

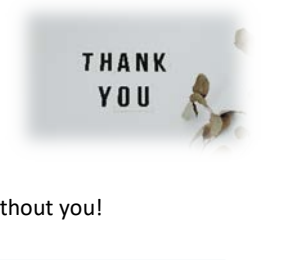
July
2023

Total number of participants who have completed a survey to date:
349

Welcome!

Welcome to the latest edition of the Common Health Assets newsletter. We hope you find this update helpful and enjoy reading about what has been happening in the project during the first half of 2023. Lots of progress has been made but there is much more still to come!

As a research team we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Community Led Organisations and partners for their continued support and guidance which is making this study such a success. This is particularly valued amidst the ongoing funding challenges. We genuinely could not do it without you!



Progress

Since our last newsletter we have reached an important milestone in the project, baseline recruitment is complete with the target number of surveys reached. All one month follow ups have taken place and the longitudinal survey continues with 6 and 12 month follow ups at each site.

We are delighted to share the news that our protocol paper entitled, 'Common health assets protocol: a mixed-methods, realist evaluation and economic appraisal of how community-led organisations (CLOs) impact on the health and well-being of people living in deprived areas' was published in March 2023 in BMJ Open. The published protocol can be read [here](#).



Update from each site

Our community partners (see www.commonhealthassets.uk) are vital in the success of this research, their engagement and commitment are greatly appreciated. Below is an update from the researchers based in each of the four areas we are working:

London

We've hit a busy stage of the project in London! Work continues in the longitudinal survey, with six-month follow-up questionnaires already completed by 73 participants, which is a great response! Emma recently attended the launch of Aberfeldy's new community centre "Feldy", in Poplar east London (connected to Poplar Harca) it is a brilliant space with facilities for theatre, sport, co-working, support services and many more! Residents also had the opportunity to discuss what they would like to see at the Centre to address local needs, interests, and visions for the area. We also joined the 'Festival of Communities' event with the community research team at Bromley by Bow Centre. This was a family fun-packed day to share research projects with teams within academia, the third sector and families across east London- Festival of Communities - Festival of Communities (qmul.ac.uk). We have started planning our stakeholder workshops with our partners at Bromley by Bow, Aberfeldy and Volunteer Centre Hackney and are looking forward to getting expert input into what works, for whom and how. For more information please contact - E.Clewett@uel.ac.uk





Northern Ireland

Since the last newsletter there have been some changes to the Northern Ireland team. Jill Mulholland (PhD student) has welcomed the arrival of her baby daughter Eve. Mum and baby are doing well and we wish Jill all the best as she begins navigating life as a family of four! Dr Aideen Gildea has been appointed to a lectureship post at Queen's University. We wish Aideen all the best in her new role and are grateful that she can remain involved with the project. Julie McMullan has now taken on the researcher role for NI and has enjoyed meeting the team and connecting with the CLOs. Regular visits continue at each site to conduct follow-up surveys. The team in NI are thankful for the continued support from the CLOs and look forward to closer engagement and discussions over the coming months as the study progresses. For more information contact julie.mcmullan@qub.ac.uk.

Bournemouth

A lot of activities have happened since our last update as all our four partners continue supporting the research. Faithworks have almost all their 6 month follow up surveys complete and participants from Pool have held a two-day photography workshop to share how they are experiencing their health and wellbeing within their community spaces. A lot of work has also gone into preparation for our stakeholder workshops with the first in June 2023, where partners from Help and Care reflected on their journey and work with the BU team to look at the different ways that people respond to the community organisation's activities and programmes. This proved to be a fun exercise where staff shared learning and reflected on what activities work and for whom they work or do not work and how to they navigate the challenges from working with complexities in people's lives and the outcomes that people experience. Our hands are full, and our hearts are fuller as we continue building relationships with our research communities and the ongoing great collaborations. For more information please contact rchipuriro@bournemouth.ac.uk

Glasgow

Jack continues to work closely alongside our 4 Scottish community organisations. The follow-up surveys are going well, and Jack is still completing 6-month and 12-month follow-ups – so don't expect to get rid of him yet! The organisations are all very busy, with changing schedules as we move into the summer, so we are very grateful that the activity coordinators have given up their time to help with recruitment and pointing us in the right direction. Jack has made a concerted effort to be present on the ground with each of these organisations to show our commitment to our partners, establish good relationships, and understand the challenges faced by the communities. GCU welcomed colleagues from all four of our partners to a stakeholder workshop in July 2023, thanks for all your thoughts and insights! Sarkis Manoukian from the team at GCU has welcomed the arrival of twin boys, Nikitas and Pavlos, congratulations Sarkis! For more information please contact jack.rendall@gcu.ac.uk.

London academic leads and researchers meeting

The academic leads and researchers met on 4 May at the University of East London and were made very welcome in Stratford. Discussions focused on programme theory development, stakeholder workshop plans, economic evaluation and what we can glean about programme theories from participatory photography. Sub teams were formed to lead on various aspects of the research and to draft papers as the project evolves. Plans were made regarding the next steps of the project, a successful day all round!



Lived Experience Panel event May 2023



The Lived Experience Panel met for their third meeting at Bromley by Bow Centre in East London also on the 4 May. The Panel was updated on the progress of the research project and study components, and each member shared updates and insights from the projects they are involved with at their community organisations. Following a tour of the Bromley by Bow Centre and lunch, Dr Jack Rendall (researcher), led the Panel through a series of activities to help shape and inform the development of the project 'programme theories'. The next meeting of the Lived Experience Panel will take place in October.



Upcoming work

Workshops (in person and online) will take place in the next few months with CLOs from each nation. The purpose of these is to get your input in the development of programme theories. The aim of the workshops is to refine our current list of theories as to what works for whom in what circumstances for community

organisations. We've been working away on this behind the scenes so it will be great to share and get your thoughts and input to the theories we have developed. One workshop will be with people that lead your activities day to day, and another workshop with managers, board members, and people that lead the organization and design activities (there's likely some overlap between these workshops and these roles). More information will be circulated in due course, but we are really looking forward to hearing from you on this important element of the project.



We will soon be chatting to you about what it takes to run a CLO, what resources do you need every day to provide services and activities to your community. We also want to know about best practices and key challenges involved in operating, developing and growing sustainable CLOs and what it means to be 'sustainable' in such contexts. We will be in touch with more information soon.

Research team

The project management team are due to meet in Belfast on 25 and 26 October. This will be a productive couple of days spent reflecting on the data collected over the summer months as well as making plans for the next steps as we enter the final year of the project.

Keeping up to date

Don't forget you can keep up to date with the study on Twitter ([@ASSETSCOMMON](https://twitter.com/ASSETSCOMMON)) and on our website (COMMONHEALTHASSETS.UK)



@ASSETSCOMMON



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