BUILDING CAPACITY

Through Fourteen, supported groups have been able to develop their skills and knowledge – which they can go on to share with other groups.

The Youth Sport Trust has developed an inclusive volunteer guidance document with the English Federation for Disability Sport, providing top tips on creating an inclusive setting.

Inclusive Futures 101 young volunteers (101) gained self-confidence to use their experiences to engage more volunteers/educate others on disability sport.

People sharing skills and knowledge gained through Fourteen

Youth Sport Trust felt there was an unexpected positive impact on carers who supported the young people.

Unlimited Impact delivered training on disabled access. Trainees passed what they had learnt on to other members of staff.
BUILDING SKILLS

Sustainability is demonstrated through the projects started by beneficiaries, and social action they are still involved in. There is strong qualitative evidence to support the statement that volunteers are developing new skills or qualifications through their participation in Spirit-funded projects. There was strongest evidence that confidence improved for those participating in Spirit-funded activities as volunteers.

A Community Builder met Sarah during a door knocking exercise. Sarah came to an outreach event, then she successfully applied for a grant for a Family Fun Day. She then connected with her Tenant Management Organisation, and was awarded £1000 for a local community activity. She organised a group trip, a family craft and activity day and a family Halloween party. With this experience, she was asked to join the community centre board.

In Harpurhey and Moston (Manchester), 100% of awardees that fed back reported that beneficiaries have more friends and connections. 60% of individuals who responded state that they’re now taking part in more community groups in the local area.

Heart of England Community Foundation held a ‘Celebration of Volunteering’ event, attracting 80 people. A brand new group was formed by volunteers inspired by the work of another group. A further information-sharing group was also formed.

New community-led projects and social action

‘Friday at the Flicks’ events led to new connections being formed between existing older person’s groups, resulting in a sharing and crossover of project activity, as well as new activity (Harpurhey and Moston).

Case study: KHUSHI, BME Ladies Swimming Club

KHUSHI is a volunteer-led local group who applied for funding from Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland to take a group of Bangladeshi women and their children swimming. Due to cultural issues, the group could not use public pools and needed to swim privately. The funding allowed the group to privately hire a local pool and instructor to teach the women and children to swim.

Since attending the BME Ladies Swimming Club, two participants have gained confidence to volunteer at a local school, four women have started college and three have gained employment locally. The volunteer leaders identified that several of the participants would benefit from housing and/or welfare rights & housing advice. The project has given the women an opportunity to socialise and they are now arranging intergenerational activities within their community.
BUILDING CAPACITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is partly about developing a group’s processes and confidence so potential funders have confidence in a group’s ability to deliver.

In Harpurhey and Moston, the Partnership Project Lead explored future funding streams to support the continuation of the Local Reference Group and explore their goals beyond the life of the Fourteen programme.

Harpurhey and Moston also delivered a Connecting Community workshop to support local community groups by expanding their skills in Asset Based Community Development, encouraging groups to look at what resources are available from within their community to support and sustain their groups in the future.

Groups in Possilpark and Ruchill and Heart of England each commissioned a film to evidence the capabilities of the group to the community and to potential funders.

Capacity-building of groups gives confidence to funders.

Match-funding proved to be more than the original fund, and enabled much more activity - for example: a community garden - holiday breakfast clubs - expanding the community centre - a new community group network - an enhanced heritage facility - projects that help food education and production locally – longer programmes helping establish trust – participatory budgeting workshops

Heart of England Community Foundation is supporting consortium-building. Legacy and sustainability is built into activity from the start. For example, the Community Cafe aimed to support disabled volunteers to secure the benefits that would allow them to pay for extra support and activity at the cafe if they chose to do so.

The Community Foundation’s role is vital for groups’ capacity building

“...I think the Heart of England Community Foundation has been extremely important in the Spirit of 2012 programme. They have provided a central role in the operation of the grant. This initially meant bringing together various groups in the area, all of whom have a fundraising function to look at and discuss bids. They reached out to smaller groups to encourage them to ask for funding – often [this is] quite an issue as there are a number of small organisations in the area who often say they feel left out of funding. The steering group looked at the applications and often if they rejected an application it was because they needed more detail and would return the application suggesting how to make a better application and hopefully a resubmission in the future.”

Keith Airey, Development Officer - St. Mark’s Community Hub