

Newcastle Fund Annual Report 2016-17

For financial year ending 31
March 2017

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1. Foreword



Councillor Joyce McCarty
Deputy Leader of the Council

I am pleased to present the 2016-17 annual report for the Newcastle Fund, which is a new way of presenting feedback on the achievements of the Fund over the last financial year. The Newcastle Fund continues to be an important part of our commitment to providing grant funding - as distinct from contracting – as a vital source of funding for the voluntary and community sector in Newcastle. This is in recognition that the voluntary and community sector, and grant giving, has a powerful role in improving the wellbeing of our residents and communities.

Our 2016-17 annual report seeks to demonstrate how the Newcastle Fund has benefitted Newcastle’s residents and communities over the last year, and shares information on the types of projects supported and outcomes achieved, how many people have benefitted from the projects supported, as well as the geographical spread that our grant funding reached.

The impact that our grant funding has made to people and their communities is impossible to fully quantify. The Fund continues to support a diverse range of projects and outcomes within its broad aims, which means it is difficult to aggregate. Even so, we have tried to capture in this report the impacts that our funding has had across our communities.

We know we can’t ‘fix’ disadvantage with the amount of money available in the Fund or indeed in the public purse as a whole. We believe that to have lasting impacts on wellbeing and resilience, the Fund should prioritise building skills, confidence, networks and optimism. Our future focus for the Fund will therefore seek to enable the development and use of asset based practice at both a collective and an individual level, and also build social value. We will continue to talk to our communities and voluntary and community sector partners to agree the future priorities and outcomes for the Fund so that it responds to and reflects the ambitions of our communities.

We have also been listening carefully to what organisations have told us about our grant aid processes and as a result we have made changes to these for 2017-18 to improve the experience of our micro and smaller voluntary and community sector groups.

We believe that by working in collaboration with the community and voluntary sector to harness the energy in our communities – building on the many assets that already exist – we can help to meet the many challenges faced by the City and have lasting positive impact for our City’s residents.

2. Aims of the Newcastle Fund

The Newcastle Fund is the Council's primary grant giving programme.

The Fund was introduced in 2011 and provides monies to voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations based in the City for specific project running costs or core costs.

In 2016-17, the Newcastle Fund supported projects which contributed to building capacity and resilience in the following three areas:

Build community resilience



For example by,

- Helping to create a stronger sense of communities, a richer environment and a more local robust economy by inspiring others to positively develop the places in which they live.
- Actively developing local people and making the best use of the many assets for well-being and social and economic development that already exist in communities.
- Recognising and building on people's often untapped skills, strengths, aspirations and networks and enabling them to be active in improving their own, and others wellbeing and health, rather than passive recipients of others' actions.
- Supporting the cultural vibrancy of the city, such as socially-inclusive events which are fundamental to the character of our city.

Improve individuals' resilience



For example by,

- Preventing loss of independence and minimising the need for higher cost or crisis interventions.
- Reducing loneliness and isolation or exclusion.
- Helping people to regain confidence and connect to their communities
- Maximising and protecting the wellbeing of people who belong to vulnerable groups or have long term conditions.

Improve mental & emotional wellbeing



For example by,

- Building wellbeing and health literacy so that people can take control over and improve their own wellbeing and health.
- Helping people access the foundations for stability – an income, somewhere to live, freedom from excessive debt, and employment opportunities.
- Enabling young people to have a good start in life.

3. Working together to shape the future of the Fund

In April 2017, we published our [Newcastle Fund Position Statement](#) which is designed to help stakeholders understand what our future direction of travel is for the Newcastle Fund. Our Position Statement is in two parts:

- **Part 1** is about the Fund's purpose and direction of travel.

It covers:

- The Statement of Core Purpose for the Fund
- The umbrella outcomes the Fund is seeking to achieve
- Asset based ways of working to help us to deliver our outcomes
- Priority setting

It also sets out the timescales for implementation.

- **Part 2** is about the way that applications are made to the Fund, our decision making and monitoring processes, and our timescales for implementing changes.

Our Position Statement was produced following engagement and consultation that took place during September 2016 to March 2017 – you can read more on the feedback received during the engagement and consultation phase [here](#).

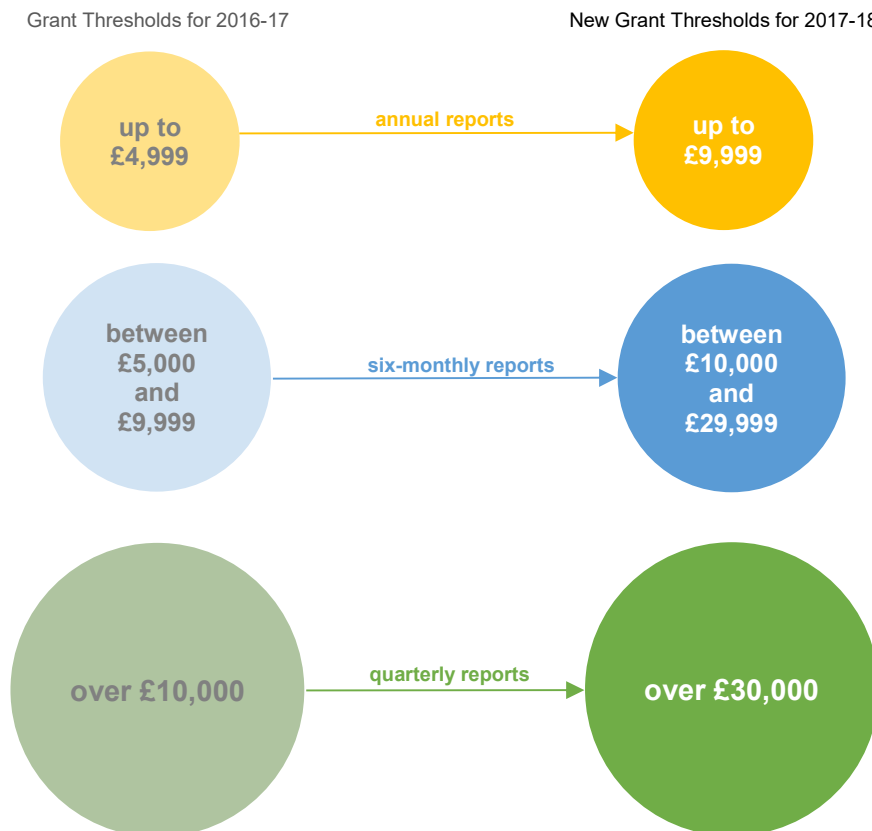
We will continue to work with our VCS partners during 2017-18 to agree priorities for a new Newcastle Fund Prospectus for Round 9 of the Fund, for grants commencing April 2019. We will also work with partners throughout 2017 to map the full range of funding opportunities available across the city.

4. Measuring the difference projects make

Funding provided under our grant giving arrangements, as distinct from contracting, is a gift of funds for a specified purpose. The specified activities to be undertaken, and the outcomes to be achieved, are therefore **defined by the recipient** in their application, rather than by the Council.

Each project is required to submit performance information relating to the outputs and outcomes they have self-defined in their application – the frequency is determined by the level of funding received by the project.

Graphic 1: Performance Monitoring

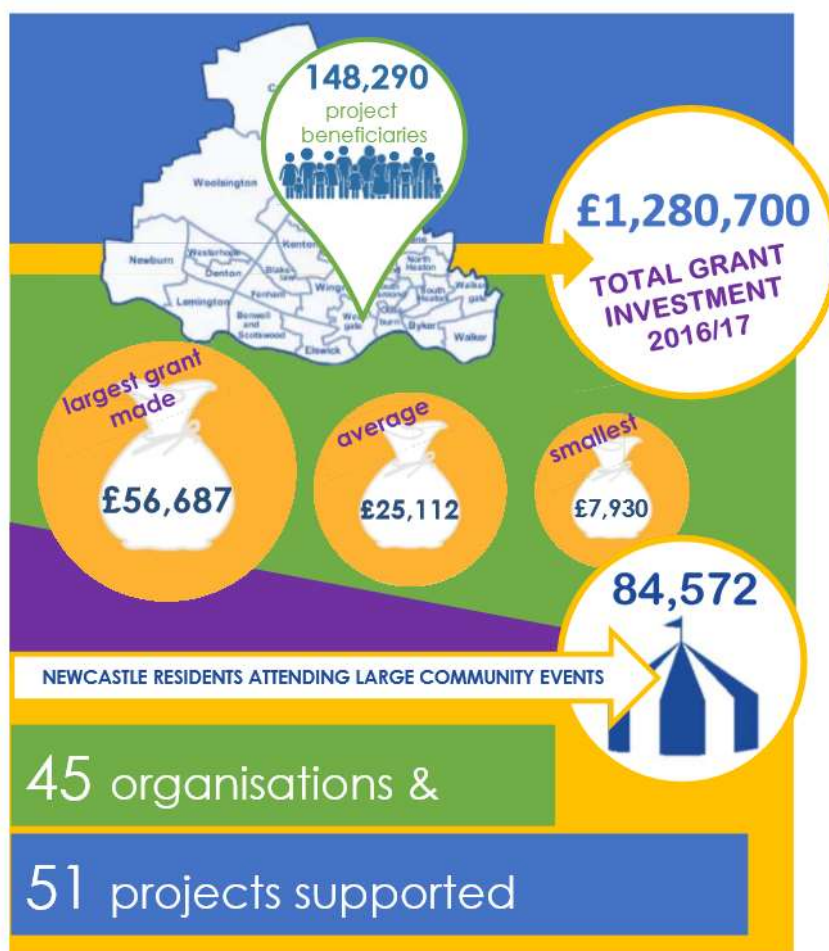


Measuring outcomes and impact helps us to understand the difference that projects make. It can also help us learn from and improve what we do. The diverse range of projects and outcomes within the Fund's broad aims means it continues to be difficult for us to aggregate the performance information collected. We will continue to work with our partners to explore opportunities to develop an outcomes framework for the Fund to enable project information to be consolidated.

We have adjusted our thresholds for returning performance returns from April 2017 to better balance risk management and the reporting burdens on grant recipients, and particularly smaller and medium sized VCS groups.

Projects supporting vulnerable adults and /or children are also be subject to additional monitoring during the life of the project to undertake a more detailed assessment in relation to safeguarding and health and safety.

5. 2016-17 headline figures



In addition, £434k from the Newcastle Fund was ring fenced in 2016/17 to support VCS activity in the following areas:

- Domestic violence and abuse
- VCS related infrastructure
- General advice services delivered by the VCS in the community



6. 2016-17 overview of investment

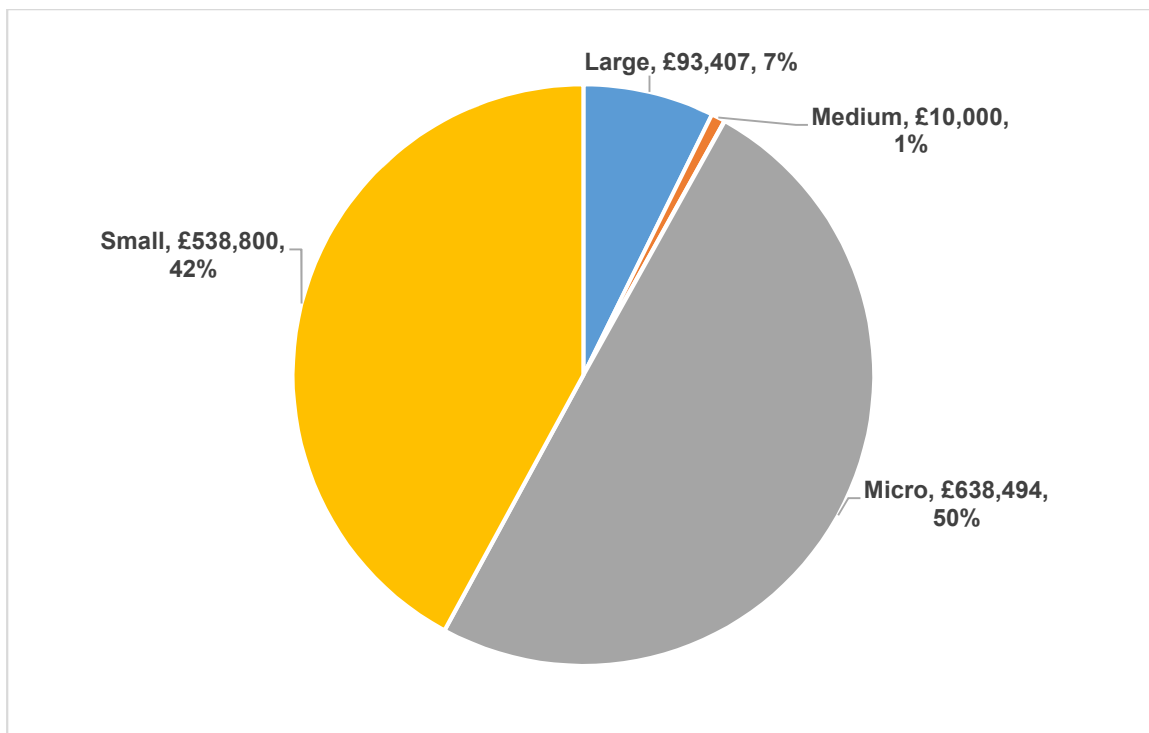


Grants by organisation type (Micro, Small, Medium, Large)

The Council uses a spend analysis tool called 'ProSpend' to identify organisational size based on the EU definition of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) as detailed in the table below.

Company category	Employees	Turnover	or	Balance sheet total
Medium-sized	< 250	≤ € 50 m		≤ € 43 m
Small	< 50	≤ € 10 m		≤ € 10 m
Micro	< 10	≤ € 2 m		≤ € 2 m

By applying this methodology to organisations receiving Newcastle Fund grants in 2016-17 grants, we can see that 92% of funding was attributed to small and micro sized organisations.



Rent relief



10 projects supported through the Fund benefited from Discretionary Rent Relief on their premises business rates saving them £6,674.

Summary of project activity

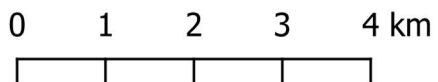
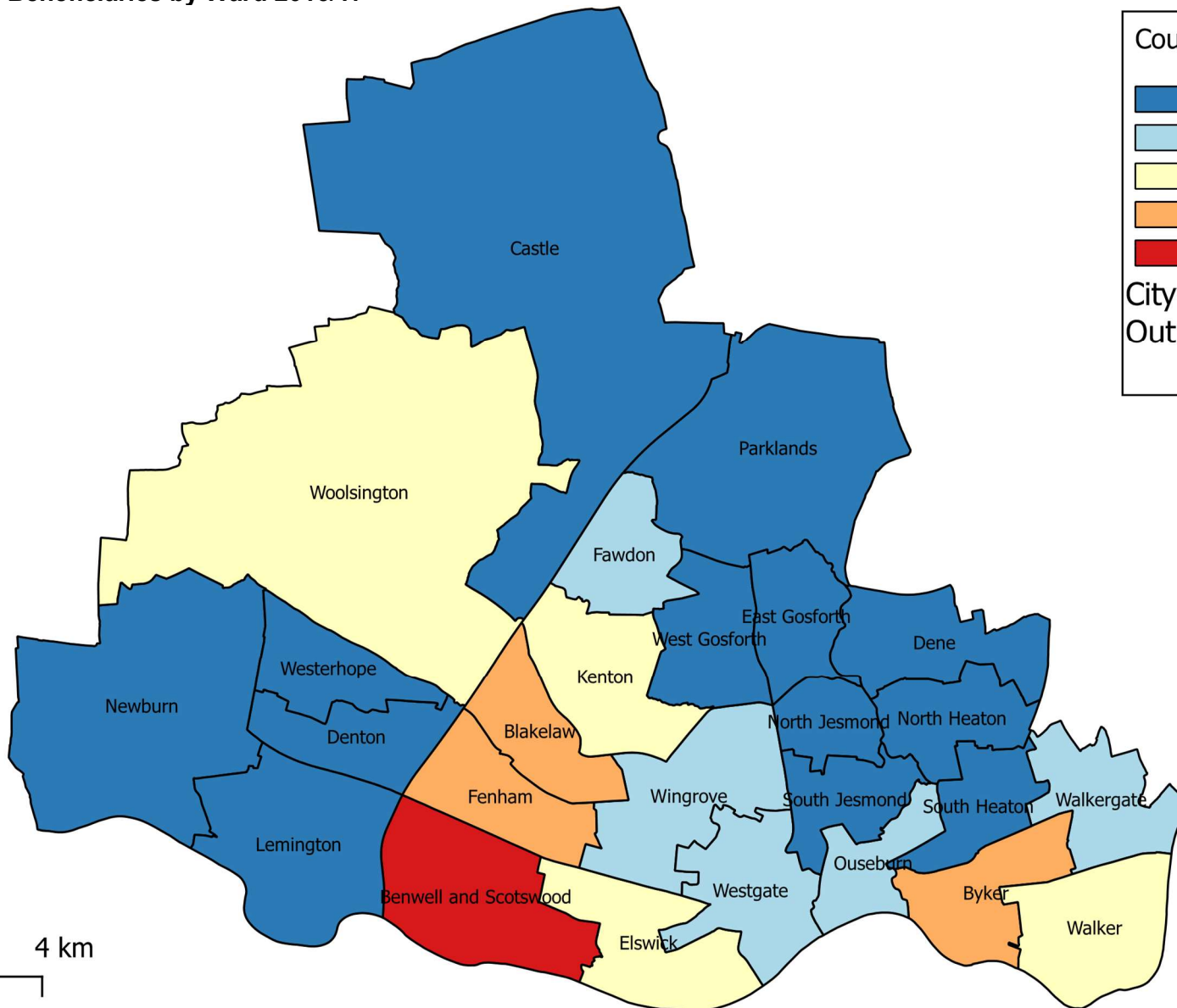
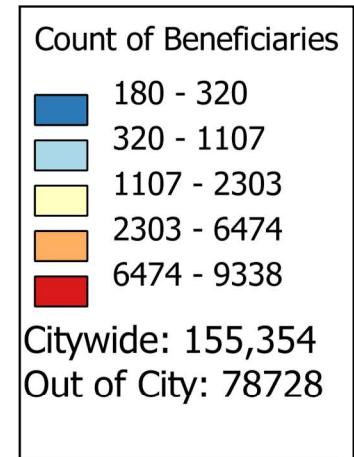
A summary of the types of project activity – and the number of resident beneficiaries – delivered in 2016-17 is set out below.

Primary Activity	No. of projects	No. of beneficiaries reported	Examples of activity
Arts and Culture based projects	7	124,719 (68% of which Newcastle residents)	Community festivals; music & performance; theatre projects; development of creative and social skills.
Community based projects	13	35,242 (98% of which Newcastle residents)	Volunteer and time exchange services; capacity building; and community learning initiatives.
Enterprise and employment based projects	5	1,241 (96% of which Newcastle residents)	Employability and community enterprise initiatives
Wellbeing, health and equality based projects	26	29,434 (95% of which Newcastle residents)	Support to disadvantaged children & families; youth development and support; support for young carers; parent and toddler support; befriending, friendship and support to tackle social isolation; provision of information and advice; support to build resilience; advocacy support; support for those at risk of social exclusion (learning disabilities, young people at risk of exploitation, people with dementia, people with hearing impairments); and community health initiatives.
<i>Children</i>	<i>Of which:</i> 9	<i>Of which:</i> 15,296	
<i>Adults</i>	17	14,138	

Geographical reach

The map overleaf shows the spread of beneficiaries across Newcastle's wards and demonstrates a strong correlation between our most deprived areas and beneficiaries of Newcastle Fund support.

Newcastle Fund Beneficiaries by Ward 2016/17



7. Beneficiaries and outcomes

This section provides more information on the specific projects supported, and the activity and outcomes achieved by projects through their Newcastle Fund investment.

Arts and Culture based projects



Summary of projects:

Organisation	Project Name	Project Summary
Chinese Festivity Group	Chinese New Year Festivals in Jan/Feb 2017	Raising Chinese culture awareness and to build a resilient and cohesive community
Crossing	Developing Organisation Through Music	Developing the reach and impact of music activities to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in Newcastle with opportunities to sing, write songs, learn instruments and perform; delivered in partnership by Crossings and One Love North East to new and larger audiences, maximising existing skills and resources.
Newcastle Asian Arts and Music (NAAM)	Newcastle Asian Arts and Music Inclusion project	A Community inclusion project leading to an annual celebration of Newcastle's Asian music, food and culture
Northern Pride	LGBT & Wider Community Inclusion Programme	Inclusive, high profile programme of events & activities increasing LGBT visibility and participation in key dates in the diversity calendar
Skimstone Arts	Positive People, Positive Place	Healthy choices, support, opportunities for vulnerable young people disengaged or not in education, employment or training (NEET) encountering mental health issues, using art as a medium toward improved health
Star & Shadow Cinema	Star & Shadow Cinema - Self Build a New Home in Warwick Street	To self-build the Star and Shadow Cinema in Warwick St. to create a volunteer owned and managed participatory community asset
Streetwise Opera	Creative Progression Programme	Creative progression for homeless / ex-homeless people

The investment supported 3 large scale community events during 2016-17 – Pride, Chinese New Year festivals and Mela - which combined attracted over 70,000 attendees across a broad range of demographics. These events not only strengthen **community resilience** by breaking down social barriers and bringing communities together, but also generate financial value to the City, such as income through the use of hotels, eating establishments, etc.

In addition to these larger scale events, this grant investment has enabled engagement in a number of activities and community performances – providing opportunities for individuals to learn new skills, learning opportunities, sharing of skills, mentoring and promoting cultural diversity. Opportunities such as these improve **individual resilience** through increased confidence and improved **mental health and wellbeing**.

4 of the projects reported that through their Newcastle Fund investment, they were able to offer a total of 335 volunteering opportunities in 2016-17, this included for example, volunteering opportunities as part of the self-build of the Star and Shadow cinema and community resource and the delivery of the Newcastle Mela which is an annual celebration of Asian Arts and Music in Newcastle.

Sample feedback from projects and their beneficiaries:

The community events gave the Asian community the opportunity to show case their culture in the city centre and promote awareness of the annual Mela, providing entertainment to shoppers and visitors to the city centre

Thanks to your support we've been able to help hundreds of vulnerable adults in Newcastle over the last three years and we are so grateful for your generous support of our work"

With support from Newcastle Fund, CFG/ local Chinese community and the wider communities were delighted there would be large-scale Chinese New Year celebrations in 2017 in Newcastle

Client A improved massively in every way, came to first group to watch and is now a very proactive member, very supportive and welcoming to newcomers "When other funders saw that Newcastle City Council was supportive of us financially it gave them confidence to award grants to us

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Community based projects



Summary of projects:

Organisation	Project Name	Project Summary
Blakelaw Ward Community Partnership	Independence not Dependence	To fund the post of Executive Manager for one year to develop work and priorities of Blakelaw Ward Community Partnership
Buildings Futures East	Walker SOUP	This is a crowdfunding and new democratic micro-grant aid initiative, focused on Walker, which has the potential to bring together the whole community, integrate local economies around increased local social capital and social impact, maximize the use of available local resources and offer a new range of opportunities for community support, local philanthropy and entrepreneurialism.
Daybreak	Community Development & Engagement Project	Activities development including volunteer engagement, gardening, grounds maintenance, volunteers supporting Daybreak service users and joint projects with groups on site such as YMCA, CAB, Newcastle Futures. This will provide local people with skills and training opportunities. The café will enable us to host events for the community.
Fenham Association of Residents	Children & Young People's Network	Create more opportunities with less resources, by encouraging communities to work together building on the network that they have already built, and support activities for children and young people.
First Step	First Step individual & communities resilience	The work of the project, at a grass roots level, develops the skills and abilities of women from all backgrounds to move forward. By empowering them to move forward this contributes to the social cohesion and community strength in the locality.
Liberdade Community Development Trust	Liberdade at Gosforth Civic Hall	A community / arts venue to promote social inclusion focusing on people with disabilities at its operational heart.
North East Social Enterprise Partnership	A Better Future for Byker	An innovate and sustainable approach to community-driven, efficient and effective local public services
Patchwork Project	Benwell Play Centre	Development of a social enterprise in relation to a community facility for the benefit and use

		of local people, especially children and young people.
Riverside Community Health Project	Benwell and Scotswood Community Partnership	Community driven and co-produced services delivered at ward level to support resident led solutions.
Riverside Community Health Project	Neighbourhood Community Cohesion Project	An experienced community development worker will work collaboratively and provide brokerage services between the range of agencies in the locality; addressing issues including environmental/rubbish, housing/private landlord, community cohesion/anti-social behaviour. This will generate a sense of belonging and ownership in the locality that cuts across cultural boundaries, ages, genders; building up relationships and social capital.
Riverside community Health Project	Volunteers - Addressing Poverty	Development of 'volunteering hub' to support and further develop work with local organisations to recruit, induct, train and manage volunteers: To include developing two key projects over the year: 'Debt advice/financial management Champions' and 'Credit union volunteers in schools'.
Time Exchange	Community time Bank and Drop In Centre	Support for, and development of, an established time bank and drop in centre
West End Women and Girls Centre	Edible Elswick	Edible Elswick is a way for people to come together across Elswick, to grow food and flowers, to eat and share and to revive our green spaces.

Investment in these projects provided over 3,700 volunteering opportunities in 2016-17 with volunteers involved in **building community resilience** through participation in skills exchanges, maintenance of the local area and its resources e.g. local area 'clean ups' and managing green spaces. In addition, capacity has been built in 23 organisations so they are able to better manage and support volunteers working with them.

Capacity building is a key element across these projects with over 150 capacity building events carried out and over 100 organisations engaged in capacity building, including for example, supporting 6 schools in the City to run credit unions.

Over 1600 people have participated in activities facilitated by the projects in this theme from community consultation events to community clean up, gardening club and Bee club and over 300 people have accessed the service for information or advice. Information, advice and guidance is provided by projects in this theme across a wide range of areas such as community integration, community resources and access to learning, all of which support the **improvement of individual resilience**.

In 2016-17, projects in this theme have supported:

- Over 1,800 young people to access positive activities outside of school such as homework club and coding club
- 665 people access education and training
- 401 people to gain paid employment

Sample feedback from project beneficiaries:

“This has made a huge difference to my life. I didn’t know what it was that I needed because I didn’t realise there was such a service, but now I know what it means, it was what I had been looking for all along.”

10 community groups used the building other than us, 3175 beneficiaries were associated with this activity

“Congratulations on the success of the Community Clean Up day!”

“Great event for all the family. It’s free fun and always welcoming”

In the first year of the project 2016/17 we saw 3127 skill exchanges carried out by local residents and 247 requests for information, advice and support through drop-in sessions alongside multiple community events, activities and environmental improvement projects.

Enterprise and employment based projects



Summary of projects:

Organisation	Project Name	Project Summary
Asian Business Connexions CIC Limited	MEvolution - A time to transform	A Time to Transform - Business and Wellbeing Boot Camp
JET (Jobs Education & Training)	Integration Action North East (IANE)	JET and partners plan to engage and deliver supported activities to newly arrived migrants including third country nationals, refugees, asylum seekers (particularly but not exclusively) to fully integrate into the UK, gain language and life skills, improve employment prospects.
Millin Centre	Early Trading Project	To encourage and enable women to take the final step from having a concept business to a fully trading concern
Newcastle UXL	Future Focus - Pathways to Learning and Employment	Engagement, personalised support, mentoring and progression of NEET young people into learning and employment.
SES	Prospecting for Enterprise	Investment will provide an integrated community enterprise engagement process, based on local research, business start-up delivery within Cowgate and Newbiggin Hall and SES's Prospecting for Enterprise™ programme with our key partner Your Homes Newcastle (YHN).

Improving the resilience of unemployed individuals (often those who are furthest from the labour market) through the development of personal and professional skills helps them tackle barriers to employment and ultimately be in a position to be work ready. Investment in these projects enabled the hosting of 280 events in relation to business start-ups as well as supporting 275 people on a 1:1 basis. As a result of this work there have been 7 business start-ups and 79 self-employment opportunities created to date.

A significant amount of employer engagement has also been carried out, engaging with 85 employers to link them with individuals that are ready to enter the jobs market.

This investment also included support for a project working specifically with young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). This project has provided information, support and guidance to over 200 young people and employment support to over 60 young people to support their progression into employment. In addition, 30 young people have been matched with a personal mentor to support their progression into work.

Sample feedback from project beneficiaries:

"Meeting with the LWLE advisor and learning that I had something to offer, gave me the confidence to get started again. I have been able to find some direction to develop my own business"

"It was an absolutely fantastic experience. It felt brilliant to be out there and selling products that I had made."

139 individuals received one-to-one support through which they were better prepared to enter the jobs market.

The project has performed well for residents of Newcastle. The project has contributed to the objectives of:

- Creating self-employment opportunities for residents of (79) to date
- Getting more women into business 51 (64%) to date
- Engaging residents into business pre-start activities and supporting them into micro enterprise / self-employment (243 to date)

One young male with ASD initially disengaged from the programme has been re-engaged and supported to secure a traineeship in Engineering

Wellbeing, health and equality based projects

Projects for Children and Young People



Summary of projects:

Organisation	Project Name	Project Summary
Barnardo's	Young Parents Early Intervention Project (YPEIP)	Targeted early intervention work with young parents, improving outcomes for children, preventing them entering the safeguarding /looked after arena.
CHAT Trust	Using Creativity to build Aspiration	To fund a full time post to develop & deliver the creative aspect of The BASE to enable more effective engagement with disaffected young people in the West End of Newcastle; where through arts-media young people will reflect on their life experiences and find enjoyment in attainment.
Cruse Bereavement Care Tyneside	Bereavement support 1-2-1 sessions for bereaved children & young people	A service aimed at improving the emotional well-being and resilience of bereaved children and young people (CYP) in Newcastle.
Newcastle Action for Parent and Toddler Groups Initiative (NAPI)	Parent and Toddler Group Support	Parent and Toddler Group Support advising on the quality of the group, play activities for babies and children under 5 and advice for parents/carers on a number of parenting issues, including unintentional injuries and childhood obesity
Newcastle Action for Parent and Toddler Groups Initiative (NAPI)	Toy Library Project	Provide universal/specialist toys via targeted loan services
Patchwork Project	Neighbourhood based services for children and young people that support, inspire and empower so that they reach their full potential.	Providing appropriate sessions/programs, drop-ins and detached work that gives children and young people opportunities to plan, organise and implement positive activities.
PROPS North East	Young Persons Intervention Worker	Improving the lives of young people affected by the misuse of alcohol and other drugs by another family member
Stepney Bank Stables	Aiming High	Helping disadvantaged young people and adults

West End Women and Girls Centre	Young Lesbian Project	The only Youth service for lesbians and bisexual young women in Newcastle.
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Across these projects, over 1,000 volunteering opportunities were made available for both adults (in toddler group sessions) and for young people.

Over 3,000 adults and children accessed projects offering play opportunities in 2016-17 including toddler groups and a toy library. These projects support parents to understand how physical play, music and movement supports child development in addition to providing advice on healthy snacks and carrying out risk assessments (of which 83 were carried out in 2016-17).

3 projects are committed to raising aspiration amongst young people through providing structured activities such as horse riding and arts programmes for over 1,300 young people. These projects have supported over 200 young people to access training and award programmes and have supported 30 young people into work.

A number of projects seek to **improve individual resilience** and **improve mental and emotional well-being** of children and young people in a range of areas such as parenting and caring, sexual identity and bereavement. As such, over 550 young people have received 1:1 support and over 400 have attended group sessions. Work carried out with young parents has resulted in 2 family reunification following a child becoming looked after and 16 instances where children known to children's social care have had their plan reduce in severity.

Projects for Adults



Summary of projects:

Organisation	Project Name	Project Summary
Alzheimer's Society	Newcastle Dementia Advice and Support Service	Newcastle Dementia Advice and Support Service with a presence in the Newcastle Memory Assessment and Management Service providing advice, information and support around dementia to include signposting and/or referred to services and further support
Better Days	Better Days	Providing stimulating activities including health & fitness opportunities for adults with a learning disability while being safe in the community.

Organisation	Project Name	Project Summary
Caring Hands Charity	Better Daily Living, Wellbeing, Advice and Advocacy	Supporting Independence and quality of life of older people and people with physical disabilities living in Newcastle upon Tyne
Changing Lives	Here not There	Changing Lives are seeking to support 16-19 year old girls in Newcastle who are exposed to and at risk of sexual exploitation, through identification and early intervention.
Deaflink North East	Deaflink Connects	Helping deaf people access their rights and responsibilities and reduce isolation and develop their 'life skills'
Disability North	Information & Advice Service	To provide free, information and advice on a range of disability issues
Food Nation	Inspiring food Bank Customers to develop new skills	The provision of specialised cookery classes for those using Food Bank services in Newcastle and the development of healthier food provision at Newcastle Food Banks
Food Nation	Peer-led Food Clubs working with people in recovery from addiction	Citywide peer-led Food Clubs incorporating cooking, growing and community street food events working with people in recovery from addiction
Henshaws Society for Blind People	Community IT Enablement for Visually Impaired Adults	Our project will improve the ability for 300 visually impaired adults from across Newcastle to use and take advantage of opportunities afforded through IT equipment including PC's, tablets and mobile phones.
Newcastle CVS (Advocacy Centre North)	Community Advocacy	Advocacy for vulnerable adults in our communities
Newcastle Law Centre	Access to Justice	Provision of specialist legal advice and assistance in immigration and family law
Rape Crisis Tyneside and Northumberland	Group support women marginalised by sexual violence	Group support to women survivors of sexual violence from marginalised groups
Search	Search pop up satellite project	Promoting a community assets based approach through developing access to information and community connections for older people and their carers.
Skills for People	Advocacy for people with learning disabilities and/or autism	One to one advocacy for people with learning disabilities and/or autism
Skills for People	Help and Connect	Information, guidance and active community connecting for people with learning disabilities, and/or autism and their families and supporters.
Tyneside Women's Health	Women's Mental Health & Wellbeing Project	Mental health and wellbeing services for and by women

Organisation	Project Name	Project Summary
West End Befriender	West End Befrienders	To reduce social isolation for frail older people and support them to enable them to continue to live independently.

Together, these projects have generated over 100 volunteering opportunities, with volunteers supporting and participating in activities such as befriending and cycling, contributing to **building community resilience**.

Provision of information and advice; support to build resilience; advocacy support; support for those at risk of social exclusion (learning disabilities, young people at risk of exploitation, people with dementia, people with hearing impairments); and community health initiatives.

A number of the projects provided valuable support to those at risk of social exclusion. For example:

- 3 projects provided advice, support and activities for people with learning disabilities – together supporting approximately 600 people. This included supporting the ‘Safe Places’ pilot scheme which are services and businesses around the City where people with learning disabilities can go if they need help. Staff in these organisations are trained to support people with learning disabilities at the point of contact, at the end of 2016-17 there were 52 ‘Safe Places’ in the City.
- 3 projects provided support specifically for women in relation to improving mental and emotional wellbeing and improving individual resilience. Over 600 women have benefited from support in relation to sexual violence and exploitation and mental health and wellbeing, through structured activities, group sessions, assessments and advocacy. With the support of these projects, 20 women have accessed education, training or volunteering and 11 women have become employed.
- 1 project provided specific support to people in recovery from drug and/or alcohol addiction through food classes and nutrition sessions, with over 100 people attending these sessions. Evaluation from this project shows that 33% of participants ‘felt happier’ as a result of their participation.
- 3 projects provided valuable support to older people to reduce social isolation and maintain independence, and to develop community connections. One of which, supported 1200 people in information and advice giving, gaining in excess of £900,000 for older people and their carers through increases in benefits and allowances.
- 5 projects provided specialist information, advice and advocacy to a range of vulnerable adults in our communities, for example, people with dementia, people with disabilities, people with hearing impairments, people who would otherwise not have access to legal advice in relation to family law or immigration. As a result of this investment, 1 project has reported that through the provision of up to date information and advice on disability related benefits, they have prevented poverty

and improved economic well-being for many service users by supporting individuals to maximise their income by over £8m.

- 1 project has helped 99 individuals to develop new skills through the provision of specialised cookery classes who would otherwise use food bank services in Newcastle, and has supported the development of healthier food provision at food banks

Sample feedback from project beneficiaries:

"I am always pleased with the work done by handyman. He never stops until it's finished. He does a very good job and is clean and tidy".

"Got me back on my feet at the Get Well group after a long stay in hospital. It helped me getting out to meet people"

93 parent and toddler groups are operating across the city, providing volunteering opportunities for 200+ adults.

"The counsellor was very helpful and helped me understand how my son was dealing with the loss of his dad"

"This service has made a huge difference to our son's life, he looks forward to coming every week"

"I am no longer homeless. I have my own house and have had help to set up my utilities and budget my own money now."

"I am now in a secure tenancy and financially stable."

"I think it is nice to have other things aside from counselling to help. I think it's (the group) nice because it make you feel less alone and isolated".

"It has been really helpful meeting other women who have been through the same thing. It has helped me open up more".

1305 toys are currently on loan across the city.

The monies generated by increasing benefits and allowances enables the recipients to have more choices about their social activities, healthy nutrition options and housing situations, relieving stress, regaining dignity and control of their lives.

8. Summary

2016/17 grants - key themes:

- The majority of Newcastle Fund monies is awarded to micro or small SMEs
- There is a strong correlation between our deprived areas and Newcastle Fund beneficiaries
- Volunteering plays a key role, combining developing skills and improving employment prospects with improving support for Newcastle resident
- There is a strong focus on inequality, with a significant number of projects being for “communities of interest” as well as “communities of place”
- There are opportunities to explore greater collaboration between projects – particularly for those projects focussed on the same “communities of interest”
- Although individual projects provide rich information, there is limited potential for aggregating the information to truly reflect full impact of the investment. We will therefore explore opportunities to create a stronger ‘outcomes framework’ for the Newcastle Fund