



innovation
fund ●●●●

Impact Report - 2015



Contents

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Background | 3 |
| Project Breakdown | 4 |
| Impact on Participants | 5 |
| Impact on Providers | 12 |
| Impact of the Project | 14 |
| Recommendations | 16 |



Background for the Innovation Fund

Funded by North Yorkshire County Council's Health and Adult Services Directorate, the Innovation Fund aimed to support the transformation of Health and Adult Social Care in North Yorkshire. The programme was proposed by Your Consortium and delivered through a partnership of voluntary and community sector partners.

By prioritising areas for transformation within adult social care, the fund enabled voluntary and community organisations to provide innovative approaches to early intervention and/or prevention projects.

The Fund provided £450,000 to 32 organisations across North Yorkshire to deliver a wide range of interventions that addressed 3 main themes:

1. Reducing Loneliness and Isolation
2. Prevention of Falls
3. Supporting people to remain in their own homes

There was also a fourth theme available for groups working in the Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) area, with an investment from the CCG of £48,000 for:

4. Preventing winter deaths and reducing fuel poverty

For further information about the projects funded and the activities delivered, please visit the Innovation Fund webpage: www.yourconsortium.org/innovationfund



Project Breakdown

| Organisation | Project Themes | | | | Total Participants |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| | Prevention of Falls | Reducing Loneliness | Remaining in own Home | Reuction in Fuel Poverty | |
| Purple Patch Arts | | x | | | 41 |
| Rural Arts | | x | | | 84 |
| Horton Housing Assc - Selby | | x | | | 85 |
| Age UK North Craven | | | | | 105 |
| Wellspring Therapy & Training | | x | | | 39 |
| National Energy Action | | | | x | 12 |
| Relate Mid Yorks | | x | | | 55 |
| Yorkshire Yoga | x | | | | 48 |
| Orb Community Arts | | x | | | 50 |
| The Rainbow Centre | | x | | | 44 |
| Ripon Community Link | | x | | | 77 |
| Harrogate and Ripon CVS | | x | | | 23 |
| Rural Action Yorkshire | | x | | | 67 |
| Scarborough and Ryedale Carers Resource | | | x | | 66 |
| Age UK North Yorks - Hambleton | | | x | | 43 |
| Rural Action Yorkshire - Craven | | | | x | 53 |
| Horton Housing Assc - Craven | | x | | | 112 |
| The Carer's Resource - Craven | | | | x | first 4 contact* |
| North Yorkshire Sport Ltd | | x | | | 78 |
| Age UK North Yorks - Harrogate | x | | | | 46 |
| Selby District AVS | x | | | | 41 |
| Harrogate Skills 4 Living | x | | | | 28 |
| Age UK Scarborough and District | | x | | | 48 |
| The Carer's Resource | | x | | | 21 |
| The Clock | | x | | | 86 |
| Selby District Vision | | x | | | 61 |
| Whitby DAG | | x | | | 19 |
| The Leyburn Arts Centre Ltd | | x | | x | 38 |
| Esk Moors Caring Ltd | | x | | | 33 |
| Ryedale Special Families | | x | | | 21 |
| Pioneer Projects | | x | | | 28 |
| Live Music Now | | x | | | 79 |
| Total | | | | | 1631 |

*integrated referral system

Impact on Participants

In order to demonstrate the impact of the Innovation Fund, participants were asked to complete a small set of paperwork at the beginning and end of their project. The paperwork was designed to obtain a range of information including:

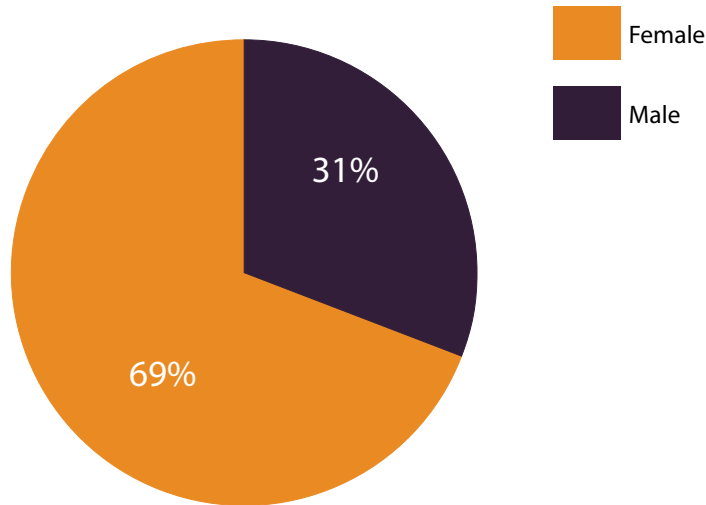
- personal details (e.g. name, address, age, gender)
- information about personal circumstances
- evaluation information to measure participant satisfaction

Gender, Disability, Age and Employment Status

The Innovation Fund aimed to work with individuals from across North Yorkshire who were at risk of loneliness and isolation, at risk of falls and those who would benefit from support to remain in their own homes. The funding from the Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven CCG was also specifically included to help prevent winter deaths and reduce fuel poverty.

The following information shows a demographic breakdown about the participants who took part in the Innovation Fund:

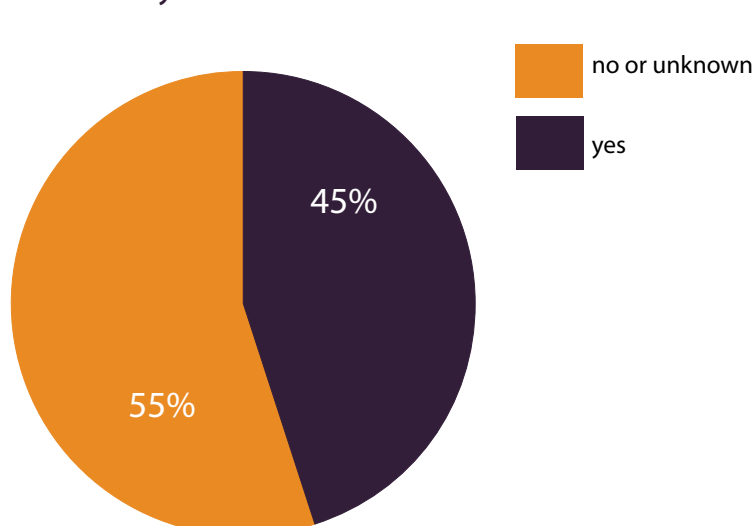
Gender



Registered Disability Type:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Visual - | 81 |
| Hearing - | 16 |
| Mobility - | 216 |
| Other Physical Disability - | 65 |
| Other medical issues - | 20 |
| Emotional or Behavioural Issues - | 8 |
| Mental health Issues - | 88 |
| Aspergers - | 2 |

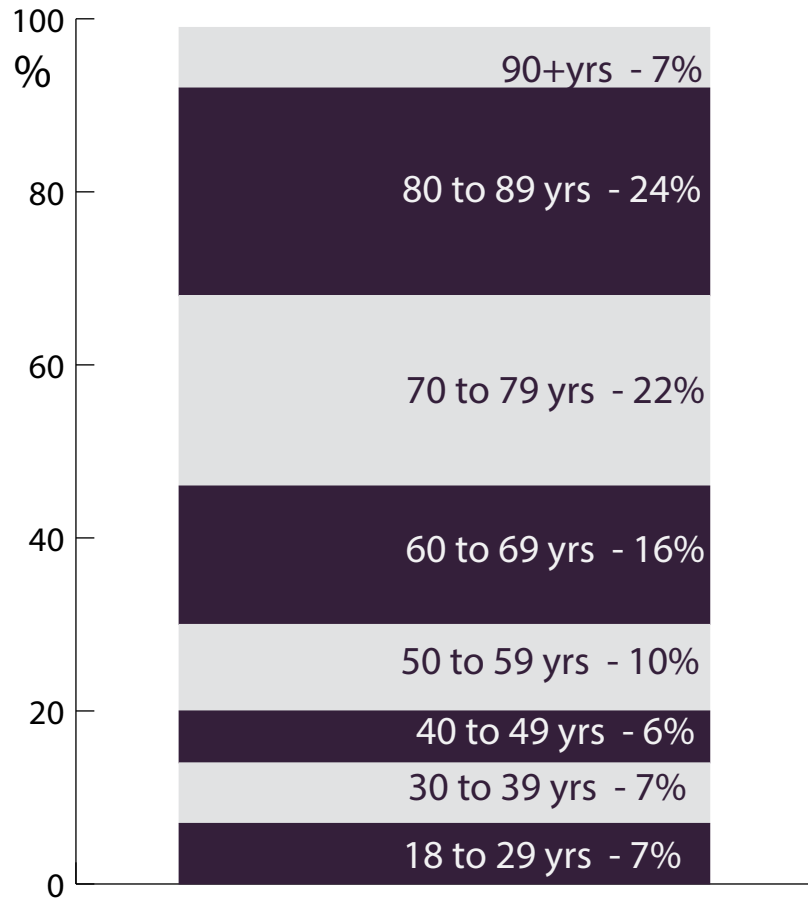
Disability



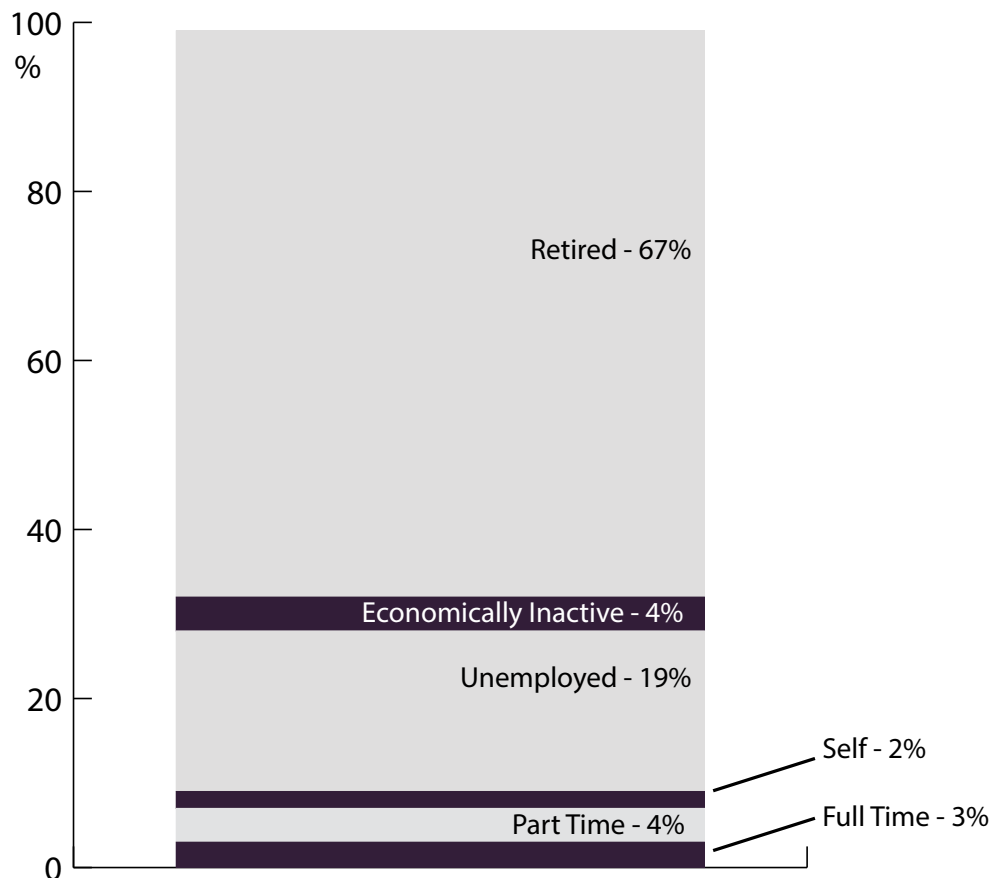
Registered Learning Difficulties

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Moderate - | 2 |
| Dyslexia - | 15 |
| Dyscalculia - | 4 |
| Other specific - | 16 |
| Autism - | 1 |

■ Age



■ Employment Status



Participants on the programme:

1631

Average unit cost per participant:

£307

Case Studies

**Volunteering
Adding Value to Community Action
The Rainbow Centre, Scarborough**

The Rainbow Centre is a social action project based in Castle Ward, Scarborough – working predominantly with clients who are recovering from substance misuse, homelessness and other social challenges.

Their Innovation Fund project addressed isolation and loneliness through volunteering, with a particular focus on their furniture reclamation work. Volunteer participants were involved – donating over twenty hours each into the scheme and helping to provide emergency furniture to those in the community who were in need.

This equates to an additional £14,000 of Pound Plus return on the initial grant funding of £15,000

One of the themes from the Centre’s programme was the notion of ‘paying back’ or ‘playing a part’ in the community. One of the participants commented – “I volunteered because when I moved back into the area the Rainbow Centre helped me out.... So I thought it would be a good idea to give back...”

The funding also supported a short video which has helped the Centre secure further funding to help in its sustainability.

To view this video or any other of our case study videos please scan the relevant QR code.

<https://youtu.be/4MvU5QEpk6E>



Songs and Scones
Tackling Isolation and Lonliness
Through Performance
Live Music Now, York
<https://youtu.be/kgaNyW4tVPc>



Remembering & Reminiscing
Working with the Elderly to
Improve Mental Health
Rural Arts, Thirsk
https://youtu.be/L6A_PIDCEEQ



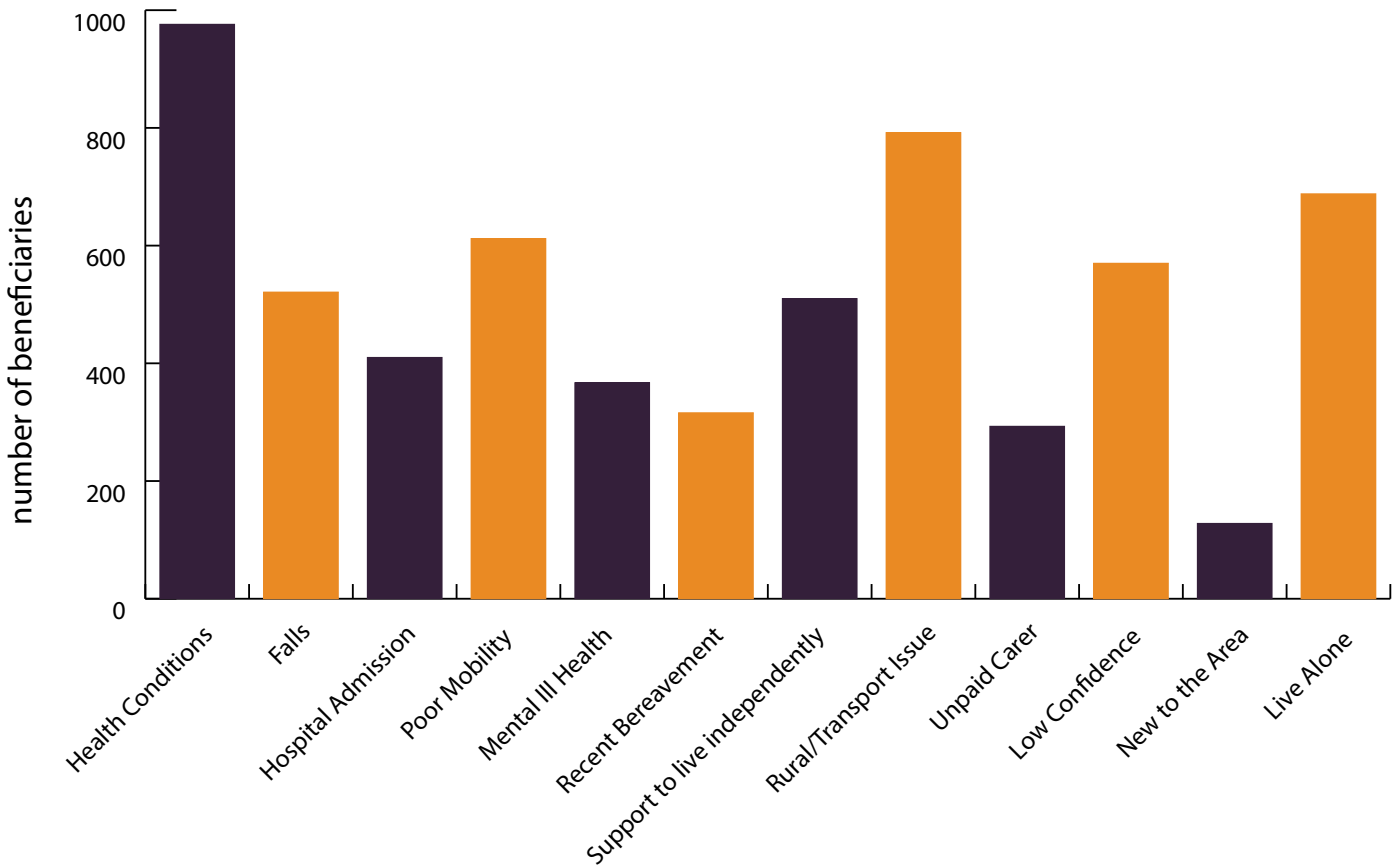
Building Communities
Developing links through
Community Action
Horton Housing, Selby
<https://youtu.be/VjLWUiQ8kbc>



Personal Circumstances

For a participant to be eligible for the Innovation Fund, they needed to present with at least one identifier from a list of 12 risk factors which were specifically chosen as a way of identifying those who were most at risk of: loneliness and isolation, falls, being unable to live independently, winter death and/or fuel poverty. Please note that in exceptional circumstances, participants could still be eligible without presenting any of the 12 specified risk factors. In such cases, there had to be additional evidence to suggest they were at risk and would benefit from participation in the Innovation Fund.

The following information shows the 12 risk factors and the number of participants who presented with each.



The chart shows:

- 60%** declared they have a long term health condition, disability or impairment
- 49%** declared they live in a rural area with poor transport links
- 42%** declared they live alone
- 38%** declared they consider themselves to have poor mobility
- 35%** declared they consider themselves to have low confidence
- 32%** declared they've had a fall resulting in an injury
- 31%** declared they require support to live independently
- 25%** declared they've been admitted to hospital within the last 12 months
- 23%** declared they have experienced poor mental health
- 19%** declared they have experienced a recent bereavement
- 18%** declared they provide unpaid care for a friend, relative or neighbour
- 8%** declared they were new to the area (moved within the last 12 months)

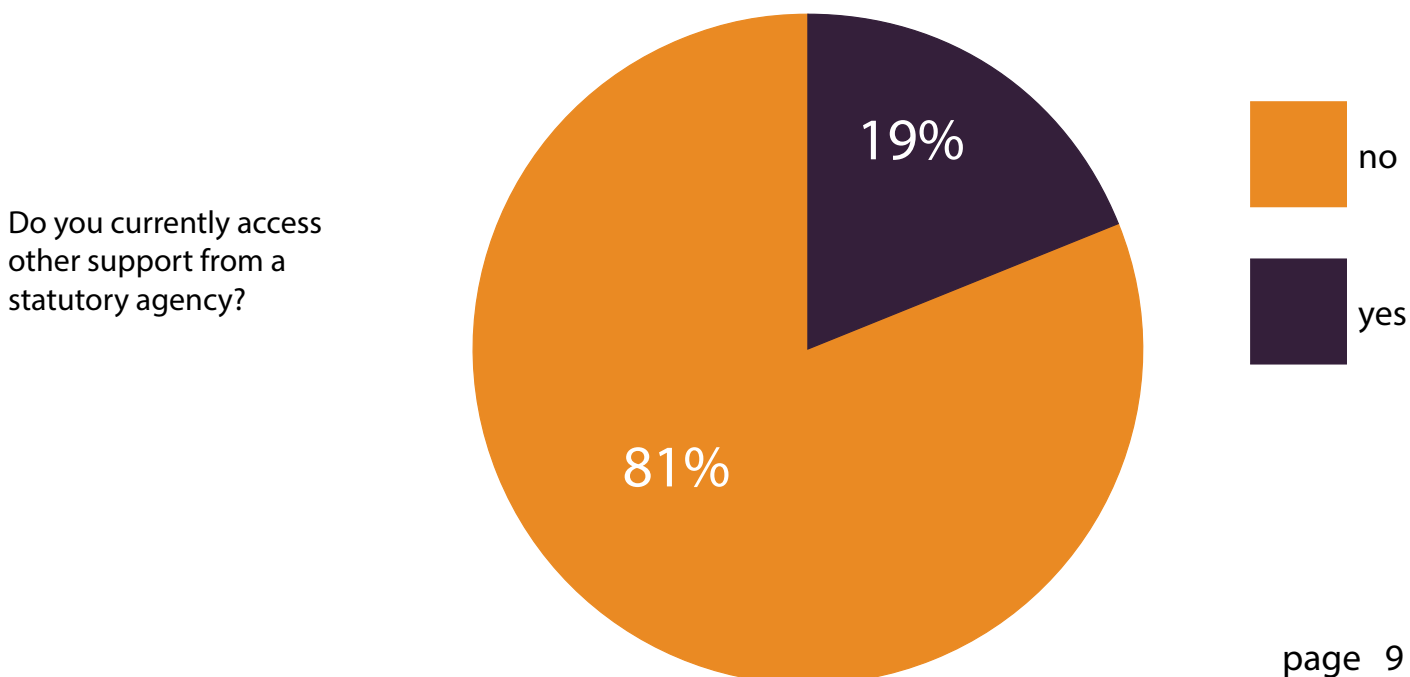
As well as breaking down the number of participants presenting with each risk factor, we also measured the number of risk factors each participant declared...

| | |
|-----|--|
| 1% | declared zero risk factors, though there were other exceptional circumstances which meant these participants were still eligible for support |
| 16% | declared one risk factor |
| 18% | declared two risk factors |
| 14% | declared three risk factors |
| 15% | declared four risk factors |
| 12% | declared five risk factors |
| 10% | declared six risk factors |
| 8% | declared seven risk factors |
| 4% | declared eight risk factors |
| 1% | declared with nine risk factors |
| 1% | declared with ten risk factors |

In total, 83% of participants declared multiple risk factors and 51% of all participants declared four or more risk factors. This data demonstrates that the Innovation Fund achieved its objective of engaging with those most at risk.

Access Support

At the initial assessment stage, participants were asked whether they were accessing support from a statutory agency. The responses are shown below:




One of the key aims of the Innovation Fund was to support NYCC's Prevention Agenda by **preventing, reducing and delaying** the number of people accessing statutory support. The pie chart shows that 81% of participants declared they were not accessing statutory support and this represents 1,325 individuals.

Of this group, 80% declared multiple risk factors and 46% declared four or more. It's therefore reasonable to assume that the Innovation Fund was **preventing and delaying** these individuals from accessing statutory support services even though they were at risk in multiple categories.

The 19% of participants who declared that they were accessing statutory support represents 306 individuals. Of this group, 95% declared multiple risk factors and 72% declared four or more. 77% declared they had a long term health condition, disability or impairment and 37% declared they had been admitted to hospital within the past 12 months.









For this group, average ratings increased between the start and end of their project across the board in the following impact assessment areas; physical health, emotional resilience, confidence, support networks, community involvement, financial constraints, fear of falling and food & fuel poverty. It's therefore reasonable to assume that this group may need a **reduced level of statutory support** in the future.

 This report recommends that in the future, Innovation Fund monitors the level of statutory support being accessed in more detail. This will allow for further evaluation of the programme's effectiveness at addressing the prevent, reduce, delay agenda.

One of the most important things we wanted to capture from the Innovation Fund was the impact the projects and services were having on participant's lives. In order to do this, we asked participants to complete an Impact Star at the beginning of their project and again at the end in order to get a measure of the difference the project had made in their responses.

The Impact Star included eight areas and participants gave each area a rating from 1-6 based on how positive they felt about it (where 1 was very negative and 6 was very positive).

The responses below show the average increase in ratings across the entire programme:

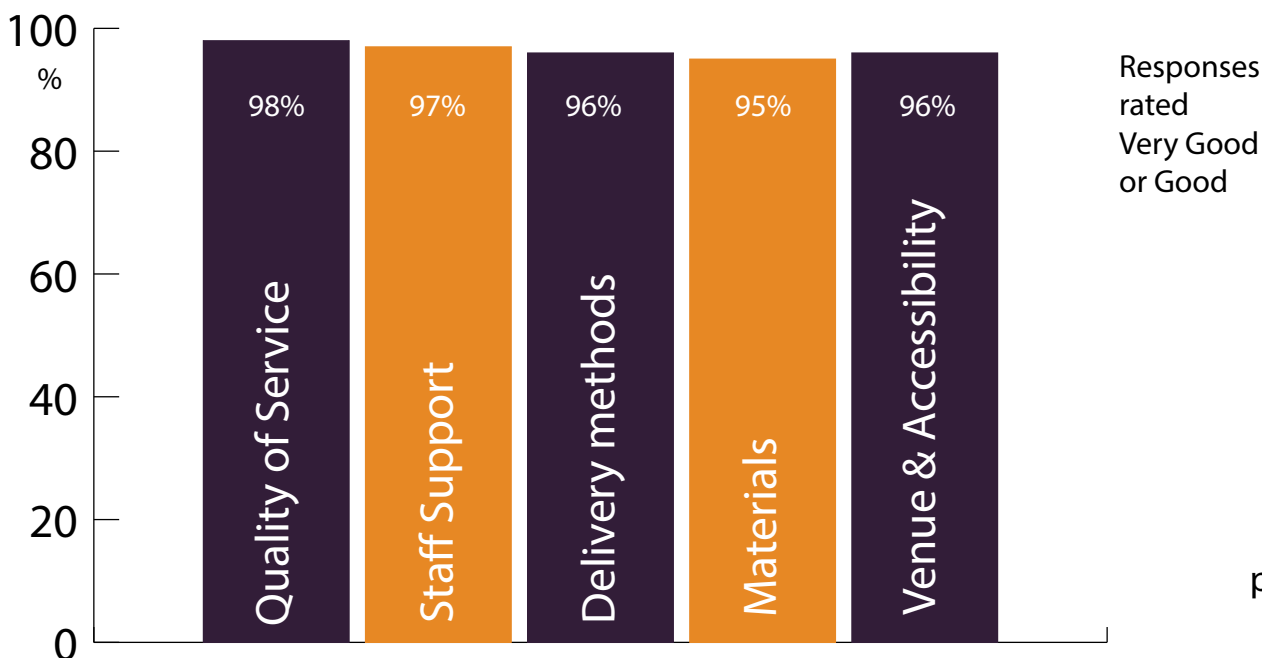
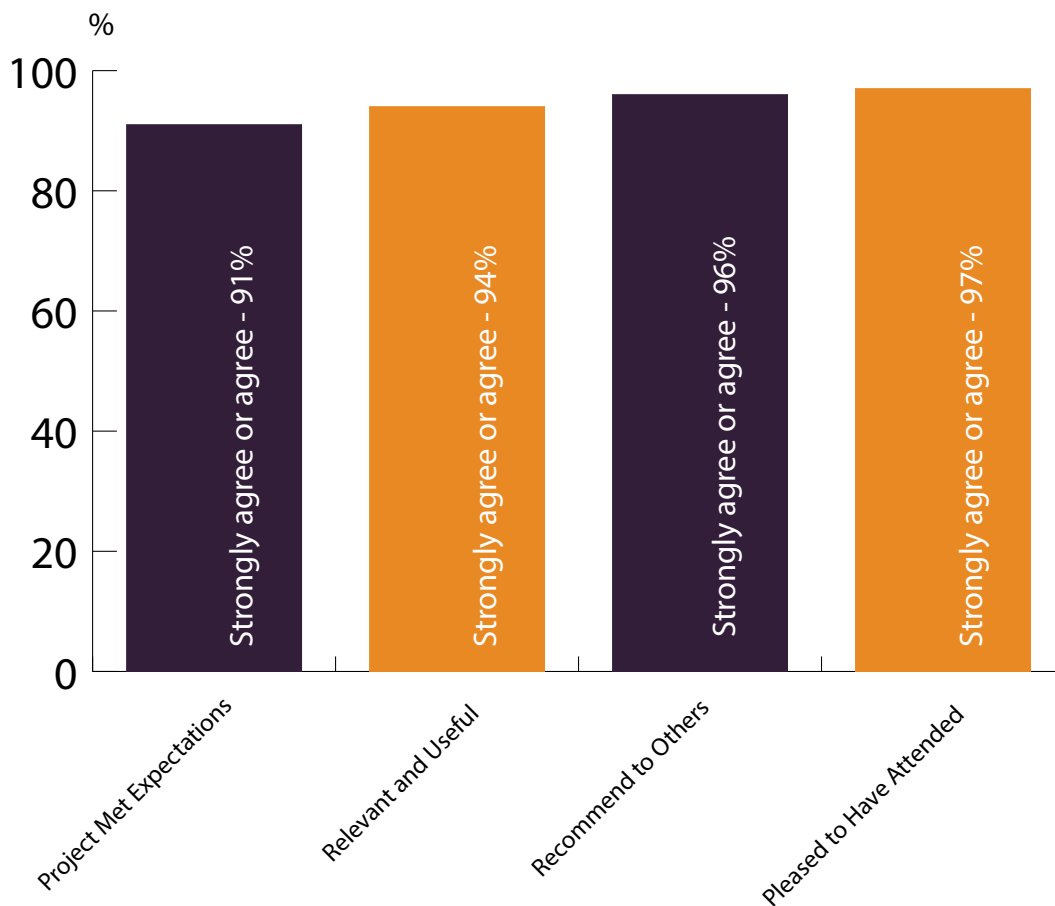
-  Physical Health increased by **19%**
-  Emotional Resilience increased by **30%**
-  Confidence increased by **32%**
-  Support Networks increased by **32%**
-  Community Involvement increased by **43%**
-  Financial Constraints increased by **27%**
-  Fear of Falling improved by **26%**
-  Fuel and Food Poverty improved by **21%**

This shows that the programme overall has had a positive impact on the lives of participants and although these results don't directly indicate that the programme has prevented, reduced or delayed individuals from accessing statutory services, it's reasonable to view the results as indicative of this outcome.

The Innovation Fund has helped the majority of participants towards a more positive sense of well-being and increased well-being is linked to a reduced need to access statutory support.

Participant Satisfaction

As well as monitoring demographic information, participants were asked to give feedback about the services they received and the organisations running the projects:



Impact on Providers

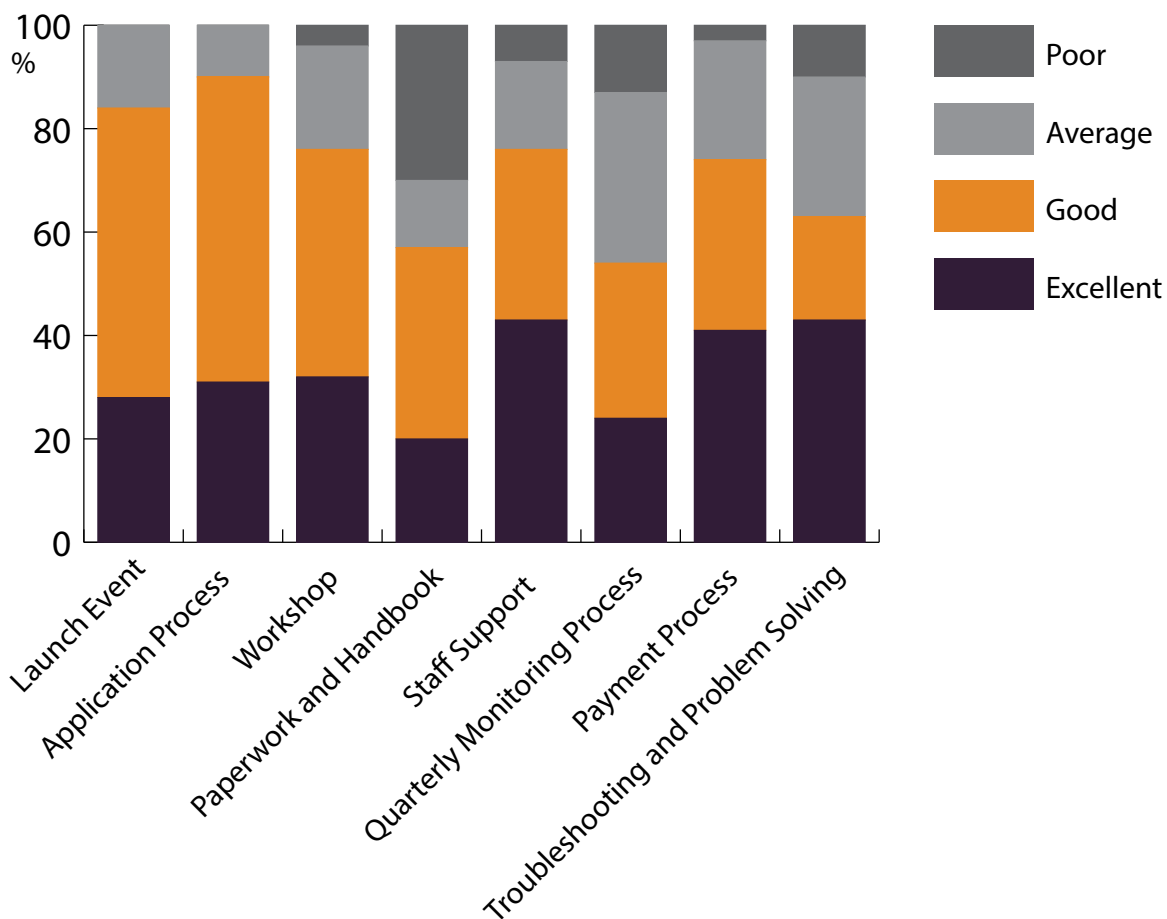
In total, there were 32 Innovation Fund projects across North Yorkshire and each submitted a Project Evaluation Report at the end of the programme. This gave providers the opportunity to feedback information from their project including outcomes and achievements, sustainability and provider satisfaction. Here's what they had to say...

- Generally individuals did not know each other prior to the sessions but **friendships** clearly developed
- A number of **collaborative partnerships** resulted with banks, libraries and other charities
- The project highlighted the need for facilitated group work with carers and the person they care for and supported this delivery
- The project highlighted the need for an **urgent response system to support vulnerable adults** over the winter and encouraged innovation and change in referral systems
- The project highlighted the lack of knowledge about local service in those who are rurally isolated and resulted in **volunteer opportunities** being promoted more widely.
- The community cafés helped us connect with individuals who were dealing with housing repair problems and sanctions issues
- A greater demand for transport to our events and the **development of a new session** in the Scarborough area as a response to client requests
- The project provided **holistic energy advice/energy efficiency assistance** to those who would otherwise not be eligible for mainstream help.
- Initially the target of our provision was with older people but it became apparent that those most in need of support were a younger target with a range of issues such as **bereavement, addictions and life changing events**.
- Two volunteers used their time to become **'job ready'** and have since moved on to paid employment
- Excellent partnership development with **local GP's and other NHS** provision
- Working with **banks** - Digital Eagles and prevention of fraud sessions
- Worked in partnership with **NYCC** Adult Learning tutors and Stronger Communities team
- Developed active partnership with **Harrogate & Rural District CCG** and three **GP's** in Knaresborough
- Out of ten venues used seven were local **churches** and these venues were given free of charge
- Strengthened partnership working with **Your Consortium**

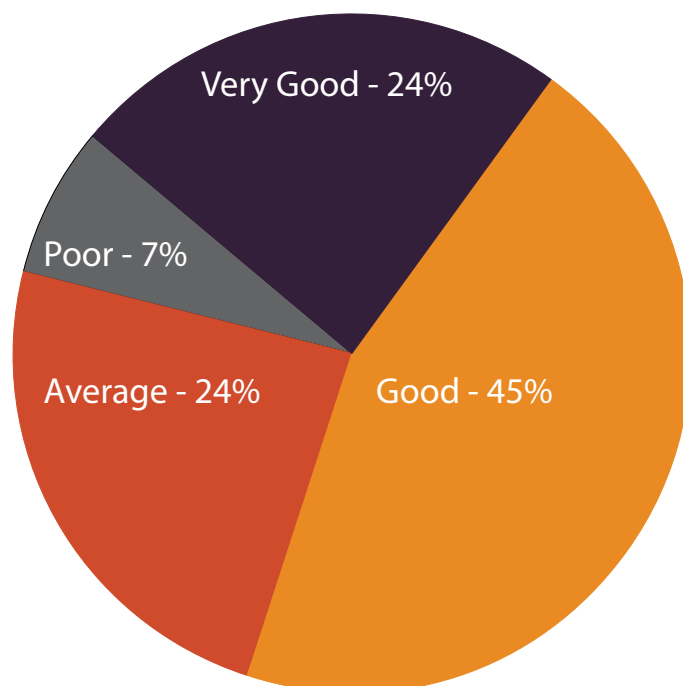


We wanted to know how satisfied organisations were with delivering on the Innovation Fund as we were aware that it was a new approach to the funding. There were so many different types of projects, we were keen to get feedback about how it could have been improved from their perspective.

By asking for this level of feedback we have been able to recommend improvements to the programme which will hopefully bring additional benefits for providers participants in the future.



Please rate your overall experience of delivering on the Innovation Fund



When evaluating the impact of the Innovation Fund, three key areas emerged. They were:

■ Impact on Individuals

As demonstrated by the data in this report, the majority of Innovation Fund participants had a hugely positive experience with tangible improvements reported across a diverse range of impact areas associated with physical and mental health, loneliness and isolation, confidence, location and level of independence.

The programme has provided innovative approaches to early intervention and prevention and the results are indicative that the Innovation Fund has prevented, reduced and delayed participants from accessing statutory support.

“This programme helped to reduce loneliness when I lived alone”

“The event exceeded all expectations. It was a treat and a tonic to us all, as we were singing along and clapping. Great!”

“This has given me confidence and purpose”

“You have given me support and has made me stronger to make decisions in my life in a positive way”

“Improved well-being immensely”

“I feel much stronger now”

“I’ve actually enjoyed it and looked forward to coming. I usually find depression very difficult to think and talk about but the course was all very positive”

“It made me more aware of the dangers of falling”

■ Impact on Providers

The Innovation Fund provided an opportunity for voluntary and community sector providers to test out innovative projects designed to support individuals. At the same time, it gave providers the opportunity to demonstrate the positive impact they were having on the quality of people’s lives through the trial of a new approach including output-based monitoring with a payment model dependent on the achievement of such outputs.

As well, delivery on the Innovation Fund provided an opportunity to support project and organisational sustainability.

By providing funding for the delivery of interventions, and demonstrating impact via specific monitoring requirements – providers were gaining direct experience representative of that required on more complex funding contracts. Furthermore, a number of providers fed back that they had secured investment from new funding streams as a direct result of the work piloted via the Innovation Fund.

“The funding has given us new approaches on how to fund IAG, and while it has been hard work – it has provided the opportunity for collective thinking on how to capture impact and evidence the difference made to the people and community”

“We used the model and evidence from our Innovation Fund project to influence a successful bid to the Duke of York Community Initiative”

“This short-term funding has enabled us to demonstrate the positive impact of our project on a large number of individuals in more rural locations, as well as establish the continued need and demand. We have been able to engage with communities, vulnerable people, as well as key stakeholders to aid us in the compilation of a funding application for further work, but also to enable us to steer and develop the project to ensure it meets the needs of the most vulnerable and isolated”

“This funding has enabled us to put the infrastructure in place for a long-term yoga for falls prevention scheme and it has enabled us to begin to gather data and anecdotal evidence to show how the project benefits the community”

“The Innovation Fund has enabled us to set up a new mentor scheme. We now have trained mentors available to support new volunteers who need extra help”

“We have been awarded another contract which will allow part of the program to continue”

■ Impact of a New Approach

Your Consortium’s involvement in the Innovation Fund saw a new approach to the management of the programme. While this was very much a ‘test and learn’ approach, it included systems and processes which have proved to be effective on other similar funding programmes managed by Your Consortium in the past. By incorporating a standard monitoring system we were able to consistently analyse and evaluate impact data across 32 very different projects. Also, the output-based payment model meant we were able to maximise value for money across the programme.

The feedback we have sought during the programme about the new approach has been really important and it will help us to strengthen and improve the programme for the next round.



Recommendations

1. **Reduce, prevent, delay** – the data obtained from the Innovation Fund indicates that the programme has prevented, reduced and delayed individuals from accessing statutory support. In the future, we would be keen to monitor data about statutory support access in more depth to allow further evaluation of the programme's effectiveness at addressing the prevent, reduce, delay agenda.
2. **Alignment with NYCC Prevention Agenda** – ensure that future programmes align closely with NYCC's prevention agenda. Making sure the chosen themes and priority client groups fit well with the agenda will be key in ensuring the outcomes align with what the prevention agenda wants to achieve.
3. **Embed monitoring** – we are very keen to introduce the monitoring systems at the point of application in future programmes. This will mean that prospective applicants can see what monitoring is required before applying and make an informed decision about whether this programme is suitable for their project. This will also mean that organisations can plan effectively to ensure that monitoring is embedded within their project should their application be successful.
4. **Review impact measurement mechanisms** – in order to measure impact in the most effective way we think that the tools we use to do this should be regularly and thoroughly reviewed. We recognise the importance of using a standard system across the programme to make sure the data we collect is consistent and comparative but at the same time we understand that any tools need to be appropriate for the client group using them
5. **Emphasise the output-based model** – we recognise the importance of emphasising this model as it is a different approach for some organisations and it affects the payment schedule. In future programmes we would make it clearer from the application stage and emphasise that payments will be dependent on evidence of outputs.
6. **Integrate capacity building** – we are keen to include more integrated capacity building support in future programmes. This may include; enhanced training during the application launch and workshop stages, support with monitoring systems and finances and more face-to-face meetings where appropriate. By increasing the support we provide we hope that Innovation Fund organisations will be better prepared for the delivery of the project and the monitoring systems involved.
7. **Value for money** - We are aware that most projects benefited from investments from volunteers, free venues and other support. In most cases this was not captured - making it difficult to quantify the 'Pound Plus' aspects of the programme and would recommend that this is implemented in the next round.
8. **Support for sustainability** – one of the most important aspects of the Innovation Fund is to support the development of innovative projects and their transition from statutory funding towards more sustainable funding routes. We are keen to increase the level of support we can provide for organisations in achieving this. One way to do this would be to include more integrated capacity building support as mentioned above. As well as this, we would be keen to dedicate more time to organisational training in areas that may facilitate sustainability and to spend more time exploring alternative funding options and sustainability plans.