

MY ENDS

DYNAMIC PROCESS EVALUATION REPORT

MARCH 2026



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MyEnds is the London Violence Reduction Unit's (VRU) flagship programme – it promotes a hyper-local, community-led approach to tackling violence that puts young people and communities at the centre of decision-making.

MyEnds gives local organisations the support and resources they need to work together to deliver locally designed activities and interventions. It brings together Consortiums of community and statutory partners in nine London boroughs, these are called 'MyEnds Sites'.



'WHAT'S STRONG, NOT WHAT'S WRONG'

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This learning and evaluation report sets out findings and recommendations of an independent 'dynamic process evaluation' (DPE) undertaken by Innovation Unit¹ across the 2024-2026 MyEnds delivery period. By focusing on 'what's strong, not what's wrong,' this report spotlights practice-led innovations that appear most effective in enabling local systems to change, and ultimately contributing to reductions in violence.

Through surveys, workshops, events, and peer and practitioner interviews, the evaluation gathered insights from approximately²:

440 young people

270 community members

100 MyEnds Sites delivery partners

70 system partners

60 members across grassroots organisations

¹ In year 1, Innovation Unit worked in partnership with ResPro to deliver the Dynamic Process Evaluation.

² These stakeholder numbers are based on number of people who took part in the Evaluation activities, and may not be unique stakeholders

WHAT HAS MYENDS ACHIEVED SO FAR?

From April 2024 to September 2025, the Sites involved in the MyEnds programme have:

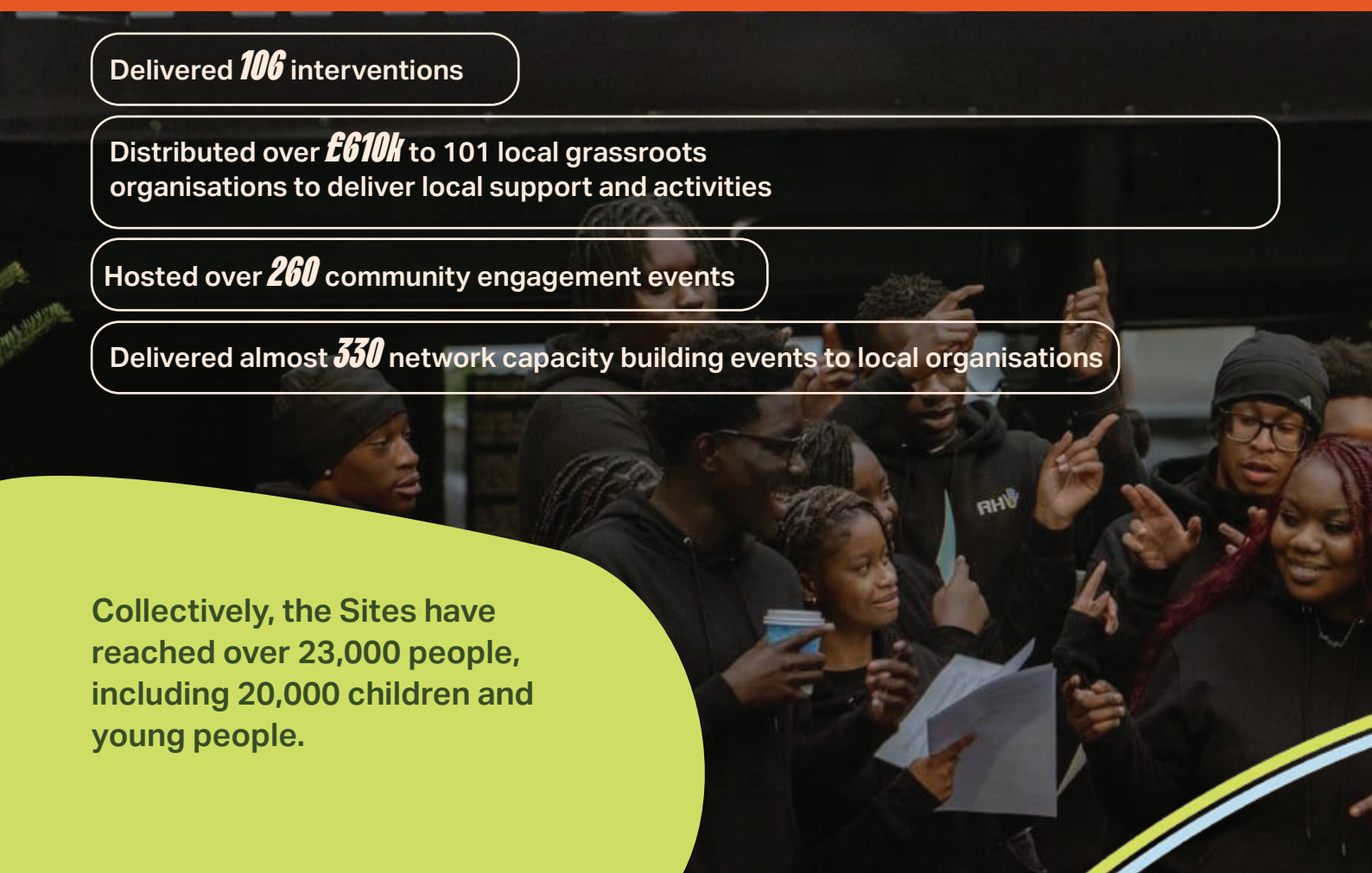
Delivered **106** interventions

Distributed over **£610k** to 101 local grassroots organisations to deliver local support and activities

Hosted over **260** community engagement events

Delivered almost **330** network capacity building events to local organisations

Collectively, the Sites have reached over 23,000 people, including 20,000 children and young people.



Underpinning these figures are a range of powerful individual stories of change, from the growth in young people's network of support, to communities feeling more supported, to grassroots organisations being in a strengthened position to deliver their locally embedded work.

Insights from young people, communities, MyEnds Sites and their practitioners reveal a shift in the lived experience of participants as a result of being involved in MyEnds. They are reporting:

Enhanced personal growth:

Improved confidence, self-esteem, and supported pathways into education and employment.

Strengthened safety nets:

Greater access to inclusive community spaces and a deeper network of trusted relationships.

Increased opportunity:

Expanded access to creative, recreational, and vocational support that fosters a sense of belonging.



These emerging short-term outcomes aim to serve as building blocks for a sustainable, long-term reduction in violence affecting young people.

Insights indicate that MyEnds is achieving its core objectives:

1

Creating the conditions for local approaches to stabilising and reducing violence

2

Increasing long-term capacity across the local system to deliver local approaches for stabilising and reducing violence

3

Supporting more inclusive decision-making in local systems

By strengthening locally-embedded organisations, MyEnds has established solid foundations to achieve the VRU's long-term goals: fostering more consistent trust and collaboration between local communities and agencies, and a reduction in violence in areas affected by high and sustained levels of violence.

HOW IS MYENDS ACHIEVING IMPACT?

A recurring set of conditions emerged as central to delivery and impact across all levels of the MyEnds programme. These act as the programme's 'invisible infrastructure', shaping how work is delivered, how relationships form, and how systems shift. Together, they explain not only what worked, but why it worked within complex local contexts. As MyEnds develops, these are important conditions to continue to foster and nurture.



CONDITIONS THAT CREATE CHANGE

Embedding community experience

High-impact support comes from practitioners who know their community, have deep-rooted connections, and are able to help dismantle the barriers that can prevent people from accessing support. Delivery partners' local relationships and presence help to build trust with communities, and enable them to facilitate rapid, coordinated responses when it's needed. This exists not only at the Site level, but across the programme - with the VRU team using their lived and professional expertise to help Sites navigate challenges and design more effective interventions.

Listening and taking action

The MyEnds approach is rooted in active listening and real-time responsiveness. By addressing emerging community needs and critical incidents, and responding to feedback from young people, the programme is constantly adapting to meet the changing needs of their communities. By visibly acting on these needs, Sites are fostering trust and shared ownership to enable long-term community impact.

Strategic, relational and tailored support

Strategic support from the VRU plays a central role in helping Sites navigate complexity and align local delivery with broader programme goals. The VRU's approach is intentionally adaptive and responsive, offering guidance and coaching tailored to each Site's specific stage of development and internal dynamics. This support is as relational as it is strategic, helping Sites to interpret goals and data, troubleshoot local challenges, and broker essential relationships between partners.

Building trust and relationships

At the heart of MyEnds is relationships - between young people and practitioners, delivery partners and communities, VRU and the Sites, and between local organisations. These connections are underpinned by trust, which is enabled through consistency, responsiveness, and transparency. By building trust with communities, Sites are able to reach more people who need support; and strengthening multi-agency relationships is driving rapid coordination and shared outcomes.

Centring the experience and voice of young people

Community and youth-led design ensures that interventions are relevant, legitimate, and locally-owned. When communities and young people shape planning, delivery, and funding decisions, the result is more responsive and sustainable change. This is visible in co-design structures like youth boards and grant panels, which move beyond tokenism toward genuine power-sharing. This structured participation ensures that the people most affected by the programme are the ones shaping its future.

Leadership that connects systems and communities

Leadership and convening roles are vital for bringing partners together and amplifying community voices within local systems. MyEnds Sites and the VRU act as relationship brokers, navigating local dynamics to build visibility and influence to better protect and support young people. As delivery partners increasingly become recognised as key strategic partners locally in both critical incident response and long-term prevention, their ability to drive systemic change continues to grow.

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH?

The insights above demonstrate that MyEnds Sites and interventions are making promising progress in supporting individual change for children, young people and communities. However, to secure longer-term impact and further spread and scale promising practice, MyEnds Sites and the VRU may want to consider the following:

MYENDS SITES

Summary of recommendations:

- 1. Prioritise outreach and awareness:**
There is opportunity for MyEnds Sites to further extend their reach into communities by prioritising more effective local marketing and community engagement to reach those currently unaware of activities and those most in need of support.
- 2. Make further progress on equitable gender participation:** Maintain the positive momentum in engagement by further investing in activities for girls and young women to increase participation.
- 3. Scale reach targets and address gaps:** Set ambitious, yet realistic, intended reach numbers for future delivery that specifically address identified gaps. Consider how to increase reach for the over-18 group, ensuring the programme meets the needs of older young people who may be 'ageing out' of traditional support.
- 4. Seek feedback from system partners on reaching those most in need:** Work with partners to enhance outreach strategies and strengthen referral pathways to ensure that the programme effectively identifies and supports young people with the most complex and critical support needs.
- 5. Elevate youth voice even further:** Deepen the commitment to the meaningful involvement of young people by encouraging them into formal leadership positions, and demonstrate that their input matters by sharing the real changes they helped create.
- 6. Strengthen local partnerships:** Implement measures to make partnerships with local organisations, services and agencies more systemic and organisational, ensuring ties remain robust regardless of individual staff changes.
- 7. Expand resource allocation for 24/7 crisis support:** Consider investing in capacity for extended 'out of hours' availability, such as weekend or 24/7 access, in areas where practitioners have identified that demand far outweighs the support funded.

Summary of recommendations

- 1. Bring together local outcomes data for programme-wide insight:** Continue supporting sites to develop robust measurement tools while unifying intervention data to provide a clear, programme-wide view of MyEnds' collective impact.
- 2. Strengthen capacity for partnership work:** Recognise that multi-agency working requires significant time by explicitly dedicating capacity for relationship building and strategic planning for Programme Managers and Sites, moving collaboration from an informal expectation to a planned, core function.
- 3. Further leverage the VRU's regional role to overcome system barriers:** Utilise the VRU's position as a powerful convenor to advocate for more agile, community-responsive processes from statutory partners. Encourage statutory partners to include community practitioners in formal settings to act as advocates, while facilitating joint trauma-informed training to dismantle stigma and build trust.
- 4. Evaluate the long-term impact and legacy of hyper-local approaches:** A long-term impact evaluation will help to build the evidence base for hyper-local approaches to violence reduction. Consider investigating the sustainability of the success mechanisms and promising outcomes identified in this report to understand how these foundations drive a long-term reduction in violence affecting young people.
- 5. Prioritise high-impact Site support:** Ensure that the relational, informal support provided by Operations Teams is not overshadowed by Commissioner requests (for example, additional data collection). The VRU should streamline core tasks to be high impact, while proactively seeking PM feedback to meet their individual personal and professional development requirements.
- 6. Amplify learning across grassroots organisations:** Ensure consistent information sharing across the MyEnds network and facilitate wider across-borough learning for grassroots organisations to showcase the 'ripple effect' of the Onwards Grant programme and sustain connections beyond the VRU's involvement.
- 7. Commit to long-term funding cycles to address distrust:** Secure the viability and sustainability of Sites through visible, long-term commitment and longer funding cycles, particularly for grassroots funding, allowing trust within communities to grow and impact to compound over time. Advocate for longer sustained funding cycles at the national level to sustain support.
- 8. Define the sustainability strategy: Ensure that the VRU support to Sites** focuses on sustainability, providing the tools and frameworks necessary for Sites to sustain impact post-commissioning.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE FUTURE?

Sowing the seeds for long-term change

The VRU's MyEnds programme aims to create the conditions necessary for local approaches to violence reduction to thrive by building the long-term capacity of the local system.

Evidence in delivery over the last two years suggests that the programme is sowing the seeds for sustainable, community-led approaches for stabilising and reducing violence in the long-term through growing a network of:

- Young people and communities who feel more empowered, heard and supported
- Grassroots organisations able to deliver wrap-around, community-based support
- Better connected systems of local partners embedding preventative approaches to violence reduction - rather than enforcement

Collectively, these shifts are fostering a more empowered, connected, local ecosystem and establishing the vital foundations for long-term impact to stabilise and reduce violence.

To ensure that these roots take hold, the VRU now has a unique opportunity to deepen, amplify, and evidence the long-term impact of the MyEnds model by:

- **Investigating the long-term impact of the community-led, hyper-local approach**, helping to understand the effect of the programme model on violence affecting young people
- **Focusing on embedding the programme** within local systems to ensure that the outcomes of the programme far outlast the involvement of VRU or the initial investment period
- **Spreading the learning** from the MyEnds journey with leaders, government and practitioners to support the growth of hyper-local violence reduction strategies nationwide

FIND OUT MORE

This report is complemented by various public documents that showcase best practices, impact stories, and practical resources for those looking to learn from the MyEnds Model



The MyEnds Zine captures stories celebrating the activities, people and impact that is happening in MyEnds neighbourhoods.



The MyEnds Toolkit captures key insights from the development and implementation of the programme. It serves as a guide for organisations, partnerships and commissioners looking to adopt the MyEnds approach to violence reduction and adapt the model to their specific community needs.

Reports can be found on the [**VRU Evidence Hub**](#).

SECTION ONE

INTRODUCTION

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Welcome to the learning and evaluation report for the 2024–2026 MyEnds programme.

Set out in this report are the findings of an independent ‘dynamic process evaluation’ (DPE) undertaken by Innovation Unit³ across the 2024–2026 delivery period.

The aim of this report is to share significant insights and learning points captured across the two years, spotlighting features of the MyEnds programme that appear most effective in enabling local systems to change, and ultimately contributing to reductions in violence. This includes exploring the activities and practices across the London’s Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and the MyEnds Sites delivering the programme.

The DPE took an appreciative inquiry approach – identifying practice-led innovation and sharing best practice across neighbourhoods, with a focus on **‘what’s strong, not what’s wrong’**.



³ In year 1, Innovation Unit worked in partnership with ResPro to deliver the Dynamic Process Evaluation.

CONTEXT: JOURNEY OF THE MYENDS PROGRAMME

MyEnds is London VRU's flagship programme – it promotes a hyper-local, community-led approach to tackling violence that puts young people and communities at the centre of decision making.

In 2021, the VRU developed the ambitious and innovative community-led MyEnds programme, investing £9 million to provide support, capacity and funding for locally-designed interventions in neighbourhoods affected by high and sustained levels of violence.

Following the success of the pilot, an additional £7.8 million was secured through Mayoral investment, allowing the VRU to implement key learning from the first three years and develop an evolved iteration of the programme, expanding from 8 to 11 hyper-local areas.

The VRU seeks to create long-term sustainable change through a public health approach, this is translated to the local level through MyEnds⁴. MyEnds empowers young people and communities to meaningfully contribute to grassroots and systemic change, by putting their voice at the heart of the programme. By prioritising youth voice, the programme aims to reach some of the most under-represented young people.

An impact evaluation of the first iteration of the programme (MyEnds 1.0) identified emerging outcomes that included stronger local networks, more joined-up working, increased engagement in support services amongst young people and grass roots organisations better able to support local communities⁵.

The second iteration of MyEnds began in April 2024 (MyEnds 2.0). It was designed to build on the successes of the MyEnds 1.0 and continue to pioneer new, hyper-local partnership approaches to tackling violence. This second phase sought to better understand what enables local systems change, alongside highlighting innovative and impactful interventions and promising practice in violence reduction.

MyEnds 2.0 established Consortiums of community and statutory partners in nine London boroughs, these are called 'MyEnds Sites'.

[Find out more about the MyEnds Sites, the delivery partners and their interventions.](#)

⁴ Find out more about the [VRU's public health approach and outcomes framework](#)

⁵ Find out more about MyEnds 1.0 impact evaluation on the [VRU Evidence Hub](#)

WHAT IS MYENDS TRYING TO CHANGE?

The objectives of the MyEnds 2.0 programme focus on providing direct support to local communities and neighbourhoods affected by high and sustained levels of violence to achieve these localised outcomes over time:

- Creating the conditions for local approaches to stabilising and reducing violence (creative, innovative, locally-led and reaching those most in need)
- Increased long-term capacity across the local system to deliver approaches for stabilising and reducing violence
- More inclusive decision-making in local systems

The longer-term programme outlook is that these system-level changes will enable stronger and more consistent trust and collaboration between local communities and agencies, and a reduction in violence in areas affected by high and sustained levels of violence.

MYENDS LOGIC MODEL ⁷



⁶ This diagram summarises the main activity strands and outcomes of the programme, and has been adapted from the full MyEnds logic model generated in October 2023. See the logic model in full: <https://www.london.gov.uk/media/106651/download>

70%

of knife-based violence takes place within 1% of our streets.

In London, nearly 70% of knife- related homicides happen within just 1% of small geographic areas⁷

IDENTIFYING HIGH NEEDS NEIGHBOURHOODS

SITE SELECTION AND LEARNING FROM MYENDS 1

The VRU's Strategic Needs Assessment highlighted that violence was concentrated within hyper local areas (e.g. particular estates, wards, prominent shopping districts)⁸.

A key recommendation from the MyEnds 1.0 evaluation was to make better use of data to strategically determine local need and develop targeted interventions⁹. Responding to this this, a data driven approach was employed, spanning two key areas:

'Area Prioritisation Tool'

To select Sites for MyEnds, an 'Area Prioritisation Tool' was developed. This combined data from a range of sources including police data on violent crime, public perceptions insights and public health data. This process was designed to identify the wider causes and risk factors for violence were taken into account and ensure that a public health approach was taken.

Through this activity, 15 boroughs containing 50 of the wards with the highest sustained levels of violence and public health issues were invited to tender for the MyEnds 2.0 bid. The VRU received 18 applications from 15 boroughs, with 9 successful Sites securing funding.

Community Needs Assessment

Core to MyEnds is a recognition of the value of lived experience and local insight. In order to look beyond data the VRU commissioned Civil Society Consulting and Plinth to deliver a Community Needs Assessment (CNA) during mobilisation¹⁰.

Each Site received:

- A digital mapping tool developed by Plinth, presenting key data points for each Site, including demographics, police crime data, and metrics on wider socio-economic determinants of crime and an area and stakeholder map.
- A written report for each Site, providing a more in-depth analysis of the above and incorporating local consortium reflections of local assets and risks.
- A capacity-building needs report, which will support the MyEnds Programme team to provide the Sites with targeted capacity building support throughout the delivery period.

The findings of the CNAs shaped the MyEnds Site delivery plans, Theory of Changes, and Equality Impact Assessments.

⁷ Massey, J., Sherman, L. W., & Coupe, T. (2019). Forecasting knife homicide risk from prior knife assaults in 4835 local areas of London, 2016-2018

⁸ [Violence in London: What we know and how to respond | London City Hall](#)

⁹ [MyEnds 1 Evaluation](#)

¹⁰ Find out more about Community Needs Assessments in the [MyEnds Community Needs Assessment Best Practice Guide](#).

MYENDS SITES

MyEnds brings together community and statutory partners in nine London boroughs, these are called 'MyEnds Sites'. Find out more about the nine MyEnds Sites and interventions below:

BETTER BETHNAL GREEN, TOWER HAMLETS

ECOSYSTEM COLDHARBOUR, LAMBETH

HARINGEY HOME COOKED

I AM BRENT

KICKBACK, ISLINGTON

MY LEWISHAM

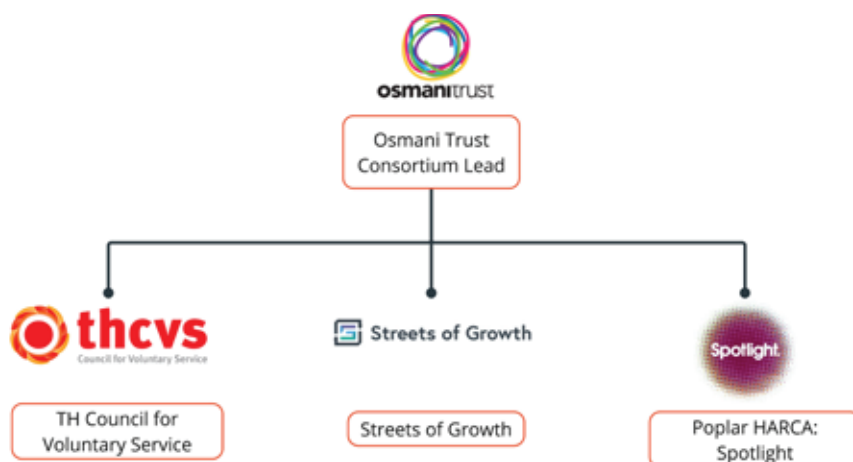
NEW ERA CROYDON

SOUTHWARK GAMECHANGERS

WINNING HARTS, BARKING AND DAGENHAM



BETTER BETHNAL GREEN, TOWER HAMLETS

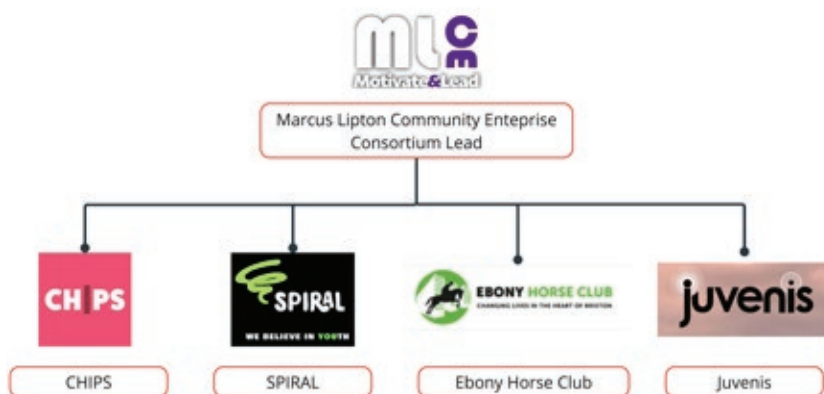


Interventions

Schools Resilience Programme
Criminal Justice Support
Targeted Support
Targeted Street work
Inspire School Workshops
Police Familiarisation Training
Knife Crime Educational Prevention programme
Pathfinder Career Programme
Sports Offer
Employability
Trauma informed and de-escalation training for Frontline Workers
Osmani Youth Space @ LEAP PRU
1-2-1 Case Work

The Better Bethnal Green (BBG) consortium builds on its MyEnds experience in Tower Hamlets aiming to reduce violence impacting young people through outreach, mentoring, and creative engagement. Led by Osmani Trust, the consortium delivers wraparound support across all intervention levels, with partners offering CBT-based mentoring, safe youth spaces, and employability programmes.

ECOSYSTEM COLDHARBOUR, LAMBETH



Interventions

Parenting Programme/Family Support
 Homework club and diversionary sports and creative arts activities
 One to one therapeutic sessions
 YEC Youth Group
 CEIAG, Mentoring and job search support for at risk young people
 Riding to inspire development and education
 TICC's and Young Peoples Movement youth leaders
 Engage Inclusion programme
 Outreach, IAG and signposting
 Tertiary focused support service
 Schools engagement

Ecosystem Coldharbour is a consortium tackling violence affecting young people in Lambeth through creative, therapeutic, and community-led interventions. Led by Marcus Lipton Community Enterprise, the team delivers support across all intervention levels, from horse-based activities at Ebony Horse Club to employment mentoring and gang prevention. Focusing on estates and hotspots in Brixton North and Brixton Windrush wards, the consortium draws on deep local roots and proven collaboration to build safer futures for young people.

HARINGEY HOME COOKED



Interventions

Journey in School
 1-2-1 Mentoring
 Trauma Informed Practice Training
 CAMHS Transition Support
 Emotional Support
 Non-Violent Resistance Training Course
 Parent Support
 Employability Support
 Youth Advisory Board
 Detached Youth Outreach
 Sports Sessions

The Home Cooked consortium is a partnership tackling violence affecting young people and community safety in Northumberland Park through holistic, locally rooted interventions. Led by The Bridge Renewal Trust, the consortium delivers support from early prevention in schools to delivering employability support and employment pathways for those at risk.

I AM BRENT

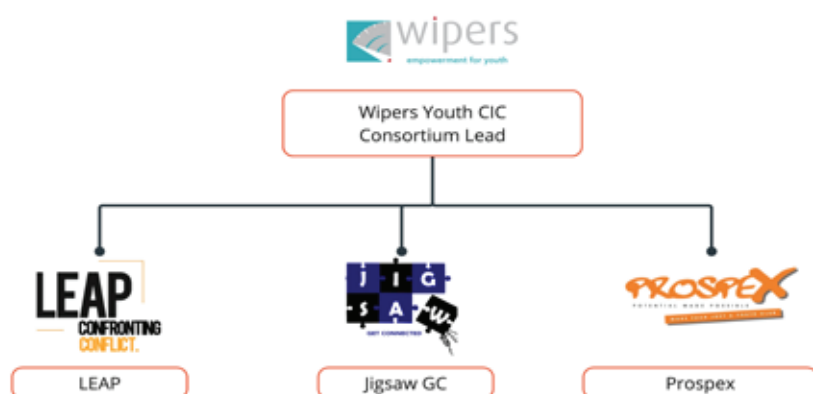


Interventions

Sport and Physical Activity
Mentoring and Befriending
Youth Clubs and Forums
Youth Leadership and Development
Rehabilitation and Resettlement Support
Parenting Support
Youth Education and Outreach
Capacity Building

The I AM Brent Consortium brings together six organisations to tackle violence affecting young people across key hotspots in Brent through culturally sensitive, trauma-informed, and youth-led interventions. Led by Step Up Hub, the Consortium offers a range of interventions from family safety programmes, sports programmes, to resettlement services for ex-offenders. Their target areas include Church Road Estate, Stonebridge Estate, St Raphael's Estate, Chalkhill Estate and Harlesden Town Centre areas.

KICKBACK, ISLINGTON

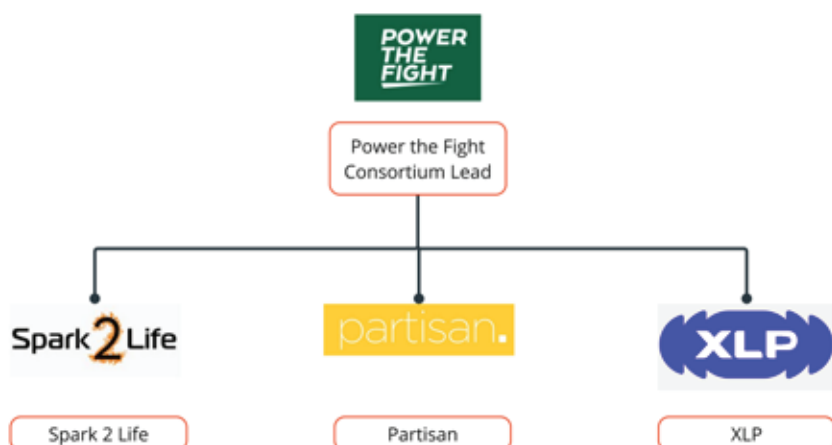


Interventions

Accredited Group Work Programmes
Alternative Provision/tuition
Detached Youth Work
Educational Workshops
Employability Schemes
Parent and Family Support
School Programmes
Specialist Mentoring
Therapeutic Counselling
Training for CJS and VCS staff
Training for Parents
Training for Professionals
Universal Youth Support Services

Kickback delivers targeted interventions across four hotspots in Finsbury Park Ward including Andover Estate, Six Acres Estate, Finsbury Park Station, and Blackstock Road to reduce violence affecting young people and support at-risk young people through mentoring, conflict resolution, and outreach. Led by Wipers Youth CIC, the consortium offers trauma-informed programmes from early prevention to tertiary support, with partners specialising in conflict transformation, family support, and youth engagement. Rooted in the local community, Kickback builds on years of frontline experience to create safer, more supportive environments for young people.

MY LEWISHAM



Interventions

Participatory Grant Making Project
Detached Youth Work
Holistic Mentoring
Bus Project
Girls Drama Group
School Based Mentoring

My Lewisham is adopting a unique approach to supporting young people at risk or being affected by violence by centring therapeutic approaches and contextual safeguarding. My Lewisham's target areas for delivering interventions are focused in the North of the borough. These include: Pepys Estate (within the Evelyn Ward), Honor Oak Estate (within the Telegraph Hill Ward), and the Monson and Hatcham areas of New Cross (from Kender Street in the West).

NEW ERA CROYDON

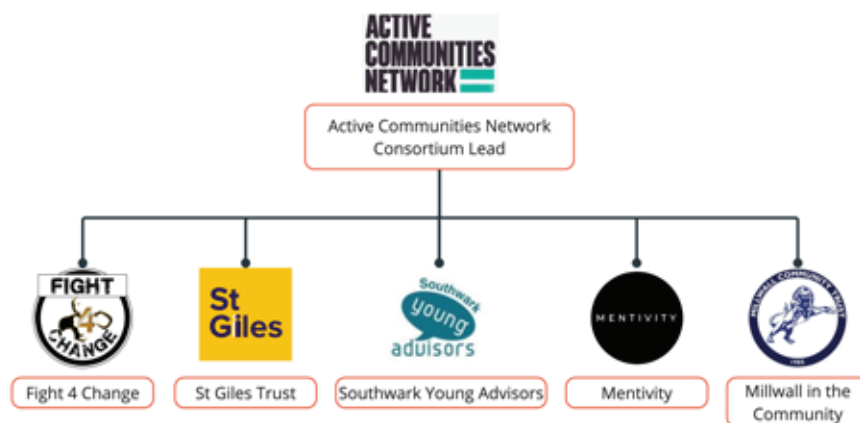


Interventions

Mentoring Project
Be Inspired Youth & Community
Challenging Young People to be Leaders of their Own Lives
Hub Provision
Palace For All
After School Provision

The New Era Croydon consortium brings together partners to reduce violence affecting young people through sport, mentoring, outreach, and community empowerment. Led by Croydon Voluntary Action, it delivers interventions ranging from football programmes and youth cafés to gang intervention and crisis response. Focusing on Croydon Town Centre, which spans two wards, the consortium builds on its first-round successes and local knowledge to create safer futures for Croydon's young people.

SOUTHWARK GAMECHANGERS

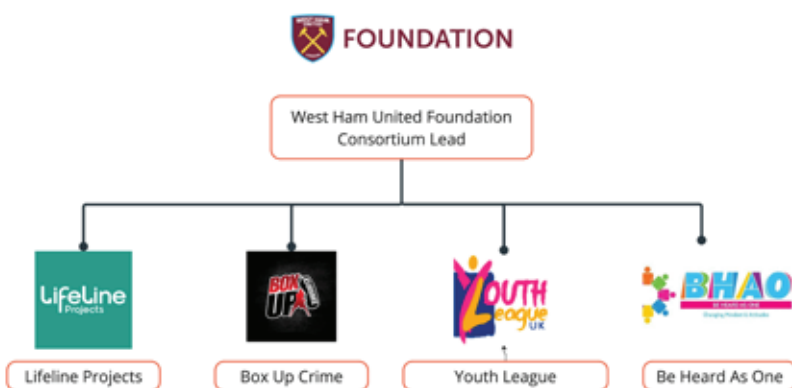


Interventions

Fight4Change
St Giles Trust
Millwall Community Trust
Southwark Young Advisors
Mentivity
Active Communities Network – Primary
Active Communities Network – Secondary
Active Communities Network Tertiary/Community Engagement

The Gamechangers consortium unites six organisations to reduce violence affecting young people across Walworth, Old Kent Road, and Peckham through targeted interventions. Led by Active Communities Network, it delivers primary, secondary, and tertiary support via mentoring, sports, advocacy, and capacity-building of grassroots groups. Each partner plays a specialised role, empowering young people and local communities to transform lives and create safer neighbourhoods.

WINNING HARTS, BARKING AND DAGENHAM



Interventions

PL Kicks
Community Boxing
Outreach support
Detached support
Mentoring
Positive Activities
Free Rangers Service
After School Clubs
Mentoring/pastoral support

Winning Harts deliver a multidisciplinary range of interventions across primary, secondary and tertiary strands, leveraging sports (particularly football and boxing) and music while empowering local grassroots organisations. Their target areas are in and around Harts Lane Estate in the Northbury Ward, Barking.

ONWARD GRANT PROGRAMME

In order to ensure a broad range of grassroots organisations are involved and a wide local reach, the 'Onwards Grant programme' was built into commissioning criteria. This is where local MyEnds funding is redistributed to grassroots organisations, to help grow local capacity and support in the community. With VRU's guidance, this small grant programme was locally-led, with MyEnds Sites leading the application, support and decision-making process. MyEnds Sites also lead their own support and convening process with the grant holders, with many regularly bringing them together to share learning, insight and support delivery.

In total, the MyEnds Sites distributed over £610,000 into local communities through the Onward Grant programme, supporting 101 grassroots organisations.

MYENDS REACH INTO COMMUNITIES: 2024 TO 2025

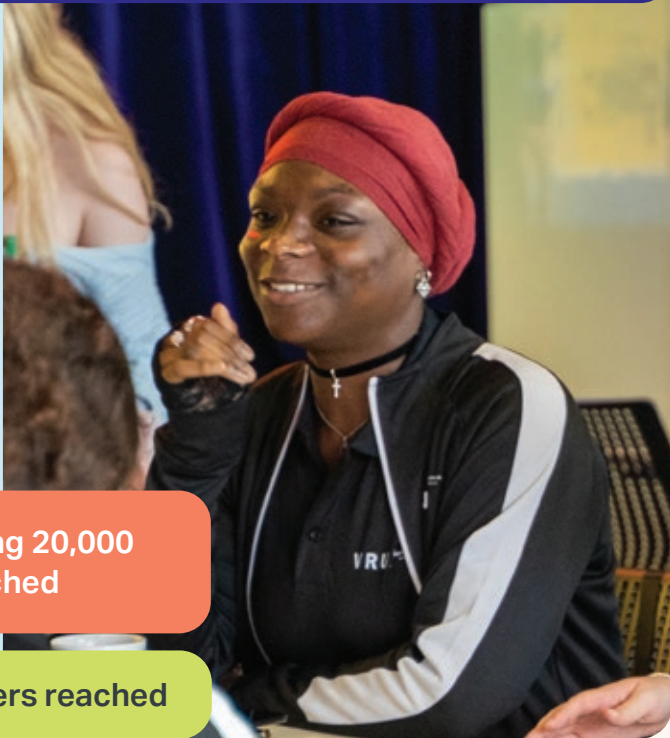
Since 2024, the Sites involved in the MyEnds 2.0 programme have¹¹ delivered:

106 INTERVENTIONS

¹¹ Source: Application data and self reported monitoring data (April 2024-September 2025)

Including activities like:

- Mentoring
- Sports programmes
- Training for practitioners
- Mental health support
- After school programmes
- Detached Youth Work
- Employability schemes



OVER 23,000

people in communities, including 20,000 children and young people reached

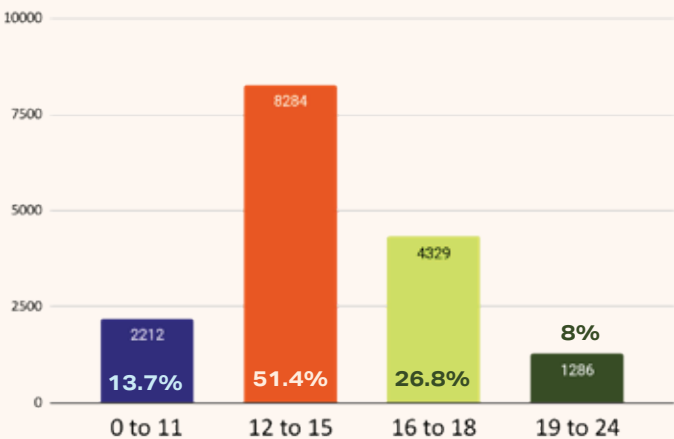
OVER 700

parents and carers reached

Total MyEnds reach: intended vs actual

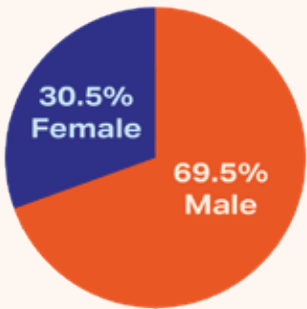
Children and young people reached by age group

Fig 1: Children and young people reached by age group across all Sites. Source: Site-reported reach data gathered in Quarterly Monitoring Reports (April 2024-September 2025)



Children and young people reached by gender

Fig 2: Children and young people reached by gender across all Sites. Source: Site-reported reach data gathered in Quarterly Monitoring Reports (April 2024-September 2025)



DYNAMIC PROCESS EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

'What's strong, not what's wrong'

Building on MyEnds 1.0 learnings and a co-produced model for hyper-local systems change, the Dynamic Process Evaluation (DPE) set out to understand the programme in more detail, including building a deeper understanding of how the identified mechanisms of change are contributing to improvements in outcomes.

The core objectives of the evaluation were to:

- Capture the process of mobilisation and strategy development to understand the key strengths and challenges
- Support Sites to identify Theories of Change at various levels of the programme
- Share progress and promising practice amongst MyEnds Network leaders and with the wider local communities
- To update our understanding of the MyEnds model and develop a toolkit to support the implementation of the model in other Locations

The approach taken was to carry out an evaluation grounded in strong community voice, using an appreciative inquiry methodology, looking for 'what's strong, not what's wrong'. An important element of the methodology was adapting to emerging, or changing, needs of Sites. Differences between Sites were recognised and reflected in a responsive stance to the evaluation activity.

The DPE sought to gather insights and learning across three distinct levels of the MyEnds Programme – programme, Site and intervention.

The DPE was guided by the following questions:

Intervention Level

- To what extent have interventions succeeded in identifying & reaching those most in need of support, and specifically within marginalised & minoritised groups?
- What has been the impact on YP engaged in MyEnds programmes locally?

Site Level

- What has been the perceived impact of the programme on equity in local decision-making processes between partners, local orgs, the community & YP?
- What are some examples of YP/community engagement increasing trust and buy-in to local approaches?
- What has been the impact on multi-agency working?

Programme Level

- How has the programme created the conditions for local approaches to stabilising and reducing violence?
- What has been the perceived impact on the long-term capacity of the local system to deliver local approaches for stabilising and reducing violence?
- How has programme support impacted local approaches to violence reduction?

WHO WAS INVOLVED?

The active engagement and participation of each Site enabled data to be collected through the diverse set of activities, which are detailed in [Appendix 2](#)

Through surveys, peer and practitioner interviews, workshops and events, the evaluation gathered insights from **approximately**:

440 YOUNG PEOPLE

270 COMMUNITY MEMBERS

100 MYENDS SITES DELIVERY PARTNERS

70 SYSTEM PARTNERS

60 MEMBERS ACROSS GRASSROOTS ORGANISATIONS



LIMITATIONS

There are some limitations that are important to note when considering the findings in this report.

Self-Reported Data:

The monitoring data utilised in this report was provided by MyEnds Sites. Self-reported data can increase the likelihood of gaps within the data or inconsistencies.

Sample Size Constraints:

Relatively small sample sizes were recorded for specific activities - most notably community workshops, peer interviews, and system partner stakeholder workshops¹³. Consequently, larger sample sizes would be needed to generalise some findings to the broader population.

Engagement Bias:

Feedback from system stakeholders was gathered from those who actively opted into the evaluation process. These individuals likely represent the most engaged segments of the stakeholder group, and their perspectives may differ from those who are less involved or reached.

Facilitation Bias:

Programme staff were present alongside evaluators during all workshops with community members and young people to support engagement and safeguarding policies. Evaluators note that this presence may influence participants to share more positive feedback than they would have in a neutral, third-party setting.

¹² These stakeholder numbers are based on number of people who took part in the Evaluation activities, and may not be unique stakeholders

¹³ 42 wider community members took part in the community workshops, but only 5 Sites took part in these, at an average participation of 8 people per Site. 14 peer interviews were conducted by 9 peer researchers, from Southwark and Islington. 15 system partners took part in the workshops, from 4 Sites. Insights from other system partners were gathered through an online survey.

SECTION TWO

INSIGHTS

Intervention Level Learning

Key findings

- Interventions appear to be successfully boosting young people's confidence and fostering a sense of belonging through safe, inclusive community spaces. By hosting positive activities and building support networks, interventions are helping to guide young people toward productive future pathways.
- Sites are reaching those most in need of support by leveraging local networks to identify risk early and facilitate early intervention, offering a diverse blend of tailored interventions, and connecting with communities through lived experience.
- In particular, tertiary service users valued interventions that simplified complex processes, remained rooted in local communities, maintained accountability, and meaningfully listened to feedback.
- **Recommendations:** To scale impact, MyEnds Sites should prioritise targeted awareness strategies to close engagement gaps, specifically by reaching young women and underserved demographics. To support Sites, the VRU should focus on sustaining long term funding cycles to address historic distrust.

Within the MyEnds programme, interventions describe the wide range of activities delivered by Site partners to engage and support young people and communities, equip practitioners, and reduce violence affecting young people.

In this section, we share what we have learned about how the MyEnds model is working at the intervention level. The insights reflect how trusted relationships, youth and community voice, local embeddedness, and flexible, responsive design are translating into participation and impact on the ground.

We also spotlight a number of interventions and practices that show the most promise in reducing violence affecting young people and communities from MyEnds Sites. These 'promising practice' case studies have clear, reported evidence of impact, innovation and effectiveness, and can inform other practice. See more about the criteria for promising practice interventions in [Appendix 4](#).

What are the interventions?

In total, there are 106 interventions being delivered by the nine MyEnds Sites.

In line with the public health approach, interventions span three levels of prevention, and often incorporate both universal and targeted elements, representing different levels and complexity of needs:

- **Primary interventions:** Activities designed for children and young people with no or little risk of exposure to or involvement in violence. The strategic goal is to prevent violence before it happens.
- **Secondary interventions:** Activities aimed at children and young people at risk of being affected by violence. The key strategy here is protection and immediate responses to prevent escalation.
- **Tertiary interventions:** Activities designed for those already affected by violence, focusing on long-term care and rehabilitation. The key strategy is to interrupt and reduce the impact of violence on individuals and communities.¹⁴

Sites were asked to identify the main category that the interventions worked at. Of the 106 interventions, 34% were primary, 42% were secondary and 25% were tertiary. However, of these 39% reported spanning multiple categories, for example mixing primary, secondary and tertiary approaches within one intervention. More detail about the split of interventions can be found in [appendix 2](#).

This highlights a key evolution from MyEnds 1.0 – the MyEnds 2.0 programme places greater emphasis on tertiary interventions, recognising the critical importance of targeting and engaging those already involved in violence. In MyEnds 1.0, 54% of the 119 interventions were categorised as primary, 9% as secondary, 8% as tertiary and 29% as spanning more than one intervention.¹⁵ Gaps in provision had been identified in existing tertiary support, and for specific underserved demographic groups, such as women and girls; young people involved in youth justice or alternative provision; and support that sits with statutory organisations but may be ‘stretched’, such as mental health services.

¹⁴ People involved in tertiary interventions include people over 25, as well as children and young people. We call this group service users.

¹⁵ Reported by MyEnds Operations team.

Tier of interventions

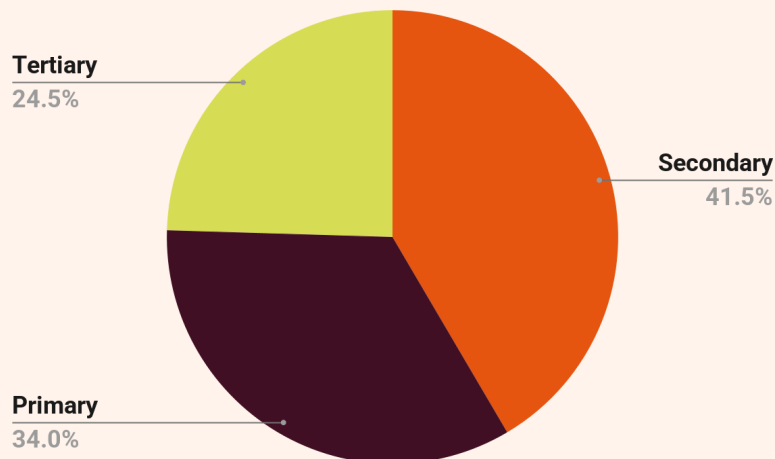


Fig 3: Types of interventions by Tier. Source: Application information

Intervention focus

Mentoring, detached youth work, sports programmes, and after-school programmes are the most common types of interventions (by Home Office Categories), with other types of interventions, including:

- Training for practitioners, including youth practitioners and peer mentors, as well as multi-agency engagement, such as training for community policing
- One-to-one targeted and/or holistic support using a range of methods and approaches, including engagement with families
- Counselling, therapy and emotional wellbeing and mental health support
- Workshops and talks with young people, including at schools
- Creative projects, such as filmmaking
- Youth forums, youth leadership and participatory grantmaking

Looking across the category of interventions, we can see some differences in focus and provision:

- **Primary interventions** tend to focus on universal access activities like sports programmes (19% of primary interventions) and after-school programmes (17%)
- **Secondary interventions** tend to have a higher proportion of mentoring (14%), parenting programmes (14%), and detached youth work (11%)
- **Tertiary interventions** have a focus on mentoring (31%) as well as detached youth work (15%)

Types of sessions delivered

Within the interventions, practitioners deliver a variety of activities and sessions. These vary in frequency and 'intensity', ranging from one-off support to ongoing one-to-one work over a sustained period. The activities are broken down by type in Figure 4.

Types of sessions delivered by frequency

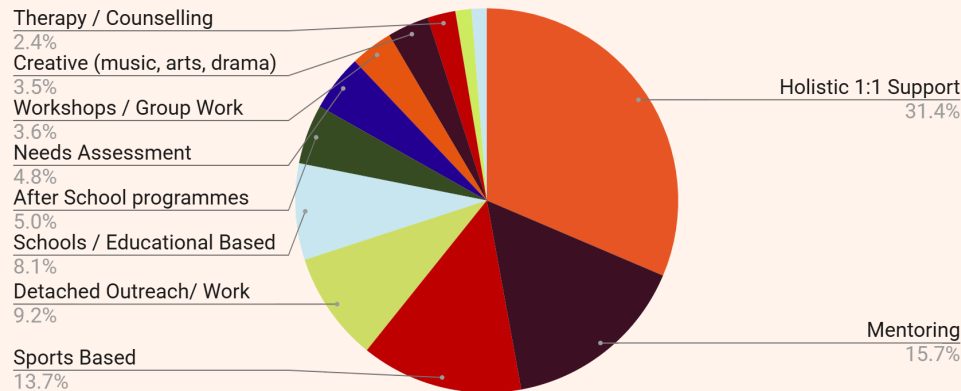


Fig 4: Types of activities delivered by MyEnds Sites by frequency of delivery. Source: Site-reported activity data gathered in Quarterly Monitoring Reports (April 2024-September 2025)

Who have the interventions reached?

In year 1, MyEnds Sites set out a collective target of reaching almost 12,000 people in local communities. By the end of year 1, Sites had reached over 14,000 people, including almost 12,300 children and young people. By September 2025, Sites had reached over **23,000** people, including over **20,000** children and young people.

Year 1 MyEnds reach: intended vs actual

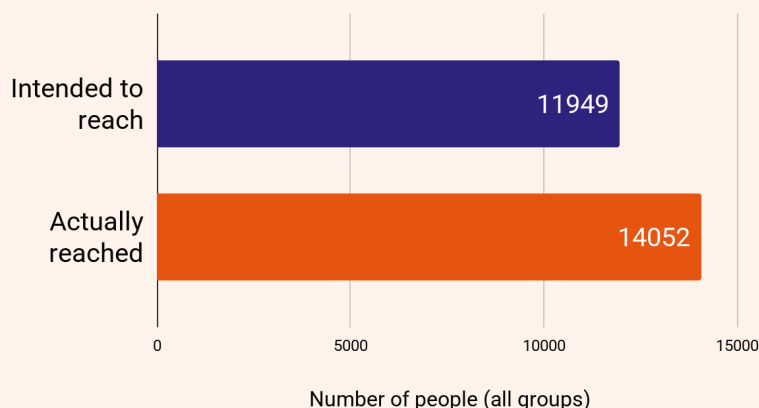


Fig 5: Intended vs Actual reach in year 1. Source: Site-reported reach data gathered in Application Information and Quarterly Monitoring Reports (April 2024-March 2025)

The overdelivery in year 1, and the rapidly growing reach in year 2 to date, suggests that the diversity and breadth of intervention types are **offering effective ways of reaching and engaging children and young people**.

It is worth noting, however, that in our young people and communities survey, a significant barrier to engagement in MyEnds was a **simple lack of awareness**. Of the 62 people who said they had never attended MyEnds activities, 85% (n=53) cited 'not knowing about the activities' as the main reason, suggesting that there is still room to extend reach even further.

Reach by user groups

Of the over 14,000 people reached by MyEnds Sites in year 1, 87% were children and young people (n=12265/14052), and this represents a large proportion of the exceeded reach numbers.

Year 1 reach intended vs actual reach: Children and young people

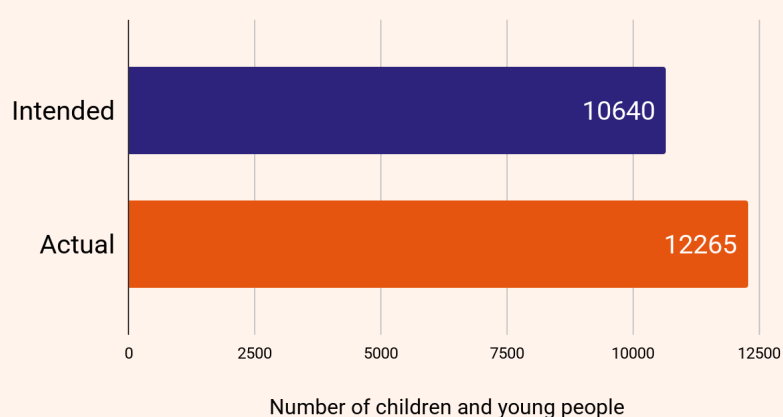


Fig 6. Intended vs actual reach across all MyEnds Sites for children and young people in year 1. Figures collected from application information and self-reported reach data gathered in Quarterly monitoring reports. (April 2024-March 2025)

However, we can also see that the MyEnds Sites over delivered on the number of 'over 25s' they reached with the interventions, which may suggest that there is continued need for this cohort who have 'aged out' of children and young people services and support.

Year 1 intended vs actual reach: Other groups

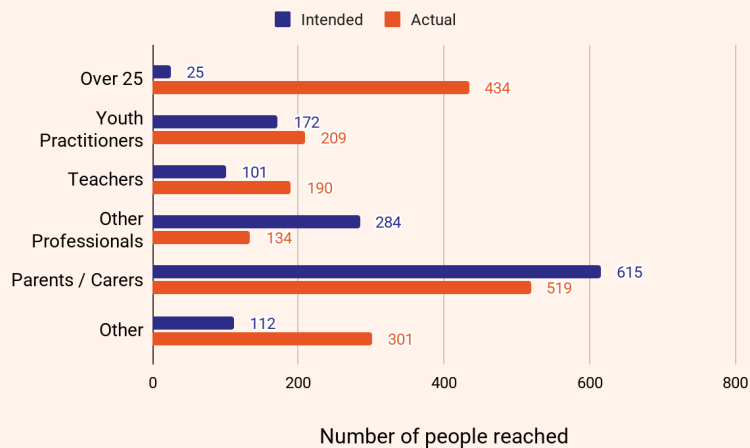


Fig 7. Intended vs actual reach across all MyEnds Site across stakeholder groups in year 1. Figures collected from application information and self-reported reach data gathered in Quarterly monitoring reports. (April 2024-March 2025)

Reach by intervention tier

Analysis of reach data from April 2024 to September 2025 reveals primary interventions reached 64% of all young people, despite representing only 34% of the total intervention count. This trend aligns with our expectations, given their focus on universal access and prevention.

Children and young people reached by intervention tier

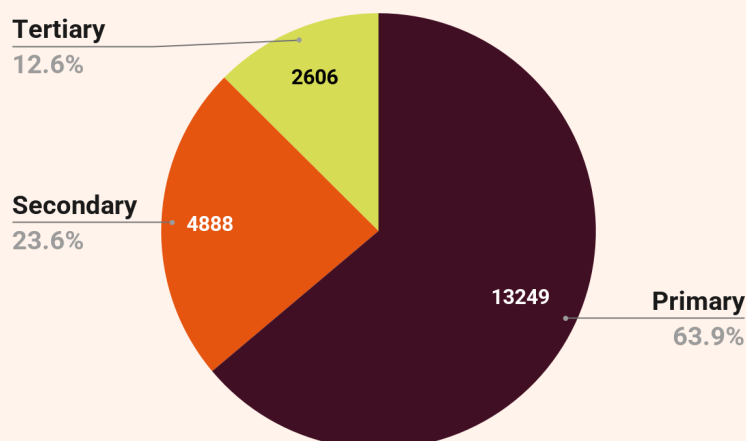


Fig 8: Proportion of total children and young people reached by primary intervention type. Source: Site-reported reach data gathered in Application Information and Quarterly Monitoring Reports (April 2024-March 2025)

Age groups

Looking across the reach data from April 2024-September 2025, where we have demographic data for the children and young people reached, the largest age group reached was ages 12-15, at 51% (n=8284/16130).

Children and young people reached by age group

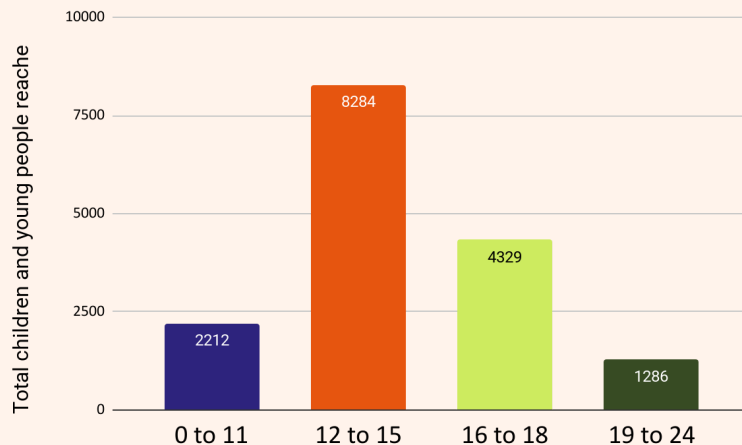


Fig 9. Children and young people reached by age group across all Sites. Source: Site-reported reach data gathered in Quarterly Monitoring Reports (April 2024-September 2025)

The reported reach data indicates an imbalance in spread across age groups, with 92% of the young people reached being under 18 years of age (n=14826/16130), and only 8% being over 18. Given that a significant amount of the children and young people MyEnds Sites reach are via primary interventions, it is expected that the profile of young people reached would be younger, given the focus on early intervention and prevention via universal provision. However, this may reveal a critical gap, as young people over 18 may also be 'ageing out' of traditional support systems. Targeted outreach and activity programming specifically designed to appeal to and engage the over-18 group, may ensure that the programme meets the needs of older service users who may require continued support.

Gender

Where we have gender data for children and young people available, from April 2024 - September 2025, 69.5% young people identified as male (n=10188/14665), and 30.5% as female (n=4477/14665).

Children and young people reached by gender

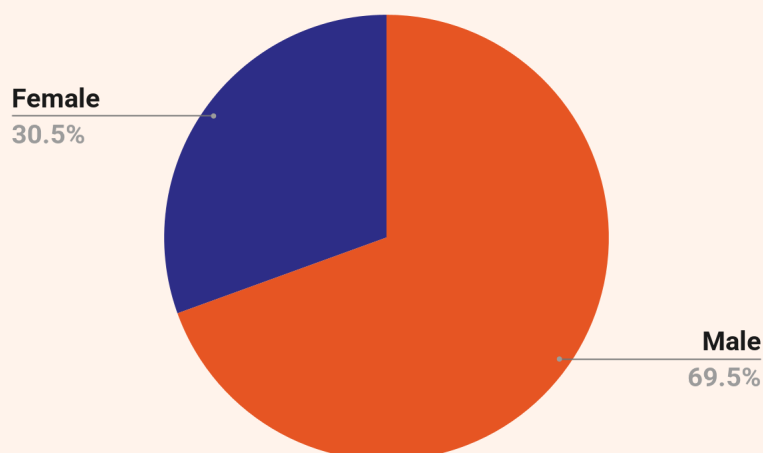


Fig 10: Children and young people reached by gender across all Sites. Source: Site-reported reach data gathered in Quarterly Monitoring Reports (April 2024-September 2025)

The gender imbalance of the interventions is not unexpected, given that evidence suggests that young men and boys are disproportionately affected by violence.¹⁶ However, as set out in the MyEnds 1.0 impact evaluation, Sites and programme stakeholders acknowledged that more work is to be done to ensure that young women and girls are being effectively reached by Sites, and a number of Sites have delivered targeted activities to boost engagement with young women and girls. Reach data indicates that MyEnds Sites are making progress on this aim, making gains by increasing participation from a year 1 baseline of 26% to 30% by mid Year 2.

¹⁶ Youth Endowment Fund (2024), Children, violence and vulnerability 2024, REPORT 3: How do boys and girls experience violence?

Ethnicity

Where we have demographic data for the children and young people reached, 55% were Black or Black British. Find a more detailed breakdown of subcategories in appendix 3.

Children and young people reached by ethnicity

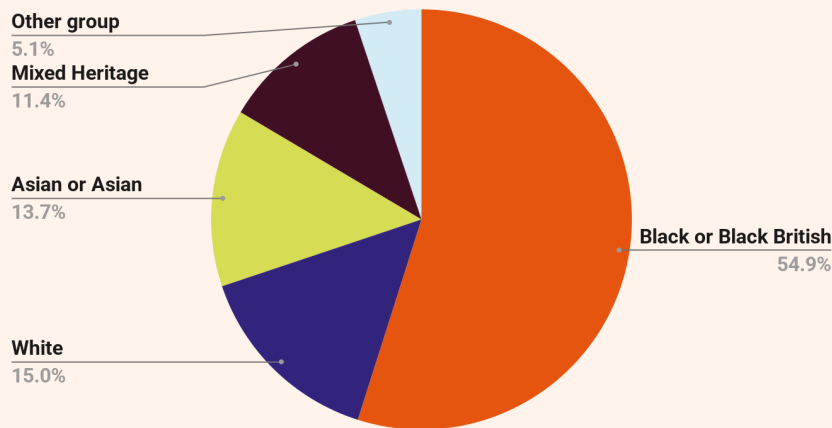


Fig 11: Children and young people reached by ethnicity across all Sites. Source: Site-reported reach data gathered in Quarterly Monitoring Reports (April 2024-September 2025)

This demographic profile aligns with existing evidence that demonstrates that Black children and young people are disproportionately more likely to be affected by violence¹⁷¹⁸. It is acknowledged that this disparity is rooted in systemic inequalities, including higher rates of deprivation, barriers to participation, and due to systemic and structural racism.

¹⁷ Bateman et al. (2023), 'Race', disproportionality and diversion from the youth justice system: a review of the literature; Youth Justice Board (2023), Understanding ethnic disparity in reoffending rates in the youth justice system - Child and practitioner perspectives report.

¹⁸ Youth Endowment Fund (2025), Racial disproportionality in violence affecting children and young people.

Spotlight: Identifying and reaching those most in need of support

To what extent have interventions succeeded in identifying & reaching those most in need of support, and specifically within marginalised & minoritised groups?

With the inclusion of tertiary-level interventions, the MyEnds programme recognises that, in the context of being at risk of violence, or involved in violence, reaching the children and young people most in need of support is no easy task. Overcoming historical distrust (often fueled by past institutional failures, a lack of cultural competence, and general inaccessibility of services) requires dedicated, targeted provision that actively works to rebuild trust and relationships.

By delivering hyper-local interventions that are rooted in community relationships, shaped by lived experiences and the voice of children and young people, the MyEnds model creates more opportunities for practitioners to connect with young people who are often missed by traditional services. It was important for evaluators to recognise that each MyEnds Site had determined their own local priority groups, informed by their Community Needs Assessment and other local knowledge. For Sites, those seen as most in need of support might include young women and girls, specific communities, or those most at risk of exclusion, exploitation, or involved in the Criminal Justice System.

Data suggests that the interventions offered by Sites are engaging some key groups of children and people. In September 2025, MyEnds Sites reported having reached¹⁹:

- Almost 1100 young people at risk of exclusion from education
- Almost 1000 young people with English as a Second Language
- Over 600 young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- Almost 400 young people who have experienced Mental Health Issues
- Over 350 young people involved in Criminal Justice System
- Over 300 young people on Child in Need / Child Protection Plan

‘Special cohort data’ has only been collected since January 2025, and is a subset of the total reach data. It is acknowledged that there may be underreporting of groups reached, as well as some of the characteristics being ‘hidden’.

4.06/5

Average rating from Consortium Members on their success in reaching those most in need of support, including those from marginalised and minoritised groups.

¹⁹ Young people may fall into more than one group, and so these data may not be unique individuals.

Sites were asked to rate their success in reaching those most in need of support, including those from marginalised and minoritised groups, from 1 (not at all successful) to 5 (very successful). Their average rating was **4.06 out of 5**. In the System partners survey, 56% of respondents felt that engagement had increased with those most in need of support, including those from marginalised or minoritised groups, as a result of the Site being part of their local collaborative system (n=15/27).²⁰

What approaches are interventions taking to reach those most in need of support?

Through insights gathered from tertiary service users, tertiary practitioners and other Site delivery staff, we identified a number of key approaches that are being taken to reach children and young people most in need of support.

Approaches to reach those most in need of support

- 1** Leveraging local networks to identify risk early and facilitate early intervention
- 2** Offering a diverse blend of tailored interventions to drive engagement
- 3** Connecting through lived experience to build trust

1. Leveraging local networks to identify risk early and facilitate early intervention

The hyperlocal nature of the MyEnds model and the internal and external networks Sites are developing and strengthening across their borough, has been highlighted as a key lever to engaging with those most in need of support.

We found that MyEnds Site Delivery Partners are working with community partners, schools, Youth Offending Services, and other local organisations to identify and reach young people who need support most. This has included:

- Outreach and detached teams signposting and referring young people directly to Site Delivery Partner services
- Referrals between Site Delivery Partners to offer multiple layers of support
- Collaboration with schools to identify young people in need of support early on
- A central Site referral process to support referral triaging and offering the right support pathway quickly

²⁰ Respondents were asked to choose from a list of outcomes in response to the question “Do you think any of the following have increased as a result of the Consortium being part of your local collaborative system?”. Respondents could choose more than one outcome.

By leveraging their local networks, MyEnds Site Delivery Partners have also been able to connect young people beyond their immediate services and activities, helping to build a wider support network around young people who need it most, where they can access multiple interventions and support at once. The reported referral data highlights how this has looked in practice, with 28% of referrals via school and educational settings (n=1660/5865). MyEnds Sites also reported making 2341 onward referrals over the two years of delivery, most notably onto other VCS organisations.

"Working with community partners, including schools and youth clubs has enabled us to reach young people with high needs, including young people at risk of exclusion and exploitation. For example, through working with ARK Resettlement we were able to deliver targeted workshops to young people who are exiting Youth Offending Services, enabling them to develop greater self-awareness, empathy and conflict navigation skills – supporting them to integrate back into the community."

– Kickback delivery staff, Islington, survey

"We have had success in providing intensive support to divert young people to safer pathways, while also delivering early intervention to young people who are vulnerable. This success has been facilitated through partnerships (co-locations with the Youth Offending Service, good connections with schools) and through high levels of community trust and visibility, leading to many children and young people self-presenting to youth provision, where they can receive support as an early intervention."

– I AM Brent Delivery staff, Brent, Survey

2. Offering a diverse blend of tailored interventions to drive engagement

The MyEnds Sites have seen successful engagement through tailoring interventions to young people's and the community's pressing needs. Young people have received support including mentoring, practical guidance, and support around topics like:

- lifestyle choices and future planning,
- education and employment,
- temporary accommodation and housing,
- accessing benefits and health services,
- safety planning, and
- attending probation and court

Sites reported through a Site member survey that interventions showing strong, promising emerging outcomes **often blend universal open-access sessions with targeted workshops and intensive one-to-one mentoring, as a method to attract a diverse range of young people**. Targeted outreach, street work, and being present in community spaces like schools and youth hubs were cited by Sites as key methods for engagement. By offering multiple integrated types of support, Sites provide multiple entry points and secure pathways for young people to engage with primary, secondary, and tertiary interventions.

Promising practice case studies also show that the ability to **flex and adapt interventions regularly** to local needs led to greater engagement. This was underpinned by evidence-based decision-making, where Sites routinely review attendance data to identify gaps and needs, and adapted support to address those needs. For example, New Era Croydon identified in their Community Needs Assessment a need to engage more girls and women in their activities, and so created gender-specific spaces to boost participation. MyEnds Sites also reported adapting interventions during specific seasonal or high-risk periods, such as scaling up programming during summer holidays or after-school hours, to help engage young people during critical periods.

"The wider range of activities offered have ensured that children and young people from a wide range of backgrounds and with varying needs or vulnerabilities have been supported."

– My Lewisham Delivery staff, Lewisham, Surrey

3. Connecting through lived experience to build trust

The quality of the relationship between practitioners and young people appears to be crucial to engaging young people and building trust, particularly with those most in need of support. Promising practice case studies highlight the important role of mentors with lived experience who hold key local knowledge, context, and credibility that allows young people to connect. The use of trusted community spaces, and using consistent, safe, and stigma-free venues such as community centres or youth clubs, allows young people to access support in a familiar environment. MyEnds Sites have also recognised that not all young people will want to go to a building, so they use detached outreach workers to reach and work with young people where they are – in streets, parks, restaurants, to break down barriers. They report that practitioners who have a consistent presence in communities, especially for outreach and detached interventions, have developed reliable long-term relationships and gather local intelligence that is fed back to the Site.

"The Site's intervention has greatly benefited young people due to its strong local understanding and close connection to the community. Many of the staff are older young people who have grown up in the area and are now employed by these organisations, which helps build stronger relationships."

– Gamechangers Delivery staff, Southwark, survey

Impact of interventions

What has been the impact on young people engaged in MyEnds programmes locally?

This evaluation recognises that there is likely a significant time lag between the delivery of complex interventions and the full realisation of their intended impacts. While long-term impact measurement for the MyEnds programme is ongoing and will aim to provide a complete picture of the benefits of the programme, the DPE can offer some insights on the short-term effects of the programme on young people engaged. These highlight early successes and emerging promising practice, and can inform future programme delivery, as the programme's full impact continues to mature.

85%

Of community and youth survey respondents felt that MyEnds is bringing positive changes to their local area (n=359)

420 young people and community members from across Sites responded to a survey about MyEnds. Over half said that they felt that MyEnds has helped to bring about 'lots of' positive changes in their local area (58%, n=244) and 27% said they had seen 'a few' good changes in their local area (n=115). Notably, only 1% said 'no good changes'. When asked to identify the changes they are seeing as a result of MyEnds²¹, respondents most frequently highlighted the following changes:

- 62% said young people feel more confident and believe in themselves (n=256)
- 50% said young people have trusted adults who support and guide them (n=207)
- 44% said it's created more safe, fun, and welcoming spaces for young people (n=183)
- 40% said there are stronger connections in the community (n=166)
- 40% said it's provided more chances for young people to learn skills and get jobs (n=164)
- 34% said people feel safer (n=142)

These emerging changes young people and community members are seeing as a result of MyEnds interventions are supported by **broader outcomes data** regularly gathered and submitted by Sites in monitoring reports. Sites have received support to develop data collection and reporting mechanisms aligned with the VRU outcomes framework, utilising feedback forms, surveys, observational data, and other techniques. Self-reported data indicates that interventions are showing promising progress against a range of MyEnds outcomes for children and young people, including:

²¹ Out of 414 respondents. Respondents could choose from a predefined list of changes (based on core MyEnds objectives).

- Improvement in life skills
- Strengthening relationships and feelings of having trusted adults
- Increased engagement in decision-making
- Enhanced wellbeing and resilience
- Reduction in harmful behavior

As Sites continue to develop their methods for collecting and analysing data, the VRU team should continue to support Sites to develop their tools and approaches to gathering this data, and aggregate the data across interventions and Sites to understand the data across the population.

Bringing together data gathered from young people, community members, parents and MyEnds Site staff and practitioners, it appears that in the short-term, MyEnds interventions are leading to a number of key emerging outcomes for young people and communities:

Emerging outcomes of interventions:

- 1 Growth in young people's confidence
- 2 Enhancing young people's network of support
- 3 Creating safe, inclusive and positive community spaces
- 4 Building a sense of belonging and community
- 5 Helping young people onto positive pathways

1. Growth in young people's confidence

One of the most consistent outcomes was a reported shift in self-perception, increased confidence, and personal growth in young people. Peer Researchers found that participants of MyEnds interventions felt "more confident in their abilities and in a better position mentally", with one noting that a young person now feels that they can "take up space in the world".

"One young person I have been training through free boxing sessions has shown clear personal growth and development.... Over time, I have seen their self-esteem grow; they now step into the ring with determination and encourage others around them. Their improved confidence has carried over into school and social life, where teachers and parents have noticed a more positive attitude. This example shows how boxing can do more than teach punches; it provides young people with resilience, respect, and motivation, giving them the tools to make better choices in life."

- Youth practitioner, Barking & Dagenham, survey

2. Enhancing young people's network of support

In the young people and community member survey, MyEnds Sites staff are described as having excellent communication skills, being approachable, listening to young people's and the community's needs. We heard how they provide vital support, personal guidance, advice, and understanding, including in difficult or sensitive situations. One peer researcher noted that a young person's mentor has become a role model who holds them accountable, while another young person has successfully transitioned from being a service user to now helping to run sessions for others. Consistent, holistic one-to-one mentoring in schools, youth clubs, and detached settings was highlighted through the young people and community survey as a significant success area, leading to positive outcomes like improved school attendance, reduced risky behaviour, engagement in employment and education, and personal growth in confidence and focus. This dual approach, often coupled with positive activities, fosters trust and allows for focused support and timely intervention.

"Mentoring delivered by youth practitioners, both in youth club and detached settings (secondary and tertiary level), have resulted in greater levels of engagement from young people, and a reduction in risky behaviours. Both forms of mentoring have been coupled with positive sports or creative activities - whether these are accessed through youth clubs or delivered 1-2-1 in community settings. This dual approach of nurturing young people's interests at the same time as having constructive conversations with a mentor, has resulted in greater engagement in sessions, but has also overall increased motivation for young people."

- I AM Brent Delivery staff, Brent, survey

"Listening to young people and having staff with lived experiences. The Spotlight team are sick."

- Young person, Tower Hamlets, survey

"MyEnds staff have excellent communication skills and are always approachable. There is a true understanding of what our community needs to keep us active and safe"

- Community member, Southwark, Survey

3. Creating safe, inclusive and positive community spaces

MyEnds is highly praised for providing safe, inclusive and secure environments for young people, allowing them to express themselves and feel comfortable. Peer researchers found that the programme is successfully keeping young people and the community 'out of trouble', with interventions inspiring young people to make better life choices. Youth Link Up participants said the programme has improved youth services, and kept local youth clubs and programmes running. Moreover, these spaces provide young people with positive activities and local opportunities to come together, build friendships and have fun. We heard

from young people, community members and practitioners that fun sports-based activities (like boxing, football, and general physical activities), creative workshops (music, drama, embroidery), and other after-school/weekend activities help to bring young people together, acting as a vehicle for engagement in wider support services like long-term mentoring.

"This was a really great opportunity for me to socialise and meet people my age who are girls so I felt very comfortable. The staff is also very warm and lovely to talk to. They don't feel like teachers, more like friends."

- Young person, Southwark, survey

"One good thing about MyEnds is that it has young people's intentions in mind to the fullest and will do anything to help them with motivating them and increasing their confidence with helping areas and giving them local spaces with fellow peers."

- Young person, Lewisham, survey

"The recent creative activities in local schools have been received very well, with 2 participants known to me who were very quiet have become very chatty after only one month of participating in the activities. This was an indication of improved self esteem and confidence."

- Winning Harts Delivery staff, Barking & Dagenham, survey

4. Building a sense of belonging and community

Insights suggest that the interventions have helped to foster stronger connections and trust within communities. Case studies highlight how consistent engagement and presence in communities have built relationships within and across young people and the wider local community. Successes include empowering young people to have a voice on systemic local change through Youth Advisory Boards, and changes in local residents' negative perceptions of young people by demonstrating their positive involvement. For example, Better Bethnal Green have seen their local young people build positive relationships with staff at Meath Gardens Children's Centre through regular use of the space, where young people have been exposed to meaningful opportunities to contribute and connect. This involvement has helped shift perceptions among local residents, many of whom previously viewed the young people as "troublemakers", by fostering trust and demonstrating their commitment to the community. Peer researchers heard how the programme is helping to build relationships between young people from different areas, and that social skills have improved. Peer Researchers also heard an increased sense of agency and belonging through MyEnds interventions, citing the role of visibility, seeing their feedback being implemented, giving young people a sense of accomplishment.

"Through working with the Youth Advisory Board, we have enabled young people to have a voice and be taken seriously by organisations, stakeholders and adults in positions of power. We have given them the confidence to raise their voices, knowing that they will be heard."

- Home Cooked Delivery staff, Haringey, survey

"[MyEnds has] made me feel more included in decisions being made in my local area"

- Young person, Youth Link Up

5. Helping young people onto positive pathways

A significant strength of MyEnds is reported as supporting young people in re-engaging with education (including returning to mainstream schooling and GCSE preparation), gaining skills for employment (including receiving CV support, gaining Construction Skills Certification Scheme cards and completing work experience), and exploring career paths, often through a combination of workshops, mentoring, and practical training. MyEnds practitioners have provided opportunities through partner networks, and practical knowledge that young people felt was otherwise inaccessible. Young people report feeling more confident and able to engage with education, more confident and skilled to find and maintain employment, and feeling most positive about their futures.

"Allowing young people to find their path through mentoring support of youth workers"

- Parent/carer, Tower Hamlets, survey

"Giving me place to come and get skills for work and support me in the future"

- Young person, Better Bethnal Green, survey

Promising practice case study

Southwark Young Advisors

Southwark Gamechangers

Delivery partner Southwark Young Advisors

Tier Primary, secondary

Target group	Young people aged 8-25, focusing on early intervention, prevention, and support for those at risk of or affected by violence, exploitation, or community harm
Setting	Street-based detached outreach
Format	Regular sessions where young people attend weekly/monthly sessions, detached and outreach youth work
Duration	Ongoing street-based sessions, with frequency and duration determined by referral volume and engagement levels. Operating Tuesday to Saturday, the team delivers ongoing street-based sessions, with frequency and duration determined by referral volume and engagement levels, ensuring consistent presence and targeted interventions to reduce harm and safeguard young people during peak after-school hours (3–6 pm).
Sessions delivered	305
Participants reached	1,191 Children and Young People

Key local challenge:

In Southwark, partners wanted to make sure that young people felt heard and supported. They knew there were gaps in services for young people in the community that were reflective of their communities. They also knew that some young people didn't want to get involved with local services or seek support, sometimes due to being concerned about being seen with outreach workers. They knew that to **build trust, consistent, credible and youth-led engagement** was needed.

Outcomes targeted:

- Improved practice to support and vulnerable young people
- Improved accessibility and reach of services (particularly for minoritised or often marginalised groups)



How does it work?

Southwark Young Advisors are a youth advisory service, run by young people, for young people, that delivers street-based sessions for 3 hours, 3 times a week, in 3 locations in Southwark.

Through building trust and relationships with local young people, the Young Advisors deliver key messages on important topics like peer pressure, grooming, and community harm. Because they use non-judgemental communication, and approaches to connect with young people, they find it helps to overcome barriers that can exist with traditional services. They tailor their approach to reflect the real-life experiences and concerns raised by the young people themselves, including discussions on local incidents, social media influence, and group dynamics.

What is the impact so far?

Outcomes data were collected for all 1191 participants, using Upshot, a monitoring and evaluation system. All 1191 participants reported or demonstrated an improvement in accessibility and reach of services.

Southwark Young Advisors have reached young people from a range of backgrounds and communities, including young people from ethnic minority groups, young people not in education, employment or training, and those affected by violence, exclusion, or exploitation.

As a result of the work of Southwark Young Advisors, the young people engaged now have a better understanding of risks related to violence and exploitation, knowing how to stay safe and spot warning signs. They feel more confident in identifying dangers and are aware of safe routes, local services, and trusted adults. The programme has also demonstrated improved reach and meaningful early intervention with young people often overlooked by mainstream services, linking them to services they wouldn't otherwise know about, and fostering feelings of safety. Many young people have shared that they feel more comfortable speaking to Young Advisors who reflect their experiences and understand their local context.

"Before, I didn't think anyone could help, but now I know where to go and who to talk to. It makes me feel like things can change."

– Young person engaged through outreach

+ Improved	+ Improved	- Avoided
Awareness of risk	Reach and meaningful intervention	Harmful pathways

What are the key ingredients?

- **Trauma-informed approach:** Staff build trust and overcome barriers often associated with traditional services
- **Consistent presence:** Youth worker presence in areas of concern built relationships and gained trust

- **Co-designed messages:** Key talking points tailored to young people's lived experiences
- **Tracked engagement:** Feedback collected through engagement logs and referrals made
- **Cross-Site collaboration:** Working closely with the Detached team to share local intelligence

What could this mean for wider practice?

Implementing **peer-led outreach services** that are both trauma-informed and culturally responsive can effectively engage vulnerable young people, particularly those who may distrust traditional services. This approach of meeting young people in their own spaces and having relatable conversations helps build trust and improve awareness of risks related to violence and exploitation. As a result, young people feel more confident in identifying dangers, are more likely to seek help, and can be connected to support systems they otherwise would not have accessed.

Promising practice case study

Challenging young People to be leaders of their own lives

New Era Croydon

Delivery partner	Reaching Higher
Tier	Secondary
Target group	Young people at increased risk of involvement in violence but not yet engaged in criminal activity
Setting	Youth hubs and extracurricular spaces in Croydon
Format	Combination of open-access sessions, targeted activities, and one-to-one support
Duration	Ongoing weekly delivery with embedded mentoring and seasonal intensives
Sessions delivered	104
Participants reached	50 Children and Young People, 40 Parents and Carers



Key local challenge:

In Croydon, partners wanted to make sure young people had opportunities locally to have fun, be safe, and feel seen and heard. They knew that it was important to provide support to young people who may be at risk of being affected by violence early. This is where Reaching Higher came in – a youth charity providing activities to help young people discover and learn new skills in a safe and welcoming environment.

They set up weekly activities delivered in youth hubs and community spaces in Croydon designed to provide open-to-all sessions, targeted activities, and one-to-one support.

Activities on offer were **designed with and for young people**, and include things like basketball, dance, cooking, gaming, STEM-based 3D printing projects, and a youth-led social space. As well as support open to everyone, Reaching Higher also provides one-to-one mentoring for young people who need it.

Outcomes targeted:

- Improved healthy relationship attitudes and behaviours
- Increased engagement in decision-making
- Improved mental wellbeing

What happened?

Reaching Higher introduced a more structured sign-up process for their activities to make sure they were able to better understand the young people who took part in their activities. Instead of walk-ins, they now use a 'referral model', which means they can collect important background information when young people register to take part in the activities. This means that staff can tailor the support on offer to better meet the needs of the young person from the start.



Spotlight: Reaching young women and girls

In Croydon, partners were concerned about rising rates of crime affecting young women and girls (Source: CNA). Therefore, Reaching Higher wanted to encourage more young women and girls to participate in their offer, so they introduced two new female-only sessions: a Dance/Social Action group and 'Her Hero', a year-long creative programme that invited young women to design their own superheroes. This programme had weekly workshops for girls at 12-15 at one of Reaching Higher's youth hubs, focused on learning 3D printing skills as a way to explore who the girls' role models are and telling their stories in a safe space, ending with them making models of their real-life superheroes. The programme not only built the girls' STEM skills, but also focused on building trusting relationships with the girls, providing a space to express challenges and issues, in order to improve their emotional wellbeing.

As a result of providing these female-only sessions, Reaching Higher has seen the number of young women and girls willing to be supported further from open access provision grow, with more than 5 times as many young women and girls participating in actively targeted support between December 2024 and September 2025 (from 7 to 37). (Source: Self-reported data in QMD, September 2025).

What is the impact so far?

Reaching Higher has seen attendance and participation in their open-access and target support activities grow over time, especially with young women and girls.

Reaching Higher gathers feedback from young people through a wellbeing scale and skills survey that helps them to understand the impact of the activities on young people's wellbeing. In the last term, they found that since taking part in the youth hub:

- 86.67% of young people reported that since taking part in youth hubs, they felt they were able to express themselves freely (n=43/50).
- 100% of young people reported that since taking part in football, they felt that they were able to express themselves freely (n=50).
- 100% of young people reported they felt more confident in building healthy/positive relationships with their peers (n=50).
- 100% of young people reported they felt that they had improved their decision-making and understanding of the consequences to their decisions (n=50).

Reaching Higher says that these activities aren't just about providing opportunities for young people to come together and play basketball or football; it is about supporting them to **grow skills, confidence, leadership, and increase motivation and self-belief**.

For example, they have supported 3 young people who were previously not in education, employment and training to enrol in college, as well as pass their driving tests.

"You can set goals that seem impossible and then work towards that aspired goal and achieve it because the support of the programme helps you find a way".

- Young person, Croydon

The intervention successfully engaged young people at a critical early stage – helping them build confidence, avoid harmful pathways, and connect with trusted adults. Reaching Higher shared their 'Contextual Youth Work' approach at a borough-wide contextual safeguarding conference attended by over 100 professionals, positioning the intervention as a model of effective early support.

+ Increased

Attendance

+ Improved

Confidence

- Avoided

Harmful pathways

What are the key ingredients?

- **Tiered delivery model:** Open-access, targeted, and one-to-one support offered within one coherent programme
- **Responsive, data-informed adaptation:** Changes made in real time based on attendance patterns and young people's feedback

- **Relational safeguarding:** A reworked registration system enabled early risk identification and safer, more personalised support
- **Cross-sector collaboration:** The team contributed learning at a borough safeguarding conference and supported other partners' sessions

What could this mean for wider practice?

The intervention demonstrates that identifying marginalised groups requires a data-informed, responsive approach rather than a static delivery model. By actively monitoring attendance data and developing focused and intentional spaces, the intervention identified and began addressing a specific gender gap.

For wider practice, this suggests that reaching those most in need may be achieved through a tiered delivery model that blends open access with targeted one-to-one support, ensuring that the most vulnerable do not slip through the gaps of universal provision. Engagement can be further driven by replacing open walk-ins with a detailed registration process to better map individual needs, and co-designing activities with the target demographic.

Spotlight: Supporting users through tertiary interventions

Key findings

In this section, we spotlight learning from interventions designed to support young people and service users already involved in violence. We highlight powerful stories of change, supported by the persistence, reliability, and dedicated support of practitioners.

Our deep dive into tertiary interventions shines a light on what can be achieved when young people receive one-to-one, tailored support that is community-anchored and built on a foundation of trust, consistency, and lived experience.

About tertiary intervention insights

In addition to the insights regarding the wider interventions, the DPE specifically ‘deep dived’ into tertiary interventions. We sought insights from users of tertiary interventions via **practitioner-led interviews**. It is important to note that whilst the relationships practitioners had built with tertiary-level service users enabled insight collection, participants may have felt inclined to provide more positive feedback than they would have to a neutral third party interviewer.²²

Journeys of trust



98%

Of tertiary service users who took part in interviews said they would recommend the support to others (n=47)

Practitioner-led interviews reveal a consistent ‘journey of trust’ experienced by service users. We heard how most individuals began the process with initial distrust in the process, ranging from scepticism about the approach to deeper suspicion, but they transitioned toward positive engagement through consistent, non-judgmental practitioner support.

The majority of users reported that they started the process in a state of resistance or suspicion. Common reasons cited included professional fatigue (a history of being failed by other organisations or seeing workers ‘come and go’ in their neighbourhoods), fear of judgement (anxiety that the service would ‘blame’ them or be intrusive), and ‘forced’

²² Tertiary practitioners from MyEnds Sites were asked to complete semi-structured interviews with 5 service users. Practitioner-led interviews were chosen as a data collection methodology, as it was recognised that practitioners were best placed to support service users to share their experiences and feedback. While this approach benefits from established trust and relationships, this methodology introduces the risk of interviewer bias; participants may have provided more favorable feedback than they would have to a neutral third party.

attendance (many users only attended because a parent, sibling, or social service referred them, rather than by choice).²³

The shift from suspicion to trust was rarely immediate. It was driven by:

- **Persistence of practitioners** who kept engaging with them even when initially refused
- **Practitioner reliability**, with consistent follow-through
- **Practitioners' relatable communication styles** that were 'calm', 'easy to talk to', and 'not judging'.

Out of the 48 tertiary service users who took part in interviews, **47 said they would recommend the support they received to others (98%)**, which is a strong indicator of the positive impact of the tertiary services. The following sections explore the outcomes and mechanisms for change in more detail.

"At first, I didn't really want to talk to anyone and felt like people were judging me. Now I feel a bit more open to it because I can see they're actually trying to help me and not just blame me."

– Tertiary service user, Lambeth, Practitioner-led interview

"When I first started the mentoring sessions, I was nervous as I haven't had this support before. But when I keep coming to the mentoring sessions, I felt more comfortable. But now I feel excited to come to the mentoring sessions."

– Tertiary service user, Barking & Dagenham, Practitioner-led interview

What tertiary approaches have enabled change?

Through the tertiary practitioner-led interviews, a number of approaches were highlighted by service users as being particularly valuable in their journey.

Approaches valued by tertiary service users

- 1 Turning complexity into simplicity
- 2 Being rooted in communities
- 3 Maintaining accountability and drive
- 4 Meaningfully listening to feedback

²³ The VRU acknowledges the intersecting and complex structural and systemic barriers for people requiring tertiary support, and that people can be experiencing a multitude of situational factors that exacerbate their vulnerability and reluctance to access support services. This means that the 'entry point' or way in which they choose to engage in services will likely be different from open access or primary interventions.

1. Turning complexity into simplicity

Feedback from tertiary service users highlighted a MyEnds Practitioner “way” that differed from other professionals and was characterised by:

- Avoiding formal jargon
- Adapting their methods to suit them
- Turning complex processes (like acquiring housing, Universal Credit, or Construction Skills Certification Scheme cards) into bullet points or step-by-step tasks they could follow.

Service users drew comparisons between the My Ends Practitioners and other professionals they have worked with, highlighting how they sound more like them rather than sounding like a ‘robot’ or an ‘uptight professional’, and allowed space for breaks and didn’t mind repeating information.

"Other people just talk at me... You break everything down for me to understand."

– Tertiary service user, Southwark, Practitioner-led interview

"She understands the difficulties I have, especially with ADHD, and doesn't expect me to act like someone I'm not."

– Tertiary service user, Islington, Practitioner-led interview

2. Being rooted in communities

A recurring theme in interviews was the value of practitioners who ‘get it’ because they have similar backgrounds or lived experience. Users felt more comfortable with figures who acted like an older sibling rather than a caseworker. Knowing the reality of users’ situations or living in the same area created an immediate foundation of trust that statutory services often lacked.

"He talks to me like an older brother and really looks out for us. If there is an issue on the estate he'll follow up with me."

– Tertiary service user, Islington, Practitioner-led interviews

3. Maintaining accountability and drive

Service users reported that they did not just want ‘kindness’; they valued high standards and accountability. Users respected practitioners who were assertive and honest, even during hard conversations about criminal behaviour. The simple act of ‘showing up’, even when the user missed an appointment or ‘pushed back’, was cited as the primary reason trust was built. Practitioners taught users how to set boundaries with others and modelled respectful behaviour themselves, for example, practitioners’ own habits like being on time influenced users, improving their own punctuality and school attendance. Support went beyond

practical tasks to address the user's internal dialogue, for example, by focusing on the 'Perception of Self' to help users realise their potential.

"You're on time to the sessions, which has rubbed off on me as I always make sure I am on time to our meetings or school as well."

– Tertiary service user, Barking & Dagenham, Practitioner-led interview

"You are honest and even when I get angry you are still there. I appreciate you."

– Tertiary service user, Lambeth, Practitioner-led interviews

4. Meaningfully listening to feedback

Many users reported initially arriving at MyEnds tertiary intervention services with 'feedback fatigue'. In previous services (like prison, school, or social services), they felt that speaking up was a long process that resulted in no change. This led many to stop trying to communicate their needs altogether. Some users reported that tertiary support has changed this by demonstrating tangible changes based on user input. They identified specific instances where their voice directly altered the service they received:

- **Environment and safety:** One user requested to move tutoring from a specific area to a library because they felt safer there; the change was made immediately.
- **Session logistics:** Some users asked for longer sessions, more one-to-one time instead of group work, and more flexible scheduling to fit around their hobbies – all of which were implemented.
- **Pacing:** Feedback from some users that 'big words' were confusing led practitioners to slow down and explain things simply, making the support accessible.

"With you, if I say something, I feel heard, and things actually change."

– Tertiary service user, Croydon, Tertiary practitioner-led interviews

A key part of feeling heard was having a practitioner who they felt 'backed' them when others hadn't. One user felt valued because the practitioner supported their music career goals when their probation officer dismissed it. For another user, practitioners listened to and validated a user's safety concerns regarding council-offered housing, rather than forcing them to accept an unsafe location. When users saw their feedback reflected in their development plans, they reported feeling a sense of purpose and value. For many, this was the first time they felt their opinion mattered to a professional.

"In the past, I tried, but it didn't feel heard, so I stopped. I'll give feedback now, though, because I can see it actually gets listened to."

– Tertiary service user, Croydon, Practitioner-led interviews

"This is the first time I have given feedback because this is the first time I have had support."

– Tertiary service user, Lambeth, Practitioner-led interviews

What are the emerging outcomes of tertiary support?

Feedback from both the Practitioners and service users involved in the practitioner-led interviews indicates that tertiary interventions are making a noticeable difference in 6 key areas.

Emerging outcomes of tertiary support

- 1 Strengthening self-awareness and emotional regulation
- 2 Building skills to manage risk and set boundaries
- 3 Improving relationships and restoring trust
- 4 Growing self-worth and future aspirations
- 5 Building confidence and resilience to navigate complex support systems
- 6 Feeling supported through statutory processes

1. Strengthening self-awareness and emotional regulation

Insights indicate that the activities and support provided have helped service users to better manage their emotions, communicate, and 'walk away' from conflict. Tertiary interventions have ranged from therapeutic support like Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, as well as engaging in activities like boxing. As a result, users reported several scenarios where they previously would have resorted to violence but chose a different path; users reported walking away when approached by people from their past seeking a fight, staying calm during arguments with parents, girlfriends, or friends, and recognising other perspectives rather than 'snapping', and managing interactions with police, substitute teachers, and social workers without 'crashing out' or responding with hostility.

"I've learned to slow down before reacting. I'm less quick to get angry, and I try to think things through more."

– Tertiary service user, Lambeth, Practitioner-led interviews

"I'm trying to be more of a grown-up, taking more responsibility and adjusting my behaviour."

– Tertiary service user, Croydon, Practitioner-led interviews

"I realised that if you can control your emotions you can control the outcome of any situation – I learnt that here."

– Tertiary service user, Haringey, Practitioner-led interviews

2. Building skills to manage risk and set boundaries

Users report being better able to set boundaries with peers and developing their ability to say 'no' to peers, even when pressured. Tertiary practitioners helped users to understand long-term consequences of their actions. Some users have reported that they can now connect current actions to long-term harms, such as exploitation or criminal records, which has led to a reduction in harmful activities. They described learning that they can respond to issues and set limits with peers without getting physical. Service users shared stories of how they have set boundaries, including making decisions not to get involved in criminal activity. Other users reported choosing to stay home during times of higher risk, like Bonfire Night. There is a recurring sentiment that users' own life and time are now more valuable than the money they were making through crime.

"I think smarter. I've learnt real lessons cos of you. I've put more boundaries in with my friends."

–Tertiary service user, Southwark, Practitioner-led interviews

"I see a positive future rather than before. I am more aware of making friends and if they are positive in my life. As before I wouldn't care who was my friend."

- Tertiary service user, Barking & Dagenham, Practitioner-led interviews

"After completing his sessions with us, he reports feeling a lot calmer with the ability to think before acting."

- Tertiary practitioner, Brent, Tertiary practitioner-led interviews

3. Improving relationships and restoring trust

We heard how service users are now reflecting on the 'ripple effect' of their actions on their wider family before making a decision. Some shared that they have been able to restore trust with parents through improving communication with them. Some users report taking more responsibility at home, for example doing chores, and being more understanding of their parents' perspectives. In the case of some users who are fathers, they report having serious conversations about their responsibilities, showing a shift towards "growing up" for the sake of their children.

"I have established trust again, so when I am out, my parents know I am going to college, not somewhere I should be."

- Tertiary service user, Croydon, Tertiary practitioner-led interviews

"My family are less concerned about my safety which has helped to improve our relationships."

- Tertiary service user, Tower Hamlets, Practitioner-led interviews

4. Growing self-worth and future aspirations

Some users reported that they are beginning to see their value, beyond being perceived as 'cases' or 'criminals'. Multiple users described building a new way forward, separate from their past. Some who didn't think it was possible are now enrolled in college, gaining qualifications in areas like construction, and exploring apprenticeships. Being 'valued' through paid work experience, or being nominated for awards, has replaced negative labels with a sense of capability and pride in users. A number of users report an increase in agency, feeling they have a voice and the confidence to speak to professionals, teachers, and community members.

"I didn't think I could get out of my old way of life but you suggested volunteering... I never thought I would have done something like this."

- Tertiary service user, Lambeth, Practitioner-led interviews

"Getting paid to work made me feel that I had something to give and other people valued what I did. I had not had that before."

- Tertiary service user, Islington, Practitioner-led interviews

5. Building confidence and resilience to navigate complex support systems

Users reported new resilience when dealing with processes that would have previously caused them to give up, and staying calm when feeling judged or defeated. Examples include sticking with the Universal Credit application process despite multiple rejections and confusing forms, successfully handling a university admissions issue and applying for bank accounts. Some users reported their tertiary practitioners being a critical means of support throughout these processes.

"I applied [for UC] before and got rejected... I wouldn't have tried again, but my mentor helped me understand the purpose and the process, and I eventually got accepted."

- Tertiary service user, Croydon, Practitioner-led interviews

"I was ready to give up... Even though I felt defeated, I stayed calm... The problem was resolved and I have been accepted [to university]."

- Tertiary service user, Lambeth, Practitioner-led interviews

6. Feeling supported through statutory processes

When asked about their relationship with statutory services, many users reported that their feelings toward the police have not changed; they still feel 'profiled', 'frightened', and 'not listened to'. The repetitive nature of stop-and-search, even in front of family, **remains a major source of anger for service users**. Statutory services are often seen as judgmental or strict, causing users to 'switch off' when too much formal information is presented. Users reported feeling 'exhausted' by having to repeat their stories or being asked 'crazy questions' by multiple agencies. Users reported that practitioners act as a 'buffer'. When a practitioner is present at court, probation, or school meetings, the process feels less scary and more understandable. Rather than trying to make users like the police or social workers, practitioners teach them how to stay calm, handle conversations better, and remain compliant to avoid further trouble. A major reported theme was advocacy, where tertiary practitioners help users and their families feel that their perspective actually matters in high-stakes meetings where they previously felt voiceless. As a result of tertiary support, some users reported that they have begun to reflect on how their own actions might influence how authority figures treat them, and users are feeling less intimidated and more capable of expressing their views in a professional manner.

"I was supported through a court appearance by my mentor – no one else turned up for me."

- Tertiary service user, Islington, Practitioner-led interviews

"Their mentor gave them both a voice and showed them that what they say matters. She helped them get across the things they'd been trying to say for a long time."

- Tertiary practitioner, Islington, Practitioner-led interviews

"It used to feel scary and like things were always against me. Now it's a bit better because my mum and the social worker support me."

- Tertiary service user, Lambeth, Practitioner-led interviews

Opportunities for development of tertiary practice

Tertiary service users highlighted what they found challenging about the support they received through MyEnds. These improvement areas highlight the complexity of the challenges service users are facing, and highlight important opportunities for tertiary interventions to develop and continue to fill gaps in support:

- **Overcoming barriers to accessing support:** Many users expressed a strong dislike for asking for help, viewing it as a sign of weakness or an invitation for an interrogation. Previous negative experiences with 'failed professionals' or the police created a baseline of suspicion and a lack of receptivity.
- **Relational approaches over clinical interventions:** Some users reported struggling with 'big words' or 'gibberish' and preferred the 'normal conversations' had through mentoring over clinical or formal approaches. During sessions, users reported difficulty sitting still or maintaining concentration during long one-to-one conversations, while facing the consequences of 'wrong choices' and criminal behaviour during sessions was described as challenging and emotionally draining. As a result, some tertiary sessions took place while walking.
- **Social pressure:** Some service users reported feeling social pressure, where peers and friends actively discouraged users from engaging with support, and fitting sessions in between the demands of their lifestyle was a reported source of stress.

"It's hard when people tell me to cut off my friends straight away because that's not easy for me."

- Tertiary service user, Lambeth, Practitioner-led interviews

"People that I was hanging around with also told me not to work with the Intervention coach and that it's not worth [it]."

- Tertiary service user, Tower Hamlets, Practitioner-led interviews

"Changing isn't easy... they helped me and slowly I became more comfortable... taught me about relapse and that it's part of change."

- Tertiary service user, Tower Hamlets, Practitioner-led interviews

Promising practice case study

Detached support

Winning Harts (Barking & Dagenham)

Delivery partner	Be Heard As One
Tier	Tertiary
Target group	Young people aged 11-18, at risk of criminalisation, grooming, exploitation, and are not in education, training or employment. Local business owners, community leaders, parents and carers, and wider community
Setting	Community-based outreach within the Allocated Northbury ward
Format	Street-based detached outreach and youth engagement
Duration	Ongoing delivery
Sessions delivered	71
Participants reached	431 Children and Young People



Key local challenge:

Barking & Dagenham has a lot going on for young people, but Winning Harts know there's a need to reach young people in their own environment to offer guidance and prevent involvement in negative activities. Be Heard As One (BHAO) is out on the streets in areas where young people hang out, especially in places that have been affected by crime or violence. Instead of waiting for you to come to an office, specialised workers come to you to build meaningful connections face-to-face.

Outcome targeted:

- Reduction in anti-social behaviour incidents

How does it work?

The team acts as a voice for the community. They talk to young people, parents and carers, and local shopkeepers, to find out what is actually happening on the ground, like where there is poor lighting or where people do feel unsafe. BHAO takes this information back to the council and the police to try and get things fixed, like fixing broken lights or dealing with antisocial behaviour. They also help out in serious situations, acting as a first point of call to support families and young people if an incident happens in the area.

BHAO's support is constantly changing based on what young people and the community say they need. The team realised that not everyone wants to talk out loud, so they now use QR codes that you can scan to give feedback privately. They also made their referral forms digital, on BHAO's website, making it quicker to fill out so you can do it right on your phone. The BHAO team are adaptable, and able to flex what days they work, rotating days depending on what information and local data they get from the Community Safety Partnership and the community. For example, recently they added Wednesday sessions because they noticed more drug-related activity on that day, and they increased staff presence during after-school hours to make sure pupils feel safe walking home.

Over time, the BHAO team has moved from being just workers in the area to being seen as trusted adults. Because they are out consistently, parents, business owners, and young people now seek them out to share what's happening, knowing the team will actually listen and act on it.

What is the impact so far?

BHAO collected outcomes data for all 431 young people they've engaged so far. 60% of those 431 reported or demonstrated an improvement in reduction in anti-social behaviour incidents, reported through group and 1:1 discussions and cross referenced by BHAO with Met police statistics.

The community now seeks out the BHAO team and gives them important information that helps the team act on community concerns more quickly than before. The team continues to monitor the data on anti-social behaviour incidents in the area, so they can be at the right place at the right time to offer support.

+ Building	+ Building	- Reduced
Trust	Community connections	Antisocial behaviour incidents

What are the key ingredients?

- **Consistent presence:** Detached worker presence in areas of concern built relationships and gained trust
- **Community connection:** Detached workers convene with community members in respected places to build connections

- **Strong multi-agency collaboration:** Coordinated approaches between police and various community panels
- **Targeted intensives during risk periods:** Increased sessions and presence to de-escalate situations
- **Cross-consortium communication:** Detached and outreach teams share information and reporting tools to understand local trends

What could this mean for wider practice?

This case study shows how effective detached support can reduce anti-social behaviour by building trust with young people directly in their communities. Collaborating closely with other organisations, police, and community panels strengthens impact by sharing critical intelligence to inform wider crime reduction strategies, enabling swift intervention. By increasing staffing levels and being a consistent, familiar presence, detached support can successfully diffuse tense situations and connect young people to vital resources, such as employment and training.

“They always listen and never even seem to get frustrated. The days when they are around we know the kids in the area are safer ... my kids, and I know other kids in the area, really look up to them and will speak more to them if there are problems than me, which is ok as at least I know they are getting advice from people who are not going to get them to do the wrong thing.”

– Parent engaged through detached work, Barking & Dagenham

Promising practice case study

Intensive mentoring

I AM Brent

Delivery partner	United Borders
Tier	Tertiary
Target group	Young people aged 13+ who are NEET and/or at high risk of exploitation, reoffending, or harm. Referred either by self-referrals and peer recommendation, or through I AM Brent’s central referral mechanism, including referrals from social workers, Youth Offending Service, and housing caseworkers via New Horizon.
Setting	Mobile bus or community spaces, including sports facilities and Multi-Use Game Areas

Format	One-to-one trauma-informed mentoring, utilising music therapy, podcasting, self-defence, and physical training
Duration	3 months of intensive mentoring with follow-up support for a further 9 months
Sessions delivered	200
Participants reached	21 Children and Young People

This included:

- 12 people Not in Employment, Education or Training
- 8 people involved in Criminal Justice System
- 5 people who had Special Educational Needs
- 4 people who had experienced Mental Health Issues

Key local challenge:

There was a need to support institutionally excluded individuals that statutory services struggled to reach, which needed a deep understanding of the local area and tensions that sit within it.

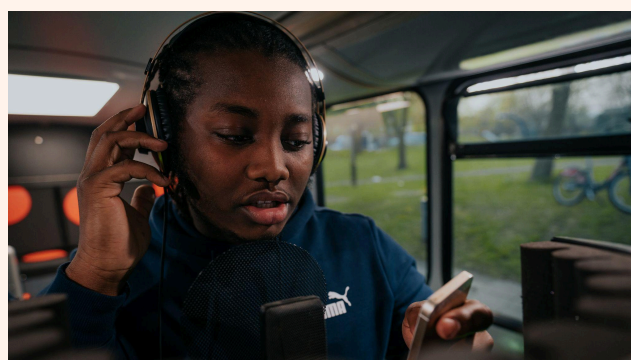
What happened?

United Borders is a charity based in Brent that supports young people through mentoring, music production, fitness coaching, employment coaching, and financial education. They run B.U.S, which stands for Building and Understanding Self. It is a mentoring programme that uses the power of music to connect with young people, and provides one-to-one and group support to young people, helping them to navigate challenges and emotions, and build trusted relationships.

B.U.S gives young people the chance to produce their own music – something that they find is a powerful way to connect. The programme pairs young people with mentors who are also music producers and writers. Sessions are creative, using music to relate to young people, unpack their experiences, voice their concerns, and imagine new pathways for the future. Some mentors have lived experience of being affected by violence, which means that they are able to find common ground and relate to young people taking part.

How does it work in practice?

Mentors get to know the young people to make sure that they tailor their support to their needs, challenges and motivations. For example, they will work with young people to understand what their local environment is like, what their relationships are like, and what motivates them.



Over three months, young people take part in a 10-module programme in small groups. Mentors use the process of making music together as a way to have one-to-one and group discussions. Young people are challenged to express themselves authentically and to work with others from different postcodes.

As they come to the end of the programme, United Borders works with young people to think about next steps, including linking them up to more support, like employment and training opportunities.

United Borders have a decommissioned double-decker bus, which works as a 'mobile' safe space for young people. United Borders can move in between areas, and meet young people in their places. This means that mentors get a better sense of what's happening on the ground and learn more about the environments they live and spend time in.

It also means that United Borders are able to step up their presence in the community when it's needed, helping to build visibility, trust and relationships with young people, parents and neighbours.

What is the impact so far?

So far, United Borders have provided one-to-one mentoring with 21 young people.

United Borders collected outcomes data from 16 of these young people, in which 94% showed an improvement in improved life skills. (Source: Surveys and qualitative feedback)

Between July and September 2025, United Borders worked with 7 young people who were in need of support. Young people gained:

- Creative and physical skills through activity-based mentoring
- Consistent engagement which improved motivation and health routines
- Confidence and self-esteem through developing skills which improved emotional health
- Improved family relationships, where parents reported reduced conflict at home and young people reported that they felt more listened to at home
- Improved decision-making to avoid unsafe places and risky peer groups

United Borders mentored a young person in Brent who was facing some difficult challenges. The mentor at United Borders offered guidance, support and a safe space for the young person to discuss the challenges in his life. His mentoring focused on building trust, encouraging reflection and connecting him with positive role models who shared his experience and had overcome similar challenges.

When the young person was referred to United Borders, he was not in education, employment or training. United Borders worked with another I AM BRENT delivery partner, called PLIAS Resettlement, to get him employment and training support. Through the support of PLIAS, the young person enrolled in and completed the Construction Skills Certification Scheme course. Building on this success, United Borders arranged for him to get work experience on a construction Site.

Following his work experience, the young person said “now that I’ve been here and I’ve seen how everything works, I can see myself being an electrician in the future”. Through their mentoring programme and collaboration with other I AM Brent members, United Borders created a structured pathway towards employment and stability for this young person.

"[My mentor] helped me understand that just 'cause they're my friends, don't mean they've got my back"

- Young person working with United Borders

What could this mean for wider practice?

Through their intensive one-to-one mentoring model, United Borders works closely with each young person to understand the challenges they face and their personal context. By creating these detailed pictures of each young person, mentors are able to work with them in a tailored way to address and overcome challenges and traumas, and to influence behavioural changes. The intervention draws young people in through dynamic, engaging methods and builds in intervention sustainability by having young people return as mentors. This intervention holds strong working relationships within the Site and with key external partners, while also having a consistent presence in the community through the bus.

Recommendations

The insights suggest that interventions delivered via MyEnds are making promising progress in supporting individual change for children, young people and communities. However, there are systemic factors that threaten this progress and can act as barriers to delivery. To secure longer-term impact and further spread and scale promising practice, MyEnds Sites and VRU may want to consider the following:

For MyEnds Sites:

1. Prioritise outreach and awareness

According to our young people and communities survey, a significant barrier to engagement in MyEnds was a simple lack of awareness. Of the 62 people who said they had never attended MyEnds activities, 85% (n=53) cited 'not knowing about the activities' as the main reason. The next iteration of the programme could therefore prioritise more effective local marketing and community engagement to address this critical awareness gap. This approach should also help to combat digital exclusion and reach those most in need of support, significantly increasing MyEnds' already impressive reach numbers.

2. Make further progress on equitable gender participation

While there has been positive progress, with female participation rising from 26% (Year 1) to 31% (Mid year 2), there is still room to achieve a more equitable gender balance in engagement. To boost participation, Sites should consider deeper community exploration and a 'needs analysis' to build approaches tailored to local priorities, addressing structural barriers while fulfilling the aspirations and needs of young women and girls.

3. Scale reach targets and address gaps for older young people:

Set ambitious, yet realistic, intended reach numbers for future delivery that specifically address identified gaps. The current demographic profile shows an imbalance in reach across age groups, with 78% of the young people reached being under 18 years of age, and only 22% being over 18. This may be a critical gap, as young people over 18 may also be 'ageing out' of traditional support systems. Targeted outreach and activity programming specifically designed to appeal to and engage the over-18 group, may ensure that the programme meets the needs of older service users who may require continued support.

4. Seek feedback from system partners on how to reach those most in need

While 56% (n=15) of system partners felt that engagement with those most in need of support had increased as a result of Sites' work, nearly half did not specifically highlight this (44%, n=12). Importantly, this finding was drawn from a single survey (system partners) with a small sample size (N=27). Nonetheless, there may be value in proactively seeking detailed feedback from system partners to better understand what improvements they would like to see. This consultation could explore a range of collaborative opportunities, including the refinement of **outreach and referral mechanisms**, as well as broader structural

improvements like **joint training, shared resource development, or closer alignment of service pathways**, to ensure the programme consistently and effectively engages hard-to-reach groups and those with the most complex and critical support needs.

5. Sustain relational, flexible, and stigma-busting support

Tertiary young people reported facing multiple barriers to engagement: (1) an aversion to asking for help, rooted in deep-seated distrust; (2) dislike of formal clinical interventions, preferring the 'normal conversations' of relational support (like mentoring) over 'big words' and rigid 1:1 sessions; (3) social pressure from peers discouraging engagement. The MyEnds programme should therefore continue its successful practice of building support around service users. This involves:

- Maintaining **trauma-informed, low-pressure, and non-judgmental entry points**, with practitioners serving as the primary relational contact.
- Prioritising and resourcing **flexible, non-clinical approaches** (such as mentoring) over rigid clinical models, to match user preference and capacity.
- Implementing targeted sessions to **actively address and counter social stigma from peers**.

6. Expand resource allocation for 24/7 crisis support:

Consider investing in capacity for extended 'out of hours' availability, such as weekend or 24/7 access, in areas where practitioners have identified that demand far outweighs the support funded.

For the VRU:

1. Bring together local outcomes data for programme-wide insight

Sites regularly collect participant and practitioner feedback and data to track progress against outcomes. The VRU team should continue supporting Sites to develop and standardise these tools, while aggregating data across all interventions to provide a more comprehensive, programme-level understanding of MyEnds' emerging impact.

2. Commit to long-term funding cycles to address historic distrust

Evidence to date suggests that trust and relationships are being built with young people and communities through the sustained presence of interventions and the gradual "word of mouth" reputation of these interventions; however, there is still a trust gap within these communities that goes hand in hand with the short length of funding cycles. Addressing this deep-seated distrust will require visible, long-term commitment through securing the viability and sustainability of Sites, allowing trust to grow and impact to compound over time.

3. Advocate for greater collaboration between Delivery Partners, practitioners and statutory services

While practitioner-led relationships with young people are strong and foundational, feelings toward statutory services, such as the police and social services, appear to remain largely unchanged, defined by sentiments of being 'profiled', 'frightened', and 'not listened to'. We heard how practitioners currently act as a crucial 'buffer', making formal processes like court or probation less scary and more transparent. The programme might therefore consider encouraging greater partnership working between statutory services and community-based practitioners, and including them in formal settings and processes (e.g., court, probation) to support, translate, and advocate for young people. As part of this campaign, the programme might facilitate a protocol for developing relationships, shared practice, learning, and collaboration between statutory services and practitioner 'buffers', via such endeavours as joint training on trauma-informed practice, better understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities, and the impact of profiling and stop-and-search. To build trust proactively, the programme might also consider how it facilitates **positive interaction opportunities between young people and statutory services** (e.g. informal, non-crisis settings), helping to dismantle stigma and build trust.

4. Increase ambition for future reach targets

The programme has demonstrated overdelivery on its intended reach numbers, engaging a greater number of young people than initially targeted. For future funding cycles, the programme might encourage Sites to set more ambitious, yet realistic, intended reach numbers to reflect the programme's demonstrated capacity for engagement.

Site Level Learning

Key findings

- MyEnds Sites have put in place a range of mechanisms and approaches to amplify the voices of young people and the community, both in their own activities, and in local decision-making processes. By leveraging their local ties and lived experience, Sites are helping to build trust, buy-in and engagement in local approaches.
- Locally delivered Onward Grants schemes are showing potential in their ability to empower local Grassroots delivery partners and transfer power and resources directly to the community level.
- MyEnds Sites appear to be strengthening multi-agency working, enabled by trusted relationships, multi-layered communication, resource agility, adaptability and support from the VRU.
- **Recommendations:** To scale impact, Sites should continue to elevate youth voice and formalise partnerships beyond personal networks. To support Sites, recommendations for the VRU include explicitly funding capacity for partnership work and leveraging their strategic role to overcome system barriers.

MyEnds is built around hyper-local, place-based approaches to violence reduction, stabilisation, and prevention. This means that each MyEnds Site developed their own approaches to delivery, built around their local need, context and opportunities. In the Site Level questions, we explore the ways in which MyEnds Sites are working, highlighting shared and distinct approaches.

Equity in local decision-making processes

What has been the perceived impact of the programme on equity in local decision-making processes between partners, local organisations, the community and young people?

Drawing on a range of **data sources**, including workshops and surveys with young people, wider community members, Onwards Grants applicants, and wider System partners, we found strong evidence to suggest that the **MyEnds programme is helping to reshape local decision-making processes**, strengthening equity in how decisions are made between partners, local organisations, the community, and young people.

In this section we explore how Sites are driving equity by amplifying youth and community voice and through building capacity in the grassroots sector, as well as identify some key areas for growth.

Driving equity by amplifying youth and community voice

The London VRU advocate for a three-pronged approach to youth and community participation:

- **Collective voices:** Training young people and community members to offer input, guidance and relevant feedback to their community (through advisory boards, leadership groups or scrutiny panels).
- **Wider voices:** Engaging a broader and more diverse range of people in decision-making processes, ensuring diverse representation.
- **Unheard voices:** A targeted approach to engaging and being informed by young people and community members often overlooked and excluded from traditional community engagement processes, yet most impacted by violence.

80%

Of young people and communities felt that MyEnds is doing a good job of working with the community to reduce violence (n=334)

In our DPE activity, young people and community members reported **a strong sense of being heard**, leading to increased feelings of agency, empowerment, and personal influence. They perceive themselves as **active contributors, rather than passive recipients**, of programme services. For example, most of the young people and community members who responded to the DPE survey felt that MyEnds Sites are 'definitely' or 'mostly' doing a good job of working with the community to reduce violence (80%, n=334/420).

However, these findings should be considered alongside potential sampling bias; as sample sizes were relatively small and recruitment was led by individual Sites, the sample may over-represent those already positively engaged or those with fewer structural barriers to participation.

We found four distinct **youth and community voice mechanisms** that are actively enabling sustained participation and driving local equity:

Youth and community voice mechanisms

- 1 Co-design and co-production
- 2 Responsive feedback loops
- 3 Formal decision-making, governance, and leadership opportunities
- 4 Bridging the gaps between communities and system partners

1. Co-design and co-production

We heard how placing young people and community members at the heart of service design

and delivery strengthens equity in local decision-making by giving local residents a central role in planning activities, events, and interventions. This participatory model transfers power and control, ensuring that services remain culturally relevant, responsive, and genuinely community-led.

Evidence from the Youth and Community Workshops demonstrated this in action across various Sites. For example, the *Knowledge & Practice / Good Food Matters* cooking program, funded by a **New Era Croydon** Onwards Grant, is entirely co-designed and controlled by young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. They chose the programme's focus (affordable cooking skills), designed the menu, and selected accessible ingredients like box pasta. Separately, Croydon's Young Advisors are actively involved in co-designing and planning a range of activities and events, including dance provision, a Community Meal, a Celebration event, and contributing to Youth Voice training.

A particularly powerful demonstration of this is **Lewisham's shift from consultation to co-production**, where young people have been empowered to design and produce their own community projects.

Story of impact: My Lewisham

From Consultation to Co-Production: Young People in Lewisham Take the Lead Delivered by Partisan UK

In Lewisham, young people had grown weary of empty promises. They were continually **consulted** but rarely **heard** – watching local services close while their ideas gathered dust. Those aged 18–25 felt particularly invisible, having 'aged out' of traditional services. System promises lacked credibility.

My Lewisham recognised that change required **a shift from consultation to co-production**. After building trust with a small group of young people, they co-designed a **"Youth Impact Weekender"** – a two-day event designed by Partisan to mobilise young people to shape solutions for a safer Lewisham while building leadership and teamwork skills.

Over 100 young people expressed interest. 46 applied and 24 attended, each receiving **£200 for their time and insight**. Together, they generated **seven project ideas with an intersectional lens**, centring on a range of key issues, including the needs and experiences of local young women.

My Lewisham also put their money where their mouth was – **ring-fencing funds** and holding **fortnightly co-production sessions** to help young people to bring their ideas to life.

Trust didn't return overnight. But through **consistent presence and follow-through**, the Site earned credibility. Young people saw their ideas move from concept to action and, as a result, they **felt seen and gained agency**. As one "Weekender" reflected:

"I felt like my voice – and speaking out for other young people like myself – counted."

What began as a project has grown into a local movement – with Weekenders delivering the projects they designed, motivating peers to get involved, and stepping up as ambassadors for change. ²⁴

"I was seeing my ideas being put to life" - Young Person, Lewisham Youth Workshop

"I had productive conversations with Partisan teams on how I can adapt my project - they took into account the things I absolutely wanted to do" - Young Person, Lewisham Youth Workshop

In **Lambeth**, we heard how **Ecosystem Coldharbour** worked with the community and local practitioners co-design an community-led approach to safeguarding.

Story of impact: Ecosystem Coldharbour (Lambeth)

Developing a community-led approach to safeguarding

In central Brixton's Coldharbour area, Ecosystem Coldharbour were concerned about escalating safeguarding risks for young people. The locality faced rising incidents of antisocial behaviour and grooming, concentrated around fast-food venues. Young people were often criminalised due to shared photos between police and schools. Increasing exclusion of young people created further distrust and tension in the area.

Partners and community members **co-designed** a safeguarding and youth engagement project around a Brixton McDonald's. The initiative, led by an **alumnus of the Ecosystem Coldharbour leadership programme**, now offers regular weekly sessions, providing consistent support and a safe, non-judgmental space for young people. The project has established itself as a **trusted presence in a high-risk location**, helping to de-escalate conflicts and resolve safeguarding issues. Feedback and monitoring show improvements in young people's sense of safety and connection to services.

How Ecosystem Coldharbour made the change

- **Local leadership and decision-making:** An alumnus of the Ecosystem Coldharbour leadership programme led the intervention, leveraging existing relationships to resolve tensions. Their community-led approach created a non-judgmental and safe space, resulting in over 200 young people engaging regularly.
- **Flexibility and trust between partners:** Strong relationship building enabled the consortium to quickly bring together the council, police, youth organisations, and

²⁴ Story collected during 'Most Significant Change' Workshop with Sites in September 2025

funders. Partners were able to overcome challenges, including disagreements about intervention structure and funding uncertainty, through flexibility and collaboration.

- **Support from funders and council:** The VRU MyEnds Site network helped partners connect around a **shared goal and plan a response together**. As the project developed, networks beyond the consortium members – including Lambeth Council and funders – connected, enabling consistent delivery and continued visibility of the intervention.²⁵

2. Responsive feedback loops

73%

Of young people and communities reported being asked for feedback 'very often' or 'sometimes' (n=307)

We heard how real equity in decision-making requires more than just hearing voices; it requires acting on them. Where MyEnds Sites have established clear, consistent methods for collecting input on current provision and, critically, **are visibly adapting services based on that input**, this has resulted in a deep **culture of responsiveness, demonstrating to young people that their voice is valued**.

Most of the young people and community members who responded to the DPE survey reported being asked for input or feedback 'very often' or 'sometimes' (73%, n=307/419) while 64% reported seeing MyEnds Sites use this feedback to make changes to their work ('definitely' or 'sometimes' n=268/420).

We heard examples of what this looks like in practice. For example, **in Barking**, staff check "every time" whether young people like an activity and if not, *"they'll try the hardest thing to change or help"* (**Young person, Barking & Dagenham, Workshop**). **In Brent**, young people are asked for their feedback *"after almost every session"*, with one young person saying *"If change can be done, [Step Up Hub] will do it"* (**Young person, Brent, Workshop**).

We saw evidence that MyEnds Sites are intentionally strengthening their feedback loops by **fostering a psychologically safe and relational environment with young people and communities**. This design ensures that individuals, especially those who are hesitant, feel respected and supported enough to contribute their true opinions. For instance, in Lewisham, a young person said: *"everyone has their moment to express themselves."* (**Young person, Lewisham, Workshop**).

Furthermore, we noted MyEnds Sites **using varied input methods and responsive systems** designed for consistency, speed, and real-time impact. For example, in **Tower Hamlets**, they use a mix of surveys, one-to-one dialogue with support workers, and provide tailored support (e.g., accommodating religious needs), demonstrating responsiveness to diverse voices and

²⁵ Story gathered at Most Significant Change workshop in September 2025

requirements. **Barking** also uses real-time 'micro-feedback' methods like 'voting or picking' for things like games and food, giving young people a chance to make smaller decisions and immediately seeing the results.

Peer interviews in Southwark and Islington supported the finding that responsive feedback loops were creating **a powerful culture of voice and agency** in which young people feel **profoundly heard and valued**: participants *"definitely feel heard"* and *"consistently included"* because they see their feedback leading to tangible changes in programme delivery (**Peer Interviewer, Peer interview analysis workshop**).

"Our youth forum met to discuss the new term's timetable and what activities and clubs we would like to include. From the suggestions, we now have new clubs such as e-gaming and a film club."

– Young person, Brent, Survey

"At a public meeting convened by Ecosystem, we asked for changes including feeding young people, getting lighting on estates and CCTV working to reduce crime AND it was done on Angell Town and Moorland estates."

– Community member, Lambeth, Survey

"When we asked for more paid work and more access to opportunities, we got them."

– Young person, Croydon, Workshop

3. Formal decision-making, governance, and leadership opportunities

We heard how MyEnds Sites are moving beyond just responding to feedback, to embedding youth leadership in their work – shifting power and influence over programme decisions, funding and governance to young people themselves. By offering training in transferable skills and meaningful leadership opportunities, MyEnds Sites seem to be equipping young people with tools to drive change in their communities and build skills for the future.

We found strong examples of this, where young people and community members were included on decision-making panels for the **Onwards Grant programme**. Panel members received training to assess applications and allocate resources, gaining decision-making skills and ensuring funding aligns directly with local priorities. Young people and community members explained that these panels have given them a formal seat at the table with **tangible influence on funding processes**. As one young person in Haringey said: *"we get to decide where funding goes"* (**Young person, Haringey, Youth workshop**).

Other examples of MyEnds Sites strengthening equity by moving young people and

community members into leadership roles include:

- **Barking and Dagenham:** A young person is establishing a Young People's Participation Group, showing an institutional effort to listen at a governance level (Young person, Youth workshop).
- **Southwark:** The Site arranged for community members to participate in the VAWG Allies to Women podcast (Community member, Workshop).
- **Haringey:** The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) plays a central role in shaping local services, leading on outreach strategies and community projects such as clean-ups, with the YAB stating: "**we're doing it for everybody, not for ourselves.**" (Reported by **Homecooked Haringey in Quarterly Monitoring Data**).
- **Lambeth:** Through its Young Leaders Programme and Intervention Reference Group – which includes at-risk youth – Lambeth ensures young people determine the design and delivery of interventions, embedding youth voice in decision-making. (Reported by Ecosystem Coldharbour in Quarterly Monitoring Data).
- **Tower Hamlets:** By training and employing young people as youth workers, the Site has embedded lived experience into service design and delivery, increasing relevance, trust, and cultural responsiveness across its offer. (Reported by Better Bethnal Green in Quarterly Monitoring Data).

4. Bridging the gaps between communities and system partners

We heard how MyEnds Sites have worked to dismantle some of the traditional institutional barriers that prevent community members and young people from directly influencing statutory services and decision-makers. Young people and community members in the workshops consistently highlighted that MyEnds Sites have acted as 'bridges', facilitating direct dialogue and collaborative problem-solving between communities and statutory authorities through the use of convening forums.

The impact is evident through examples of direct engagement, consultation, and systemic advocacy that prompt institutions to be responsive. We found examples of MyEnds Sites creating formal, consistent platforms for community members to engage directly with institutional leaders, **brokering** collaborative spaces that lead to tangible accountability. For instance:

- In **Brent**, monthly 'Community Callouts' provided young people and residents with a **platform to engage directly** with MPs, police, and safety teams. These events allow the community to raise concerns, collaborate on solutions, and hold decision-makers accountable, ensuring that local strategies address real-time community needs (reported by I AM Brent in Quarterly Monitoring Data). This direct access is further demonstrated by young people in Brent having the opportunity to meet with the local Community Safety Team and present their ideas, which resulted in the Safety Team committing to further involvement (Young person, Brent, Workshop).
- In a direct attempt to influence policy and practice, young people in **Haringey** were

given a high-profile platform to consult directly with police on creating "better conditions during stop and searches," addressing a critical equity issue with a statutory body (Young person, Haringey, Workshop).

- In **Croydon**, Monthly Safeguarding Drop-in Sessions offer grassroots organisations direct access to statutory decision-makers, strengthening community involvement in shaping local responses (Reported by New Era Croydon in Quarterly Monitoring Data).

This mechanism appears to be vital for strengthening a sense of equity **by making institutional power structures accessible and accountable to the communities they serve**. By participating in multi-agency meetings and collaborating with local councils, police, and safety teams, community members and young people are directly influencing local violence reduction strategies and policies.

Finally, we found that bridging divides between communities and statutory services seemed to foster deeper, ongoing collaboration and extend community influence to broader policy discussions:

- In **Lambeth**, weekly Community Engagement Meetings bring together young people, community members, practitioners, statutory partners, and social landlords to discuss local challenges. This has led to a dedicated sub-group that meets fortnightly to co-design safeguarding workshops, mental health sessions, and youth support pathways, ensuring interventions are shaped by local insights (Reported by Ecosystem Coldharbour in Quarterly Monitoring Data).
- On a wider scale, **Croydon's** Youth Board extended their influence to national level, participating in the National Youth Strategy Meeting at the House of Commons where they contributed to national discussions on youth voice and policy (Reported by New Era Croydon in Quarterly Monitoring Data).

How could youth and community voices be amplified?

64%

Of young people and communities reported seeing MyEnds Sites use this feedback to make changes to their work (n=268)

While learning reported suggests that MyEnds Sites are threading community and youth voice in their work, and have built some promising practices to strengthen equity in local decision-making, some young people see scope for even greater amplification of youth voice.

Peer researchers in Southwark and Islington noted that most of the young people interviewed were involved in the programme as service-users, as opposed to taking on formal decision-making or leadership roles. Based on this, they concluded that **"while participation is high, there is a way to go in terms of involving YP in decision-making"**, and urged Sites to **"really bring [young people] into the spaces where the discussions happen"** (Peer Researcher).

This finding was supported by the insights generated at the VRU Youth Link Up. Young people were asked to vote on how 'heard' they felt, on a scale of 1-10. A significant minority voted high (8 votes, 8-10), highlighting feelings of genuine empowerment and a visible impact of their voice, demonstrating that for a core group, the programme is successfully creating a space where they feel heard and influential: "As a young person, I feel quite heard - I have a plethora of opportunities (more than most) and I feel like I am comfortable to express my voice/opinions" (Young person, Youth Link Up). However, the majority of respondents voted in the medium range (15 votes, 5-7), citing a clear gap between being heard and seeing tangible actions as a result, and expressing a need for better feedback mechanisms: "A lot of feedback but not enough action made" (Young person, Youth Link Up). A small minority voted in the low range (5 votes, 1-4), citing the same limited implementation of feedback as well as a lack of opportunities: "Young people's opinion should be valued more" (Young person, Youth Link Up). This is supported by the youth and community survey results, 73% reported being asked for input or feedback 'very often' or 'sometimes' (n=307/419) while a smaller majority, 64%, reported seeing MyEnds Sites use this feedback to make changes to their work ('definitely' or 'sometimes' n=268/420).

Overall, these insights from young people indicate that the programme **is succeeding in establishing the foundations for a powerful, felt sense of agency, but there is still room to extend leadership opportunities and reinforce feedback loops so all young people see the impact of their voice.**

Driving equity through building capacity in the grassroots sector

The MyEnds programme also appears successful in driving greater equity by reshaping the local funding ecosystem through its Onwards Grants initiatives, which is empowering local grassroots organisations to access essential funding and capacity-building support.

The MyEnds model emphasises the strong position of grassroots organisations and groups to tackle hyperlocal issues to prevent and reduce violence, due to being deeply embedded in their communities, and recognises that they often struggle with low capacity, insufficient funding and significant barriers to securing resources.

The Onwards Grants programme deliberately addresses this disparity by providing accessible funding pathways, coupled with critical support in areas like governance, fundraising, policy, and business planning. To date, **MyEnds Sites have distributed over £610k to 101 local grassroots organisations, funding activities like afterschool groups, sports based initiatives, mentoring, creative activities (art, music, drama) and more.**

This two-pronged approach empowers local grassroots delivery partners, transferring power and resources directly to the community level (more detail on the emerging impact of the Onward Grants programme can be found in the Programme Level insights). As the stories of **Brent** and **Haringey** demonstrate, this ensures that funding decisions are genuinely representative of local priorities, leading to the creation of a more inclusive and balanced partnership between MyEnds Sites, local organisations, and the wider community.

Story of impact: I AM BRENT

Levelling the playing field: inclusive funding for Brent's grassroots organisations

For grassroots organisations in Brent, particularly Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic-led groups, **accessing funding felt like an uphill battle**. Application processes were confusing, support was limited, and many young leaders lacked the confidence to even submit proposals. I AM Brent knew that **the funding system needed to change** – towards a model that was accessible, supportive, and shaped by the communities it served.

They responded with **a radically inclusive Onwards Grants Programme**, built on four pillars of inclusive design:

- First, **the application process was co-designed with community members** to ensure it was clear, relevant, and aligned with the realities of local organisations.
- Second, the **Site invested in capacity building**, offering workshops and one-to-one guidance to help young people and small groups develop their skills, improve proposals, and gain confidence. This was also reflected in an eligibility criterium for the grant: organisations with a turnover of £200,000 or less are eligible to apply, ensuring that the grant delivers financial resource and skills-building to emerging and grassroots groups. The Site also collaborated with the Local Authority to launch and advertise the grant, reaching a wider audience and bringing more grassroots organisations into the room.
- Third, **funding decisions were community-led**: local representatives from each area sat on the grant panel, ensuring resources were allocated based on lived experience and deep knowledge of hyperlocal needs rather than distant bureaucracy.
- Fourth, the programme created **visible, supportive spaces to build confidence and trust**. A highly attended launch event allowed potential applicants to meet, share ideas, and test project concepts in an open environment. By making the process tangible, approachable, and collaborative, the event encouraged groups who had previously hesitated or lacked confidence to step forward and engage. Further, eligible applicants were invited to take part in an interview after submitting a short written application, improving access by ensuring that applications are not only assessed by the quality of the written application.

Change came fast - **fifteen applications were submitted** from groups who might otherwise have stayed on the sidelines. These **applications were assessed by local young people and community members**, who gained employability and leadership experience in the process. Successful applicants are now confidently launching initiatives ranging from

youth clubs to BAME and SEN advocacy projects. By combining co-design, capacity building, community-led decision-making, and visible trust-building, I AM BRENT has created a more **inclusive and equitable funding system** that empowers local residents and grassroots organisations alike.

Story of impact: HOME COOKED HARINGEY

Decentralising power in Haringey: empowering grassroots organisations

Reflecting on Year 1 of the Programme, Home Cooked was dissatisfied with the reach of its **Onwards Grants Programme**. Although the call for proposals attracted many strong applications, limited resources and high eligibility thresholds meant that the smallest, most embedded community organisations were often left behind. It became clear that **new funding structures and criteria were needed** to support grassroots groups who struggled to meet existing requirements.

In response, the Site made a bold decision: its partners agreed to **defund their own MyEnds allocations to establish a new Community Enabling Fund**. The Fund placed **young people and local residents at the heart of decision-making**. Through tailored training, these community members were equipped to co-lead funding allocations, bringing local insight, lived experience, and credibility to funding choices.

The Fund's strategy was data-driven and hyperlocal. It targeted investment within clearly defined neighbourhood delivery zones, ensuring that support reached the people and places most in need. By pairing local intelligence with evidence-based targeting, the Site maximised impact and relevance.

The transition was not without challenges. Defunding established partners created friction and delays, testing the resilience of the partnership. However, through **transparent dialogue, trust-building, and a shared learning mindset**, the Site navigated these tensions and emerged stronger.

The results have been transformative. Smaller, community-led organisations have expanded their provision and **built sustainable capacity**. Their greater contribution to delivery has freed up specialist Site partners to focus on complex cases – improving **efficiency, coordination, and value for money**. The model has fostered greater **equity in local decision-making**, creating a more balanced partnership between the Site, local

organisations, and the wider community, and funding is now demonstrably more representative of **genuine local priorities**.²⁶

Support provided to Onward Grant recipients

4.3/5

Average rating of support received since applying for an onward grant

Given that capacity building is essential for sustaining equity in local decision-making, we explored how Onwards Grant recipients have experienced the capacity building support that they have received from MyEnds Sites. Of the 46 Onwards Grant applicants who completed our survey, almost all (96%, n=44/46) reported receiving support from the Site at least once. Most commonly, this support related to monitoring, evaluation and reporting; one-to-one advice; mentoring or coaching; involvement in local events or activities; community outreach strategies; partnership development and collaboration; and assistance with partnership building and networking. When asked to rate the quality of this support from 1 (lowest) - 5 (highest), most respondents selected 4 or 5 (78%, n=36/46), with an average rating of 4.3.

When asked about the experience and impact of the support they had been offered or received from their MyEnds Sites in the Onward Grant workshop, there were some examples shared, such as:

- **Training and skills building:** We heard of some targeted training or support that Onward Grantees had benefited from. For example, bid writing support for Onward Grantees in **Haringey**, and communication support in **Brent**. An Onward Grantee in **Lambeth** found the Site's training in trauma-informed approaches helpful because it gave them a chance to connect with other organisations, and helped them to gain a better understanding of the needs of the community, and not replicate what has already been done.
- **Communication, connection and being part of the network:** Onward Grantees from two Sites discussed the impact of being part of the Site's network, and the impact. In **Croydon**, two Grantees reflected on how communicative their Site had been, including at disseminating requirements, feedback and reporting tasks, as well as sharing local intelligence. Similarly, in **Islington**, an Onward Grantee told us that monthly meetings with the Site, where they can receive feedback from the council, hear updates, and share information, helped them to feel connected with other organisations and providers, and learn from them.

²⁶ Story collected during 'Most Significant Change' Workshop with Sites in September 2025

“Those who have been awarded grants, we haven’t been made to feel like we’re working in isolation with each other. Everybody has been presented the information in the same way, including information given to promote our projects, t-shirts. There was a sense of pride in Croydon, there’s been a constant drip effect. It has been really impressive to see what’s been offered, it’s been amazing.”

– Onward Grantee, Croydon, Workshop

While we heard strong examples of the impact of the support and approach of MyEnds Sites, particularly in Croydon, **not all of the workshop participants were able to provide examples of the support they had received from their MyEnds Site, which indicates variation in experiences or levels of support across Sites.** It appears that some MyEnds Sites may have more mature or embedded models of Onward Grantee support, regularly bringing Grantees together to collaborate and learn, while others may still need to further embed approaches to continue to build the network of grassroots organisations.

How could capacity building support be strengthened?

When asked how the support from MyEnds Sites could be improved, Onward Grantees shared some suggestions:

- **Capacity Building and training:** Sites could create a training program that groups can access, offer one-to-one sessions to understand how the organisation can be specifically helped, and provide more one-to-one support with funding.
- **Communication and engagement:** Suggestions included having a phone call catch-up at the end of the month, more frequent meetings, and ad hoc conversations.
- **Marketing and outreach:** Sites could help with marketing, communication, and social media to advertise projects, and diversify their media programs.
- **Community focus and local knowledge:** Actively ask the community about their needs, and know the area, existing services, gaps, and key organisations to ensure funding strengthens existing work and increases capacity rather than duplicating efforts.
- **Inclusion of Smaller Organisations:** Include smaller organisations in their supply chain of providers.

Increasing trust and buy-in to local approaches

What are some examples of young people and community engagement increasing trust and buy-in to local approaches?

4.1/5

Average rating from Site members about the extent their engagement with young people

and community has increased trust in and buy-in to local approaches

Evidence suggests that the engagement activity and approaches undertaken by MyEnds Sites is increasing trust and buy-in, earning a **4.1/5** rating from Site members. As highlighted in the intervention-level findings, young people echoed this, citing a strong sense of safety and belonging through their participation:

“They made me feel safe. They are my second family”

– Young person, Croydon, Workshop

We identified four mechanisms through which Sites are effectively fostering this trust and buy-in to local work:

Mechanisms for fostering trust and buy-in

- 1 Creating safe, respectful, and personalised environments
- 2 Involvement in local decision-making
- 3 Visible accountability
- 4 Community embeddedness and lived experience as a bridge

1. Creating safe, respectful, and personalised environments

MyEnds Sites are intentionally cultivating environments of psychological safety, genuine respect, and delivering a highly personalised service. This fosters the deep, personal connections that are underpinning a sense of trust and buy-in.

In **Croydon**, for example, a parent shared a powerful story about **Walk With Me**, a grassroots organisation funded via the New Era Croydon Onward Grants programme. The parent shared that **Walk With Me** succeeded where other organisations failed by investing real time to establish trust and a truly personalised approach with her daughter who was skipping school. Through the support of **Walk With Me**, the parent felt that their daughter was now more connected with her family and considering applying for university. The parent shared: *“My home is now a safer place”* (Parent, Croydon, Workshop).

This sense of safety is also echoed in the work of **Ignite Young Minds**, another Onwards Grants project funded by **Croydon**. By providing a safe and non-judgemental environment for vulnerable young girls, this organisation has seen a “huge growth in trust” and the formation of *“connections across historically conflictual areas”* (Onward Grantee, Croydon, Workshop). This trust has translated into powerful buy-in: one young girl who was at risk of exclusion is now back in school and actively campaigning for Ignite Young Minds to work formally with the school. Furthermore, they have reported that the programme's success has led to a significant increase in demand, indicating rising buy-in for local approaches.

"Engagement is increasing, to the point where we have to turn people away. There is now a waiting list"

– Onward Grantee, Croydon, Workshop

The creation of this trusting environment is exemplified by two key practices identified by Peer Researchers in Islington & Southwark:

- **The deliberate recruitment of relatable and supportive staff:** youth workers are described as "really well-chosen" because they "feel like older brothers / sisters" and provide "personally supportive" mentorship (Peer Interviewer, Islington/Southwark).
- **The conscious effort to build safe and inclusive environments,** which has led to increased feelings of safety and facilitated relationship-building in different areas. This intentional 'de-institutionalisation' of service delivery is further demonstrated by Southwark, who hold a weekly outreach hub in a busy restaurant (McDonald's). By meeting young people in non-institutional spaces and neutral territory where they already gather, they are increasing accessibility, trust and buy-in (Reported by Southwark Gamechangers in Quarterly Monitoring Data).

2. Involvement in local decision-making

We found that trust and buy-in were strengthened by **formally embedding young people and the community into local decision-making and governance**. Providing access to these processes and operating with transparency helps to reduce the mystery of system processes, leading to a sense of ownership and faith in the local approach.

One young person in Croydon explicitly stated that *"being involved in decision-making, having access to it, gives us insight into why certain decisions are made. This increases trust"* (Young person, Croydon, Workshop).

Furthermore, Site members told us that giving young people a voice through youth panels, involving them in project shaping, and empowering local groups through the participatory grants process are key drivers of engagement and trust.

"Through the establishment of Youth Panels, we have empowered young people to have a voice in local decision-making. Additionally, our Small Grants Programme has supported local organisations to deliver grassroots projects that respond directly to community needs."

- Better Bethnal Green Youth Practitioner, Tower Hamlets, Survey

"The participatory grants process has given young people and communities power in deciding what they think will help the community which is amazing."

- Ecosystem Coldharbour Delivery staff, Lambeth, Survey

Finally, a powerful indicator of long-term buy-in and commitment is the **progression of service-users into leadership roles**. Peer researchers highlighted this success, noting that "one young interviewee who was once a participant now helps to run sessions" (Peer Interviewer, Islington / Southwark).

3. Visible accountability

We heard about the impact of participants **seeing demonstrable and timely change as a result of their input**: when feedback is visibility actioned, it reinforces belief in the local approach.

Site members explained that **delivering on promises** is crucial for building trust and buy-in from young people, families, and the wider community. This responsiveness translates into a credible reputation and long-term community presence:

"They've been able to see that we've done what we said we were going to do, and that has increased trust and buy-in."

– Kickback delivery staff, Islington, Survey

"Through targeted and appropriate interventions to [reduce] harm of young people, [this] has built trust and the reputation amongst young people that we are able to meet their needs and make real impacts."

– Better Bethnal Green staff member, Tower Hamlets, Survey

Some Site members pointed out that visible accountability extends beyond simply acting on feedback; it includes **consistently showing up, being present, following through, and providing services that meet local need**:

"We have made our support very accessible to local young people. By being approachable and by providing them with valuable support, we have demonstrated the effectiveness of tackling things on a local level."

– Home Cooked Delivery staff, Haringey, Survey

"Our Site's engagement with young people and the wider community has significantly increased trust and buy-in... We have hosted numerous community events, each attracting over 500 attendees, which has helped strengthen relationships and visibility across the area."

– Better Bethnal Green Delivery staff, Tower Hamlets, Survey

4. Community embeddedness and lived experience as a bridge

When Site members and practitioners have strong local ties, deep area knowledge, and lived experience, it seems that community members are more likely to engage, trust, and commit to the programme. By **intentionally embedding practitioners and leaders who share backgrounds with participants**, MyEnds Sites can create an authentic bridge to communities that have historically been disengaged or mistrusted statutory services.

Both Site members and young people identified the importance of this. For example, one **Barking & Dagenham** shared in their Quarterly Monitoring Data that "it's nice having a mentor who has similar life experience to me". Similarly, in **Southwark**, a young person at a DPE workshop described staff as easy to relate to: "They're one of us, not superior." Site members from **Islington** highlighted in their Quarterly monitoring data that workers from local estates bring "strong community connections due to his background". **Haringey** cites in their Quarterly Monitoring data that "authenticity and relevant lived experience" as an enabler for "nurturing genuine relationships".

In addition to embedded staff, **strategic partnering with respected local people and community leaders** has played a vital role in building trust and widening reach. When these voices advocate for Sites and share their successes, they boost visibility, credibility, and community buy-in, significantly increasing the likelihood that community members will listen, trust, and act. For example:

- **Lambeth** has engaged influential community figures, such as bereaved mothers who have lost children to violence. These individuals helped the Site to reconnect with the community and build local support and capacity (Reported by Ecosystem Coldharbour in Quarterly Monitoring Data).
- In **Brent**, community leaders played a pivotal role in supporting the Site's rapid mobilisation and restoring trust following two critical incidents, enabling swift, community-led interventions (Reported by I AM Brent in Quarterly Monitoring Data).

The value of lived experience and community embeddedness as a mechanism for building trust and buy-in is powerfully illustrated by **Islington**, who successfully overcame mistrust on the Andover estate by embedding detached youth workers with lived experience of the area.

Story of impact: KICKBACK, ISLINGTON

Rebuilding trust on the Andover Estate: A "grassroots-first" approach

On the Andover Estate, high crime and anti-social behaviour were compounded by **deep mistrust** of police and statutory services. Residents were **disengaged and reluctant to report incidents** – fearing retaliation, immigration repercussions, and believing that "nothing would change."

Things did change, however, when the Kickback adopted a **“grassroots-first”** approach. They embedded **detached youth workers with lived experience** of the area. Raised on the estate, these youth workers became a **trusted bridge** between residents and services:

“Their lived experience, credibility, and shared background meant young people and families could relate to them and trust their intentions in a way they would not with statutory services.” (Site member)

By maintaining a **consistent presence** and being embedded in daily community life, these youth workers were able to create **safe entry points**, such as after-school clubs and family events, where young people and families could raise concerns without fear or judgement. Slowly, **suspicion gave way to dialogue, and dialogue became trust**.

Increased trust paved the way for **deeper engagement** – particularly with young people. Kickback invested in youth voice and leadership, providing young people with opportunities to co-produce community events and take on visible leadership and decision-making roles.

This is reshaping how the community sees itself and the services around it. There is **greater trust in local agencies** – including the Site, statutory bodies, and even the police – as residents are beginning to see themselves as active and valued partners, driving decisions and shaping the future of the estate. For the Site, collaboration has improved, with external agencies now recognising the strength of the “grassroots-first” approach. This approach has become a powerful blueprint for the Site’s future work – replicable in other areas where authentic community engagement is needed most.²⁷

Impact on multi-agency working

What has been the impact on multi-agency working?

A core part of the MyEnds model is aiming to transform local landscapes from isolated services into a connected ecosystem working together to prevent and reduce violence.

Insights indicate that MyEnds Sites are **growing relationships, coordinating approaches and building trust between organisations, services and communities**, which is helping to support a **more joined-up approach** to local delivery and influencing responses to **critical incidents**.

What are the emerging changes to multi-agency working?

Drawing on workshop and survey responses from System Partners, MyEnds Site Delivery Partners, and Onward Grantees, as well as Quarterly Monitoring Reporting, we can see a range of changes emerging that indicate strengthened multi-agency working.

²⁷ Story gathered at the Most Significant Change workshop in September 2025

Emerging changes to multi-agency working

- 1 Rapid information-sharing
- 2 Securing strategic partnership
- 3 Co-location and shared delivery
- 4 Enhanced critical incident response

1. Rapid information-sharing

Insights indicate that information-sharing between System partners and community organisations is **moving from slow and formal to rapid and relational**. MyEnds Sites are establishing multi-layered communication channels locally that support both daily planning and critical incident responses. For example, weekly catch-ups and panels in **Lewisham** and **Southwark** have made sharing more routine. Partners note that while formal meetings occur regularly, informal daily sharing is rising. In addition, MyEnds Sites have established formal mechanisms for intelligence sharing, such as in **Barking & Dagenham**, where detached teams use session logs to report issues such as weapon locations to the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), which resolves them via "task and finish" groups.

2. Securing strategic partnership

We heard how Site members are **moving beyond 'attending meetings' to securing strategic seats in formal local governance**. This elevates the visibility of their work, as well as ensuring statutory alignment. For example, **I AM Brent** and **New Era Croydon** participate in Safer Partnerships and Integrated Offender Management (IOM) panels.

"The partnership is actively involved in panels that help identify and target the children and young people who are at high risk of offending... monthly meetings are held to review progress and share information."

- Youth Justice Service stakeholder, Barking & Dagenham, Survey

3. Co-location and shared delivery

Some Sites are working closely with statutory partners to **co-deliver and enhance their work**. For example, practitioners from **I AM Brent** are co-locating at the Council's Targeted Prevention Hub to provide rapid, early intervention support. Partners from **Better Bethnal Green** also operate directly within Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) through the LEAP Youth Space. Many interventions also operate within schools, delivering all-school workshops, which means they can reach a large group of young people at once, as well as targeted one-to-one support for young people who most need it within schools.

"We attended meetings together and collaborated closely on targeted youth violence interventions. Through this partnership, we received valuable support, guidance, and connections with other organisations providing specialist assistance. This teamwork and shared commitment have been key to the Site's success."

- Kickback Youth practitioner, Islington, Survey

4. Enhanced critical incident response

96%

Of System Partners rated Site contribution to critical incident responses as 'somewhat' or 'very' helpful

We heard how multi-agency collaboration has enabled efficient, coordinated, and community-led responses in high-pressure moments. Over half of the System Partners who responded to our survey (including police and justice) reported having collaborated with a MyEnds Site during any system-level response (e.g. following a critical incident or serious safeguarding concern) (56%, n=27/48). When asked about how helpful the contribution of the MyEnds Site has been to these system-level responses, 70% said 'very helpful' (n=19/27) and 26% said 'somewhat helpful' (n=7/27).

System Partners shared the value that MyEnds Sites are bringing in **providing community reassurance and sharing intelligence to inform quicker, more community-centred local responses**. A youth practitioner from Tower Hamlets noted in the survey that real-time information sharing on *"identified tensions, conflicts and hotspots areas"* impacts how quickly tensions can be reduced before they escalate.

"When a community safety incident happened... this resulted in a quicker and more effective response by statutory partners and some members of the consortium to resolve. A medium to long term solution has also been put in place to mitigate the risk of this happening again."

- Councillor, Croydon, Survey

In this example from **Better Bethnal Green**, we heard how they worked with partners in Tower Hamlets to design a targeted intervention to address increasing risks.

Story of impact: BETTER BETHNAL GREEN

Targeted intervention: preventing escalating tensions in Bethnal Green

Local intelligence, confirmed by the Consortium, identified a risk of escalating tensions between youth groups from different schools within a small area of Bethnal Green. The situation required **urgent, coordinated action to prevent an increasing risk in the area.**

Better Bethnal Green brought together schools, LEAP, the Police, and the local council to develop a **one-week, targeted intervention to address concerns.** Co-designed with input from residents and young people, the response prioritised local insight and careful timing to rebuild trust and reduce tensions. The collaboration **successfully prevented escalation and strengthened ongoing relationships between partners.** Community feedback noted a **greater sense of safety**, and the model has since been shared with other partners for future use.

How Better Bethnal Green made this change:

As Consortium partners were already **well-connected through MyEnds** and had a trusted presence in the area, they were able to mobilise quickly. These established links with the council, schools, and local organisations **made planning and delivery possible**, even under tight time pressures.

Early warnings from the community were validated through multiple sources, supported by **robust data sharing and communication among partners.** This strategic use of **local intelligence** enabled the intervention to be targeted and relevant to the local needs.

Partners recognised that a visible police presence risked deterring youth participation. Together, they **adjusted schedules and engagement times to create safer, youth-friendly spaces.** ²⁸

What has enabled multi-agency working?

A range of factors have supported the development of joined-up, inclusive, and sustainable local networks:

Enablers for multi-agency working

- 1** Trust and transparency
- 2** Multi-layered communication and information sharing protocols
- 3** Resource agility
- 4** Learning and adapting
- 5** The VRU support

²⁸ Story gathered at Most Significant Change workshop in September 2025

1. Trust and transparency

We heard that the best partnerships are built on trusted relationships, equal leadership and joint planning, not consultation after decisions. System partners said having **shared leadership approaches allows honest, constructive challenges when priorities differ**. This transparency ensures all partners have real influence over resources and strategy.

"Shared leadership, joint planning, and equitable resource distribution ensure that all partners have effective influence. With transparency, trust and equality present in our partnership mean we are able to be innovative, resilient and able to deliver meaningful outcomes to young people in our communities."

– Community Safety Team Member, Southwark, Survey

2. Multi-layered communication and information sharing protocols

Insights highlighted that **effective partnership depends on the synergy between rapid, informal connection and standardised operational systems**. Regular communication through informal channels, such as phone calls and messaging apps, enables early de-escalation and coordination before formal systems begin. These trusted networks allow community organisations to spread reassurance and counter misinformation, particularly among those who distrust authorities. In parallel, the adoption of standard information-sharing platforms and protocols has strengthened collaboration and fostered a more coordinated approach to service delivery. For instance, **Croydon** implemented a single digital referral resource, while **Barking & Dagenham** uses standard tools to send street intelligence directly to the Council. Together, these multi-layered approaches enhance the ability to identify early warning signs, streamline access to support, and ensure that services are more integrated.

"We've shifted from mainly email to using WhatsApp groups and virtual meetings... This more direct communication has strengthened collaboration and helped us work more effectively together."

– Winning Harts Delivery staff, Barking & Dagenham, Survey

3. Resource agility

Shared processes for **mobilising funding, space, and staff** enable immediate action after serious incidents has helped to support multi-agency collaboration. Some System Partners noted that pre-vetted partners accessing Critical Incident Funds quickly means that the system can respond to trauma in real time, instead of waiting for lengthy approvals.

4. Learning and adapting

We heard that successful collaboration depends on a learning mindset: a willingness to try new approaches and adapt based on evidence. In **Lambeth**, Ecosystem Coldharbour developed an Extra-Familial Harm team following the emergence of new risks identified

through multi-agency mapping. This adaptability ensures partnerships stay relevant to young people's needs.

5. The VRU support

Beyond the local Site factors, we heard that the London VRU **have helped to enable multi-agency working through the flexible funding approach and strategic support provided**. The MyEnds programme has played a vital role as a convening force, bringing together organisations that might not typically collaborate, including grassroots groups, Local Authorities, and statutory services. The VRU is also seen as a valuable advocate, with the potential to strengthen Sites' relationships with Local Authorities and apply gentle pressure to encourage more effective cooperation.

How could multi-agency working be strengthened?

It's important to note that a relatively small sample of System Partners engaged with the DPE survey and workshops, and the insights generated will naturally be skewed towards those who are more (versus less) engaged with MyEnds Sites. There may thus be different and critical insights to be gathered from System Partners who are currently less engaged with their MyEnds partners.

Whilst MyEnds Sites seem to have "opened the door" to local partners, organisations, and practitioners for collaboration, especially in responding effectively to system-level responses like critical incidents, **sustaining their consistent involvement may be a challenge**. For example, of the 48 System Partner Survey Respondents, 92% had attended at least one partnership meeting ($n=44$), but less than half (42%, $n=20$) had attended more than four over the programme. System Partner survey respondents had had less engagement with other events:

- 77% had attended at least one community event or outreach session ($n=37$);
- 44% had attended at least one youth-led event or panel ($n=21$)
- 31% had attended at least training or capacity-building sessions ($n=15$)

VRU may be well positioned to support MyEnds Sites to further embed partnership working, as well as overcome some of the barriers to multi-agency working (outlined below). Site Members highlighted the following areas for enhanced VRU support:

- accessing schools for delivery
- increasing local promotion (e.g., advertising activities in local schools, ensuring that statutory and non-statutory organisations are aware of the offer), and
- having funders attend events (by invitation from VRU) to advocate for the programme.

What are the barriers to multi-agency working?

While there was evidence of MyEnds helping to enable stronger multi-agency working, feedback from System Partners and MyEnds Sites (primarily gathered through learning workshops and working groups in 2024) also revealed the factors that are getting in the way. These barriers offer important insight into opportunities for development:

Barriers to multi-agency working

- 1 Instability and personnel changes
- 2 Bureaucratic lag and rigidity
- 3 Equity gaps
- 4 Dedicated resourcing
- 5 Historical distrust and balancing independence
- 6 Information-sharing silos
- 7 Gap in long-term support

1. Instability and personnel changes

We heard that collaboration frequently relies on the **personal networks of a few key personnel**. If these specific individuals leave or their roles are restructured, the partnership's ties can be weakened. Similarly, Sites raised concerns about inconsistencies in information sharing, where System Partners may flag insights or share intelligence only to partners that they know personally. This suggests that for long-term success, partnerships need to be systemic and culturally embedded, rather than solely individual-based.

2. Bureaucratic lag and rigidity

We heard about the **tension between the slow-moving nature of statutory institutions and the high-speed needs of community crisis response**. For example, rigid internal structures and a "risk-averse" mentality can make it difficult for local authorities to convene community meetings within 24 hours of an incident. Furthermore, the window for applying for Critical Incident Funds (CIF) can take up to four weeks, creating a significant gap between an incident and the arrival of necessary resources. While MyEnds Sites are able to be agile with their resources, they are often slowed down by internal rigid systems, such as lengthy procurement processes and data-sharing hurdles.

3. Equity gaps

We heard that while MyEnds Sites are frequently consulted by System Partners, **they are not always treated as equal partners in strategic planning**. There is a clear desire for System partners to involve Sites at all levels, strategic planning and management, rather than

consulting them only after decisions are made. Furthermore, as MyEnds Sites become more involved in strategic conversations, some shared that they felt left out or disconnected.

4. Dedicated resourcing

We heard that **"proactive capacity planning"** is essential; Sites need time and resources for partnership work to be ringfenced, rather than expected to be absorbed into existing delivery roles. Moving forward, System Partners identified a need for improved transparency around delivery needs and more frequent impact evaluations to maintain momentum for partnership working and further streamline data sharing.

5. Historical distrust and balancing independence

The long-standing tension between community members and statutory authorities (particularly the Police) remains a significant hurdle. Delivery partners are required to carefully manage these relationships to avoid appearing too close to the system, which can damage their community credibility. We also heard about the "Lanyard Problem": immediate visibility by Council or Police Officers during a crisis can sometimes be perceived as "doing to" rather than "with" the community, potentially drawing hostility. MyEnds Sites noted they must keep showing up and staying consistent to prove their independence over time.

6. Information-sharing silos

Even where trust exists, technical and governance barriers can stifle proactive information sharing. Some Sites struggled to automate data sharing because statutory information was not provided in accessible formats (e.g., not in a spreadsheet). Furthermore, legal restrictions on what the police and Children's Services can share often create hesitation. We also heard that System partners such as Children's Centres or Family Hubs often operate in silos, occasionally "forgetting" to involve community partners in localised responses.

7. Gap in long-term support

Finally, we heard that while statutory services are often efficient at the initial 48-hour response following an incident, they tend to "move on" quickly. This leaves a gap in long-term support for grief and trauma recovery. Because many System partners work on short-term intervention cycles, it can be difficult to maintain the long-term, multi-agency commitment required to address the root causes of violence and support a community's long-term healing.

What this looks like in practice

We heard examples from **New Era Croydon**, brings to life the reality of data silos, and how this can hinder the innovative information sharing that is essential for a rapid, collective response. We also heard reflections from **Islington** on repairing relationships to enhance effective data sharing.

CROYDON: How data silos get in the way of innovation

The vision	Following their Community Needs Assessment, New Era Croydon immediately embraced the VRU-commissioned Plinth digital mapping tool, seeing its potential to solve a key challenge: a lack of unified, frequent, and fast data intelligence for collective decision-making and outreach. They also planned to put the Plinth link onto the New Era Croydon website to allow all stakeholders wider access to the information.
Taking the leap	The Consortium ran with the idea, convening a historic meeting in Summer 2024 – the first time Community, Council, and Met Police came together to align on data needs. A working group then co-designed the tool, adding detail to crime categories like Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Anti Social Behaviour (ASB).
The roadblock	Momentum stalled later in the year (December 2024) due to a format problem . Crucial data for certain areas was not collected in the spreadsheet format required by Plinth, preventing the necessary system automation.
Ongoing commitment	Despite setbacks, the collaborative effort has planted the seed for future success. By identifying the exact technical and systemic hurdles, partners remain committed to resolving the data format issue and realising the vision of real-time, unified intelligence sharing.

Story of impact: KICKBACK, ISLINGTON

Repairing fractured relationships

For years, there was **minimal collaboration or information-sharing locally** following a serious breach of trust caused by an information leak, which led to grassroots groups being excluded from police meetings.

How did Kickback respond?

Recognising the need for change, Kickback took the initiative to re-establish these relationships. They actively engaged the police and Council, clearly explaining their role in violence prevention and showing how their work complements law enforcement efforts. As part of this, the Site offered to **support the police in rebuilding trust with the local community** - encouraging the police to see the value in working collaboratively. Informal engagement also played a key role. Police and Council representatives were **invited to**

community events to help create space for more natural, relationship-building interactions.

At the same time, the Consortium was careful to **maintain community trust** by setting clear boundaries – refusing to share CCTV footage for the purpose of identifying individuals, for example – and managing public perception to avoid being seen as an extension of law enforcement. Over the year, these efforts began to show results, with police attending community events, increasingly recognising the Consortium's role in local safety and prevention work, and committing to including the Site in strategic silver and gold meetings, supporting more joined-up responses and long-term solutions.

However, rebuilding trust is a long journey, and many challenges remained. While the groundwork was being laid in year 1, young people still refused to engage in police-led workshops or open discussions with police about the issues they face. This ongoing reluctance highlights that **significant work was still needed, particularly from the police, to earn back the trust of the community.**

What happened in year 2?

Kickback continued working hard to repair relationships, creating spaces for dialogue and **“encouraging police to see themselves as partners in building safer communities”**. This has meant finding a delicate balance: inviting police into community spaces while being mindful of how this might feel to residents who have been historically marginalised.

Over time, small but significant changes have emerged:

- Officers regularly attend community events and this visibility is helping to shift perceptions. **“Young people are beginning to see the police as human beings - people who are present not only to enforce the law but also to support and build relationships”**
- Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams now attend Kickback's Steering Group Meetings and Ward Forums, listening to residents and working with them to address safety concerns.
- Kickback is now invited to Silver meetings where decisions are made. Police officers are recognising the value of the Site's insight, and this is shaping how they interact in neighbourhood spaces.

Kickback's reflections on the journey:

The journey has not always been smooth. Tensions still arise occasionally between the community and police. We continue to advocate for the community, holding difficult conversations with the police when needed. Now, however, **“our concerns are heard and taken seriously by the police, because of the relationships we have built”**.

Staff turnover within the police has been another barrier. **“Each time officers change, months of relationship-building can be lost, and we have to start again.”** In contrast, their

relationships with the local community police team have remained strong, offering consistency and a platform for progress.

What Kickback has learnt:

"We have learned that trust is not built through grand gestures but through consistent, everyday actions: showing up, listening, and holding one another accountable. We've also learned that taking a clear stand with the community during moments of tension earns respect and deepens trust, even when relationships are strained.

For other MyEnds Sites, our experience shows that **it is possible to navigate this complex terrain. Start with small, informal interactions that allow police and community members to meet as people.** Build **credibility by advocating for the community's needs**, even when it means challenging authority. **Celebrate small wins** - they matter deeply in communities that have experienced systemic harm. And above all, **accept that this is slow, often fragile work.** But with persistence, relationships can be rebuilt, and police can begin to see themselves as true partners in prevention and safety." (Kickback delivery staff)²⁹

Spotlight: Shared critical incident responses

In workshops with System Partners, we deep dived into examples of critical incident responses to unpack the context, activities, and impact of the multi-agency collaborations.

LAMBETH: Bridging the distrust gap during critical incidents

The Scenario	Following a homicide, police traditionally respond solely with enforcement. In Lambeth, the MyEnds Site introduced a "human-centred" approach that bridges the gap between the state and the community.
The Action	The process began with a rapid Partner Message from the police, providing factual details and a reference number to key partners. Within hours, a Rapid Partner Meeting was convened, bringing together the Site (represented by Juvenis), housing associations, and local authority reps. While the police formulated a high-visibility reassurance plan, the Site focused on the "human" impact. They identified a local primary school in need of immediate trauma support and, crucially, entered community spaces to speak with residents who were unwilling to engage with the police.

²⁹ Story gathered at Most Significant Change workshops in year 1 and updated in year 2

The Change

As a result of this ongoing approach, this wasn't a one-off meeting; it grew into an ongoing collaboration between partners. Delivery partners now participate in the MAVE (Multi-Agency Violence and Exploitation) body and the Offensive Homicide Review pilot. This ensures family voices are at the forefront of the process, rather than being treated as "another report". It has moved the relationship from a "crisis-only" interaction to an honest, trusted partnership where the Site even guides the Council on the legal restrictions and safety of sharing certain sensitive community intelligence.

SOUTHWARK: Co-production and rapid mobilisation**The Scenario**

When a critical incident occurred that crossed multiple borough boundaries, the response required more than just internal council liaison; instead, it required the immediate response in communities to build and prevent further escalation.

The Action

In response to this challenge, delivery partners (Active Communities Network) and the Metropolitan Police worked at the forefront to coordinate internal agencies such as Youth Justice and Children's Services. The Site was able to be agile with resources, securing Critical Incident Funds and worked with the Local Authority to unlock a sports facility at Burgess Park. This provided a space for one-to-one mentoring away from police cordons. To solidify this trust, the police attended a Site-organised event with 300 young people to provide a reassuring presence and listen to community sentiment

The Change

Reflecting a shift from response to proactive practice, this has evolved into a daily proactive system. Teams now meet every morning to map emerging tensions and engage relevant organisations before they reach a boiling point. By positioning the Site as a "trusted place", young people are now comfortable being referred to casework via education and social services. Most significantly, the Site has moved to co-production, where the community's voice is at the forefront of safety decisions, changing the way policing is delivered across the borough. For example, the police used a community event organised by Active Communities Network to engage with and understand the feelings and needs of the Latin American community in Southwark, to shape their strategy going forward.

ISLINGTON: The 'measured' community-led response

The Scenario	Statutory responses can often feel like they are "doing to" rather than "doing with" their community. To address this, Islington's MyEnds Site developed a three-phase model that prioritises community agency and focuses on preventing retaliation.
The Action	Operating with this model in mind, the process begins with a "Pre-Briefing" notification of risk. Before deploying, the Site reaches out to the impacted community centre or school to ask: "What do you want from the service?" Only then is a multidisciplinary team assembled (detached workers, counsellors, and partners organisations). They conduct a rigorous pre-brief to ensure everyone is clear about the session's purpose. During the on-the-ground work, they often shift their hours to 2:00 PM to be present when young people are leaving school and feeling most vulnerable.
The Change	This model has also changed strategic engagement. The Site and partners now feed intelligence into strategic Gold and Silver meetings. Because they hold the "best relationship" with specific neighbourhoods, they compile chronologies on young people that help identify their associates and potential "ripple effects" at a very early stage. This has turned a standard police response into a psychology-led safeguarding system focused on preventing the next incident before it occurs.

Recommendations

The Site-Level findings indicate that MyEnds Sites are developing strong foundations and ways of working to enable equity in local decision-making, buy-in to local approaches, and multi-agency working. Looking to the future, the following practices and approaches appear to be important to build on the strong foundations and ways of working MyEnds Sites have built to date:

For MyEnds Sites:

1. Elevate youth voice even further

The programme is successfully establishing the foundations for a powerful, felt sense of agency – with a core group of young people feeling genuinely empowered and heard. However, there remains room for improvement:

- Most young people are engaged as service-users, with fewer stepping into more formal decision-making or leadership roles.

- Some young people report a gap between being heard and seeing tangible actions, citing a need for better closure of feedback loops.

We thus recommend that Sites deepen their commitment to youth voice even further, by continuing to encourage young people into formal leadership positions; and visibly closing feedback loops by creating and sharing regular communications that demonstrate the impact of youth voice. Where practice is particularly strong, there may also be further opportunities for shared learning across Sites.

2. Formalise partnerships beyond personal networks

Collaboration frequently relies on the personal relationships of a few key personnel. If these individuals leave or their roles are restructured, the partnership's ties can be immediately weakened. This is evident when information sharing becomes inconsistent, relying only on partners who know each other personally. We therefore recommend the implementation of measures to make partnerships more systemic and embedded, ensuring that ties are robust and organisational rather than solely reliant on the goodwill and personal connections of specific individuals. Examples include **establishing a formal Partnership Charter or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the institutions**, documenting the purpose, commitment, expected contributions, governance structure, information-sharing protocols, and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of the partnership; designating both primary and secondary contacts to ensure continuity; and facilitating co-location of services.

For the VRU:

1. Strengthen capacity for partnership work

The evidence shows that building strong foundations for multi-agency working requires significant ground work, time and capacity. This essential effort is not always explicit or planned into work, and is often treated as an "add-on" to core delivery roles. We recommend that the programme **recognise the resource needed for partnership working** by explicitly funding and dedicating capacity (time and roles) for relationship building, strategic planning, and collaboration. This is essential to move partnership work from an informal expectation to a planned, core function.

2. Further leverage the VRU's strategic role to overcome system barriers

MyEnds Sites are hindered by broader system barriers, including historic distrust and bureaucratic lag. We recommend that the VRU continue to leverage its position, as a powerful local and regional convenor and influencer, to broker relationships and advocate for more agile, community-responsive processes from statutory partners.

Programme Level Learning

Key findings

- The MyEnds programme appears to be creating the conditions for local approaches to stabilising and reducing violence, by empowering and supporting young people and communities, growing the capacity of grassroots organisations, and connecting local system partners.
- **Recommendations:** To continue to scale and spread the model, it is important to investigate the long-term sustainability of the programme and streamline the approach to prioritise high-impact support. Other recommendations include further support for PMs, knowledge transfer among Sites and amplified learning across grassroots organisations.

At intervention and Site level, the DPE explored the processes and practices that are supporting effective working by the MyEnds Sites and Delivery Partners. At programme level, we looked at how the core MyEnds model, mechanisms and activities are working to enable, shape and support the implementation of local approaches to stabilising and reducing violence.

Overall, the findings indicate that the MyEnds programme model is creating the conditions for local approaches to stabilising and reducing violence. Enabled by the resources, support and collaborative, hyper-local focus of the MyEnds model, **we can see how the programme is building solid foundations in the MyEnds locations to enable longer-term sustained approaches to stabilise and reduce violence.**

Creating the conditions for local approaches to stabilising and reducing violence

How has the programme created the conditions for local approaches to stabilising and reducing violence?

The MyEnds model recognises that the change the programme aims to make in stabilising and reducing violence will be a long-term change. The logic model therefore foregrounds the role of MyEnds activities in creating the conditions for, and contributing to, longer-term change and impact. Insights gathered from across the programme indicate that Sites are successfully modelling five key pillars:

- **Hyper-local, community-led interventions:** MyEnds Sites recruit locally to ensure that practitioners have deep community roots. We consistently heard about the power of their 'lived experience' and community embeddedness in breaking down barriers and enabling teams to reach young people in ways that traditional services cannot.

- **Creative and youth-led engagement:** By using relational, 'hook-based' activities, such as sports and the arts, Sites have provided a gateway to deeper support. The evidence suggests that these methods have been successful in engaging young people, including those who have previously disengaged from statutory services.
- **Holistic, wrap-around support:** We've seen the power of interventions that focus on the whole person and family. Through tertiary interventions, MyEnds Sites are working to address the complex, interrelated issues facing those at highest risk. This comprehensive approach appears to be increasing trust, engagement, and positive outcomes for the most vulnerable young people and service users engaged.
- **Trusted local partnerships:** MyEnds Sites aren't just working as a consortium of local community organisations, but are actively integrating with wider System Partners to foster a collaborative local culture that strengthens the entire ecosystem. This unified approach is expected to not only build a more resilient, long-term support network for young people but also provide the agility needed for partners to coordinate and mobilise rapidly in response to immediate local challenges.
- **Representation and equity in decision-making:** MyEnds Sites appear to be empowering young people to see the tangible impact of their voices on local decisions. Sites are demonstrating how to move beyond tokenism by embedding young people's voices at the heart of their approach - from building a rhythm of feedback, as well as creating pathways to leadership for young people through formal decision-making roles.

These approaches have been highlighted and valued by young people, community members, and System Partners. As MyEnds Sites continue to prove the efficacy of these models, continue to build buy-in to their approach, and extend and deepen their local networks, we anticipate that they will become deeply embedded in the wider system, ensuring that violence reduction strategies are both sustainable and scalable.

Growing the local long-term capacity for stabilising and reducing violence

What has been the perceived impact on the long-term capacity of the local system to deliver local approaches for stabilising and reducing violence?

MyEnds aims to create the conditions necessary for local approaches to violence reduction to take root and thrive, now and beyond the programme, by building the long-term capacity of the local system. Evidence from the past two years suggests that the programme is sowing the seeds for sustainable, community-led approaches for stabilising and reducing violence in the long-term through growing a network of empowered communities, grassroots organisations and local partners. **Collectively, these shifts are fostering a more empowered, connected, local ecosystem and establishing the vital foundations for long-term impact to stabilise and reduce violence.**

MyEnds is growing local networks of:

- 1 Young people and communities who feel more **empowered, heard and supported**
- 2 Grassroots organisations able to deliver **wrap-around, community-based support**
- 3 Better **connected systems of local partners** embedding preventative approaches to violence reduction

Empowering and supporting young people and communities

Insights from young people, communities, MyEnds Sites and their practitioners reveal a shift in the lived experience of participants as a result of being involved in MyEnds. They are reporting:

- **Enhanced personal growth:** Improved confidence, self-esteem, and supported pathways into education and employment.
- **Strengthened safety nets:** Greater access to inclusive community spaces and a deeper network of trusted relationships.
- **Increased opportunity:** Expanded access to creative, recreational, and vocational support that fosters a sense of belonging.

For a deeper dive into these outcomes, please refer to the Site-Level and Intervention-Level findings above.

1. Growing the capacity of community-led grassroots organisations

The Onwards Grants appear to be delivering both immediate and long-term benefits: strengthening the capacity of local grassroots organisations to deliver services and interventions to their communities now, and growing the capability, approaches, and sustainability of these local initiatives.

In surveys and workshops, Onwards Grantees described how the programme supported small grassroots organisations to grow their services, test out new initiatives, and enhance their offers to the communities. The grant enabled grassroots organisations to:

- **Expand their reach:** Many grantees shared how the funding allowed them to expand their service provision, through increasing the number of participants they can serve, restarting programmes like the youth council in Southwark, and expanding volunteer provisions. The grant also allowed organisations to increase the duration and frequency of sessions. For example, in Brent, the grant allowed them to extend term-time work into summer camps and half-terms, which is a time when there is often a gap reported in available support. In Croydon, the grant allowed the Croydon Martial Arts Academy to extend its opening hours (now 10 am - 9 pm), and open the gym to the lower income families who can't afford membership fees.

"It has enabled my organisation to become an established entity within the Finsbury Park area and the community are now naturally gravitating towards us, more than ever."

- Onward Grantee, Islington, Survey

"The grant has helped us to continue changing/saving lives. This time last year we had to create a waiting list due to lack of funds... This year they have access to receiving invaluable support."

- Onward Grantee, Croydon, Survey

- **Secure organisational growth:** Insights from Grantees suggest that the grant helped grassroots organisations to grow, build capacity, strengthen delivery, and establish a more structured and sustainable framework, positioning some to secure additional funding. The grant helped organisations to bring on new staff members, helping to provide employment stability for staff and facilitators, which in turn ensured the continuity of service for the young people, as well as diversify skills. Some grantees have benefited from the non-financial support of the Onward Grant programme, including capability building around topics like communications, trauma-informed practice, and bid writing.

"It provided our staff with steady employment during a period when opportunities were uncertain, helping us maintain consistency across our programmes."

- Onward Grantee, Haringey, Survey

- **Provide focused, targeted provision:** Some grantees shared how the grant enabled them to provide more targeted provision to young people and communities. For example, in Croydon, a grantee was able to provide targeted workshops for young girls (a gap they had noticed), and in Tower Hamlets, where the grant funded a Bengali-speaking staff member, which enabled them to deliver a programme for women of Bangladeshi origin to connect and exercise in a dedicated safe space.
- **Provide proof of concept:** For several grassroots organisations, the grant served as their 'seed' funding, allowing them to transform a vision into a tangible service and prove their capability to deliver high-level work. For others, they were able to try new initiatives or "test and learn" concepts without risking existing core programmes. For example, in Lewisham, they were able to try out a new podcast project, and the grant enabled them to try a new location and build relationships within a different community centre, paving the way for future work.

"The Onwards Grant is our first funded [project] and has therefore allowed us to launch our vision and mission... It has given us the opportunity to show we are capable of delivering our work."

- Onward Grantee, Croydon, Survey

"It has allowed us to launch our project as we wouldn't have the resources to have done so without this."

- Onward Grantee, Barking & Dagenham, Survey

- **Enhance their service offering:** Some grantees told us how they had used the Onwards Grant to enhance their service offering and make their activities more attractive to young people. For example, in Islington, the grant enabled a grassroots organisation to provide free ice lollies to community members, and in Lewisham, it enabled the provision of goodie bags for young people to take home. Onwards Grantees explained that this is an important way of connecting with young people and making them feel treated and valued.
- **Build relationships:** Some organisations were able to strengthen relationships with local partners and facilitators through being part of the programme, creating new partnerships with local creatives who have lived experience. The funding acted as a "door opener", for some, allowing organisations to form new relationships with statutory bodies (like Pupil Referral Units and Primary Schools) and other local partners that were previously out of reach.

"It has enabled us to strengthen our relationships with the local PRUs and deliver a tailored programme with clear outcomes that promote a positive change in behaviour. We have also developed strong relationships with new facilitators through delivering the project creating new partnerships with local creatives who have lived experience that the young people can relate to."

- Onward Grantee, Southwark, Survey

- **Secure additional funding:** Some grantees shared how the grant positioned them to be "investment-ready", providing them with the track record needed to secure further funding and move toward long-term sustainability.

"Importantly, the Onwards Grant has placed us in a stronger position to secure additional funding. We have recently been successful in applying for new grants to deliver sexual health awareness workshops and sports programmes."

- Onward Grantee, Lambeth, Survey

"The success of our summer football and workshop programme has positioned us to secure longer-term partnerships and deliver year-round activities, which wasn't possible before."

- Onward Grantee, Islington, Survey

Connecting and supporting local system partners

As outlined in Site level insights, we can see that MyEnds Sites are growing relationships, coordinating approaches and building trust between organisations, services and communities. System partners and grassroots organisations who participated in the evaluation are seeing the impact of working with the Sites, supporting a more joined-up approach to local delivery and influencing responses to critical incidents. This includes improved intelligence and information sharing; bridges between communities and services being built; and enhanced, wrap-around responses in communities. For a deeper analysis of multi-agency working and collaboration, please refer to Site level insights.

Impact of programme support

How has programme support impacted local approaches to violence reduction?

4.4/5

Average rating of support provided by VRU by MyEnds Site PMs

The VRU offers a wide-range of support to Sites, delivered through a combination of formal structures and informal relational practices. This support has been adapted over time and across contexts, with a strong emphasis on flexibility, responsiveness, and trust-building.

Three tiers of support were identified:

- **Foundational:** Support that Sites could not operate without, such as contract management, finance systems, core programme guidance
- **Core:** Support that enabled effective delivery, such as delivery plans, working groups, CNA guidance, EqlA training
- **Value added:** Support that helped to push Sites toward system change or sustainability, such as networking, strategy support, system brokerage.

Each of these tiers included both formal and informal support, from structured training and documentation to ad hoc phone calls, Site visits, and one-to-one coaching between the MyEnds Sites and the VRU. For a full list of support types identified, please see [appendix 5](#).

Programme Managers (PMs) were asked to rate the support provided by the VRU on a scale of 1 (inadequate) to 5 (outstanding). Their **average rating was 4.4 out of 5**, which indicates that the VRU support has been valuable to PMs, with some scope for improvement.

Strengths of the support

While the training, learning days and opportunities to share across Sites have been valued, PM feedback suggests that **it's the relational, trust-based approach of the Programme Operations team was a primary driver of impact**. Informal, relational support - including Site visits, check-ins, phone calls and open-door communication - is considered just as impactful as more formal types of support. PMs specifically identified the following core strengths of the VRU's approach:

- **Proactive and solution-focused:** Sites described the support as forward-thinking and solution-focused, and valued the Operations Team's ability and openness to work through challenges. Sites appear to be open to sharing challenges with the VRU, indicating a sense of trust between Sites and the Operational Team. This support was particularly valuable during mobilisation, when Sites were still building internal partnerships or had varying levels of experience with funding, systems leadership, or programme delivery.
- **Availability and responsiveness:** The Sites highlighted that the VRU Operations team's availability, tone and consistency has created an environment where Sites feel supported rather than monitored.
- **The VRU team's strong networks and collaborative ethos:** Sites value the VRU's openness to amplify their work and their willingness and ability to connect them with System Partners.

"The VRU team have also been really responsive when unexpected issues have come up. They have also been solution-focused and supportive, encouraging us to be open when we need support or to discuss improvements"

- MyEnds Site PM, Survey

"The VRU have been extremely helpful, supportive and understanding throughout the length of the programme"

- MyEnds Site PM, Survey

"VRU has provided consistent opportunities for us to engage with them, through training, email and telephone contact. They have presented opportunities for us to showcase our work and share good practice creating a culture of learning and development"

- MyEnds Site PM, Survey

This aligns directly with the VRU's intentional shift toward a **Collaborative Commissioning** model in MyEnds. The VRU Operations Team shared in their group interview that rather than acting in a transactional way, they aimed to position themselves as strategic partners with MyEnds Sites, drawing on their lived and professional experiences as practitioners within the communities. The support seems to have been driven by the following principles:

- **Community embeddedness:** By drawing on their firsthand experience within MyEnds communities, the VRU team were able to provide deeper technical assistance to MyEnds Sites, using their learning to help practitioners navigate complex challenges and design more effective interventions.
- **Relational and trust-based:** The VRU team have one-to-one relationships with the PMs, and have built connections through informal, relational support such as Site visits, check-ins and phone calls.
- **Coaching:** The VRU team shared that they have used coaching as part of their support with MyEnds Sites, and encouraged the MyEnds Sites to take a 'test and learn' approach to refine their delivery models.
- **System leadership:** Leveraging the VRU's position as a system leader, the VRU have aimed to act as a bridge-builder for MyEnds Sites, opening doors and connecting MyEnds Sites to local systems partners, as well as amplifying the work of communities.

How could the programme support be improved?

Site PMs and Delivery Staff shared a range of areas for improvement to further enhance the support on offer:

- **Addressing overload of programme level requests:** Some PMs felt that the number of requests from the VRU to the Sites are overwhelming and can feel bureaucratic. PMs flagged deadline congestion and intensity, as an issue that made delivery and reflection harder.
- **Taking a more tailored approach:** Two PMs shared that they wanted the support to be driven more by their feedback or by their local agenda, sharing that *"While certain topics and discussions will naturally take priority, it's not often that programme managers are asked what support they personally need. This is important, as the role itself is highly intensive and would benefit from more targeted support and development opportunities for managers"* (MyEnds Sites PM, Survey).
- **Sharing best practice:** In year 1, it was noted that PMs wanted more live examples, peer sharing, and structured exchanges of best practice in areas like community grants, handling critical incidents, or navigating systems. Spotlight Learning Reports were introduced in year 2, which highlighted promising practice reported via the quarterly reports. This may have started to respond to this request, but it would be worthwhile continuing to gather feedback from PMs to understand how VRU can continue to facilitate shared learning.

- **Facilitating shared learning between grassroots organisations:** The majority of the capacity-building support to local grassroots organisations is delivered through the Sites themselves. Onward Grantees shared that they would be keen for more opportunities to come together across their boroughs, to share learning and collaborate across their local places.
- **Increasing visibility externally and facilitating multi-agency working:** As outlined in the Site-level findings, some MyEnds Site Delivery Staff have asked for VRU to play a more active role in supporting them in connecting with system partners. This includes supporting them in accessing schools, increasing local promotion, and being visible partners at local stakeholder events, to help promote and recognise the programme locally. This also includes helping them to overcome technical and governance barriers to collaboration. In the example shared by New Era Croydon, while the Site has embraced the VRU -commissioned digital mapping tool, Plinth, progress was stalled by data silos and systemic hurdles. Supporting Sites to overcome these technical frictions is a critical area where VRU facilitate cross-partner resolution and unlock the tool's full potential.

Spotlight: Embedding mobilisation phase learning

In year 1 of the DPE, we highlighted key learnings from the mobilisation phase of MyEnds. One early action cited within the MyEnds Programme Theory of Change was understanding the local area: services, intelligence, needs. During the MyEnds mobilisation phase, Sites utilised learning from their VRU-commissioned Community Needs Assessments (CNAs) and Equality Impact Assessments (EqIAs) to refine delivery strategies.

While this was not explored in year 2 DPE activity in detail, overall, Sites appear to have embedded learnings from these processes into their operations and Theory of Changes, and, importantly, **have embraced the principle of tailoring delivery to hyperlocal needs**. Most notably, they achieve this through their **community embeddedness** - leveraging their position in communities and trusted relationships to ensure services remain responsive to evolving needs and community safety concerns.

While some, such as **New Era Croydon**, are working to drive shared usage of the **Plinth** digital mapping tool, there may be a broader opportunity to support Sites in continuing to diversify their evidence base and continuing to integrate a wider range of available local data sources in their ongoing work. Furthermore, current reporting shows variation in how Sites track reach; specifically, low or non-existent reach data from some Sites for certain priority groups (e.g. teachers, professionals, or parents/carers) suggests a need to refine reporting mechanisms. Addressing this 'data gap' is essential to ensure that underreporting does not mask the true breadth of systemic engagement across these stakeholder groups, as well as understanding the Sites progress against their CNAs.

Recommendations

At the programme level, the evidence gathered suggests that the MyEnds model is showing promise and delivering on its intended short-term outcomes through embedding strong evidence-led practices. Looking to the future, the following recommendations may support further scale, spread and sustainability of the model:

For the VRU:

1. Investigate the long-term sustainability of the programme on local approaches

This evaluation explores how the MyEnds programme is currently working, whether it is being delivered as intended, and early impacts – all with a view to building the foundations for a long-term reduction of violence affecting young people. The VRU may want to consider investigating whether and to what extent the success mechanisms and promising outcomes identified in this report are sustained.

2. Streamline the approach to prioritise high-impact support

The relational, informal support provided by the Operations Team is a key driver of MyEnd Sites' success, and indicates that the VRU are seeing the benefits of a deliberately 'collaborative commissioning' approach. This can sometimes be overshadowed by an overload of Commissioner requests, which takes Site staff away from delivery. Going forward, VRU might consider streamlining the number of core requests to Site staff (ensuring that all are high-impact) or increase Site capacity so that they can engage fully.

3. Ensure that *all* PMs feel personally and professionally supported in their highly intensive role

A small minority of PMs called for more tailored personal and professional support in their demanding role. We therefore recommend that the VRU continue to proactively seek PM feedback on personal and professional needs, to ensure that the support provided is precisely targeted to meet each PM's individual development requirements.

4. Continue to prioritise knowledge exchange among Sites

We recommend that the VRU continue its existing efforts to ensure consistent knowledge transfer across the MyEnds network. This would include both 'formal' shared learning through **Spotlight Learning Reports, cross-site Learning Days, PM / Tertiary Working Groups and Youth Link-Ups**, as well as 'informal' relationship building across the Sites, so the network built between PMs and practitioners across places is sustained and strengthened outwith and beyond the VRU's involvement.

5. Amplify learning across grassroots organisations

The funding and support provided to grassroots organisations through the Onward Grants programme appear to be building a strong network of community support. The impact may go beyond the data available, and there may be more to uncover and showcase about the

‘ripple effect’ of this funding. There is appetite from Onward Grantees for more connection within and across their boroughs, with acknowledgement that these opportunities tend to be more available for larger organisations. Building on the approach for shared learning across Sites, we recommend facilitating more opportunities for across-borough learning, for example through programme-wide grassroots meet-ups.

6. Defining the sustainability strategy

While VRU support is currently a pillar of the MyEnds programme, the transition toward long-term sustainability raises critical questions regarding post-commissioning delivery for Sites. The VRU’s Year 3 support strategy should pivot focus toward sustainability, to empower Sites with the necessary tools to maintain impact independently.

SECTION THREE:

CONCLUSION

To date, the MyEnds programme has delivered a multi-disciplinary range of 106 interventions across Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary tiers, reaching over 23,000 people in communities, including children, young people, parents, practitioners and grassroots organisations. While the reach numbers are commendable, what is perhaps most impressive are the powerful individual stories of change that sit beneath, from the growth in young people's network of support, to communities feeling more supported, to grassroots organisations being in a strengthened position to deliver their locally embedded work.

It is clear from the insights and stories gathered through the DPE that MyEnds is successfully achieving its core objectives at the intervention, Site and programme levels:

- Creating the conditions for local approaches to stabilising and reducing violence
- Increasing long-term capacity across the local system to deliver local approaches for stabilising and reducing violence
- Supporting more inclusive decision-making in local systems

As set out in the Theory of Change, these shorter-term outcomes aim to build strong foundations for the long-term outcomes of **more consistent trust and collaboration between local communities and agencies, and a reduction in violence in areas affected by high and sustained levels of violence.**

Looking to the future: deepening and amplifying impact

Building on these foundational learnings, the VRU now has a unique opportunity to deepen, amplify, and evidence the long-term impact of MyEnds model by:

1. Evidencing long-term hyper-local change

The VRU has been exploring opportunities for a Long-Term Impact evaluation, utilising administrative data. This represents an important opportunity for VRU and partner organisations to move beyond immediate outputs to understand the effect of the programme model on violence affecting young people. The full benefits of the programme, including the impact on violence affecting young people, will likely only be fully realised over a long period. This evaluation will be vital to building the evidence base around 'what works' to effectively reduce violence affecting young people.

2. Prioritising sustainability and systemic change

While MyEnds has successfully sown the seeds of change, the focus must shift to ensuring these roots take firm hold within communities, so the outcomes of the programme far outlast the involvement of VRU or the initial investment period. To achieve this, the VRU must continue to nurture local capacity and promising practices, focusing on embedding the programme within local systems and continuing to meaningfully shift power to communities and Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations as key partners for change.

3. Spreading the learning

MyEnds has generated a range of learning from practitioners, leaders, grassroots organisations, young people and communities about what it takes to build hyper-local approaches to violence reduction, which may be helpful for others wishing to learn. The conditions, principles and steps that have underpinned MyEnds to date will be shared via a MyEnds Toolkit. This resource will serve as both a reference point for current MyEnds practitioners and a roadmap for future leaders and practitioners nationwide who are looking to implement their own hyper-local violence reduction strategies.

Thank you

Thank you to the MyEnds Sites, practitioners, leaders, partners, organisations, young people and community members who contributed their insights and experiences to this Dynamic Process Evaluation.

Thank you to our **peer researchers**, including Aaron, Issac, Jonas, Kizzy, Makeda, Olu, Tomi & Xavier, who gathered insights to understand what MyEnds is like for young people and community members. Their contribution, research and ideas fed into this report, helping to deliver meaningful change in communities across London.

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SECTION FOUR:

APPENDICES

1. Glossary of key terms

Sites: MyEnds Sites are networks of organisations working together to achieve change in their place. They are made up of local youth leaders, grassroots organisations, young people, and parents and carers, working together to deliver locally-designed interventions. There are 9 MyEnds Sites (sometimes referred as Consortiums), which are detailed [here](#).

Interventions: Activities or projects designed to deliver change in communities.

- **Primary interventions:** Activities designed for children and young people with no or little risk of exposure to or involvement in violence, focuses on preventing violence before it happens.
- **Secondary interventions:** Activities aimed at children and young people at risk of being affected by violence, focusing on protection and immediate responses to prevent escalation.
- **Tertiary interventions:** Activities designed for those already affected by violence, focuses on long-term care and rehabilitation, in order to interrupt and reduce the impact of violence on individuals and communities.

Critical incidents: A 'Critical Incident' is defined as:

- Homicide
- Shooting/stabbing or other serious violence resulting in life-changing/threatening injuries and/or significant impact on local community/schools.

Community Needs Assessment (CNA): Documents that bring together data and insights to support consortiums to design and deliver interventions. They aim to provide a detailed assessment of local needs to support strategy development; identify local strengths, gaps in services, resources, partners, and areas they may wish to further develop; and aim to increase the speed of mobilisation and delivery by supporting the development of targeted interventions.

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA): A tool to complete at the start of a project to help meet the legal duty not to discriminate against people with protected characteristics. The tool helps practitioners and leaders to assess the projects and interventions and identify where there might be a negative impact on stakeholders and service users based on their characteristics.

2. Data collection methods

The Dynamic Process Evaluation used a range of data collection methods over two years to gather insight and feedback from young people, communities, practitioners, grassroots organisations, leaders and stakeholders from system partners.

Level	Activity type	Detail
Programme	Programme Manager (PM) working group	Capturing learning from experience and peer learning
	The VRU - Quarterly learning sessions	Reflective learning, capturing key successes and cross-Site learning
	Multi-Site learning events	Opportunities to share impactful practice and for peer/cross-Site learning
	Youth link up	Capturing feedback and insights from young people at wider network events.
	Analysis of the quarterly monitoring data	Capturing key successes and challenges over time within and across Sites
	Interview with the VRU operations team	Capturing learning and reflections from experience
Site	Community/Stakeholder reflection sessions	Stakeholder-focused workshops enabling Sites to present progress to date, obtain feedback and learn
	Community events	Collaborating with Sites to gather feedback and learning from community stakeholders
	Surveys	Gathering direct feedback and insights from key groups of stakeholders
	Site learning sessions	Learning focused sessions encouraging Sites to reflect on their own successes and challenges, and develop action plans
	Most Significant change workshops	Cross-Site workshops in which stories of impact are collected and shared
	Focus groups	Opportunities to explore views and gain insights from key stakeholders
	Peer-led interviews	Engaging with, and supporting young people in Site areas to capture learning and reflections on

		experience via peer to peer conversations
Intervention	Tertiary tracking	Identifying the key features of the most impactful practice for change
	Documenting promising practice	Reviewing intervention-level data against predefined criteria to spotlight promising practice
	Practitioner-led interviews	Practitioners capturing learning and reflections across Sites from young people accessing tertiary-level interventions
	Tertiary working group	Capturing learning from experience and peer learning
	Tertiary strategic partner feedback	Gathering feedback on multi-agency collaboration, with a focus on local critical incident responses

3. In more detail: Key statistics

Breakdown of interventions by tier (multiple selection)

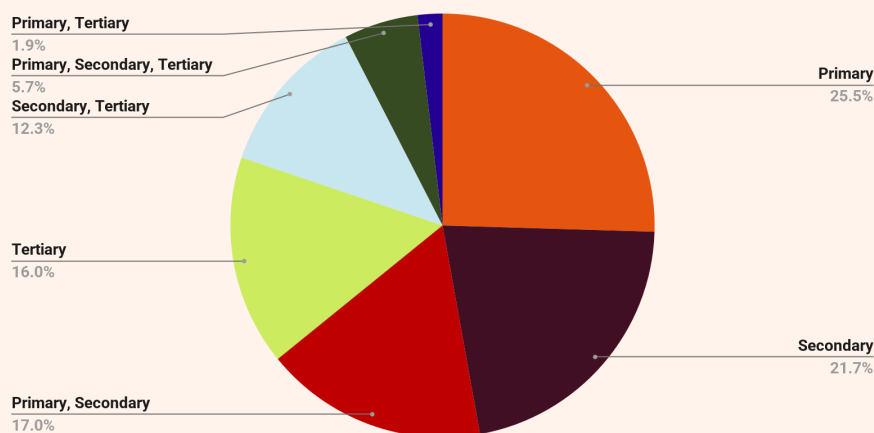


Fig 12: Breakdown of interventions by tier (based on multiple selection). Source: Application Information

Children and young people reached by ethnicity subcategory

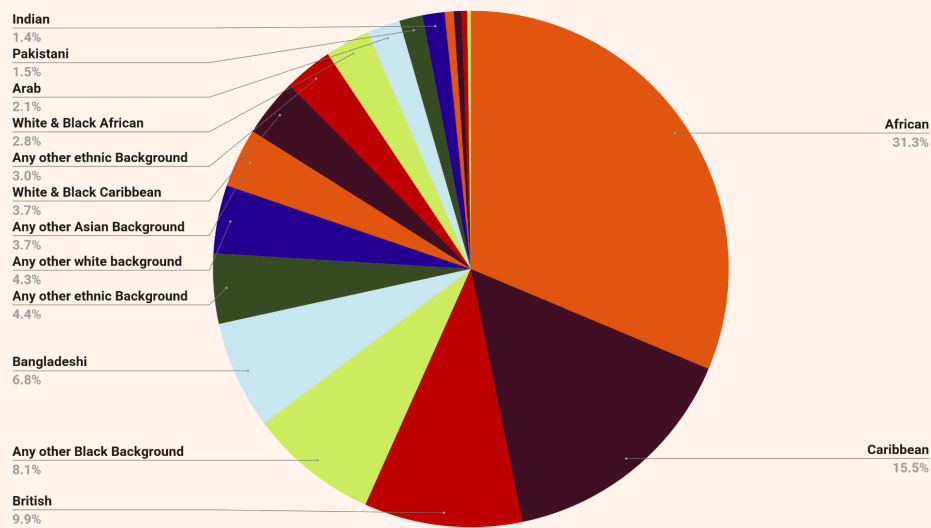


Fig 13: Children and young people reached by ethnicity across all Sites. Source: Site-reported reach data gathered in Quarterly Monitoring Reports (April 2024-September 2025)

Ethnicity of children and young people reached by tier of intervention

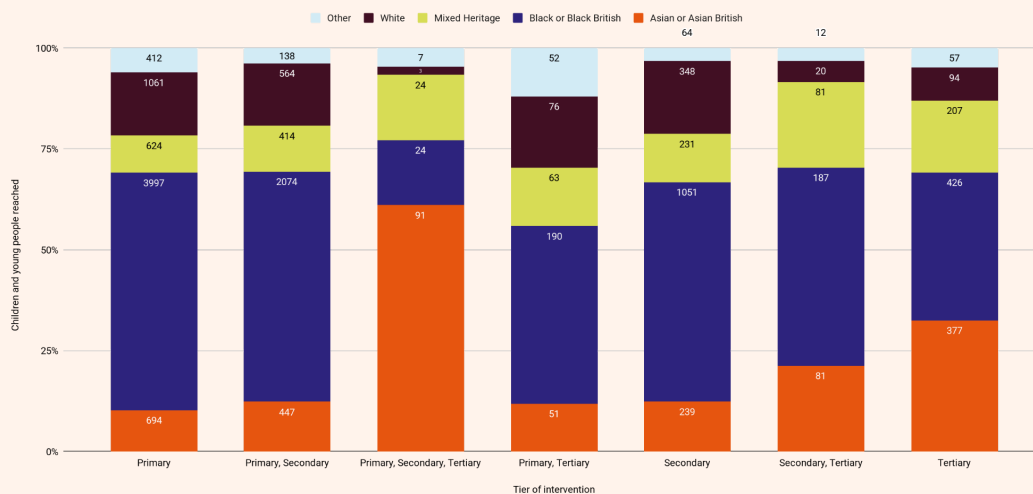


Fig 14: Children and young people reached by ethnicity across all Sites (based on multiple selection). Source: Site-reported reach data gathered in Quarterly Monitoring Reports (April 2024-September 2025)

Gender of children and young people reached by tier of intervention

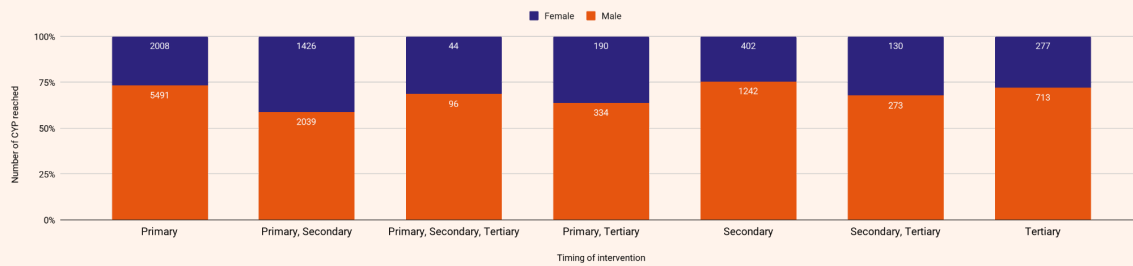


Fig 15: Children and young people reached by gender across all Sites by tier of intervention (based on multiple selection). Source: Site-reported reach data gathered in Quarterly Monitoring Reports (April 2024-September 2025)

Referrals to MyEnds Sites

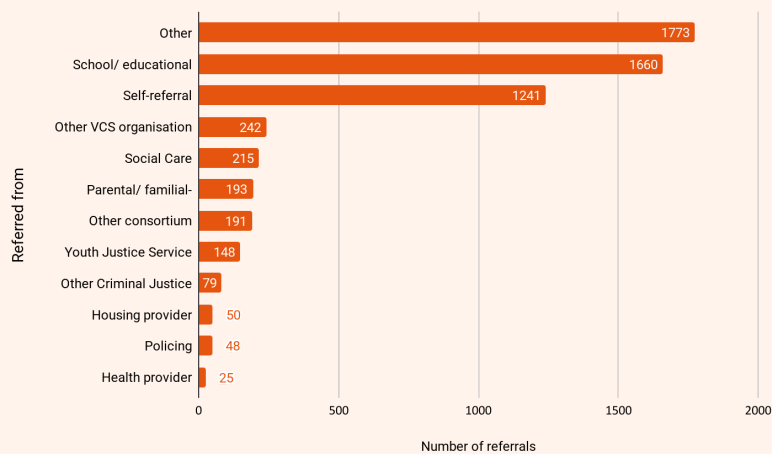


Fig 16: Referrals to MyEnds Sites. Source: Data collected, aggregated and reported by VRU

Onward referrals from MyEnds Sites

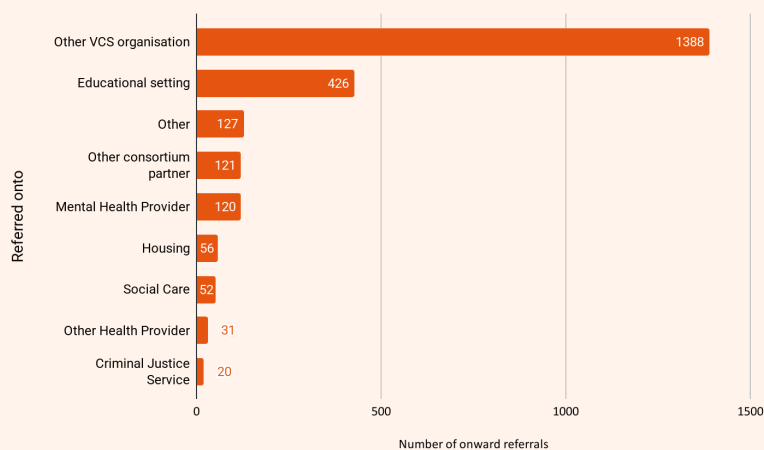


Fig 17: Onward referrals by MyEnds Sites. Source: Data collected, aggregated and reported by VRU

4. What is ‘promising practice’?

All MyEnds interventions were rated quarterly using a ‘Red, Amber, Green’ rating system against the agreed ‘promising practice’ criteria, using data from Site Theory of Changes and Quarterly Monitoring datasets. Interventions rated “Green” are considered ‘promising practice’ and strongly meet multiple criteria, including having strong reported data, clear outcomes, and an innovative approach.

Further details of promising practice that did not show up within Quarterly Monitoring data were captured through evaluation activities and follow-up discussions with the Site. We also worked with the VRU Operations Team to identify interventions that indicated strong elements of promising practice, by triangulating monitoring data with their extensive knowledge of interventions.

Promising Practice Criteria

How is the intervention tailored to local needs and context?	☒ The intervention is explicitly designed to address identified needs, with clear adjustments made based on local feedback and context.
Is there evidence of meeting the expected short/medium-term outcomes?	☒ There is clear evidence of meeting short- and medium- term outcomes, with measurable progress toward the intervention’s objectives.
Is there a clear link between current outcomes and potential to positively impact MyEnds outcomes in the future?	☒ A strong link exists between the current intervention outcomes and broader strategic goals (e.g. MyEnds or VRU outcomes).
How was the intervention co-designed with the community and young people?	☒ The intervention was developed in partnership with local stakeholders (young people, community organisations, etc).
How does the intervention incorporate ongoing community and youth engagement?	☒ Regular engagement and feedback mechanisms are embedded into the intervention design.
How does the intervention strengthen local partnerships and multi-agency collaborations?	☒ There is evidence of strong collaboration building and multi-agency working .
Are there any unintended positive outcomes as a result of this	☒ There is evidence of other positive outcomes occurring as a result of the

intervention?

intervention and ways of working.

5. Support types identified

These support types were identified in year 1 activity:

Type	Formal support	Informal support
Level 1: Foundational Support	• Contract management meetings • Contract and financial support (including payments) • Finance and flexi-grant training • Monitoring support (reporting, performance) • Capacity building (1-to-1 guidance, coaching, commissioning) • Programme-level information, advice and guidance (IAG) • Tailored support responsive to local needs and changes (e.g. personnel shifts) • Business development and sustainability planning • Critical response and issue-based support • Co-designed structures to surface collective, wider, and unheard voices	• General programme support and relational support • Unstructured consultations (phone calls, ad hoc chats) • Being accessible and responsive to Programme Managers • Creating a safe space for open discussion • Informal coaching and check-ins
Level 2: Core support	• Data tools and data literacy support • Community Needs Assessment (strategy, local partner mapping) • Contextual safeguarding training • Working groups (PM group, tertiary, learning groups) • Contract management and delivery plans • Sustainability and future funding support • Equality Impact Assessments (EqIAs) • Strategic alignment support, including system navigation advice • Multi-agency partnership development support	• Site visits and participation at events • Being present and available for Programme Managers • Values-driven leadership and encouragement • Concern for wellbeing of local leads • Learning events and knowledge sharing • Ongoing encouragement to proactively manage future risks and funding

	• Strategy development support	
Level 3: Value added support	• Cross-referrals between Sites • Policy and research updates • Networking and brokering connections • Strategic outcome support (theory of change, impact frameworks) • Response to societal issues (e.g. “lunch and learn” sessions) • Governance and panel participation support • Raising the profile of local work and organisations • Support with communications and narrative framing (e.g. case for prevention)	• Information sharing across Sites • Encouragement to shift the narrative (e.g. public messaging on prevention) • Cold-calling style availability - informal and approachable contact • Peer-to-peer advice and sharing • Highlighting funding opportunities and external consultancy access • Chairing and facilitating panels or learning events