Near Neighbours

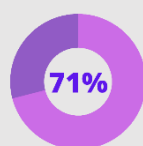## Our value for money impact 20/21

Near Neighbours view Value for Money as integral to assessing, measuring, and managing the performance of projects. Near Neighbours uses evidence from project delivery to demonstrate impact and accountability with stakeholders, captured organisationally through Near Neighbours value for money framework. This looks to ensure projects are designed with the right balance of economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity to maximise the impact of investment.

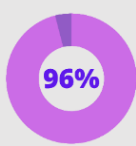Here is a summary of Near Neighbours Value for Money achievements.

Empowering communities.

3,695 Female attendees of leadership training events

1,815 Young attendees of leadership training event

71% learned something new about a culture or religion different to their own.

96% had conversations with someone from a different faith they didn't already know.

100% agreed the training equipped them to take action to improve their community.

" *Truly inspired me to work harder to bring different communities together, as we all serve the purpose and all require the same basic necessities*

71%   **96%**   **100%**
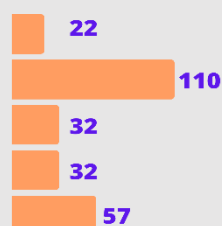
Leadership for Effective Change project

Small grants scheme

Solving division & tension	22
Promoting connectedness	110
marginalised women and girls	32
vulnerable people	32
combating loneliness	57

£243,049 Funds awarded to small, local voluntary and faith groups.

122 Small grants issued, exceeding annual targets by 136%

Amplify action.

	Total number	Year target	Exceeded targets by
New partnerships	472	180	**262%**
Projects mentored or supported	400	200	**200%**

623% Increase in volunteer hours from 2018-2019

" *I feel more confident to take action to change things in my community.*

377 New volunteers

1,564 Volunteers mobilised

46,713 Volunteer hours

Equates to an economic value of £934,260 this year*

*Based on £20 per hour for volunteer support.

Driving local change.

Excerpts from Near Neighbours regional hub survey reports.

The Safer Leicester Partnership funded the St Philip's Centre to conduct a community focused project gathering views on hate crime and cohesion project. The project has now been completed. The Safer Leicester Partnership are keen to fund a follow-on project focused around our recommendations. We have proposed running a series of conversations that help newly arrived groups to the city understand what hate crime is, how to report it, and start to build positive relationships with the police. Another aspect of the project is to bring different faith communities together to start to rebuild trust.
The Safer Leicester Partnership local integration strategy
[response 9]

Continue work **on Luton Community Forum's push for government change for Affordable Housing**, which involves working the Rachel Hopkins MP for South Luton.
[response 7]

'the Crime Survey for England & Wales … shows a long-term decline in hate crime, with a 38% fall in these incidents between the combined 2007/08 and 2008/09 and the combined 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 surveys.'[2]

'Local or regional solutions are crucial to respond to different local integration needs. Building on the Race Disparity Audit, local authority-level data is essential to properly assess the needs of different groups and make targeted interventions.'[1]

I am still sitting as a non-paying member of the **Peterborough Citizens UK** which is just starting off in Peterborough, the key role I am playing is inviting key groups around the table in order to be able to organize with other likeminded groups to **influence and effect change on nagging issues in the City**
[response 6]

Our Rochdale Soup Kitchen where **we lobbied local MP Tony Lloyd and council Leader Alan Brett** to support the community to help end hunger in the borough.
[response 4]

COVID response.

The Near Neighbours team have continued to find creative ways to respond to the Covid emergency, largely in areas with rising and high incidences of Covid.

Interventions include:
- responding to **digital inclusion**[3], supporting vulnerable families, and contributing to policy and implementation change.
- responding to **homelessness** and people experiencing **food poverty**.
- recruiting **154 street food champions** supporting local foodbank in the most deprived areas.[4]
- taking part in Covid-19 community champions group[5], **empowering grassroots and faith-based organisations** by brokering discussions with local authorities and disseminating key Covid information.
- responding to the disproportionate impact of Covid with BAME communities through **engagements with NHS Equality and Diversity board**[6] **and amplifying young BAME voices**[7]

In Rochdale, the Army of Kindness soup kitchen, founded and funded by Near Neighbours, were able to provide 500 lunches a day during October half term and the Christmas holidays and secured NN funding to operate once a week until the end of March 2021.

Near Neighbours facilitated new connections in Greater Manchester between a Bengali domestic violence charity, local radio stations, Bengali community groups, and Local Authority Domestic Violence coordinator, enabling greater visibility of critical services within marginalised community actively responding to the rising rates of domestic violence.

Near Neighbours Value for Money framework
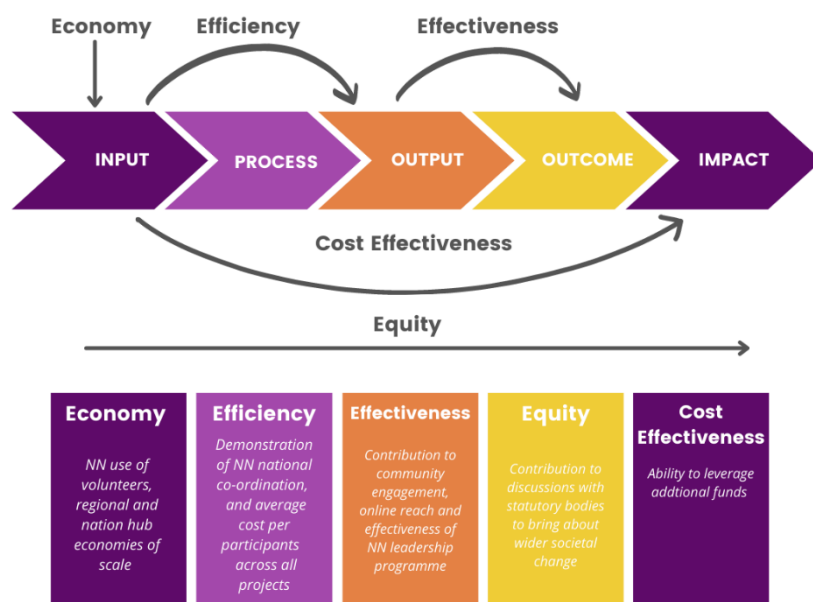
Near Neighbours (NN) defines Value for Money (VfM) as adopting optimal programmatic and operational approaches that deliver the most value (economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and equity) in achieving positive encounters, resilient relationships and active society to ultimately contribute to integrated communities across England in which people of all backgrounds can belong, connect and contribute.

Fig.1 Near Neighbours Value for Money diagram

These principles are embedded in Near Neighbours programme planning, delivery, and evaluation approach. Accompanying this is the Near Neighbours Value for Money framework which seeks to capture and regularly report on data to ensure optimal delivery.

Fig.2 Near Neighbours Value for Money framework

VfM area	Measure	Description	Indicator
Economy	NN programme use of volunteers	Tracking new volunteers mobilised each month/ or hours mobilised. Tracking against project level targets	Number of volunteers mobilised
Economy	NN Partnership approach to achieve economies of scale	NN local hubs supported by CofE bases. NN approach to sharing resources, including savings from rent, support services and support staff.	Value of savings
Efficiency	NN co-ordination	Coordination meetings with local and national committees contributing to localised actions. Sharing information and knowledge across projects, improving output attainment and quality	Number of meetings, satisfaction survey comments
Efficiency	NN project running costs	Tracking cost per person across NN activity (proportion of direct staff costs, activity costs, overhead and support costs utilised for each project). An average across RPHT, small grants, Catalyst and events.	Average participant cost
Effectiveness	NN community engagement	Proportion of surveyed participants who report that they have had open and honest discussions about diversity; change in proportion of participants who report feeling comfortable about talking to people who are different from them.	Survey satisfaction comments, satisfaction score
Effectiveness	NN online reach	Monitoring NN online engagement including website unique views and social media platforms.	Overall improved engagement (%)
Effectiveness	NN Leadership programme learning	Review of Leadership programme learning outcomes against targets	Learning outcomes met

1 Runnymede- Integration for all Integration for All.pdf (runnymedetrust.org), March 2018
2 Home Office, Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2019/20 Hate crime, England and Wales, 2019 to 2020 (publishing.service.gov.uk)
3 NN Shadwell Responds hub, East London.
4 Feed Birmingham programme, a partnership between Thrive Together Birmingham, Edgbaston Cricket Ground and WM police volunteers.
5 Luton Borough Council Covid-19 Community Champions group
6 In the Black Country working closely with Dudley Council
7 In collaboration with Peterborough Racial Equality Council (PREC) launching the 'For the City's Sake' research report