

What does community-led systems change look like?

What we can learn from Big Local and public service innovation in Liverpool City Region.



VS6

VSNW



Local Trust

Big Local

House keeping.



Microphones

Please keep your microphone muted until the end of the webinar, to minimise background noise.



Cameras

You are welcome to keep your camera on if you feel comfortable, but it is not required.



Respectful Participation

Please be respectful in the chat and during discussions. We aim to create a safe, inclusive space for all.

Chat Function

Feel free to use the chat throughout the session. We will monitor it and respond where possible.

Use of AI

We may use AI notetaking, recording, or transcription tools. By joining, you acknowledge and consent to this.

Slides & Materials

Any slides or resources used today will be shared following the webinar.

Recording

Any recordings will be shared in line with the purpose of this session. Please respect the confidentiality of others when participating.

Please do not use your own AI notetaking tools or automated recording bots during this session.

Timing

We will begin and end promptly. Please stay for the full session if you can.

Agenda.

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 10am | Welcome, house keeping and introductions: Sally Yeoman, VS6 Partnership and VSNW |
| 10.15am | Introduction to Big Local: David Vincent, Local Trust |
| 10.30am | Groundwork CLM: Jon Hutchinson |
| 10.40am | Windmill Hill: Nikki Gascoigne |
| 10.50am | Q&A Session |
| 11.20am | Breakout rooms |
| 11.40am | Reflection period and feedback |
| 11.55am | Summary and close |

Introduction to Local Trust

- Independent charitable trust
- Established in 2012 by National Lottery Community Fund
- £220m endowment to spend by 2026
- Explicit aim to deliver Big Local – largest ever non-state investment in resident-led, place-based change
- £1.1m each to 150 communities, with 10-15 years to spend it



Local Trust was set up in 2012 to deliver **Big Local**, a unique programme that puts residents in neighbourhoods across England in control of decisions about their own lives and areas

at least
£1m per
Big Local
Area

£217m
endowment

We have aimed to demonstrate the value of long term, patient, resident-led funding, and use our learning from delivering the Big Local programme to bring about a wider transformation in the way policy makers, funders and other agencies engage with communities and their neighbourhoods.

Local Trust



The Big Local model

At least 8 members, majority residents
Meet regularly to make funding decisions
Consult community to create Big Local Plan

Big Local partnership

Assess and endorse Big Local Plan
Review plans
Annual review of partnership

Distribute fund as per Plan
Local agreement e.g MOU
outlining roles and responsibilities

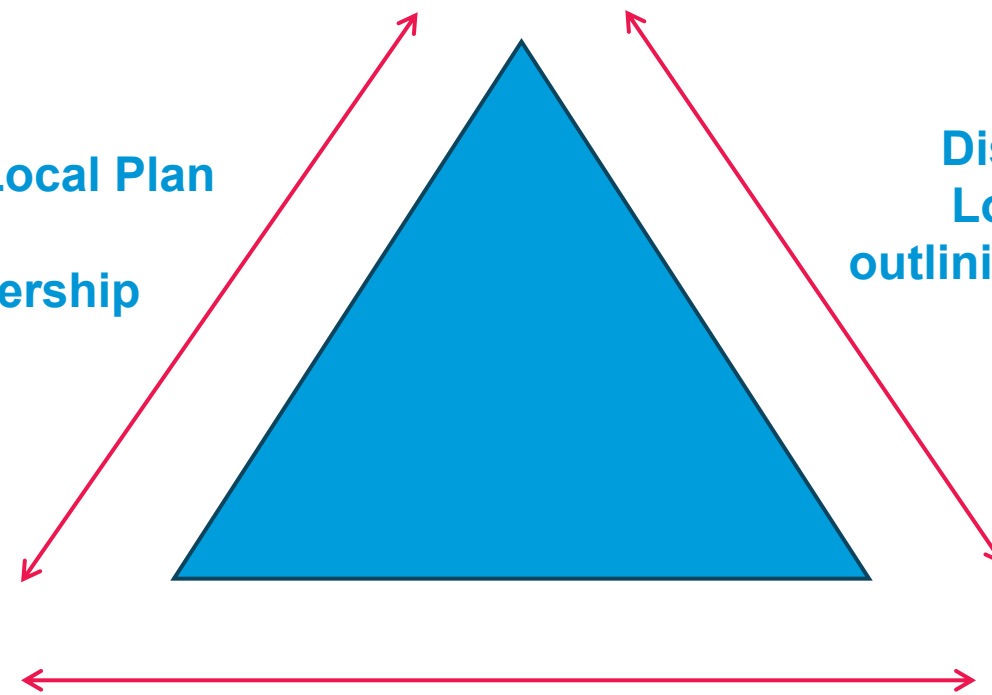
Local Trust

Awards funding
Provides programme guidance
Local Advisors/Coordinators
National support partners
Learning, networking, training
Research and evaluation

Locally trusted organisation

Manage /administer BL under T&Cs
Finance and reporting
Staff lead present at meetings
Manage delivery orgs / contracts
Employ workers

Formal grant agreement with Ts&Cs
Report on expenditure



Big Local Delivery

- 5000 volunteers on partnerships
- >75% included a focus on young people
- >70% improved nature & green spaces
- Two thirds planned for a community hub (15% of spend)
- 123 legacy organisations





**BIG LOCAL
IN COMMUNITIES**



ABOUT GROUNDWORK

Groundwork is a federation of charities mobilising practical community action on poverty and the environment across the UK.

We're passionate about creating a future where every neighbourhood is vibrant and green, every community is strong and able to shape its own destiny and no-one is held back by their background or circumstances.



GROUNDWORK CLM AND BIG LOCAL

Rudheath & Witton Together, Northwich, Cheshire

LTO from start (2013) to the end of the programme in 2024

Windmill Hill, Runcorn, Halton

LTO from start (2014) to the end of the programme in 2025

Latchford, Warrington, Cheshire

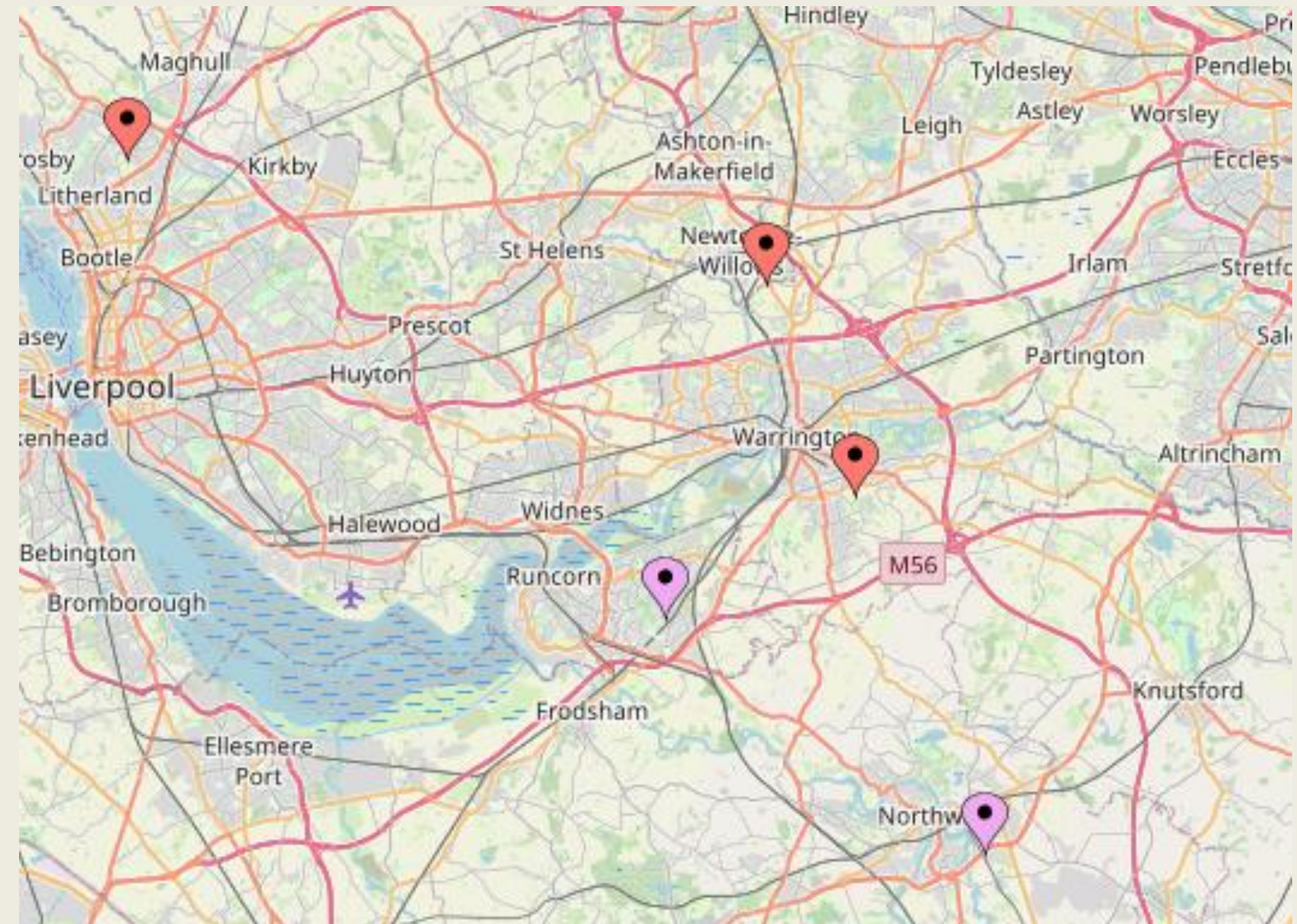
Appointed LTO following Partnership decision to step away from Housing Association. 2019-2025

L30's Million, Netherton, Merseyside

Appointed LTO following Partnership decision to step away from Local Authority. 2022-2025

Wargrave, Newton-le-Willows, St Helens

Appointed LTO following Partnership decision to step away from Housing Association. 2024-2025



BIG LOCAL PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY

Rudheath & Witton

- Project Manager (Groundwork)
- Community Engagement Officer (Changing Lives Together)

Windmill Hill

- Partnership Support Worker (Groundwork)

Latchford

- Project Manager (Groundwork)
- Community Development Officer (Groundwork)

L30's Million

- Project Manager (Groundwork)
- Community Health Builder (L30 Community Centre)

Wargrave

- Programme Manager (Groundwork)
- External Projects Manager (Groundwork)



BIG LOCAL DELIVERY

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY ASSETS

Community Hub
In Windmill Hill the community realized its vision to redevelop St Bert's church into a community hub –
"The catalyst for all of this was Big Local"
Carole, Church Volunteer



BIG LOCAL DELIVERY

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY ASSETS

Church Energy Efficiency
Commissioning energy efficiency audits to enable two Churches enabling access to £190k of grant funding to improve building fabric



BIG LOCAL DELIVERY INVESTING IN PARKS AND GREEN SPACES



Vicarsway Skate Park

3 years in planning with £30k from
Big Local bringing in an additional
£150k of match funding

BIG LOCAL DELIVERY INVESTING IN PARKS AND GREEN SPACES



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Rudheath Bowls Club

“Accepting the grant and loan was the best thing we’ve ever done. Without RWT the bowls club would have been finished, sold.”
Dave Wilding, Rudheath Bowls

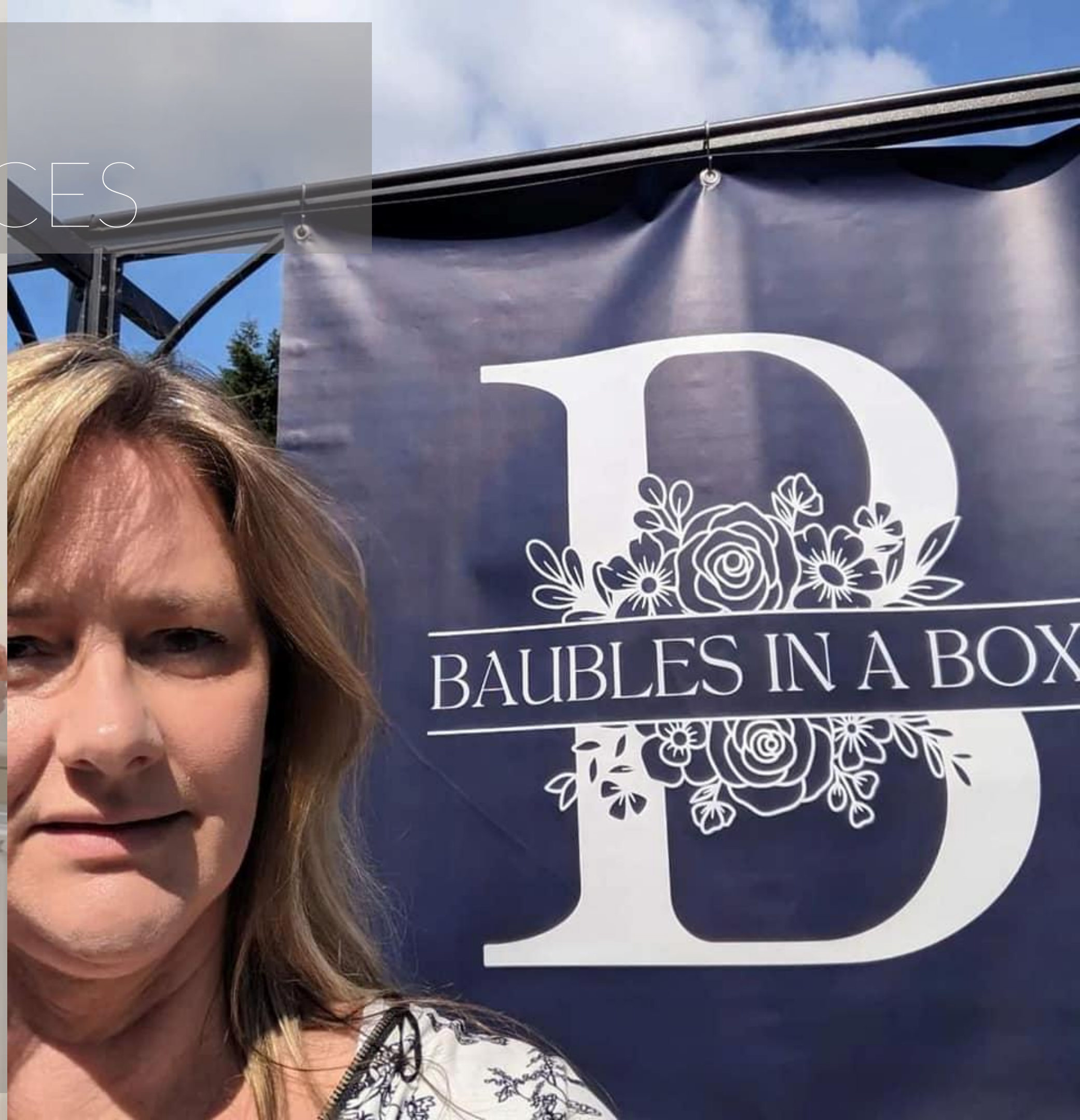
BIG LOCAL DELIVERY COMMISSIONED SERVICES



Business Support

Big Local supported me with starting my own business. They believed in my vision and abilities and that support gave me the confidence to start my own Hula Hoop classes. Since then my business has gone from strength to strength and is continuing to develop and grow.

Rachael Rathbone, Hula Daze





**GREEN
DOCTOR**

BIG LOCAL DELIVERY
COMMISSIONED
SERVICES

**citizens
advice
bureau**



DEBT HAPPENS
You're not alone.

IMPACT COMMISSIONED SERVICES

FINANCIAL ADVICE



722 households supported (1/3 of all households)

7824 issues dealt with

£959k of debt written off

£461k of income gained through benefit entitlement

£133k re-imbursments on loans and services

Over £1.5m impact on households



Big Local
Windmill Hill

BIG LOCAL DELIVERY COMMUNITY LED ACTIVITIES



BIG LOCAL DELIVERY COMMUNITY LED ACTIVITIES



IMPACT COMMUNITY LED ACTIVITIES RUDHEATH AND WITTON TOGETHER



Distributed **69** small grants to community organisations worth **£119k**



Organised over **300** community events that brought people together



Gave out **3000** meals / food parcels to those in need



Worked with **4** schools supporting **1,372** students



Delivered **24** different projects led by local people



Hosted over **100** warm space sessions





WARGRAVE



BIG LOCAL DELIVERY
CELEBRATING SUCCESS TOGETHER

IMPACT COMMUNITY LEADERS

'Being part of RWT has made me get out and about more and meet new people. I've enjoyed being part of the events. Being Chair challenged me and made me realise I can do much more.'

Nic Williams – Rudheath and Witton Together

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KEY LEARNING



Working at the *Speed of Trust*: a recognition that in places with lower social capital this will take longer and be more complex. Development and support needs to be resourced effectively.



Empowerment is not achieved through consultation: creating truly led community programmes is achieved through deep listening, co-design, collaboration, enabling autonomy and building trust.



Capacity building and mentoring: diverse voices are needed in creating decision making that reflects the whole community, this requires support and mentoring through skilled Community Development professionals in building community capacity and confidence in leadership.



NIKKI GASCGOINE

WINDMILL HILL BIG LOCAL CHAIR

Breakout Rooms.

- What Big Local principles/ideas/processes feel transferable?
- How do you see these being put into practice?
- Who do you need to work with?
- What do these Big Local insights mean for funding and commissioning?

Coming soon...

Future events

We hope you'll continue the journey with us. Alongside future online sessions, there will be opportunities to visit Big Local areas in Greater Manchester and Liverpool City Region and learn directly from communities putting these ideas into practice.

Sessions will include:

- Infrastructure, Participation and Impact: Lessons from Big Local and Greater Manchester's Live Well
- Building on Rural Strengths: Resident-Led Leadership and Big Local Learning
- Inclusive Community-Led Change: Power and Representation in Practice

Learning into Action Awards

A new opportunity for participants in the Big Local North West Learning Programme to apply for a small grant to help put ideas into practice in their own organisations, partnerships and communities.

You could use the funding to:

- Test a new idea.
- Bring residents together.
- Try a different approach to community engagement.
- Explore a new partnership.
- Capture and share learning.
- Pilot something you've always wanted to try.

Attend the learning events throughout the programme and start thinking about how you'll turn learning into action. **More details will be shared later in the programme.**

Learn → Develop an idea → Connect with others → Apply for a Learning into Action Award → Test your idea → Share your learning