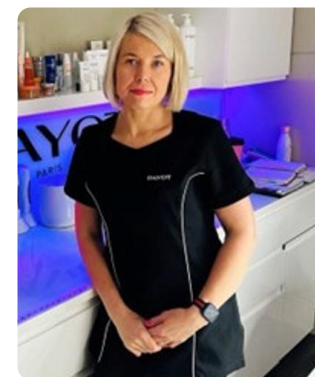


North Yorkshire Council

# Shared Prosperity Fund

## IMPACT REPORT

2022 – 2025



# Introduction



## Councillor Carl Les

Leader of North Yorkshire Council

In 2022 North Yorkshire was awarded £16.9 million of Shared Prosperity Funding and a further £5.4 million from the Rural England Prosperity Fund. This was the second largest total allocation in the country. Our delivery of this funding secured match-funding of match of £16.6 million.

Establishing the North Yorkshire Shared Prosperity Fund programme was a steep learning curve for us. We needed more partnership working than ever between many bodies and people, so we formed a Local Partnership Group which I was privileged to chair. The residents of North Yorkshire should be thankful for the time and input of the members of that group, all voluntarily given.

We should be even more grateful to the people who came together to form working groups around a number of themes, Place, Productivity, Communities, Decarbonisation and People. These groups made up of subject matter experts were the real value-added part of the programme. Again their time and expertise freely given.

Targets were set, and in many cases were achieved by some margin. For example, against a target of helping 25 individuals with mental and physical health issues to gain employment, we supported 230 people! The North Yorkshire Shared Prosperity Fund programme has made a real difference to our residents and businesses as this evaluation report illustrates.

## Report Contents

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# Programme Background

## April 2022

Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) launched by Government

## June 2022

North Yorkshire County Council forms Local Partnership Group

## July 2022

North Yorkshire County Council submits SPF Investment Plan

## September 2022

Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) launched by Government

## April 2022

North Yorkshire submits REPF Investment Plan to Government

## December 2022

Government approves SPF and REPF funding for North Yorkshire

## April 2023

North Yorkshire programme commences, and North Yorkshire Council established

## December 2023

York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority established

## March 2025

Completion of initial three-year North Yorkshire programme

### Government's ambition for the Shared Prosperity Fund was to:

“

Enable truly local decision making and better target the priorities of places within the UK. It will lead to visible, tangible improvements to the places where people work and live, alongside investment in human capital, giving communities up and down the UK more reasons to be proud of their area.

### Government's Prospectus focused on the following three national policy areas:



#### Communities and Place

Investment to enhance physical, cultural and social ties and access to amenities, including community infrastructure.



#### People and Skills

Investment in measures to enable adults to join and progress within the labour market.



#### Supporting Local Businesses

Investment in business and entrepreneurship support programmes.

### The North Yorkshire investment plan identified five investment themes reflecting the three national policy areas:



#### Theme 1

Boosting Productivity



#### Theme 2

Building Pride in our Places



#### Theme 3

Communities



#### Theme 4

Decarbonisation



#### Theme 5

People and Skills

# Programme Overview

	Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3	Theme 4	Theme 5
	Boosting Productivity	Building Pride in our Places	Communities	Decarbonisation	People and Skills
Budget	£4.564 million budget	£4.98 million budget	£4.726 million budget	£1.991 million budget	£4.035 million budget
Programmes	9 programmes	2 programmes	8 programmes	7 programmes	7 programmes
Projects	336 projects	46 projects	289 projects	81 projects	33 projects

At the Celebration Event in February 2025 attendees were asked ‘can you identify up to 3 words that come to mind when you think about how the North Yorkshire programme has been delivered to date?’

**From 193 responses the top 5 words were:**

- 01** Collaboratively (19 responses)
- 02** Supportively (12 responses)
- 03** Effectively (7 responses)
- 04** Enabling (5 responses)
- 05** Flexibly (5 responses)



# Programme Management

At the outset the programme was managed in partnership between North Yorkshire County Council and the York & North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership. During the programme's delivery the two organisations evolved into North Yorkshire Council and York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority.

## The organisations worked closely to establish:

### Local Partnership Group

The Group acted in an advisory role and included around 35 members from a wide range of partner organisations. The Group oversaw the development of the North Yorkshire Investment Plan and overall programme delivery. The Group was Chaired by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Carl Les.

### Theme Groups

A Group was formed to develop and oversee delivery of each of the five Investment Themes. Some of the Theme Groups established Task & Finish Groups to complete specific tasks. The Theme Groups included representation from internal and external partners and from national and local bodies, and each had an independent Chair. These Groups played a unique and pivotal role in the implementation of the programme.

### Officer Group

The Officer Group was formed to oversee operational delivery and was chaired by the Assistant Director for Economy.

Organisations seeking funding from the programme typically completed an Expression of Interest followed by a Full Application. Applications for funding were appraised by Officers and submitted to the relevant Theme Group for review.

## Good practice

- ✓ Partners gave considerable time and expertise freely through the Local Partnership Group and Theme Groups and this has had a hugely beneficial impact on the ability of the Council and Combined Authority to establish, delivery and manage programmes.
- ✓ Delivery partners highlighted the collaborative approach adopted with comments including 'the UKSPF team have been pro-active and pragmatic to work with'; and, 'the approach felt more relational and less about cold application processes.' Partners also highlighted how beneficial it was to have a supportive central programme team.
- ✓ 95% of delivery partners reported that the North Yorkshire SPF programme enabled them to respond to local demand and need.



The very fact the Theme Sub-Groups had independent chairs was a cultural signal that this was not going to be an Officer-led programme. Independent voices were valued.



# Boosting Productivity



## Theme Aim

Support start-up and established businesses in North Yorkshire to thrive and grow.



## Theme objectives

- ✓ Help businesses to grow
- ✓ Promote innovation
- ✓ Attract new investment



## Theme spend

Shared Prosperity Fund	£4.564 m
Match-funding	£0.910 m
<b>Total Theme spend</b>	<b>£5.474 m</b>

“

The Small Capital Business Grants programme was invaluable in helping our business enhance our soil sampling capabilities.

We are supporting Yorkshire's farmers to ensure that agriculture remains productive, resilient, and responsible.

## Theme programmes

## SPF budget

Small Capital Business Grants	£1.750 m
Growth Hub Business Support	£1.004 m
Specialist Sector Development	£0.555 m
Social Economy Programme	£0.050 m
Specialist BRM Support	£0.226 m
Innovation Grants	£0.483 m
Grow Yorkshire Communications	£0.237 m
Town Centre Animation	£0.164 m
Social Economy Hyve	£0.094 m

## Thematic Group members included



## Theme outcomes include:



**£91 million**

Of business investment

**477**

New jobs created

**96**

Businesses adopting new to firm technologies or processes



# Deep Dive Evaluation



## Small Capital Business Grants Programme logic model

### Programme context

North Yorkshire faced a productivity deficit against the UK average, based on output per hour worked. Business confidence had declined across the region, and in 2020 only 24% of SME employers sought external information or advice.

### Programme aims

Support businesses to unlock growth opportunities and increase resilience and productivity through small capital funding.

### Delivered by North Yorkshire Council and York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority

### Inputs

- + £1.750 million of SPF and REPF
- + £0.513 million match-funding
- + Council and Combined Authority staff time

### Activities

- + Design of forms and processes
- + Advisers to support businesses
- + Grant funding to businesses

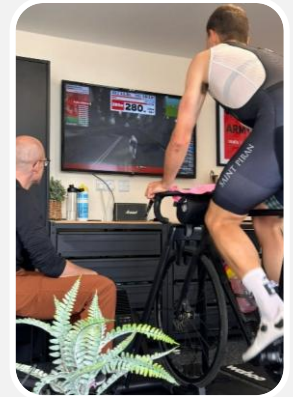
### Desired outcomes

- ✓ Businesses across North Yorkshire engaging with public sector business support.
- ✓ Businesses across North Yorkshire supported to unlock growth opportunities.
- ✓ Business growth protecting existing employment and creating new jobs.
- ✓ Businesses across North Yorkshire with increased productivity and resilience.

## Case study

### Leadout Performance

Formed in 2023 by professional cyclist Sean Dodsworth the business applied for a grant towards a new workshop storage system. Sean commented:



*The grant has led to a 40% boost in our capacity, allowing us to grow the business. This growth has paved the way for a significant expansion into new premises.*

## Small Capital Business Grant Programme impacts



**64% of supported businesses had not received any grant support in the past.**



**43% of supported businesses expect their turnover to rise.**



**46% of supported businesses have safeguarded jobs**



**64% of businesses will create new jobs by March 2026.**

**The programme will help create 649 new jobs by March 2026.**



# Building Pride in our Places



## Theme Aim

To foster a sense of pride in place across North Yorkshire increasing residents' satisfaction with their local spaces



## Theme objectives

- ✓ Create and enhance cultural, heritage and art assets
- ✓ Invest in public realm in towns and villages



## Theme spend

Shared Prosperity Fund	£4.85 m
Match-funding	£12.6 m
<b>Total Theme spend</b>	<b>£17.45 m</b>

“

I've talked with several organisations who received support from North Yorkshire's SPF programme.

The programme has shaken up the snow globe and all these ideas and projects have come out. It's given people the confidence to do things properly.

## Theme programmes

## SPF budget

Pride in Places Programme	£4.66 m
Visitor Economy	£0.32 m

## Thematic Group members included



## Theme outcomes include:

**228,000**

people visiting improved towns and villages

**18,000**

new visitors to improved towns and villages

**70**

jobs safeguarded

**£12.6 million**

Leverage of match-funding





# Deep Dive Evaluation



## Building Pride in Places Programme logic model

### Programme context

North Yorkshire's towns and villages perform a number of vital roles for rural communities including employment, retail, leisure and training. There was long-term under-investment in public realm and the programme sought to address this and support local arts, culture, heritage and public space boosting pride in place.

### Programme aims

Address long-term under-investment in the public realm and support towns and villages to adapt to changing retail and recreation patterns. Support the visitor economy in towns and villages to drive local growth.

### Delivered by North Yorkshire Council

### Inputs

- + £4.85 million of SPF and REPF
- + £12.56 million match-funding
- + Council staff time

### Activities

- + Funding for Feasibility Studies
- + Support for the Visitor Economy
- + Grant funding capital investments including public realm

### Desired outcomes

- ✓ Increased awareness of events and enhanced tourism, cultural, and heritage assets.
- ✓ Improved public spaces and reduced vacancy rates in towns and villages.
- ✓ Increased footfall and visitor activity in local areas.
- ✓ Greater pride in place across North Yorkshire.

## Case study

### Mashamshire Community Office

This community organisation secured funding from the programme to enable them to purchase the former Police House and decarbonise it thereby securing a valuable community asset for the whole community. Match-funding was raised from the local community.



“

*Our contact with the Council has been amazing – they have been very helpful and responsive.*

## Case study

### Whitby Lobster Hatchery

North Sea Conservation was awarded funding to complete a Feasibility Study focused on how to refurbish the fish market.



“

*Improvements to Whitby Fish Market are important for the town. It gives young people a sense they can aspire to work in the fishing industry, helps local people feel proud about their town and its maritime heritage, and connects visitors to an aspect of Whitby that many people thought had gone years ago.*



# Communities



## Theme Aim

Support physical, cultural and social amenities and connections supporting resilient, safe and health communities.



## Theme objectives

- ✓ Build capacity within places and people
- ✓ Support community regeneration and digital inclusion



## Theme spend

Shared Prosperity Fund	£4.726 m
Match-funding	£2.705 m
<b>Total Theme spend</b>	<b>£7.431 m</b>

“

The approach we experienced of organisations being supported by the programme team from start to finish was a breath of fresh air and different to other funding programmes I have worked on.

## Theme programmes

## SPF budget

Community Grants	£0.510 m
Sports & Active Travel Capital	£0.815 m
Community Building Grants	£0.820 m
Sports Rural Capital Fund	£0.450 m
Feasibility Studies	£0.575 m
VCSE Capacity Building	£0.675 m
Digital Inclusion	£0.586 m
Cost of Living	£0.295 m

## Thematic Group members included



## Theme outcomes include:



# 7,500

New users of improved facilities

# 800

New volunteering opportunities created

# 36

Rural premises with improved digital connectivity



# Deep Dive Evaluation



## Digital Inclusion Programme logic model

### Programme context

Residents who lack the skills, confidence or infrastructure to access content online face barriers accessing training, employment and key services and are more likely to experience isolation and exclusion.

### Programme aims

Upskill Digital Champions and equip Digital Hubs with modern tools to support digital skills training in local communities. Reduce digital exclusion in deprived and isolated areas through targeted support.

### Delivered in partnership with Community First Yorkshire

### Inputs

- + £0.59 million SPF and REPF
- + Provision of space for Hubs from public and voluntary sector partners

### Activities

- + Capital grant funding
- + Digital Champion training
- + Capacity support for voluntary sector organisations

### Desired outcomes

- ✓ Individuals supported to become and be upskilled by Digital Champions.
- ✓ Improved access to further life skills training.
- ✓ Increased employability and life skills among upskilled individuals.
- ✓ Reduced isolation and exclusion through enhanced digital and life skills.

## Case study

### Nidderdale Plus Digital Hubs

Support enabled Nidderdale Plus to establish three Digital Hubs in remote rural areas adding to their existing network.



*We have been delighted with the uptake of support in isolated rural areas. We have recruited new Champions and had great attendance, in places where there are not even villages!*

## Digital Inclusion Programme impacts



**Upskilled individuals are using their new skills to pursue hobbies, form new connections, access vital services and gain health and employment benefits.**



**The community buildings that host the Digital Hubs have gained increased footfall enabling some to offer new services and enhance their viability.**



**The capacity and capability of individuals and organisations to support digital inclusion has been significantly enhanced.**



# Decarbonisation



## Theme Aim

Support North Yorkshire's communities and businesses to take climate-responsible action to assist North Yorkshire to become a carbon negative region by 2040.



## Theme objectives

- ✓ Support decarbonisation and encourage rural circular economy projects to grow the local economy
- ✓ Improve energy while combating fuel poverty and climate change



## Theme spend

Shared Prosperity Fund	£2.661 m
Match-funding	£1.693 m
<b>Total Theme spend</b>	<b>£4.355 m</b>

“

Funding was straightforward to access. Our renewable energy project has provided our sustainable distillery with energy security and financial stability. This project has built climate resilience and helped us contribute to the region's transition to net zero

## Theme programmes

## SPF budget

Community Climate Action Grants	£0.614 m
Community Climate Action Support	£0.149 m
Business Sustainability Grants	£0.521 m
Business Sustainability Support	£0.166 m
Local Energy Advice	£0.292 m
Farm Sustainability	£0.200 m
Residential Care Home Audits	£0.050 m

## Thematic Group members included

ianwalker&co  
ACCOUNTS • TAX • ADVISORY

UP  
LOOK

HONEYCOMB  
CONSULTING

## Theme outcomes include:

**40**

Energy efficiency measures installed

**15**

Community led programmes delivered



# Deep Dive Evaluation



## Business Sustainability Programme logic model

### Programme context

The Investment Plan highlighted the need to 'take action now to enable businesses to future-proof their operations and be ready for new environmental and climate-related policy.

### Programme aims

Address gaps in knowledge and finance that are barriers to businesses investing to reduce their environmental impact and transition to a circular, net-zero economy.

### Delivered by North Yorkshire Council and York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority

### Inputs

- + £2 million SPF and REPF
- + £0.750 million match-funding
- + Council & Combined Authority staff time

### Activities

- + Design of forms & processes
- + Advisors to support businesses
- + Grant funding to businesses

### Desired outcomes

- ✓ Businesses in North Yorkshire learning to reduce their environmental impact.
- ✓ Support for businesses to invest in sustainability efforts.
- ✓ Increased business resilience through lower running costs.
- ✓ Enhanced credentials helping businesses attract customers and suppliers.

## Case study

### Heck! Food

Founded in 2013 Heck is a Premium sausage maker committed to the environment. The founders secured funding to install solar panels.



“

*We would highly recommend the Business Sustainability Programme. It has enabled our business to accelerate the completion of some of our sustainability goals and will save 45 tonnes of carbon each year.*

### Business Sustainability Programme impacts



**84% of supported businesses were satisfied with the process of securing grant funding.**



**36% of supported businesses have gone on to make further investments to reduce their carbon impacts.**



**Business report average annual savings of £12,823.**



**64% of supported businesses report increased resilience to date with a further 21% expecting this benefit.**





# People and Skills



## Theme Aim

Remove barriers that people out of work face to entering employment and support people in work to develop valuable new skills.



## Theme objectives

- ✓ Reduce barriers faced by people furthest from the labour market
- ✓ Address skills gaps
- ✓ Increase employment levels



## Theme spend

Shared Prosperity Fund	£4.726 m
Match-funding	£0.004 m
<b>Total Theme spend</b>	<b>£4.730 m</b>

“

We found that the funding enabled us to support both businesses and employees through the Green Skills programme. This flexibility has been extremely beneficial.

## Theme programmes

## SPF budget

RISE	£2.88 m
Supporting Young & Older People	£0.335 m
Information, Advice & Guidance	£0.200 m
Specialist Sector Skills	£0.290 m
Green Skills: retrofit	£0.215 m
Green Skills: careers leaders	£0.025 m
Careers Hub	£0.095 m

## Thematic Group members included



## Theme outcomes include:


**811**

People familiarised with employers' expectations

**408**

People with increased employability

**200**

People in education or training as a result of support



# Deep Dive Evaluation



## Supporting Young & Older People Programme logic model

### Programme context

North Yorkshire faced a shrinking labour market and an increasing number of young people no longer in education, employment or training. The region had also witnessed a rise in the number of economically inactive people, alongside skills shortages.

### Programme aims

Reduce barriers young people face in securing and sustaining employment, while supporting graduates and older people to re-engage with the labor market in North Yorkshire.

### Managed by North Yorkshire Council and delivered by a range of partner organisations

### Inputs

- + £0.335 million SPF
- + £40k match-funding
- + Council & Combined Authority staff time
- + Delivery partner time and resources

### Activities

Range of support to young and older people including awareness raising, courses, one-to-one coaching, and work experience

### Desired outcomes

- ✓ Individuals in North Yorkshire completing training and gaining new skills.
- ✓ Reduced barriers to securing and sustaining employment across North Yorkshire.
- ✓ Increased employment and self-employment opportunities for individuals.
- ✓ Reduced skills gaps and enhanced labor supply for businesses in North Yorkshire.

## Case study

### City of Media Arts EXPO

Aesthetica Magazine supported young people aged between 16 and 18 to attend the EXPO with presentations and sessions with creative industry professionals. A representative from Aesthetica Magazine commented:



“

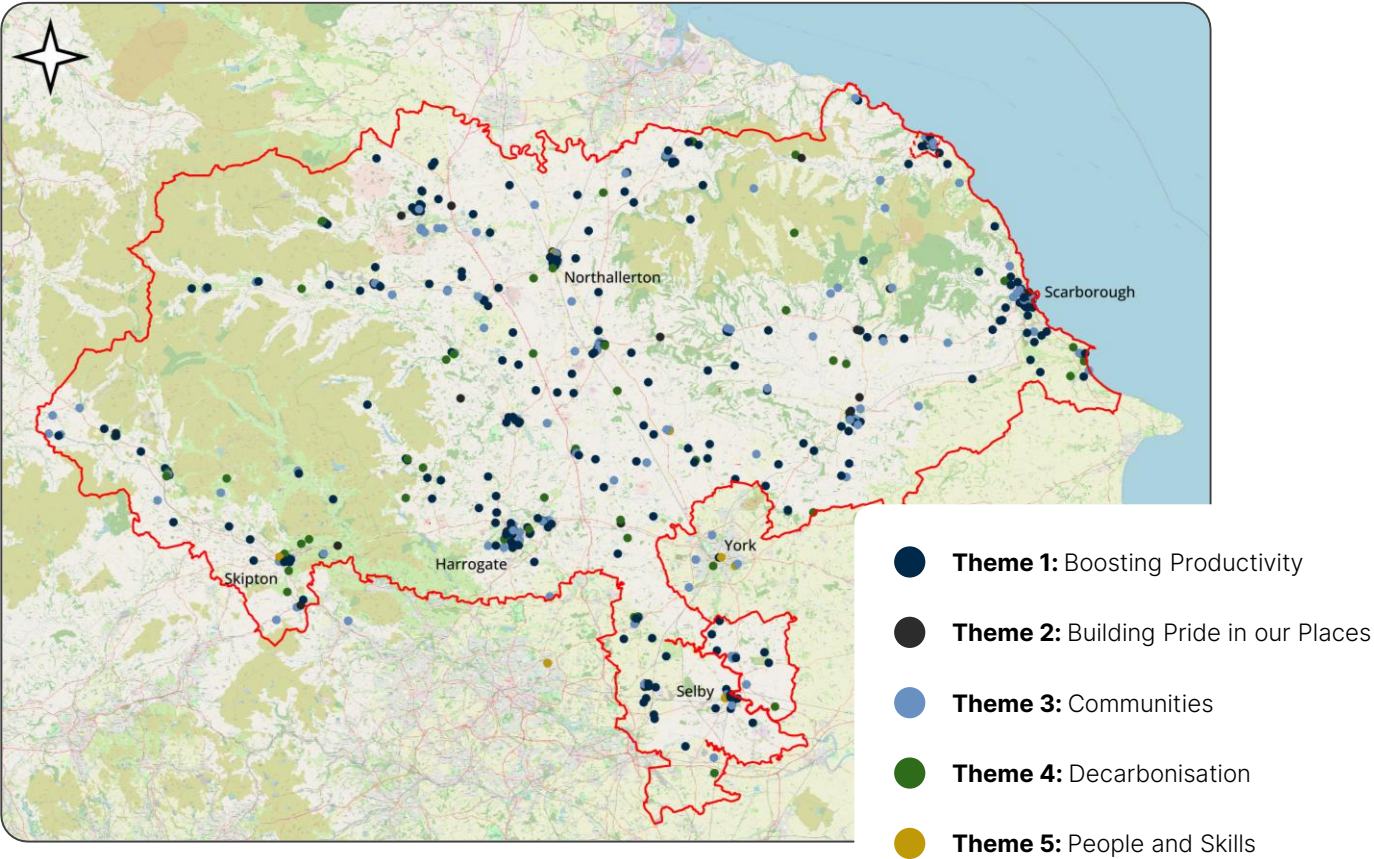
*Demand for this scheme was so much higher than we expected and we supported over 100 young people who each received 21 hours of support.*

## Supporting Young & Older People Programme impacts

- Improved behaviour and attendance at school from young people at risk of disengaging.
- Improved mental health and reduced loneliness and isolation for young and older people.
- Increased number of people in employment.
- Young and older people gaining confidence, increased aspirations, soft skills and formal qualifications.

# Programme impacts

The map shows the location of supported projects where postcodes were available:



## The programme’s impacts up to the end of March 2025 include

### Outputs

851,351		People reached
11,212		Volunteering opportunities supported
2,568		Local events or activities supported
856		People engaged in work experience
437		People receiving basic skills training

### Outcomes

234,944		Additional visitors
9,936		New users of facilities
1,031		Jobs created or safeguarded
£161 M		Of increased investment
6,634 m <sup>2</sup>		Of low carbon infrastructure installed

# Evaluation Conclusions

## Programme design



- The programme was **underpinned by a robust Investment Plan** that demonstrated a **strong grasp of North Yorkshire's unique strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.**
- North Yorkshire has successfully combined a **top-down understanding of the region's challenges with a bottom-up approach to developing solutions to them.**
- The decision to deliver the programme in a partnership between what was then the County Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership displayed **considerable foresight and a commitment to team working.**
- The North Yorkshire team continued to display this commitment to partnership by **engaging stakeholders to co-design several major programmes.**

## Programme delivery



- Theme Groups performed an **instrumental role in the design and management of programmes.**
- The North Yorkshire programme has been **very responsive to local needs** and has made effective use of the funding flexibility offered by Central Government.
- The North Yorkshire programme has supported a very wide range of projects aligned to the five Thematic priorities. **The breadth and depth of supported activity is highly impressive.**
- The central programme team's **pro-active and supportive approach** was highlighted by numerous stakeholders.
- The considerable successes have been achieved despite some challenging internal and external factors, including Local Government Re-organisation, and the cost-of-living crisis.

## Programme impact and legacy



- Programme leads were asked to identify their three most significant impacts to date. Their responses, below, demonstrate the **breadth of programme impacts.**



- **90% of programme leads state that without SPF their programmes would not have occurred at all.**
- The programme's legacy includes **enhanced delivery capacity and capability; effective funding forms and processes; a commitment to continued partnership working.**