ambition for ageing

Supportive Funding

Technical guidance on delivering a wraparound microfunding model

A companion document to Ambition for Ageing's Changing a Place report

Ambition for Ageing is a Greater Manchester wide cross-sector partnership, led by the Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO) and funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, aimed at creating more age friendly places by connecting communities and people through the creation of relationships, development of existing assets and putting people aged over 50 at the heart of designing the places they live.

Ambition for Ageing is part of Ageing Better, a programme set up by The National Lottery Community Fund, the largest funder of community activity in the UK. Ageing Better aims to develop creative ways for people aged over 50 to be actively involved in their local communities, helping to combat social isolation and loneliness. It is one of five major programmes set up by The National Lottery Community Fund to test and learn from new approaches to designing services which aim to make people's lives healthier and happier.

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Sale
NEW

Introduction

This technical guidance provides you with a number of tried and tested models used to deliver supportive, wraparound microfunding.

We encourage you to use this resource when designing and delivering your own microfunding models.

Finding the approach that works for you will depend on the type of support you want to offer, the time you have to spend the funding, the place you are delivering in, and a whole host of other dependencies.

This document showcases eight different approaches carried out by our local leads to help you start thinking about your own model. Each page features:

- A complete diagram of each approach
- Core staff and support needed for each model
- An outline of each model's structure
- More information about each model

You may choose to implement an approach similar to any of these, pick and choose the parts you like from each, or use this as a starting point to begin designing your own model.

We would be interested in knowing how this document has helped you, and would welcome any feedback.

This document is one of three produced by Ambition for Ageing on the topic of wraparound microfunding. The complete report and briefing summary are available from our website **www.ambitionforageing.org.uk/microfunding**

A note about the microfunding approach used by Ambition for Ageing;

Microfunding is the provision of small payments to individuals, groups or organisations.

Ambition for Ageing provides microfunding in the form of small investments of up to £2,000 to individuals or groups who successfully propose a project or idea that aims to improve the lives of older people in one of twenty-four areas across Greater Manchester, three wards in each of the eight project areas.

Decisions on which proposals receive funding are made by volunteers who sit on decision-making structures within each local area.

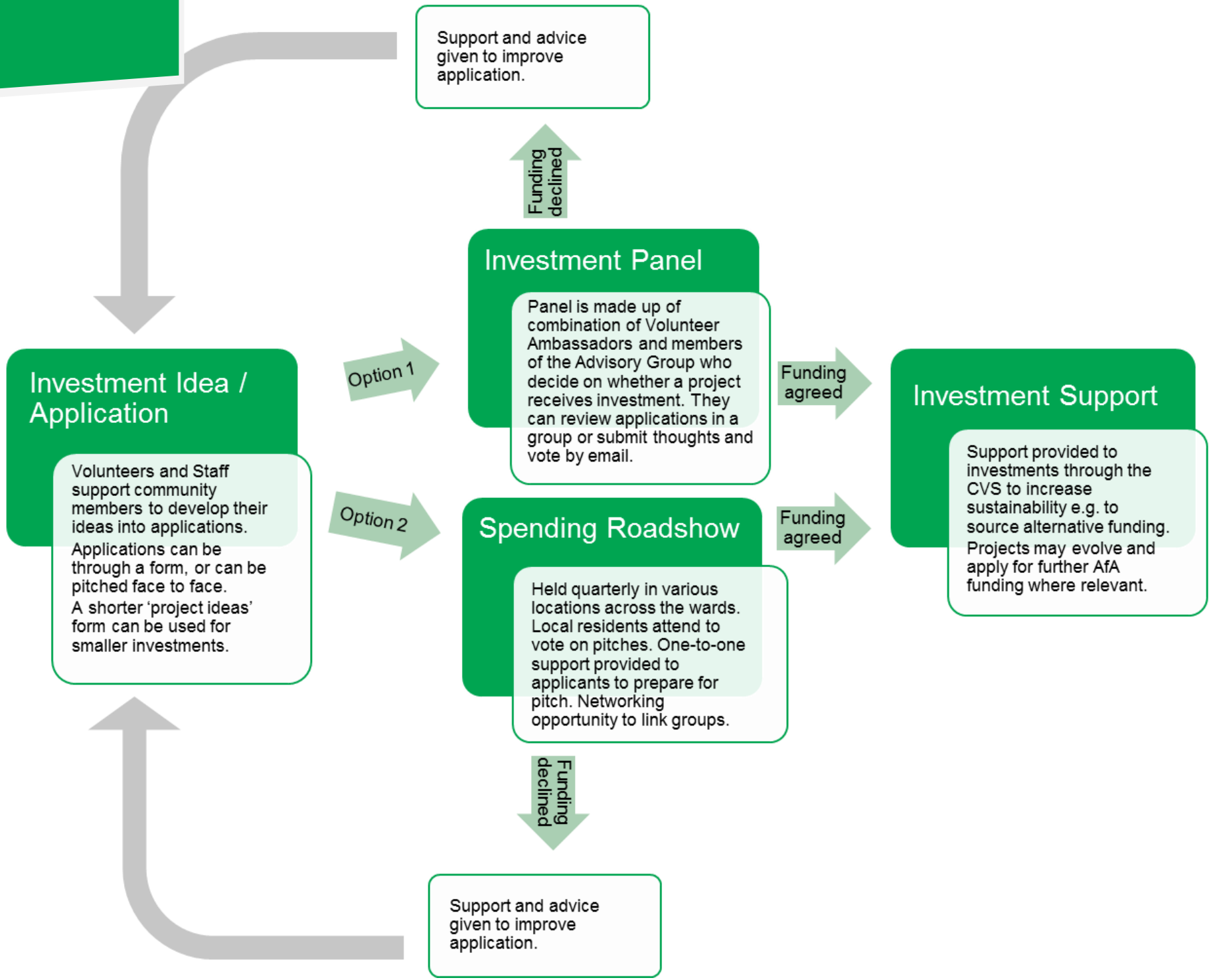
Microfunding in the context of Ambition for Ageing needs to be understood as part of a larger approach encompassing elements of co-production, devolved decision-making, a place-based focus and a commitment to learning, rather than as a stand-alone method of funding.

It isn't just about getting money to the frontline, rather using the approach to build capacity and networks.

Costs and staffing information within this document are a snapshot from 16th January 2020

Bolton

Diagram



Structure

Steering Group

Made up of local professionals representing the key local lead partners and supporting organisations. Meets bi-monthly and implements actions raised by the advisory group.

Volunteer Ambassadors

Residents 50+ who promote the programme, assist others to access Ambition for Ageing, connect existing groups, and conduct community research.

Engagement Network

Bi-monthly meeting of local workers from voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations and private and public sector organisations who deliver services with older people. Used to share knowledge, build partnerships and enable the identification of assets within the community.

About

The application form can be completed alongside an offer of **group development support**, including linking existing community projects to new and emerging groups.

All completed application forms are taken to the advisory board who have had **training** to enable them to assess investment applications and allocate funding.

Part of the assessment panel includes identifying how the project could be **improved**, and offering **support for changes** to be made before the funding is allocated.

The Spending Roadshow is an event held regularly in the local area in a community setting. It provides an opportunity for community members to **pitch their ideas** for small investments to an audience of older community members, who then vote for the pitches they would like to see happen. This approach enables those who **may not be involved** in the decision-making panels to play an active part in what will happen in their community.

To promote the opportunities for funding, the local delivery staff spend a considerable amount of time promoting the opportunity via **outreach and engagement** in neighbourhoods.

Core Staff and Support

- Project officer (full time)
- Volunteer Support Worker (part time)
- Engagement Workers (10 hours per month)

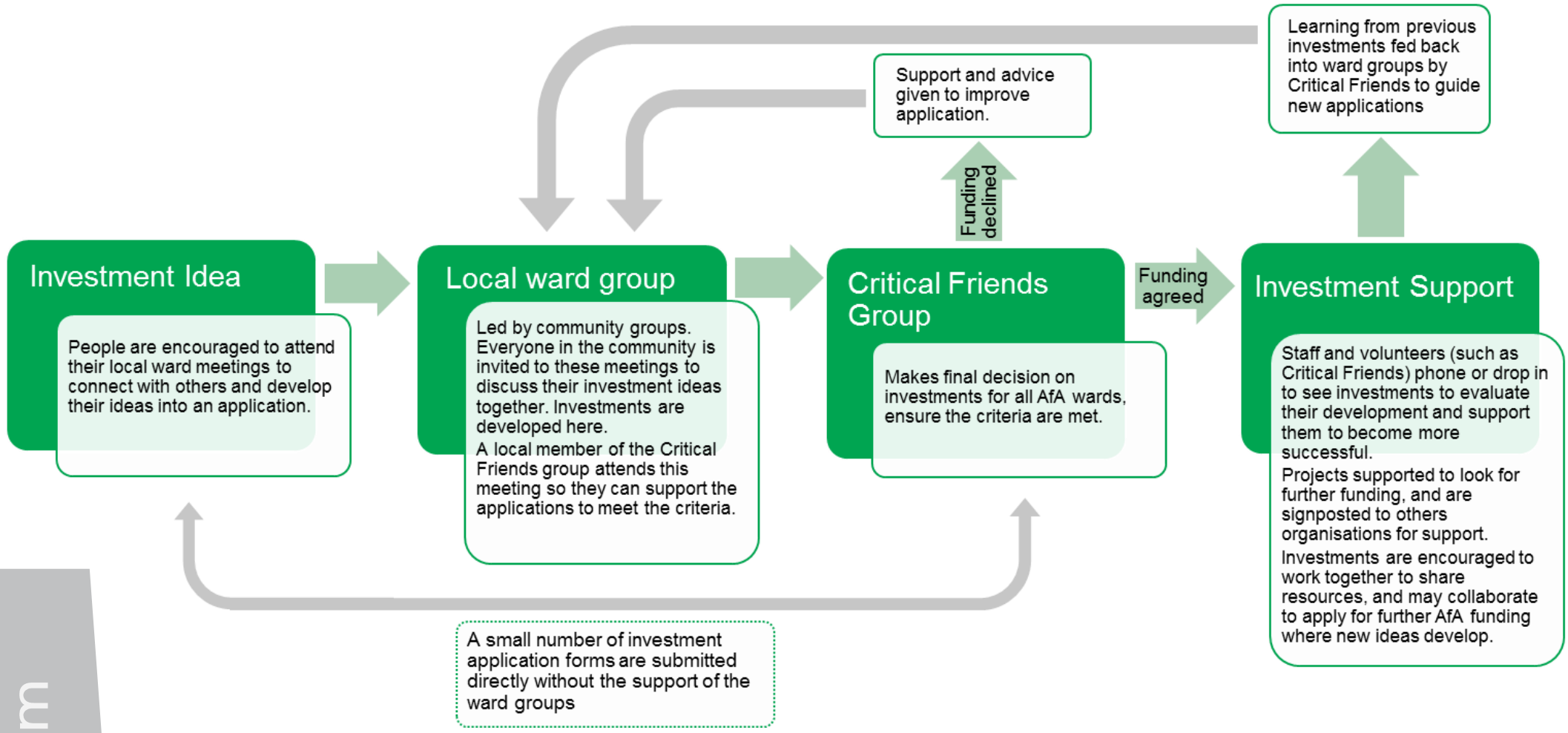
Delivery leads in Bolton:

- Bolton CVS
- Age UK Bolton
- Bolton at Home

Investments:

Average investment size: **£1,227**
Total investment: **£254,940**

Bury



Diagram

Structure

Partnership Group

Partnership group brings together local partners including a representative from each Ambition for Ageing ward to share learning and drive forward the aging well strategy in Bury and focuses on legacy and sustainability beyond the funding.

Critical Friends Group

Made up of residents aged 50+ from all 3 wards. Meet monthly to decide on investment applications. Large group of around 30 older people. Location of meetings moves regularly to reduce barriers to engagement.

A member of staff chairs the group.

Local Ward Groups

Led by community groups. An opportunity for individuals and groups to discuss investment ideas and develop their applications on a local ward-based level.

About

If applications were not initially successful, suggestions are made to **improve the suitability of investments**. Applications are not rejected by the group without feedback or suggestions for improvement.

Local Ward Groups were set up to allow for decisions to be made about investments on a **more local level**. By moving decisions more locally, the Critical Friends group have become an overseeing group focussing on the **legacy and sustainability** of projects.

The partnership group is instrumental in providing **information** to groups on a wide range of additional funding available.

A staff member works on the project at a **grassroots level without an office base.** They know the residents, what is going on and understands the different wards. This benefits the model as the worker is able to recognise the communities' needs and develop good working relationships.

Recognising that **groups and businesses can work together** by bringing them together to support each other has massively benefited those from both sectors.

Core Staff and Support

- Project Coordinator (full time)
- Project Officer (full time)
- Project Manager (8 hours)
- Finance support (15 hours)
- Senior Management Team Support (1 day per month)

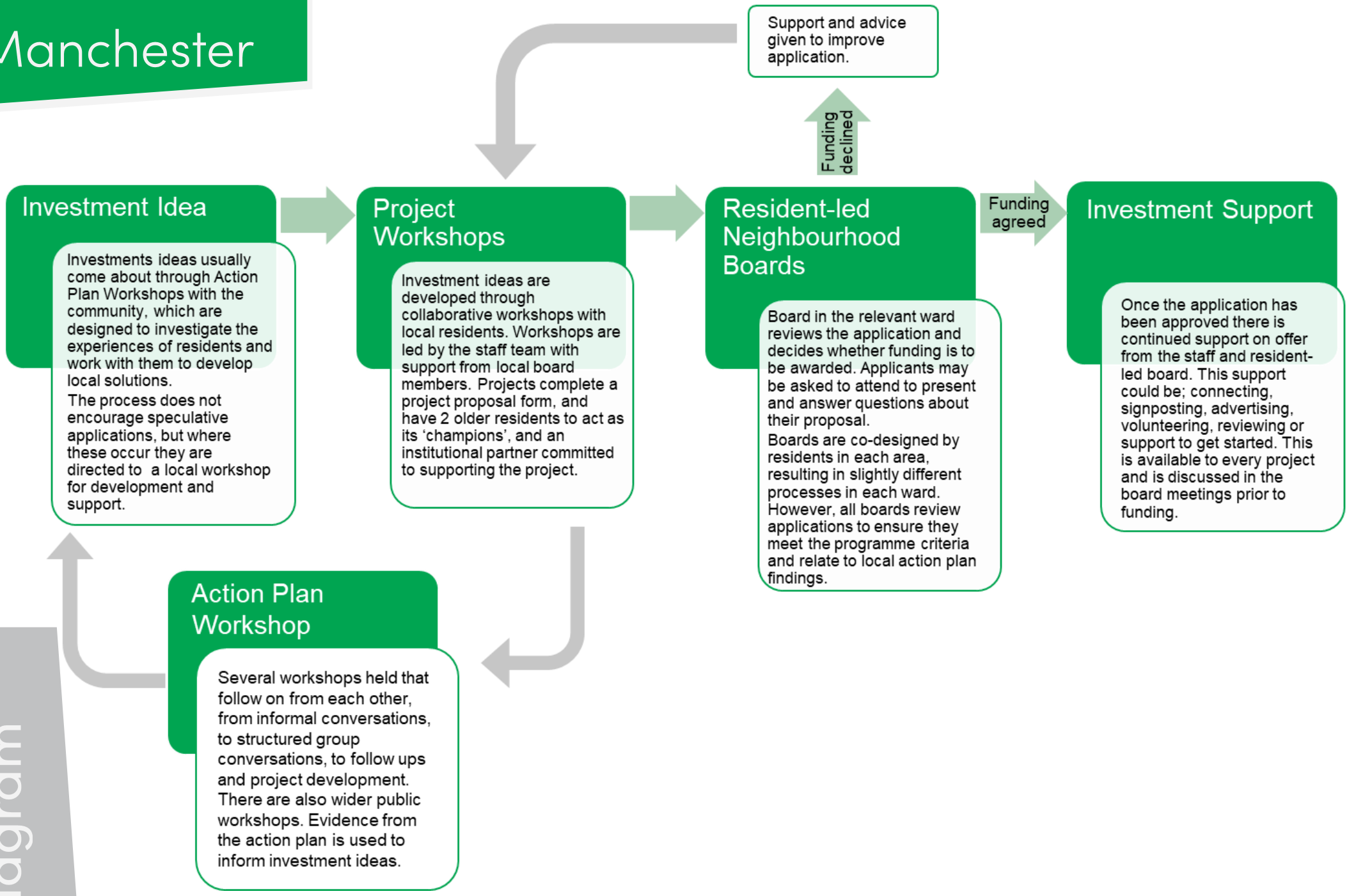
Delivery leads in Bury:

- Groundwork BBOR (Bolton, Bury, Oldham & Rochdale)

Investments:

Average investment size: **£1,551**
Total investment: **£333,418**

Manchester



Diagram

Structure

Resident-Led Neighbourhood Boards

Made up of local residents and professionals from a variety of sectors. One Board is set up in each ward, consisting of approximately 15-25 individuals. Residents take on the roles of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

Boards meet every 4-6 weeks. They support the creation of an action plan for their ward, contribute to project development, and decide how the resident investment fund should be spent.

Action Plan Workshops

Residents run or take part in design and discovery activities using the World Health Organisation's 8 themes of what makes an Age-Friendly City; the built environment, transport, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication, and community support and health services.

This community knowledge produces the neighbourhood action plan, which from the findings creates resident-led project ideas to go funding workshops.

About

At the beginning of the model, a Steering Group was set up to **connect the local partnerships** to the strategic support they need to develop and sustain. Membership included representatives from a range of sectors such as housing and health and social care. The group disbanded once they had recruited an adequate number of institutional partners.

The partnerships delivering the Manchester model have considerable legitimacy in the neighbourhood both because they are the product of very **extensive resident engagement** and because they include **stakeholders** from local housing providers, GP federations, district nurses, wellbeing workers, neighbourhood teams and voluntary organisations.

The Neighbourhood Boards commission **local projects that they have co-designed** and which involve named residents to lead with support from institutional partners (if required) in a completely bottom up process.

Residents actively **produce and deliver proposals** within their community and create things that could not have existed before.

The projects they create are genuinely targeted at the outcomes identified by local people and are **aligned with the requirements and objectives of strategic partners.**

Core Staff and Support

- Project and Research Coordinator (part time)
- Two Project Coordinators (part time)
- Project Officer (full time)

Delivery leads in Manchester:

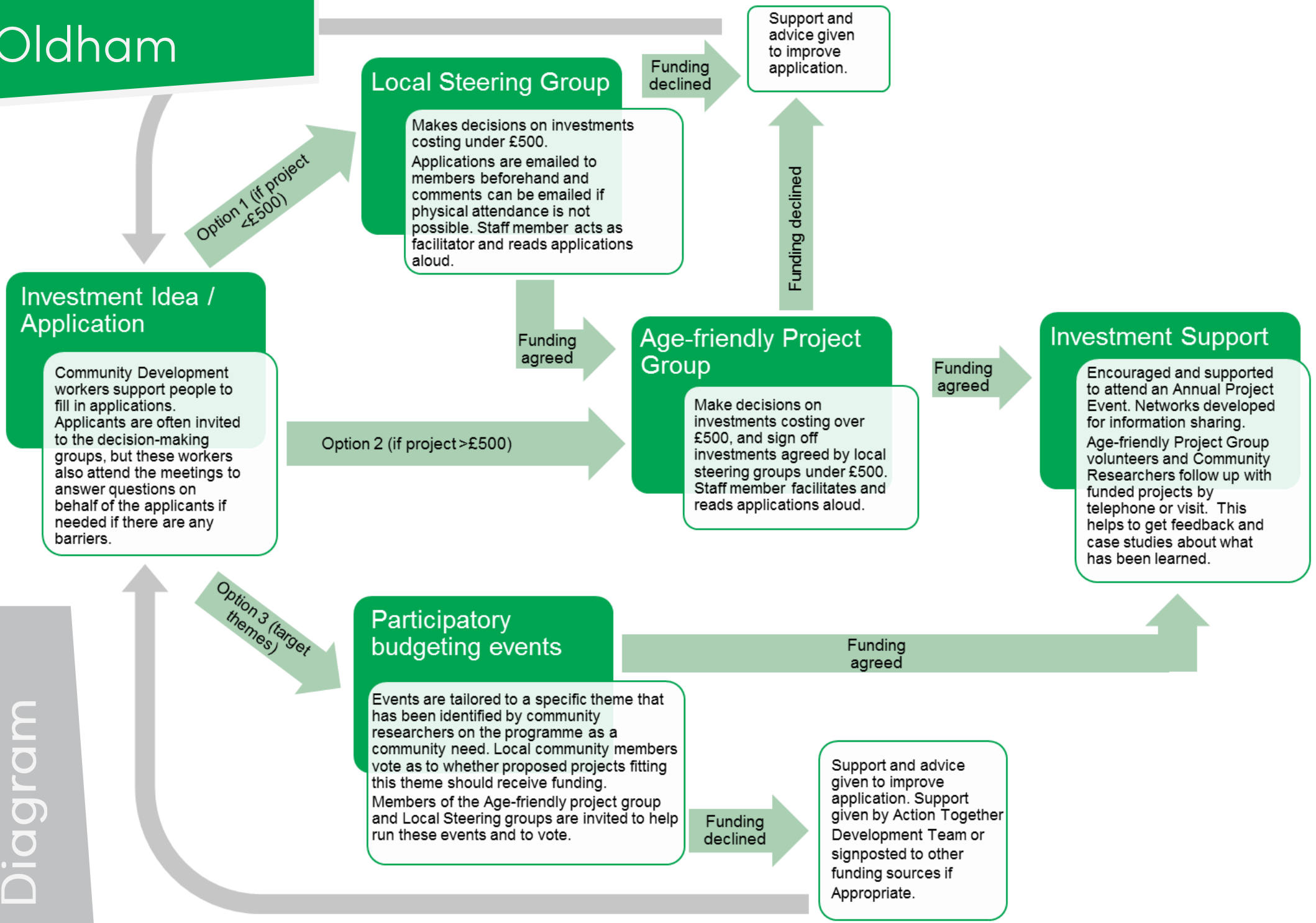
- Manchester School of Architecture at Manchester Metropolitan University
- Southway Housing Trust

Investments:

Average investment size: **£1,648**
Total investment: **£355,710**

Oldham

Diagram



Structure

Age-friendly Project Group

Made up of older people aged 50+ representing all 3 wards. Transport to these group meetings is always provided.

Local Steering Groups

One in each ward. Consists of local older people and professionals.

These groups developed to allow people to have more of a say locally, and because they can be more responsive than the over-arching Project Group. Transport to these group meetings always provided.

Annual Project Event

Provides networking opportunity for those involved in funded projects, to celebrate the projects and share learning between them.

Volunteer Community Researchers

Community researchers aged 50+ recruited to map assets and identify priority areas for the community.

Assets are added to Google maps to show where assets and activities are, and displayed on the local lead's website which is used as a signposting tool and is being developed into a user-friendly information website.

About

The Oldham model allows for decisions to be made at **both ward and programme level**. A core group covering all 3 wards considers any proposals above £500 and local steering groups oversee projects under this level.

The local steering groups and staff work closely with people to **develop their proposals** prior to decision-making panel. This is kept simple so the core group and steering groups are **aware of the projects heading their way** in addition to allowing those proposing ideas to have the **best possible chance** of receiving the funding.

Pre-meetings are held to ensure a **range of people** from different backgrounds with different experiences feel empowered to get involved and contribute to decision-making.

A large amount of **outreach** using 'appreciative inquiry' starts the process of designing projects, as **ideas are built on** from this point. If there is someone willing to take it forward support is provided, if not it is taken to the steering group who decide what to do next.

The **less formal** participatory budgeting events act as networking and social events for people to come together and put forward their proposals as well as residents to **have a say** in how money is spend in their ward.

Core Staff and Support

- Project Coordinator (30 hours)
- Two Community Development Workers (one part time, one full time)
- Admin support (part time)

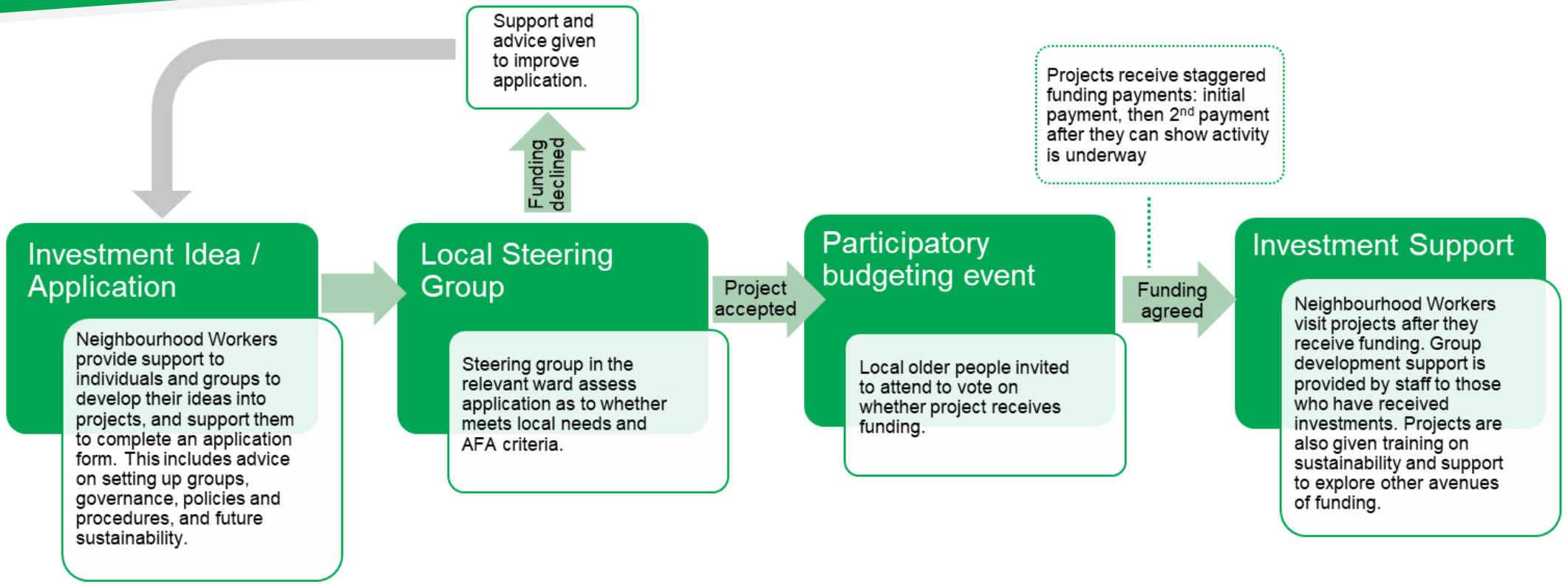
Delivery leads in Oldham:

- Age UK Oldham
- Action Together

Investments:

Average investment size: **£1,126**
Total investment: **£208,397**

Rochdale



Diagram

Structure

Local Steering Groups

One in each ward, made up of local older people aged 50+. Meet at least once a quarter. All processes for deciding on investments are co-produced by those involved.

Meet at accessible community centres within the wards. These groups also help to develop projects by identifying priorities for their areas based on local knowledge and community research.

Strategic Steering Group

Oversees programme development and delivery. Made up of various local organisations such as voluntary, community and social enterprise, council and housing sectors.

Community Research Volunteers

During the early stages of delivery, volunteers were trained to conduct community research, find out what older people in the wards want and need and to map existing assets. During the restructure of the model, this role was absorbed by other volunteers linked to Local Steering Groups, so that volunteers were undertaking a mixture of roles and activities including asset mapping, decision making and co-production.

About

The Rochdale model saw the **most change** during the lifetime of the programme, having a **major restructure** mid-way through delivery.

The original phase was led by Kashmir Youth Project with support from the CVS Rochdale (the local community & voluntary service), who led on volunteer recruitment, training and support. They were supported by community centres in each of the three wards. Following the closure of CVS Rochdale (and having knowledge of difficulties at other centres), to mitigate and manage risk, the model was restructured to its current phase.

Steering Group members' unique understanding of the community, especially their knowledge of **local assets** and whether an idea is **new and innovative** or is duplication of existing work being carried out in the community is key.

The Rochdale model encourages groups to research the need for their ideas and to have done some level of **consultation** to make sure that over 50's can **co-produce** the ideas.

The most successful element is the aspect of **test-and learn approach**. This helps break down barriers and apprehension, knowing that project approaches can adapt and grow based on their learning experiences allowing **better creative freedom** and more innovative approaches to be tested.

Core Staff and Support

- Project Coordinator (full time)
- Three Neighbourhood Workers (circa. 15 hours)
- General Administrator/Finance (full time)

Delivery leads in Rochdale:

Phase one

- Kashmir Youth Project (KYP)
- Bangladesh Association & Community Project
- Meadowfields Community Centre
- Demesne Community Centre

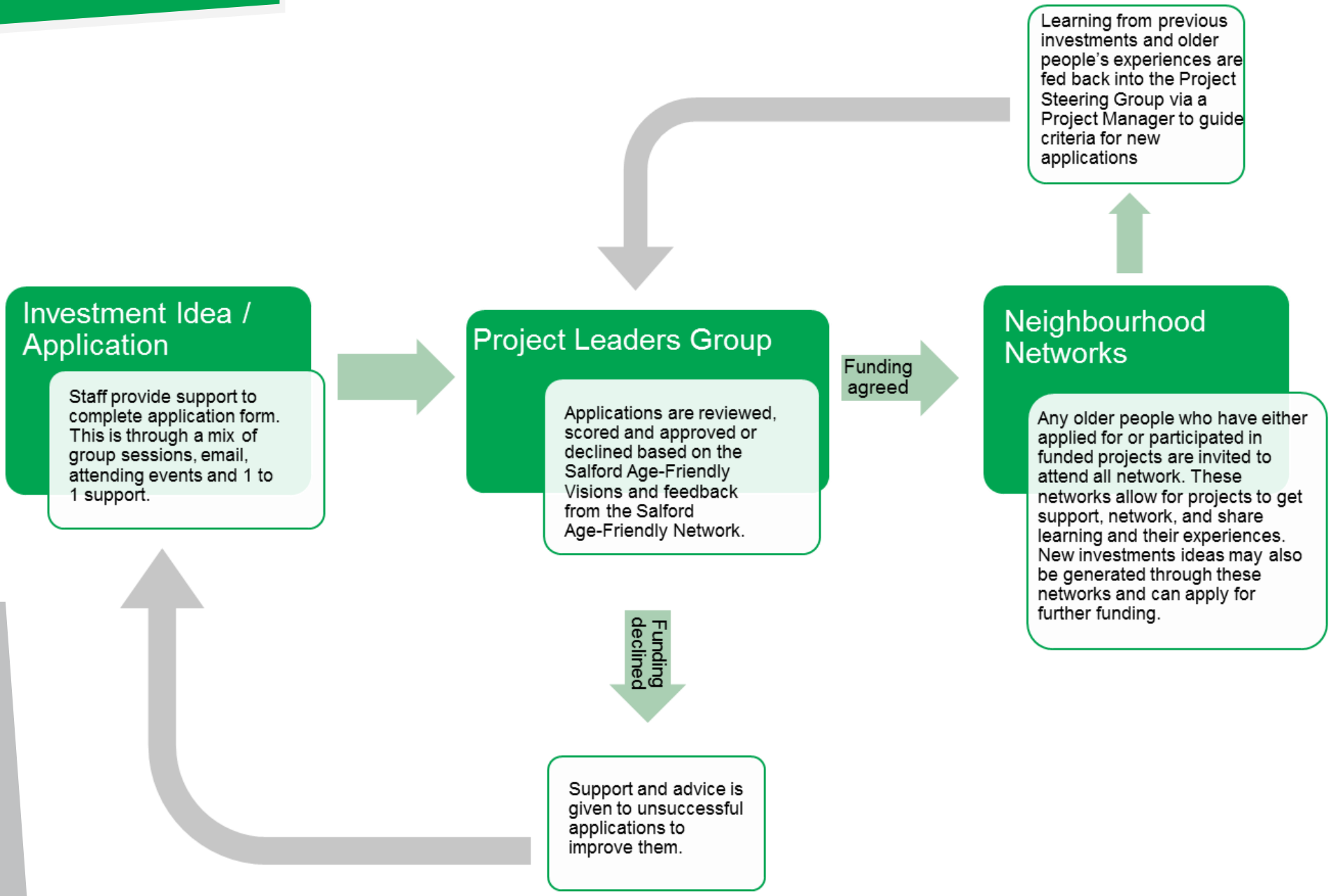
Phase two

- Kashmir Youth Project (KYP)
- Bangladesh Association & Community Project

Investments:

Average investment size: **£1,619**
Total investment: **£259,318**

Salford



Diagram

Structure

Project Steering Group

City-wide initiative that fits within the age-friendly Salford agenda, meeting monthly.

Made up of the local lead staff team and partners, linking the work of Ambition for Ageing to the wider Salford, Greater Manchester and national age-friendly programmes.

They regularly update the criteria for projects based on the learning gathered from the Neighbourhood Networks.

Neighbourhood Networks

Held in a different ward each quarter. Made up of local older people who influence the programme Steering Group. Anyone who receives funding through the programme is invited to join these networks, as well as all older people and groups in the supported wards.

The purpose of these networks is to swap stories and experiences, identify gaps and needs, and share learning. Criteria for future projects funded is guided by this learning.

Community Reporters

These are volunteers aged 50+ who research their local communities to identify assets, wants and needs, which are discussed with the Neighbourhood Network .

About

The Neighbourhood Networks meet regularly and their purpose is to provide an **inclusive opportunity** for as many people as possible to be involved in the programme in the way which suits them best.

The Neighbourhood Network Meetings also provide the opportunity to make **decisions on investments**, **map assets and share learning**.

These meetings are also used to **review and create ideas** and identify gaps in what's being funded.

Within the Salford model, the Neighbourhood Network removes the need for individuals to commit to more frequent formal meetings, which would otherwise be necessary in order to **keep investment applications flowing** to approval and spend in a timely manner.

It also provides an opportunity to collect wider views of older people, including those from **underrepresented groups**.

Core Staff and Support

- Project Manager (full time)
- Strategic Alignment to age-friendly Salford work (part time)
- Community Engagement (full time)
- Investment processing support (part time)
- Administrator (part time)

Delivery leads in Salford:

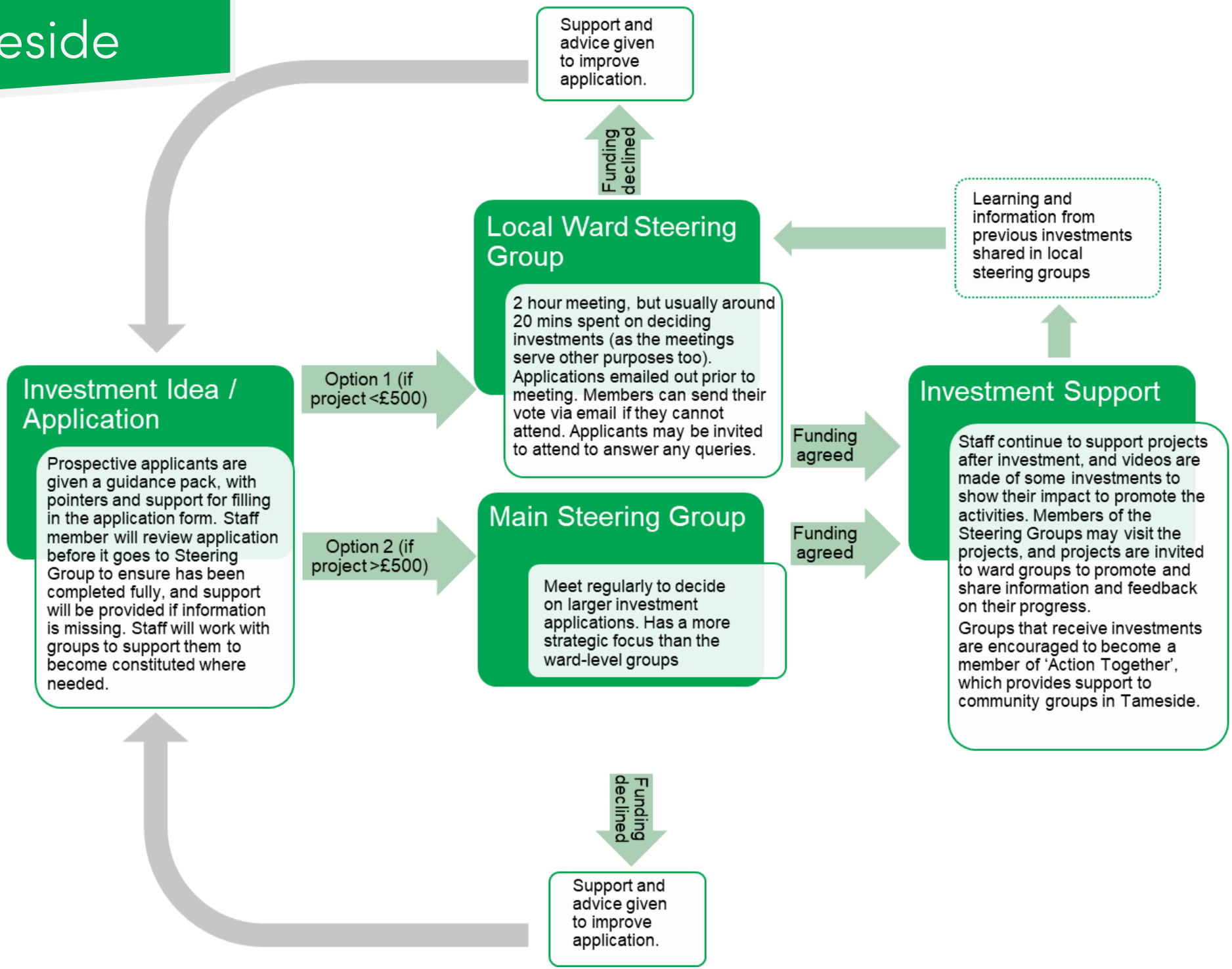
- Age UK Salford
- Salford CVS
- Inspiring Communities Together

Investments:

Average investment size: **£1,412**
Total investment: **£230,936**

Tameside

Diagram



Structure

Local Ward Steering Groups

Made up of local older ward residents and professionals, these groups link in with wider community organisations and groups, and many have developed from existing forums. They identify issues and gaps in their local areas and make decisions on investments up to £500.

The monthly meetings are also used as an opportunity to promote local activities, network and share information, and provide training.

Main Steering Group

This group make the final decision on investments, but also have a programme advisory role. The group is made up of older people aged 50+ from across the 3 wards and meet approximately every 8 weeks. Around half of this group also sit on their local ward steering groups. Has a more strategic focus than the ward-level groups.

Volunteer Community Investigators

Volunteers are trained to conduct research into localities and to better understand particular groups and communities where there are gaps in engagement. Community assets and activities are mapped regularly onto Google maps.

About

Three local steering groups **oversee funding applications at a neighbourhood level**, they also undertake other work, such as running their own events, proving a **social experience** for members.

A member of staff is focused on targeting more **vulnerable, socially isolated people**, due to an understanding that becoming involved in community action may need time and support for those who have not traditionally been involved previously.

Community ownership has meant people are invested and helps to spread word and bring more people on board

Project review meetings, where groups who have received funding come together, have been successful. They have both provided an opportunity for **networking and sharing** and **creating relationships** between people who may not have otherwise met each other.

Core Staff and Support

- Senior Partnerships Officer (30 hours)
- Partnerships Officer (full time)
- Coordinator (part time)
- Admin support (6 hours a week)

Delivery leads in Tameside:

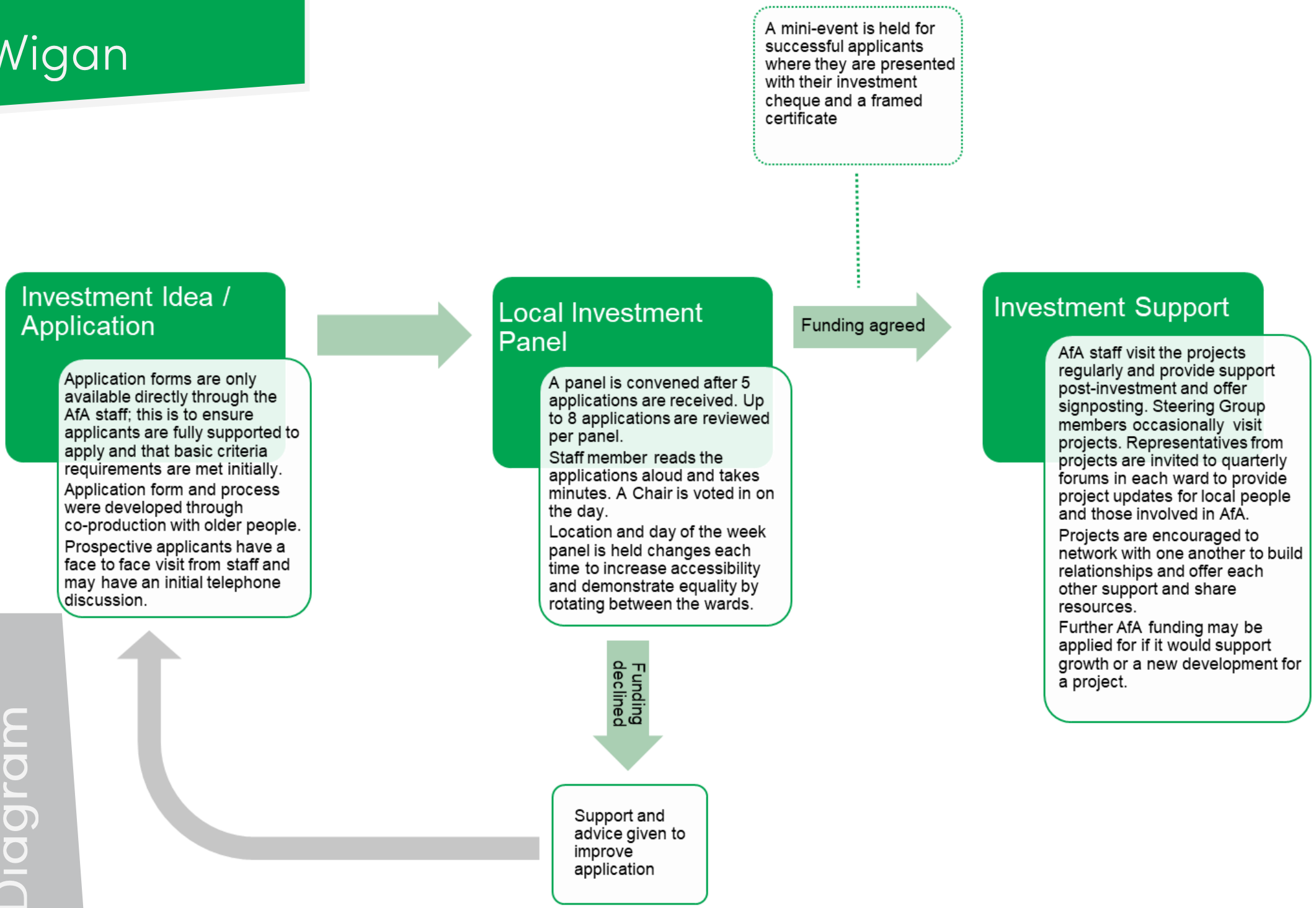
- Age UK Tameside
- Action Together

Investments:

Average investment size: **£1,053**
Total investment: **£206,360**

Wigan

Diagram



Structure

Steering Group and Local Investment Panel

Made up of older people aged 50+ representing all 3 wards. Ongoing informal recruitment to this group, including targeted recruitment of groups that are under-represented. Consists of a large pool of people who rotate making decisions on investments through a panel, with up to 10 people invited to sit on panel each time. At least 2 representatives from each ward attend.

Quarterly Forums

One held in each Ambition for Ageing ward every 3-4 months. Open invite. Attended by local older residents, those representing over 50s groups in their area, and professionals from a variety of sectors. Used for sharing information, local updates, and networking.

Peer Researchers and 'Issue' Groups

Older people aged 50+ volunteer as peer researchers, to find out what older people in the wards want and need and map existing assets. These are added to Google maps.

Volunteers are encouraged to form 'issue groups' to discuss any key issues or gaps that have been identified, with a view to developing ideas for potential investments.

About

The delivery of Wigan's microfunding model has been developed in **co-production with older people**. This includes the development of the process from application, through panel to keeping connections with all successful applicants. Local volunteer ambassadors update the staff team with current **local asset information** which is added to a Google map.

Applicants are encouraged to purchase from **local businesses** and use **local venues** for activities. Local business have been included in the forums and as a result of this, the team have been offered support from more unlikely sources including a local music college, a Women Farmers group and a fishing shop.

Networking opportunities are provided at forums, investment panels, annual celebrations and health promotional events. As a result of this many groups now **keep in touch** with each other and 'share' volunteers when necessary.

The approach is **hands on and face to face**. It is crucial to the success of the project that the programme gained the trust of people within the wards. Although this process has been labour-intensive it has proved to be the best method for this particular project.

Transport is provided to both the steering group and quarterly forums.

Core Staff and Support

- Coordinator (full time)
- Development Worker (full time)
- Two support and admin workers (part time)

Delivery leads in Wigan:

- Age UK Wigan Borough

Investments:

Average investment size: **£1,168**
Total investment: **£254,940**

Throughout this process, there have been common themes of intensive support, co-production, community research, and a commitment to accessibility and learning

Our local leads designed a range of approaches to microfunding to meet the needs of each of their differing local populations.

The following page showcases some of the major common themes shared amongst the approaches and some of the major differences.

Key Similarities

Supported application forms

All areas offer some form of support to applicants. This includes offering support to unsuccessful applications who can then re-apply, offering shorter application forms for smaller investments or offering the opportunity to pitch ideas prior to completing an application form as to not waste time.

Decision-making groups made up of older people

This is sometimes called a local steering group, an investment group, a project group or a neighbourhood board. Some areas have separate decision-making groups based on the size of the investments.

Investment support to funded projects

Project staff provide ongoing support to projects. Funded projects are also encouraged to network which, for a number of area, takes the forms of an annual event.

Community research volunteers

A number of areas introduced some form of community research volunteers to map assets and activities, ask local older people what they want and identify gaps and potential investments.

Accessibility

In regards to volunteers on local steering groups, local delivery partners took into consideration venue choices and transport needs when organising meetings. Volunteer panel members also had opportunities for training and development.

Project staff support

Facilitation and support of decision-making structures proved vital to the microfunding model.

Test and learn approach

This is a component of the Ambition for Ageing programme as a whole, and proved useful for the areas when developing their own unique microfunding models. Learning as time went on allowed models to grow and develop to become more fit for purpose.

Key Differences

Process for microfunding

By using a true co-production approach, each area developed their own processes and delivery models to meet the needs of their local communities. This also differed between wards in the same area, for example, in one ward in Manchester, the local board set up a sub-committee to check the eligibility of a project prior to the project being brought to the board.

Community based participatory budgeting events

Two areas hosted participatory budgeting events, which gave local residents the opportunity to network and vote on pitches. By hosting these types of event, older people not typically in-volved in decision-making got to play an active part in what happens in their neighbourhood.

Staggered funding

This was introduced in one area to mitigate against risk. Thirty percent of funding was given as a start-up costs, with subsequent payments released based on sufficient evidence of spend.

Strategic-level partnership group

Introduced by in area, this group has no direct decision over investments, but acted to build relationships between local organisations and give them a say in the programme.

Payment models to account for unconstituted groups

Several areas made alterations to their model to allow them to fund unconstituted organisations. Resolutions included 'housing' money with a larger organisations who would support them to become constituted, prepayment cards for groups who don't have a bank account and revising payment models.

Local tensions

One area had to deal with a clash of strong local identities which caused tensions when allocating funds. This was counteracted by staff relationship building, primarily through face to face interactions.

Challenges

As with any new programme, the different approaches from each local lead brought with them their own unique and shared challenges.

Over the next few pages, we showcase the learning we have gained from when things didn't go as planned and highlight potential issues that can be encountered when implementing a wraparound microfunding approach.

We hope that, ultimately, this will demonstrate the benefits of providing such an intensive approach, encompassing a combination of co-production, devolved decision-making, a place-based focus and a commitment to learning from and with our local communities.

Supporting the community to become decision-makers

The time it takes to be ready to engage with the offer of microfunding differs from group to group, and person to person and some will need more time and support than others to become fully engaged.

Community members were often not familiar with having responsibility and say about what happened in their community. Our local leads started to overcome this by supporting people to consider ideas and develop them in a variety of ways, from focus groups and consultations to supported application processes and open events.

To those new to these approaches, how meetings are pitched and the process of allocating investments can be off-putting This was tackled by preparing people prior to meetings and making other practical steps during meetings, such as not using jargon.

Ensuring representation from seldom heard groups

During the initial stages of the programme, the diversity of older people involved in decision-making boards and project applications were not fully representative of local populations. Many initially attracted people from less marginalised groups, who have been involved in similar initiatives previously, or have the time, resource and social connections to be involved in such activities.

For example, formal meetings with many board papers may unintentionally exclude:

- older people with literacy issues or English as a second language
- older carers who may not have time to read the papers or attend
- members of other marginalised groups who are unfamiliar with microfunding and feel the process is 'not for them'.

Further compounding this, for many people from marginalised communities, a range of structural issues and biases can affect access to being involved in community action, such as microfunding. In addition, many representatives of under-represented communities don't have time to contribute as they already have many other existing commitments.

Our local leads looked to tackle this in a number of ways, incorporating both targeted and universal approaches into their work.

Those already involved in making decisions about microfunding may have a lack of recognition or familiarity with equalities, requiring staff to intervene to ensure target groups are reached. Ongoing training and discussion have improved this greatly within our programme.

The introduction of less formal processes such as participatory budgeting events and informal neighbourhood networks, supported by targeted outreach also helped to break down these barriers.

The Ambition for Ageing programme has explored in depth the impact of inequality on social isolation and community involvement, which can be found in our useful resources on page 27.

Managing the relationship between community and individual

It has been a challenge to manage potential conflicts of interest and expectations of those involved in steering groups and community groups who apply for funding.

An important point of learning for some of our local leads was how to handle the individual passion of volunteers for specific organisations or causes and removing emotion from decision-making. In particular, where resident-led boards are making highly informed decisions about funding projects they are subsequently greatly invested in.

One of our local lead's main challenges has been disagreements about specific activities, with people's opinions differing about whether something is seen as necessary or not. In some cases information, rather than funding, has been given to groups so they can access funding from elsewhere.

Running decision-making panels to make them best for all

Where decision-making panels were made up entirely of older people, some struggled at times with making decisions outside of their knowledge, for example on what value for money looks like, or whether to fund the same groups several times. In addition, decisions around funding things to benefit all, such as defibrillators, raised concerns of receiving a deluge of requests for the same items.

Staff-led processes helped to find solutions to this, such as using partnership working to raise the necessary funds outside of the programme for items where there were multiple requests.

There is also a limit to the amount of written information that can be provided, which leads to delays when the panels require additional information to make a decision. One potential solution is to explore 'pitching' so that these conversations can take place, but this may have its own logistical challenges and can be off-putting for some.

Establishing trust and proving legitimacy with local communities

It takes time for any new project to establish itself within a community, and microfunding projects are no exception. Many of our local leads carried out wide engagement with their local communities for up to and over a year prior to beginning funding in earnest. Local personalities, communities' sense of identity, wariness of 'outsiders' and 'consultation fatigue' all play into communities' unwillingness to initially engage.

For example, in one of our delivery areas, each individual ward has a very strong sense of their own identity, but less so with the borough itself. For an organisation that usually delivers borough-wide to deliver on a neighbourhood level, a lot of additional resource had to be put into working with each local community to help them believe in the project and the project's motives.

Checking groups have carried out engagement before applying

Many of the delivery leads reported difficulty in making sure that applicants had carried out evaluation and consultation with older people prior to putting in their applications. This is required to ensure that groups have a good idea that the project is needed, for instance the number of potential participants or whether the project is a duplication of something else in that area.

One local lead implemented a process, whereby the applicant received a phone call or a visit from those involve in the decision-making process before the application is assessed.

Being aware of the limitations faced by smaller groups

It proved difficult to fund new groups of people who were unconstituted, whilst also carrying out appropriate due diligence. This was overcome by encouraging money to be 'housed' by larger organisations on behalf of the group or supporting groups to become constituted.

The application forms presented a barrier for some groups due to confidence with writing or ability to express their ideas on paper. Application forms were reviewed frequently, community capacity development work assisted here.

Mitigating project risk

To mitigate risk for projects that may not achieve their aims, one of the local leads implemented a staged process for investments. They did this by paying 30% of the full grant application to cover start-up costs (which can be flexible based on the needs of each group) then paid the rest through delivery.

The nature of the programme is such that people come and go from the decision-making panels. If a person with existing links into the community is lost that creates a void which is hard to fill.

Being wary of underestimating staff time and resource

Although voluntary groups work hard and are committed to what they do, many have fed back that they greatly value a paid worker within their community who can offer advice, give them confidence and deal with the day-to-day running of a microfunding approach.

Being aware of the limits of microfunding as a model

Microfunding does not provide enough money to make longer-term, structural changes that decrease individual's risk of social isolation, such as access to transport and information. In addition, as the models within this programme focus on electoral wards, there is also a limit to the number of assets that can be invested in within a small area.

Working together with other funders may benefit both organisations and the local community, but perceived competition between different funders can be a challenge.

Knowing about external factors and their impact on the community

Due to recent fires in a local housing scheme, additional pressure was put on one of the local leads to ensure fire safety, delaying their ability to gain room authorisation as part of the small investment application.

The geography of another area has created barriers to getting people together, as it is often easier to get from one ward to another ward than to get from one side to the other of the same ward. This has sometimes meant holding meetings outside of the wards in destinations all residents can easy get to.

These type of external factors can impact on the ability of such schemes to get off the ground.

Useful Resources

Asset Based Approaches and Inequalities; *Ambition for Ageing*, 2018

Changing a place: Microfunding, co-production and community development; *Sophie Yarker, Jessica Thorley and Lucy North*, *Ambition for Ageing, 2020*

How to implement a wraparound microfunding approach; *Ambition for Ageing*, 2020

Interim Programme Evaluation Report 2019; *Jess Thorley, Ambition for Ageing*, 2018

Social Infrastructure: How Shared Spaces make Communities Work; *Sophie Yarker, MICRA, 2019*

Working Inclusively to Make Communities Age-Friendly; *Ambition for Ageing*, 2019

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