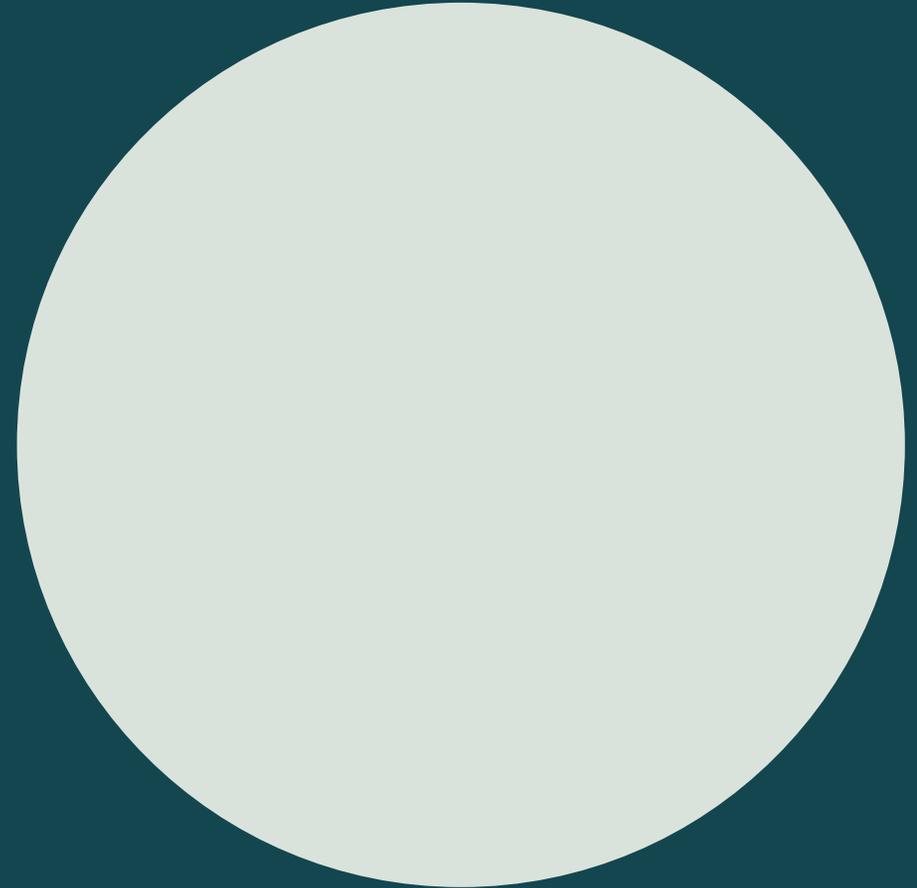




Henry Smith Programme: Building evidence around advocacy for learning disabilities & autism

Advocacy Awareness Week 2023

November 2023



Agenda

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Introduction to the Henry Smith Programme & our work

2

Overview of our research & learning approach

3

Emerging findings from recent research

4

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5

Breakout room discussions

Please keep yourself on mute unless speaking

Please raise your hand or use the chat to contribute

Do turn your video on if you can!

Introduction to the Henry Smith Programme



Social Finance is a social impact consultancy. We are the learning and evaluation partner for a £2.6m grant programme funded by the Henry Smith Charity, in partnership with Speakup (our lived experience partners).



We are supporting 15 grantees providing advocacy services to people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people across the UK.

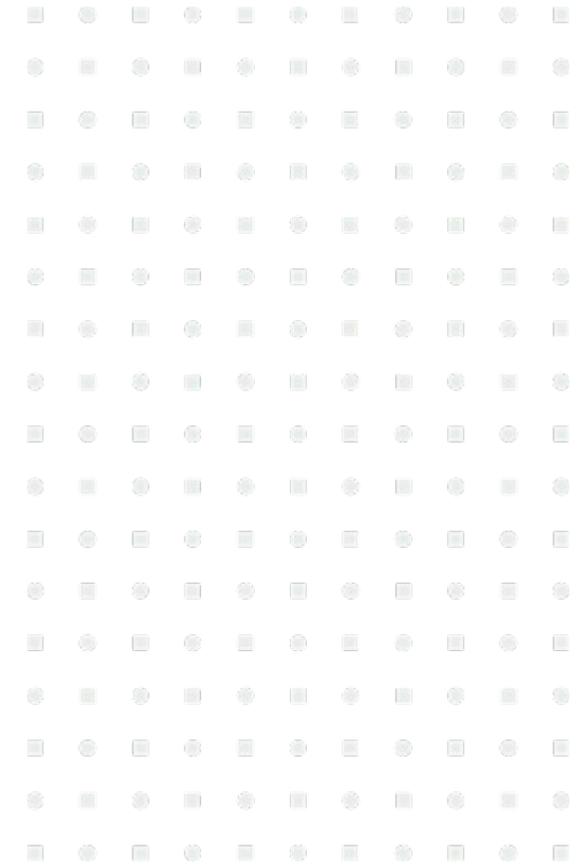


Our role is to help build an evidence base for independent and non-statutory advocacy, to help measure its impact and demonstrate the case for future, sustainable funding.



We gather insights and data from grantees, promote learning and collaboration through a community of practice, and are working on building an evidence-based case to policymakers and funders.

Overview of our research & learning approach



Key research questions for this phase

1

What do independent and non-statutory advocacy services do?

2

How do these services differ from statutory advocacy?

3

What do people using these services need from advocacy?

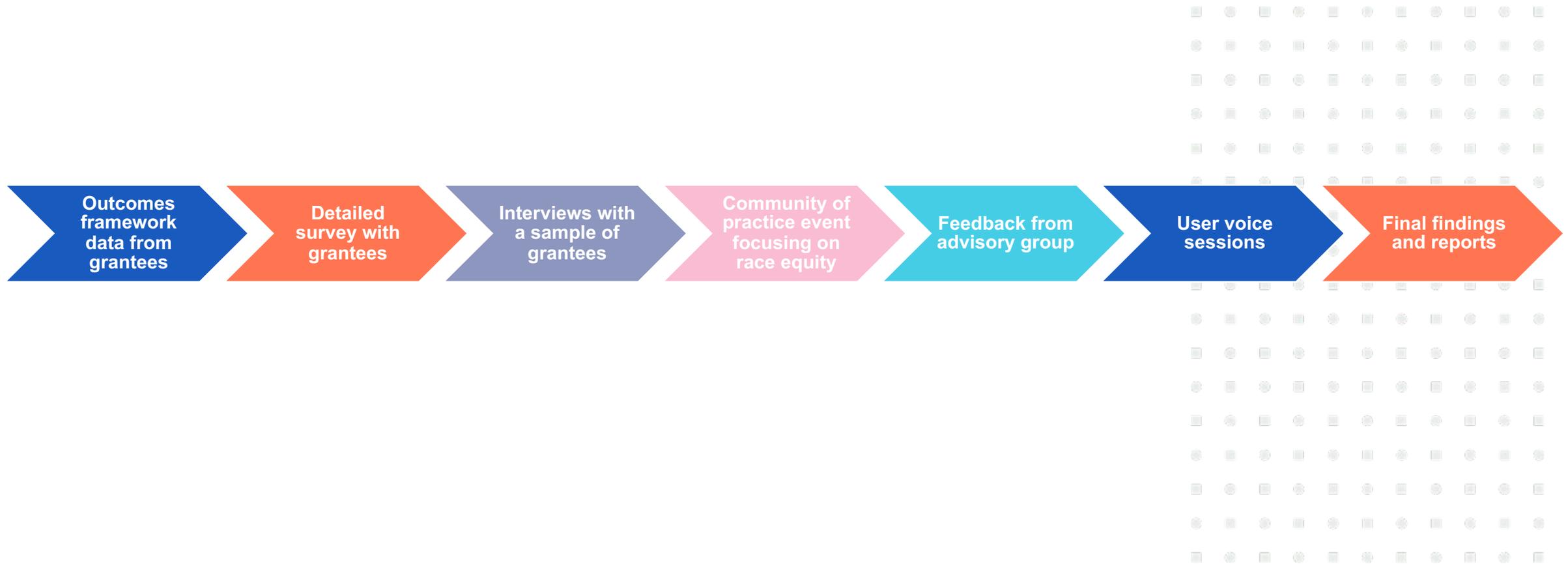
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How do services work with people using these services?

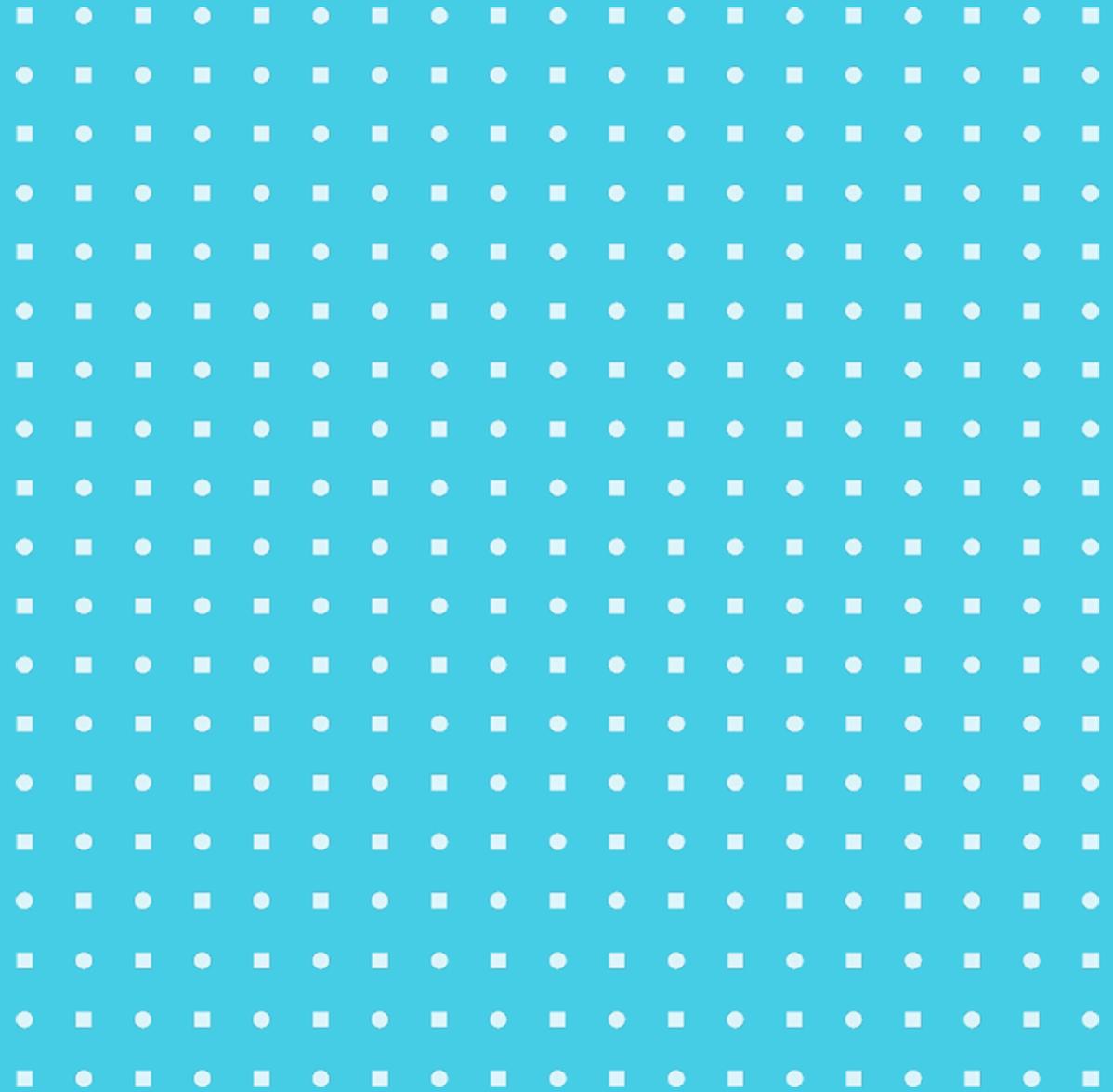
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What are some areas of improvement?

Our research findings build on mixed methods research and are co-produced



Emerging findings from recent research



Executive summary



Grantees aim to give people a voice and help them make their own decisions.



They are offering flexible & tailored support on a wide range of issues and building trust.

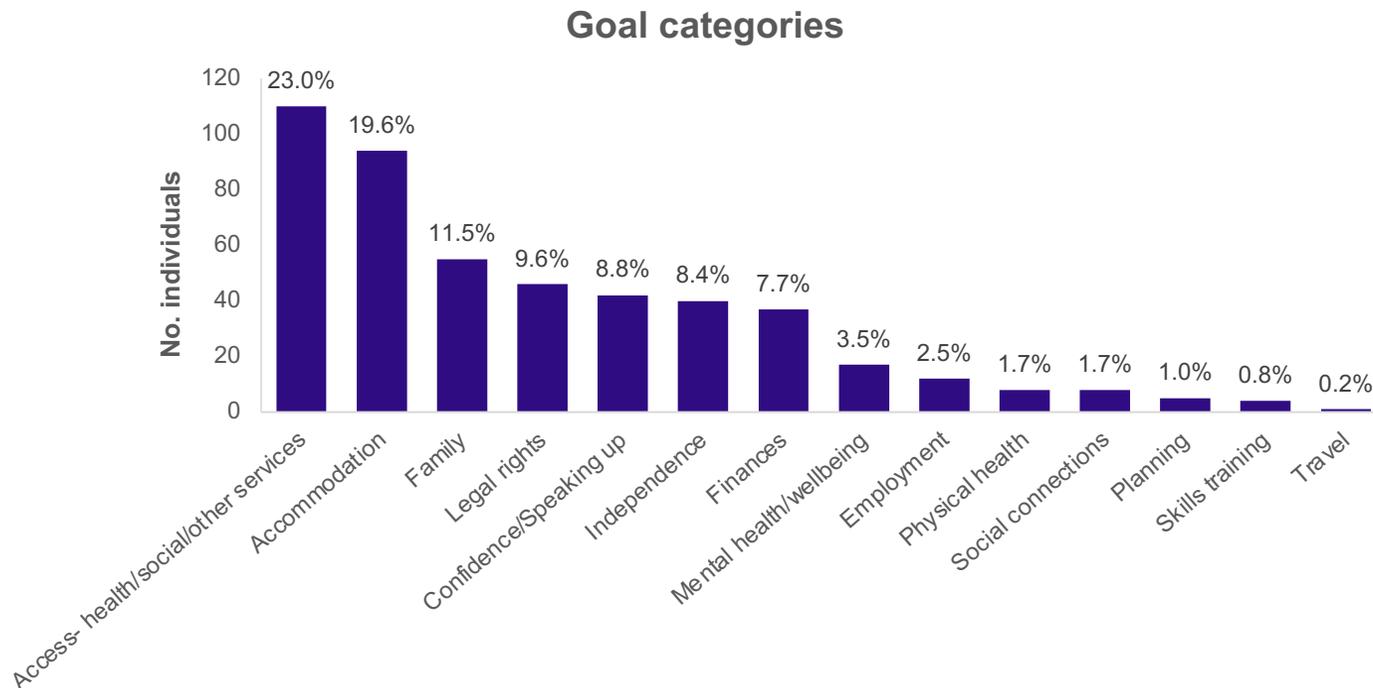


Early outcomes data is positive & shows that people are getting the help they need from services.



There are several groups which are underrepresented & whom services would like to work with. More funding and resourcing might be needed to fill these service gaps.

Non-statutory advocacy provides support around a range of issues



DATA FROM OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK – 641 individual records

Grantees provide support across a broad range of issues:

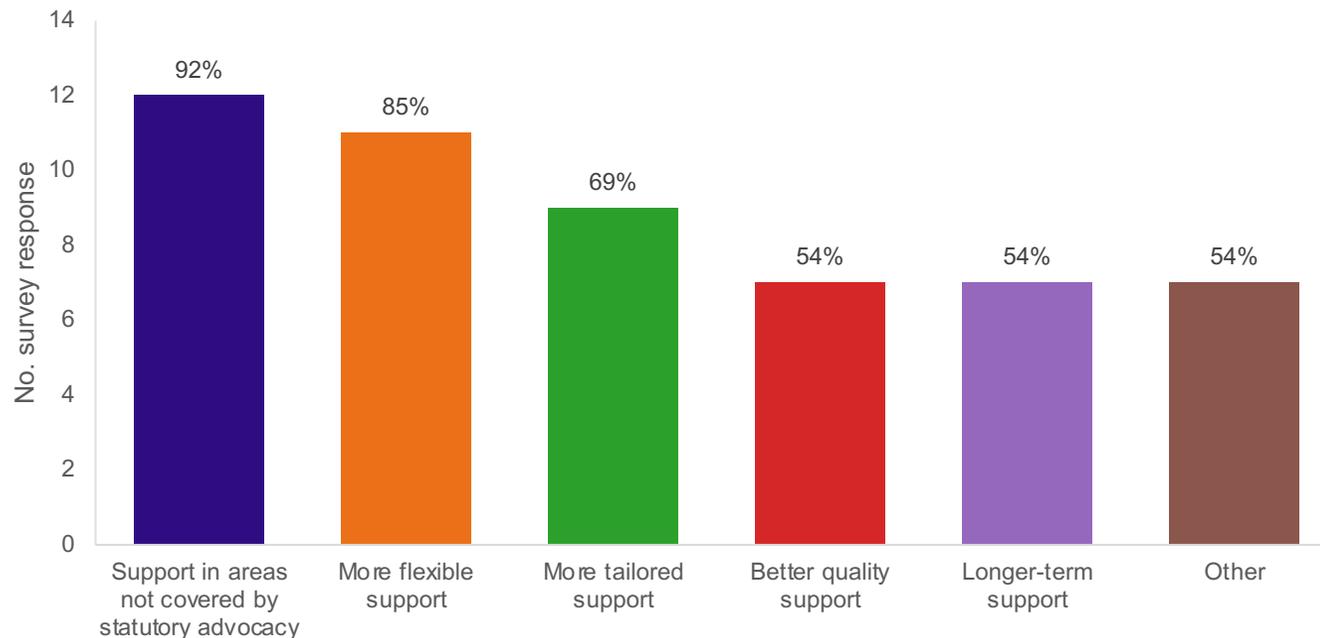
- Advocacy support is led by the goals of individuals and is available to anyone who meets service eligibility criteria
- Support is guided by outcomes and people's preferences

Goals tend to change over time:

- Additional related goals may arise over time as an issue develops
- Trust built through the advocacy relationship may encourage individuals to seek help with separate issues impacting on quality of life
- People sometimes come back to services 18 months or so later when they have new issues

Non-statutory advocacy addresses needs unmet by statutory advocacy

What is the value-add of non-statutory advocacy vs statutory advocacy?



DATA FROM GRANTEE SURVEY – 13 responses

Independent and non-statutory advocacy differs from statutory advocacy in that it is:

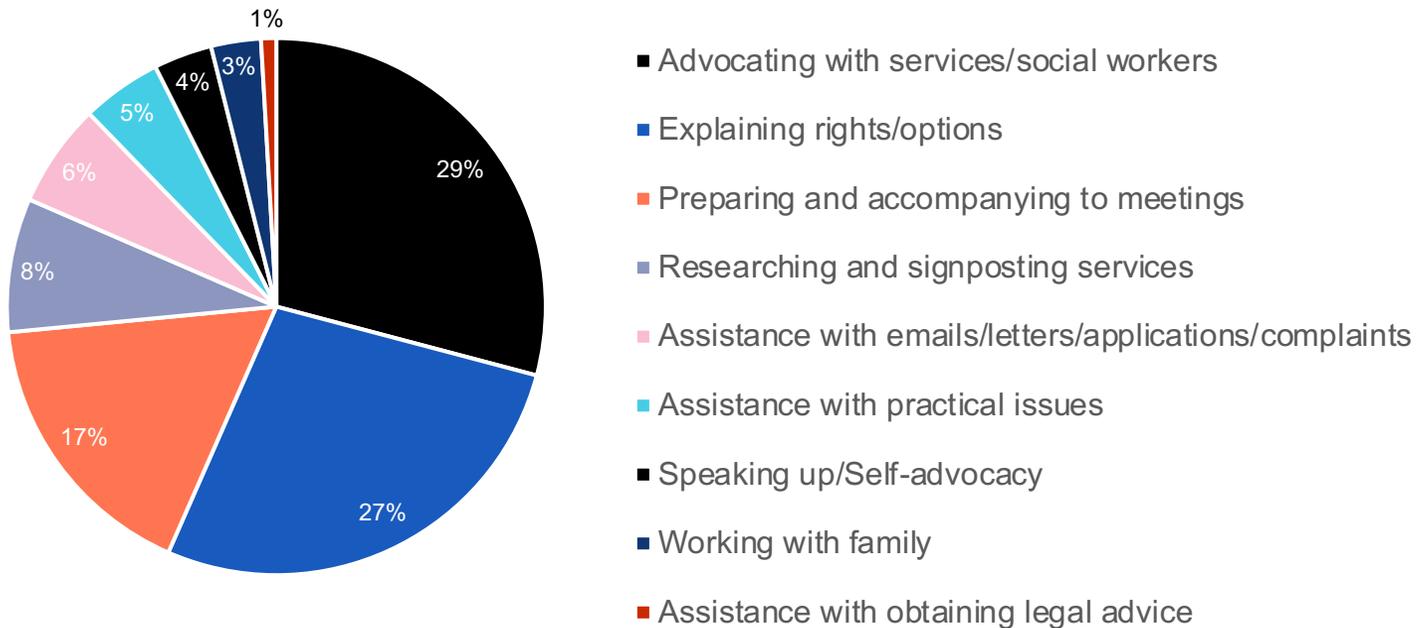
- Issue-based
- Time-unlimited
- Person-centred
- Place-based

Grantee organisations provide a range of support to different cohorts:

- 1:1 general issue-based support to adults
- Specialist support for families in child protection and safeguarding procedures
- Specialist support for children and young adults
- Peer and self-advocacy groups

Non-statutory advocacy involves a broad range of flexible support

Support Provided to Advocacy Partners



Data collected from grantee organisations reveals that they provide a diverse range of support:

- Support provided is dependent on and tailored to individual situations
- In the majority of cases, advocates provide more than one of the categories of support displayed in the chart

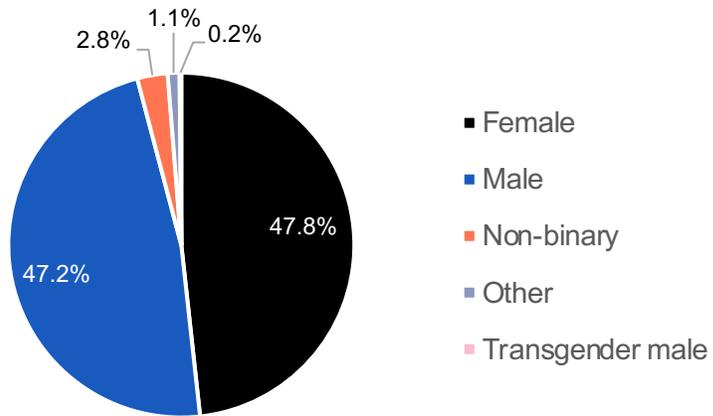
Support intensity typically varies depending on individual situations

- 41% of people receive 7+ engagements with advocates, while 22% of people engage on a one-off basis. The remaining 36% of people engage between 2-6 times.

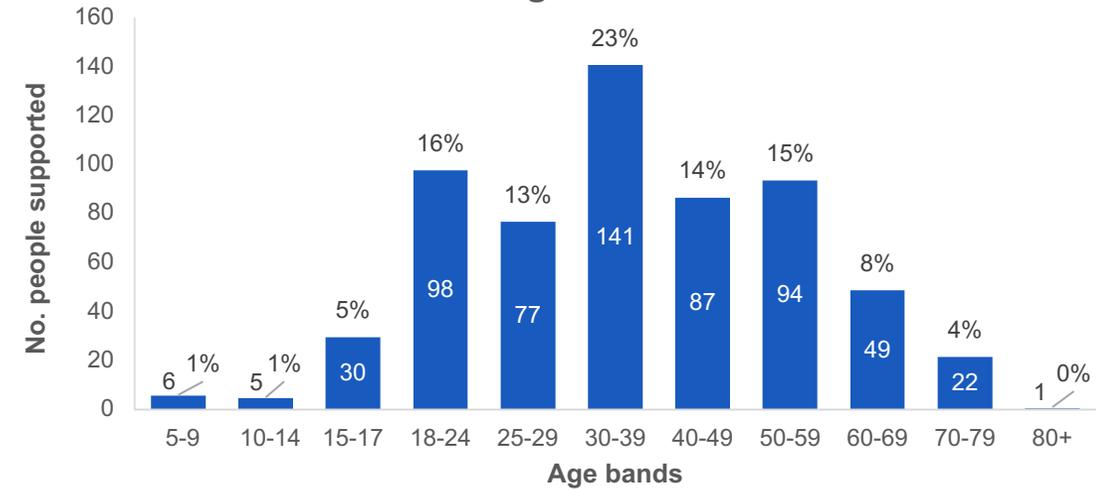
DATA CODED FROM OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK – 641 individual records

The 641* people supported across the programme represent an equitable split across gender and age

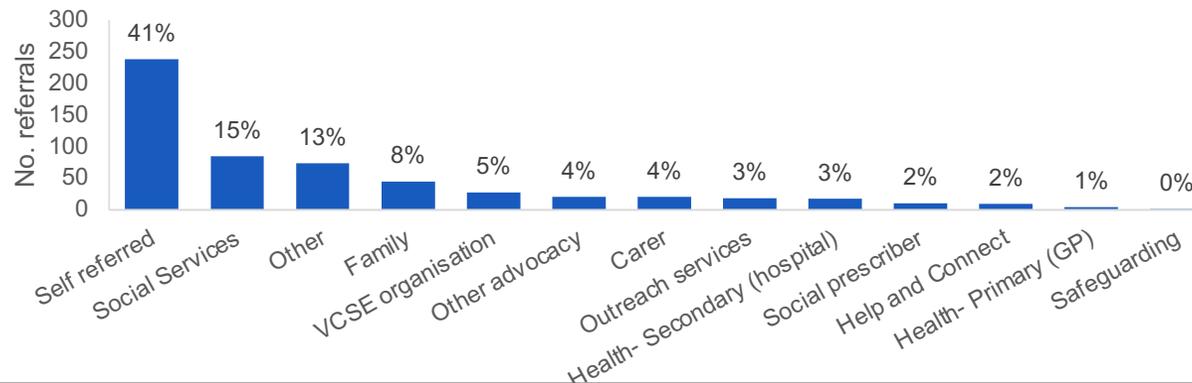
Access: Gender



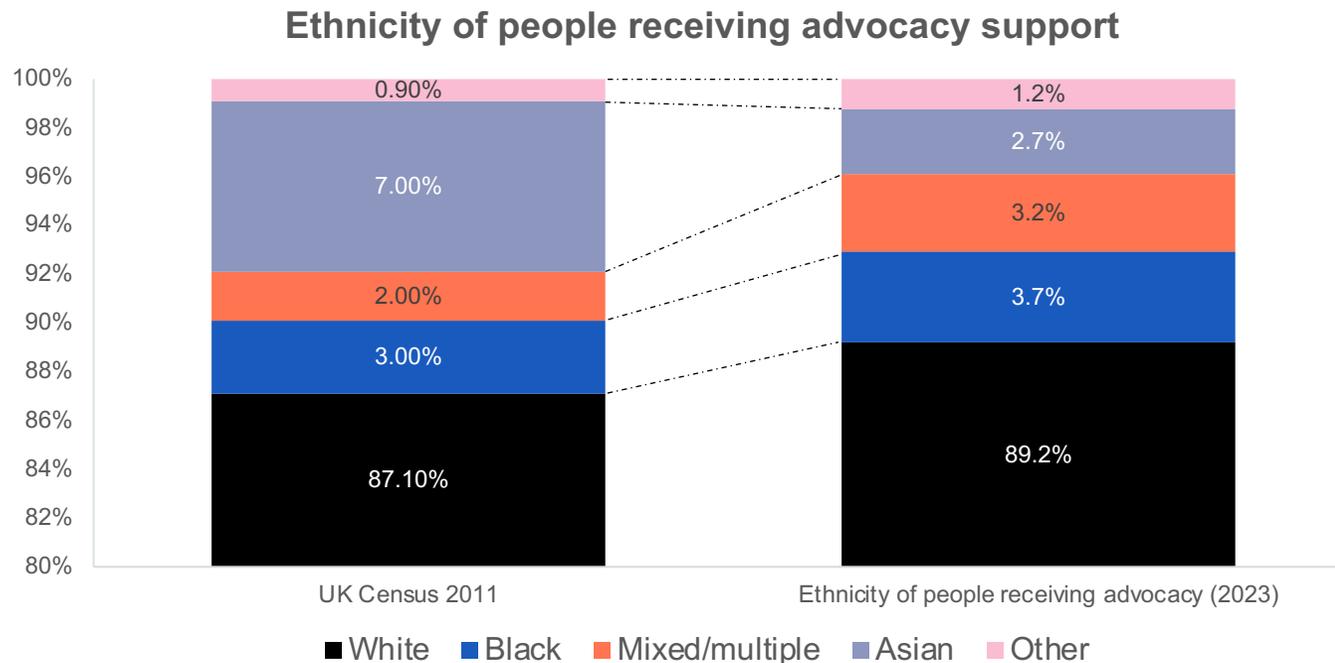
Access: Age distribution



Referral Sources



Access and race equity – challenges and ways forward



DATA FROM OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK – 641 individual records

*Harmonised UK ethnicity data for 2021 is not yet available due to delays in Scottish Census 2022.

The 15 grantees are based in a mix of urban and rural locations in England, Scotland and Wales

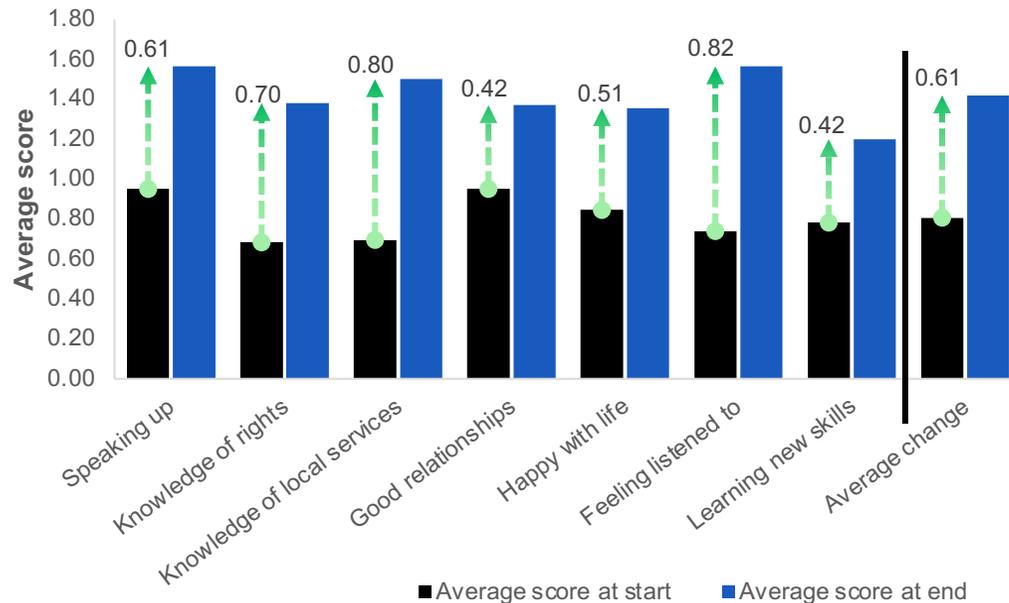
- Comparing our data with UK Census data shows that White ethnicities are potentially overrepresented, while Asian ethnicities are underrepresented.
- It must be noted that some grantees operate in much more ethnically diverse areas than others.

Challenges and potential solutions:

- Language & cultural barriers, limited resourcing, & data gaps impede identification of & support for underrepresented groups.
- More inclusive recruitment, better outreach (events, posters, stories), affordable translation/ interpretation services could help alongside more resourcing.

Early process outcomes data indicate positive impact on soft outcomes

Change in average process outcome scores



Score Key	Process outcome response
2	Yes
1	Maybe / A little
0	No

Process outcome data has been collected for 142 people with a score at the start and end of support:

- A comparison of start and end process outcomes score data indicates that non-statutory advocacy is having a positive impact on process outcomes across the board.
- The largest change is seen in the “Feeling listened to” and “Knowledge of local services” outcome categories.
- Outcomes data thus far is preliminary, and we will continue to monitor these as the programme progresses.

DATA FROM OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK – 641 individual records

Grantees would like to work longer with people and support additional, underrepresented groups

People with neurodegenerative physical conditions, such as Parkinson's or MS.

Students with SEN who are above the legal aid threshold (sometimes because of disability allowance or student grants)

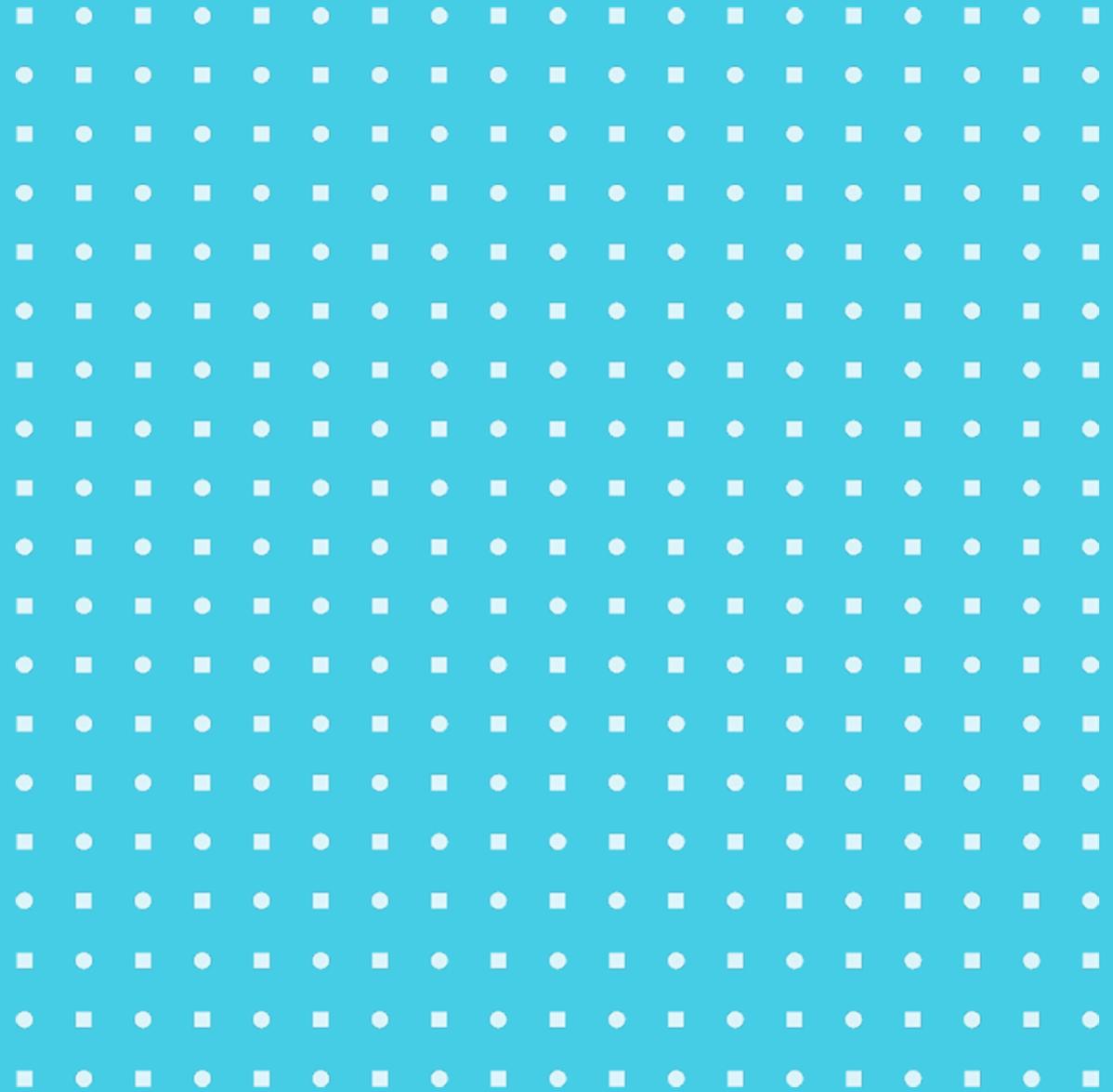
Young people who are employed but lacking in essential skills, such as reading and writing

Autistic people who may lack social connections

Older people in care homes

People living in rural areas

Future research areas



Future research areas

Autumn/ Winter 2024

Key topic: Advocacy goals and outcomes

This phase will help tease out the **impact** of services on clients:

- What goals did clients have at the start of the service?
- Were these goals met? What influences the likelihood for this?
- What is the evidence to support these outcomes?

Early 2025

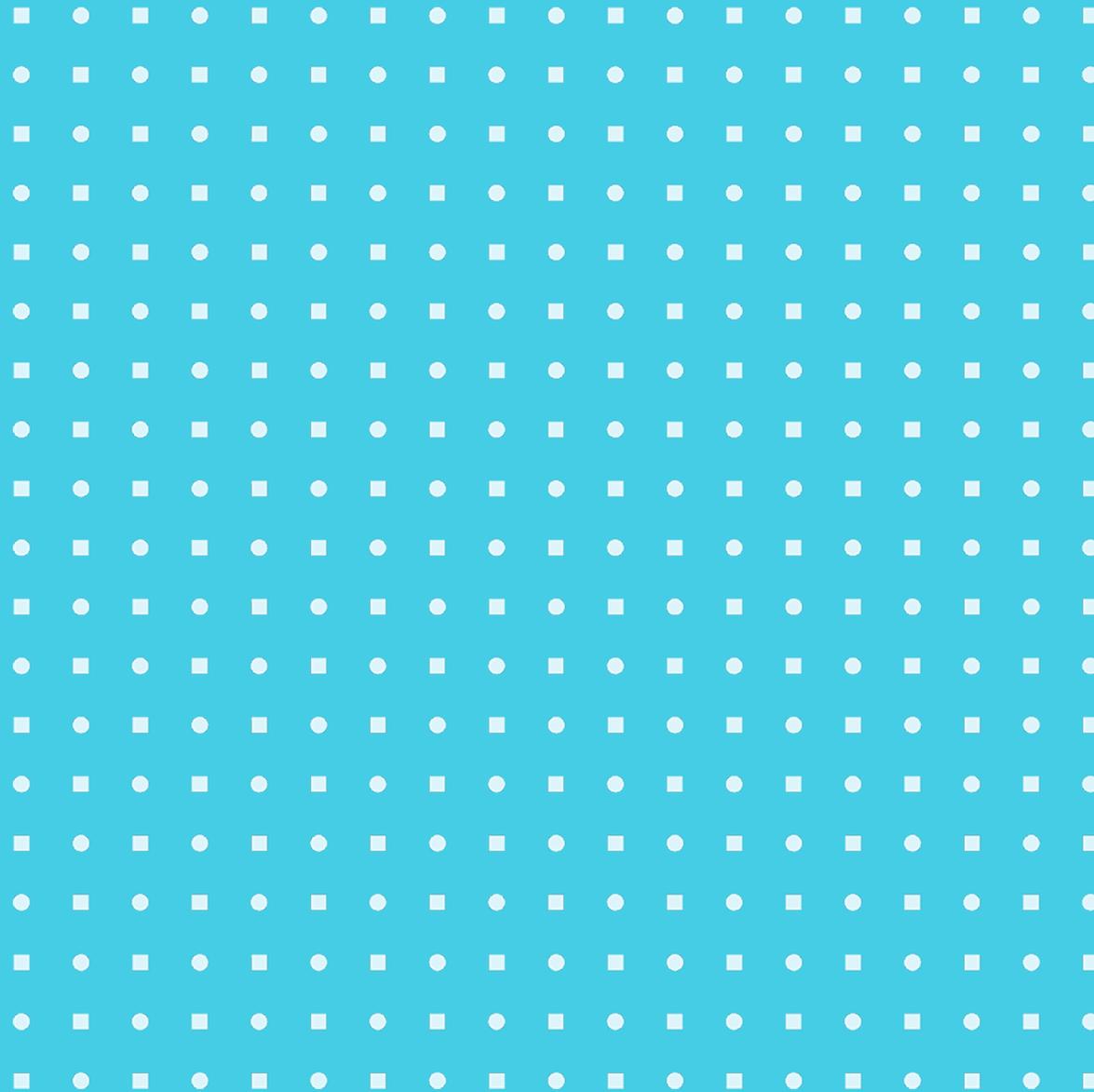
Key topic: Lessons from this programme

The final phase of research will pull together key lessons (“**so what**”) from the programme:

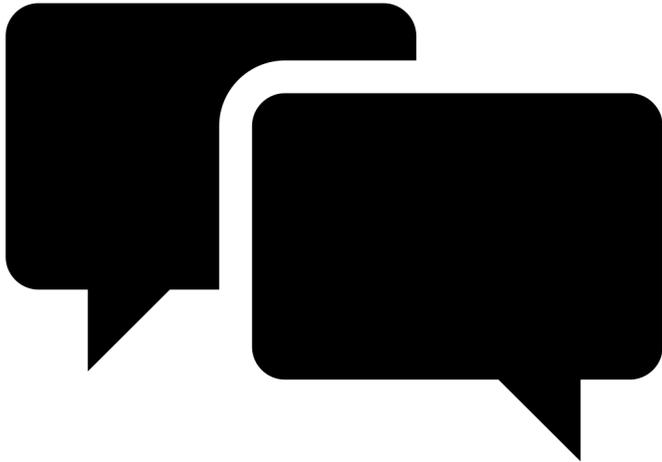
- Who does self/independent advocacy work best for?
- What costs does it save and benefits does it create and for whom?
- What should future funding and service delivery look like?
- Have grant holders found value in recording outcomes and impact through this programme?

Discussion

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Discussion



1. Do these findings resonate with you? Does anything surprise you?
2. What are the best ways of sharing some of these findings and collaborating with the wider sector and policymakers?
3. What are the wider opportunities and challenges in the advocacy sector?



Thank you.

Please do get in touch if you have questions or would like to collaborate with us!

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