

COMMUNITIES SERVICE



ANNUAL REPORT 2023 to 2024



We are the Communities Service. We focus on growing the power of communities and keeping communities who experience the greatest inequity safe.

We do this through:

- **Asset Based Community Development**
- **Community Safety**
- **Grant funding**
- **Supporting volunteering**
- **Connecting people to each other and to resources**
- **Enabling communities to be involved in decisions that affect them**
- **Supporting Council colleagues to involve communities**



**Read on for our highlights
from the last year**

2023 to 2024 - An Overview

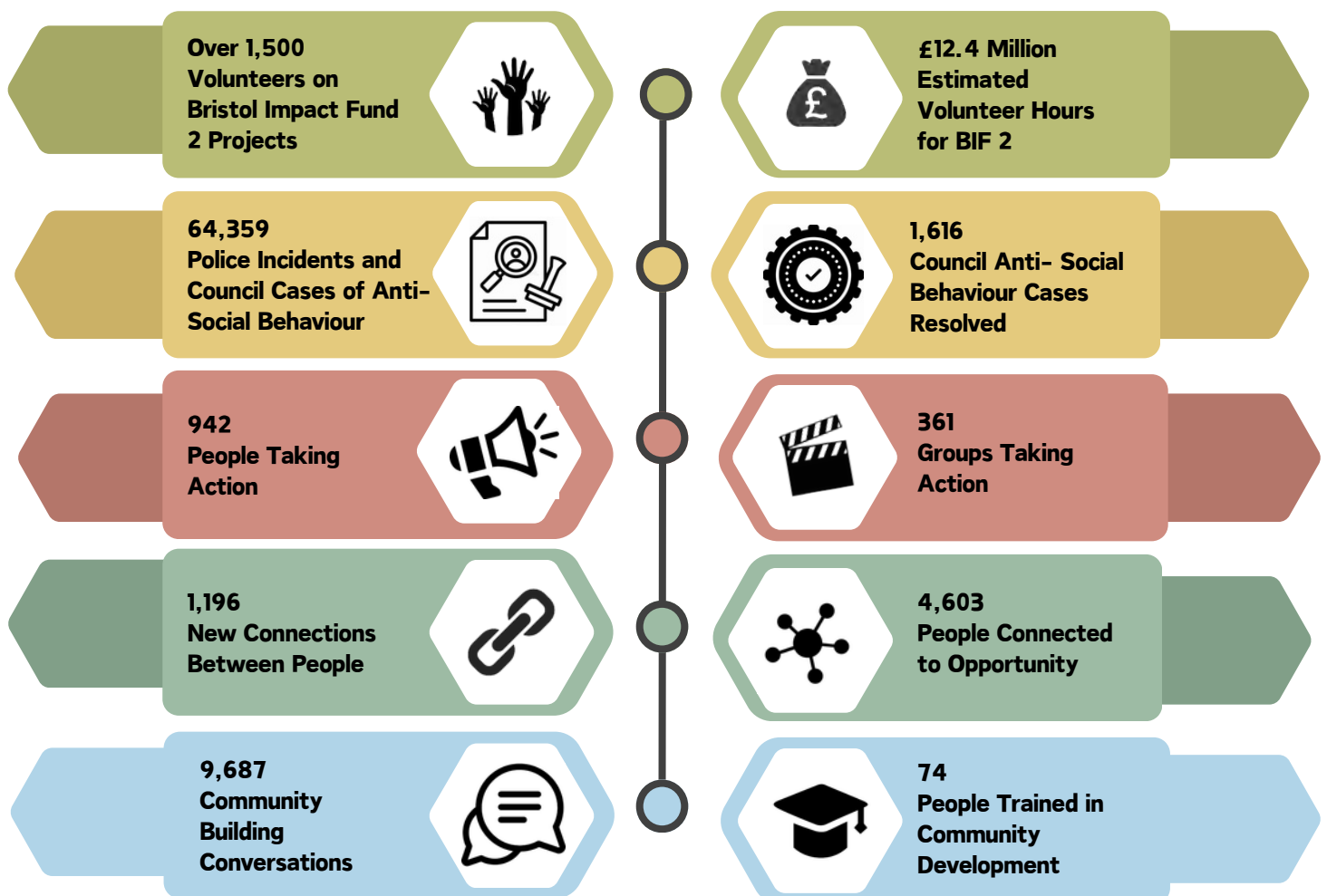
It has been a positive but challenging year. This short report gives a snapshot of just some of our highlights.

We have been delighted to welcome the Safer Communities Team into our service adding to our capacity in creating safer and more resilient communities. We have the privilege of working with citizens and communities across Bristol. At its heart, our work is all about building respect and trust over time. We are so fortunate that people open their doors to us, we get to know people and do what we can to encourage and support communities to act on the things they care about.

There are a lot of things, such as the cost of living, making daily life more difficult for people and making it harder for them to engage with the long term work we do. This year has also been marked by a number of distressing and shocking events across the city. At times of crisis our role is to facilitate communication and work with others to coordinate networks of support.

We can't do our work without residents, community and city partners, and City Council colleagues – so a massive thank you for working with us and making this happen....

Our Work in Numbers



HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK OVER THE LAST YEAR (Part 1)

APRIL

ONE CITY MANY COMMUNITIES

The Mayor invited all involved in the Bristol One City response to the cost-of-living crisis to a celebration event at City Hall. More than 120 people attended the event, representing Welcoming Spaces, community hubs and city partners, to reflect on their work and discuss the legacy of the response.



MAY

SAFER STREETS

Two Safer Streets Participatory Budgeting events held in Hartcliffe and Bedminster led by sixteen local people. This saw 140 people coming together to agree to funding for 15 community projects to a value of £40k.



JUNE

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FUND

We celebrated the success of the Community Resilience Fund participatory grant making process with everyone who took part. £4million was allocated to voluntary and community sector organisations to improve community buildings and buy equipment or technology.



JULY

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB) WEEK

Raising awareness of anti-social behaviour alongside our partners including victims and witnesses, Police and Housing. We focussed on graffiti, fly tipping and anti-dog fouling and how to report. We have seen an increase in reporting since holding our campaign.



AUGUST

TEMPLE QUARTER REGENERATION

We are working on an extensive long term engagement programme to bring people along with change happening in Temple Quarter- in the photo children from Lockleaze shared their ideas of what would make it a great place to be - for them.



SEPTEMBER

BRISTOL IMPACT FUND 2 (BIF 2)

Over 30,000 people participated in BIF-funded activities, leading to improved wellbeing, connectedness and knowledge of rights and services. This is successfully reaching communities experiencing the greatest inequality.



Photo: Changes Bristol

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK OVER THE LAST YEAR (Part 2)



OCTOBER

COMMUNITY HUBS

£25,000 of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funding was granted to four community hubs (each), with another £25,000 to be granted in April 2024. This was matched by funding through Quartet Community Foundation for another eight community hubs.

UKSPF funding is awarded through West of England Combined Authority (WECA) and the Department of Levelling Up, Homes and Communities (DLUHC)



NOVEMBER

COST OF LIVING REPORT

The Bristol One City Cost of Living Crisis: What Happened and Key Learning report was published. The report tells the story of how Bristol responded to the crisis with data, stories and pictures.

DECEMBER

LEVELLING UP KNOWLE WEST

Knowle West is receiving significant Levelling Up Funding and improvements to Public Realm. We have supported stakeholder meetings and developed a Communications Plan working with the community and Council colleagues.



JANUARY

BRISTOL IMPACT FUND SMALL GRANTS 2

13 new small grants were awarded through Bristol Impact Fund, including the first grant made to a group led by the LGBTQ+ community.

FEBRUARY

AREA COMMITTEES

£1,598,956 Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 funding awarded to community, parks and transport projects. £844,153 of this went directly to community groups. Photo is of residents celebrating securing funding for improvements on Carolina House terrace.



MARCH

PURPLE FLAG ACCREDITATION

The City was awarded the Purple Flag for the Night Time Economy for the 13th year in a row. This award is for town and city centres that meet or surpass the standards of excellence in managing the evening and night-time economy.

