

Big Local Legacy

Long-term funding and Beyond Big Local



Sefton CVS
Supporting Local Communities

VSNW



Local Trust

Big Local

Agenda.

9.30am	Welcome, house keeping and introductions: Chair, Rachel Jones, Sefton CVS
9.40am	Local Trust: Helen Moreton & David Vincent, Local Trust
10.10am	Big Local: Debbie Stephens, L30 Community Centre
10.30am	Site tour
11.15am	Capacity Beacons Project presentation and discussion: Célia Franquet, Capacity
12pm	Summary and close
12.10pm	Lunch and networking

A group of diverse people are gathered around a long wooden table in a bright, open-plan room. In the foreground, a man with a grey beard and a brown hat is focused on a task. Next to him, a young woman with long brown hair and a woman with curly blonde hair are smiling and looking at something they are working on. They are all wearing lanyards with 'Local Trust' and 'Big Local' logos. The table is cluttered with various materials like paint, brushes, and containers. In the background, other people are visible, some sitting at tables and others standing. A large green circular object is partially visible on the right side of the frame.

Local Trust
trusting
local
people

Long-term funding and beyond Big Local



Long term funding – Big Local

- **Time unlocks the model:** resident leadership, flexibility, patience and non-prescriptive funding all depend on having sufficient time.
- **Trust precedes delivery:** communities needed time to believe they genuinely had control before committing funds and pursuing ambitious plans.
- **Capability grows through experience:** residents developed confidence, networks and skills in negotiation, consensus-building and conflict management.
- **Space to experiment and recover:** long timescales allowed partnerships to take risks, learn from mistakes and rebuild after difficult periods.
- **A platform for sustainability:** emerging organisations could gain experience of managing grants, staff and projects before becoming independent.



Long term funding – Challenges

- **Community control versus funder accountability:** Local Trust had to protect resident-led decision-making while ensuring funding was spent responsibly.
- **Progress was not predictable:** spending did not follow a smooth trajectory, making forecasting and resource planning difficult.
- **Momentum could be lost:** COVID-19, fatigue, staff turnover and the loss of key volunteers weakened some partnerships.
- **Pressure increased near the end:** the programme had to shift from experimentation towards milestones, commitments and difficult viability decisions.
- **The funding and support cliff edge:** communities faced the simultaneous withdrawal of funding, advice and programme infrastructure.



Long term funding – Trends in Big Local

- **Change was rarely linear:** partnerships experienced different stages of formation, conflict, recovery and renewal.
- **Timing shaped the available options:** early difficulties could often be worked through; similar problems near closure required more pragmatic solutions.
- **Legacy planning varied considerably:** some areas established legacy organisations early, while others began only in the programme's final years.
- **The funder evolved alongside communities:** Local Trust adapted its staffing and support model as programme needs changed.
- **Later years required greater tailoring:** support became more intensive as closure, assets and organisational transition became priorities.



Long term funding – Key lessons

- Build adaptability into the programme from the outset.
- Tailor support to each area's confidence, capacity and ambitions.
- Invest early in relationships, governance and community capability—not only delivery.
- Start legacy conversations early, without pushing communities into structures they are not ready to sustain.
- There will be disruption: political, economic and social conditions will change during a 10-year programme!
- Prepare communities gradually for independence to reduce the funding and support cliff edge.



Approach to close out

Close out phase (triggered at £150K remaining)



Formal close out (up to £75k remaining)



Local delivery/ moving on phase

Ending well

<https://www.learningfrombiglocal.org.uk/resources/supporting-volunteers-as-they-leave-big-local>

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1. **Plan the ending early:** Clarity early on both on Local Trust's and the partnership's timelines and the available support
 2. **Give people choices:** Volunteers need permission and space to take their best next step, to reflect and set new boundaries
 3. **Protect relationships:** Volunteers need to maintain or replace connections with organisations and communities that support them
 4. **Recognise contribution:** Volunteers need to feel validated by and protected from the community regardless of the outcome.



Looking beyond the programme

1. [Learning from Big Local](#)
2. 123 Legacy organisations
3. Centre for Collaboration in Community Connectedness - [C4](#)
4. [3ni](#) The national network for neighbourhood improvement
5. Community Wealth Fund – [NLCF](#)
6. Future Neighbourhood programmes including [Pride in Place](#)
7. Focus on the health system
8. Funder and ‘infrastructure’ learning e.g [VSNW BL learning programme](#)
9. BL Beacons areas - Black Country, Liverpool City Region and London

Local Trust

Pride in Place Programme (MHCLG)



A £5.8 billion investment into 284 “doubly disadvantaged” neighbourhoods across the UK.

Parallels with Big Local

Long term - spend over 10 years

Broad outcomes to improve local pride, opportunity and quality of life.

Resident-led by “Neighbourhood Boards” comprised of majority residents

Accompanied by support to develop capacity

Key differences to Big Local

£20m per area and mandated spend profiles (backloaded)

Large amount of capital funding (75% for Phase I, and 63% for Phase II areas)

MPs and Councillors mandated to be on Boards

Local Authorities as accountable bodies and expectation to move to “community-led model” within 3 years.

Local Trust
trusting
local
people

Thankyou and close





A Legacy of Community-Led Change

Speaker prompt:

Tell the story behind this photograph. Focus on people, relationships and the difference made.

Our Journey



**Every
community has
a story.
This is ours.**

Speaker prompt:
Tell the story behind this
photograph. Focus on people,
relationships and the
difference made.

It Started With Listening



**Residents
shaped every
decision.**

Speaker prompt:
Tell the story behind this
photograph. Focus on people,
relationships and the
difference made.

Building Trust



**Change begins
with
relationships.**

Speaker prompt:
Tell the story behind this
photograph. Focus on people,
relationships and the
difference made.

L30 Theory of Change

We want people to see the strength they have in themselves and their community, and use this to make a real difference to their own lives and that of their families, friends and neighbours.

We will work in a way that champions these strengths, gives local people a voice and fits in with local priorities.



Community Building



**Building
Community one
day at a time!**

Creating
memories
together.

Speaker, relationships and the
community.

Bringing People Together



**Connecting
people through
shared
experiences.**

**Creating
memories
together**

Creating memories together.

Speaker, relationships and the
difference made.

Health & Wellbeing



Suey's Story



**Better wellbeing
starts with
connection.**

Speaker prompt:
Tell the story behind this
photograph. Focus on people,
relationships and the
difference made.

Investing in Local People



Pie & £ Pounds £ Night



Have you got an idea?

Do you need funding?



Come along and take part in a community funding night.

You can come and pitch your idea for a slice of £2500 Or join in and vote.

To register your idea please contact Emma
@ L30's Million FB or
l30smillionbl@gmail.com for a
registration pack

Pies and refreshments will be available

Tuesday 11th June @ L30 Community

Centre

6.30pm-7.45pm

Everyone Welcome



Big Local



**L30's
MILLION**

Environmental Pride



**Looking after
the places we
share.**

Speaker prompt:
Tell the story behind this
photograph. Focus on people,
relationships and the
difference made.

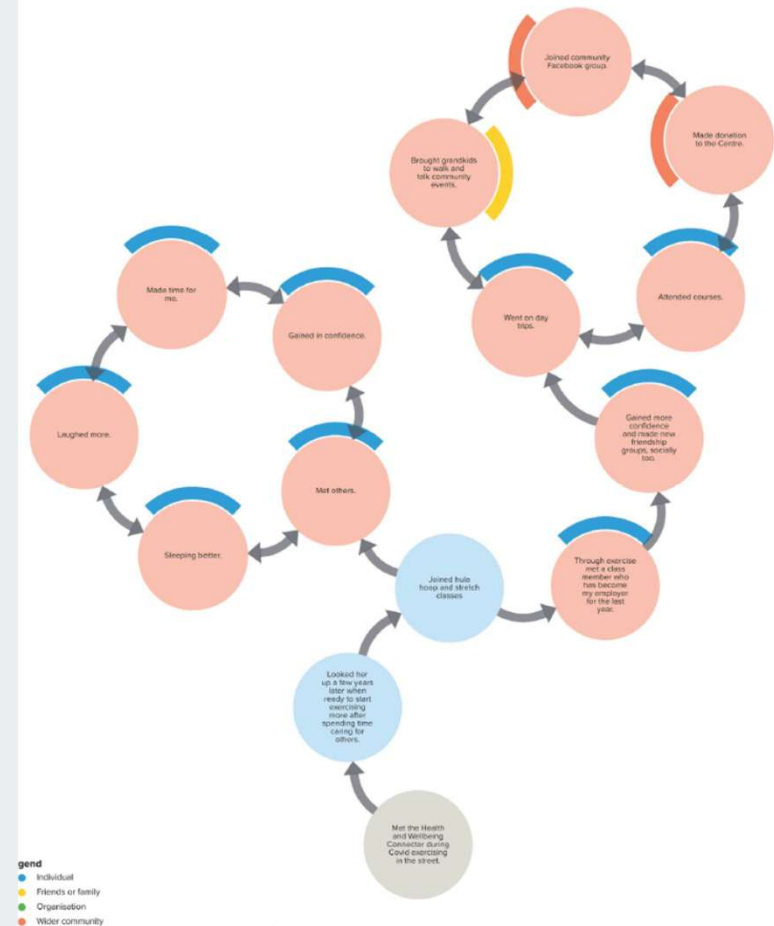
Partnerships



**Working
together for our
community.**

Speaker prompt:
Tell the story behind this
photograph. Focus on people,
relationships and the
difference made.

Evaluation



Increased capacity

People are more able to contribute their knowledge, skills and passion for the benefit of the community due to:

- ★ Better health and wellbeing
- ★ Feeling empowered
- ★ More sustainable local organisations



Increased connectivity

Wider and deeper connections between people and organisations have led to:

- ★ Reduced isolation
- ★ Better access to support
- ★ More joined-up local services



Increased commonality

People and organisations feel an affinity, leading to:

- ★ A sense of belonging
- ★ Becoming more involved
- ★ A neighbourhood to be proud of



What we have learnt so far.....

- Build trusting relationships – at the pace of the community
- Focus on all people have gifts and skills to share
- Ask questions that make invisible local assets visible
- Lead by stepping back – create space for communities to do things their way
- Enable local people to find ways to work together around shared concerns
- Small is beautiful & trust is everything
- This is not something that can be scaled up – this is about streets and neighbours



The Legacy

Over 40 community organisations and projects have been supported with grants from L30's Million, ranging from a ukelele group to a youth market to large-scale building improvements.

The legacy isn't just projects. It's people.

Speaker prompt:
Tell the story behind this photograph. Focus on people, relationships and the difference made.

What's Next?.....

Bringing local people together to form a group that continues the L30' Million legacy to ensure that Netherton is a safe, clean environment full of active citizens making their own decisions and controlling their own assets.

★ Building on the relationships and partnerships to ensure local assets continue to come together to share their resources to enhance their offer for the community.

★ Secure funding to continue the roles of the Community Builder and Health & Well Being Connector, so they continue to be alongside the community to bring about positive change.

We



Netherton

N
Speaker prompt:
Tell the story behind this
photograph. Focus on people

Site Tour



Sefton CVS
Supporting Local Communities

VSNW



Local Trust

Big Local

Beacons project

Liverpool City Region

22.09.26



Making Public Services
People Services

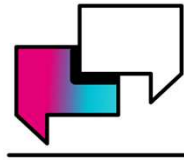


About the project

Big Local areas have built trust, relationships, local activity and practical health and wellbeing work over many years.



**Increase
sustainability**



**Create a
consortium**



Show impact



Let's hear from the Beacons!

Brian Mutton - Chairman, MyClubmoor

Paddy Mulligan - Centre Manager, Little Centre

Debbie Stephens - CEO, L30 Community Centre

Célia Franquet - Coordinator, Capacity/3ni (chair)



Thank You!

You can get in touch with each organisation:

- Brian Mutton, MyClubmoor: brian@myclubmoorliverpool.org.uk
- Paddy Mulligan, Little Centre: paddybeechwood@outlook.com
- Debbie Stephens, L30: deborah.stephens@fun4kidz.org.uk
- Célia Franquet, Capacity/3ni: celia@3ni.co.uk



Coming soon...

Future events

Over the next week, we'll continue to explore more of what Big Local can teach us about long-term funding, community power, inclusion and the conditions that enable communities to lead change.

Sessions will include:

- Inclusive Community-Led Change: Power and Representation in Practice
- See social infrastructure in action: Learning from Big Local and Live Well at Our Sale West

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