

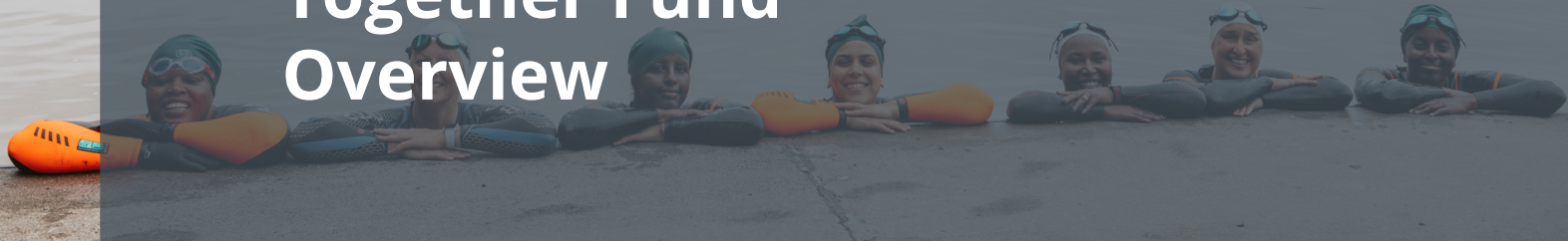
wesport  
INSPIRING ACTIVE LIVES  
**Voscur**  
In partnership with



# TOGETHER FUND

**2022**  
**- 2023**

# Together Fund Overview



## Overview of the Together Fund

Together Fund (TF) was the continuation and final phase of Sport England's [Tackling Inequalities Fund](#). With the fund previously focussing on the reducing the negative impact of COVID-19 and widening of inequalities in sport and physical activity, TF continued with this but also emphasised the 'recovery and growth' of organisations as they transition out of the pandemic.

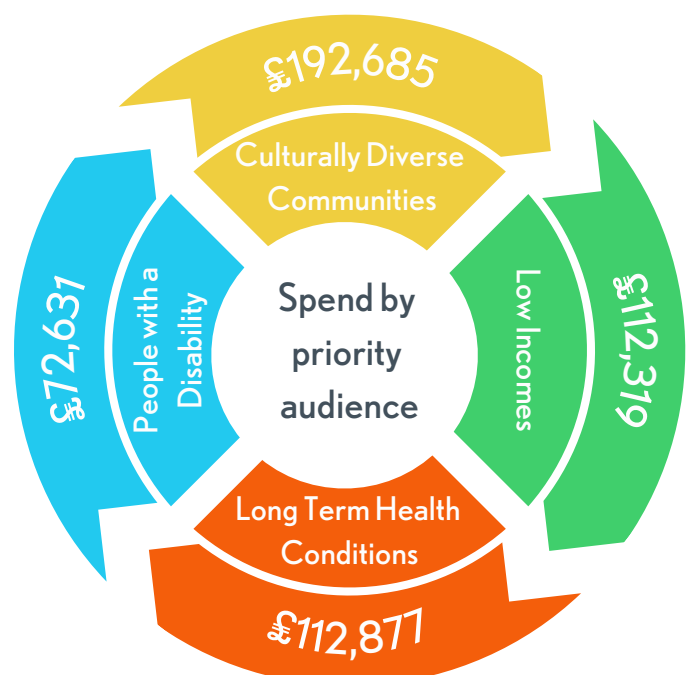
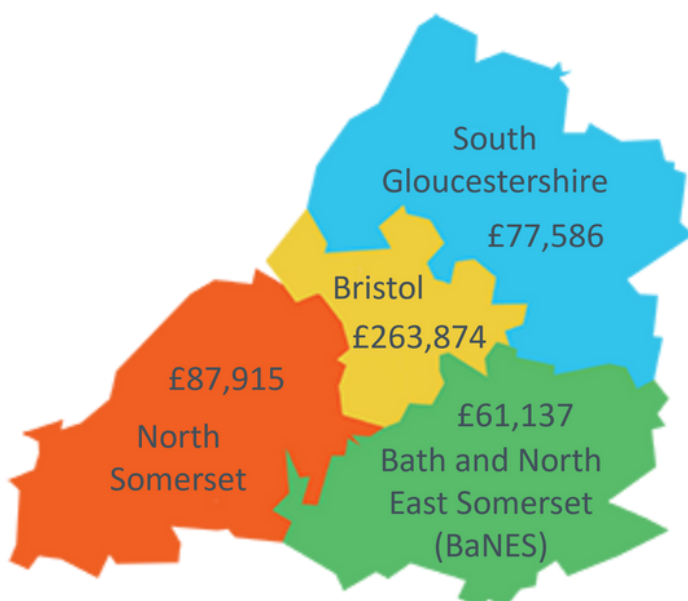
Groups of people were still disproportionately affected in their ability to be physically active, following the pandemic and subsequent cost-of-living crisis. As before, a key aim of this fund was to invest in partners who had direct access to the priority audiences for this fund, who were:

- Culturally Diverse Communities
- People with a Disability
- People with a Long Term Health Condition (LTHC)
- Those on Low Incomes

Across TF we partnered with 80 organisations. 81% of these organisations had never received Sport England funding before

The overall investment for TF was: £490,512

The overall participants engaged for TF was: 7177



# Together Fund April 2022 - September 2023 At a glance

## At a glance

The continuation of the Wesport-Voscur partnership led to a unified approach to the funding released for Together Fund.

## Key funding information

Wesport and Voscur worked collaboratively to bid for £482,083.



**482,083**

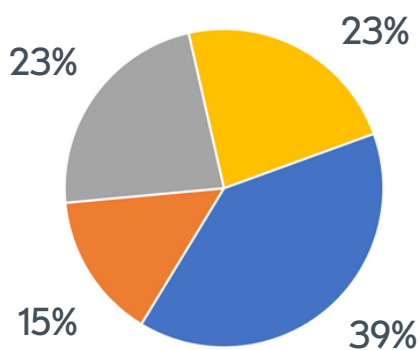
Awarded to Wesport and Voscur



**490,512**

invested by Voscur and Wesport in 80 partners engaging an anticipated 7177 participants.

## TF Audience Split



■ Culturally Diverse ■ Disability  
■ Low Income ■ LTHC

## FOCUS AREAS



- An emphasis on resilience and sustainability following the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent cost-of-living crisis.
- Providing capacity funding for five selected partners who are based, or deliver in, Inner City & East Bristol.
- Co-ordinated approach to support asylum seekers and refugees placed in temporary initial accommodation.

## PARTNERSHIP WORKING



Wesport and Voscur collaborated on a successful bid and were awarded £482,083. Along with underspend from previous phases, a final total of £490,512 was invested into the West of England.

- Wesport continued to lead the grant distribution, ensuring a focus on sport and physical activity.
- Voscur continued to lead on the organisational support and resilience building of community partners with both existing and new applicants.

## RELATIONSHIP WITH SPORT ENGLAND



- Original deadline for TF was March 2023. Sport England announce an extension for the programme until September 2023.
- Wesport and Voscur facilitated applications from existing partners to receive £100,527 additional funding from TF, including an 11% uplift for partners impacted by the Cost-of-Living crisis.
- Sport England visited four local partners to highlight successes through TF as well as understand any challenges to continued delivery.

# Together Fund April 2022 - September 2023

## THE PROCESS



This Together Fund phase of the programme was the largest to date, with £490,512 being available to the West of England, following Wesport and Voscur's successful award from Sport England. As part of the ambition to reach the priority audiences of TF, Voscur engaged the other VCSE infrastructure partners from each Unitary Authority area:

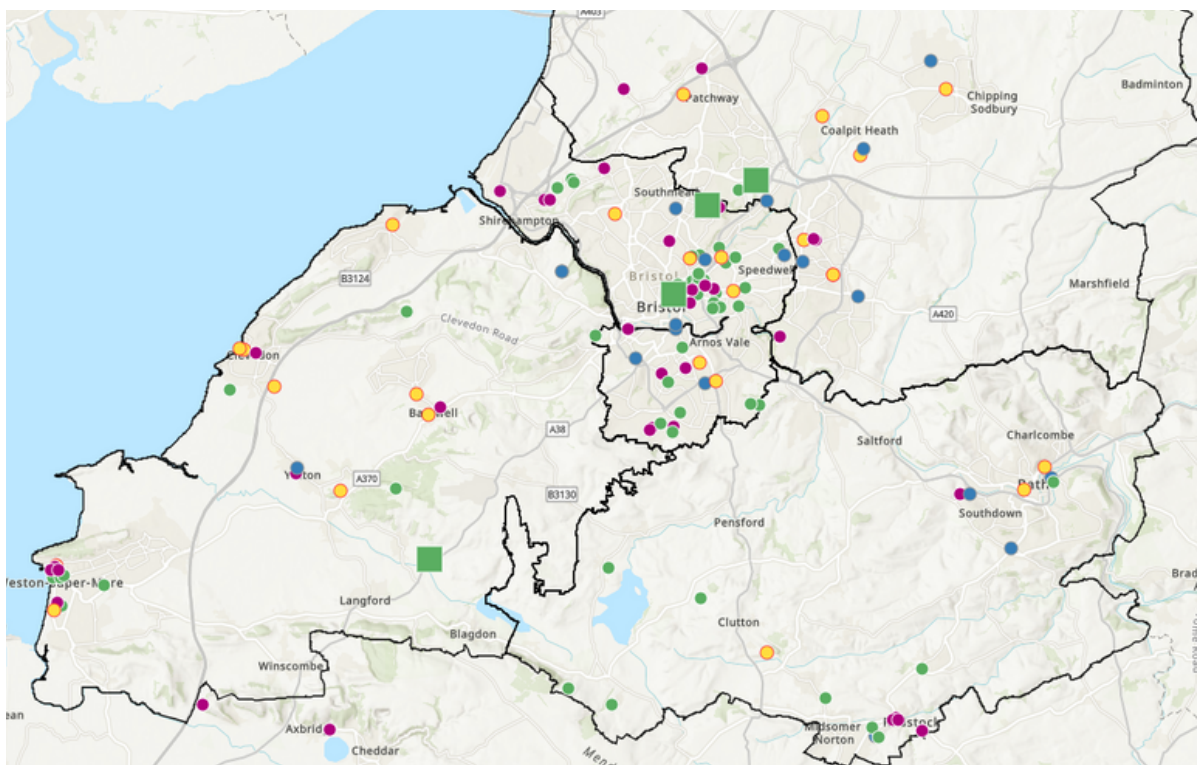
- 3rd Sector Group BaNES (3SG)
- CVS South Gloucestershire
- Voluntary Action North Somerset (VANS)

VCSE partners, in coordination with Wesport and Voscur, provided application support in the form of 1:1 conversations and application reviews for organisations applying for Phase 4 delivery funding.

## USE OF MAPPING



The interactive mapping tool, created by Press Red, allowed us to see where funded projects were being delivered to gain insight into key areas across the West of England.



# Together Fund April 2022 - September 2023

## SUPPORT AND RESILIENCE PACKAGE

Applicants for TF were invited to identify training and support needs, which were collated, and then used to devise a tailored Support and Resilience Package for organisations that were successfully funded. The package was provided for the duration of Phase 4 by Voscur, with support from CVS organisations across the West of England. Delivery included:

One to one advice surgeries

Consultancy support

Peer support sessions

Bespoke training sessions

Themed training sessions

Online resources

57 organisations engaged in the package, which covered a wide range of topics, including:

- Business and strategic planning
- Governance
- Staff recruitment and development
- Cyber security and data protection
- Health and wellbeing
- Volunteer recruitment and development
- Equalities, diversity and inclusion
- Impact measurement
- Income generation
- Publicity and marketing
- ... plus more!

38 organisations engaged in the themed training sessions. This included personnel directly involved in TF funded work as well as, volunteers, trustees and directors who provide organisational support.

In addition, several organisations took advantage of the opportunity to receive in-depth support through bespoke training and consultancy. These organisations were paired with an expert for tailored support on specific subjects, including: business and strategic planning; fundraising; charity registration; policy review; recruitment; and marketing.

“

I'm halfway through completing a business plan and I feel that whole process has been demystified as a result of meeting with [the consultant]. It was so valuable to speak with other social enterprises and hear how they have overcome challenges as well as discussing how to overcome our own. There is such a vibrant voluntary sector network in Bristol, and it was great to feel a part of that. (Consultancy recipient)

”



# Together Fund April 2022 - September 2023

25 organisations attended online peer support sessions. These provided a space for organisations to discuss any issues and learning with each other, to highlight further support needs, and to follow up with Voscur about options for further support.

Organisations continually shared positive feedback about their experience of the Support and Resilience Package. In particular, they noted the following benefits: advice support; opportunities for training; increased connections to other organisations; and access to further funding opportunities.

“ Voscur’s free training offered useful insights and tips to members of our fundraising and admin teams. The guidance offered in these sessions is now used across the organisation to improve our operations. Having the outlines of the training sessions available were especially useful when combined with the regular communication with the Wesport team. We feel that having these extra support sessions and communications in place helped improve Unseen’s delivery and allowed us to better support survivors. ”

## INNER CITY & EAST BRISTOL CAPACITY ✓

During the extension period, five organisations serving audiences in Inner City and East Bristol (ICE) locality were granted additional funding, to increase their capacity and to focus on organisational development. This led to an increase in their engagement in the Support and Resilience Package, as evidenced by the attendance of 9 individuals at 8 different training and peer support sessions, where previously there had only been 3 participants in attendance from across the five organisations.

These organisations also received 2 days of tailored consultancy support and training, where Voscur paired them with an expert mentor who provided advice and guidance on key topics identified by the organisation, including business planning; marketing; financial strategy; and team development.

“ The 1:1 mentor work has been extremely beneficial... they have sought to understand the challenges that we are faced with and worked collaboratively to find solutions.... We can become so engrossed in the daily provision that the development and management can get sidetracked. The mentoring has meant that we have been able to gain a balance and be more productive. (Consultancy recipient) ”

# Together Fund April 2022 - September 2023

## ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES (ASR)

Wesport secured funds from TF for a co-ordinated health and wellbeing project to positively impact asylum seekers and refugees (ASR) in the West of England. Sport and physical activity was used as a tool to address participants' physical and mental health, whilst integrating wider support from strategic partners to further benefit the target audience.

The project predominantly supported residents at the temporary hotel accommodations. At the start of the project in the West of England, there were 3 hotels, but this expanded to 9 hotels by the end of TF.

Delivery of the project focused on different elements in order to support the ASR community:

Dedicated  
co-ordination capacity

Regular participation  
opportunities

Bike loan system

This project was successful due to collaboration and a shared vision between strategic partners and those who were delivering face-to-face. The organisations, who were critical to success, are listed here:

### Strategic Partners

- Borderlands
- Bristol Hospitality Network
- Bristol Mind
- Bristol Refugee & Asylum Seeker Partnership
- Bristol Refugee Festival
- North Somerset Council
- The Hope Service
- Voscur
- Weston College

### Delivery Partners

- 3C Mentor Me
- Bridges For Communities
- Bristol Mind
- Osprey Outdoors
- Soul Trail Wellbeing
- Strength Based
- Trojan Gym

Beyond the relationships built between Wesport, Voscur and the coordination from Bristol Mind, further connections and activities were offered to broaden the physical activity offer. This includes supervised students from SGS College delivering exercise classes and supporting the cost of wrestling classes at [Trojan Free Fighters](#).



# Together Fund April 2022 - September 2023

## ASR DELIVERY OF ACTIVITIES

Funding allowed Wesport, through the delivery of trusted partners, to integrate regular activities and opportunities, both inside and outside of the hotels.

- 78 bikes were loaned to residents to improve their transport access and being able to travel further without the cost of public transport.
- Nature walks took place across the West of England to improve wellbeing and encourage embracing green and blue spaces.
- Weekly fitness and exercise sessions took place at a hotel in Filton and also at Borderlands in Bristol city centre.
- Friday morning football occurred every week allowing participants to engage in a fun, yet competitive environment.
- Community tennis was on offer as another chance for the ASR community to access opportunities.



### WALKING

189 individual participants



### BIKES

78 individual participants



### TENNIS

10 individual participants



### FITNESS

54 individual participants



### FOOTBALL

55 individual participants

## OUR CITY COMMUNITY CUP 2023

The annual football tournament, which has been running since 2011 brings communities from across the West of England to connect, share and celebrate. In June 2023 Wesport took on the responsibility of [Our City Community Cup](#) as an event within Bristol Refugee Festival.

On the day, the tournament consisted of 18 teams and 170 players which included roughly half of those being from the asylum seeker and refugee community. You can view the 2023 tournament video [here](#).

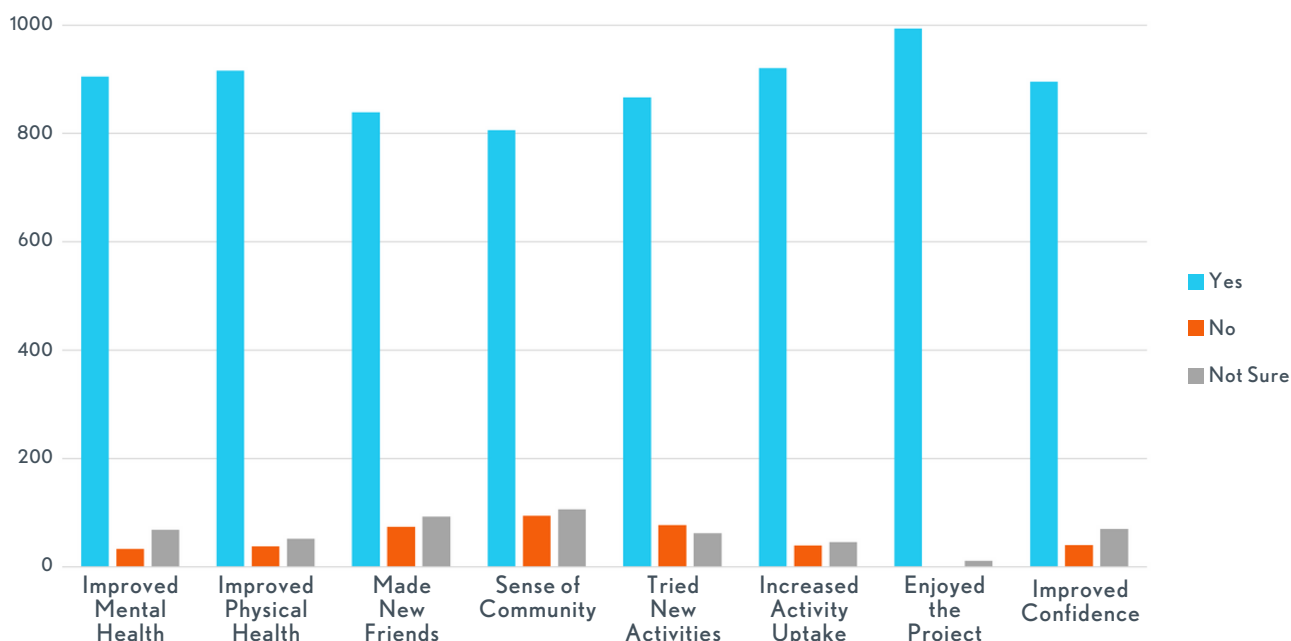


# Together Fund April 2022 - September 2023

## LEARNING FROM PARTICIPANTS



To demonstrate the importance of TF, funded partners were asked to obtain feedback from their users:



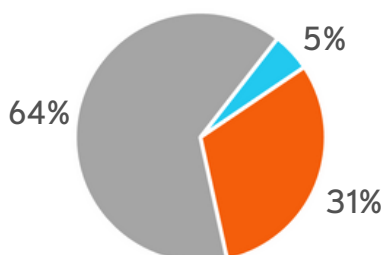
Participants were also asked to rate the project they participated in out of 10, with 10 being the highest score. 61% of respondents gave the top score of 10, with another 30% giving a score of 9 or 8. The remaining 9% of participants then gave their projects a score between 7 and 3, out of 10.

## LEARNING FROM ORGANISATIONS

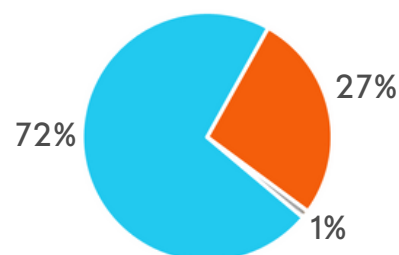


Prior to Phase 1, 81% of funded partners had never received Sport England funding. This allowed Wesport and Voscur to work with organisations who otherwise, we may not have been able to. Partners spoke highly of the accessibility of tailored support provided on a local level by Wesport and Voscur, as well as the opportunity to connect into a wider network of organisations using sport and physical activity to tackle inequalities.

Participant Activity Level:  
Pre-Together Fund



Participant Activity Level:  
Post-Together Fund



■ Active - 150+ mins of physical activity per week  
■ Fairly Active - between 30-149 mins of physical activity per week  
■ Inactive - less than 30 mins physical activity per week

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a leopard print long-sleeved top and leggings, is performing aerial silks. She is suspended in the air, holding onto a thick purple fabric that is part of the silks. The background is a bright, slightly blurred outdoor setting with wooden beams and ropes. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent grey rectangle containing text and decorative elements.

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**“The project has allowed me to gain new skills, new friends and confidence all in a supportive and safe space. It’s been nothing short of amazing for my mental health and general wellbeing.”**

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Temple Cloud Circus

