

EVALUATING RESILIENCE

St Leonard's Community Resilience Evaluation

South Sefton Foodbank



- One-to-one interviews with 'strategic stakeholders', including feedback from representatives of the Council, support charities and a neighbouring foodbank / debt advice service.
- Staff interviews, Trustee interviews, and volunteer interviews, mainly conducted face-to-face or else via telephone.
- Observation at three of the cooking courses and three of the Men'Space drop-in groups.

Outputs were a full report, summary presentation slide pack and a micro-site - the latter providing easy access to all of the research materials and report outputs, which has proven helpful for signposting funders to evidence of impact. See: www.researchmlr.co.uk/st-leonards-evaluation-2018

Findings & outcome >>

The evaluation revealed how:

- The service provides vital navigation for disadvantaged people, helping them link through to support and benefits.
- Direct support at times of crisis (foodbank provisions, for example), are highly valued, however the longer term benefits associated with social 'wrap around' services should not be under-estimated.
- Self help activities are helping to reduce isolation, boost confidence and encourage greater engagement with support services.

Overview >>

St Leonard's Youth and Community Centre required an evaluation of their Community Resilience project so as to identify learning points for future project implementation and develop greater understanding about the impact of this project, two and a half years into a three year Reaching Communities Lottery grant, to inform future funding bids and sustainability.

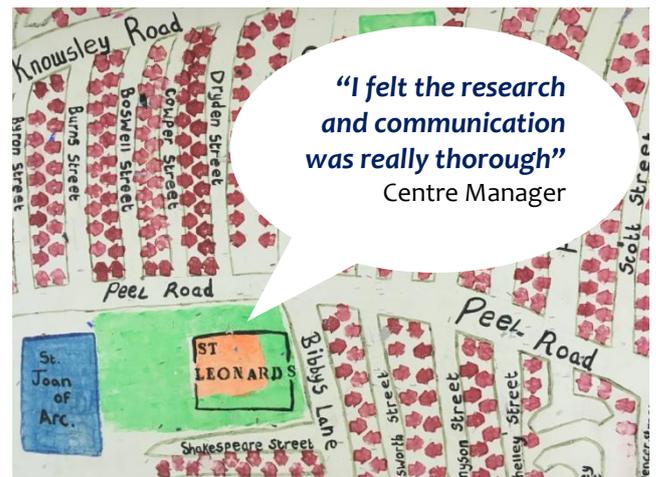
What we did >>

The Community Resilience project was run out of St Leonard's Centre and locations across South Sefton so as to enable foodbank users and other disadvantaged local people to have easy access to anti poverty support services - including self help groups, money management advice, healthy eating skills, welfare rights signposting, and support groups tackling isolation.

The evaluation of wrap-around support services and foodbank co-ordination primarily applied a formative approach, dictated by the two month evaluation timescale and ongoing delivery of the programme - with assessment of outputs and early outcomes being included to inform future working.

Fieldwork activities comprised:

- Interviews with service users at various locations and across the main services.



Source: artwork on wall of St Leonard's Youth and Community Centre

More information >>

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