

# MyEnds extension evaluation. Short summary report

July 2024



## 1 Introduction

Cordis Bright is pleased to have evaluated the MyEnds programme (2021-2024). This summary showcases some of the key findings and learning generated in the final year of the evaluation, 2023-24. Findings, learning and the evidence on which they are based are outlined in further detail in a suite of five thematic reports produced in this final year.

## 2 Overarching impacts and achievements

MyEnds is an ambitious programme from London's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). It involves providing support, capacity and funding to help communities develop hyper-local and place-based approaches to violence reduction, stabilisation, and prevention.

### 2.1 What are the intended longer-term outcomes and impacts of MyEnds?

Thematic report 1 presents the MyEnds model, which was co-developed with programme-level and site-level stakeholders and explores learning about the model. Defining the MyEnds model involved articulating and agreeing the intended longer-term outcomes and impacts of the programme. These are:

- Creating **the conditions for local approaches to stabilising and reducing violence** that are: creative, innovative, effective, locally-led, and reach those who need them most
- Increased **long-term capacity** across the local system to deliver these approaches
- More **inclusive decision-making** in local systems
- A **reduction in violence** in areas affected by high and sustained levels of violence
- Stronger and more consistent **trust and collaboration between local community and agencies**

### 2.2 What progress has been made towards longer-term outcomes and impacts?

Achievements of the MyEnds programme have been numerous and diverse, making valuable contributions towards the intended longer-term outcomes and impacts. Thematic report 5 details overarching, macro-level achievements and explores lessons and implications for future programmes.

One of the greatest achievements of MyEnds to date is the way it has shown the power of collective approaches in action. The following key findings provide insight into how the programme has worked towards this and contributed to sustainable approaches.

*Key finding: The collaborative consortium approach has shown the value of collective action in producing stronger local networks and community-based interventions to prevent and address violence.*

MyEnds is an example of investing in and empowering voluntary and community (VCS) organisations to take collective, collaborative action to prevent and reduce violence. Through the working towards the following approaches, the programme has maximised collaboration and shown its value:

- ❖ Tapping into potential within the local community.
- ❖ Reducing competition: avoiding duplication; and increasing the cohesiveness of support in local areas through collaborative consortiums.
- ❖ Building partnerships between consortiums and statutory organisations.
- ❖ Identifying and developing new opportunities for collective action.

*Key finding: MyEnds activities and the VRU's support and promotion of this way of working has begun to increase the presence and status of VCS partners in planning and delivering violence reduction approaches.*

In particular, this has led to a notable growth in the presence and status of grassroots organisations. The funding and supporting MyEnds has enabled grassroots organisations to receive has meant that these organisations have become a part of the solution to violence reduction. Without this investment, this shift may not have been possible.

*Key finding: The injection of resource and energy into MyEnds has produced some sustainable relationships and activities, and supported the sustainability of organisations involved.*

Elements of MyEnds are set to continue in all sites, regardless of further VRU funding. This includes the delivery of some interventions; community events and partnerships within the VCS; and collaborative relationships with statutory organisations. Additionally, an increase in skills and assets for both consortium and delivery partners means that local organisations are now arguably better placed to engage with and secure further funding, either as consortiums or for their individual activities.

While it will require continuous commitment to ensure that the impact of MyEnds is felt in the longer term, local areas are likely in a stronger position to work together to understand, address and prevent violence in their communities.

## 3 Activity strands, impacts and achievements

### 3.1 What are the activity strands involved in MyEnds?

Within the MyEnds model, there are the four key activity strands which make up programme delivery. These are accompanied by (1) activity-level mechanisms of change, and (2) activity-level shorter-term outcomes, which aim to build towards the longer-term outcomes discussed in section 2. The four activity strands, coupled with their respective thematic reports from the extension evaluation, are:

1	<u>Community and youth-led co-design and engagement:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising awareness and community outreach</li> <li>• Involving young people in design, planning, and delivery</li> <li>• Developing routes for community engagement and building on existing assets</li> </ul>	<i>Thematic report 2: Strengthening community networks</i>
2	<u>Supporting and building capacity in the grassroots sector:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grassroots grant funding</li> <li>• Community decision-making panel</li> <li>• Capacity-building support</li> </ul>	<i>Thematic report 3: Onwards grants</i>
3	<u>Targeted hyper-local interventions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding a mixed profile of support in terms of need and intervention level (primary / secondary / tertiary)</li> <li>• Expanding promising practice</li> <li>• Fostering innovative practice</li> <li>• Locally informed practice</li> <li>• Adapting to emerging need and critical incidents</li> </ul>	<i>Thematic report 4: Intervention development and delivery</i>
4	<u>Strengthening collaborative local network approach:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incident response</li> <li>• Strategic thinking</li> <li>• Joined-up working</li> <li>• Sharing intelligence</li> <li>• Sustainability</li> </ul>	<i>Thematic report 2: Strengthening community networks</i>

### 3.2 How do the strands interact with one another?

A unique trait of the MyEnds programme is the way it takes a multi-strand approach which targets individuals, communities and systems. While co-developing the MyEnds model, the following elements were identified as being important for the programme to succeed in its multi-strand approach:

- Feedback loops and mutually reinforcing strands.
- Capacity-building support and minimum standards guidance from the funder.
- Ongoing reflection and learning through experience.

### 3.3 What are the key achievements associated with specific activity strands?

Impacts achieved by the MyEnds programme are visible across all four activity strands. Thematic reports 2, 3 and 4 explore these achievements in greater detail. A summary of the key achievements achieved across the strands is as follows<sup>1</sup>:

<sup>1</sup> N.b. Two of the activity strands (strengthening collaborative network approach and community and youth-led co-design and engagement) have been merged to mirror the structure of thematic reports.

 Activity strand	 Strand-specific achievements
<b>Strengthening collaborative network approach, including community and youth-led co-design and engagement.</b>	Collaborative partnerships between local organisations have increased.
	Communities have become more involved in shaping plans and activities.
	There are stronger foundations in place for collaborative, community-based approaches to violence reduction and responses to violence.
<b>Supporting and building capacity in the grassroots sector.</b>	A greater array of organisations has become involved in delivering MyEnds activities. This has broadened engagement with target community members.
	Grantees' credibility and sustainability to deliver activities in the longer-term has increased.
	Onwards grants programmes have promoted systems change in favour of the grassroots sector, supporting its contribution to violence reduction.
<b>Targeting hyper-local interventions.</b>	By both expanding existing interventions and developing new interventions, sites have delivered intervention profiles which encompass a range of activity types and work towards a range of intended positive outcomes.
	Sites have reached more young people than they would have reached without the MyEnds programme.
	Qualitative evidence indicates that interventions have contributed to a range of positive outcomes for young people who have participated.

### 3.4 What has MyEnds taught us about implementation and delivery across the different activity strands?

Thematic reports 2, 3 and 4 document learning about implementation and delivery, supported by case studies which showcase a range of approaches taken by each of the eight sites.

While each activity strand has inevitably garnered unique learning points, there are also some clear commonalities. For instance:

- ❖ MyEnds emphasises hyper-local and innovative approaches, which requires a solid understanding of local need and expertise, and results in different priorities and types of activity across different sites.
- ❖ Achieving a solid understanding of the make-up, strengths and needs within local areas can be resource intensive but can also make for improved engagement.
- ❖ Sites have tended to take an organic approach to developing local activity profiles.

## 4 Areas for future focus

Through investing funding and resources into community-led, collaborative approaches to violence reduction, MyEnds has generated learning about how to implement these kinds of programmes successfully.

#### 4.1 What are the key areas for future focus at a programme level?



**At a programme level, key areas for focus in future programmes include:**

1. Offering bespoke support to individual sites, including:
  - ✓ Using capacity building assessments to identify existing skills, resources and development needs for providers and strategise accordingly.
  - ✓ Implementing Equality Impact Assessments at an early stage and identifying suitable delivery partners for the local population via community needs assessments.
2. Honing approaches to strategically collecting and using data, including:
  - ✓ Identifying priorities for strategic use of data at programme and site level.
  - ✓ Using grant management meetings as a mechanism for data collection and review.
  - ✓ Supporting sites to engage statutory partners in providing data to identify need and strategically plan a response to violence.
3. Supporting sites to integrate into the VRU's networks (e.g., with local authorities and the corporate sector). Encouraging sites to tap into the VRU's networks at an early stage of the programme may help them to identify and engage with other potential funding opportunities longer in advance of the MyEnds funding ending.

#### 4.2 What are the areas for future focus at a local level?



**At a local level, key areas for focus in future programmes include:**

1. Facilitating opportunities for a range of people (e.g. young people, their communities, representatives of grassroots organisations) to be involved in sharing learning, planning and setting strategy for violence reduction.
2. Embedding sustainability within planning from the outset across all activities. For example, seeking opportunities for match funding grassroots grants and increasing the evaluability and replicability of interventions.
3. Using data from community needs assessments to cultivate strategically informed intervention profiles which are tailored to the characteristics, experiences, needs and preferences of local young people and which include a balance of universal prevention activities, early interventions with those at risk, and targeted interventions with those closest to violence.