LEARNING SUMMARY

Neighbourhood Networks

June to September 2026

Produced by Care City in partnership with BD Collective, October 2026

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Barking & Dagenham

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PART ONE

01

What is this about?

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01 · WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

Background: five networks, one year in

September 2025 marked the launch of the first three Neighbourhood Networks in Barking & Dagenham. In late 2025, John Smith House network joined, with Thrive by Thames network also joining in May 2026, bringing us up to a total of 5. This learning summary compiles learning from across the summer months, followed by brief reflections on the year as a whole and what might come next in Year 2.

Each of these five network brings together at least three local VCFSE organisations around a dedicated £28,800 funding pot, working alongside residents to shape what happens in their neighbourhood. The ambition is to grow connection, trust and belonging, build skills and leadership, involve people who don't usually get involved, and develop local answers to local challenges. Over time, this is aiming to build up a infrastructure of relationships and resident-to-resident support, which can improve local health outcomes and reduce pressure on health and local authority services.

Learning sits at the heart of the Neighbourhood Networks programme. Networks generally reflect together on their activities each month, and all networks come together every quarter for a programme-level learning session. This summary draws on those conversations, on network meeting notes, scrapbooks, group chats, and on material networks made themselves to share impact.

The most recent whole-programme session took place in September 2026, with five networks in the room that been active in Year 1. Moving into Year 2 of the programme, we expect a number of additional networks to be joining, with four further networks currently in the process of being onboarded, and taking their first steps.

01 · WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

The five networks and their partners

5

networks live in Year 1



Parsloes Potential

Fabric Lab, Wood Lane Baptist Church, Kingsley Hall, Early Years Cocoon

Neighbourhood Heart

Elevate Together, Community Resources, Harmony Community Projects

Heath Park

True Cadence, The BEC, Independent Living Agency

John Smith House

Future M.O.L.D.S, BDYD, UKON Careers

Thrive by Thames

Barking Riverside Church, Humorisk, Creative Wellness

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PART TWO

02

What’s been happening this quarter?

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A busy summer across the five networks

Neighbourhood Heart

- A week of creative summer workshops for families at the White House
- A cake decorating session for young families - over 30 attended
- Street coffee mornings, grown by one resident from knocking on 100 doors on her street
- A second litter pick, combined with a community picnic
- A campaign drawing on younger people to promote the network
- Hackathons in July and September. In September, residents voted on five new ideas: a growers' fayre, a pop-up kitchen, sewing, drawing and conversation, and a mini fête

John Smith House

- Supporting residents into volunteering opportunities through UKON Careers, including at the Barking & Dagenham Carnival in July - including volunteer training and work shadowing opportunities in professional event management sector.
- Supporting to existing carnival arts programme to expand delivery into three local schools
- A weekly support group for people living with long-term health conditions.

A busy summer across the five networks (continued)

Thrive by Thames

- The networks newly recruited Residents' Panel met for the first time in July
- 17 resident ideas were scored and 6 shortlisted in the first round
- A second round: 5 ideas considered and 3 taken to stage 2, asking for £475 to £500 each
- Rolling monthly rounds have been agreed to run from September to January

Parsloes Potential

- A new network logo and a call-out to residents to reflect on network activity to date - what did people have most enthusiasm for?
- A decision to focus more on backing local people's own small-scale offers over large-scale event: pilates, yoga for 3 to 5 year olds, an event for mums of children with SEND, and a sewing idea
- Conversations with possible new local partners, including Leisure United and GoodGym

Heath Park

- A programme of "Summer Holiday activities" including Football, Jujitsu and gym workouts
- Recruiting a new coordinator to help organise network activities and facilitate resident panel sessions



Heath Park Summer Activities Flyer

Young people as a deliberate way to reach more local residents and grow more ambitious ideas

This quarter, some networks made a conscious choice to involve young people in getting the word out and reach local residents that their component organisations don't usually reach, and as a way to stoke new ideas.

Neighbourhood Heart ran a promotional week in August to raise awareness of the network. As part of this, around 20 young people went out in pairs, in network T-shirts, paid £20 for two hours, with one of the core team always coming alongside to answer questions from the public about the network . This built on earlier learning: a general paid "Outreacher" role attracted little interest, but a specific role linked to someone's own skills worked, and it has led to a young resident now taking on a paid role coordinating the networks Instagram page.

John Smith House supported young people in July to engage in volunteering as part of the Barking and Dagenham Carnival - an opportunity that there was interest for in the network, and a first step for younger people into greater involvement in community activity. As part of this, Youth Health Ambassadors gathered feedback and encouraged people into health, creative and movement activities.





Young people out and about in the neighbourhood as part of Neighbourhood Heart's "Promotional Week"

Continuing the shift: from delivering for residents to residents delivering to one another, with support

In the previous quarter's learning summary, it was noted that networks were reflecting on how to move beyond *offering activities* based on residents' ideas, towards residents running things themselves, with appropriate support to catalyse this. This quarter that shift continued, with activities across networks generally trending towards smaller, more grassroots activity that residents took a greater role in bringing to life.

Parsloes Potential had found that large events like the community cinema and disco drew crowds, but stretched the organisations' own capacity. Over the summer they chose to try something different: supporting local people who already had something to offer and wanted to grow and spread that. A local pilates teacher and a yoga teacher for young children will run sessions until the end of the year, charging a smaller fee so the sessions are partly funded. A local mum who runs regular events for mums of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) has been offered a venue and help with publicity, while she runs the event herself. A resident who saw a sewing session in another network now wants to run a sewing workshop, and the network is exploring how to progress this.

Neighbourhood Heart's September ideas came from residents' own skills and passions: home-grown produce, family recipes, sewing and drawing. Each will be delivered by the resident who proposed it.

Thrive by Thames network have chosen to add a question to their funding application form: "Would you like help in developing your idea?" to reinforce from the outset that idea that it's resident who will primarily be responsible be driving and shaping network ideas, rather than the VCFSEs in a network, who exist to play a more supportive, facilitative role.

Meanwhile, at **John Smith House** network, the Babyccino Club continues to grow from one resident's idea into an established group that is strengthening relationships between local parents.

PART THREE

03

Quarterly learning

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03 · QUARTERLY LEARNING

Support works best when it matches residents' own pace

A clear learning this quarter is that the timeline for testing an idea often doesn’t match the time a resident needs to build confidence to deliver something and/or share feedback. Given their own organisational needs, some networks have set a period for delivery (at **Neighbourhood Heart**, around six weeks before people come back to share what happened). For some residents this works. For others, it creates pressure to “just get it done”, so the focus moves from what the activity could build in the neighbourhood to simply getting it finished.

Finding the right-sized thing to test takes a thoughtful process. So does helping residents not to feel intimidated by being given money. To an organisation, £100 can feel tiny. To some residents it feels like a big responsibility, and they need support to see that it doesn’t have to be perfect. Network members at the quarterly learning session described residents being more used to being told than trusted with space and money, so being offered funding can bring suspicion as well as excitement too.

The organisational role that seems to help most is going alongside residents through a journey of building confidence, testing and learning, . **Neighbourhood Heart** has agreed to set up a small, official "mentoring" offer, with a £50 recognition payment for mentors. Their aim is for mentoring to develop the person as well as the idea: helping residents think about who else could be involved, test possibilities and reflect on what happens. Elsewhere, **Thrive by Thames** panel members have been exploring a social with successful funding applicants to start that support together, rather than pursuing a 1:1 support option.

John Smith House have also been reflecting on the right shape and support for residents over this quarter. They've noted the opportunity to resident starting the Babyccino Club to set up as an independent CIC. However, setting up a CIC takes a lot of effort and perhaps better broached as a longer-term option. For now, residents with ideas of a similar size may be better met with a kind of "pre entrepreneurial" support: help to grow, learn and scale without getting wrapped up in organisational challenges and the governance issues that exist around that route.

Spreading the learning mindset might address resident anxieties that accompanying new opportunities

Neighbourhood networks were set up to experiment. Our shared commitments include “making learning the work” and “being open to getting things wrong”. As residents take the lead, the question is how that spirit travels with them and how to share that in ways that build people's confidence to take the lead.

For many residents, “testing” is unfamiliar, and running an event can feel like a performance that has to go well. Members described residents “feeling the weight of responsibility of an event going well”, activity that pops up and disappears, and not knowing when to adapt an idea or stop it.

Members favoured many small, quick tests that grow, supported by mentors who hold expectations and draw out the “so what”: short and long-term goals to come back to, and telling the story of a test as it goes. Neighbourhood Heart’s residents returning to a Hackathon to share what happened is one way to build reflection in.

Support needs to reassure people that small and imperfect is fine, while treating what didn’t work as useful learning (to be expected) rather than failure.

FROM THE QUARTERLY LEARNING SESSION

> **“It's important to try lots of small quick ideas, then build from them.”**

AN OPEN QUESTION

How do we bring residents along with the idea of testing?

03 · QUARTERLY LEARNING

Neighbourhoods are defined by people’s lives, not council boundaries or programme terms

People don’t stop at boundaries

Parsloes Potential has grappled with whether a mum who runs SEND events locally, but lives just over the border in Redbridge, counts as a resident. If someone has real links to a place and spends time there, boundaries are a poor guide.

Venues help and hinder

A known place helps a network provide space for residents to deliver activities, but it can limit who it reaches. If a venue is already known for one thing, it has its own reputation and momentum that can be hard to disrupt.

“The word "hyperlocal" makes no sense – it's a funding buzzword, not created by someone who lives locally.” – Network member

“Hyperlocal” was a theme at the quarterly session, and some attendees were frank that the word isn't helpful - residents don’t use it themselves. We're learning as we go which terms land and which ones don't.

OTHER WORDS RESIDENTS RESPOND TO

“£100 Giveaway”	rather than microgrant
A coffee morning on the street	rather than community engagement
“Would you like help?”	rather than capacity building
A cuppa, a story and some play	rather than a peer-to-peer activity

For the programme

Work with residents to describe the networks in words they’d use with family and friends.

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03 · QUARTERLY LEARNING

Supporting residents to lead feels like it takes more resource than the current programme budget allows

Many networks have shared how they are carrying more than they expected when first setting up, even as activity becomes increasingly “resident-led” rather than delivered by VCFSEs. Supporting residents to lead, and facilitating spaces and process for this, takes its own time: mentoring, follow-up, venues, safeguarding and staying in touch between gatherings. Networks are feeling and responding to this in different ways.

Neighbourhood Heart

Recognising the time needed for administration to keep the network effective, they have agreed to test a sessional coordinator for six months, alongside the payment for mentoring residents.

Thrive by Thames

The network have been working to calculate what feels a fair time expectation of a resident panel and those coordinating it, opting for three hours across reading, shortlisting and deciding, and capping reviews at around ten.

Parsloes Potential

Much of the contact with local people sat with one person, with meetings moved around holidays and decisions waiting.

John Smith House

Each activity that's run with women in local supported housing is felt to surface more “need” and a felt obligation to respond to meet that.

03 · QUARTERLY LEARNING

The share of funding set aside for running a network doesn’t feel like full cost recovery

33%

of each network funding pot is set aside for running the network

Most networks have shared that this doesn’t feel like full cost recovery for what they put in. Based on this reflection, there is active discussion over whether this split changes moving into year 2.

> **“33% is too low, especially at the start when setting up the resident funding process.”**
>
> Network member

> **“More upfront money for coordination [is needed].”**
>
> Network member

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03 · QUARTERLY LEARNING

Small activities are starting to build a web of relationships that create and protect health

One of the main ambitions of Neighbourhood Networks, in line with the borough's wider neighbourhood health ambitions, is to build a "prevention infrastructure" of relationships - by that, we mean a web of everyday connections across neighbourhoods, through which **support flows between residents** , not just from VCFSEs to them, and which work in the short and long-term to prevent poor health from developing or getting worse.

This quarter we are starting to see this infrastructure develop more clearly. Currently, this is coming through in stories rather than numbers, and it will be helpful to think about additional methods for mapping the development of relationships over time through neighbourhood networks.

Collecting stories and mapping the "ripple effect" of small activities is helping us trace how one seemingly small change can lead to broad impacts, and especially how these lead to support beginning to pass from neighbour to neighbour, rather than simply from organisations to residents.

FROM

Support flowing from VCFSEs to residents

TOWARDS

Support flowing between residents, with VCFSEs alongside

Neighbours sharing, residents backing other residents, and ideas passing from one place to the next.

How one small activity leads to the next

NEIGHBOURHOOD HEART

From a litter pick to a friendly street

1. A resident and her children join a resident-led litter pick in Valence Park
2. The resident comes to a network Hackathon and proposes her own idea - to engage her neighbours and explore what they want
3. She builds the courage to knock on all 100 doors in her street
4. Neighbours organise a regular coffee catch up on a local patch of grass, bringing their own chairs

Support flowing between residents

Neighbours are working together to build connection-friendly street

NEIGHBOURHOOD HEART

Three residents, five activities

1. Three residents help with the first litter pick.
2. Two of those residents run a cake decorating session for over 30 families. The third runs a movie night
3. The three combine a picnic with a second litter pick, and others in the park ask to join
4. They are now backing another resident to develop a community fête, voted for in a September event

Support flowing between residents

Residents who were supported to lead are now supporting the next one

PARSLOES & NEIGHBOURHOOD HEART

Ideas moving from one network to another

1. A resident attends Parsloes Potential sewing classes held in Fabric Lab
2. That resident then attends a separate sewing event happening in the Neighbourhood Heart network area, which is being led by a resident
3. The resident returns to Fabric lab and asks if she can run her own sewing event in Kingsley Hall

Support flowing between residents

An idea seen in one place is picked up by residents in another

03 · QUARTERLY LEARNING

Responses to local challenges need "place-based" thinking but this remains underdeveloped in the programme

A clear route for ideas to grow is needed

When an idea starts to get bigger, as with the Babyccino Club's interest in delivering across the borough, it needs a clear way to develop, including into larger funding pots. As a programme, we've been recognising the need for more clarity on where ideas that are "too big" for, or outgrowing Neighbourhood Networks to be taken.

Partnerships in service of population health are moving slowly

As network activities reveal more resident's needs and ambitions, they're finding many of these speaking directly to the borough's neighbourhood health priorities (e.g. mental health challenges), thought there is unmet potential to work in partnership with local healthcare services and broader neighbourhood organisations, to address challenges together. Developing a "place based" approach needs to be a priority for next year.

- Emerging Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INTs) can be linking with groups that networks already run, like the long-term conditions group at John Smith House
- Local authority stakeholders can support networks in demonstrating their impacts upon health and link up networks with testing that's happening on local health priorities
- Networks can be encouraged to grow to include others who can develop their ideas further - we're seeing early signs of this through network conversations with organisations like Leisure United, GoodGym, the Bobby Moore Sports Hub and Film London, but there remains lots more scope for growing partnerships.

A QUESTION FOR THE PLACE

When networks discover more than can be met through grassroots activity alone, how might they link easily with the people who can respond?

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Networks want to link up with neighbourhood health work, but few yet understand how it works

In our most recent whole-programme learning session (September 2026) it became apparent that few networks understood the wider neighbourhood health work happening in the borough, including the aim and shape of the new Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INTs).

We dedicated extra time to unpacking what the INTs are trying to do, and to getting networks thinking about where their own work links up with those ambitions. Networks showed a clear wish to describe what they do in terms of its effect on health, and to use data to show impacts that matter across the borough.

CLEAR NEIGHBOURHOOD HEALTH LINKS ALREADY BECOMING VISIBLE

- A weekly support group for people living with long-term health conditions (John Smith House)
- Babyccino Club's focus on parents' wellbeing and connection
- Pilates, yoga for young children and outdoor sport for families

How we approach data needs to evolve

Networks are gathering strong stories of change, but the data is a patchwork. Ranging from attendance counts, feedback forms, photos, quotes, case studies to panel scores - what we're seeing is rich, but hard to amalgamate, compare, or turn into a digestible sense of the programme's impact. Taking into account the different needs of stakeholders across the programme, there are two data considerations that need a better balance:

1 Networks need freedom to learn in ways that are relevant and engaging

- Data capture needs to be shaped by each network's activities and questions - what each needs to collect depends upon the specific questions they're exploring.
- Gathering feedback needs to feel useful and interesting for networks and residents to engage in - if possible, *fun*
- Networks have expressed interest in a shared "toolbox" of designed data collection tools to choose from dependant on their aims.

and

2 Place-based working requires some consistency & translatable evidence

- A greater focus on quantitative data is needed to give us a better sense of *breath* of programme impact, while consistent approaches makes it easier to articulate our combined value.
- If we are are pursue collaborative approaches against borough-wide challenges, data collected by networks needs to be more clearly relevant to partners' priorities (e.g. public health outcomes) and shared in formats that others can make use of.
- Networks have shared that they welcome some standardisation of data collection where it gives them greater clarity

WHAT WE'RE EXPLORING

We're interested in whether collecting a number of **consistent data points** across all networks can give us more powerful data and open up new ways of talking about and catalysing the impacts of approaches like Neighbourhood Networks. We are currently exploring funding available through Thames Freeport to test whether this approach - how capturing data that is both comparable and can be aggregated might be a helpful way of demonstrating the breadth of impact across the VCFSE sector, along with support needed to help VCFSEs feel confident in this.

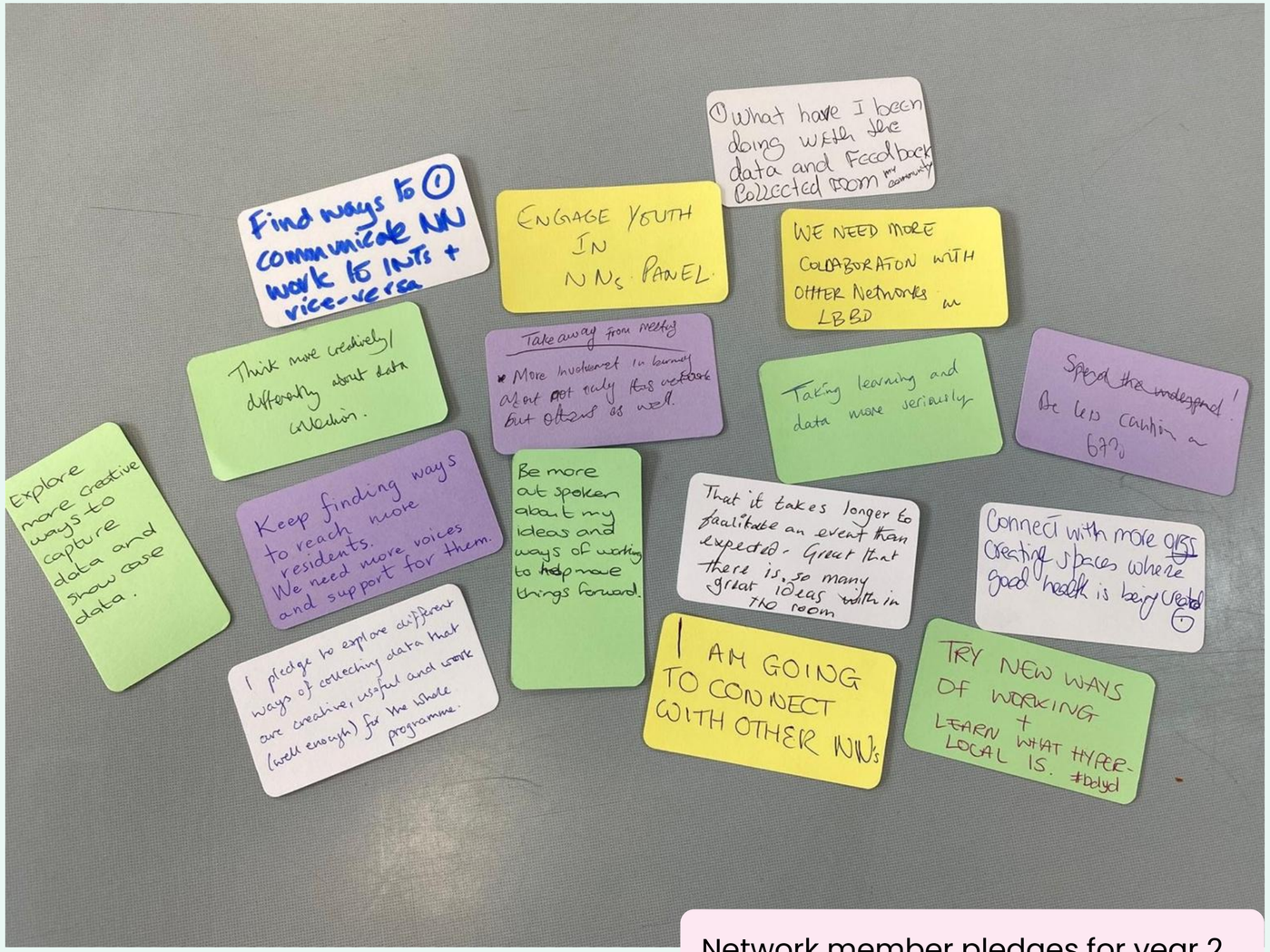
A challenge: giving data its due, without separating it from other network activity

In our most recent whole programme learning session, networks shared further details on how data collection in being approached. What was interesting here was how networks have been trying to simplify data collection by finding dedicated roles for gathering evidence, compiling learning and evidencing the impact they're making. It will be important than learning isn't "sectioned off" as a part of neighbourhood networks activity happening outside the core of the process; using a "learning approach" for developing ideas is a central part of how the programme's been conceived. That said, these examples reinforce the fact that learning often needs approaching in a focused way, with dedicated resource (e.g. mirroring Care City's role as a "Learning Partner" on this programme as a whole) - it can't be regarded as something that will "just happen" organically without dedicated attention. On account of this, we'll be discussing how responsibilities for data collection, learning, and learning support might shift over the next year of the programme, and how networks can engage in learning that feels both adequately resourced and at the same time a critical part of how ideas develop - not separate to "delivery".

EXAMPLES OF HOW DATA COLLECTION AND LEARNING IS BEING APPROACHED

- John Smith House network have trained a home-based volunteer to log sessions providing volunteer opportunities, collect feedback and prepare reports on this aspect of the network's activity.
- Neighbourhood Heart network are building dedicated time into their Hackathons to gather feedback from residents who’ve been testing small ideas, in a roughly 6-weekly rhythm.
- Heath Park network have collected and compiled learning through a dedicated paid coordinated role for the network as a whole - this role has broader coordination and administrative responsibilities than in any other network, alongside facilitating the Heath Park resident panel.

Pledges made for year 2



Network member pledges for year 2.

As part of our recent whole-programme learning session, networks were encouraged to make “pledges”. These expressed each member’s intentions going forwards, taking into account what felt important from our discussions, and they helped us build mutual accountability for the programme.

A collection of these is shown on the left-hand side, with common themes including pledges

- **increase collaboration** across networks
- **focus more on data collection** and in using creative approaches to better showcase impact

Making learning visible between networks creates ripples of its own

Networks sometimes feel they aren’t hearing enough from each other, getting doses of inspiration from other networks, or "in the loop" about what's happening across the programme. Quarterly sessions are helping with this, but a lot happens in between them. There is a clear wish to evolve how learning and news are shared, with a number of examples suggested - for example, a new WhatsApp group, social platform, or different ways of capturing and sharing learning on a monthly basis - which we'll be experimenting with in the months ahead.

Visibility creates ripples. Despite the above, when networks are seeing what's happening beyond themselves, this can be picked up, replicated or learned from across the programme. For instance, a resident seeing a resident-led sewing session in one network asked if she could be supported to run something similar in her own. Meanwhile, the use of a panel and a small grant concept (in Heath Park and Neighbourhood Heart, respectively) are now both being used by new network Thrive by Thames.

Reshaping learning and programme support for year two. It's important that networks can act on inspiration and enthusiasm quickly. To take a recent example, Neighbourhood Heart raised the possibility of their network participating in the " Community Bridgebuilders " programme to help residents and partners connect across difference and work through disagreement. However, a process of opening this up to other networks wasn’t simple to coordinate and slowed momentum - the programme is only just now being commissioned by Neighbourhood Heart, several months after its first proposal, who will open it up to all other networks too. This experience showed us that it could be beneficial to test new ways of opening up opportunities across the programme, in ways that can capitalize on enthusiasm rather than stall it.

IDEAS TO TEST

- Sharing between networks needs a lighter rhythm, and support that can say "yes" quickly
- New platforms for communication between networks that support quick and easy sharing of news and learning between formal sessions
- Short visits or calls between networks working on similar things

03 · QUARTERLY LEARNING

There is a fine line between linking residents into existing opportunities and missing the opportunity *within* a network

Ripples of impact are starting to reach beyond individual neighbourhood networks into the community. For example, neighbourhood networks have supported carnival arts programmes to expand into three schools, new conversations with leisure and sports partners are happening, and Film London has shown interest in network community cinemas. As confidence grows, residents are linking into wider opportunities in the borough - an effect that we anticipated in our previous quarterly learning session and one to celebrate.

However, it's important to note a tension here. Networks can be a useful route into what else is already happening, but we need to be careful not to simply funnel residents towards things that would carry on in much the same shape without the networks, or because those things are easier that nurturing a more bespoke idea that a resident has shared.

QUESTIONS FOR US

- How do we tell the story of what a network has made possible, separately from each VCFSE's own work?
- How do we credit residents and VCFSEs fairly when an idea moves between them?
- How do we enable networks to channel people into broader initiatives, without losing sight of residents' unique ambitions?

A USEFUL TEST FOR THE VALUE OF THE NETWORKS

Would this be happening, in this way, without the network's existence?

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PART FOUR

04

Reflections on the first year of the programme

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Where has learning focused over the last year?

SEP TO NOV 2025

Getting started as a network

Three networks launched and John Smith House network joined soon after. Initial learning focused on having good conversations with residents, a gradual, snowballing approach to promoting the network, and addressing first questions about money and paying residents for their time.

DEC 2025 TO FEB 2026

Testing ways to bring ideas to life

Families, wellbeing and the local environment emerged as priorities across the networks, and networks started experiencing the challenges and questions involved in responding to enthusiasm and bringing ideas to lie. Questions here focused on how to move from a wide range of ideas into things that could be sustainable, happening at a manageable speed and size, while starting to shift questions from “What do you want to see?” to “What can you bring?”

MAR TO MAY 2026

Shifting towards resident ownership

Networks showed increased interests on how decision-making approaches using in other networks could help solve challenges they were experiencing in resident-taking ownership of ideas.

JUN TO SEP 2026

Evolving approaches based on learning

Over the summer, networks have had space to reflect on their activity over the first year, where there have been challenges, and how to match resident ideas with support to help turn ideas into reality while retaining a resident-led and curiosity-driven approach in the networks. Evidence of network impact, including quantitative data, case studies, and other qualitative work is starting to ramp up.

Where we are: Evidence against the learning framework

What we're doing

GROWING

We have a good sense what networks spend their time on and what residents want to do. Data on how money is being spent is showing us broad trends of interest, but more can be done here to give us good quality data without asking too much of networks at the point of drawing down funds.

How we're working

STRONG PICTURE

We have rich learning on involving residents, sharing power and on the processes for making decisions about money together. We understand a good amount about the challenges involved in setting up a network of this kind. The most obvious gaps here are in reflections from broader place partners and direct reflections from residents involved in networks.

Value we're creating

GROWING

We are seeing compelling stories and early signs of change, with a wide range of formats being used to share the value being produced by the networks. However, we don't have data that allows for consistency and an easy sense of the impact of the whole programme.

Place-level questions

EARLY

Learning here remains underdeveloped, with most focused on the challenges in supporting networks and residents to see opportunities in this space and a need for better communications. Questions around place-based approaches and the potential of neighbourhood networks to contribute to those should be a priority in Year 2.

PART FIVE

05

Looking ahead to Year 2

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05 · LOOKING AHEAD TO YEAR 2

Coming up, Oct–Dec 2026

Neighbourhood Heart

- Reviewing the six-month coordinator test: whether follow-up is more consistent, whether residents find support useful, and whether the workload is fairer across partners
- Choosing mentors and agreeing a shared approach to mentoring
- Hearing back on September's five ideas at the next Hackathon
- Exploring how to make it easier to share ideas before Hackathons

John Smith House

- Kizomba dance sessions
- Door-to-door conversations with at least 100 households around John Smith House during October half term
- Continuing the Babyccino weekly support group and following up with families over time.

Thrive by Thames

- Monthly panel rounds through to January
- A social to link funded applicants with panel members who want to support them
- Funded projects starting to come alive

Parsloes Potential

- Testing pilates, yoga for young children, the SEND mums event and a sewing idea until December, then reflecting on what to continue
- Meeting possible new partners, including GoodGym

Heath Park

- Embedding a new network coordinator

Actions we're taking to shape Year 2

A short survey to support reflection. We have followed-up on quarterly learning session reflections with a short survey for network organisations to inform decisions on what changes going into year 2, and addressing any gaps against the initial learning aims of the programme.

Rethinking funding and avenues for ideas to grow. Networks say the protected 33% of funding available to support network development activities (i.e. not going directly into resident-led ideas) doesn't cover the coordination that resident-led, learning-focused work needs. Together with the council, we'll be considering a how this split might need to change, along with how we can bring in wider place partners so VCFSEs aren't the only ones helping residents' ideas come to life, and broader funding pots to link into/

Exploring consistent data points. We're exploring an opportunity to collect a small set of consistent data points across networks on the programme, as a way to better communicate the combined value of the local VCFSE sector.

A new way to share learning and news. Networks want to hear more from each other between sessions. We haven't finalised a format yet, but we'll be floating and choosing from a variety of options soon.

Building links with neighbourhood health. Few networks yet understand the borough's Integrated Neighbourhood Teams, so we'll be supporting partners in developing more effective two-way communications around this work, so networks can see where they fit and health partners can see what networks have to offer.