



**Hateley  
Heath**

**Stone  
Cross**

**Big Local**



# ***SMALL GRANTS BIG IMPACT***

**Presentation by SCIPS – LTO for Hateley Cross Big Local**

# Purpose of the Session

- To explain how Hateley Cross Big Local have established and developed their small grant programme
- To explore how partnerships can get the most from monitoring a small grant programme
- To discuss how Partnerships can develop and grow groups that access small grants

# The Hateley Cross Big Local Area

- The area covers 3045 homes in the Stone Cross and Hateley Health Wards in Sandwell (its between West Bromwich and Walsall)
- It got approval for the community plan in March 2016 and has just completed the first full year of delivery
- The area has low numbers of community and voluntary groups in the area and the small grants programme was established to support and grow groups as well as to promote Big Local

# Hateley Cross Small Grant Programme

- Established as part of the Pathway Programme and to date has run for 2 years. The group identified £5k with a maximum grant available of £500
- A small working group from the Partnership was established to develop the criteria and application process. The working group also met to assess and approve all grants allocated
- The key outcomes are:-
  - Ensuring a clean, green and safer environment within Hateley Cross
  - Promoting and delivering activities for all ages
  - Promoting and developing community groups that benefit Hateley Cross

# What have we funded

- Twelve small grants have been awarded for a range of activities
- Examples of some of the projects funded include:
  - Theatre Trips for the community within a Tenants & Residents Association area
  - Equipment for a Boxing Club
  - Crime Prevention Advice & packs
  - Equipment for a Bowling Club
  - Hoodies & tops for a local Scouts group
  - Coach trip to Legoland for Cubs and Beavers group
  - Outdoor equipment for an Adventure play area
  - Children's Holiday activities in the local library

# What we have learned

- You will need to actively promote the programme
- It is a good idea to allocate someone to check the applications as they come in – don't assume groups understand the criteria
- There can be misunderstanding between the partnership group and the LTO role
- Depending on the area it may be difficult to distribute all funds
- Should the process be open ( ie groups can apply as and when) or a timed programme

# Grants and Monitoring

## **How can we get most from Monitoring a Small Grants programme?**

- What do we need?
- Outputs v Outcomes
- Collecting the evidence
- How do we collect meaningful feedback without making it too bureaucratic?

## **HCBL Evaluation Packs Content:**

Project Summary, photographs, promotional materials, press releases & newspaper cuttings, quotes & feedback, other useful information, invoices, receipts etc. future contact details

# Quotes from evaluations

## **Trip to Legoland: Family Time**

“One of my sons is severely autistic and because the tickets were cheaper I was able to take all of my sons and everyone ensured my autistic son enjoyed the day as much as his brothers”

“We would not have been able to go as a family and spend time together as we do not drive and transport is costly”

## **Adventure Play Area Outdoor Equipment: Encouraging Outdoor Play**

“Thank you the table and chairs are very nice” (Lucy aged 8 years)

## **Bowling Equipment: Reducing Isolation**

“We now have a dozen new members. All of our members are pensioners and several have lost their partners”

## **Annual Christmas Pantomime – Bringing Communities Together**

“Thank you it was fantastic”, “It brings people together”, “Everyone stayed together and made sure everyone was looked after”

## **Scouts Casual Hoodies & Polo Shirts – Pride**

“We are proud to be recognised”



# Quotes from evaluations

## **Youth Project - Background: Theatre Trip and Photo Project:**

- To take a group of young people in the area to the theatre where many of the young people have not attended a theatre before
- To visit Birmingham and its sites, to have a cultural and artistic experience and to develop communication skills and team work
- To have a shared experience away from their family and with their friends and to meet new people, make new friends and interact. To learn how to book tickets, organize a trip, travel arrangements, consent forms, make group lists, have meetings and discuss what to watch democratically. The young people will take photographs and decide what music to put on DVD.

**Feedback: “I have been attending the youth project for some time now and it was genuinely one of the best decisions I have made for a long time. I am currently taking exams and it is so stressful and coming to the youth group has given me that freedom and break I have needed. Trips and new experiences have given me independence and permanent memories. Teenagers are allowed to be happy for free” Thank you Ruthan (aged 15 years)**

# Small Grants – the potential pit falls

- Although small grants can provide community led quick wins there are some potential pit falls
  - The total funding pot will be limited and over time there may not be enough money to go round
  - More active groups in the community could make multiple bids over the years and a reliance on the funding may build up
  - Small grants will provide specific time limited projects and will not grow the capacity of the group
  - Grant recipients will often deliver their project in isolation which will not necessarily enable them to explore bigger bids or partnership working

# How can you maximise the impact?

- Assist groups to build the confidence and capacity to apply for larger pots of funding and to other funding bodies
- Bring the groups that have received grants together to share their experiences and explore the possibility of partnership working
- Encourage funded groups to continue to feed into the partnership e.g. asking for reps to become members of the partnership