



**DURHAM**  
COMMUNITY  
**ACTION**

**Better Together**  
Social Value Update




# Testing Social Value Engine


**Advice in County Durham:** Training, Networking, Partnership


**Investing in Children:** Arts & Wellbeing Cafe


**County Durham Cree Network:** Networking, 2x Community projects





 **Purpose:** Evaluation or planning ahead?


 **Aim:** The reason for undertaking the assessment


 **Activity:** What activities is this project delivering and how.

 **Scope:** Time period being measured, who needs to know (the “audience”) and who’s involved. Some background about the project.

 **Stakeholders:** Who are the key people involved (Funders, project beneficiaries, staff, organisation delivering the project? )

 **Proxies:** List of 600 proxies on SVE, including all the TOMs proxies, covering economic development, environmental, social, health, wellbeing, community, VCSE, housing, education & employment.

 **Outcomes:** Set against chosen proxies & stakeholders: What was achieved (numbers of people, organisations, services/jobs/resources created etc)

 **Inputs:** Money, Skills, Equipment etc. How much and where from. Deflators apply. Time for benefits to accrue to project (no.of years)

# Example 1: Cree Network



A Network of VCSE and community organisations providing a broad range of informal social activities, counselling, support and advice in community settings.



23 Crees networking & meeting to share insights, best practice support and training 4 X per year.



Each Cree providing activities across 48 weeks of the year.



In receipt of small grant of £3k per Cree pa from Public Health, plus a support link worker for network coordination via DCA.



Feedback and evaluation via Cree Coordinators contributes to better understanding about the value of community-based support in informal settings for people experiencing low mood or poor levels of wellbeing.



**Stakeholders:** Cree Organisations & Coordinators (ensuring outcomes for project users/ Public Health (funding))



A Network of VCSOs providing a broad range of informal social activities, connections, individual & group support and advice in community settings.



23 VCSOs networking & meeting quarterly to share insights, best practice support and training



Each Cree Group providing activities across 48 weeks of the year.



Each VCSO in receipt of small grant of £3k per year (Public Health), plus network coordination and support via DCA.



Feedback and evaluation contributes to better understanding of the value of community based support for people experiencing poor levels of wellbeing.



**Stakeholders:** Cree Organisations, Cree Coordinators, Public Health

# Inputs



## Money:



Grant aid provided by Public Health – contribution to Cree running costs. Funds provided to cover overheads & additional staff time.



## Expertise:



Networking, training, coordination of evaluation & support



Time for networking and activities.

# Outcomes



Evaluation over one year of activity / Accruing benefits over three years.

- **Improved outcomes for beneficiaries:**
  - ✓ *Improved emotional wellbeing (self esteem & confidence) 612 people.*
- **Jobs Safeguarded:**
  - ✓ *Average salary of a project worker (23 staff)*
- **Professional Support & development for Cree Coordinators:**
  - ✓ *Cost of time spent collaborating (23 organisations)*
- **Sustainable Cree Network:**
  - ✓ *Cost of a community wellbeing programme with a network approach.*



# SROI



## Value by Stakeholder:

- ✓ Cree Groups 82%
- ✓ Public Health 10.22%
- ✓ Cree Coordinators 6.95%

## Value by Outcomes:

- ✓ Improved outcomes for beneficiaries 65.66%
- ✓ Professional support for Cree Coordinators 18.66%
- ✓ Jobs Safeguarded 13.90%
- ✓ Sustainable Cree Network 1.78%

## Value by Priority

- ✓ Good Health & Wellbeing 67.44%
- ✓ Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions 18.66%
- ✓ Decent Work & Economic Growth 13.90%

## £ Value on SROI:

Between £3 -£12 for each £ invested\*

\*Subject to outcomes accruing over time



## Example 2: AiCD Partnership

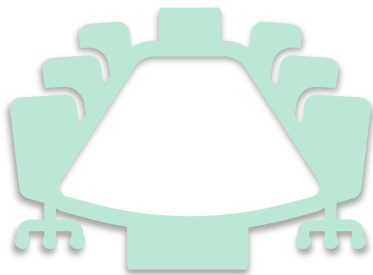


**An evaluation of one year of activity for the Advice in County Durham Partnership Board.**

- Sample exercise to test value of collaboration across



**6 VCSO AiCD Partnership Board Members to coordinate and share skills, resources, training and delivery** *(additional public sector Board members)*



**5 Board meetings plus 1 development event, networking events and 1 conference, coordination of funding & activity**

# Stakeholders & Outcomes



- ❖ DCP, CACD, Age UK CD, EDT, CDCS, DCA, & others

## Outcomes

### ✓ Collaborative Working

- *Cost effective shared resources (portal, back office, training support for membership organisations)*
- *9 Board member organisations*

### ✓ Effective Collaboration

- *Increased range & quality of accessible advice services provided.*
- *Number of AiCD membership organisations.*

### ✓ Improved Access to Services

- *Coordination of effective referral routes to expertise (supporting people seeking advice (including poverty, debt, housing))*
- *1593 people connected to advice (referral portal case numbers in one year)*

# Inputs



## Money:



NLCF grant for AiCD activity & other small grants for Advice Hub projects DCC Salary for x1fte support officer & specialist WR Training



## Expertise:



In kind staff management & admin (DCC)

In kind leadership & support from VCSE leaders, serving as AiCD Board members

# SROI



## Value by Stakeholder:

- ✓ *Each VCSE stakeholder contributing to and benefiting from equal measure of value.*

## Value by Outcomes:

- ✓ *Effective Collaboration 62%*
- ✓ *Improved access to services 99.10%*
- ✓ *Collaborative Working 28%*

## Value by Priority

- ✓ *Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions 62%*
- ✓ *No Poverty 99.10%;*
- ✓ *Partnerships for the Goals 28%*

## £ Value on SROI:

Between £8 -£12 for each £ invested\*

\*Subject to accrual of benefits over the course of one year

# Potential Applications for County Durham

- ❖ Forecasting and planning
- ❖ Evidence
- ❖ Influence
- ❖ Partnership working
- ❖ Volunteer support
- ❖ Advice coordination
- ❖ Information and on-line resources



# Lessons So Far...

## What works well

### Good discipline

- What really happened?
- Planning for next steps...

### Clarity

- Outcomes & stakeholders.

### Marketing

- Use with Funders, others

### Flexible & Effective tool

- 'show & tell' about successes
- especially for smaller projects

### Training & Support Offer

- SVE
- Peers

## Not so great

- Time & effort to collate information and apply within SVE.
- Licence cost
- Staff cultural shift...necessary but takes time (*monitoring & capturing relevant data, plus apportioning benefits etc*)

***Give careful thought to why you might need it and how you want to use it.***



## Next Steps and Contact

Insights and contributions from VCSE and Commissioners to be collated with draft recommendations.

Full report: February 2025

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