondents	
Response	N=713	
Hardly ever or never	36%	255
Some of the time	41%	293
Often	19%	133
Prefer not to say	5%	32

BL Q16. How often do you feel isolated from others?

	All respondents	
Response	N=708	
Hardly ever or never	36%	254
Some of the time	41%	288
Often	19%	132
Prefer not to say	5%	34

EL Q15. How often do you feel you lack companionship?

	All respondents	
Response	N=717	
Hardly ever or never	38%	271
Some of the time	45%	325
Often	13%	93
Prefer not to say	4%	28

EL Q16. How often do you feel left out?

	All respondents	
Response	N=714	
Hardly ever or never	44%	313
Some of the time	42%	302
Often	10%	71
Prefer not to say	4%	28

EL Q17. How often do you feel isolated from others?

	All respondents	
Response	N=710	
Hardly ever or never	47%	336
Some of the time	38%	268
Often	11%	78
Prefer not to say	4%	28

UCLA combined score analysis – interpreting and reporting the loneliness findings

Source: ONS Measuring loneliness: guidance for use of the national indicators on surveys

Nb. This analysis is for those who responded to all 3 questions (BL Q14, 15, 16; EL Q15, 16, 17).

The three questions from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) use a three-item scale: (i) Hardly ever or never; (ii) Some of the time; (iii) Often.

Using the questions as intended by the developers of the scale involves assigning a score to each response and creating a total score by summing the individual scores. Scores are:

- ∞ 'Hardly ever or never' equals 1
- ∞ 'Some of the time' equals 2
- ∞ 'Often' equals 3

The lowest possible combined score on the loneliness scale is 3 (indicating less frequent loneliness) and the highest is 9 (indicating more frequent loneliness). There is no standard accepted score for which a person would definitely be considered lonely.

BL. UCLA combined loneliness score

Response	All respondents	
	N=643	
3	20%	127
4	14%	87
5	13%	83
6	28%	180
7	8%	54
8	9%	57
9	9%	55
8 or 9	17%	112

EL. UCLA combined loneliness score

Response	All respondents	
	N=659	
3	28%	185
4	18%	118
5	12%	78
6	25%	165
7	8%	51
8	4%	29
9	5%	33
8 or 9	9%	62

BL Q17. How often do you feel lonely?

Response	All respondents	
	N=715	
Often/always	15%	104
Some of the time	32%	229
Occasionally	23%	164
Hardly ever	17%	119
Never	10%	72
Prefer not to say	4%	27

BL Q18. Which of the following skills do you think you will use during the project?

Response	All respondents	
	N=703	
Communication skills	73%	514
Working with others OR Team-working skills	64%	450
Using your creativity	47%	329
Problem solving	46%	323
Leadership skills	26%	185
Other	8%	58
Prefer not to say	5%	34

EL Q18. How often do you feel lonely?

Response	All respondents	
	N=717	
Often/always	8%	54
Some of the time	30%	215
Occasionally	23%	166
Hardly ever	23%	165
Never	13%	92
Prefer not to say	4%	25

EL Q19. Which of the following skills have you used during the project?

Response	All respondents	
	N=709	
Communication skills	81%	573
Working with others OR Team-working skills	67%	478
Using your creativity	52%	371
Problem solving	51%	360
Leadership skills	28%	198
Other	9%	60
Prefer not to say	2%	12

Question not asked in baseline survey.

EL Q20. Thinking about the above skills, how much do you agree with the following statements?

I have developed my skills as a result of this project.

Response	All respondents	
	N=698	
Strongly agree	35%	244
Agree	48%	336
Neither agree nor disagree	13%	90
Disagree	2%	12
Strongly disagree	<0.5%	3
Prefer not to say	2%	13

Question not asked in baseline survey.

EL Q21. Thinking about the above skills, how much do you agree with the following statements?

I have made improvements to my local area as a result of the skills I have developed on this project.

Response	All respondents	
	N=696	
Strongly agree	19%	135
Agree	42%	295
Neither agree nor disagree	29%	200
Disagree	5%	34
Strongly disagree	2%	11
Prefer not to say	3%	21

Question not asked in baseline survey.

EL Q22. Thinking about the above skills, how much do you agree with the following statements?

I have built connections with new people through this project.

Response	All respondents	
	N=697	
Strongly agree	42%	295
Agree	48%	331
Neither agree nor disagree	8%	55
Disagree	1%	7
Strongly disagree	<0.5%	3
Prefer not to say	1%	6

BL Q19. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is ‘not confident at all’ and 10 is ‘extremely confident’, these days, how confident do you feel about your ability to work with other people?

Response	All respondents	
	N=716	
0 (not confident at all)	1%	10
1	1%	8
2	2%	14
3	5%	32
4	5%	36
5	13%	95
6	10%	68
7	16%	117
8	18%	128
9	10%	68
10 (extremely confident)	18%	130
Prefer not to say	1%	10

EL Q23. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is ‘not confident at all’ and 10 is ‘extremely confident’, these days, how confident do you feel about your ability to work with other people?

Response	All respondents	
	N=716	
0 (not confident at all)	<0.5%	1
1	0%	0
2	1%	5
3	2%	11
4	3%	20
5	9%	63
6	8%	58
7	16%	116
8	25%	176
9	15%	107
10 (extremely confident)	21%	152
Prefer not to say	1%	7

BL Q20. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is ‘not confident at all’ and 10 is ‘extremely confident’, these days, how confident do you feel about your ability to deal with problems?

Response	All respondents	
	N=711	
0 (not confident at all)	2%	12
1	1%	10
2	4%	25
3	7%	48
4	9%	63
5	14%	99
6	11%	76
7	15%	108
8	18%	131
9	9%	61
10 (extremely confident)	10%	70
Prefer not to say	1%	8

EL Q24. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is ‘not confident at all’ and 10 is ‘extremely confident’, these days, how confident do you feel about your ability to deal with problems?

Response	All respondents	
	N=716	
0 (not confident at all)	<0.5%	1
1	0%	0
2	1%	8
3	3%	19
4	4%	29
5	13%	90
6	11%	78
7	16%	114
8	25%	181
9	14%	97
10 (extremely confident)	12%	88
Prefer not to say	2%	11

BL Q21. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is ‘not confident at all’ and 10 is ‘extremely confident’, these days, how confident do you feel about your ability to communicate with others?

Response	All respondents	
	N=705	
0 (not confident at all)	1%	7
1	2%	11
2	3%	22
3	5%	34
4	5%	37
5	12%	86
6	11%	80
7	12%	86
8	20%	138
9	11%	80
10 (extremely confident)	16%	115
Prefer not to say	1%	9

EL Q25. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is ‘not confident at all’ and 10 is ‘extremely confident’, these days, how confident do you feel about your ability to communicate with others?

Response	All respondents	
	N=710	
0 (not confident at all)	0%	0
1	0%	0
2	1%	5
3	2%	16
4	2%	17
5	7%	54
6	11%	76
7	15%	104
8	21%	150
9	20%	143
10 (extremely confident)	19%	138
Prefer not to say	1%	7

BL Q22. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is ‘not confident at all’ and 10 is ‘extremely confident’, these days, how confident do you feel about your ability to use your creativity in daily life?

Response	All respondents	
	N=711	
0 (not confident at all)	2%	14
1	1%	9
2	3%	18
3	5%	34
4	7%	50
5	15%	106
6	14%	100
7	19%	134
8	13%	93
9	8%	59
10 (extremely confident)	11%	79
Prefer not to say	2%	15

EL Q26. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is ‘not confident at all’ and 10 is ‘extremely confident’, these days, how confident do you feel about your ability to use your creativity in daily life?

Response	All respondents	
	N=708	
0 (not confident at all)	<0.5%	1
1	1%	6
2	1%	8
3	2%	17
4	5%	32
5	10%	70
6	10%	69
7	16%	115
8	23%	164
9	14%	102
10 (extremely confident)	16%	113
Prefer not to say	2%	11

BL Q23. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is ‘not confident at all’ and 10 is ‘extremely confident’, these days, how confident do you feel about your ability to take on responsibility in your daily life?

Response	All respondents	
	N=712	
0 (not confident at all)	2%	13
1	1%	6
2	2%	14
3	4%	28
4	5%	37
5	14%	97
6	10%	73
7	15%	103
8	14%	102
9	12%	88
10 (extremely confident)	20%	141
Prefer not to say	1%	10

EL Q27. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is ‘not confident at all’ and 10 is ‘extremely confident’, these days, how confident do you feel about your ability to take on responsibility in your daily life?

Response	All respondents	
	N=714	
0 (not confident at all)	<0.5%	2
1	1%	7
2	1%	10
3	2%	11
4	3%	22
5	9%	63
6	8%	57
7	13%	94
8	22%	158
9	18%	129
10 (extremely confident)	21%	150
Prefer not to say	2%	11

BL Q24. How strongly do you feel you belong to your immediate neighbourhood? Please think of the area within a few minutes walking distance from your home.

Response	All respondents	
	N=712	
Very strongly	15%	110
Fairly strongly	38%	269
Not very strongly	24%	167
Not at all strongly	15%	108
Prefer not to say	8%	58

BL Q25. To what extent would you agree or disagree that people in your neighbourhood pull together to improve the neighbourhood?

Response	All respondents	
	N=712	
Definitely agree	11%	77
Tend to agree	37%	262
Tend to disagree	22%	155
Definitely disagree	12%	87
Nothing needs improving	4%	31
Prefer not to say	14%	100

EL Q28. How strongly do you feel you belong to your immediate neighbourhood? Please think of the area within a few minutes walking distance from your home.

Response	All respondents	
	N=717	
Very strongly	19%	137
Fairly strongly	45%	321
Not very strongly	22%	154
Not at all strongly	8%	56
Prefer not to say	7%	49

EL Q29. To what extent would you agree or disagree that people in your neighbourhood pull together to improve the neighbourhood?

Response	All respondents	
	N=716	
Definitely agree	13%	96
Tend to agree	46%	330
Tend to disagree	21%	153
Definitely disagree	6%	46
Nothing needs improving	2%	17
Prefer not to say	10%	74

BL Q26. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your local area as a place to live? Please think of the area within 15-20 minutes walking distance from your home.

Response	All respondents	
	N=712	
Very satisfied	24%	172
Fairly satisfied	38%	270
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	18%	125
Fairly dissatisfied	8%	56
Very dissatisfied	6%	39
Prefer not to say	7%	50

EL Q30. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your local area as a place to live? Please think of the area within 15-20 minutes walking distance from your home.

Response	All respondents	
	N=713	
Very satisfied	28%	199
Fairly satisfied	45%	318
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	16%	112
Fairly dissatisfied	5%	34
Very dissatisfied	2%	16
Prefer not to say	5%	34

Demographic questions

Demographics questions were asked in the baseline only.

At DCMS' request, for demographic questions (Q28-Q35 in the baseline survey), responses in cells marked with an asterisk (*) have been removed for quality control reasons. This has taken place when:

- ∞ Fewer than 30 respondents answered the question.
- ∞ Fewer than 3 respondents reported an answer category.
- ∞ Removed data can be deduced by using the other data, for example the total number of respondents who answered the question minus the total of the other answer categories. In that instance we have also removed data for the next lowest reported response.

BL Q28. How old are you?

Response	All respondents	
	N=719	
16-24	14%	101
25-34	15%	105
35-44	17%	119
45-54	15%	107
55-64	18%	129
65-74	14%	97
75-84	*	*
85+	*	*
Prefer not to say	<0.5%	3

Question not asked in endline survey.

BL Q29. What is your sex?

	All respondents	
Response	N=719	
Female	58%	415
Male	41%	294
Prefer not to say	1%	10

Question not asked in endline survey.

BL Q30. Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

	All respondents	
Response	N=714	
Yes	*	*
No	*	*
Prefer not to say	2%	15

Question not asked in endline survey.

BL Q31. If the gender you identify with is not the same as your sex registered at birth, please let us know your gender identity.

Open ended responses.

Question not asked in endline survey.

BL Q32. What is your ethnic group?

Response	All respondents	
	N=709	
Asian/Asian British	9%	67
Black/Black British	4%	27
Mixed race	*	*
White	81%	574
Any other ethnic group	*	*
Prefer not to say	1%	8

Question not asked in endline survey.

BL Q33. Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expecting to last 12 months or more?

Response	All respondents	
	N=716	
Yes	56%	404
No	38%	271
Prefer not to say	6%	41

Question not asked in endline survey.

BL Q34. Does your condition(s) or illness(es) reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?

Response	All respondents	
	N=392	
Yes, a lot	35%	138
Yes, a little	46%	179
No	15%	57
Prefer not to say	5%	18

Question not asked in endline survey.

BL Q35. Do you have any health conditions or illnesses which affect you in any of the following areas?

Question not asked in endline survey.

Response	All respondents	
	N=669	
Mental health	34%	226
Mobility (for example walking short distances or climbing stairs)	24%	158
Learning or understanding or concentrating	19%	129
Memory	16%	105
Stamina or breathing or fatigue	15%	99
Socially or behaviourally (for example associated with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) which includes Asperger's, or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD))	13%	84
Dexterity (for example lifting and carrying objects, using a keyboard)	12%	83
Vision (for example blindness or partial sight)	9%	61
Hearing (for example deafness or partial hearing)	8%	53
Other	7%	48
None of the above	26%	176
Prefer not to say	6%	43

APPENDIX 4: OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS BY LOCAL AREA

Barrow in Furness (awarded by Cumbria Community Foundation)

2 projects were funded:

- ∞ Cumbria Wildlife Trust Limited
- ∞ Groundwork North East and Cumbria

1,258 participants were supported (reported in monitoring forms).

£1,171,333 total funding awarded. Projects were awarded from £210,502 to £960,831.

According to projects' application forms:

- ∞ 1 project had a core focus on reducing loneliness.
- ∞ 1 project had a core focus on improving wellbeing.

Blackpool (awarded by Community Foundations for Lancashire and Merseyside)

16 projects were funded:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| ∞ Amazing Grace | ∞ National Literacy Trust |
| ∞ Blackpool Boys and Girls Club | ∞ N-Vision |
| ∞ Blackpool Carers Centre Ltd | ∞ Revoelution |
| ∞ Fylde Coast Women's Aid | ∞ Skool of Street |
| ∞ Groundwork Cheshire, Lancs and Merseyside | ∞ Spring into Action |
| ∞ His Provision CIC | ∞ Tram Shed Theatre Company |
| ∞ Homeless Action | ∞ Urban Organic (UK) CIC |
| ∞ Layton Methodist Church (Forward Project) | ∞ Volunteer Centre |

4,999 participants were supported (reported in monitoring forms).

£1,171,333 total funding was awarded. Projects were awarded from £18,450 to £215,762.

According to projects' application forms:

- ∞ 11 projects had a core focus on reducing loneliness (69%).
- ∞ 3 projects had a core focus on increasing volunteering (19%).
- ∞ 2 projects had a core focus on improving skills and confidence (13%).

County Durham (awarded by Point North)

16 projects were funded:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| ∞ Bridge Creative Enterprise | ∞ Refuse CIC |
|------------------------------|--------------|

- ∞ Building Self-belief
- ∞ Bullion Community Resource Centre
- ∞ Durham Community Action
- ∞ East Durham Community Development Trust Ltd
- ∞ Foundation of Light
- ∞ Karbon Homes
- ∞ NE Youth Ltd
- ∞ North Shape T/A Equal Arts
- ∞ Sacriston Community Association
- ∞ Stanley Area Youth Consortium
- ∞ Teesdale Community Resources
- ∞ Teesdale Day Clubs
- ∞ Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services
- ∞ YMCA North Tyneside (working with YMCA Teesdale)

3,909 participants were supported (reported in monitoring forms).

£1,170,000 total funding was awarded. Projects were awarded from £21,462 to £133,797.

According to projects' application forms:

- ∞ 8 projects had a core focus on reducing loneliness (50%).
- ∞ 7 projects had a core focus on increasing volunteering (44%).
- ∞ 1 project had a core focus on increasing social cohesion and pride in the local area (6%).

Fenland (awarded by Cambridgeshire Community Foundation)

9 projects were funded:

- ∞ Cambridge Community Arts
- ∞ Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service
- ∞ Cambridgeshire ACRE
- ∞ Fenland Association for Community Transport
- ∞ Little Miracles (Fenland)
- ∞ Ormiston Families
- ∞ Rosmini Centre Wisbech
- ∞ The Ferry Project
- ∞ The Kite Trust

8,197 participants were supported (reported in monitoring forms).

£1,186,834 total funding was awarded. Projects were awarded from £32,060 to £322,737.

According to projects' application forms:

- ∞ 4 projects had a core focus on reducing loneliness (44%).
- ∞ 4 projects had a core focus on increasing volunteering (44%).
- ∞ 1 project had a core focus on improving health and wellbeing (11%).

Great Yarmouth (awarded by Norfolk Community Foundation)

16 projects were funded:

- ∞ Action Community Enterprise
- ∞ Afghanistan and Central Asian Association
- ∞ Age Connected Great Yarmouth
- ∞ East Norfolk District Scout Council
- ∞ Feathers Futures
- ∞ Great Yarmouth Pathway
- ∞ GYROS
- ∞ Home-Start Norfolk
- ∞ Mancroft Advice Project (MAP)
- ∞ MensCraft
- ∞ St George's Theatre
- ∞ St Mary Magdalene PCC (Gorleston)
- ∞ The Bread Kitchen
- ∞ The Shoebox Enterprises
- ∞ Volunteer It Yourself
- ∞ Wastesmiths

2,743 participants were supported (reported in monitoring forms).

£1,186,731 total funding was awarded. Projects were awarded from £6,750 to £128,050.

According to projects' application forms:

- ∞ 7 projects had a core focus on increasing volunteering (44%).
- ∞ 6 projects had a core focus on reducing loneliness (38%).
- ∞ 3 projects had a core focus on increasing pride in the local area or improving skills and confidence (19%).

Hull (awarded by Two Ridings Community Foundation)

14 projects were funded:

- ∞ Age UK Hull and East Riding
- ∞ City of Hull Sport and Community Group
- ∞ Forum
- ∞ Friends of Pelican Park
- ∞ Goodwin Development Trust
- ∞ Groundwork North Yorkshire
- ∞ Hull & East Riding Citizens Advice Bureau
- ∞ Hull Community and Voluntary Services
- ∞ Hull Community Church
- ∞ Humber All Nations Alliance
- ∞ Humber Job Hub
- ∞ Neighbourhood Network
- ∞ Rooted In Hull
- ∞ TimeBank Hull and East Riding

1,032 participants were supported (reported in monitoring forms).

£1,171,333 total funding was awarded. Projects were awarded from £10,220 to £150,000.

According to projects' application forms:

- ∞ 8 projects had a core focus on reducing loneliness (57%).
- ∞ 4 projects had a core focus on increasing volunteering (29%).
- ∞ 2 projects had a core focus on improving skills and confidence (14%).

South Tyneside (awarded by the Community Foundation for Tyne and Wear and Northumberland)

14 projects were funded:

- ∞ Action Foundation
- ∞ Action Station South Tyneside Limited
- ∞ Bright Futures NE
- ∞ Emmaus North East
- ∞ Equal Arts
- ∞ Foundation of Light
- ∞ Groundwork South and North Tyneside
- ∞ Hospitality and Hope
- ∞ Inspire South Tyneside
- ∞ Perth Green Community Association CIO
- ∞ South Tyneside Citizens Advice Bureau
- ∞ The Cultural Spring
- ∞ Women's Health in South Tyneside
- ∞ Your Voice Counts

3,917 participants were supported (reported in monitoring forms).

£1,203,726 total funding was awarded. Projects were awarded from £40,000 to £158,068.

According to projects' application forms:

- ∞ 7 projects had a core focus on reducing loneliness (50%).
- ∞ 7 projects had a core focus on increasing volunteering (50%).

Stoke on Trent (awarded by Staffordshire Community Foundation)

16 projects were funded:

- ∞ All the Small Things
- ∞ Asha North Staffordshire
- ∞ Church of God 7th Day Hanley, Pearl Training Academy
- ∞ dDeaflinks
- ∞ Number 11
- ∞ Reaching CIC
- ∞ Sporting Communities
- ∞ Staffordshire Sight Loss Association
- ∞ Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
- ∞ Stoke Creates CIC
- ∞ Stoke-on-Trent Theatre Trust (Appetite)
- ∞ The Hubb Foundation
- ∞ Urban Wilderness
- ∞ VAST Services 1920
- ∞ Walk Ministries
- ∞ YMCA North Staffordshire

9,273 participants were supported (reported in monitoring forms).

£1,018,542 total funding was awarded. Projects were awarded from £49,938 to £100,000.

According to projects' application forms:

- ∞ 8 projects had a core focus on reducing loneliness (50%).

- ∞ 7 projects had a core focus on increasing volunteering (44%).
- ∞ 1 project had a core focus on improving skills and confidence (6%).

Wolverhampton (awarded by Heart of England Community Foundation)

12 projects were funded:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| ∞ Access to Business | ∞ St. George's House Charity |
| ∞ Age UK Wolverhampton | ∞ The Refugee and Migrant Centre |
| ∞ All Saints Action Network | ∞ TLC College |
| ∞ Aspiring Futures | ∞ Wildside Activity Centre |
| ∞ Bilston Resource Centre | ∞ Wolverhampton Voluntary & Community Action |
| ∞ Gazebo Theatre In Education Company | |
| ∞ Motive8 Youth | |

2,736 participants were supported (reported in monitoring forms).

£1,164,905 total funding was awarded. Projects were awarded from £49,938 to £179,823.

According to projects' application forms:

- ∞ 7 projects had a core focus on reducing loneliness (58%).
- ∞ 2 projects had a core focus on increasing volunteering (17%).
- ∞ 3 projects had a core focus on increasing pride in the local area, or improving skills and confidence (25%).

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