

MyEnds: Impact evaluation short summary report

September 2023



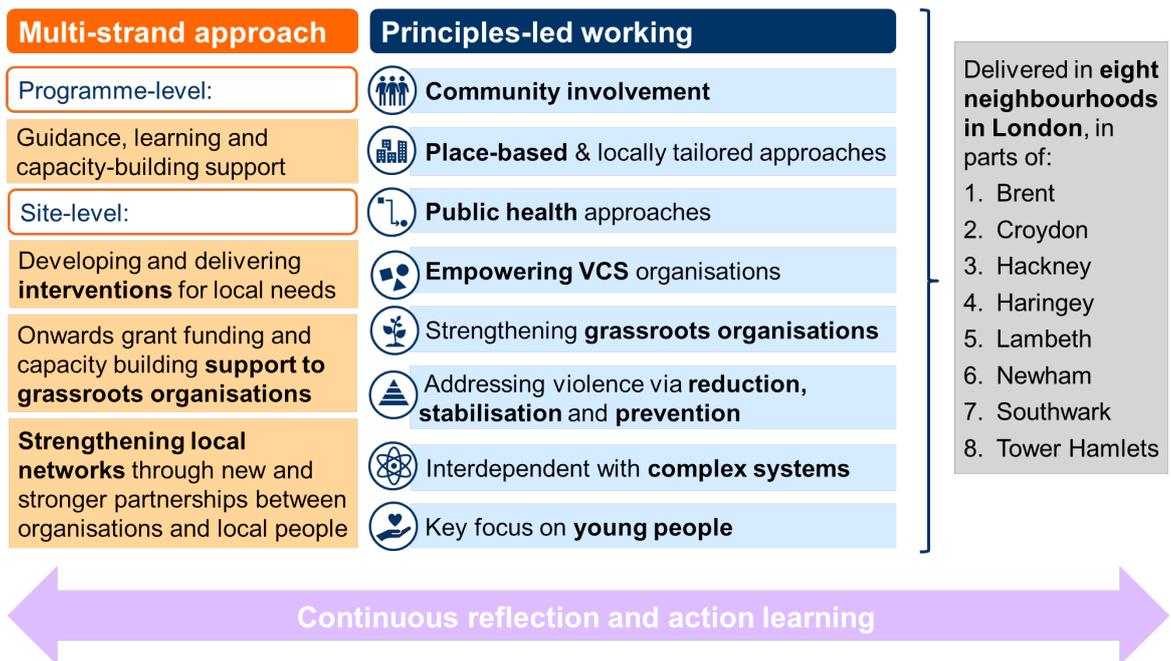
This summary highlights key learning from the independent impact evaluation of MyEnds by Cordis Bright, which reflects on the first two years of the programme. Evaluation methods included: interviews, observation, e-survey, document review, data analysis, and deep-dive case studies.

Thank you to those working on MyEnds at a local and programme level, and to young people, community members and wider stakeholders in MyEnds neighbourhoods for taking part in the evaluation. It would not have been possible without your help. We appreciate you sharing your views and experiences with us.

1 About MyEnds

MyEnds is an **ambitious programme** funded by London's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), running from April 2021 until June 2024. It promotes **highly-local, place-based approaches to reducing violence** in eight London neighbourhoods which have experienced high and sustained levels of violence.

In each neighbourhood a consortium of voluntary and community sector (VCS) providers collaborates to develop and deliver the local MyEnds programme, supported by specialised capacity building support from the VRU. MyEnds involves:



2 Key strengths and challenges

MyEnds has provided a **rich learning experience**. Some **cross-cutting lessons** are:

The diagram consists of three stacked colored boxes with icons on the left and a vertical arrow on the right. The top box is orange and contains 'Strengths and supporting factors'. The middle box is blue and contains 'Challenges and areas of ongoing development'. The bottom box is purple and contains 'Promising practices and approaches'. A vertical grey arrow on the right points upwards and is labeled 'Ethos of continuous learning and improvement'.

- Strengths and supporting factors**
 - Programme design built around collective solutions and governance
 - Trust in VCS organisations to develop localised approaches
 - Strengthened local relationships and partnership working
 - Skills and assets of VCS and grassroots organisations
 - Passion and commitment of those involved in MyEnds
 - Flexible approaches at all levels
 - Programme funders adapting based on feedback from consortiums
- Challenges and areas of ongoing development**
 - Ambitiousness of the programme within the timeframe
 - Demonstrating impact via robust monitoring, learning, and evaluation
 - Meeting capacity-building needs in VCS and grassroots sectors
 - Understanding and achieving the intended reach of MyEnds
 - Building on the emerging violence reduction evidence base
 - Resource constraints in local areas
- Promising practices and approaches**
 - Using a 'hook' (e.g. a popular activity such as football, or an engaging performance) in community engagement and interventions
 - Tapping into existing community groups and forums
 - Supporting access to meaningful community engagement
 - Providing physical spaces for young people to access support and which act as community hubs
 - Promising support principles and practice:
 - *Whole family and trauma-informed approaches.*
 - *Models including outreach, mentoring, ETE support, positive diversionary uses of time, and peer support and role models.*
 - Strengthening referral pathways and practice
 - Information sharing at pace about the community's needs and concerns especially in response to incidents
 - The potential of primary and secondary interventions to contribute to a range of benefits for young people and community members
 - The potential of tertiary interventions to support improved skills in staying safe and reduced involvement in violence

3 Emerging evidence of impact

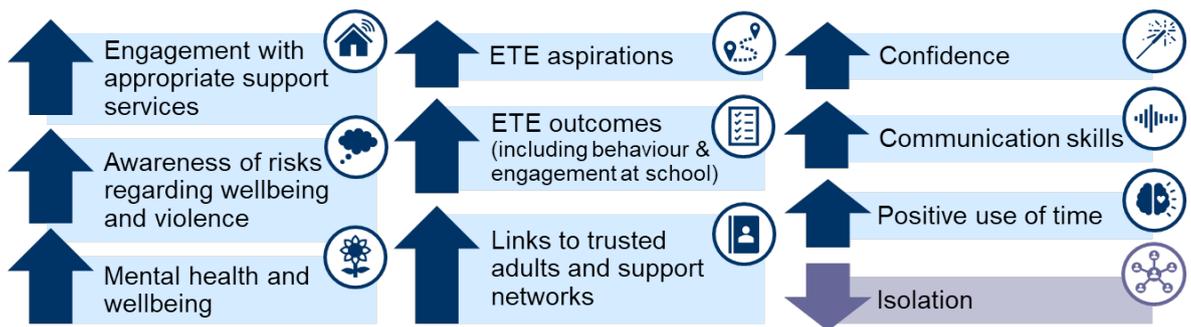
MyEnds continues to progress and is maturing as it embeds

MyEnds has become more embedded during its second year of delivery, and **stakeholders are positive about progress and emerging impacts** in a range of areas. They are optimistic about continuing to deliver and embed MyEnds, build on emerging impacts, and create a legacy in the local area.

Emerging evidence shows promising progress in a range of outcome areas

There is evidence of MyEnds contributing to **stronger local networks**, including those within the VCS and between the VCS and statutory organisations. These provide a **foundation for violence reduction efforts** and have enabled **more joined-up working and collective approaches**. Equally, it is promoting **stronger grassroots organisations** which are supporting local communities.

Primary and secondary interventions delivered via MyEnds are contributing to a range of **benefits for young people and community members who have been supported**:



There is also emerging evidence that some of the small number of tertiary interventions funded support improved skills in staying safe and reduced involvement in violence.

Although **some of the intended outcomes and impacts of MyEnds would not be expected within the timeframe of the programme, particularly violence reduction**, the progress made so far is encouraging and has allowed local systems to strengthen their capacity for continuing to work towards these impacts.

There is strong support for the core principles and useful learning from delivery

Stakeholders in wide-ranging roles were enthusiastic about the MyEnds approach and key principles. **These principles take time to develop and deliver**, and can require new skills, networks, knowledge, and capacity. MyEnds has led to **eight distinct local programmes**, which vary in their approaches, assets, and areas for development.

Developing and implementing the programme has provided useful learning at the local and programme levels for future similar initiatives and also for continuing to improve MyEnds. For example, action learning indicates some areas for ongoing development:

- ❖ Taking a strategic approach to understanding needs and identifying target groups.
- ❖ Building capacity to robustly measure impact to evaluate innovative approaches.
- ❖ Navigating the opportunities and boundaries of VCS-statutory partnership working.
- ❖ Gathering further learning about useful local pre-conditions for similar initiatives.

The third year of MyEnds provides an **opportunity to further develop and embed the programme** on the basis of learning so far, and to **generate further insight to inform future similar programmes**.