

## Community Foundation end of grant reporting

### PLEASE READ BEFORE CONTINUING

- If your project is not complete and/or part of the grant funding is not spent, please contact us before submitting your report.

Monitoring Form

Reference: FR-000019970

Date Due: 22/04/2025

Grant Purpose: science clubs for children and young people with autism or additional sensory needs in North East England

Grant Awarded:

£11,996.00

**Grant Spent:**

£6,188.99

**Grant unspent: (please give reasons)**

£5,807.01

The cost of developing the activities has been less than anticipated, with more cross-over between the groups and other school science clubs. The partners for the d/Deaf and Visual Impairment clubs were both statutory providers, who did not charge for their time and were able to provide support staff and translators for the clubs. We were also able to apply a new evaluation process developed as part of a national programme, which eliminated a lot of the development time this work usually requires. As a result the delivery costs have been significantly lower than expected. We would like to use the surplus to run another year of the programme to extend the benefit to 3 new cohorts and to expand the evaluation to get a more comprehensive understanding of our impact.

**Number of people who benefited:** 28

*Please enter a number (without decimals)*

**Age range of beneficiaries:** 9-14 (plus parents)

*Maximum 25 characters*

**Geographic area (village, town etc.):** Newcastle (participants from across North East)

*Maximum 50 characters*

**How did you spend the grant** (break down of expenditure)

Item	Amount (£)
Resource development (staff time)	£641.25
Session development and partner liaison (staff time)	£883.50
Delivery and delivery support (staff time)	£3164.25
Evaluation (staff time)	£14.25
NEAS club materials	£67.50
VI club materials	£129.33

d/Deaf club materials	£126.19
Room hire (partnership rate, £30 per hour) – 21 hours in total	£630.00
Partner costs (NEAS)	£532.72
Grand totals	£6,188.99

## Grant Objectives

*At the beginning of your grant, we agreed 1 to 3 grant objectives with you. Please tell us below whether you achieved each of these, and what evidence you have gathered to support your answer.*

### *Grant objective 1*

**Three “sensory” STEM clubs will take place between September 2024 and July 2025. Each club will include 6 sessions, each lasting 60-90 minutes. 18 sessions will be delivered in total within the period.**

**Did you achieve this objective?**

**Yes**No

*Please provide details on which your answer is based. If you did not achieve the objective, why was this?*

Three clubs were delivered in this time window: The Autism club, in partnership with the North East Autism Society; the d/Deaf club, in partnership with Newcastle Hearing Impaired Additionally Resourced Provision (HIARP) based in two schools; the Visual Impairment club, in partnership with Newcastle Visual Impairment Additionally Resourced Provision (VIARP) working across four schools. The timing, quantity and duration of each club was agreed with the partners, which led to some variation from the original expectation. As a result, the Autism club had 6 90-minute sessions, while the d/Deaf and Visual Impairment clubs had 4 1-hour sessions and one 4-hour ‘celebration’ session. 16 sessions in total were delivered, with a total contact time of 25 hours.

### *Grant objective 2*

**Clubs will support 32 participants in total (8,12,12) per cohort with each participant receiving an average of 6 contact hours. Young people will be recruited through at least 10 partner organisations.**

**Did you achieve this objective?**

**Yes**No

*Please provide details on which your answer is based. If you did not achieve the objective, why was this?*

We were slightly below this target – 28 participants (excluding parents), and 9 partner organisations.

Participation was shaped by partner recruitment and by the ability of the young people to attend. We found that the young people supported by the HIARP and VIARP teams were more likely to attend regularly, as they came as a group using their own minibuses or metro passes and with support staff. The young people in the Autism group attended after school, accompanied by their parents (who formed their own separate support group during the

sessions). The latter were more subject to external factors that prevented attendance to all sessions, some of which were linked to their condition. The average contact hours for Autism club attendees were 7.2 hours (out of a total possible of 9). For the d/Deaf and Visual Impairment clubs the average contact hours were 7.3 hours per participant (out of a total possible of 8).

HIARP and VIARP were able to fill their clubs from 5 partner schools (11 and 10 students respectively) while young people supported by NEAS took 7 places on their programme (representing 9 partners in total).

### *Grant objective 3*

**By the end of the programme participants will be able to demonstrate increased confidence in communicating and sharing ideas, develop new STEM practical skills, and have increased awareness of how STEM skills are used in a variety of jobs and life.**

**Did you achieve this objective?**

**Yes**No

*Please provide details on which your answer is based. If you did not achieve the objective, why was this?*

Since the development of our original funding proposal, our national body (the Association for Science and Discovery Centres) has created a national evaluation framework for informal science learning programmes that we trialled with the clubs. This evaluation was conducted using postcards that use a 5-point scale of face icons (frown to smile) to indicate agreement or disagreement with the statements:

- I could work with science in the future if I wanted to
- I felt proud of myself while doing the science club activities
- The science we did in science club felt relevant to me and things I care about
- During science club I enjoyed doing science activities with my friends
- I felt comfortable when doing the science club activities

These questions relate to a broader Theory of Change developed by ASDC (<https://inclusion.sciencecentres.org.uk/resources/inclusion-theory-of-change/>).

In particular our questions related to the linked concepts of “STEM Capital” and “STEM Identity”, the former being a subset of cultural capital and the latter being the extent to which people see themselves as having a place in STEM. The postcards were completed before and after the programme. All the questions demonstrated a positive change apart from the “working with science” question, which may suggest exposure to science helped some students decide it is not for them. However this average masked a couple of very strong positive scores for individuals who had moved from sceptical to very positive to the idea of working in science. The strongest positive result was in the “pride in myself” question, implying growth in science capital and confidence. These are small sample sizes tested with a new methodology, but it encourages us to see the positive response to the programme from its beneficiaries.

**How the grant has made a difference**

*Please describe below how the grant has made a difference to your organisation and its beneficiaries. We are interested in the areas covered by your grant objectives, but also in any additional or unexpected achievements.*

This award has strengthened our relationships with the delivery partners which will continue beyond the programme. The relationship with NEAS is our longest-standing one, and the science club has operated in some form for several years. We have seen the impact it has had on young people, and indeed this year some of the original participants joined us as volunteer mentors having now turned 18. Young people who struggle with social interaction have developed friendships and self confidence that continues outside the club. At the same time, each cohort sees parents who may have felt isolated meet up with peers who share and understand the issues they are contending with. The HIARP and VIARP relationships are newer but as with NEAS, they have fed into our whole organisation's understanding of sensory needs. This has impacts across our centre, in our exhibitions and programmes for the public and for schools. During the period of this grant, Life's Trustees approved a strategic ambition to become the UK's most inclusive and accessible science centre. They were confident that this is a realistic aim in part due to the success of programmes like the Sensory Science Clubs, which have a wider cultural impact on our organisation.

*We would also be grateful for any stories, photographs and feedback from your beneficiaries.*

#### **Photographs and Supporting Documents**

*Photographs are a great way to showcase the great work you do, would you like to upload any photographs or supporting document? If so please remember to upload them by clicking "Yes" below and adding the required photos/supporting documents.*

YesNo

#### **Photographic Consent**

*We give consent for photographs and/or videos to be used by the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland (CWTN) for:-*

Publications, Newsletters, Presentations, CFTWN website, Social media channels, Local/National/international press, Media and PR activities with Community Foundation partners.

People within the photographs will not be identified by name unless prior additional consent is obtained.

#### **Please tick to give consent**

Yes

Declaration

By clicking submit I agree to the following:

1. I am authorised to submit this monitoring form on behalf of the above organisation
2. I certify that the information contained in this form is correct
3. I give permission for the Community Foundation to record the details of my organisation electronically

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**I agree**

[Contact Information](#)