

OUR IMPACT

2025/26



Our aim is that voluntary and community groups in Tower Hamlets have:

✓ A stronger voice

- Initiated a collective statement around **premises** and presented 10 case studies to local authority, leading to progress in all case.
- Advocated for better integration of voluntary and community groups into Neighbourhood Health.
- **State of the Sector report** and **VCFSE strategy** led to a higher profile of VCS and increased likelihood of significant funding.
- **Neighbourhood Forum** pilot co-designed communication materials for the interpreting and advocacy service.



✓ Access to the resources they need



- Helped groups find and apply for £862,061 in funding.
- Supported 12 organisations to co-produce a project with £167,000 of Health Inequalities funding focused upon strengthening community engagement and professional awareness around safeguarding, domestic abuse and mental health.
- Partnership bids bringing £193,873 directly to VCS partner groups.

✓ Increased confidence, connections and skills

- Created 15 new **resources**, supporting small groups to gain the skills they need to run their organisations.
- Connected 187 VCS groups with each other through the regular forums we hold.



'Great workshop. Amount of participation and real life cases, critiquing each others initiatives, and clear next steps with frameworks. Very helpful.'



Photos by: Photographer London

Training



We developed 4 new training modules:

- Organisational structures & governance.
- Fundraising for community activities.
- Demonstrating your Impact.
- Co-production & user involvement.

Community Sparks

Putting local people in charge of local funding.



Community Sparks

The **Community Sparks** project started with a simple question: How do you invest in communities that have received very little investment for many years? Poplar is home to communities experiencing multiple forms of deprivation, alongside many small resident-led groups with deep local knowledge but limited access to funding and organisational support.

See the **short film** to see how worked with community members to distribute over £20k in small grants to community-led initiatives in the local area. 14 groups were funded to run projects through this process, directly engaging with 751 local people.

Case study

Harari Community in the UK came to us first in 2024 as an unconstituted community group. They had a track record of working with their community but were unable to communicate that to potential funders.

We supported them to register as a CIO and therefore be able to access grant funding of £17,000 from the National Lottery. We also supported them to find affordable and sustainable premises and now they are delivering services to 120 members of their community.



Tower Hamlets CVS

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