

NNS Small Grants Impact Summary 2020-21

Small grants scheme (up to £10,000) for Hall Green based community groups and organisations

Minimising impact of Covid-19 – **14 projects, total investment - £113,352**

Post-Covid 19 projects – **9 projects, total investment - £69,507**

- Increasing Social Participation
- Healthier Lifestyles
- Maximised Income
- Housing which supports Independence
- Carers feel more supported

1239 Hall Green beneficiaries across 9 Post-Covid projects

Find out more at

www.hallgreencommunities.org.uk/awarded-grants

Birmingham PlayCare Network – Our new crafting community

- 70 participants received craft packs
- 70+ participants received online social media 'how to' videos
- 25 attended Zoom workshops
- 120 Create Craft Share booklets distributed
- 40 volunteers involved in Scrapstore by making Morsbags



What is the legacy?

Lots of new volunteers in the scrapstore!

More thinking more about recycling unwanted fabric.

New connections between local crafting groups.

This group are keen to volunteer and also to share their knowledge and skills with other local groups.

The NNS network could come together bringing organisations with common themes of delivery to provide contacts and opportunities for groups to engage with others.

This was an exciting and wonderful opportunity to use up a variety of materials and prevent them from going to landfill.

The group are fantastic, the relationship has been brilliant, we now have a 'WhatsApp' group where members are posting their makes regularly.

Saheli Hub – Get Reactivated Men's Club

What went well?

Engaged with men from more than 15 different postcodes, 12 different ethnic backgrounds, and of 5 different religious beliefs.

The number of sessions - 100+ sessions delivered from 10+ different locations.

What is the legacy?

Men are now starting to talk about their health, diet and lack of exercise. They want to know more and learn as to why they should or shouldn't do certain things. By being able to support them in a culturally appropriate way, they have been able to voice their concerns and address them to get to a solution.



*Without the grant we received men like Mick wouldn't have had the opportunity to take part in these activities, or to have activities in the diary that would **motivate them to get out of bed** and out the home on a regular basis. This in turn allowed him to **become more confident in engaging with others** in the community as well as doing activities he wouldn't necessarily see himself doing, but gave it a go due to **the sense of belonging** he had with the men's club.*

Bahu Trust – Kindness Project

A confidential support scheme aimed at helping members of the community, regardless of race, faith or background, through the bereavement process.

- 135 citizens engaged
- 15 volunteers recruited (14 trained)
- 100% of volunteers reporting improved confidence and skills
- Building community connections - The volunteer group is a great example of breaking boundaries and bringing people of all faiths together.

What is the legacy?

Trained members of the community who now have the tools to support anyone who has suffered with bereavement and loss.

Volunteers on the project have an in-depth understanding of bereavement from different faith perspectives through the information leaflets created by various faith leaders.

Volunteers have pledged to continue to offer their time on the project.

*This project has laid down the foundation which will allow us to continue this work. We are considering **transitioning this project from a bereavement support project into a loneliness project** continuing to meet the relevant needs of the community.*

Thrive Birmingham – Sow and Grow

Bringing together small groups of socially isolated older people by providing a free 12 -week table-top gardening course

Seeing the camaraderie in the groups, the banter, the increase in confidence and individuals going on to volunteer, set up their own gardening groups, social groups etc was a joy!



"This course has had such a positive effect on my physical, mental and emotional health. I have learnt loads and although I didn't join with the intention of socialising I have met a lovely group of people"



What are the outcomes?

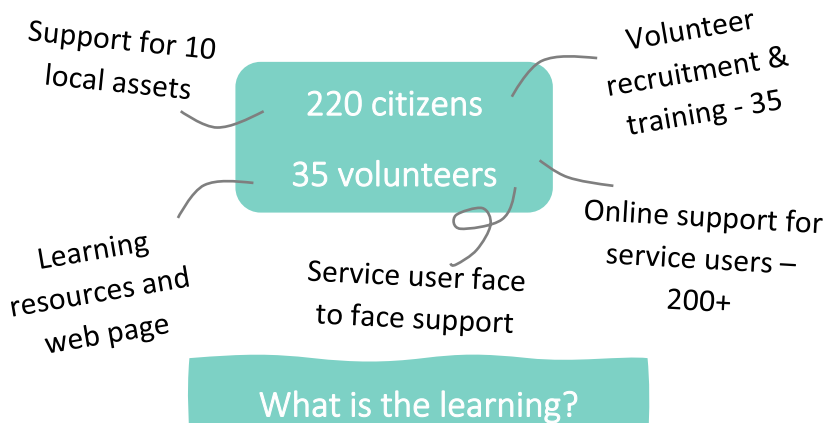
100% of participants said:

- I have got out of the house more and increased my level of social interaction
- I felt a greater sense of belonging within my local community
- My health and wellbeing has generally improved
- I have started to get more exercise and get fitter
- I have met new people who share a similar interest

88% of participants said:

- I feel happier
- I am interested in gardening and want to learn more
- Being connected to nature makes me feel better

Smartlye Ltd – Digital Champions



One size does not fit all. Service users need a lot of support to get and stay online.

Working with volunteers requires a dedicated support team who can work with and understand their needs

Having links to data and devices, or the ability to signpost towards these is imperative.

What went well?

Having our own digital projects where we were gifting new devices.

Working across different settings.

Recruiting volunteers with lived experience and language skills to communicate with those who did not have English as their first language.

Developed eLearning modules covering: being a digital champion, developing empathy, listening and questioning skills & safeguarding.

Signposting to free online training courses to further develop individuals' skills.

*Future NNS projects that have been funded and have digital included in their application could benefit by working directly with Digital Champions. If resourced properly, **this could support both projects to grow and show great partnership work.***

Highfield Hall Community Club – Let's Start Growing

The grant helped us to get the project from paper to reality so we are very grateful for that and for the support from the NNS Team with ideas and marketing.

183 citizens engaged
115 female / 68 male
15 volunteers



What is the legacy?



*For the future **we have all the necessary equipment in place** and we have plenty of plants to keep us going for a good few years. We have Asda Shirley who are supporting us and will help to donate stuff in the future. **We have volunteers who are helping to maintain the project** and we oversee the health and safety of the project. **It will be self sustaining now** and we are very happy with the funding in supporting us to make this possible in Hall Green.*

*We will **be working with children** as well over the holidays and many of the **home-schooling groups** are interested to work with us. We are engaging and **working with more elderly groups** and hope to set up **an Asian women's group** around this project. We are **continuing to work with carers and the mental health team for referrals** to our centre through the GP's*

Highfield Hall – Hall Green's Keepin it Clean

258 citizens engaged

169 volunteers in Hall Green

89 volunteers in Sparkhill

58% of Sparkhill roads and 74% of Hall Green roads adopted

The response from the local community - businesses, schools, faith centres and scouts' clubs have contacted us to get involved.

Community cohesion: it has brought people together beyond their immediate neighbours.

Litter picking has been life changing for some people, allowing them to get out, make friends and instil a sense of hope.

People have reported better mental and physical well-being since joining the group.

It has inspired some volunteers to set up their off-shoot groups.

The group has become constituted and also branched out - started doing some community gardening and rock painting.

The group has engendered a sense of civic pride in volunteers.

One lady hosts Islamic studies classes to a group of Pakistani women. She was excited about joining with some of her students and giving back to the community. The women have grown in confidence and litter pick fortnightly as a group. They feel more conscious of their environment and feel more integrated in their areas as a result of litter picking.



Woolly Mammoth Stitch Works CIC – Mystery Stitch Project

Participation in mystery stitch tapestry project, designed for fun, connectedness and wellbeing.

Woolly Wellness kits were sent by post to participants to do at home. Also included in the project was a 'wrap around' of support; monthly zoom calls, Facebook live events, recorded stitch-a-longs films, a community newsletter and two in-person meet ups with the Woolly Mammoth team

What is the learning?

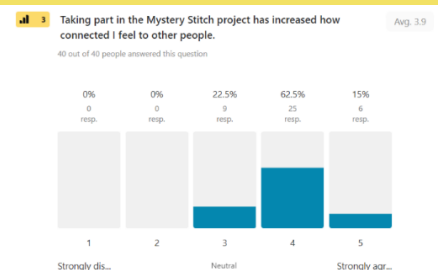
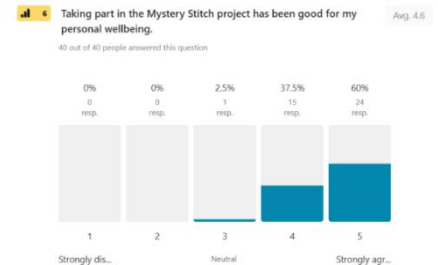
People like to connect on their own terms – we need to cater for that by providing options and non-pressurized environments.

People's needs for socialisation are different.

Baby steps are often needed for some people experiencing poor mental health or low self-esteem to get involved.

Some people are more 'joiners' than others, everyone should go at their own pace in our kind of projects.

We have learnt much more about what inclusion means. We realise to reach the over 50s, and other groups, we need to still offer this home-based option to get involved even when stitching in-person recommences.



Thank you! **We loved this project and what it achieved** – thanks for the top up funding so we could include people living on the boundaries. We'd love to do more projects in Hall Green constituency in the future

Participants were asked to think about when they were stitching their tiles. What three words would you use to describe your experience or how you felt?



What is the legacy?

There is a stitch group which continues to meet once a month. This is self-led by a couple of participants, and we have provided resources to get them started. Participants are asked to pay £2 a session to pay for room hire. We will continue to sign post people to this group.

The Muath Trust – Digital Recycling

5 volunteers & 203 service users

7 organisations given equipment (23 desktops, monitors & keyboards and 9 tablets)

6 Digital Recycling Hubs established as device drop off and pick up points across Hall Green constituency



Using these desktops has helped me to keep in touch with family and friends. It's also given me the opportunity to learn the new technology and explore life. I've also picked up a few skills