



# **MAKING IT HAPPEN**

## **AREA SNAPSHOT**

Bexhill Central & Sackville  
**Rother Voluntary Action**  
*Nov 2019 – December 2024*



# AREA SNAPSHOT

## What This Snapshot Will Cover

- **The aim of this Snapshot**
- **Introduction**
  - What is ABCD?
  - What is Making it Happen?
  - Links to wider health policy, strategy and guidance
- **Executive Summary**
- **2019 Insights**
  - The area rationale approach
  - Area background and context
  - 2019 data
  - Community Development Worker discovery reports
- **2024 Insights**
  - Community Development Worker reflections on key developments, challenges and learning
  - Grants awarded by theme
  - Equalities connections
  - Learning from the Making it Happen evaluation
- **Key insights**
- **Strengths, challenges, opportunities and threats**

# AREA SNAPSHOT

## The Aim

The aim of this snapshot is to provide background information drawn from learning over the course of the Making it Happen programme to support deeper conversations about neighbourhoods in East Sussex where statistical data might suggest a challenging picture, while lived experience offers an alternative perspective. The snapshots add valuable qualitative insight to complement data about neighbourhoods in East Sussex.

Statistical data utilised in decision making about which areas to focus on at the start of the programme is revisited and reviewed in the context of development and learning gleaned from the programme over time.

The snapshots do not seek to provide a comprehensive profile of an area but draw on learning from and about the assets that are present, and developments which have occurred over time and reported on within the Making it Happen programme by local residents and by the Community Development Workers who work alongside them.

The aim of this snapshot is to start a conversation and to complement statistical data prepared through the Integrated Community Teams here: <https://www.eastsussexjsna.org.uk/resources/ict-profiles/>. This is to inform thinking about approaches and methods of engaging communities in addressing health inequalities.

# **AREA SNAPSHOT**

## **Introduction**

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## What is Asset-Based Community Development?

“Building on the skills of local residents, the power of local associations, and the supportive functions of local institutions, **asset based community development** (ABCD) draws upon existing community strengths to build stronger, more sustainable communities for the future” (*Asset Based Community Development Institute, DePaul University: <https://resources.depaul.edu/abcd-institute/Pages/default.aspx>*)

“ABCD challenges the traditional deficit-based approach that tries to solve urban and rural development problems by focusing on the needs and deficiencies of individuals, neighbourhoods, towns, villages, etc. ABCD demonstrates that local assets (people, physical assets etc.) and individual strengths are key to ensure **sustainable community development**, and that people have a life of their own choosing.” (*Nurture Development, 2018*)

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## What is Making it Happen?

Making it Happen has adopted the principles and values of ABCD. Generic Community Development Workers (CDWs) work alongside communities in a neighbourhood context to identify, connect and build from the positive things that exist in a locality.

Because there is no set agenda other than positive action taken forward by the community, it has the potential to enrich every aspect of civil society and to feed into the whole range of local strategic priorities.

This enrichment is in part dependent on the willingness and ability of local institutions and organisations to flex and adapt in response to the broader and deeper engagement this can bring.

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## Relevant Health Policy, Strategy and Guidance

Making it Happen contributes to the delivery of numerous policy and strategy objectives and can assist in the fulfilment of a range of guidance around working with communities:

- [Mental Health](#) (World Health Organisation)
- [Community engagement: improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities](#) (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, 2016)
- [Fair Society Healthy Lives](#) – The Marmot Review (Marmot et al, 2010)
- [A guide to community centred approaches for health and wellbeing](#) (Public Health England and NHS England 2015)
- [Reducing health inequalities: system, scale and sustainability](#) (Public Health England, 2017)
- [Community Centred Public Health: Taking a whole system approach](#) (Public Health England 2020)
- [Working in Partnership with People and Communities](#) (NHS England, July 2022)
- [Improving Lives Together](#) (Sussex Health and Care, December, 2022)
- [Working with people and communities strategy](#) (Sussex Health and Care, 2022)

# **AREA SNAPSHOT**

## **Bexhill Central & Sackville**



# AREA SNAPSHOT

## Area context

**Bexhill Central and Sackville** is the area with the highest levels of rental population in Rother overall – as well as one of the most deprived, sitting in the 20% most deprived wards nationally.

The area forms the main central part of Bexhill's seafront, bordering the Polegrove sports ground to the West, and Glyne Gap Field to the East. It combines the two local council wards that it is named for, Bexhill Central and Bexhill Sackville, while falling within the larger Bexhill & Battle political constituency.

At the heart of the area is Bexhill train station, a key transport link. Alongside this, there are an abundance of shops, services, and facilities within walking distance throughout the area; these amenities include dentist's and GP practices, Bexhill Library, the central post office, and a large number of banks, supermarkets, cafes and other businesses. Voluntary and community groups for the wider local area are also based here, including the offices from Rother Voluntary Action.

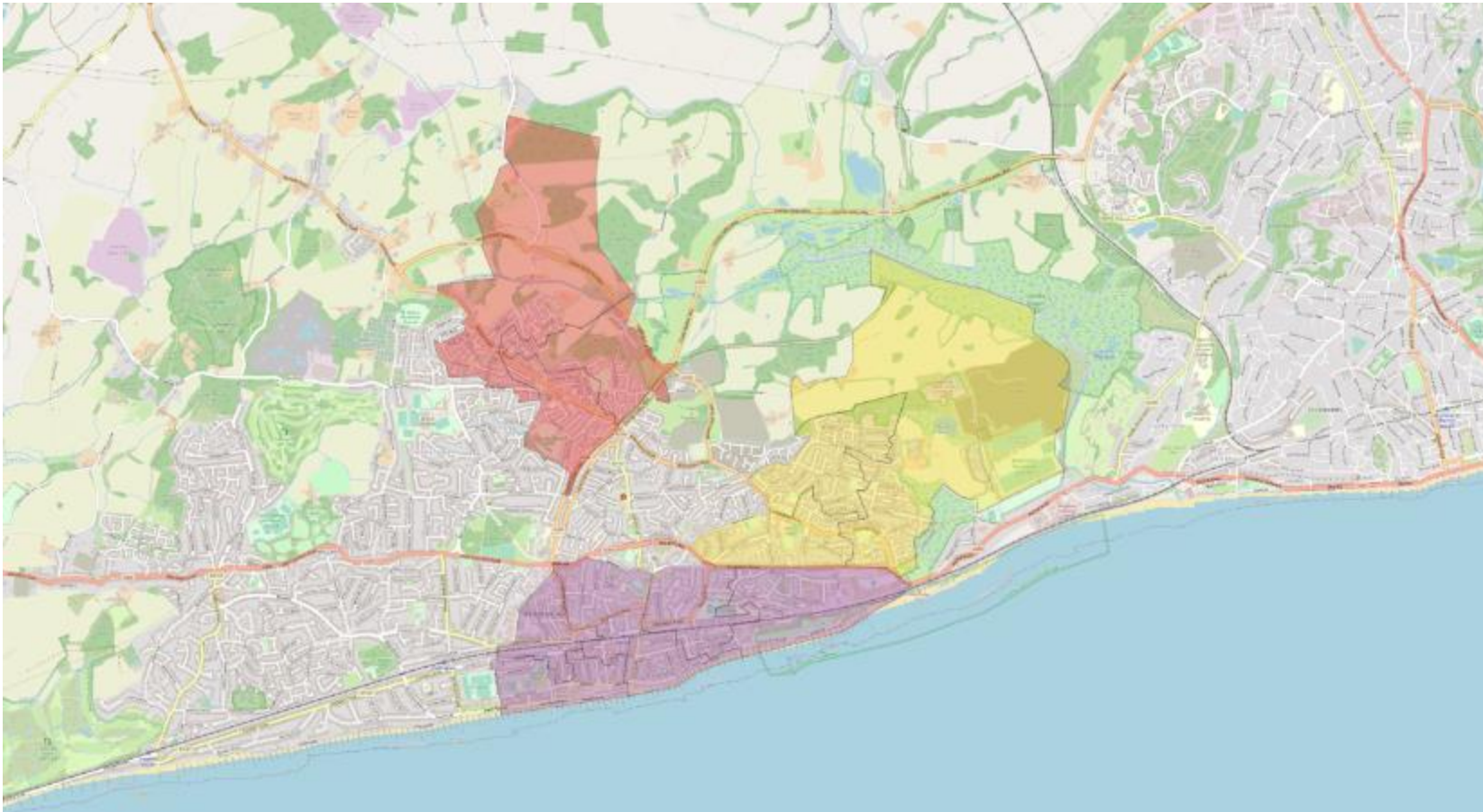
The area also includes the renowned De La Warr Pavilion, a Grade-One listed contemporary arts centre, and green spaces in Egerton Park and Galley Hill. There is less immediate educational access in the area; while a Church of England primary school and Catholic college are located within, all other provision within Bexhill is located further north, with Bexhill Academy in particular approximately a 40-minute walk from the centre of Central and Sackville.

While this area forms the core 'town centre' of Bexhill, there is also a large residential population, owing to the conversion of larger Edwardian properties into rented houses of multiple population.

The CDW notes that in 2024 there are now no banks in the area and a large number of charity shops and takeaways.

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## The Area



There are three Making it Happen areas based in or around Bexhill.

**Bexhill Central & Sackville** is shown here at the bottom in purple, covering the town centre, station, key amenities, and the main seafront area.

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## **Executive Summary**

Bexhill Central & Sackville

# AREA SNAPSHOT

## Executive Summary

- In 2019 Bexhill Central and Sackville was selected as an area of focus for Making it Happen based on a range of data. Concerns of local people focused on lack of access to services leading to excessive burden on voluntary activity such as good neighbour schemes.
- There were positives, particularly in relation to active local churches, councillors and also local businesses keen to encourage community led change.
- In 2024 new groups have emerged, but also a strong sense of connectivity and mutual support between groups on the ground.
- Ensuring the role of ABCD is understood was challenging at first. Some organisations viewed the programme simply as a funding stream and not about a way of working. Concrete examples that illustrate how community action complements and adds value to other targeted programmes and services has been crucial.
- There is ongoing risk that new programmes fail to take community action into account, which damages relationships and trust.
- A key piece of learning for the RVA Team relates to the positive impact of ABCD on mental health and wellbeing for communities.
- Peer support is proving to be immensely popular and valuable to people in Bexhill Central and Sackville.
- Arts, creativity and environmental projects are hugely popular and encourage better mental health and wellbeing.
- Making it Happen does appear to be engaging with people from different backgrounds and with different characteristics.
- There is correlation between the data and challenges identified in 2019 and the priorities and impact of projects and activity being driven by local communities in 2024.
- Energy appears to be focused around initiatives that encourage relationships and a sense of belonging which in turn have a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing.

# **AREA SNAPSHOT**

## **The Picture in 2019**

**Summary of the 2019 area rationale:**

Bexhill Central & Sackville

# AREA SNAPSHOT

## 2019 Area Rationales

In 2019 ahead of the launch of the Making it Happen programme, delivery partners reviewed existing data about East Sussex to inform decisions about which areas to focus activity.

Areas were selected based on relative deprivation and health inequality evidenced by 2019 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and 2018 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). 2016-17 WARM ward and 2018 Co-op wellbeing index data were also considered. These illustrated indicators such as confidence, quality of local services, employment, experience of isolation, crime and unemployment. Broadly, the areas selected showed relative dissatisfaction with key themes in relation to living in the area and general quality of life.

Crucially, the area rationales also drew on CDW learning from previous Public Health programmes including Chances for Change, which provided a much more nuanced picture than the statistical data alone might suggest. CDWs sought to highlight the presence of local assets and opportunities to build from. They were able to highlight key connectors, appetite and ideas as well as potential challenges and blocks to community engagement.

A summary of the area rationale produced at that time is shared in the following slides.

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## Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2018

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) identifies the current and future health and wellbeing needs and strengths of local communities. These resources help to inform decisions and plans to improve local people's health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities in East Sussex.

### **Bexhill Central and Sackville – worse than East Sussex average in rates of:**

- Ratio of working age to non-working age people (**Sackville only**)
- Older People Living Alone
- Income Deprivation Affecting Children (**Central only**)
- Fuel Poverty (**Central only**)
- GCSE Attainment (**Central only**)
- Adults with No/Low Qualifications
- GP-reported Obesity in Adults
- Adults in Alcohol Treatment
- 40-74 year olds receiving an NHS Health Check
- People self-reporting bad or very bad health
- People self-reporting a long-term health condition or disability
- Adults with Depression
- Adults with Dementia
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services caseloads (Sackville only)
- Adults claiming ESA due to mental health.
- GP-reported Hypertension

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## Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019

**Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD):** The English indices of deprivation measure relative deprivation in small areas in England called lower-layer super output areas. The Indices provide a set of relative measures of deprivation for small areas across England, based on seven different domains, or facets, of deprivation. IMD's score areas between 0-5 based on levels of deprivation, with 5 representing the least deprived and 1 the most deprived. A score of 0 is registered where no data is available.

### IMD scores for Bexhill Central and Sackville :

- Income deprivation – 2
- Employment – 3
- Health deprivation – 2
- Education, skills and training deprivation – 4
- Barriers to housing and services – 3
- Crime domain – 2
- Living environment deprivation – 3

	Income deprivation
	Employment deprivation
	Health deprivation and disability
	Education, skills and training deprivation
	Barriers to housing and services
	Crime domain
	Living environment deprivation



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## Co-Op Wellbeing Index: 2018 WARM Ward Data: 2016-17

### Co-op Wellbeing Index

<https://communitywellbeing.coop.co.uk/>

The index provides an insight into what is important to people in a local community. The following themes were highlighted as priorities for Bexhill Central and Sackville:

- Health
- Economy, work & employment
- Relationships & trust

### WARM Ward data

WARM provided a way of understanding and identifying an area's strengths, such as levels of social capital, confidence amongst residents, the quality of local services or proximity to employment; as well as vulnerabilities such as isolation, high crime, low savings and unemployment.

- **Red**
  - Health
  - Material wellbeing
  - Strong & stable families
- **Amber**
  - Belonging

# AREA SNAPSHOT

## 2019 Discovery Activity

In each of the areas, Community Development Workers undertook discovery activity to establish whether the conditions for Asset Based Community Development were present. This involved drawing on existing local knowledge and relationships (their own and that of their organisation), and mapping of other local assets to connect with and build from.

### **Challenges highlighted:**

- Feedback from local VCOs that clients living in Central report that public sector services are increasingly unavailable for people who do not fall into "critical categories" or that services are based in Hastings or Eastbourne and transport too expensive.
- Anecdotally, community reliant on friends and families to help out, or schemes like good neighbours and befriending.
- Transient population means many people don't know about such services.

### **Opportunities to build from:**

- Work started by local churches to consider what other support is needed with the most vulnerable in the population.
- The Sailing Club looking to become more inclusive.
- Proactive local Councillors in Bexhill Sackville and Central – keen to work with and support the community to provide further services.
- Local businesses, especially the cafes proactive in offering support to the most vulnerable residents – opportunity to explore how this could be supported, including information sharing and signposting
- Opportunity to support community activity in the area by ensuring people are aware of what is possible locally including through engagement with local assets and activities
- Opportunities through initiatives such as the Food Poverty Action Group, HUG, and the Food Pantry
- Potential to support skills development and confidence building, as well as identifying volunteering opportunities.

# **AREA SNAPSHOT**

## **The Picture in 2024**

### **Bexhill Central and Sackville**

Reflections on developments and change over time

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## Reflections

In June and December 2023 Community Development Workers from the five Making it Happen Teams that work in each of the Districts and Boroughs came together at two away days to reflect on developments, challenges and learning over time in each of the neighbourhoods where they have been working.

The **Bexhill** CDW Team used the links made by one organisation, supported by the CDW, to illustrate the connectivity that has developed between groups within the town and noted the ways they have supported and collaborated with each other.

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## Development Examples

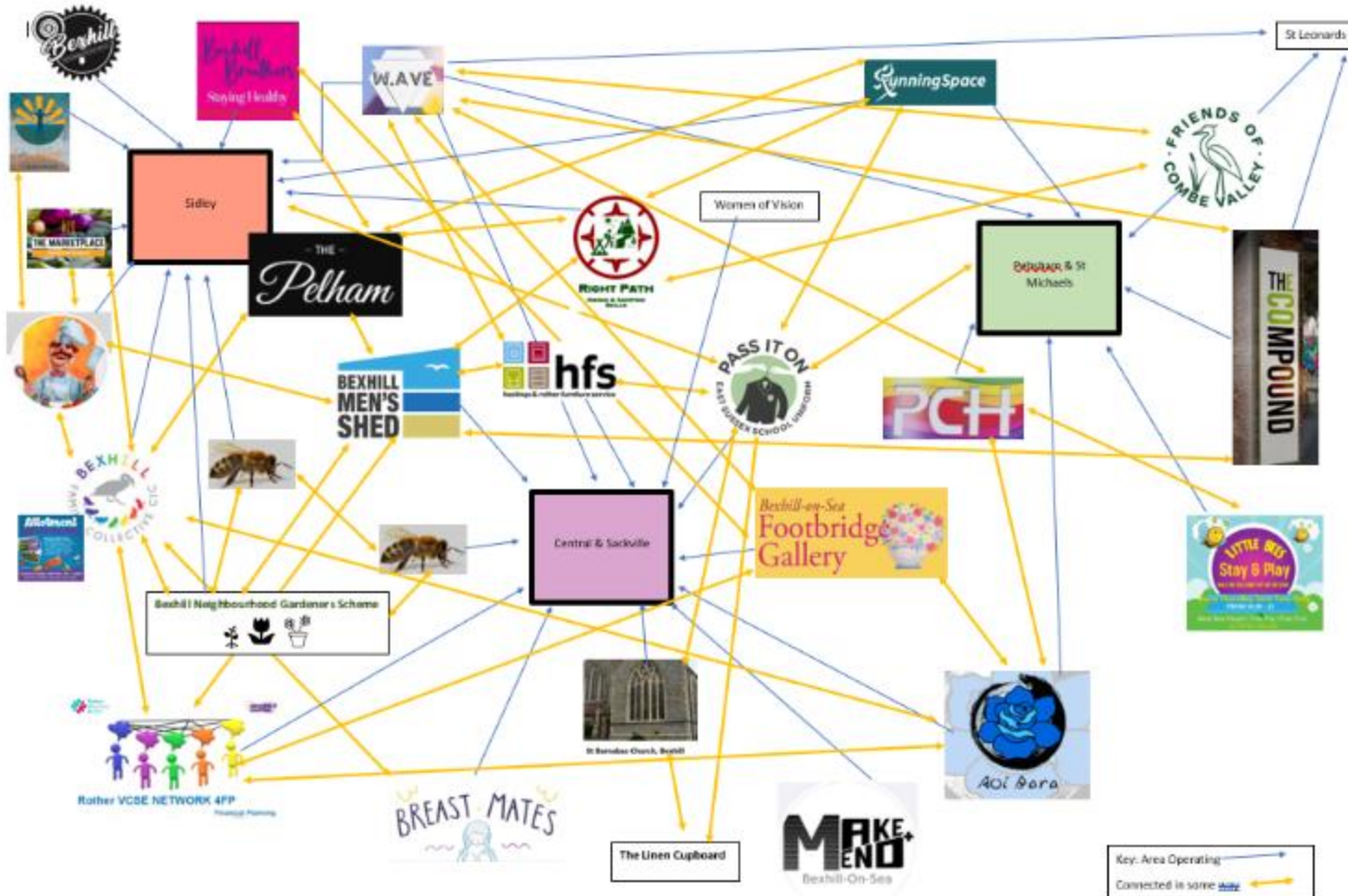
**Supported by the CDW , Bexhill Men's Shed have made links to a large range of other groups and people:**

- Hastings Furniture Store – landlord / local charity which provided the site for the shed
- Right Path Hikes – J initially spoke with Men's Shed regarding his idea who referred him to Making it Happen
  - The Pelham – discussions around idea for the Men's Shed pre Covid
    - Wave Arts – Planters prepared by the Men's Shed
    - Cllr TB – Men's Shed member and local Councillor
- Member of Bexhill Rotary is a member of Men's Shed – helped to get new machinery funding
  - Cooking pops – opening event + future cooking courses being discussed
- Ladies shed being discussed – new members from a local craft group have offered to help
  - IT support – several hours of support provided
  - Local Graphic designer donated computer for the Men's shed
    - Links with Social Prescribers – Bexhill PCN
- Community support via St Michaels – links and visits already taken place
  - Local Bexhill Lions member has offered to distribute leaflets
  - Men's Shed member also involved with Bexhill Diabetes Support Group.
    - Links with Just Friends

**There have been so many connections and collaborations made possible by the ABCD nature of this group!**

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## Key Developments (Projects/Groups)



The incredible neighbourhood networks that have been built over the past few years are substantial and complex...and continue to grow daily.

## **CDWs also reflected on challenges that have occurred since 2019:**

- Covid! Not being able to physically connect
- Staff changes. Sometimes change is positive, but too much change can break the relationship and it can be hard to rebuild trust. However, the CDWs note that MIH has gone a long way to improve awareness and reputation of RVA in Bexhill.
- Red tape can sometimes make things feel insurmountable. This can cause people to doubt their confidence – which can lead volunteers to not pursue their idea.
- Initially, there was confusion around how ABCD might work alongside other forms community support like Generic Infrastructure Support and the Food Network, and a degree of sensitivity was needed to show how it adds value and complements rather than duplicates.
- Knowing when to signpost an individual or a group to other types of support was tricky at first, especially if a relationship and trust had been built with an individual or group. Encouraging broad connections for partnership, collaboration and expert support is key.
- Time & Capacity to attend all local events is an ongoing challenge.
- Rippling community frustrations due to large sums of money going to projects the community disagree with.



# AREA SNAPSHOT

## ABCD Learning Reflections

### What have you learned?

- That ABCD and learning from the process takes time, but it is worth the investment of that time.
- The importance of introductions between groups and face to face connections
- The Wellbeing impacts of empowerment
- The importance of not being afraid of a project failure – gives CDWs and community representatives confidence
- Challenging our own unconscious bias around ideas
- Need to provide examples of ABCD ways of working versus non ABCD examples to improve understanding.
- Challenges with youth projects and the need to have youth workers / lead. Impact of this on ABCD ways of working if the youth workers aren't from an ABCD background.
- *The ability to step back and watch people (who didn't initially believe they could) fly.....*

### What do you want to share with others?

- The crucial importance of nurturing community led action to address local priorities
- How adopting an ABCD approach and empowering people as opposed to teaching them brings about confident communities.
- The value of projects that are truly meaningful to all members and where all members feel equally important.
- The impact of ABCD projects on community mental health.
- Funding
  - More money to empower existing assets and build new groups
  - Less funding into top-down courses / groups
- Less token surveys – more exploring communities before commissioning.

# **AREA SNAPSHOT**

## **Grant Funding**

Bexhill Central & Sackville

(Between April 2020 and December 2024)

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## The Grant Programme

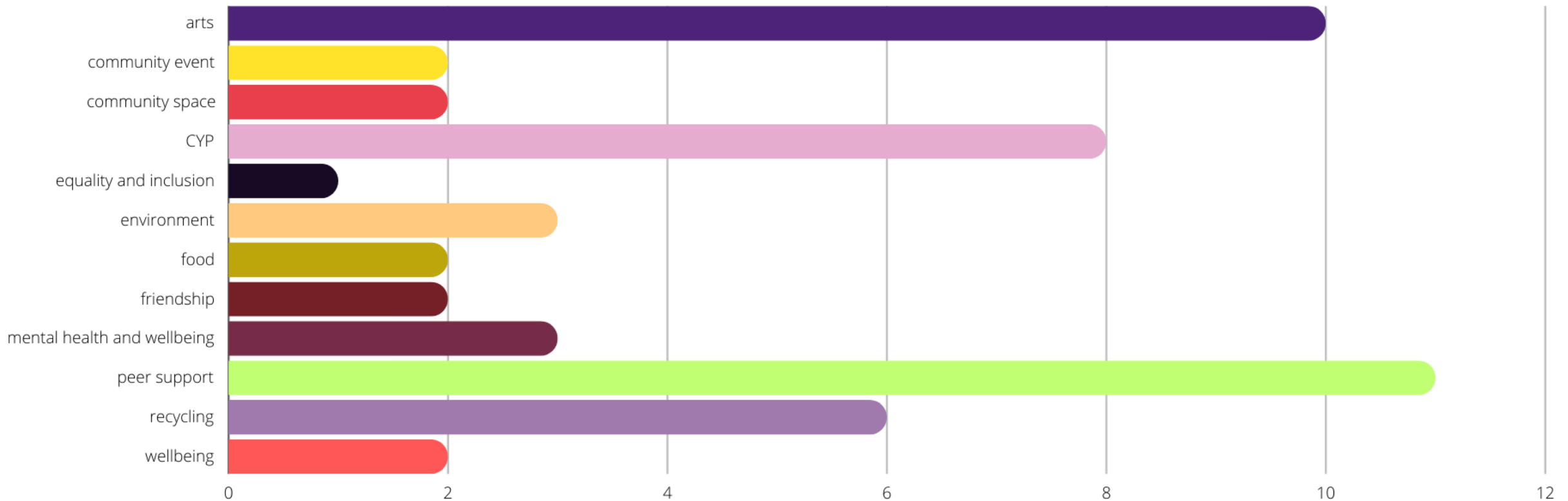
The making it Happen grant programme was designed to be flexible and offer a range of funding options to reflect the needs of different projects of different sizes. The broad aim was for projects or activity that would build from the positive things that are already present, involve local people, benefit the wider community, and encourage community led development. There were three levels of funding:

- Small Sparks – grants up to £500 for individuals or groups
- Next Steps – grants of between £501 and £3000
- Grow Grants – grants of between £3,001 and £15,000

# AREA SNAPSHOT

## Grants awarded In Bexhill Central and Sackville

Number of grant-funded projects/activities by primary theme between April 2020 and December 2024:

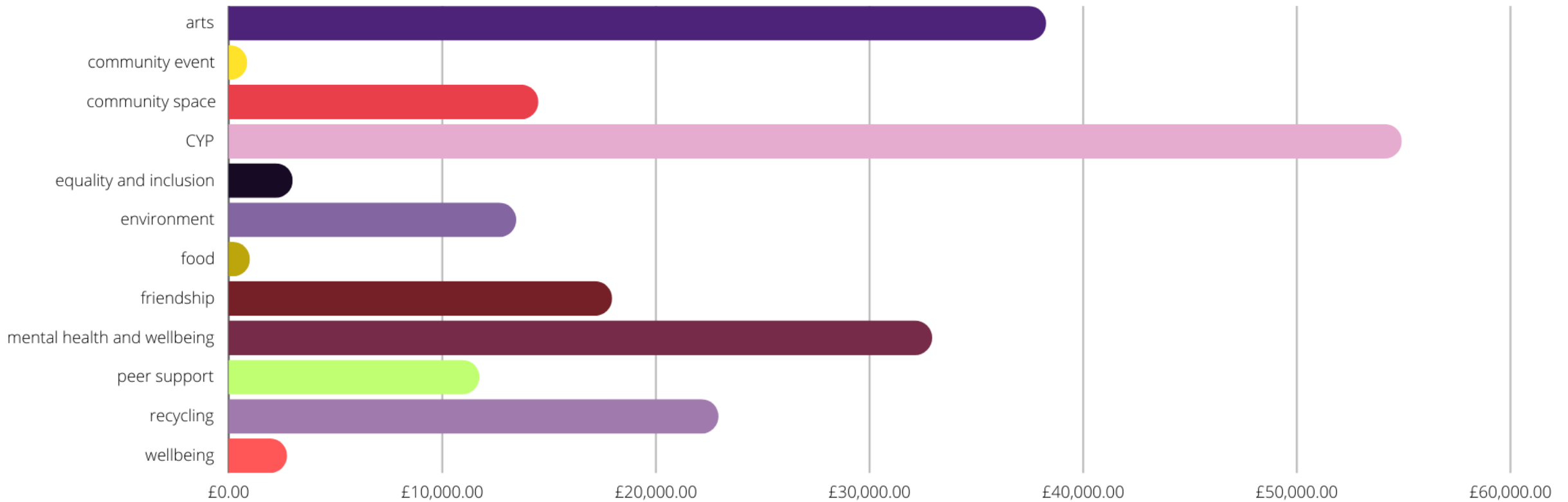


*NB: It should be noted that many projects relate to more than one theme. This graph draws on the central project intention.*

# AREA SNAPSHOT

## Grants Awarded

Total sum invested in Bexhill Central and Sackville by primary theme:



*NB: This graph draws on projects local to the area in addition to county wide initiatives which may benefit local residents.*



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## Impact and Outcomes

*“Doctors see at least 5 people a day who have nothing wrong with them other than the fact that they’re lonely they’ve become depressed, they become lethargic and they think they have problems when actually all they need is to get out and meet people and do things and that’s the concept of men’s sheds – that we can get together as retired men, all of us with different skills. A place where people can come like this in a workshop and do things together. I can learn from other retired people. I know that one of the guys who’s going to come is a carpenter and he will supervise what I’m doing in this workshop and share his skills.” (Derek Merkel, Bexhill Men’s Shed)*



**Clockwise from top left:** Bexhill Men's Shed; Aoi Bara at the RVA Network event; Discovery Walk with the High Sheriff; Community, Connection and Cake; Project Planning; Cake!



# **AREA SNAPSHOT**

## **Broader Context**

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## Addressing Health Inequalities

Making it Happen adds value to initiatives, such as the [NHS Core 20 plus 5](#) programme, in effort to reduce health inequalities whilst also encouraging individuals and communities to take positive action for themselves.

The focus is on the role that community building plays in addressing the **wider determinants of health** by “drawing on existing human and material resources to enhance self help and social support, and to develop flexible systems for strengthening public participation and direction of health matters” (WHO Ottawa Global Conference)

In this way, Making it Happen is working with communities to develop solutions that intersect the wider determinants of health to encourage **social connection, build resilience and improve mental and physical health and wellbeing**. These outcomes are being reported across the whole range of projects which communities are driving, regardless of their original intention.

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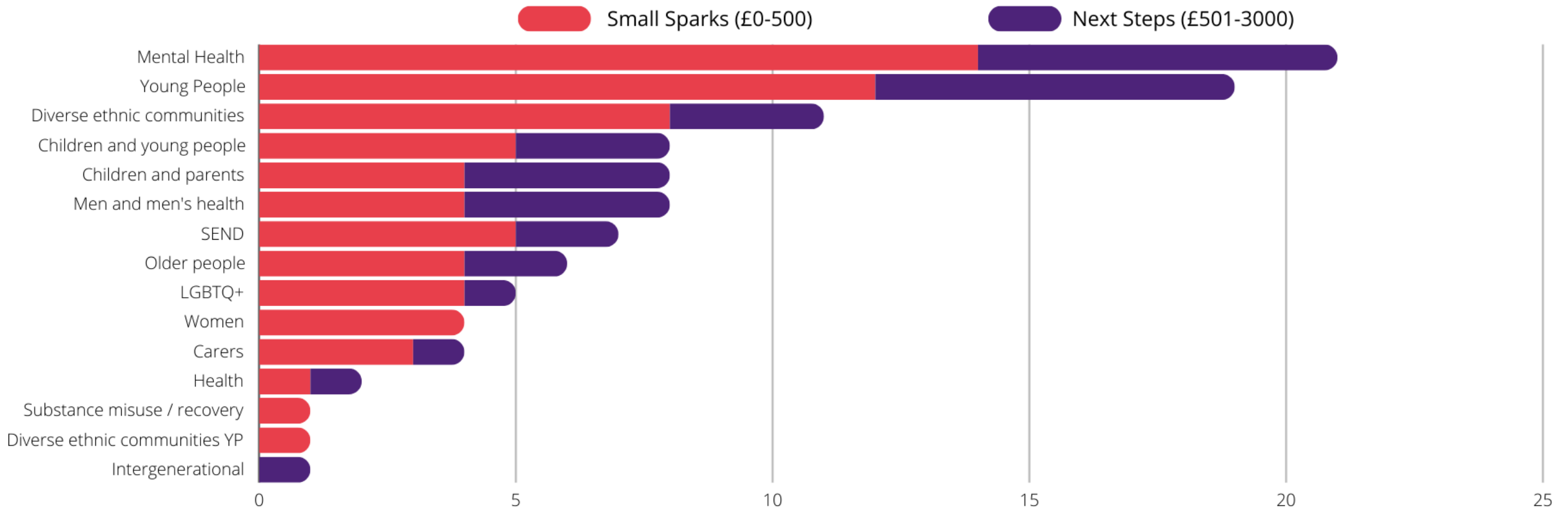
## Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Through the Making it Happen programme we have sought to ensure that we are maximising opportunities to engage with those least likely to be heard. Our goal is to add additional value to more targeted health and wellbeing programmes, services and interventions by encouraging relationships, connections and trust within communities and by supporting a ripple effect of positive action, engagement and collaboration. A central objective is to build on and support positives and opportunities that already exist, and to avoid duplication. This includes working alongside individuals, groups and organisations who represent or work with those individuals and communities who are marginalised or have least access to power.

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## Grants Awarded

### Allocation of smaller grants by protected characteristic across the MIH programme:

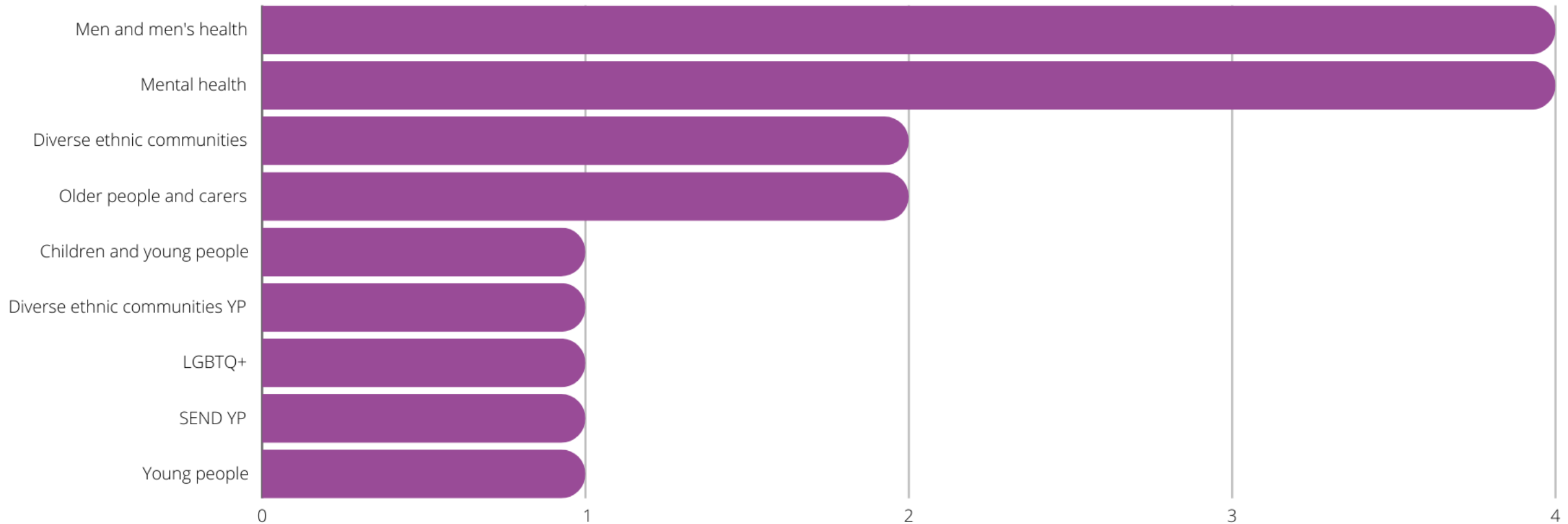


- It is important to note that many projects will have more than one core beneficiary group. Those detailed here are those that are focused on a particular group.

# AREA SNAPSHOT

## Grants Awarded

### Allocation of larger grants by protected characteristic across the MIH programme:



- It is important to note that many projects will have more than one core beneficiary group. Those detailed here are those that are focused on a particular group.

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## Bexhill: Protected Characteristics

Making it Happen does not collect personal information or data. However, some groups are set up for a specific purpose, or for a specific community of identity. Broadly, in Bexhill, the MIH Development workers work with people who have identified as having the characteristics detailed opposite.

It is important to note that each of the MIH priority areas is in an area of relatively low income. Therefore, socio economic inequality is likely to be a theme running across the majority of projects supported through the programme.

- **Socio economic inequality**
- **Bereavement**
- **Children**
- **Families**
- **Homelessness**
- **LGBTQ+**
- **Men's health and wellbeing**
- **Mental Health**
- **Minoritised ethnic communities**
- **Older people**
- **Disability**
- **Women**
- **Young People**

# **AREA SNAPSHOT**

## **Stage Two Evaluation**

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## Evaluation Reflections

[making-it-happen.org.uk/stage-two-report](https://making-it-happen.org.uk/stage-two-report)

### MAKING IT HAPPEN **REPORTING RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### Building A Better ABCD Movement

##### 1 IDENTIFY

Identify learning about successful approaches and processes from the programme and make them accessible, to allow them to be replicated across the wider system.

##### 2 EMBED

Embed Making it Happen more effectively into the fabric of the wider VCFSE sector.

##### 3 DEVELOP

Develop a direct strategy for enabling the wider system and sharing learning.

##### 4 BUILD

Build a movement, not just a collection of projects.

Evaluation by our Partners  
Collaborate CIC produced  
reflections on the programme  
overall through the Stage Two  
Report:



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## Evaluation Reflections

**MAKING IT HAPPEN**  
STAGE TWO EVALUATION

[making-it-happen.org.uk/  
stage-two-report](https://making-it-happen.org.uk/stage-two-report)

### How community projects have impacted communities

#### INDIVIDUALS HAVE

Reported an increase in  
**self-confidence** and **self-esteem**

Reported improvements in  
**physical and mental wellbeing**

Developed new **skills** and **capabilities**

#### PEOPLE COMING TOGETHER HAVE

Felt **deeper connections with others**

Become more likely to **reach out** to others  
to **learn, work,** and **take action** collectively

A key aspect of this was reflections on the impact projects can, and have had on communities:

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## Evaluation Reflections

[making-it-happen.org.uk/stage-two-report](https://making-it-happen.org.uk/stage-two-report)

### MAKING IT HAPPEN

The Asset-Based Approach to  
Community Development:

Why it Works

**BUILD ON LIVED EXPERIENCE**

**FOCUS ON COMMUNITY-LED CHANGE**

**TURN DEFICITS INTO STRENGTHS**

**ACCESSIBLE AND FLEXIBLE GRANTS**

**LEARN FROM SETBACKS**

The evaluation also reflects on why the ABCD approach is working:

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## **Insights**

Bexhill Central & Sackville

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## Insights: Changes Over Time

There is correlation between some of the data from 2019 and the priorities and activities developed by the local community.

The projects that have emerged illustrate how with a little support to build relationships and make connections, and to find the right tools and resources, communities make good choices about what they wish to prioritise, and they come up with positive ideas to find solutions to that locally. Some projects have closed because lead volunteers have gone on to find work through the increased confidence and connections made.

While, in ABCD terms, relatively little time has passed to really embed this approach, the examples emerging in Bexhill Central and Sackville do illustrate how community action is broadly contributing to some of priorities flagged by the data in 2019.

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## Changes Over Time

JSNA and IMD data in 2019 identified challenges around older people living alone, income deprivation & adults with depression. There were localised issues such as: 'income deprivation affecting children', 'lone parent households' & 'fuel poverty'.

Effort to build connection and encourage collaboration within Bexhill Central and Sackville has been at the heart of local desire to address broad themes such as these. The Bexhill Men's Shed Network and its links to other groups and organisations (over 100) illustrated earlier is a key example of this.

Initiatives have emerged that directly seek to tackle loneliness and improve mental and physical health and wellbeing, such as the Men's Shed, Ladies Shed, the Health and Wellbeing Project and Bexhill Breathers. Other examples include Sunday Socials and Raise Your Voice podcasts.

Socio economic inequality is also a priority through initiatives including Make and Mend, Pass it On uniform swap and the Linen Cupboard.

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## Changes Over Time

The development of the Breastmates group, which lead into the development of Tots Play has also been a key development, perhaps influenced by the higher lone parent households and income deprivation affecting children stats.

The JSNA mentions the ratio of working age to non working people, GCSE attainment and crime rates.

There have been developments around community / outdoor art-based projects such as the W.AVE Arts Bexhill Graffiti project, The Footbridge Gallery and Art By Vicky Craggs, all of which have included a focus on working with school children as well as adults.

Projects through W.AVE Arts also worked with children to learn about good and bad graffiti alongside decorating areas to help reduce crime rates.

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## Changes Over Time

Perhaps the areas which local residents have focused most energy around include those related to building relationships and trust, and encouraging a sense of belonging, which were highlighted in the Co-op Wellbeing Index and WARM Ward data. Examples with a core focus around encouraging relationships, trust and belonging include Women of Vision, The Town Hut and local community events, such as Love Rother.

The CDWs reflect that because they are community led, these activities may take time to develop, but they are more likely to continue into the future precisely because they reflect solutions that have been designed and delivered by local people and have been built around principles of collectivism.

Some things identified as opportunities in discovery feedback from 2019 haven't featured as much as perhaps anticipated. While food projects have emerged, such as The Good Story and Cooking Pops, there has perhaps been less engagement with formal food networks than was anticipated at the start. However, the team have encouraged new groups to connect with those networks.

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## Changes Over Time

The Churches were active and continue to be, as have local Councillors. Good links have been made to the Hubs although it is less clear whether connections have been made with existing resident community groups to encourage broader networks and to strengthen local links. It isn't clear how many of these might exist, or whether that gap is filled by other types of Community Hub.

Priorities identified in 2019 around building confidence and skills development are clearly evidenced by the sheer volume of projects and activity which is emerging and feedback through grant evaluations, and the upcoming Phenomenal Happenings TV programme episodes from Bexhill.

100% of grant evaluations received by groups have reported that they agree or strongly agree with the following statements:

- **Do you think your project helped you to achieve something valuable or useful in our community?**
- **As a result of your project, did people in your community connect together in a meaningful way?**



# AREA SNAPSHOT

## Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats

- **Strengths**

- Connectivity of groups on the ground and potential for mutual support
- Connectivity of people and groups building opportunities for voice and influence, including engagement in collaboration and coproduction
- Relationship between ABCD community development workers and local infrastructure workers
- Focus on community led change and value of lived experience
- Impact on mental health and wellbeing

- **Challenges**

- The time needed to really embed this approach
- Limited resource remaining in the grant budget
- The fragility of community led solutions if they are not nurtured, or are not valued in local decision-making

- **Opportunities**

- The wealth of policy, strategy and guidance that highlights the importance of community development, collaboration and coproduction with communities
- The Four Shifts Framework and the evaluation of Making it Happen which are setting the impact and findings in a wider context

- **Threats**

- New programmes and initiatives that don't build from learning from Making it Happen, which risk relationships and undermine opportunities for collaboration and co-creation with communities
- Funding landscape