

Appendix 4 – Annual Report

Local Community Fund

and

Infrastructure

& Capacity Building Fund

Annual Report – October 2021– September 2022

Originating officers: Abu Sufian, Awo Ahmed, Hilary Hughes, Mark Waterman, Sajibur Chowdhury

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Thank you to all the all Voluntary and Community Sector organisations for the use of their photos, videos and images used in this report.

Clicking on pictures in this report will take you to a link for further information.

Programme Overview

Welcome to the third annual report for the **Local Community Fund (LCF)** and Infrastructure and Capacity Building Fund, which covers the funding year October 2021-September 2022.

Background

In July 2019 the council agreed a programme of LCF funding for 39 voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations delivering 50 projects from 1 October 2019 to March 2023.

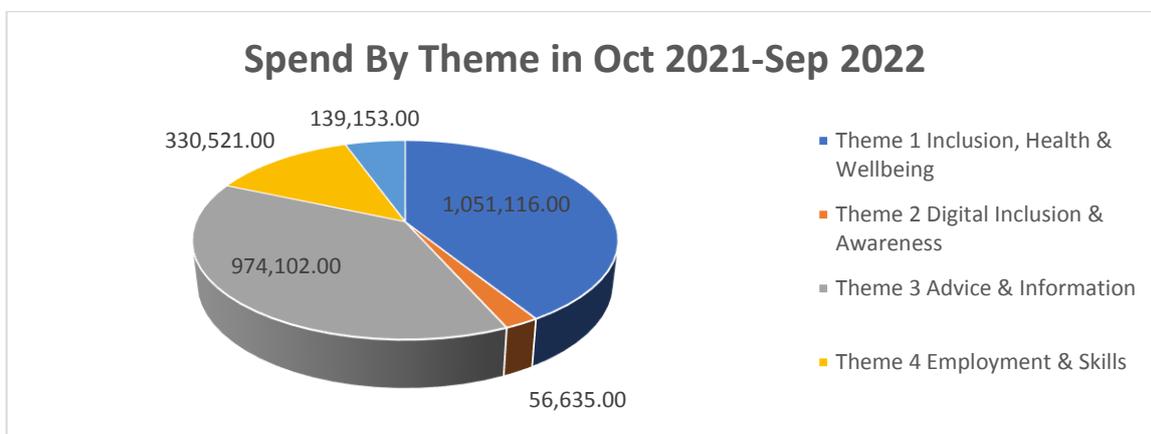
In March 2022 the council extended the funding until September 2023 for the programme's remaining 49 projects, with one project having closed its service in January 2022 after a review of the provider's wider services¹.

Level of Funding

In total the LCF programme will provide voluntary and community sectors organisations with £10.64 million of funding between October 2019 to September 2023. The level of funding in October 2021-September 2022 amounted to £2,551,527.

The projects funded by the LCF programme are across five themes:

- Inclusion, health and wellbeing
- Digital inclusion and awareness
- Advice and information
- Employment and skills
- Community safety



¹ St Hilda's East Community Centre's Surjamuki Disabled Youth project, after a review of the organisation's services. LCF funding for the project concluded in December 2021.

Infrastructure & Capacity Building Project

During this period the council also funded Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Services £260,000 a year to deliver the **Infrastructure and Capacity Building Project** to support not-for-profit organisations across the borough. In January 2023 the council approved extended funding for this project between October 2022 to September 2023.

Challenges Facing Our Communities and the Voluntary and Community Sector

This year the cost of living crisis presented challenges to both local residents and VCS organisations, with increased demands for services and costs for LCF providers.

This was particularly the case for projects focusing on addressing poverty and supporting socially excluded residents.

Some organisations delivering LCF projects are struggling to retain staff, with the prospect of them leaving for higher salaries, and to recruit new appropriately qualified, experienced and trained staff.

Programme Support For Socially Excluded Groups

The LCF funded projects continued to demonstrate the importance of our local VCS in providing services that improve the quality of life for residents, address inequality and respond to the needs of marginalised groups.

During this year, the LCF programme has supported over 30,811 residents from across the Borough.²

We've also had a lot of success in supporting residents from socially excluded groups. During this year:

- 71.9% of beneficiaries were from Black, Asian & Multi-ethnic communities
- 59.1% of beneficiaries were women
- 11.9% of beneficiaries were 65+
- 12,604 individuals had a disability.

² Based on data on beneficiaries' ethnicity obtained from LCF projects' annual reports for October 2021-September 2022.

LCF Programme Achievements

This report provides information on the achievements of LCF projects during the October 2021-September funding year, with the programme's projects making successful progress against their key performance indicators (KPIs). Information includes:

- feedback from individuals participating in these projects
- information collated through the organisations' measurement of outcomes
- data and findings from the council's monitoring processes
- updates on progress against projects' key performance indicators in the year.

Theme 1 – Inclusion, Health & Wellbeing

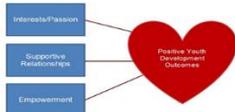
Theme 1 has five schemes. We funded 28 projects that have an empowering person-centred approach, making a positive difference to participants lives.

The table below provides a breakdown of this theme.

Theme	Scheme	Priority	Number of Projects
Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing	Scheme 1A – Children, young people and families	Increase access to Youth Services	8
		Provision of early Help support to families	
		Support for young carers	
	Scheme 1B – Older people	Ageing well and reducing social isolation	7
		Provision of physical and health-promotion activities for older people	
	Scheme 1C – Access, information, and self-management	Residents better informed/equipped to manage health conditions	2
	Scheme 1D - Healthy living and healthy choices	Residents better informed to make healthier choices	6
		Increased engagement in physical activity	
	Scheme 1E – Improved inclusion, health and well-being outcomes for disabled people and people experiencing mental health issues	Improved health outcomes for disabled people	5

Scheme A - Children, Young People & Families.

There are eight projects within this scheme.

<p>Isle of Dogs</p> <p>Canaan Project</p> 	 <p>Tower Hamlets Teens</p> <p>The Yard Theatre Ltd</p>	<p>Family Mentoring Project Osmani Trust</p> 	 <p>Girls Driven</p> <p>St. Hilda's East</p>	<p>Girls in Action Newark Youth</p> 
 <p>Young Girl's Project</p> <p>Stifford Centre Limited</p>	<p>Domestic Abuse Children's Worker</p> <p>Look Ahead Care and Support</p> 	<p>Theatre and Drama for Young People</p> <p>Half Moon Young People's Theatre</p> 		

Scheme A annual achievements included:

1,939 beneficiaries supported by all Scheme A projects	349 participants accessed girls and young women projects	41 families received intensive support	5,936 people attended Half Moon shows and 125 residents attended events organised by teenagers in Yard Youth
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Youth projects have enabled an increase in the number of girls and young women accessing youth facilities. They have empowered these participants to have higher life aspirations by providing opportunities for development, resulting in increased confidence, skills and interests.

Project example:

Girls in Action - Newark Youth London

Annual highlights included:

- Provided positive activities for 39 girls and young women, helping them improve their confidence and build their resilience.
- 25 of the participants delivered their own social action initiatives for the benefit of others in the community, increasing their leadership skills.
- A community environmental programmes challenging the wider community to adopt lifestyles which contribute to a better environment.



Click on picture to access project video.

Outcomes included:

- 13 participants achieved a first aid qualification and four an ASDAN Leadership award.
- 64% of participants stated they can cope with life challenges better.
- Post baseline assessment demonstrates 100% are more content and confident when with peers.

X was very excited about taking part in the Mouth That Roars film making project. But she was also anxious about having to talk in front of others and being in front of the camera. By standing in front of others and the camera, it has greatly developed her self-belief and her confidence. She has commented on how she feels much more able to speak with others.

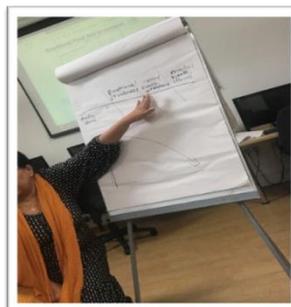
Opportunities provided in our support-based projects, working with families, have helped young people to thrive in more positive family environments.

Project example:

Family Mentoring Project - Osmani Trust

Annual highlights included:

The project worked with 31 families through delivering parenting programmes and workshops. This enabled the parents to explore their parenting skills, and how better to approach their children, and not react.



Families have accessed support for mental wellbeing.

Outcomes included:

- 20 families reported better environment at home and relationships have improved.
- 25 parents reported that their parenting skills have been enhanced.
- 18 young people/families reported better awareness of local services and how to access them.
- 8 young people reported that they feel more able to deal with their problems.

Young people gained more confidence. Their school engagement has improved and become more positive. They have developed a more positive attitude and relationship with parent and peers.

Arts based projects have provided fun experiences, bringing opportunities for participants to believe in their ideas and abilities and increase confidence. Participants have taken part in discussions, feedback, rehearsals, and performances, resulting in increased concentration, greater language and communication skills, and improved cooperation.

Project example

Yard Theatre Yard Youth



Annual highlights included:

- 144 teenagers from Tower Hamlets took part.
- 74% of the above Tower Hamlets participants were young women.
- Five Tower Hamlets schools engaged in activities.

Outcomes included:

- 100% of regular, surveyed participants reported an improvement in their sense of health, happiness and wellbeing.
- Young women participants reported improvements in well-being, skills and confidence that ranged from 70% to over 100%

“It’s helped a lot with my confidence, I would feel very nervous if I had to be on stage before joining the group, now it feels easy, and I can see that it’s actually really fun ... I also feel more creative with my thoughts, like I have more ideas of different stories and characters”. Participant.

Other scheme A projects:

Isle of Dogs Canaan Project



Worked with over 240 different young women across two schools and launched a new after school club at St Andrews Wharf Youth Hub attended by 39 different young women.

K's Mum has fed back to the project how grateful she has been that K has people to talk to, that her daughter looks forward to school the days Canaan is in and that she's getting to do lots of new fun things and build friendships with other young women

Theatre and Drama for Young People - Half Moon Young People's Theatre



192 Tower Hamlets Youth Theatre participants.

Delivered 60 Creative Play sessions at six different Children and Family Centres
“A brilliant interactive and fun session for both child and parent to learn together with lots of fun activities and support”. Participant

Girls Driven Project St. Hilda's East

The girls took part in a residential at Avon Tyrell activity centre. They had an amazing weekend, building team working skills, confidence, resilience and being a great support system to each other.



Domestic Abuse Children's Worker

A specialist supporting children who are vulnerable due to exposure to domestic abuse. Children were assisted to access education and nurseries and families have been helped to access services as well as trauma recovery.

- 29 children in the refuge supported regarding their psychological wellbeing.
- 24 new adult beneficiaries supported.



Young Girl's Project - Stifford Centre Limited

“Initially, when B joined Stifford Girl’s project, she was very quiet, shy, and struggled in large groups. She lacked confidence, and although was keen to join in games with others, she was unlikely to share opinions. As sessions continued, her confidence, self-esteem, and ability to communicate has grown more and more which has been noticed by her parents and staff. She became more confident, talking more with other girls and the staff” Youth Worker

Scheme B – Older People

There are 7 projects within this scheme.

<p>Caxton Hall Age UK East London</p> 	<p>Friend at Home Age UK East London</p> 	<p>The Wellbeing Centre at Toynbee Hall</p> 	<p>Tower Hamlets LGBT Support East London Out Project</p> 
<p>Older Peoples Befriending Project Tower Hamlets Friends and Neighbours</p> 	<p>Older People's 'Feeling Good!' Wellbeing Project St Hilda's East Community Centre</p> 	<p>Vietnamese and Chinese Lunch and Social Club Community of Refugees from Vietnam East London</p>  <p>Click on picture to access project video.</p>	

Scheme B annual achievements included:

1,119 beneficiaries supported by all scheme B projects	132 older people supported by befriending services	88% of older people engaged feel closer to other people
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Responding to loneliness experienced by elders, befriending projects have delivered companionship for isolated people. They have resulted in new relationships developing and, in many instances, have resulted in service users participating in wider social activities.

Project example:

Older Peoples Befriending Project - Tower Hamlets Friends and Neighbours



Annual highlights included:

- Five group outings, including trips to Kew Gardens, Southend on Sea, and picnics at local parks.
- Liaised with food banks and other organisations to provide food for the participants.
- Four people escorted to events for people living with dementia, including the dementia cafe and Singing for the Brain.

Outcomes included:

- 50 people visited weekly.
- Volunteers supported at least 25 clients out of office hours or at weekends.
- Six new volunteers recruited.

“Her befriender would play music to her and reminisce which she enjoyed, and as she grew more open, her befriender learnt more about her, the things she liked to talk about, such as her cat and a friend she had in Australia”. Extract from case study.

The projects have supported older people to maintain independence through community-based services and befriending projects. Activities promoted wellbeing and a longer healthy life, by reducing social isolation, increasing physical activity, and providing opportunities for participants to make a positive contribution to their communities.

Project example:

Older People's 'Feeling Good!' Wellbeing Project - St Hilda's East Community Centre

A place to meet new people, enjoy a cup of tea and a chat with friends, take part in a variety of interesting activities, learn new skills, keep fit, get help with letters and forms.



Outcomes included:

- 105 beneficiaries reported feeling less socially isolated and lonely.
- 72 people reported an improvement in their health and wellbeing because of attending exercise activities.
- 27 people surveyed said they felt more confident in going out and living independently.

“St Hilda’s is my family. Without it I would just be stuck indoors with just my TV for company.”

Other Scheme B projects:

Caxton Hall - Age UK East London

The Centre provides a full range of activities for people 50+ to maximise social opportunities for building links and social interaction. 25 older people contributed to running the Café at Caxton Hall.

What is liked about the activities?

- **Creates a routine.**
- **IT training is very good.**
- **Gets you out of the house.**
- **Good way to socialise.**
- **Keeps me active.**
- **Meeting people.**
- **Rigorous work out.**
- **Strengthens community.**
- **Welcoming and friendly.**



Event at Caxton held by Age UK East London

The Wellbeing Centre at Toynbee Hall

126 people have been supported through health promotion and wellbeing activities. 143 Health promotion sessions and 246 social activities sessions delivered over the year.

Amongst service users who had more than one wellbeing scale undertaken during the period there has been an increase in average score from 3.6 to 4.0 out of 5 for the question 'I feel physically well' and an increase in average score from 3.96 to 4.23 out of 5 for the question 'I feel good about myself'.



Vietnamese and Chinese Lunch and Social Club - Community of Refugees from Vietnam East London

Over 100 people from the Vietnamese and Chinese community in Tower Hamlets aged 50+ supported by the project this year, which included people that attended the lunch club activities at the centre, residents that are housebound and those that attended the special festival and trips to the seaside.



Click on picture to access project video.

Friend at Home - Age UK East London

“It’s a great way to reach out beyond my immediate circle, I like the idea of connecting with someone in East London from a different group in society. Older people that live on their own don’t have much interaction with people like me, she likes to hear what I’ve been up to, she’s interested and excited to hear about my life”
Volunteer.

Tower Hamlets LGBT Support – ELOP



Monitoring demonstrated increased social connections, feeling less isolated and better mental health and wellbeing.

Scheme C – Access, Information and Self-Management.

There are two projects within this scheme. The projects support residents with complex needs to be better able to manage health conditions. Both projects have improved the quality of life of service users.

Take Back Your Life

Globe Community Project



Taking control of your life

Real



Scheme C annual achievements included:

118 beneficiaries supported by all Scheme B projects

49 action plans that provided high-level support to clients with complex needs

65% agreed that they were able to do more activities despite their pain or poor health

Project example:

Taking control of your life – Real



Annual highlights included:

- A diverse variety of 69 clients from across the borough, many with multiple disabilities, created two resources, a guide on Direct Payments and guide to grants.
- Steering group members more involved in making borough services more accessible and co-produced.
- Four members shared their lived experience of adult social care services at a select committee event at the House of Lords.

Outcomes included:

- 90% reported that action plans improved their health and wellbeing outcomes and 91% feeling more independent.
- 94% of those who accessed new services report a positive effect on their life.
- 90% report feeling they have more choice and control over their lives.

“The Advisor was brilliant and not met anyone like her and captured everything. She got right to the point to everything that needed to be said.” Participant

Take Back Your Life - Globe Community Project



45 beneficiaries reported that the project had increased their knowledge, tools and skills to manage their health conditions and helped them to live independent lives.

“The breathing - when I had the panics I couldn't control it - but now since the course it helped me. In the beginning it was awful but every time when I do it now, it's improving my breathing technique and it's really good. Same time my pins and needles in my leg and sleeping improve a lot. Lying down and meditating really helps me. 6 months ago, I had panic attacks 20 or 30 times - since the course I only have panic attacks once a week.” Participant.

“Meditation takes my mind off [the pain]. It's helped with my anxiety for sure.” men's course participant

Scheme D – Healthy living and healthy choices.

There are six projects within this scheme. The focus is for residents to be better informed so they can make healthier choices, as well as increasing their engagement in physical activity.

<p>Healthy-Active-Together (HeAT)</p> <p>Newark Youth London</p> 	<p>Exercise for Health</p> <p>London Tigers</p> 	<p>Live Active, Live Well Tower Hamlets</p> <p>The Royal Society for Blind Children</p> 
<p>Live Healthy Enjoy Life</p> <p>Bangladesh Youth Movement</p> 	<p>Playing out at Mudchute</p> <p>Mudchute Association</p> 	<p>Healthy Lifestyle Partnership Programme</p> <p>Stifford Centre Limited</p> 

Scheme D annual achievements included:

<p>3,396 beneficiaries supported by all Scheme D projects</p>	<p>1,295 participants reported improved fitness and mental wellbeing, reduced isolation and loneliness.</p>	<p>3,185 participants reported increased physical activity</p>
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Projects in this scheme have made a positive impact on health and wellbeing of residents by increasing participation from marginalised groups in sports, exercise, and leisure activities. They have resulted in less social inclusion and improved mental and physical health.

Project examples:

Playing out at Mudchute - Mudchute Association

Annual highlights included:

- Additional funding secured enabled the project to provide 560 hours of free and accessible varied play provision this year.
- Regular attendances from a group of deaf children.

Outcomes included:

- 2,000 residents in regular physical activity, leading to health improvements, through play opportunities for the whole family.
- Actual beneficiary count one Saturday 450.

“His parents were delighted to witness how enthusiastic he was and the enjoyment he gained from attending.” Extract from project case study about engaging a 7-year-old autistic child.

Live Healthy Enjoy Life - Bangladesh Youth Movement

Annual highlights included:

- The project recruited, trained and engaged 20 women as volunteers who became active in the community.
- Monthly Women’s Forum providing a platform for women to discuss issues, identify their own needs.

Outcomes included:

- Increased awareness of health issues for 130 women, enabling them to lead healthier lives.
- Beneficiaries provided positive feedback about their engagement with the project.
- Women assisted with access to financial advice because of the increasing rising cost of living pressures on family budgets.

Other Scheme D projects:

Healthy Lifestyle Partnership Programme - Stifford Centre-led consortium with delivery partners: Stepney City Farm, Shadwell Basin Activity Centre and Dorset Community Association

This year the consortium organised two big events: celebration of Queen’s Platinum Jubilee and Festival of Communities, which brought together the wider community and residents to participate in cohesion and sports events.



444 people participated, with 92% of members reporting that participation in club activities had led to improvements in their health.



Exercise for Health - London Tigers

The project is aimed at women, children and young people. It engaged 193 children and 182 women in a series of sports, physical activities and health-related workshops, resulting in:

- 84% of participating children reporting an improvement in their health and well-being
- 91% of participating women reporting feeling less lonely.



Live Active, Live Well Tower Hamlets - The Royal Society for Blind Children



Adapted archery is proving to be a lot of fun and very competitive!

This year the project recruited 11 new people onto the programme and supported 22 existing young people. After attending wellbeing sessions young people have reported the impact this has had on their lifestyle:

- 65% of young people reported an increase in their physical activity levels.
- 79% reported that their health had improved.
- 75% reported improvements in their self-confidence and resilience.



Young people loved the game of Phizzu (table)

Healthy-Active-Together - Newark Youth London

The project engaged 242 previously inactive children, young people and adults to participate in sports and physical activities on a regular basis. They delivered 234 in-person sessions, totalling 448 hours of delivery. 133 beneficiaries reported improved fitness and mental wellbeing.



Scheme E - Improved inclusion, health and wellbeing outcomes for disabled people and people experiencing mental health issues.

There are four projects within this scheme.

<p>CORE Projects Get Active Newspaper - Promoting Healthy and Active Lifestyles ICM Foundation CIC</p>		<p>Therapeutic Support Groups for women affected by Domestic Abuse Woman's Trust</p> <p>Click on picture to access project video.</p>	
<p>Improving Health and Wellbeing for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in Tower Hamlets Deafplus</p>		<p>Upskill Working Well Trust</p>	

Scheme E annual achievements included:

<p>400 beneficiaries supported by all Scheme E projects</p>	<p>95.5% of women evaluating therapeutic support reported improved knowledge of their rights</p>	<p>40 deaf and hard of hearing participants reported a positive increase in their wellbeing</p>
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Projects work with adults with complex needs, resulting in better health outcomes and improved life expectancy. As well as providing activities and support for users, projects funded under this scheme have enabled participants to access relevant support services.

Project example

Upskill - Working Well Trust		
	<p>Client feedback included:</p> <p>"Upskill has allowed me to gain experience in areas that I never knew I was interested in and help me build my CV and confidence in myself and my skills." Participant feedback.</p>	<p>Outcomes included:</p> <p>190 people affected by mental health challenges completed short- and long-term goal setting with peer support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 165 of them achieved short term goals. • 125 accessed wellbeing and training • 65 accessed volunteering opportunities

Other projects in Scheme E:

Improving Health and Wellbeing for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in Tower Hamlets - Deafplus	
<p>Supported improvements in health and well-being of 42 deaf and hard of hearing adults through a range of 30 events and well-being sessions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of service users reported an improvement in their feelings of isolation when accessing events over the past year. • 20 beneficiaries reported improvements in their mental health and 10 beneficiaries participated in exercises that they had not been involved in before. 	

CORE Projects Get Active Newspaper - Promoting Healthy and Active Lifestyles ICM Foundation	
<p>Working with people with learning disabilities, enabling them to design and produce an accessible newspaper and putting on health events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project evaluation shows 100% of participants had made new friendships, increased confidence, and feel included in the project and events they organised. • Participants' contribution towards the creation of each newspaper edition has increased, as well as their skills to take on project tasks. 	

Theme 2 – Digital Inclusion and Awareness

Theme 2 has two schemes supporting five projects.

Scheme A: ICT skills and digital careers.

There are three projects within this scheme.

<p>DigiTIES Limehouse Project</p> 	<p>@online club network Tower Hamlets Newham New Deal Partnership</p> 	<p>Digital First Wapping Bangladesh Association</p> 
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Residents gained ICT skills and knowledge, giving them the confidence to use digital devices to access online activities, secure employment and move on to further education.

Older people were able to do more things online, from making GP appointments to accessing online employment support. Using digital services for personal and professional purposes has improved participants' wellbeing and sense of connection.

Scheme A annual achievements included:

<p>The three projects funded under this scheme have supported a total of 111 beneficiaries</p>	<p>57 older people reported being more confident in using basic ICT skills</p>	<p>25 older people report being able to access health information online</p>
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Project example:

DigiTIES - Limehouse Project		
	<p>Annual highlights included:</p> <p>The project was successful in securing additional support for beneficiaries by providing them with tablets and phones to help the most vulnerable participants get online.</p>	<p>Outcomes included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 192 older people have learned to use at least three ICT platforms. • 128 older people have learned to use a search engine to find health information on NHS websites. • 96 older people report greater confidence using ICT.
<p>“AB reported feeling more confident and motivated to get online and use the internet. She felt encouraged by her peers in the mixed group and engaged well.” Extract from case study.</p>		

Other projects:

<p>@online club network Tower Hamlets Newham New Deal Partnership</p> <p>Resumed face to face sessions with local partners, delivering an additional seven activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 older residents reported increased confidence and ability to go online to do more things. • 3 residents increased skills due to engagement in the project as volunteers. 	<p>Digital First Wapping Bangladesh Association</p> <p>Reported outcomes include increased levels of greater social integration and engagement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 out of 10 participants reported making more friends and improving their social contacts by attending more social events throughout the year. • 75% of older adults on the project reported an increase in the quality of life because of engaging in the Digital First project.
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Scheme B – Online Safety

The scheme's priority is children and young peoples' online safety. Activities raised awareness of potential dangers online with children and supported parents and carers to implement suitable prevention measures. We fund two projects under this scheme.

**E-Safety Champions
SocietyLinks**



Tower Hamlets

Building Digital Resilience

Sporting Foundation



Scheme B annual achievements included:

The 2 projects funded under this scheme have supported a total of 951 beneficiaries

64 project beneficiaries reported making a specific change at home to improve e-safety

83 parents reported being more confident of safeguarding procedures

Scheme B has empowered children to recognise and deal with the impact of online abuse, resulting in young people speaking out and getting the help they need, including from their families. Parents have gained skills and knowledge to keep their children safer online.

Project example:

E-Safety Champions - SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets

Annual highlights included:

Continues delivering its E-safety project, with an increased number of new participants, partnerships and initiatives taking place this year.

Assisted digitally excluded residents to use IT to access advice and obtain information on how to save money.



Outcomes included:

- 15 Project Champions reported feeling confident enough to make a change and tell others to do so too.
- 45 Residents are more knowledgeable about the potential dangers of online activities, including social media, banking transactions.
- 100% of adults and young people attending workshops were able to relay the information learnt back to the staff and group confirming that they understood how to report and identify cyber bullying.

Building Digital Resilience - Sporting Foundation

The project continues to deliver effectively, securing engagement from young people and their parents.

- Enabled 215 parents and young people to be more aware of the relationship between social media and on-line grooming and of other risks relating to on-line safety.
- 100% of participants reported increased awareness of risks pertaining to on-line activity.
- 83 parents reported being more confident of safeguarding procedures and can communicate safety messages to young people.

Theme 3 – Advice and Information

Theme 3 funds local advice and information services. East End Citizens Advice leads a consortium of advice organisations to deliver a borough-wide integrated service for residents, providing advice on welfare benefits, housing, debt, money management, employment, immigration, consumer, family, personal, education and community care. The advice centres supported by this LCF project are not-for-profit organisations offering free advice. All the centres meet the requirements of Advice Quality Standard (AQS) and are independently audited.

Most of the advice centres make use of volunteers in some capacity. Within this theme we also fund Island Advice Centre to support the development of the capacity and quality of the borough's advice services. The Tower Hamlets Advice Training and Capacity Building Project recruits volunteers who it then trains to become advice workers. Services also includes facilitation of the advice network, advice website updates, factsheets, and staff training.

Scheme Highlights Year 3



12,379 clients supported via phone and Skype

4,106 clients supported via online provisions



21,402 clients assisted through **22,693** hours of advice services

4,543 clients supported to increase / maximise incomes.

£4,081,597 debt reduction/write offs resulting in reduction in amounts of personal debt

£22,062,653 client's income increased and/or backdated.

5 advice volunteers found paid work

27 advice workshops delivered to **508** participants on benefits issues.

16 Learning to Advise certificates were awarded (5 to volunteers and 11 for staff)

Advice consortium partners



Legal Advice Centre
University House



St. Peter's
Bengali Association



Theme 4 – Employment and Skills

Theme 4 has three schemes supporting nine projects.

Scheme A: Developing and embedding good practice in the workplace for people with disabilities, learning difficulties and physical and mental health barriers to work.

The project funded under this scheme has supported a total of 165 beneficiaries

47 cases directly led to a disabled resident accessing or retaining employment

Supported 98 cases relating to employment matters raised by a disabled Tower Hamlets resident

There is only one project funded under this theme.

THEN & NOW - Real



Annual highlights included:

The project extended its reach to a greater number of local employers. Across all activities, including project's one-to-one advice service and two-hour shared learning and development workshops, 50 different organisations meaningfully engaged with THEN & NOW.

Outcomes included:

- 22 organisations received one-to-one support and the satisfaction rate has been 100%
- 85 participants agreed that learning and development workshops assisted them to attain their inclusion goals

“Incredibly helpful in enabling us to make concrete actions for removing barriers in our organisation... it meant a lot for the communities we work with and for”. Participant

Scheme B – Reducing barriers to employment for disadvantaged groups.

There are four projects within this scheme.

BAME Women's Employment Support Programme
Stifford Centre Limited



Choices Tower Hamlets
St Giles Trust



Developing Potential
Limehouse Project



Job Club
SocietyLinks



Scheme B annual outcomes and achievements included:

304 beneficiaries supported by all Scheme B projects

25 women reported an increase in their personal and professional skills

20 young people progressed into employment, apprenticeships or traineeships

17 women gained accredited qualifications

Projects in Scheme B have increased opportunities for women and young people by addressing the barriers to employment they face. Projects have provided work experience, information, advice and guidance and access to training that addressed individual needs. They have resulted in participants gaining work-based accreditation and securing employment.

Project example:

Choices Tower Hamlets St Giles Trust



Annual highlights included:
 This year, many referrals received showed mental health being the top priority, instead of education, training and employment. This led to the caseworker adapting and becoming a mentor, social worker and benefits advisor in order to address needs.

Outcomes included:

- 29 young people showed improved levels of wellbeing and mental health and/or accessing appropriate specialist support.
- 10 young people progressed into and completed training and education courses.

“I feel like I can move forward, with support and really change my life...” Participant

Other Scheme B projects:

BAME Women's Employment Support Programme - Stifford Centre Limited



Annual highlights included:
 Delivered ESOL training to 12 unemployed women from Black, Asian & Multi-Ethnic communities and accredited training, in areas such as childcare and digital learning to 16 women from the above communities to enable them to progress towards employment.

Outcomes included:

- 28 participants reported that they have gained digital skills.
- 32 participants felt able to communicate in English.
- 29 participants reported a boost in their confidence levels
- 30 participants felt they have increased employability skills.

“I have enjoyed the course immensely. My English is getting better, and I am confident to speak to my GP and nurses. To enhance my English skills, I communicate in the English language with my children at home. I am confident to ask questions and give answers openly”. Participant

Job Club - SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets

127 individuals accessed job club services this year, 75% of which were women. 15 participants secured an employment offer and 48 achieved an accredited outcome, including First Aid at Work, Health and Safety and IT skills.

12 participants were young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs). Three of these participants achieved apprenticeships and one gained employment.

Developing Potential – Limehouse Project

Supported 93 women from Black, Asian, and Multi-Ethnic communities, who are furthest from the labour market, on personal skills development to support them to progress into training, employment and work. 16 beneficiaries gain accredited qualifications.



Scheme C – Support focused on increasing access to arts and cultural industries

This scheme aims to increase numbers of people participating in arts activities and initiatives that lead to training and employment in the creative sectors. Projects in Scheme C have provided opportunities for residents to access a career in the creative sector. Activities have resulted in participants accessing industry level training and employment.

There are four projects within this scheme.

<p>Artworks Magic Me</p> 	<p>Creative Communities The Bromley by Bow Centre</p> 
 <p>Learning Live! Auto Italia South East</p>	<p>ZOOM Film School Four Corners Ltd</p> 

Scheme C annual outcomes and achievements included:

<p>191 beneficiaries supported by all Scheme C projects</p>	<p>94 people participated in arts projects for the first time</p>	<p>19 individuals secured employment</p>	<p>71 people increased access to industry level training</p>
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Project example

Creative Communities - The Bromley by Bow Centre

	<p>Annual highlights included: Participants made good progress throughout the year, including sustainable job outcomes, sector specific arts training, arts placements, engagement in arts, reporting decreasing barriers and an increase in arts job readiness, with a positive impact felt by family and friends.</p>	<p>Outcomes included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 participants felt they can make a positive contribution in their local communities through volunteering. • 53 participants holistic needs and wider barriers to employment have been addressed.
<p>"I feel as if someone has put new batteries into me". Participant</p>		

Other Scheme C projects:

ZOOM Film School - Four Corners Ltd

13 trainees on Four Corners' ZOOM Film School successfully completed their training in a camera, production and editing programme accredited by the Open College Network.



Click on picture to access project video.

Artworks - Magic Me



Hamida, Jan and Shaz are taking part in Artworks, a Community Arts Training programme supporting talented young people from Black, Asian & Multi-Ethnic community and working-class backgrounds living in Tower Hamlets to gain the knowledge, skills, and confidence to access careers in the arts sector.

Learning Live! - Auto Italia South East

96 young people from Tower Hamlets attended Technology workshops at Auto Italia. 72 of those attended tours of local galleries and arts organisations. 89% of surveyed participants from Year 3 of Learning Live! applied for places at leading higher education providers including:



- University of Arts London - Central Saint Martins
- Chelsea College of Art
- Slade School of Fine Art - University College London

Theme 5 – Community Safety

Theme 5 has three schemes supporting six projects.

Scheme A – Reduction in the exploitation of children, young people and other vulnerable groups.

Projects in Scheme A work in schools, including the Pupils Referral Unit for young people excluded from mainstream school, and within the community. Participants' have been provided with positive opportunities resulting in them having the increased confidence, skills, and vocabulary to understand what is happening to them and make positive life choices.

There are three projects within this scheme.

<p>Build Kazzum Arts</p> 	<p>Young Influencers Streets of Growth</p> 	<p>Schools and Community Resilience Programme Osmani Trust</p> 
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Scheme annual outcomes and achievements included:

<p>340 beneficiaries supported by all scheme A projects</p>	<p>88% of participants from the Pupils Referral Unit attained increased confidence</p>	<p>39 participants gained ASDAN leadership accreditation</p>
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Project example

<h4>Young Influencers - Streets of Growth</h4>		
<p>Annual highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 118 participants engaged. • 28 completed Young Influencers training and completed social action initiatives. • 5 participants co-produced and hosted a Home Office Serious Violence Reduction Unit conference. • 5 participants trained in podcasting and presentation skills, resulting in 5 podcast community events. 		<p>Outcomes included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 participants co-designed and delivered two community safety events, with over 200 residents and other key stakeholders involved. • 100% of high-risk young people worked with reported improved confidence in moving away from harmful situations.

Other projects:

<p>Build Kazzum Arts</p> <p>Ran 67 workshops in the Pupils Referral Unit, across three groups reaching 31 young people, with 28 attending 50% or more sessions each term.</p> <p>“[The sessions] made me feel more aware of myself, helped with problem solving, and helped understand myself better” (Inclusion Group Participant)</p>	<p>Schools and Community Resilience Programme Osmani Trust</p> <p>“I am more aware of my surroundings, triggers and my actions. I stay out of trouble and become more reasonable. I have learnt in life you need to be more aware and always think positive. It taught me if you fail to prepare you prepare to fail. I stay out of a lot of trouble. I try keep family and friends out of trouble. I would like to see more debates.” – Student from Morpeth</p>
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Scheme B – Improving the perception of young people in the community.

Providing activities that enable young people and older people to work together, projects funded through scheme B have increased meaningful inter-generational contact. Older participants clearly demonstrate they see the younger participants in a more positive way and are less wary.

Two inter-generational projects are funded under this scheme, enabling young people to be seen to be a positive part of the community.

Into Focus photography project
Four Corners



Mind the Gap
Leaders in Community



Scheme annual outcomes and achievements included:

193 beneficiaries supported by all Scheme B projects

100% of older people engaged in the projects have a more positive view of young people.

Project example

Four Corners - Into Focus Photography Project



Annual highlights included:

- Project activities were co-designed by participants, resulting in a diverse range of photography techniques learnt and holding of three bespoke exhibitions.
- School students engaging with the project which supported their educational attainment.

Outcomes included:

- 100% of gallery visitors identified how young people make a positive contribution to community life.
- Both the older and the younger beneficiary age groups reported feeling more confident of working with people from the other age group after participating in the project.

“Being part of this project was an invaluable experience for me. A course like this helps you build practical skills but also puts you within a creative community where different generations can learn from each other.” Participant

Other project:

Mind the Gap - Leaders in Community



76 activities with 1,348 attendances. The elders and young people helped co-design a Queens Jubilee event, which successfully saw over 200 attendees.



Scheme C – Services for people affected by domestic violence or other unsafe circumstances.

The priority of this scheme is services for people affected by domestic abuse and to increase understanding of it in the wider community. It aims to increase the extent to which young people and families, affected by domestic abuse, feel safe.

The project funded under this scheme is provided by Hestia.

Educational work takes place within a refuge designed to help women spot the signs of abuse and prevent re-victimisation. Sessions also take place with children on keeping safe as well as supporting trauma recovery.

Within the community the project provides domestic violence awareness raising events and initiates campaigns that enable wider understanding of domestic abuse. It also provides safe spaces for reporting.

Project annual outcomes and achievements included:

The project supported 382 beneficiaries.	Delivered awareness raising events within schools and groups, with over 116 residents attending	Worked with 31 families within the domestic abuse refuge (31 mothers and 47 children).	Since its launch in September 2020 Online Safe Spaces have received 1,134,614 visitors
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Families Safe and Secure in Tower Hamlets		
	<p>Annual highlights included:</p> <p>Launched a partnership with HSBC, who now provide Safe Spaces in 425 branches, including in Tower Hamlets; bringing total Safe Spaces in banks and pharmacies to over 7,400.</p>	<p>Outcomes included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% of women attending awareness raising events said their understanding of domestic abuse has increased. 80% of children who responded to Hestia's Children and Family Work survey had increased feelings of safety.
<p>'I have a right to raise my children safely', 'I have a right to leave abuse' and 'I have a right to be me.'</p>		

Part of this funding supports Bright Sky. This is a safe, easy to use app and website that provides practical support and information on how to respond to domestic abuse. Bright Sky helps its users to spot the signs of abuse, know how to respond, and help someone find a safe route to support. Click on the picture below to access the app.




Infrastructure & Capacity Building Fund

Tower Hamlets Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Partnership

THVCS Infrastructure Partnership brings together Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) infrastructure support agencies – Tower Hamlets Voluntary and Community Sector (THCVS) and Volunteer Centre Tower Hamlets (VCTH) - to increase the range and number of VCS organisations that are well-run, resilient, and sustainable and to strengthen the VCS as key public sector strategic delivery partners.

Overall, the Infrastructure Partnership has achieved the following outcomes:

- Increased proportion of organisations are well run and better managed
- Broader pool of VCS organisations accessing public service funding
- Increased resources in terms of funding, volunteers or in-kind support
- VCS organisations have better planning and resilience arrangements



THCVS supports the VCS to have a greater impact for residents of the Borough. It achieves this by building the capacity of local VCS organisations.

Annual achievements included:

Secured £1.1 million in external funding to support partnership work between local VCS organisations.	Supported 119 VCS organisations on 307 interactions, with 83% giving positive feedback	Published a fortnightly bulletin with funding information, with an average of 2,000 recipients each issue.	In Development Funding surgeries THCVS supported five organisations to win small pots of funding totalling £24,500.
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Provides a comprehensive and responsive volunteering infrastructure service to all volunteer-involving organisations in Tower Hamlets.

Annual achievements included:

Delivered training to 53 volunteer managers with 98% of participants committed to making a change within their organisation or taking an action because of the training	Delivered quarterly Peer Learning sessions attended by 33 unique Volunteer Managers	18 organisations were supported by 31 best practice sessions	Registered 22 organisations with the Volunteering Hub
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VCTH continued to manage and deliver the Volunteering Hub through the project, assisting in the recovery process in the borough, linking volunteers to local education, employment and training opportunities. Key achievements for the Hub in the year included:

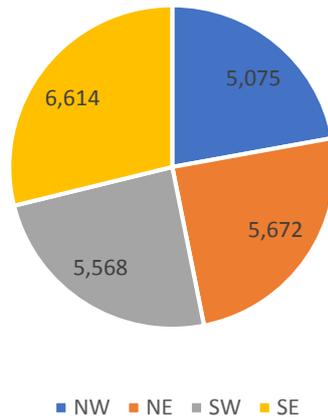
- 82 VCS organisations advertised their volunteering roles through the Hub
- 175 VCS volunteering roles advertised through the Hub
- 664 new volunteer registrations with the Hub

VCTH also delivered a pilot through the project that trained residents of the borough from Black, Asian & Multi-Ethnic communities in the role of a trustee for VCS organisations. The pilot matched trainees to local VCS organisations looking for new trustees. 22 people were trained in the role of trustee, with 17 of them being offered and accepting the role of trustee with a local VCS organisation. Ten VCS organisations have recruited trustees through the pilot, with five trustees joining more than one VCS organisation board.

Geographical and Equalities Data

The graphs and tables below provide information on the protected characteristics of Local Community Fund programme beneficiaries in October 2021-September 2022.

Residents Supported By Ward Cluster



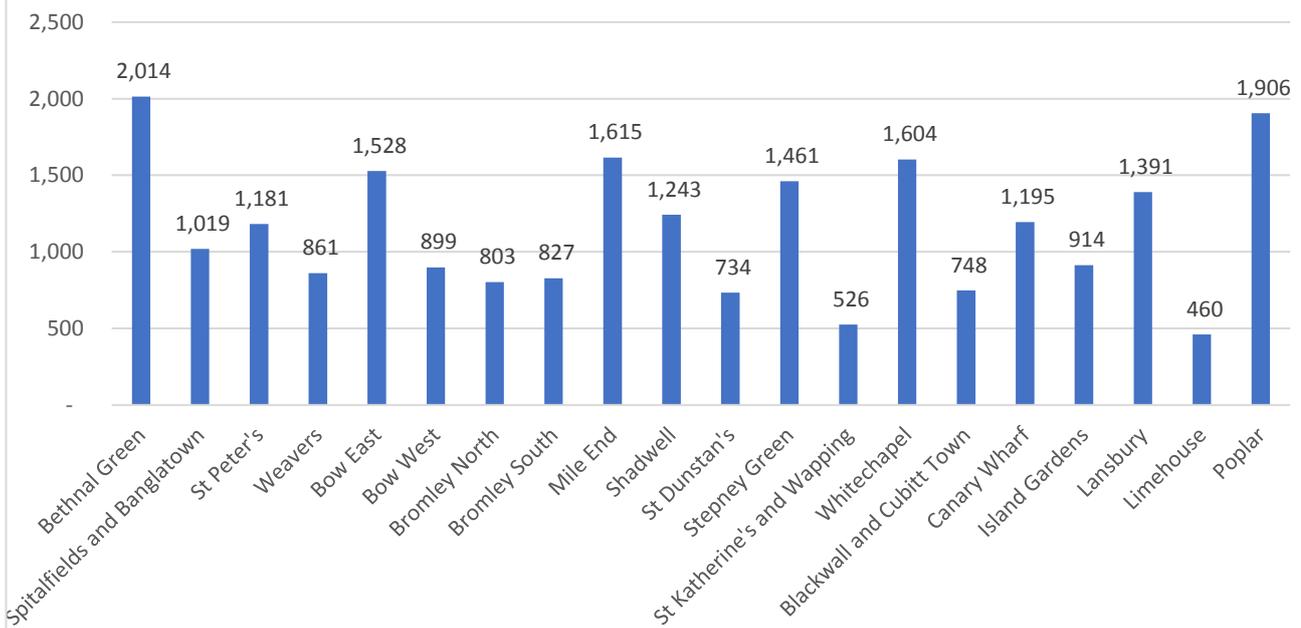
5,075 in the **NW cluster (22.13%)**
(Bethnal Green, Spitalfields & Banglatown, St Peter's, Weavers)

5,672 in the **NE cluster (24.74%)**
(Bow East / West, Bromley North / South, Mile End)

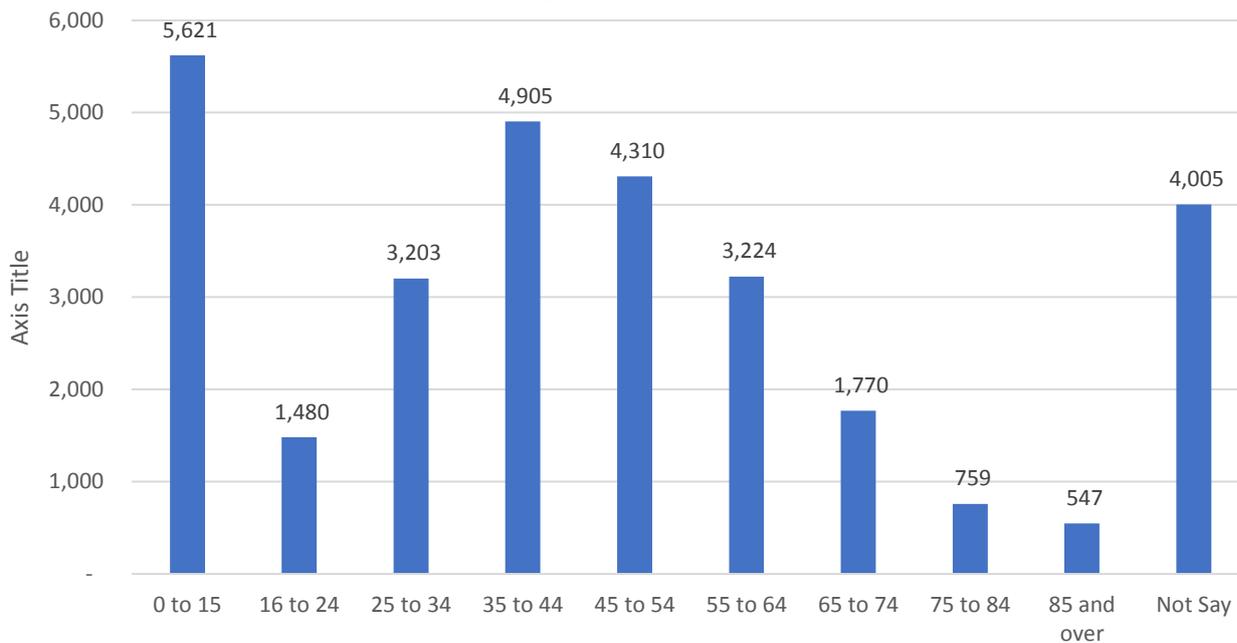
5,568 in the **SW cluster (24.28%)**
(Shadwell, St Dunstan's, Stepney, St Katharine & Wapping, Whitechapel)

6,614 in the **SE cluster (28.85%)**
(Blackwall & Cubitt Town, Canary Wharf, Island Gardens, Lansbury, Limehouse, Poplar)

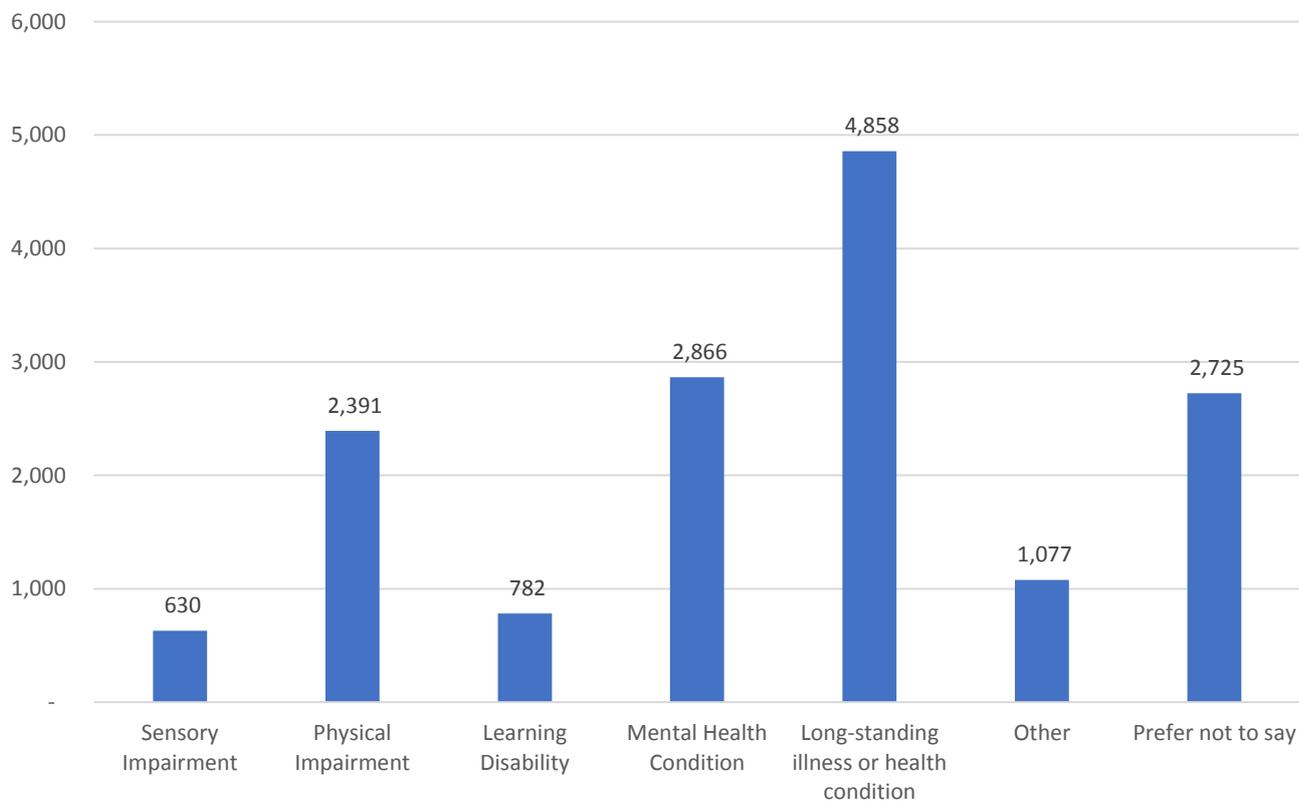
Council Ward of Residence



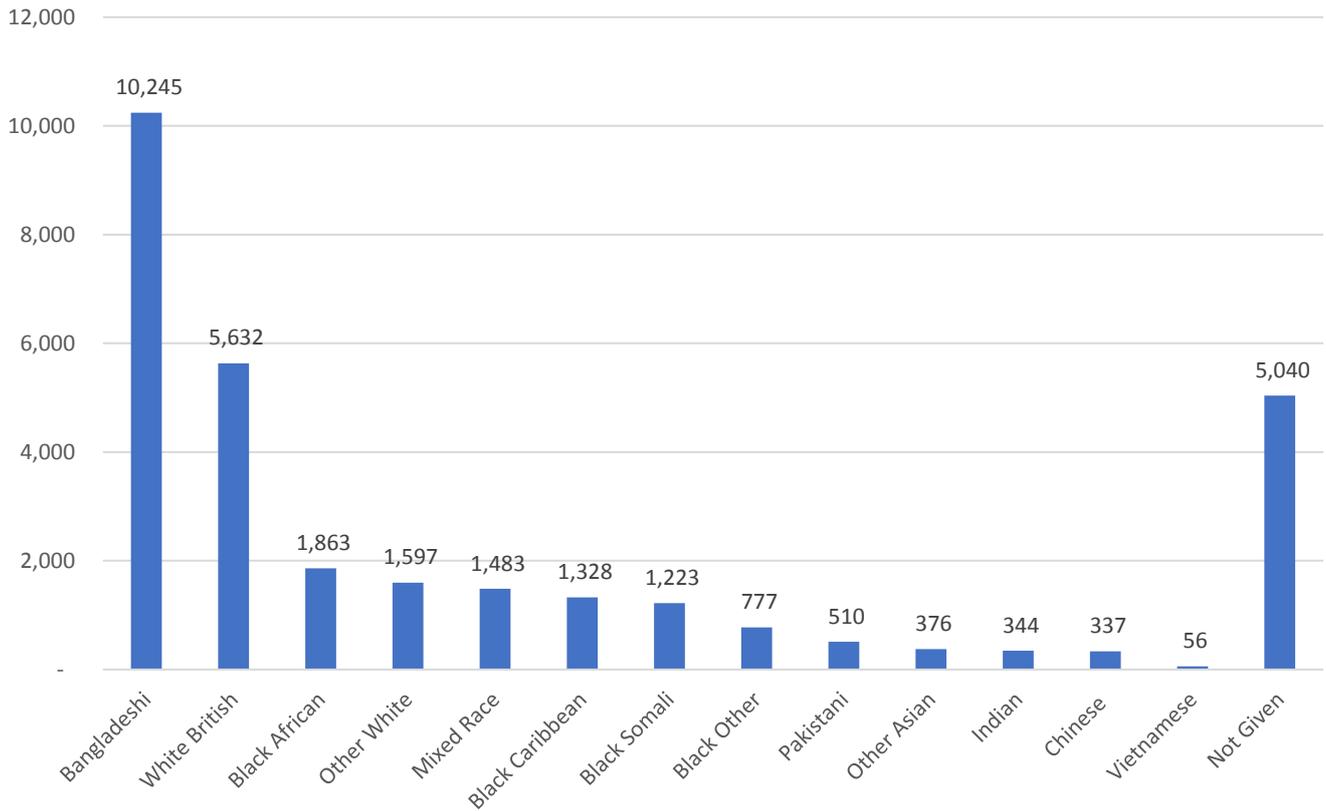
Age Group



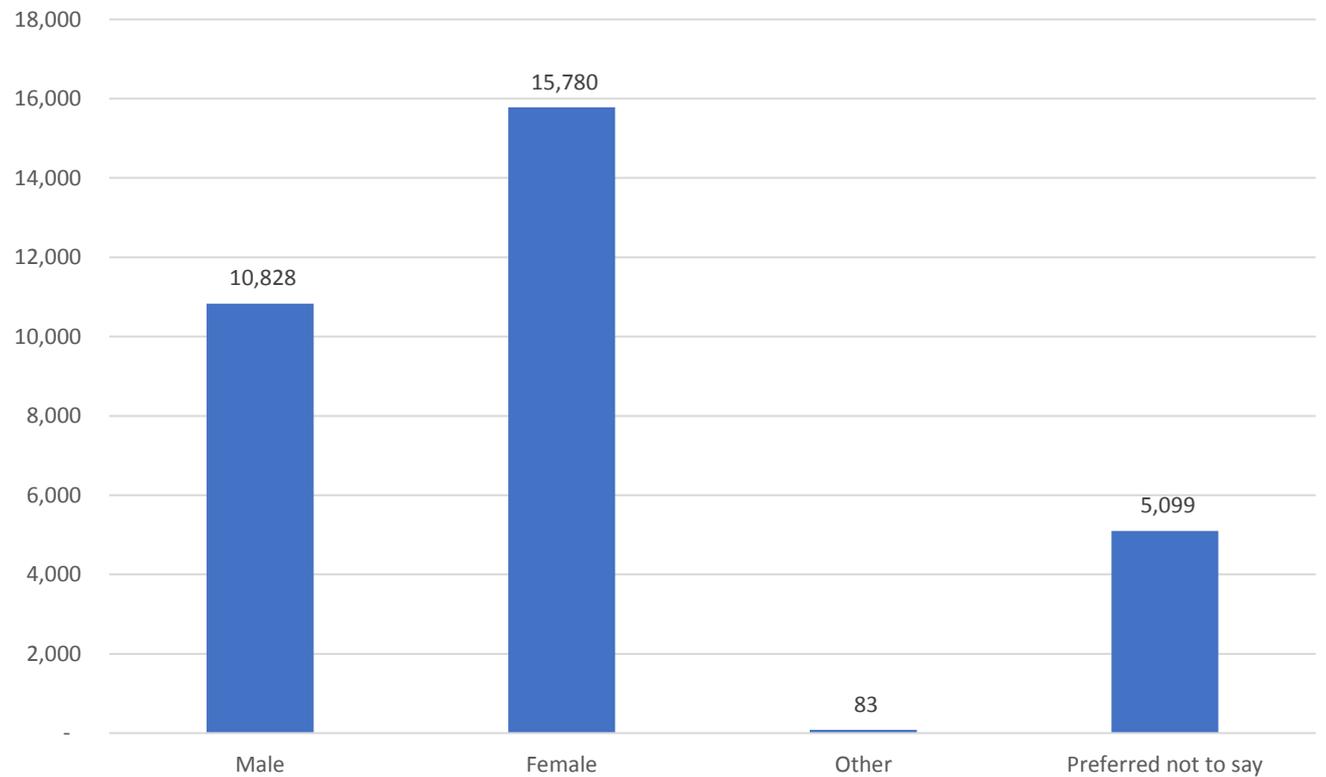
Disabled Beneficiaries



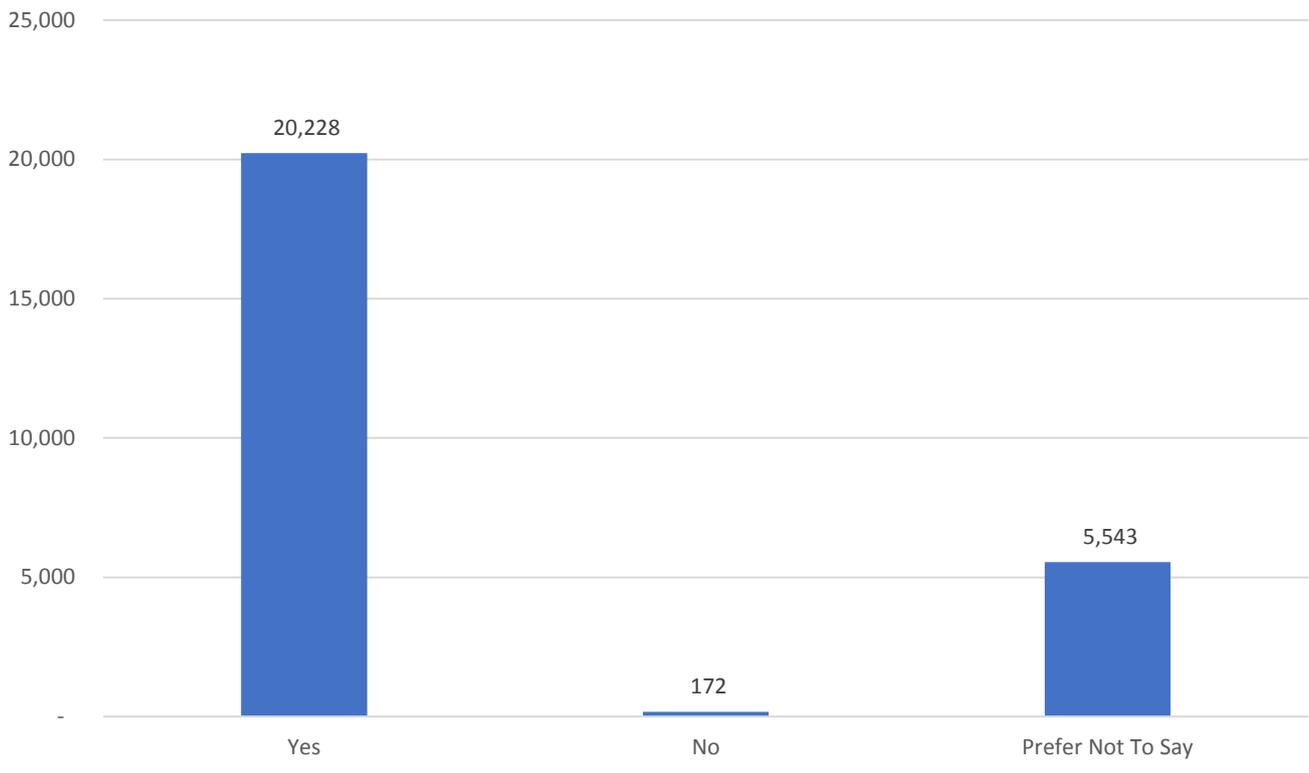
Ethnicity



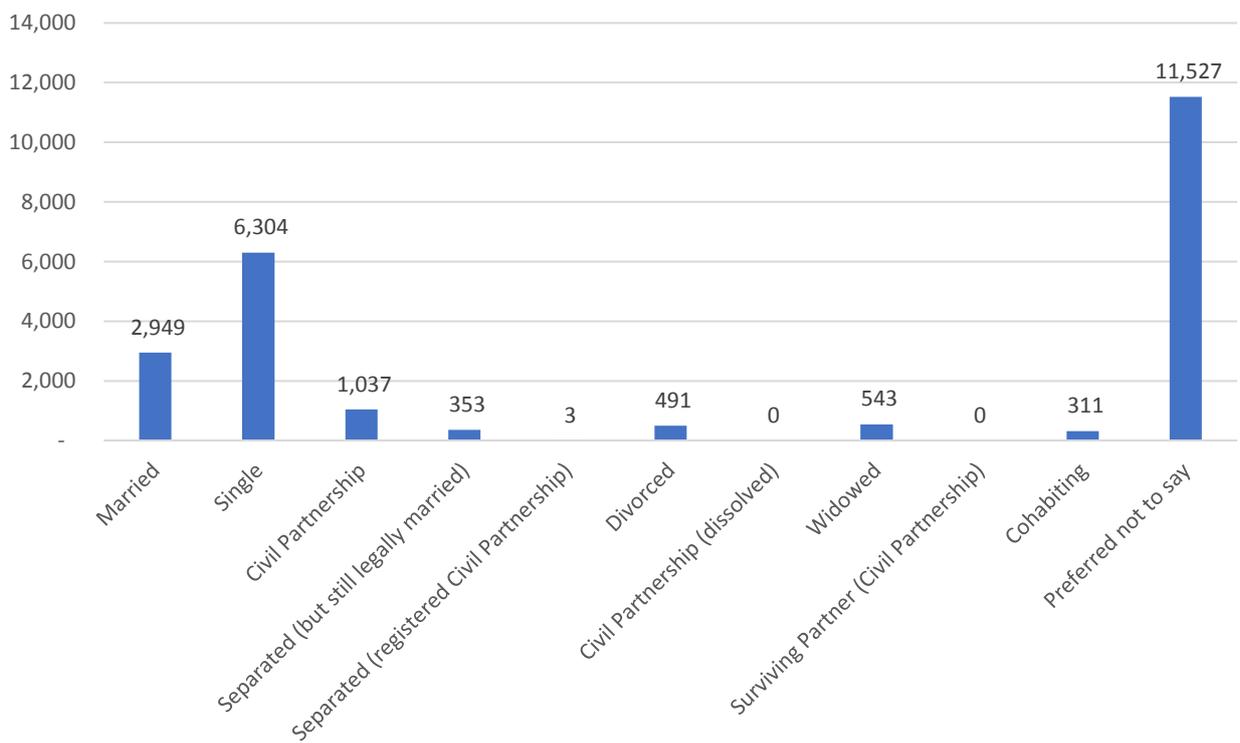
Gender



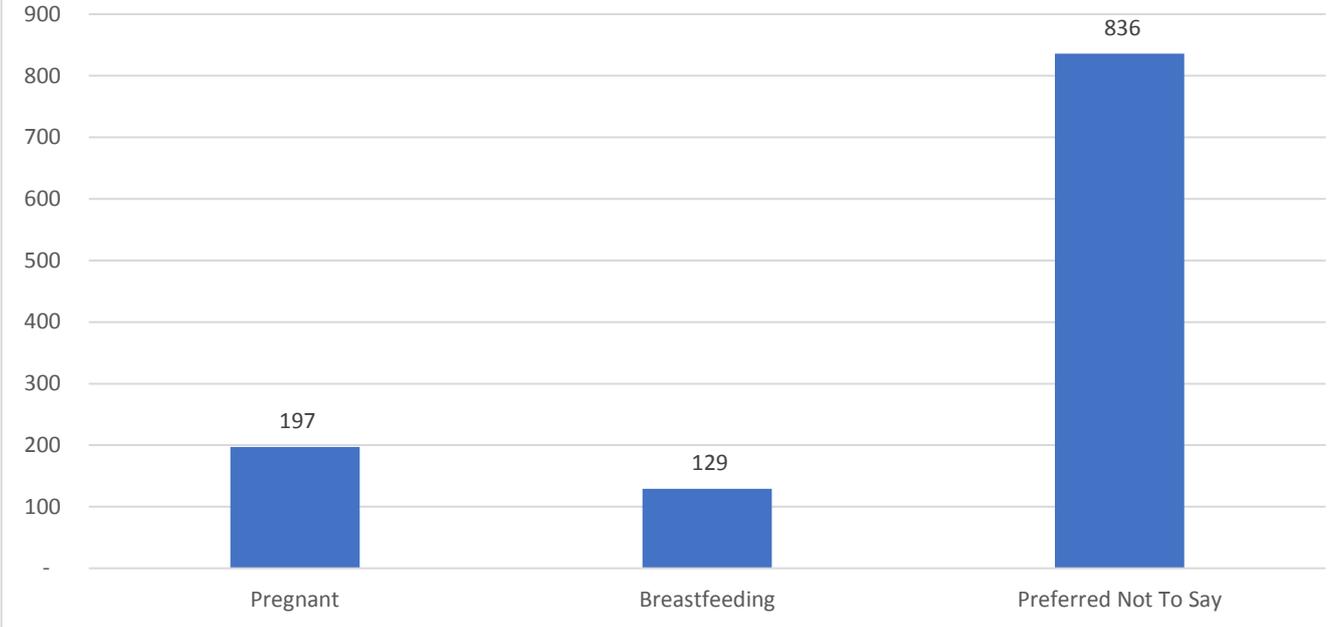
Gender Identity The Same As Assigned At Birth



Marriage & Civil Partnership Status



Pregnancy & Maternity



Religion or Belief

