

Tackling Inequalities Fund – Phase 1

- Digital Access – some feedback collated from breakout rooms:
 - High risk groups still shielding will need this access as we go into winter
 - Can cause even more isolation for vulnerable people
 - Expensive to access and how to provide an equitable service
 - Skills audit of your organisation, who can use online platforms and support other team members
 - Lots of partners have built digital / online presence into their future plans for working irrespective of Covid-19 as this has enabled more reach
 - Where can we bulk buy and benefit from discounts

Resources / Opportunities:

- ✓ Bristol Computer Reuse
<https://www.bristolcomputerr reuse.org/>
- ✓ Digi Local
<https://digilocal.org.uk/>

Tackling Inequalities Fund – Phase 1 (September)

- **Community Capacity and Time – collated feedback:**
 - Responsibility is huge for partners who are supporting vulnerable people
 - Communities have felt more connected and resilience is higher than expected
 - Time to navigate how to develop opportunities, what insurance do we need as an organisation to deliver these new ways of working
 - Stronger relationships with referral networks all working to support communities
 - There's a lot of cross over within our TIF partners that can be joined up to help share learning and lend expertise
 - Time to develop these tailored offers has taken longer than anticipated but it is very well received:
“They loved the idea that somebody had thought about them beyond the basics”

Tackling Inequalities Fund – Phase 1 (September)

- **Mental Health Needs**

- Those who have been isolated seem to be more affected especially when they haven't had any access to activity
- Social contact was key in the height of lockdown, zoom didn't go far enough to create a connection
- Some partners have completed surveys of members highlighting decline in mental health
- Partners hadn't set out with the aim of supporting communities mental health needs but most have seen this or raised this as an outcome from their work. All have mentioned it is a key concern as we approach Autumn / Winter.
- Some staff don't feel confident to support the level of need participants were displaying

TIF – Phase 2 Feedback (December Call)

Need

- How is the Need changing?
 - It's not changed, it's still very much there. Fear about the changes in restrictions and what the impact of this has on attendance. Takes longer to reassess someone after a break/
 - Level of mental health needs is very high, situation has exposed trauma for some
 - Needing to understand community pathways more to help signpost people to other services
 - Demand is HUGE, which is great but in this situation tough to meet the demand out there
 - LTHC / people with disabilities have been isolating for so long and confidence levels very low.
 - Online support still needed, starting to understand the barriers more. Like learning a new skill. Specialised offer important here, courses work not just open and informal. Social queues very difficult online, desire for face to face is key.
 - Social need is even more apparent when faced with tighter restrictions and fear of returning to isolation.

TIF – Phase 2 Feedback

Sustainability

- How do we safeguard the future of this delivery?
 - Redefining work of organisations, situation has helped us to refine what we do and focus which in turn is helping us to consider how we manage this longer term.
 - Trying to understand where there might be funding within referral pathways to help offset costs needed to be drawn down through funding.
 - Partnerships to further develop access to resources i.e. sharing resources across more local partners. Marketing position to work across organisations, helps to join up information gathering and share to a wider audience.
 - Corporate support with sponsorship
 - Designing support with funding alongside projects instead of suddenly coming to the end of the funding!

TIF – Phase 2 Feedback

How can we help?

- How can Wesport support partners more?
 - Regular smaller conversations covering key themes:
 - Social Prescribing
 - Workforce and capacity building
 - Partners working to support people with disability across West of England
 - More conversations to join up existing delivery in each local authority area
 - Linking partners into wider networks to help upscale and support delivery
 - Share learning from partners and continue to join up conversations