HOW TO CREATE LASTING CONNECTIONS

Fourteen has sparked sustained connections

These new and lasting connections were forged between individuals, between community groups and between communities. Partnership working within communities has progressed extensively, through the mechanism of the Local Reference Group - supported by the Community Foundations.

Communication through Local Reference Groups

In all participant communities apart from Southmead, the Local Reference Group comprised of people who hadn't previously worked together. 98% of those surveyed felt that working relationships in the Local Reference Group had strengthened during the programme. For example, individuals became better acquainted; and communication and information sharing improved.

Making funding decisions

In turn, the capacity to make funding decisions improved: 92% stated that, to some extent, the ability of the LRG to provide recommendations on grants improved over the duration of Fourteen.

'It was very much a learning curve for everybody but we’re stronger now to debate a good funding application from where we were at the beginning.'

Increasing collaboration

The programme was reported to be successful in bringing “communities within communities” to the table and in increasing collaboration and partnership working across recognised neighbourhoods/villages and wards.

All these connections are a key element of sustainability of both community spirit and capacity to deliver. People now ‘know where to go and who to go to’ if they want to start a project sparked by involvement in Fourteen.

To continue, the Local Reference Groups need funding and shared purpose. In some cases, they have secured this. However, legacy may be more subtle than simply ‘carrying on’. The links between people will continue.

“The volunteering and social action has been remarkable. It’s created more of an ethos that Kingstanding helps Kingstanding, regardless of cuts and the political situation.”
(SDP Representative)