

MICROFUNDING FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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This toolkit is based on experiences of microfunding (small grants) within the Bristol and Birmingham Ageing Better programmes. It shares our learning, recommendations and insights about co-production within microfunding. We hope these insights are valuable for funders as well as individuals and community groups who are interested in applying for funding.

2. Ambition for Ageing Greater Manchester:

- ***A) Changing a place: Microfunding, co-production and community development***

This report offers insight into the range of microfunding models developed and utilised by the Ambition for Ageing Programme. It aims to provide an evaluation of the microfunding process; highlighting areas of success, noting challenges and sharing learning for those who may want to implement similar practice.

- ***B) Supportive funding: Technical guidance on delivering a wraparound microfunding model***

A companion document to Ambition for Ageing's Changing a Place report. This document showcases eight different approaches carried out by our local leads to help you start thinking about your own microfunding model. We encourage you to use this resource when designing and delivering your own microfunding models.

- ***C) Video: Microfunding, Co-production & Community Development, 28-04-2021***

This workshop recording is part of the Stronger Together festival of learning about co-production with Ageing Better. During this workshop, Ambition for Ageing Greater Manchester share how they delivered an inclusive microfunding approach using co-production.

3. Bristol Ageing Better:

- ***Community Kick-Start Fund Evaluation:***

- A) Full report***

- B) Addendum during Covid-19***

- C) Summary of evaluation findings***

These reports present the key findings from the evaluation of the Bristol Ageing Better Community Kick-Start Fund. The evaluation was conducted by academics from the University of the West of England (UWE) alongside a team of volunteer Community Researchers aged 50+. The evaluation sought to understand the contribution of Community Kick-Start Fund towards the goals of the Bristol Ageing Better programme and additional benefits beyond the programme

- ***D) Community Kick-Start Fund: What have we learnt so far?***

BAB facilitated a shared learning event in November 2017 with the Ageing Better programmes from Birmingham, Thanet, Hackney and Cheshire. All were at different stages of delivering microfunding initiatives. The purpose of the event was to provide an overview of how these projects were delivered in different areas, reflect on successes/challenges and learn from each other.

- ***E) Community Kick-Start Fund: New and improved – changes we've made in 2018***

An overview of the changes and improvements made to the Community Kick-Start fund in 2018, following an audit by BAB's team of volunteer Community Researchers and a review of the diversity of groups accessing the activities so far.

4. Time to Shine Leeds:

- ***Reducing the loneliness of vulnerable groups: a case study of the Small Funds project***

This case study considers how the Small Funds project (up to £10,000) can help to reduce social isolation and loneliness among older people across Leeds, with groups who are less likely to engage with the Time to Shine Leeds programme. This study focuses on the first two rounds of funding, which supported three target groups: carers, people living with dementia, and men.

5. The National Lottery Community Fund:

- ***A) A Meeting of Minds: How co-production benefits people, professionals and organisations***

This report focuses on practice and learning about co-production from the National Lottery Community Fund's strategic programmes – five of our biggest investments in England. The aim is not to offer an academic evidence review, a how to guide or a co-production manual. We want to show what co-production can look like, and the positive impact it can have for individuals, professionals, and services. We also want to

showcase ideas, examples, and inspiration for people considering their own approach to user involvement or who want to do more to support co-production in their own organisation.

- ***B) Micro-funding: Empowering communities to create grassroots change – summary report***

Published in March 2020, this paper summaries learning from a detailed review of microfunding activities on the Ageing Better programme.

STORIES

1. Age Better Middlesbrough:

- ***Age Friendly Middlesbrough Fund: Microfunding to support community groups***
This report shares our learning about supporting community groups through micro-funding. Funding opportunities like this can make a big difference to community groups who find it difficult or wouldn't normally consider applying for other forms of public funding.

2. Ageing Better in Birmingham:

- ***A) Involving older people in creating activities and services***
This briefing explores the different ways in which older people have been involved in coproduction as part of the Ageing Better in Birmingham programme and highlights some key learning from the experience
- ***B) Learning from Chat and Splash***
This case study illustrates how one of the projects supported by Ageing Better in Birmingham, Chat and Splash, has helped to improve the lives of older people, as well as adding benefit to the wider community.

3. Ecorys:

- ***Micro-funding within Ageing Better***
An overview of micro-funding projects within the Ageing Better programmes, with specific examples from the programmes in Bristol and Manchester.

TOOLS

1. Ageing Better in Birmingham:

- ***A) How to make a difference in your community and keep your activity going***
Social connections are important for wellbeing and happiness. Older people can be more vulnerable to loneliness and isolation. Local groups and community activities are one way to make friends and feel part of a community. This guide will help you plan your activity, keeping in mind it can help people for years to come. This is referred to as 'legacy'.
- ***B) Top tips for a successful activity***
Social connections are important for wellbeing and happiness. Older people can be more vulnerable to loneliness and social isolation. If you are thinking of setting up a group or activity to help reduce social isolation, this leaflet is full of tips and ideas to help you.
- ***C) Overcoming barriers to joining in***
This leaflet offers practical suggestions for overcoming some common barriers that can stop older people from taking part in community groups and activities. Barriers may be practical, such as not being able to get to an activity, and personal, such as lacking confidence to join a new group.
- ***D) How to get more men involved***
Older men are more likely to be socially isolated than women. There is a lot of national and international research that suggests men tend to build social relationships differently to women and this can make them vulnerable to isolation as they age. This leaflet shares our learning and top tips on this topic.

2. Ambition for Ageing Greater Manchester:

- ***How to implement a wraparound microfunding approach – Briefing***
This guide is designed to help practitioners consider the important features of a supported, wraparound microfunding approach, and how it can be implemented.

3. Time to Shine Leeds:

- ***Learning Briefing: Helping community groups to become self-led and sustainable***
Time to Shine projects are turning their attention towards legacy and sustainability and often want to assist groups to continue after Time to Shine funding ends. In this Learning Briefing, Health for All share their experience of community development work.