

Recommendations

Insights for the National Lottery

In 2020, The National Lottery (TNL) awarded funding support to Our StreetsChorlton (OSC) via the Climate Action Fund (CAF). OSC is a community-led initiative in South Manchester which aims to co-create solutions for reducing car use for short journeys. OSC convened a Partnership consisting of eight local organisations to deliver these objectives: Groundwork, WalkRide GM, OpenData Manchester, Sustrans, Amity, Tyndall Centre at the University of Manchester, Yellow Jigsaw and Commonplace. When the funding support ended in March 2022, members of the Partnership set out to reflect on the successes, challenges, and lessons learned from the project.

This document outlines insights for The National Lottery based on lessons learned from the project and reflections from members of the Partnership.

Insight 1: Aligning the goals of the funder and the project with the community's capacities and resources is important for success.

The current process for applying for additional funding from TNL is extensive. This, however, does not always align with the capacities, experiences, and resources available to grassroots, community-led organisations.

We therefore recommend that The National Lottery take a place-based approach, where they can consider aspects where the community can make the most impact based on their needs, capacities, and resources.

Insight 2: Community-led initiatives can benefit from institutional support to build/strengthen their network and improve capacities.

We found that creating effective place-based partnerships and leadership enables positive co-designed action. Authentic development of existing and new relationships and connections is integral to a successful partnership and requires time and resources. The time spent building the OSC Partnership was necessary yet this covered a significant amount of time out of the 15-month funding.

We therefore recommend that time, space and funding are given to building a quality Partnership, especially for new collaborations. This requires support from TNL from the start, and this should be costed for and resourced in bid development.

Similarly, support from local authority is important in order to build trust within the community, as well as to influence policy. As we learned from OSC, relationship building with local councillors and the city council takes a lot of time. This should be considered by funders, especially to manage expectations for short-term projects.

Insight 3: Changing the way people travel requires infrastructure development alongside behaviour change interventions.

We learned from OSC that many people want to change how they get around - at least 50% of those we surveyed are willing to use their cars a lot less. However, the community needs related enabling measures that would encourage them to use other forms of travel, in particular changes in transport infrastructure.

Infrastructure is central to active travel interventions. Partnerships and co-development between councils and community members are essential to overcoming infrastructural barriers and shifting practices (e.g., safe cycle ways and benches for resting).

We therefore recommend that future transport-focused CAF should have a bigger fund, and include a requirement for match capital from local councils. Local council commitment is essential as they are able to implement the changes to infrastructure that will be needed to enable people to shift to low carbon travel.