



# Basildon Community Involvement Network Evaluation Report

2023



Produced by  
Active Essex Insight & Evaluation Team

# About this report

The Basildon Community Involvement Network (CIN) was established in March 2020 after Swan Housing Association (Swan) applied for LDP funding to create a new sharing and learning network for Frontline Community Development practitioners. In its first year, three virtual pilot events were held. As lockdown restrictions eased, there was a need to take the network to a face-to-face setting and Swan Housing Association submitted a bid to Essex LDP to fund a further 6 events: 3 face to face and 3 virtual. The bid was successful, and all events have now been delivered. This report aims to consider how the CIN works, the impact it has on participants and points to consider about potential scaling and replicating of the network.

The Active Essex Insight & Evaluation team have collected data through seven interviews with key stakeholders involved in the planning of the CIN and attendees and observation at two in person events, one virtual event and one steering group meeting. Evaluation feedback forms at three CIN events, agendas from five CIN events and a final evaluation survey that was sent out to the full mailing list of all 200+ attendees have also been analysed.

## What is CIN?

The CIN is a sharing and learning network for statutory and voluntary organisations in Basildon who are involved in community development. Three CIN events were held in 2021/22 and a further 3 events were held in 2022/23. To date, all six funded CIN events (including virtual) have taken place.

Agendas are made up of a combination of ice breakers, guest speakers, 'snippets' and networking sessions. Speakers include community organisations looking to showcase their work and share learning. Organisations are invited to put themselves forward but also to make suggestions to the steering group about what they would like to see at events for the group to then approach others.

Virtual events last for three hours, while in person events take place at well-known venues in Basildon, are five hours, including tea, coffee, and lunch. An average of 50 individuals are in attendance for each event. This includes a mix of those who attend multiple events, as well as many new attendees each time.

## Aims & Expectations

On the surface, CIN may be perceived as simply a space for networking, however for those involved it is seen as much more than this. When the LDP was first approached for funding for the CIN, it was evident that there was a lack of networking opportunities for front line community development professionals that could offer consistency in bringing people together to share and learn so they could identify assets by 'keeping tabs on what's going on' in the local community. CIN aims to be a catalyst for more funding opportunities and collaboration between local groups. An additional aim is for CIN to respond to needs within the community where there may be existing gaps. As the CIN has been funded by the LDP, it was also important for there to be a line of sight to physical activity.

The main expectations from community members who attended the CIN included:

93%

increasing collaboration and partnership working with other local organisations

86%

meeting new people and increasing awareness about what's going on in Basildon

64%

increasing knowledge about use of physical activity amongst community groups in Basildon

57%

showcasing work



Overall, attendees were open minded about what to expect from it prior to attending.

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*I wanted to find out a bit more about some of the other organisations that work in Basildon and try to make contacts... I was so new to my role at that point, I probably went in with less expectations, just thinking oh, this sounds really interesting, I'll just go along and see and see what comes of it.*

Participant 5

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# Sharing & Learning

Agendas include speakers from community organisations looking to showcase their work and share learning. Although not every agenda item is perceived as relevant by everyone attending, agendas are varied and often comprise of presentations that may be interesting and/or useful to those attending.

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*Having the different stories from the different organisations and the snippet sessions I think are quite good because it's balanced between giving an organisation enough time to get their message across versus trying to get as many organisations to do that as possible.*

Participant 5

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It was also important for the CIN to be seen as something that was tailored to what those in the room were looking for.

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*... sometimes things do get changed to benefit the community, which is great and someone might suggest something to put a speaker in, whereas there might be a more appropriate speaker given the demographic that's in the room or even maybe the style of presentation that someone wants to give... we always try to tailor it, so there's flow between speakers...*

Participant 6

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**A considerable amount of learning takes places at the events. 73% of people who responded to the feedback evaluation form at the April 2023 event said they discovered something new about their community that they did not know before.**

In addition to learning from best practice and new ways to work, a key benefit of attendees finding out what is happening in Basildon is to identify local assets for collaborating or signposting. A good example of this is Essex Social Care (ESC) discovering a special needs charity that was presenting at a CIN event. The charity has existed since 1990, and ESC were unaware. Without coming across the charity at the CIN, ESC may not have found out about this asset in the community which they are now able to signpost their clients to.

On the other hand, while attendees benefit from being made aware of other organisations in Basildon who they can work with for collaboration or signposting, how useful attendees find content that is broader varies. The CIN also offers learning for those working in wider geographies. For example, the ABCD presentations by Nurture Development were greatly appreciated by attendees.



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*I thought it was going to be very Basildon focused...but actually the themes on it were much broader. So I enjoyed it. I really like listening to [Nurture Development] as well, I thought [it] was fantastic.*

*Participant 7*

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Similarly, attendees were vocal when they felt a presentation was not relevant to them or Basildon as a whole. This was observed at an in person CIN event where an organisation shared the work they do with delivery support for physical violence. The immediate response to this was that the issue was not relevant to Basildon. Irrespective of whether this is confirmed, it is clear that perception of relevance is important to attendees.

## Swan Housing Association Story

Swan Housing Association (Swan) operates in East London and Essex, managing nearly 11,000 homes, including social rent, shared ownership, NHS accommodation and supported schemes. They also provide Care and Support services.

Will is a Community Development Officer for Swan, he works primarily in Basildon. As part of his role, Will leads on projects to engage communities. He aims to offer people opportunities that they may not otherwise have. Will is also part of the CIN working group. As a result, in the lead up to an event, it is a key part of his day-to-day work and he is able to have an input on the CIN agenda, which he feels always manages to target those in the room.

Since starting his role in 2020, Will has attended approximately four face-to-face events and three virtual events. Prior to attending, he expected to make a few new connections through this network. He reflected on the most recent in-person event where he was already acquainted with the majority of attendees. Without the CIN, he does not think he would have had that opportunity to network with so many like-minded people in such a short time.

*“For me, everything's about collaboration. I think that it is possible to work really well independently, but when you've got multiple minds, all working towards the same common goal, I think that you can go a lot further and excel with so many different people's expertise... short term goals might be slightly different, but the long-term goal is always the same.”*

Through attending CIN events, Will has managed to connect and collaborate with many people and groups and this has made him feel a lot more impactful in his role.

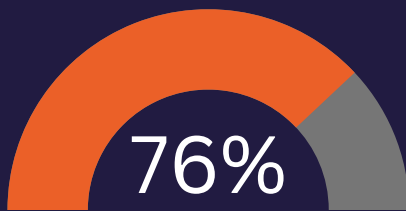
A key connection that has come out of CIN has been Swan's collaboration with The Craig Tyler Trust, a Mental Health Support & Suicide Prevention Charity. Will met Karen from the Trust at the September 2021 CIN event where she attended as a guest speaker. Through this connection, they found that Karen was looking for a venue within a new community for three months during the winter. Will was able to offer Karen some space at their community hub in Basildon where they set up a mental health talk, in addition to assisting with creating and distributing promotional materials to the local community. Swan and The Craig Tyler Trust kept in touch throughout the year, and they also collaborated again the following Winter launching a suicide prevention group for the community of Beechwood and Craylands.

Will shared several examples of collaboration, reflecting that there probably isn't a week that passes where he does not reach out to a connection established through the CIN.



# The Benefits of Bringing People Together

Bringing people together is seen as having a number of benefits by those in the planning team. Part of the more recent enthusiasm to meet others may be due to the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic had on socialising, with some only attending networking events for the first time since Covid.



At the September 2022 in person CIN event, 76% (n-26) mentioned networking and meeting others as most helpful or interesting. 100% of attendees at this event and 97% of attendees at the most recent event in April 2023 reported making at least one new connection.

## Collaboration

Collaboration is considered a key benefit of coming together. When asked about whether they had any actions to take forward after the last event, several respondents stated that they would be following up contacts they made at the event, with some further elaborating on intentions to collaborate on work. It is evident that being in a group environment makes this process easy for those attending.



*From those conversations, the opportunities to work together and collaborate just manifest themselves. They're no brainers, they just appear because people come along and speak... So I think there is much better communication within the sector.*

Participant 1



Participants spoke of collaboration as something that was not only useful for individual organisation but the voluntary sector and community as a whole. The CIN encourages collaborative working and funding and changing the mindset from one that is competitive to one that works together. In addition, working together helps to reduce duplication.

“ I think one of the benefits is certainly we would encourage more collaborative bidding for funding. For example, in Basildon, we've got a lot of mental health organisations, they don't really tend to work together, just an example of a fractured system, because they're competing against each other for funding... We all know that the more friends you have, the easier your job is. It means that the community are better supported with a wrap around...

Participant 4

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## Building relationships

A forum such as the CIN was also noted by participants as being a time efficient way to meet others when compared with meeting others individually. Voluntary organisations often work in environments where time is limited and as such, it is even more essential that they use the time they have wisely.

“ I don't think that I would have had that opportunity to network with that many people over that short a time period.

Participant 6

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Most attendees enjoyed meeting in person. One participant highlighted that meeting face-to-face was more “authentic” than meeting virtually for making new relationships and sustaining existing relationships.





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*... we probably talked to, let's say, a third of the room face-to-face. You know, if we were to hold those conversations for an hour, travel to go see that person... I strongly believe that it's much more time efficient for us to go somewhere like that and speak to 10-15 people than it is for me to sit on a Teams chat and organise a meeting.*

Participant 2

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There was a preference for face-to-face networking, with 85% of those who attended the most recent CIN event (April 2023) and 90% of those who attended the September 2022 event, responding to the question saying they prefer face-to-face CIN events. However, there were also those who were happy with a hybrid approach, as it was better suited to a busy schedule.

A number of people mentioned the benefits of 'informal conversation' when meeting in person, examples of this included chatting while queuing for lunch or during coffee and lunch breaks. This was especially visible during observations of CIN events where it appeared to be easier to build trust and relationships in an informal environment in person as opposed to the virtual environment which felt more rushed, and arguably more transactional, in comparison during networking segments. This suggests that time and environment are key to facilitating collaborative working.

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*Just creating that bumping space, I think the CIN has been really good at because they allow time at the start for you to go and get your teas, your coffees, for you to actually go and meet people and say hello to people. Then you've got an extended lunch. So that also allows those informal conversations to pop up. And then, of course, if it finishes early, so if you wanted to catch up after that, you can also do that. I think that's been one of the aims it's really nailed is the networking side of things.*

Participant 4

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## Strengthening communities

One participant discussed the idea of the CIN being used to identify and address gaps within the community and voluntary sector locally and the extent to which it set out to achieve this.

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*There needs to be a priority around identifying emerging priorities... I feel as though I don't want to use the word reactive, but if I'm imagining a scale of reactive to proactive, I think we're more towards the reactive end... I would love to see the CIN become more proactive.*

Participant 4

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CIN may respond to more immediate needs, certainly this is how attendees appear to see it. However, it is also evident that attempts have been made to encourage a broader holistic approach. This can be seen with the emphasis on ABCD that subtly weaves through the CIN events over the past two years. This being said, while the ABCD talks were highly appreciated in the most recent CIN event, there were also comments about the Asset Mapping exercise not being directly relevant or useful to communities.

There was acknowledgement that the historical culture in the Basildon voluntary sector could be holding it back from being truly proactive and resilient and how the CIN was working to counter this.

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*It's not a voluntary sector forum... I think this is a much more stronger platform... In Basildon historically, there has always been a very high dependency culture but it's not always about having more money to do more things. It's also about the approaches and the ways that you do it. And I think when you listen to some of the discussions in the CIN, there's very much an emphasis on collaboration and co-production... the voluntary organisations seemed to be more engaged when they come, because they are there on a more equal footing.*

Participant 1

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The CIN was not seen by interviewees as an example of community resilience. However, if resilience is seen as the end goal, then 'community cohesion' may be the first step towards it. As such, forums like CIN are essential in strengthening the sector.

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*Community power, maybe not resilience because they are on a learning curve in terms of where they're at... these events do bring community members together and does bring the relevant partners together. So, I think it's on the upward trajectory of bringing that resilience to Basildon. But as I said, it is a learning curve, it is in its early stages, but it's not there yet.*

*Participant 3*



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## Trust Links Story

Trust Links are a local mental health and wellbeing charity who work across South-East Essex to support people experiencing mental health difficulties, families and other community members.

Christina is employed as the Deputy Growing Together Manager at Trust Links. She helps to look after Growing Together, a therapeutic gardening programme. She also leads the Greening Basildon



project; this is a community engagement project which involves working with residents to transform green spaces in specific areas of Basildon. Christina heard about the Community Involvement Network (CIN) through Matt King, the CEO of Trust Links.

Christina had been employed in her role for mere three weeks when she attended her first CIN event and did a presentation about the work of Trust Links! Despite being thrown into the deep end, Christina thought CIN would offer a geographical and community context and provide insight into the community sector in Basildon.

While networking, organisations spoke about their roles and organisations, potential common ground they shared, how they could work together and support each other and exchanging contact information. Christina aimed to find out the work others did and how this could fit into her project. She was able to find out about organisations and initiatives that she had never heard of prior to the event. Christina found that most community organisations had similar or overlapping outcomes. As such, it was useful to know what else was going on to avoid duplication and signpost community members to other available services.

Christina has continued to keep in contact with people working at Basildon Council and housing associations, such as community development officers who she feels will be very valuable going forward. She was also able to demonstrate a range of ways she was looking to work collaboratively with contacts made at the event. This includes collaborating to promote existing projects, signposting those who could benefit from a project towards it and combining the work that two (or more) different projects or organisations are doing.

*"I've been exchanging emails and I've had a meeting with a Community Development Officer from Swan... he's basically got a wildlife garden that he wants to rejuvenate... So I've been down there to sort of help, to discuss what we could potentially do... hopefully building up a bit of a partnership there on that garden."*

Christina spoke about how working together with another group or organisation made it easier to achieve things that may not have been possible separately. She provided an example where Trust Links have the experience and skills to transform a garden, where someone else may have access to the community to understand what people want and consequently building relationships with local people. She was particularly keen to ensure consultation was carried out with residents to find out if they wanted what she had to offer.

# Raising Aspirations & Inspiring

The CIN provides a safe environment for community development professionals to be themselves by being open about struggles and successes amongst others with similar issues and goals. It could be argued that this makes attendees feel as though they are part of something bigger and consequently less isolated.

“For me coming into the CIN, my role is obviously a very small part of the borough, whereas to see the greater work that does go on in the borough was really kind of heart-warming and wholesome purely for the fact that there's so many different practitioners from different areas coming in showcasing their work, and to actually see the great work that is being done.

Participant 6

It was evident that an important method of raising aspiration was achieved through those presenting sharing case studies and stories of impact. Seeing other organisations in the same sector sharing stories of success may also be encouraging and inspiring, showing others what is possible. This also suggests that eliciting emotion is important for having an impact on those attending, so that they feel more positive after leaving the CIN. The word cloud below illustrates this well. It was created from the feedback data from three CIN events, where attendees were asked to use a word to describe how they felt about the event.



The presentations on ABCD at the most recent April 2023 CIN event were undoubtedly the focus of the day. 64% of respondents found the ABCD presentations to be the most helpful or interesting part of the day. The emphasis on focusing on “what’s strong, not what’s wrong” resonated with attendees, particularly when combined with the powerful case studies and stories of impact. The idea of “moving from consumers to producers” and moving away from dependency was also discussed. In addition, given the current context of the cost of living crisis, it greatly contributed to the positive and inspirational feelings that day and is key to embedding a place-based way of thinking.

“ We've done sessions on ABCD in the very early part of the CIN, but I think [the trainer] is a very charismatic person, he's got a lot of gravitas when he's talking, you kind of hang on to what he's saying... We did the ABCD principal session quite early on in the CIN, but we've rounded it off with this and so it's like people have sort of travelled to journey with us in that time, so they were more open to receive those messages at the last event than they were at the first one.

Participant 1



Following the April 2023 CIN event, attendees were asked “Do you have any actions to take based on your experience today?”.



88% (n=29) stated an action directly related to their experience of CIN. This includes 31% wanting to further apply ABCD and 28% wanting to follow up on the connections made at CIN. Other actions include reviewing or reflecting on how they work, networking, organising an event to incorporate asset mapping, spreading information and setting up funding. Attendance at the CIN events is not a passive activity, but rather a proactive activity that attendees take part in with the intention of taking action and progressing the work of their organisations and consequently connecting and strengthening the sector as a whole.

## Line of sight to physical activity

Due to the CIN being LDP funded and a Sport England requirement, it is important that it has a line of sight to physical activity. It was not stated what proportion of the agenda needed to be physical activity related, this has not been strictly imposed by Active Essex. Staff discussed the challenge of getting this balance right. Analysis of CIN agendas over the past two years reveals that approximately 48% of presentations are related to physical activity. Staff admitted that if this was imposed more strongly it would likely impact attendance at the CIN.



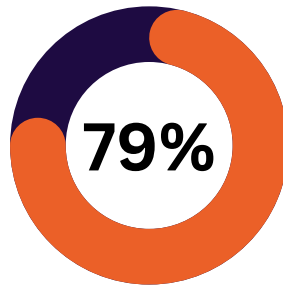
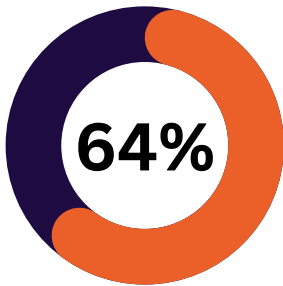
“ I also don't think we'd get all the partners in the room if it was just physical activity. I think we started off [with more] physical activity and then we've started to embed other things, but I think that's been a positive, not necessarily detrimental because we've been able to expand and get people back as well. Because I think if they were just harping on about physical activity they'd just say, well, you know that's not our remit... So I think it's enabled us to be a bit more sustained.

Participant 2



Given the wide range of attendees at the CIN, it is reasonable that if physical activity was imposed more strongly, then the turnout would be different. The agendas showed many examples of physical activity being spoken about directly. For example, The Working Well Programme (Physical and Mental Health & Fitness in the Workplace), Dance on Prescription, and Park Play. Physical activity could also be presented in more subtle, indirect ways. For example, a special needs charity presented at a CIN event about the work they do providing fun activities for children and young people with disabilities/life limiting conditions. At first glance, this would not be immediately associated with physical activity. However, listening

to the work they do, it could be argued that they are offering fun physical activity opportunities for a group that may be unable to access more traditional physical activity opportunities. In such cases, physical activity may be a secondary outcome but potentially a more effective way to work with those facing barriers to being active.



64% of respondents hoped to increase their knowledge about the use of physical activity among community groups in Basildon. 79% said their knowledge had indeed increased.

The CIN has also been a useful way for Active Essex to approach community groups who could benefit from introducing physical activity to their work.

“Active Essex personally have found the CIN to be really effective for creating links with community groups, either hearing about a project we might be able to bring a physical activity stance to or through having conversations with partners in attendance sharing ways that we might be able to support them. Examples of this include meeting new social prescribers at the event and then being able to share free and low cost activity presentation with her to use when talking to patients.

Participant 2



## Community owned

Evidence from interviews suggests that the CIN feels community owned; community in this context means the community of community development practitioners. The network has a working group that is made up of Swan Housing staff and other community development practitioners, however it is open and responsive to input from local groups and organisations who are interested in putting themselves forward to present or other suggestions for improvement.



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*It's very much owned by the group... In that way, we plan the events, but the actual agendas people say to us or 'can I come along and speak?' and 'would you mind if I have a snippet session?' which is like a 10 minute quick showcase or you can have the 'our story' and go a bit more into detail.*

*Participant 1*

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It was also felt that the CIN would not be able to work as successfully as it does if it was not community owned. In particular, the role of Leah from Swan's leadership has been paramount in development of the CIN. She was known by those attending events and therefore a well-known individual in the community developer community. Similarly, Active Essex's Community Coordinator for Basildon played a central role by making contacts and connections with community development organisations and informing them about the CIN, encouraging them to attend.

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*I don't think it would work to be run by the Council... it has to be community owned. I think that's been another big success of it, that it has been owned by community practitioners and us at Basildon and Active Essex have just kind of influenced and supported, which I think has worked really well.*

*Participant 4*



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*Leah applied for the funding on behalf of Swan Housing. She is very integral to the working group that sits behind CIN to set the meeting, set the agenda... She just has the energy that is needed for an event like that, she galvanises people together and without Leah, it wouldn't have been as successful as it has. I really think we need to make that clear that Leah has been fantastic.*

*Participant 2*

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# Mason Foundation Story

The Mason Foundation was established in 2017, to provide opportunities to support individuals and families from all walks of life, focusing on those who may face additional challenges. The first initiative launched by The Foundation was The Mason Mile – locally centred, community-based miles, where everyone can come together to do 15 minutes of physical activity, doing #TheirMileTheirWay, regardless of ability or disability.

In 2021, The Mason Foundation launched Propel, a programme set up to overcome barriers and support young people with learning disabilities into work through an existing partnership with The Oaks Specialist College.

Rosie is Head of Operations and Engagement at the Mason Foundation. She was invited to CIN to meet organisations who might be interested in taking part in Mason Foundation projects.

As the Mason Foundation does work across different parts of the UK, she found it useful to have a balance of broader themes, such as Nurture Development's ABCD presentation, as well as the presentation from a local charity as it gave her a good understanding of the sorts of organisations that work within the locality.

While Rosie spoke to a few different people at the CIN, she felt a more formal networking style would have helped her, such as moving around tables in a 'speed dating' format to introduce yourself and exchange business cards. She also suggested a 'community panel' with a few local residents to ensure that conversations are focused on those receiving services.

Since attending her first CIN event a couple of weeks ago, Rosie said it opened the doors to conversations around delivery of their funded community mile in Basildon, which had been her main aim for attending. She has also been in conversation with Swan with ideas to present to their community team which could potentially result in funding. In addition, Rosie has also been making progress with Basildon Council contacts she met at the CIN event to see if they can collaborate by using Council community spaces for a funded programme.

Rosie concluded by reflecting on the benefits of the CIN's collaborative environment:

*"I think [in] the charitable sector there is an unspoken competition between charities because funding is so tight currently. Everyone seems to hold their cards really close to their chest, and this means that there's often a lot of duplication in work... So, I think getting community minded organisations together where they're... really encouraged to collaborate... and create those partnerships within that network means their funding can go further because they can focus on a slightly different area."*



# Scale & Replicate

With the April 2023 CIN event being the final LDP funded event, questions about the future for Basildon's community development community have inevitably been raised, particularly at the last event. It was clear that the ending of funding was not being seen as an adequate reason for stopping the network.

*“We've built up a head of steam, we've got that buy-in from practitioners, over 200 are registered and for us to have people keep coming back, I think that's evidence to suggest that people find it valuable. I think we can learn so much from each other, we've gathered our momentum and I want to keep it going because I wouldn't want to see it stop... I think we've got more to share, we're going to go from strength to strength.”*

Participant 1

The success of the Basildon CIN was further emphasised in relation to the example of the London CIN, which is only made up of housing associations. It was felt that the London model “missed a trick” by not including the voluntary sector and other parts of the statutory sector. Without the voluntary sector, the group lacks genuine stories of impact, which have the potential to raise aspirations and encourage positive action. This suggests that the Basildon CIN model works in a distinct way, offering something that does not already exist, but is needed by those involved.

*“I got involved in the London CIN, but it never really had the power that this CIN has got because this is much wider, it's got a wider remit. They (London CIN) meet for two hours, and you hear all about different initiatives that different housing associations are working on, it's really boring because you have not got the power of the stories. You don't get the impacts and the life changing effects that it has on people.”*

Participant 1

The feasibility of scaling and replicating to other LDP areas was considered and swiftly encouraged by those interviewed, with most questioning why it was not already happening given how “easily replicable” it is. The importance of a passionate working group was highlighted and reiterates why Leah’s role is so important and influential in the Basildon CIN.

“It is just a distribution list of key contacts and networks and partners which every area should have anyway, just to put forward a meeting for a Zoom or Teams, set an agenda and find that key person in that area to do it.

Participant 3

“I think the conditions for success are certainly it being run by a working group, a very passionate empowered working group of community members supported by statutory organisations, although they don't even need to be supported by statutory organisations. I don't think that's a particular condition, I think it just helps because you've got our kind of statutory side so we know if strategies are coming out, it means we can plug out officers in there, not in a kind of intrusive [way].

Participant 4

However, it was also acknowledged that if the CIN was replicated elsewhere, it is not necessary for it to work exactly as it does in Basildon for it to be successful. On the contrary, this is dependent on what works for the area, the community development professionals there, who decides to take the lead and the assets available. It is likely that a CIN that works well for an area is one that is adaptable to what that community has and needs as this is what would be considered to be place-based working in action, as opposed to a strict prescriptive vision of scale and replication.

# The Future

The steering group has agreed to continue to meet and has briefly discussed how the CIN could be mainstreamed going forward, without funding support from the Essex LDP. There is a strong desire to continue with both face-to-face and virtual events, with face-to-face events being sponsored by several of the steering group partners. A provisional date of 14th September 2023 has been set as for the 10th CIN event.

# Lessons Learned

The Basildon CIN offers something to community development practitioners that Basildon did not already have but evidently needed. The CIN was set up as a space for community development practitioners to network, share ideas, concerns, and best practice, learn about what is going on in Basildon, and



collaborate for projects and funding. It has provided a number of benefits to those involved, with the aims it set out to achieve being met. Many returned to the events multiple times; this is a clear indication that they found it useful.

Attendees have increased their knowledge about what exists and is happening in Basildon. This awareness is important when it comes to collaborating with other partners, identifying assets and avoiding duplication. The CIN appears to challenge the traditional idea of a competitive community development sector and encourages working together towards a broader goal that benefits the community overall.

Attendees value the face-to-face interaction and confirm that actions have been taken following attendance at events, with many collaborating for projects, consequently filling in for each other so that statutory organisations are less essential. It is also worth noting that actions taken after events are attributable to the

environment the CIN offers and the way it works to raise aspirations and inspire individuals and organisations to progress.

While physical activity is not at the forefront of CIN events, an effort has been made to ensure there is a line of sight to physical activity, with it playing a role in every event. Evidence shows that attending CIN events has increased attendee knowledge about physical activity opportunities in Basildon, even if this is more 'subtle' in some cases.

The network is a great example of place-based working, celebrating the assets, while working together to fill gaps and share insight on how to approach challenges. It celebrates the idea of being run and owned by the community and has shown to be open to suggestions made by attendees. The CIN would not work the way it does without its leader at Swan Housing. This implies that were the CIN to be scaled and replicated elsewhere, it would not look the same; nor should this be perceived as negative. Rather, a successful CIN is one that appreciates the assets of each area; what and who it has to offer and adapting to their wants and needs. It should, however, be led by a passionate working group that aims to inspire and encourage a mix of people and organisations to attend.