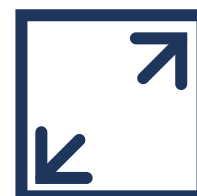




Bexley Voluntary Service Council

Impact Report 2018/19

**Make this full page by clicking the
full page icon below!**





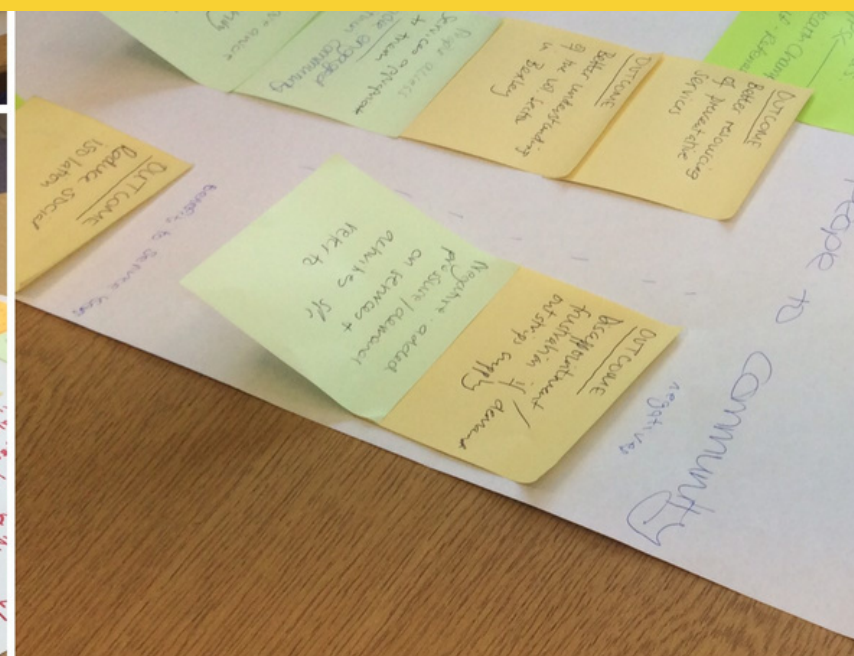
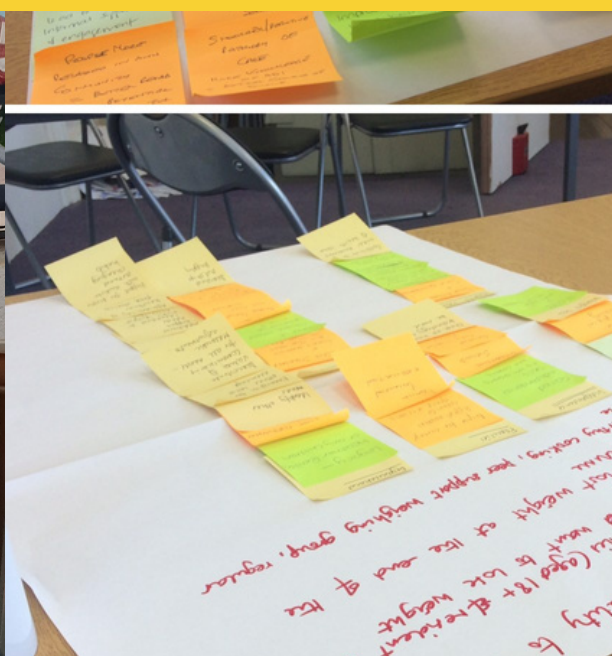
BVSC work to ensure there is a strong, sustainable, and influential voluntary and community sector that can make a positive impact on people's lives in Bexley.





What's our role as a CVS?

The people that choose to join the charity sector or start community groups already have the drive, enthusiasm, and determination to make this borough a better place to live. Our role is to train, advise, and advocate for them; supporting passionate people to make a huge impact in Bexley.



To achieve this, we hold ourselves accountable to 5 key outcomes:

1

Promoting the openness and accessibility of volunteering

Volunteering Outreach



Volunteer Brokerage



Volunteer Support Project



2

Building supportive and influential relationships

Connecting the Borough



BAME Network



Funding Support



3

Ensuring volunteering is a positive and rewarding experience

Supporting Volunteering Practice



Valuing Volunteers



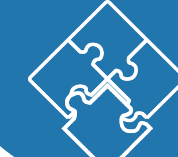
Celebrating Bexley Volunteers



4

Sharing, championing, and celebrating the sector's achievements

Understanding the Sector



Advocacy



Sharing insights



5

A thriving, resilient, and sustainable sector

Our Training Programme



Our Projects



community connect



compass



Volunteering Community Outreach



To make sure as many people as possible know about the number of fantastic opportunities in Bexley, we've been expanding our outreach across the borough. The more people we talk to, the more we can signpost to volunteer with charities across the borough.



"It's definitely helpful to our clients and our work coaches to have BVSC outreach here at the Jobcentre. Having this alternative program for people who are working towards employment keeps our clients motivated and supports our work coaches. We really appreciate BVSC coming to talk to our clients and explaining the value of volunteering, what it has to offer, and the kinds of opportunities available. It's been really well received here and we're grateful to have this extra support for people coming through the job centre.

-Simon Boyle, Work Services Directorate at Job Centre Plus



Volunteer Support Project



Volunteering can be a life-changing experience for anyone, but for our supported volunteers it can be a way out of isolation, towards purposefulness and feeling part of their community.

58
people
referred into
the project

100%
recieved 1:1
support

26%
people
supported into
placements*

*While this might not seem high, we need to acknowledge that the people referred into this project are often going through a difficult time and sometimes aren't ready to volunteer just yet.

Meet Sam, a VSP client

“I had done it [tried volunteering] before but I was a bit unsure. The other charity wasn't supportive enough of my learning disability, but Sky understood. On my first day at the library I was very nervous, very scared of meeting new people. Sky came with me and supported me to make tea and coffee. We had a chat as well about how to do different things. And not to full the cups up too much! It went really well. Best team ever in there.

I've enjoyed all the volunteering I've had help finding. It's all amazing. I was mostly stuck indoors before and now I'm more motivated about getting out and about. It's been an amazing experience and I wouldn't have done it alone. I think Sky's been a superstar. **The support I've been given by people, I can't thank you enough.**”

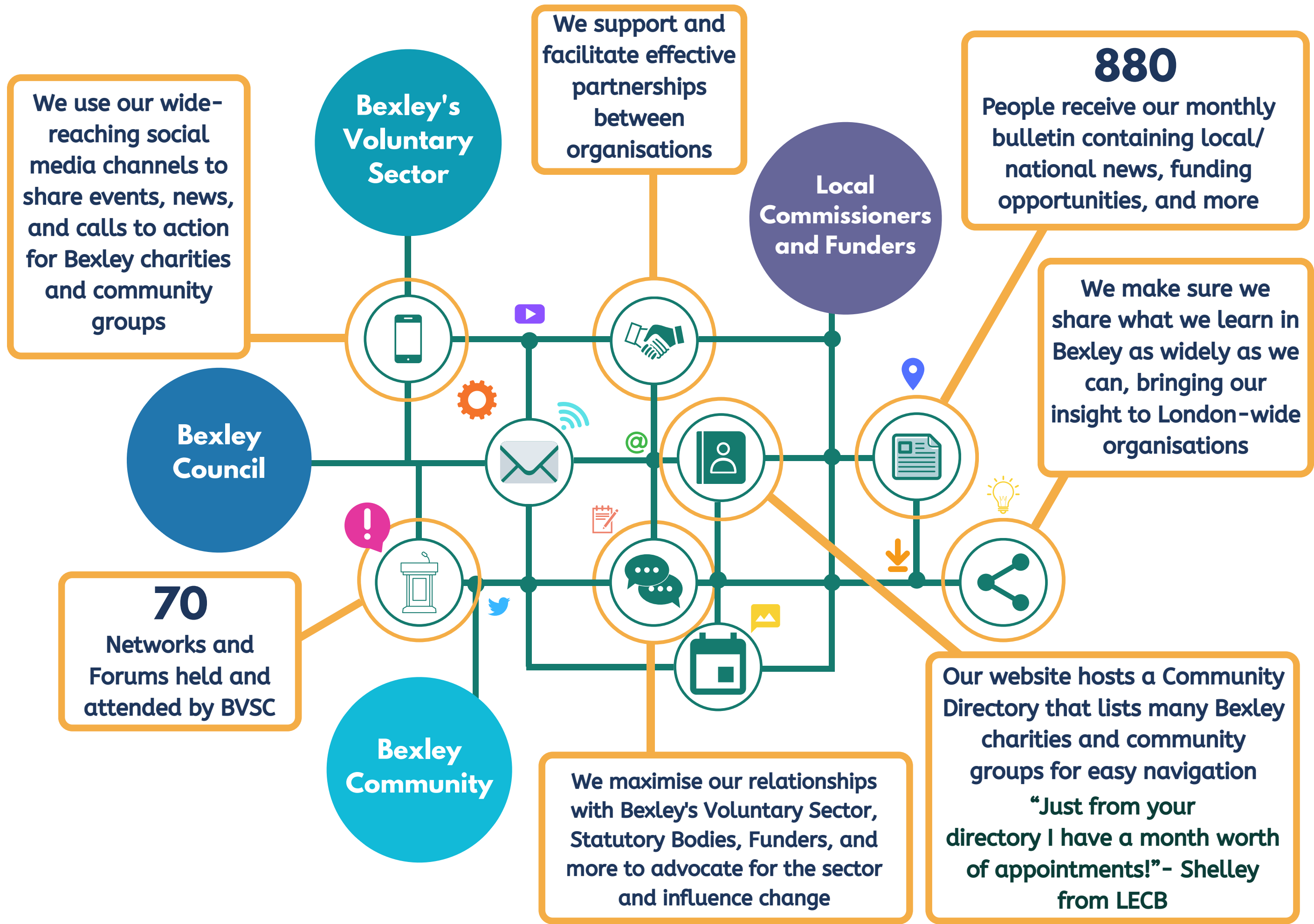


While we did help Sam access volunteering, we need to acknowledge the wonderful work done by Bexley Mencap and Bexley Village Library to build her confidence and create such a supportive placement. We're proud to be part of a borough-wide network of support!

Connecting the Borough



With around 1,200 charities and community groups in Bexley, BVSC works to keep them connected with our partners, funders, our Council, and the wider community.



Building Partnerships



We're stronger together. Partnering up with other charities means bringing in new insight and resources. BVSC support organisations looking to find each other, and can help manage successful collaborations.

BVSC support a collaboration of Voluntary and Community Sector providers to design a service that helps children and young people with mild to moderate ASD and/or ADHD. The partnership identified that children, young people and families would benefit from additional support as holistic family support is essential to produce the best outcome for children.

Each organisation approached this project with dedication and enthusiasm towards forming a partnership. Though all of these charities knew each other and had collaborated in the past, they hadn't all worked jointly as a consortium. This is where BVSC's unique position of being able to give focused time to facilitate the project became crucial. Our Partnerships Officer was able to organise and chair meetings, collate and share information, as well as liaise with the Big Lottery Fund for funding support.

This has led to the development of a project which we believe can have a significant impact on children and young people with ASD/ADHD as well as their families. The consortium will approach funders with their proposal. We're so proud to be a part of this project which bridges a gap in services for Bexley people.



BAME Network



As part of our work with London Borough of Bexley’s Family Togetherness Project, we developed the BAME Network to support Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic charity and community leaders to share ideas, problems, and perspectives.

Previous Network topics:

- BAME in Bexley
- Funding



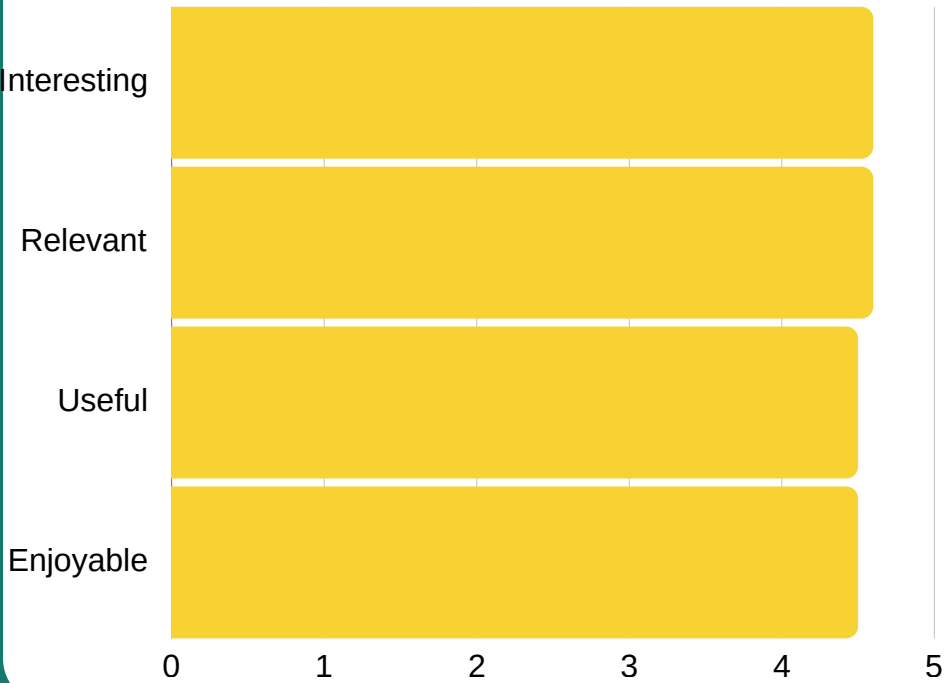
BAME Network, Oct 2018



97%
of attendees
want to
attend future
meetings

Feedback Ratings

*average of 34 attendees, highest rating is 5



"I am pleased that we now have the Bexley BAME Network on the ground, as this will enable us to have a **more recognised voice** and be part of the wider community. With the support from the BVSC helping us start this network through providing **capacity building support** for our organisation, we are confident that we will **achieve our outcomes**".
Yeukai Taruvinga-
Director, Active Horizons

Funding Support

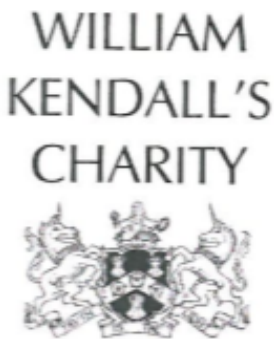


Despite the incredible work done by charities in the borough, we still have one of the lowest rates of applications to funders. We work to ensure Bexley charities have the skills to become more sustainable and bring brilliant projects to life.



200+
funding opportunities
hosted on our funding
portal*

*our funding portal is for BVSC
members only



£18,981
awarded by William
Kendall's charity to
Bexley Charities



52
charities received
funding support from
our team



34
of these charities were
supported to apply for The
Mayor's Young Londoner's
Fund- a collaboration
between BVSC and
Community Links Bromley

“We are delighted to work with BVSC and really benefit from doing so. Through working together we hope to be able to secure more, higher quality bids from Bexley organisations; increase the awareness of our funding pots; improve our reputation through working with a well-known CVS like BVSC and have a greater ability to reach Bexley charities as BVSC have a great knowledge of local groups in the area”. – Maeve Marshall, Funding Officer for The National Lottery Community Fund

Morning Both,
I hope you are both well.
I just wanted to let you know that I just found out that my funding application has been accepted.
I would like to thank you both for your help and support in getting the final result! Your help was invaluable and very much appreciated.
Speak soon.
Warm regards
Natasha



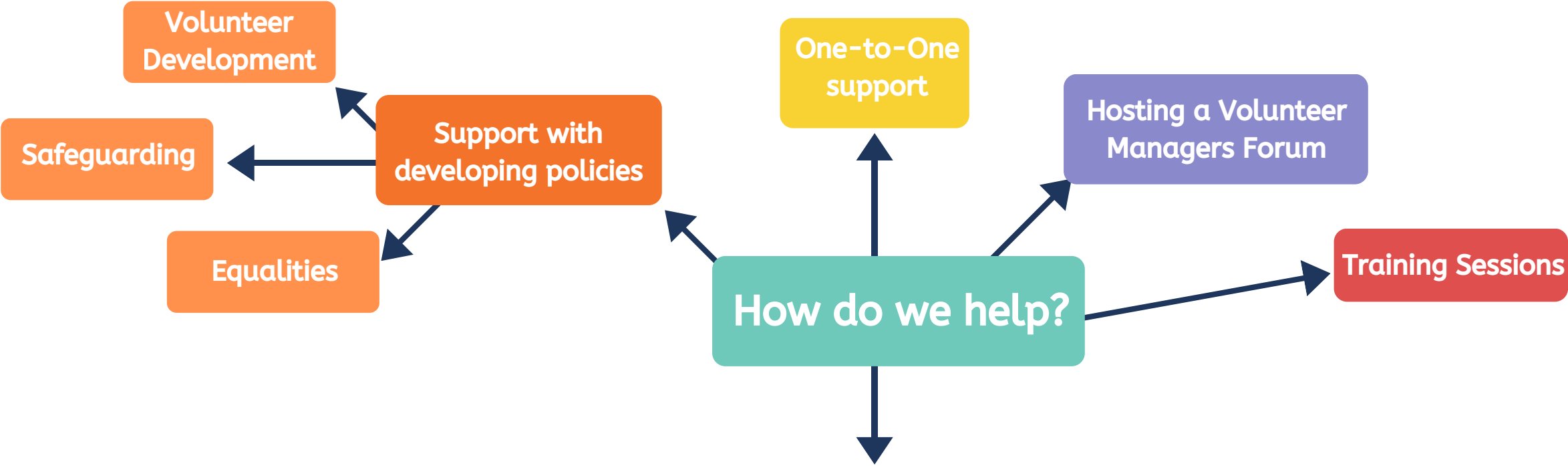
An email received by our Community Development Officer

Ensuring volunteering is a positive and rewarding experience

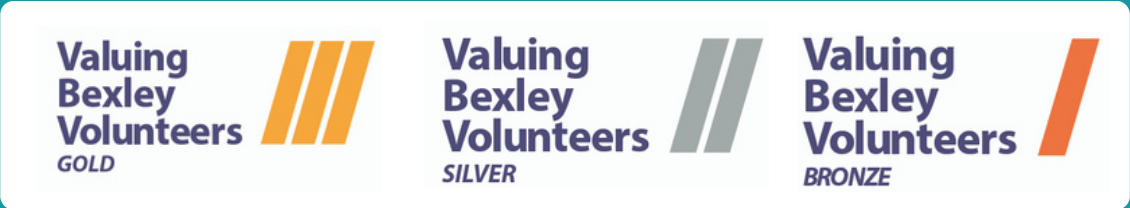
Supporting Volunteering Practice



To ensure Bexley volunteers have a fantastic experience, we work to support charities to have the policies and culture in place to bring out the best in our volunteers.



Valuing Volunteers Quality Mark



Our three-tiered system evaluates the effectiveness and quality of the volunteering experience including good policies and practice.



"It is a brilliant process to go through as it takes you through the different stages of recruiting and retaining volunteers and helps you to review and improve your own practices. I would strongly recommend that other organisations take up the opportunity of this accreditation as it ensures 'best practice' for the organisation and encouraging for any prospective volunteers coming onto the service"- **Lynda Munns, Volunteer Coordinator at Crossroads Care South East London**

Ensuring volunteering is a positive and rewarding experience

Celebrating Bexley Volunteers



It's impossible to fully repay the kindness and hard work Bexley Volunteers put in, but at the Volunteer Awards we do our best to highlight this amazing contribution to Bexley.

Our Volunteer Awards

23
nominees

94
attendees

Denise started with us one year ago and since then she has volunteered to the max! She comes out on both of our volunteer dates to improve countryside and school grounds. Denise has also helped out on our community family events. We can rely on her, she is enthusiastic and enthuses the team around her. Denise fitted in straight away and works really hard. She clearly has a passion for the work she does with us, shes a pleasure to have on our volunteer team and an asset to the boroughs we serve.

-A nomination for Denise, North West Kent Countryside Partnership

John and Freda have been volunteering for Contact the Elderly for 42 years. That fact alone demonstrates their incredible commitment to their group and to Contact the Elderly. They do so much more for their older guests, such as celebrating their birthdays, visiting them at home in between the tea parties, visiting them in hospital when they are unwell. This reflects how Contact the Elderly is for them not just a once a month commitment, it is truly part of their lives.

-A nomination for John and Freda, Re-Engage, formerly Contact the Elderly



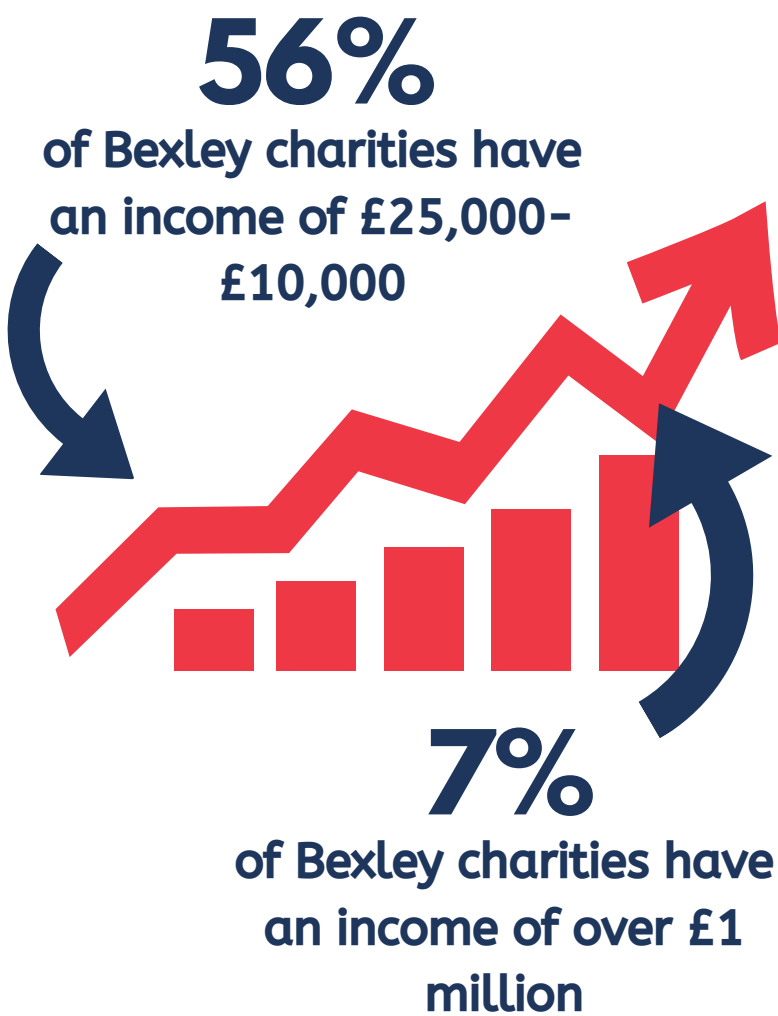
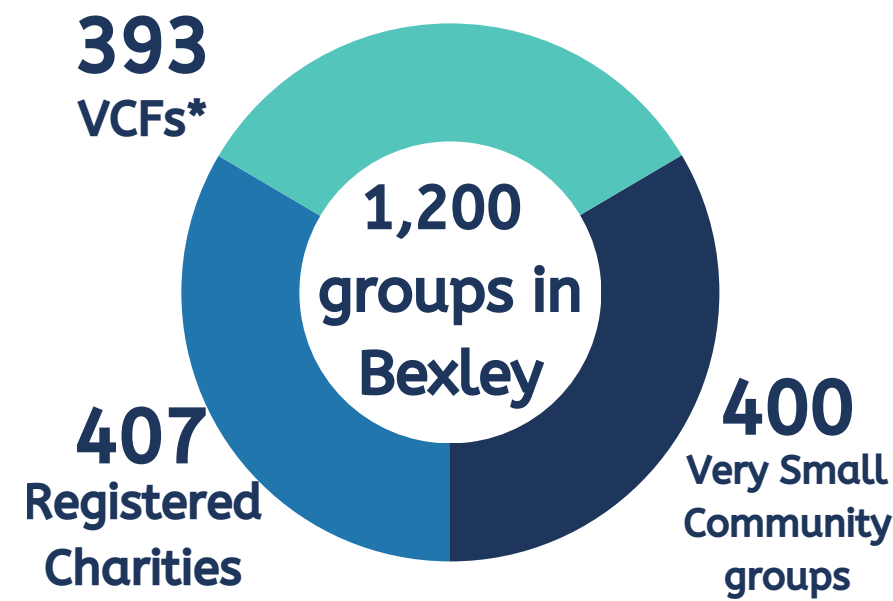
State of the Sector



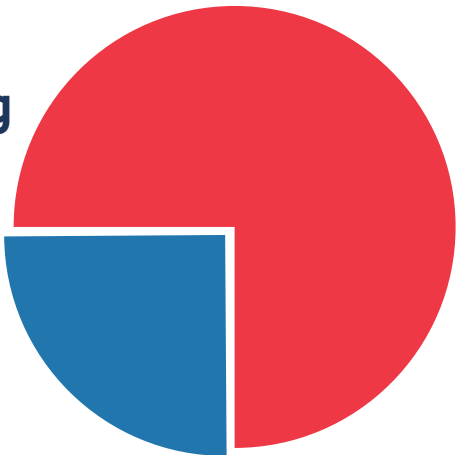
We conducted a in-depth look into the environment we, the voluntary sector, are operating in. In this section we're sharing what we've learned as we build our 2020 strategy around tackling these key sector issues

Want to read the full report? [Click here!](#)

*VCFs refers to Voluntary, Community, and Faith organisations



75% Concerned about funding



92% of VCF's reported increased demand



We asked: “ what do you feel to be the key local drivers that were influencing the needs and aspirations of the communities you support?”



A large and growing older population



While Bexley is perceived as prosperous, it has pockets of significant deprivation



An expanding divide between the North and South of Bexley



Unprecedented growth in the North



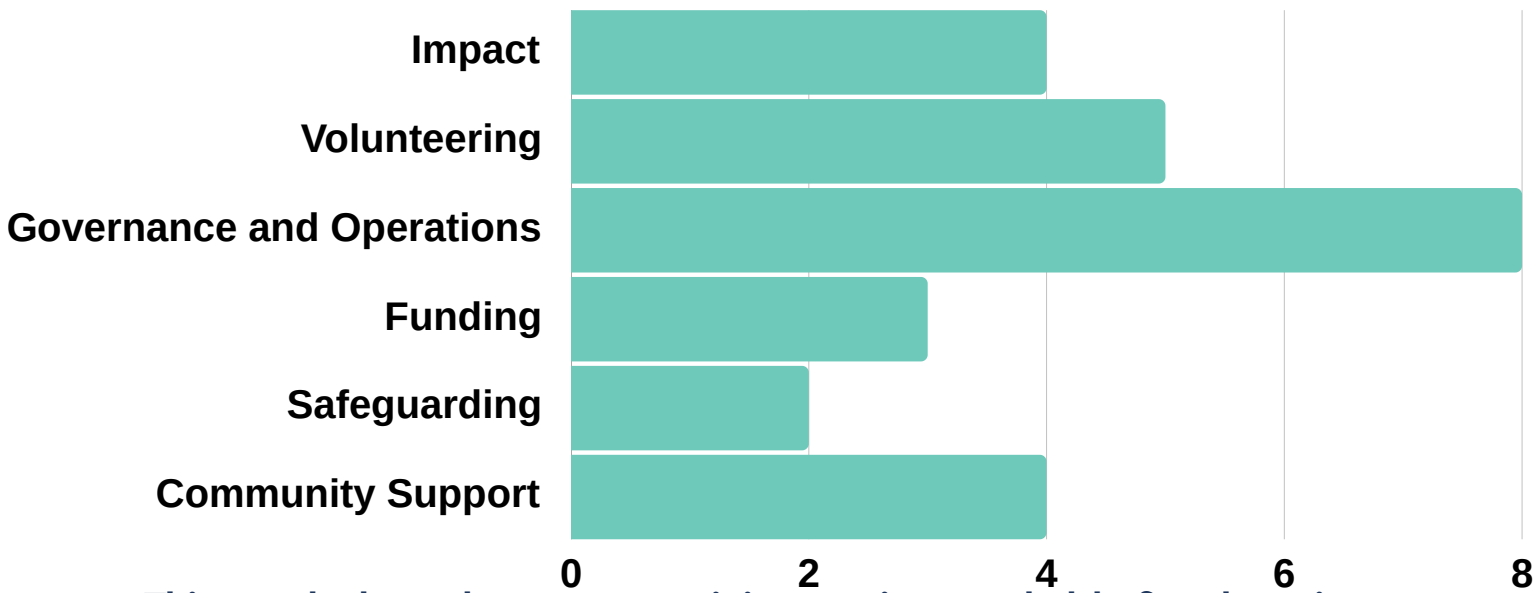
Large-scale policy and service provision change

Training



Making positive change in Bexley isn't always easy. It requires a number of different skills and knowledge to succeed which is why we provide a comprehensive catalogue of training, bringing in experts from accross the sector.

What kind of training do we offer?



This graph shows how many training sessions we held of each topic

180
ATTENDEES

52
TRAINING
SESSIONS

87%
of attendees
reported increased
knowledge after
training

86%
of attendees
reported increased
confidence after
training

94%
of attendees felt
the session was
helpful to their
organisation

This is one of the most professional training sessions I have attended

Thank you for this fantastic service

People need to know this and I think most do not

Very enjoyable course, met my needs and will continue to train in excel. Adam was very knowledgeable and engaging, thank you.

This course has increased my knowledge and confidence. I will now use this to create figures and monitor performance, footfall and training needs of clients. I would be very interested in continuing my learning with you.

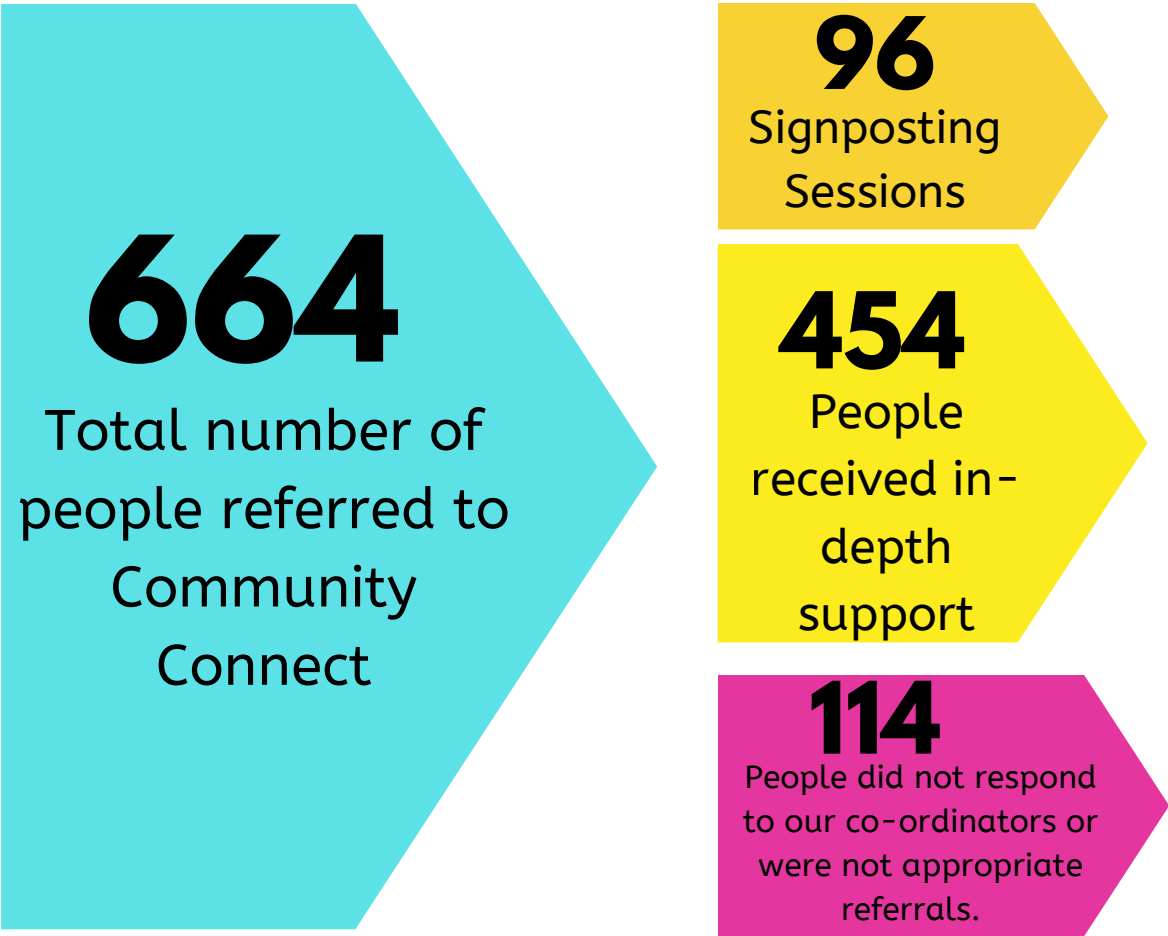
Interested in our training? Click here!





Connecting Bexley Residents to the right organisations, at the right time, to improve health & wellbeing.

This year we were able to produce the video below to explain what Community Connect is and how it can support Bexley people.



Meet Ben

Ben before Community Connect

- Repeat GP appointments
- 8 declined referrals to Oxleas
- Extreme anxiety and panic attacks
- Unable to cook, ate soup from cans and cold food only
- Had no hobbies and felt disconnected from the world

Ben after Community Connect

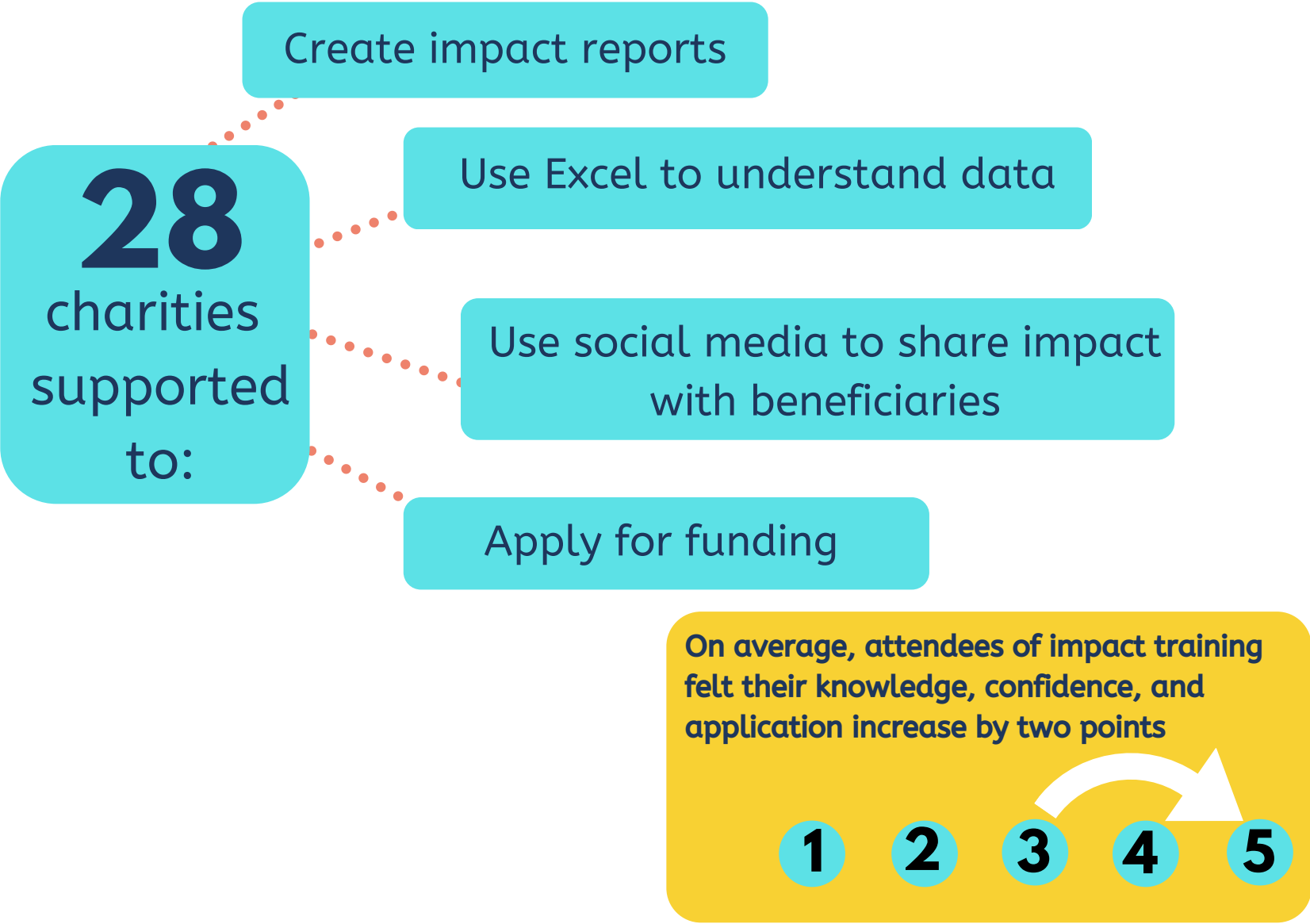
- Received mentoring and support for 8 weeks
- Started volunteering and engaged in CBT
- Has a new hobby- photography!
- Achieved a Level 2 in Food and Hygiene
- Now manages a community cafe
- Currently doing an apprenticeship in admin





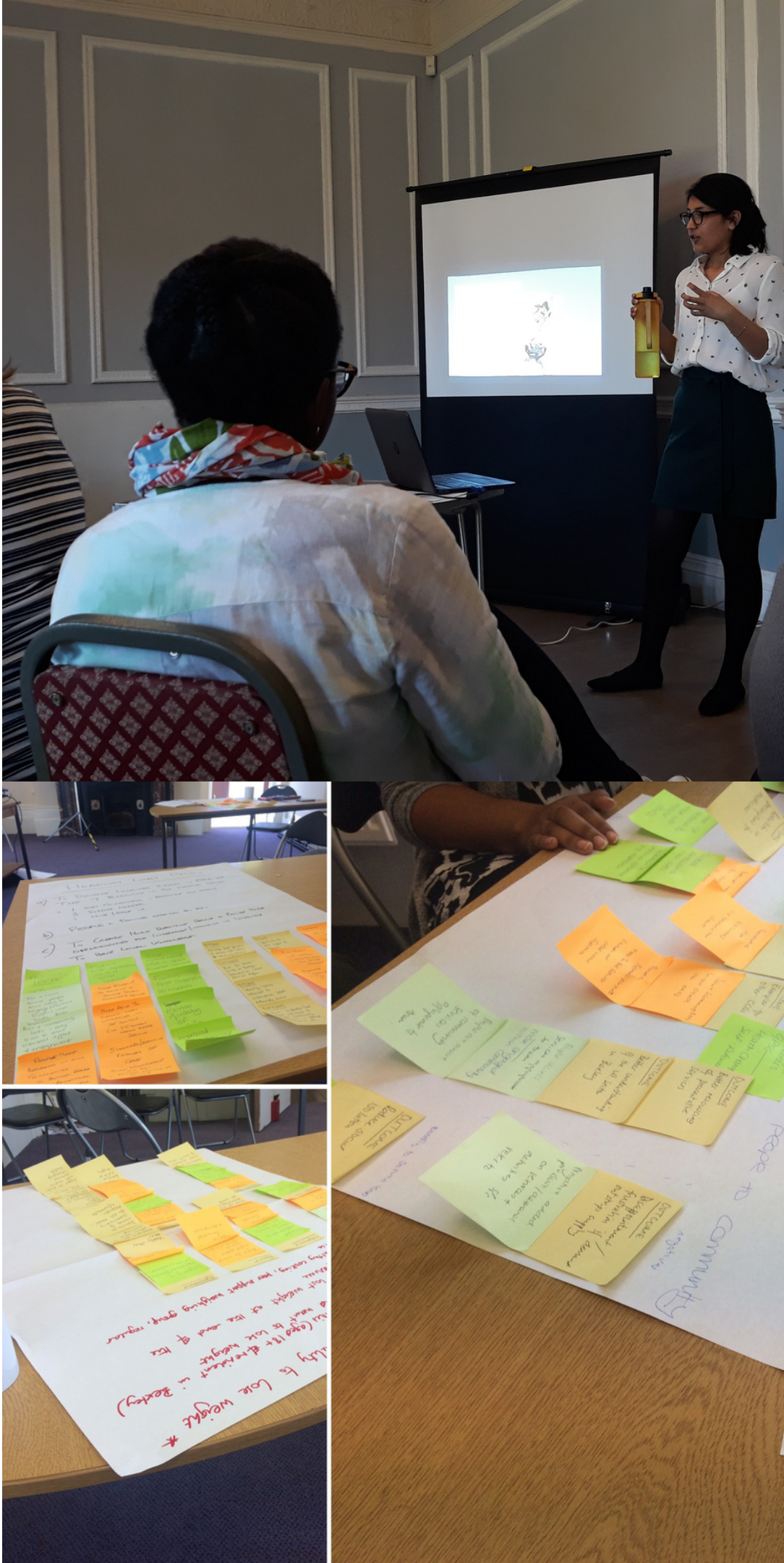
A City Bridge Trust funded project help charities understand, measure, and talk about the difference they make to peoples' lives.

Want to learn about impact? Click here!

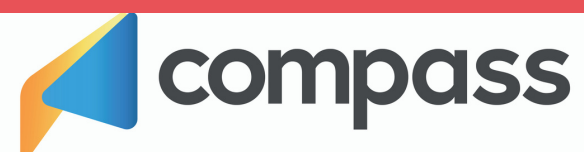


What advice would you give to someone creating an impact report?

In all honesty, when we realised we needed to create a form of brochure to carry the project forward we were not sure where to start... As mentioned earlier until we had the light bulb moment of the realisation that this is where the Impact training was going to become invaluable. To be given the opportunity to condense 2 years of work has been a blessing and also opened our eyes up to our own journey on the project. We can't thank Shaan enough for her time, patience and expertise and also just being a delight to work with. - Tanya, Breathing Space



Our Projects

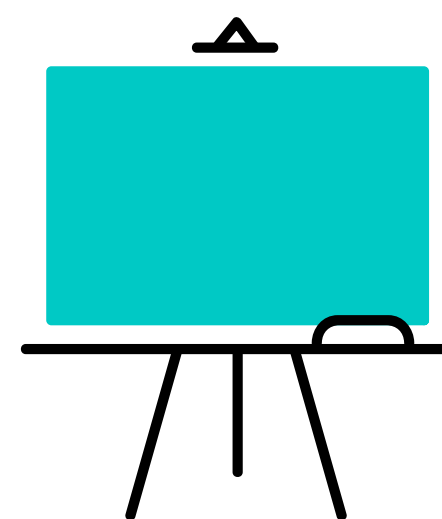


A partnership project between BVSC and Bexley Voice to support families with children who have ASD and ADHD.



1,617
Helpline calls answered

9
workshops held for parents/carers



433
1-1 support sessions held*

*This includes anyone who has had more in depth support – on the phone, email, in person, or at workshops

How has the project affected you?

Very positively! Compass has given me a place to come and meet other parents in the same boat. It gives me a somewhere to **offload** to people who are **understanding** and **who will never judge you**. You get really good information from Compass and the parents you meet. I've formed some really **good relationships** with the parents, we have a WhatsApp group where we all keep in touch.

This project closed in December 2018. Got a question or need support? Click here to contact us.



Our Funding

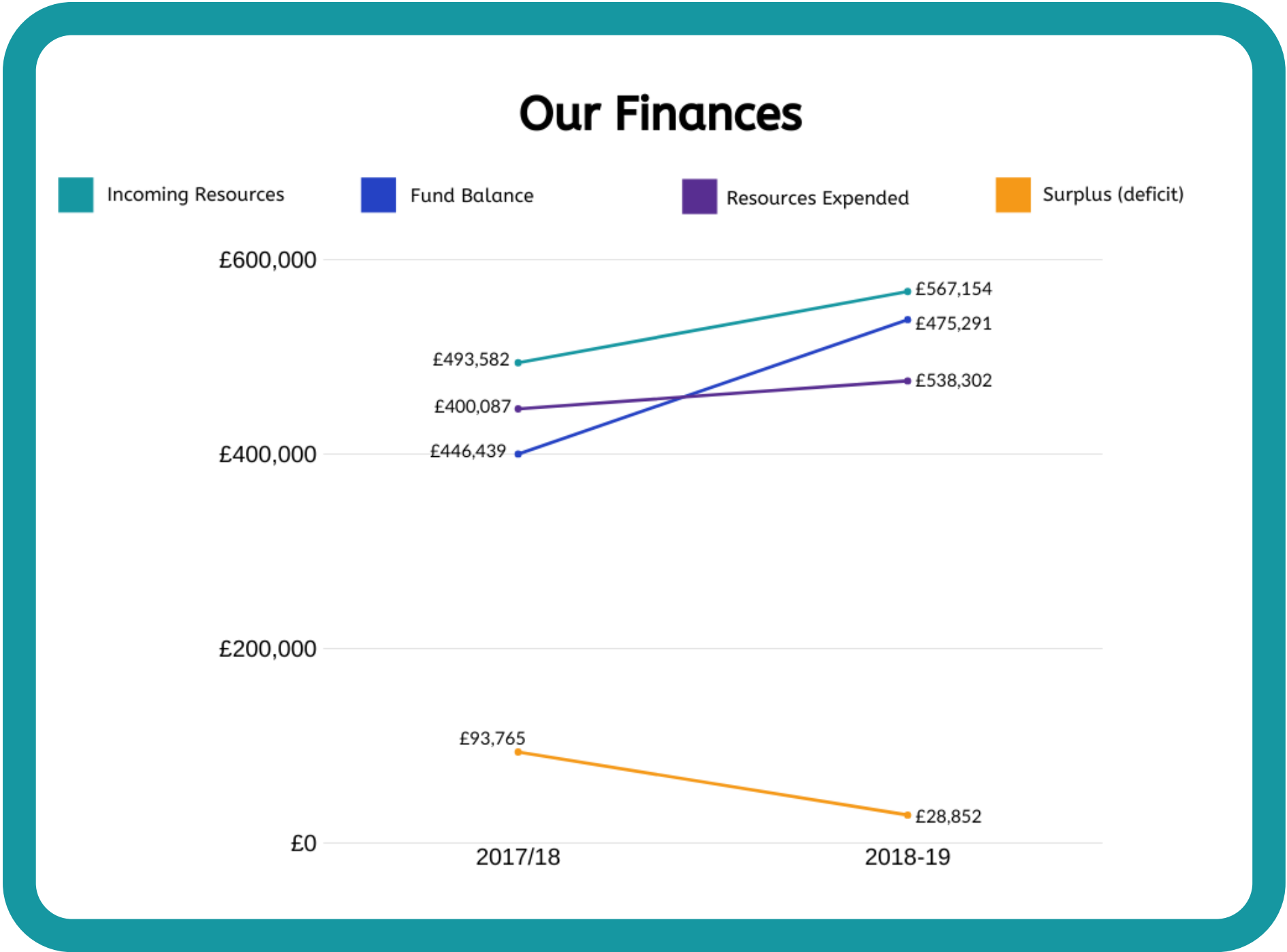


Here are our funders, our trustees, and our finances for you to view. Please do contact us if you have any queries about this at all.

- We are funded by:**
- London Borough of Bexley
 - Bexley Clinical Commissioning Group
 - Peabody Housing Association
 - The Wax Chandlers Company
 - City Bridge Trust

Our Trustees in 2018-19 were:

Juli Atkinson
Tania Bushell
Steve Davies
Patricia Giles
Clair Johnson
Terry Murphy





We want to say thank you to every charity, community group, statutory partner, funder, and volunteer we've been able to work with over the year.



Got a question or a comment? [Click here](#) and let us know!