

HARPUR TRUST

**Working With Grantees and Bedford
Communities for More Impactful Programmes**

Lucy Bardner – Community Programmes Director

Contact us: lbardner@harpurtrust.org.uk @TheHarpurTrust

Learning to listen – a process, not a destination

A bit of learning from a previous evaluation....

“There is a lot of frustration from small groups; although [grants staff] are prepared to be helpful, many of these groups don’t want to appear ignorant – they don’t have the confidence to say they don’t understand”

The Linbert Spencer Factor



**TRANSPARENCY
AND
ENGAGEMENT:**



THE PILLARS
OF STRONGER
FOUNDATION
PRACTICE

Working with voluntary organisations and the community



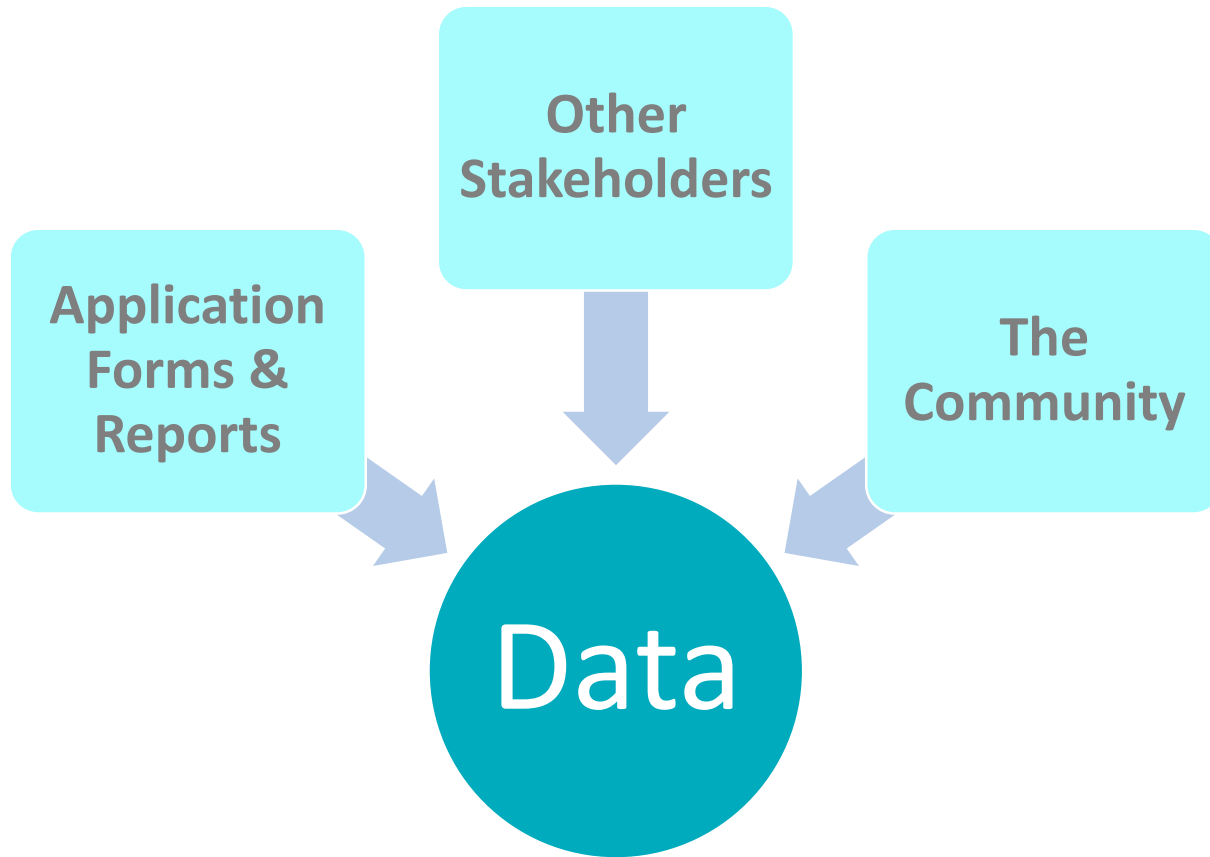
To help shape our emerging strategy

To develop our Covid-19 response

Data is *always* out of date – what's happening now?

To inform our decision making

Bedford: Understanding our Community



Are we getting the full picture?

Are people telling us what they *want* us to hear?

Or what they think we want to hear?



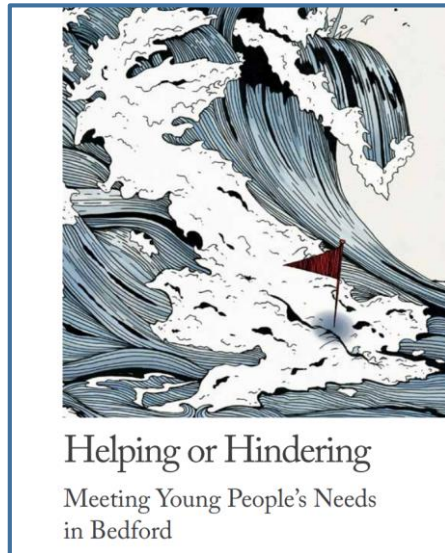
Everyone has an agenda – we need to create meaning and understanding from different voices

What have we done before?

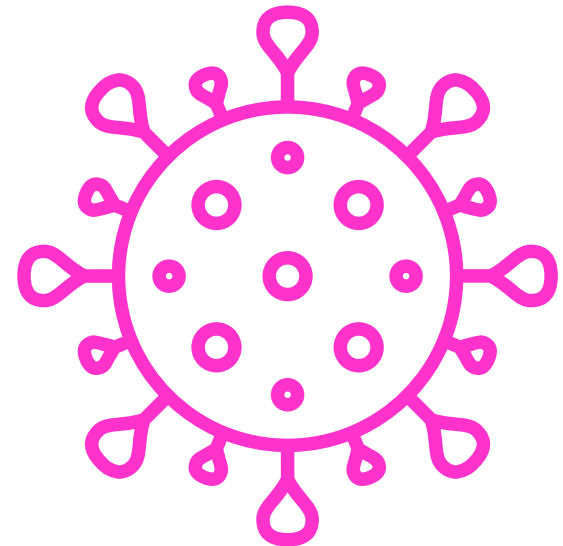
Grantee surveys



Funding external
research
agencies



Then along came the
pandemic ...

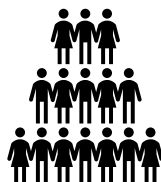


Surveyed 150 VCSE organisations working in Bedford – 78 responses

- Changes in number/type of beneficiaries



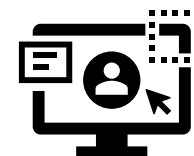
- Changes in demand for specific services



- Biggest challenges faced by beneficiaries



- Organisations immediate support needs



- Organisational challenges




- Beneficiary groups whose needs aren't being met




Covid Consultation groups – digging deeper

Immediate needs 

Mental health 

Older people 

Families, children and poverty 

20 groups took part



Public consultation - Kaizen

- Online
- Street interviews
- Street focus groups
- Over 400 people including 200 young people
- Incredibly rich data

“If you could wave a magic wand – what would you change about Bedford?”



What do Bedfordians think about Bedford?



Adults



What should the Harpur Trust be spending its money on?

Children and Young People

“Lots of kids bored, if you don't play sports there's not much here.”

“Lack of opportunities & job prospects.”

“Crime - gang violence - lots of drugs”

“No one cares about us.”

“A lot of young people struggling with mental health after pandemic, too much pressure.”



Trustee Roundtable – October 21

Three VCSE organisations working with children and young people invited to talk to Grants Committee about their challenges during Covid



A useful dialogue

What gaps are you seeing in support?

BME groups seem like low priority

Increase in young people's mental health needs – suicide

Young asylum seekers targeted for exploitation

How is demand changing?

Numbers are rising significantly. More firefighting that preventative work

Demand and complexity have increased for risks to young people i.e. exploitation of younger age groups

What would help you moving forward?

Longer term funding for security..

Statutory funding shrinking

We need your help



- To help us devise a strategy which really helps the people of Bedford *please*
- Share your are learning about children, young people and families
- Be open about the challenges your organisation faces
- Encourage the people you help to share their thoughts and lived expertise

HERE FOR
BEDFORD
SINCE 1566

