



Community First fund analysis

Using data published to the 360Giving Standard

David Kane - Beehive - May 2017

This document presents an analysis of the Community First Neighbourhood Matched fund. Community First¹ was an £80 million government-funded initiative which ran from April 2011 until March 2015. The Neighbourhood Matched fund element of this fund allocated £30 million to projects in the most deprived areas of the country². The Neighbourhood Matched fund was targeted at particular areas - the 30% most deprived areas (Lower Super Output Areas) in the country. Funding was allocated by community panels based in local areas, and needed to be matched either with additional cash or in-kind donations.

Data on organisations funded by the Neighbourhood Matched fund has been released by the Cabinet Office³ under the 360Giving data standard⁴. Releasing the data in this format means that it is easy to use and analyse - there are standard fields that are included in the data, and it can easily be compared with other organisations that have released data to the standard.

Description of grants

The data describes 17,176 grants awarded between February 2012 and June 2015. The total amount awarded by the fund was recorded as £25.9 million. This breaks down to £7.6 million awarded in 2012, £7.5 million in 2013 and £10.7 million in 2014.

¹ <http://www.cdf.org.uk/content/funding-programmes/previous-programmes/community-first/>

²

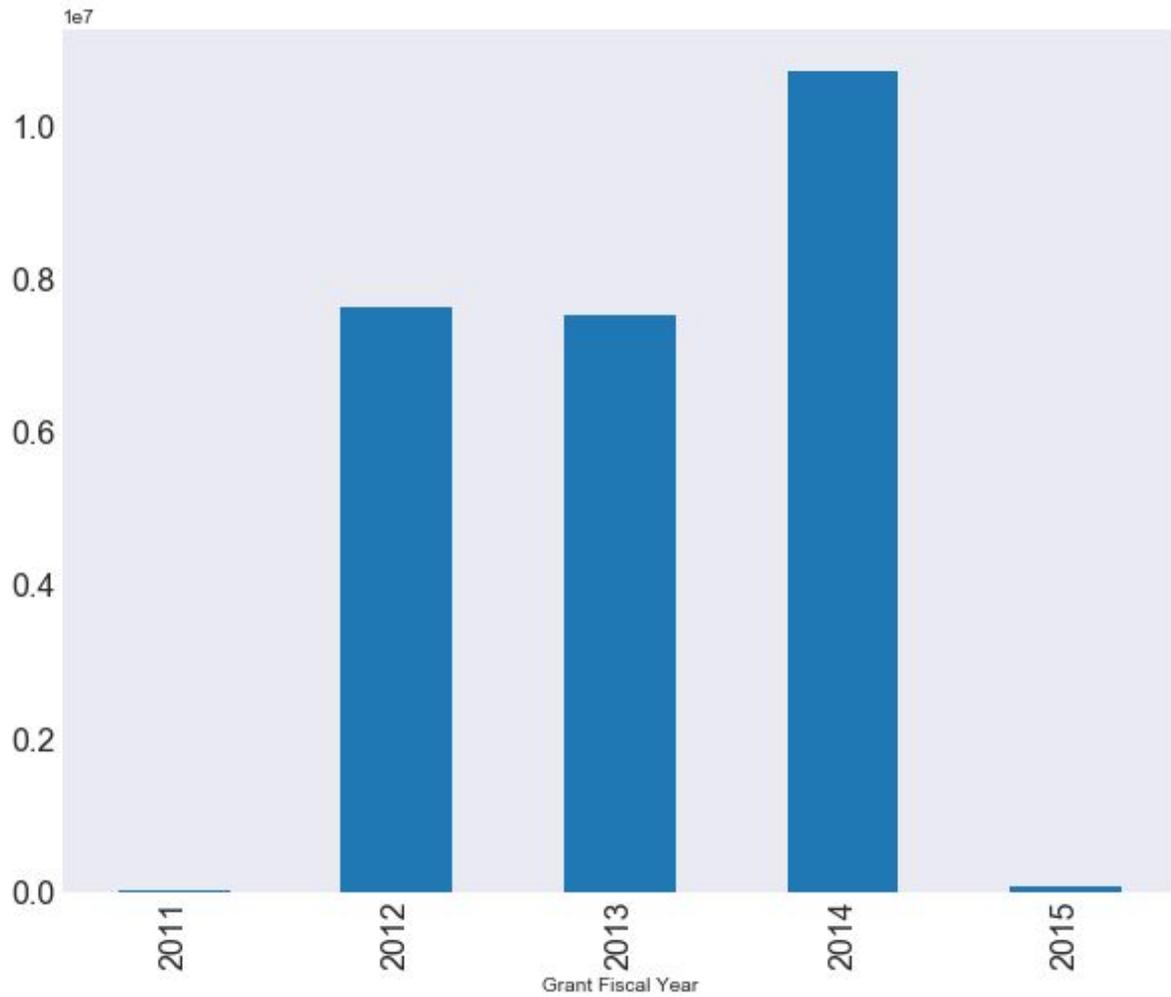
<http://www.cdf.org.uk/content/funding-programmes/previous-programmes/community-first/neighbourhood-matched-fund/>

³

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/evaluation-community-organisers-and-community-first-programme>

⁴ <http://www.threesixtygiving.org/>

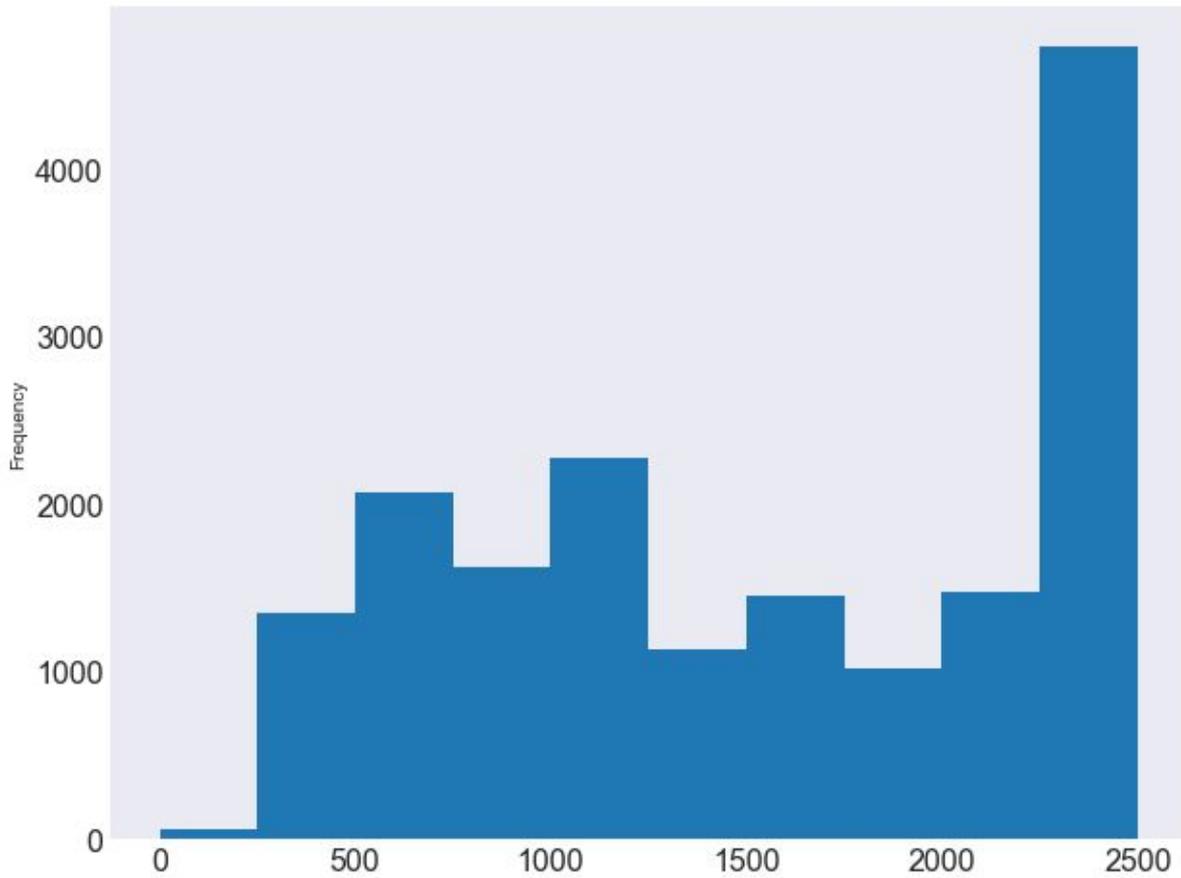
Amount awarded by fiscal year (£ million)



Grant amounts

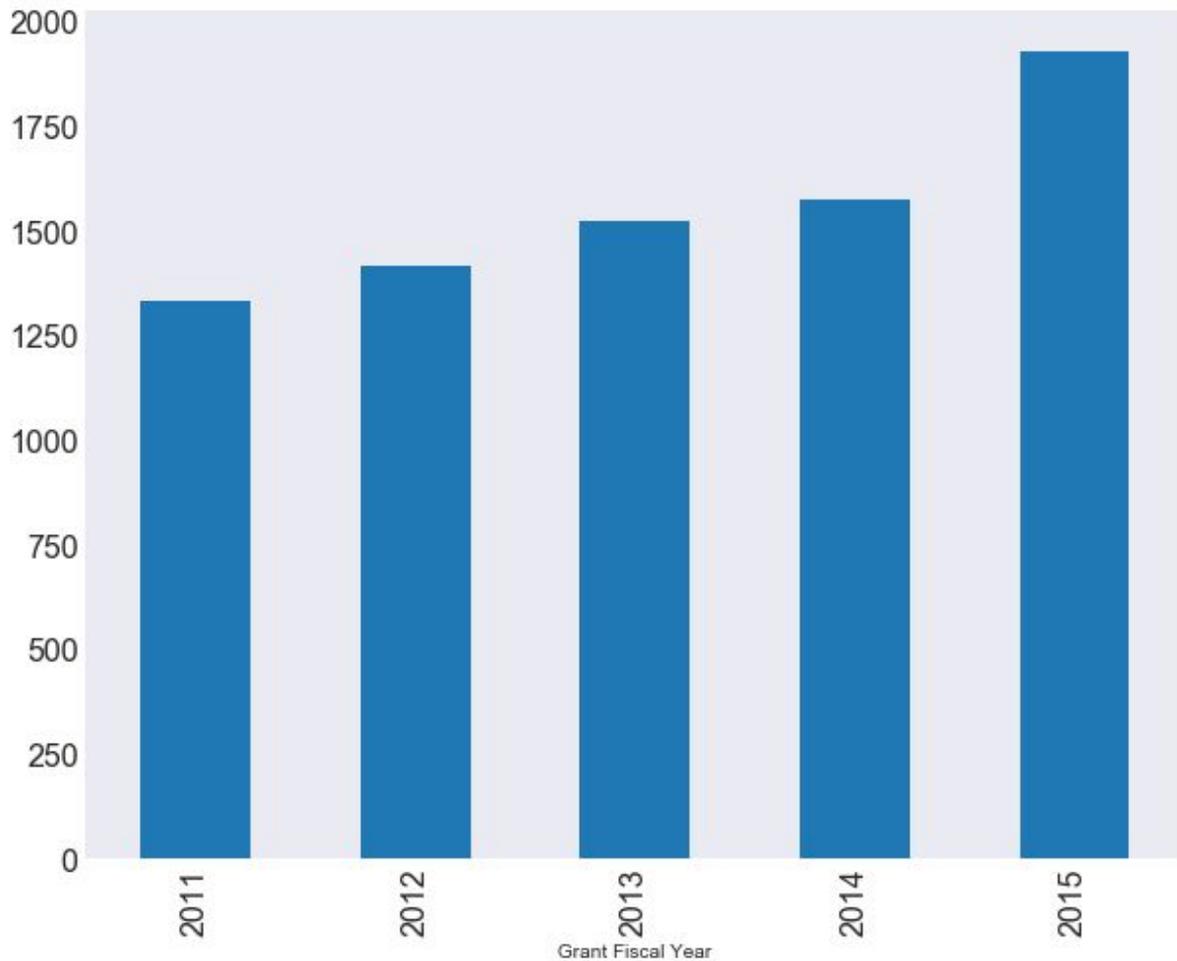
The largest grants were for £2,500, which was also the most frequently awarded amount - around one in five grants (3,278) was for this amount, with a further 1,171 grants made for £1,000. The average amount awarded was £1,500.

Number of grants by grant size



The grants given by the fund are generally very small: the average size of grant awarded grew slightly over the course of the fund, with a mean average of £1,274 in 2012 to £1,514 in 2014.

Average grant size by year



Beneficiary Locations

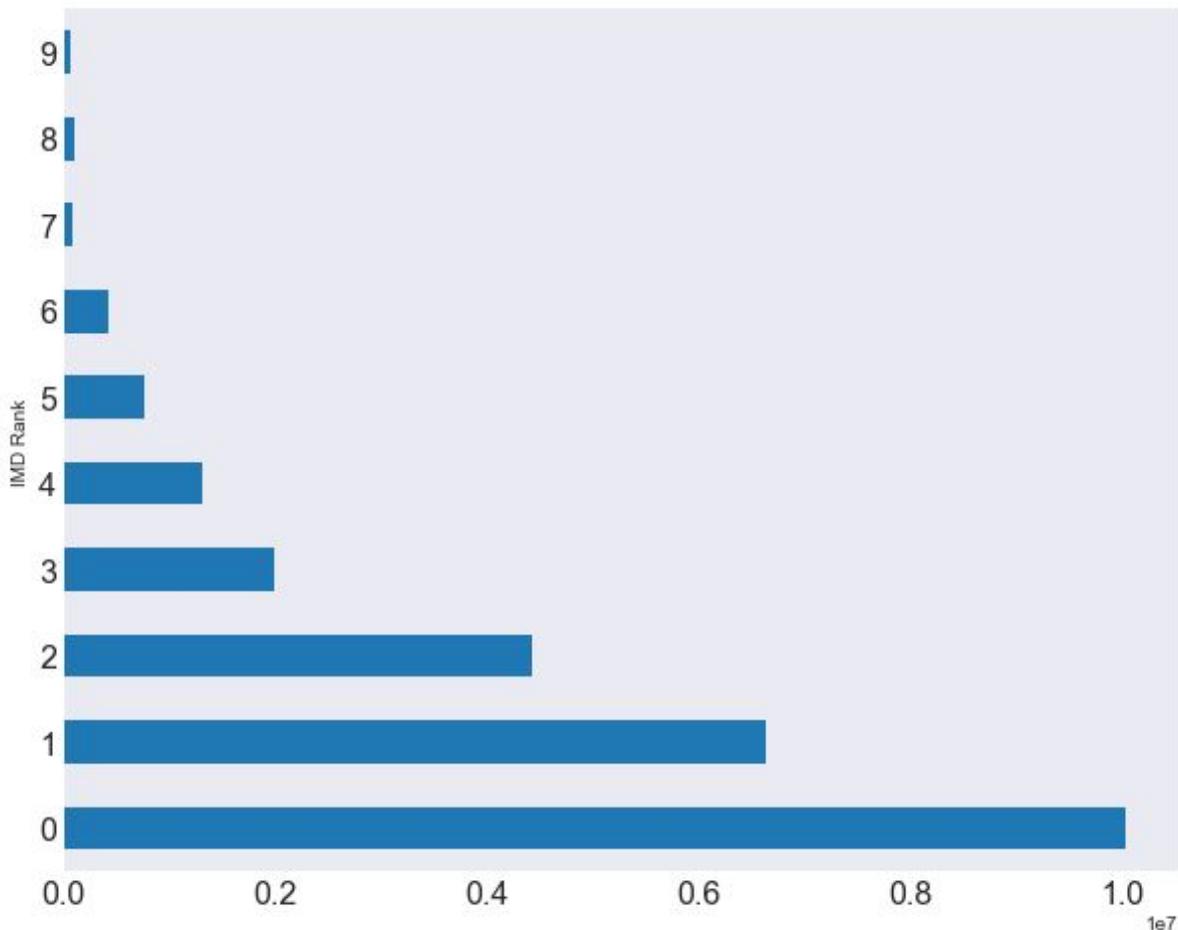
The data shows the location of recipient organisations' beneficiaries. The grants were aimed at small local organisations for use in a small area, and so the beneficiary location information gives useful information about where the activity took place. Location information is available at the ward and local authority level.

Five local authorities with largest number of grants

Birmingham	1,139
Leeds	855
Sheffield	712
Bradford	517
Sandwell	514

Using Index of Multiple Deprivation data⁵ we can match the grant to the level of deprivation seen in the local authority where the grant activity happened. We can then group the local authorities into deciles - from group 0 (most deprived) to group 10 (least deprived). This chart shows that, by amount awarded, these grants were targeted at areas in the most deprived local authority areas.

Amount awarded by index of multiple deprivation local authority decile



Around 40% of the amount awarded went to the 10% most deprived local authorities, with less than 5% of the amount going to the least deprived half of authorities.

Charity recipients

Due to the small amount of money in each grant the fund was not aimed just at registered charities. However, by matching with the Charity Commission register we can identify a number of registered charities that were awarded grants, and use data from the Charity Commission to examine them.

This method identifies around 1,400 charities out of the 17,000 grants made, suggesting that less than 10% of grants made went to registered charities, although the real figure could be

⁵ <http://opendatacommunities.org/data/societal-wellbeing/imd/indicesbyla>

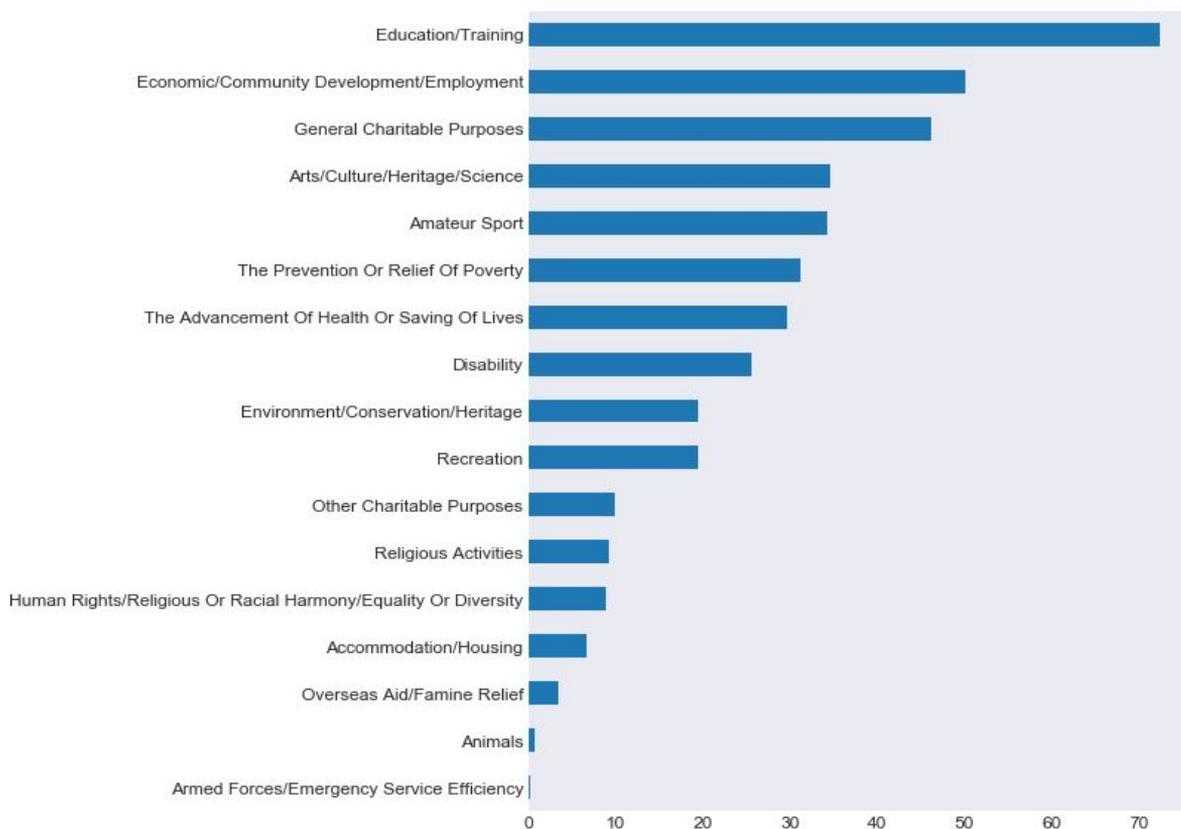
higher than this. As might be expected, these charities were generally small, with a median income of £55,000 and 25% of charity recipients had an income of under £17,000.

Charity classification

Another field that can be analysed from the Charity Commission data is the classification of the charities' activities. This gives an indication of the themes and activities the grants might be used in, and the beneficiaries they might help. Charities self-select the categories that best describe them across the three dimensions, and can select more than one category.

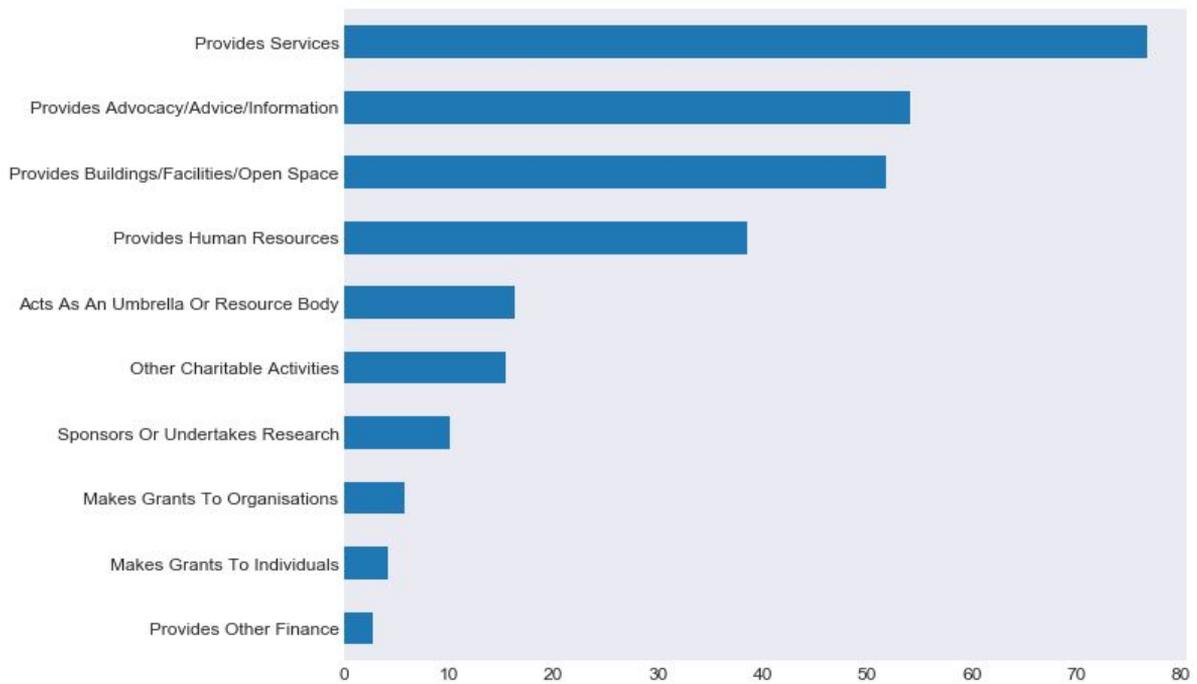
Looking first at the charity's "theme", we can see that over 70% of recipient charities say they work in "education/training", with a further 50% working in economic and community development or employment. Other groups that were commonly funded included sport and the arts, while organisations working in housing, overseas aid and animals were least likely to receive funding.

Charity theme by proportion of recipient charities



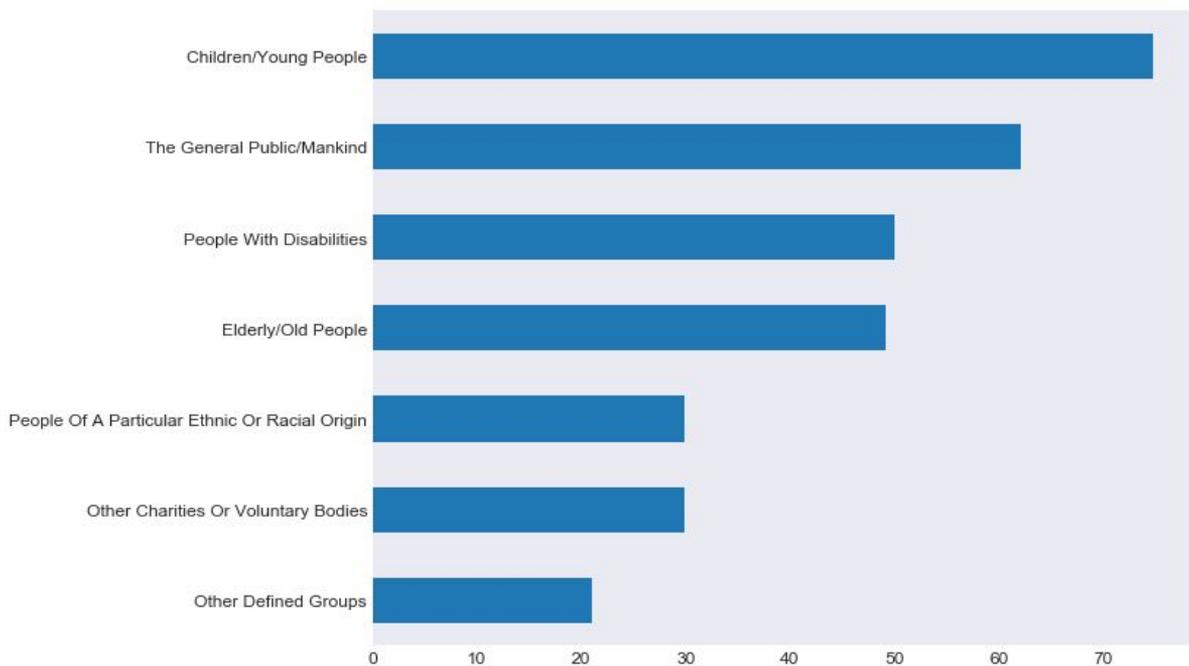
Turning to the ways in which these organisations help their beneficiaries, most organisations (73%) do this by directly providing services to them. Over half provide information or advocacy for these beneficiaries, while just under half provide buildings or spaces for them.

Services provided by proportion of recipient charities



Looking at the types of beneficiaries helped, children and young people are beneficiaries of 70% of the recipient charities, with people with disabilities receiving help from 45% of charities and older people 44%.

Beneficiaries by proportion of recipient charities



Comparing with other funds

Because the data about Community First was published to the 360Giving Standard, it's straightforward to apply the same analysis to another fund and compare the results. In this

example we've chosen the Big Lottery Fund's "Awards for All" programme⁶. Like Community First, Awards for All is a programme of small grants aimed at smaller organisations who are not necessarily registered charities.

The data on Awards for All goes back to 2004, so for this analysis it has been restricted to only years that match with the Community First data (2012-2015). It is a larger fund than Community First - over this period Awards for All awarded £228 million worth of grants, compared to £25.9 million for Community First. The Awards for All dataset contains details of 29,000 grants, compared to 17,800 for Community First.

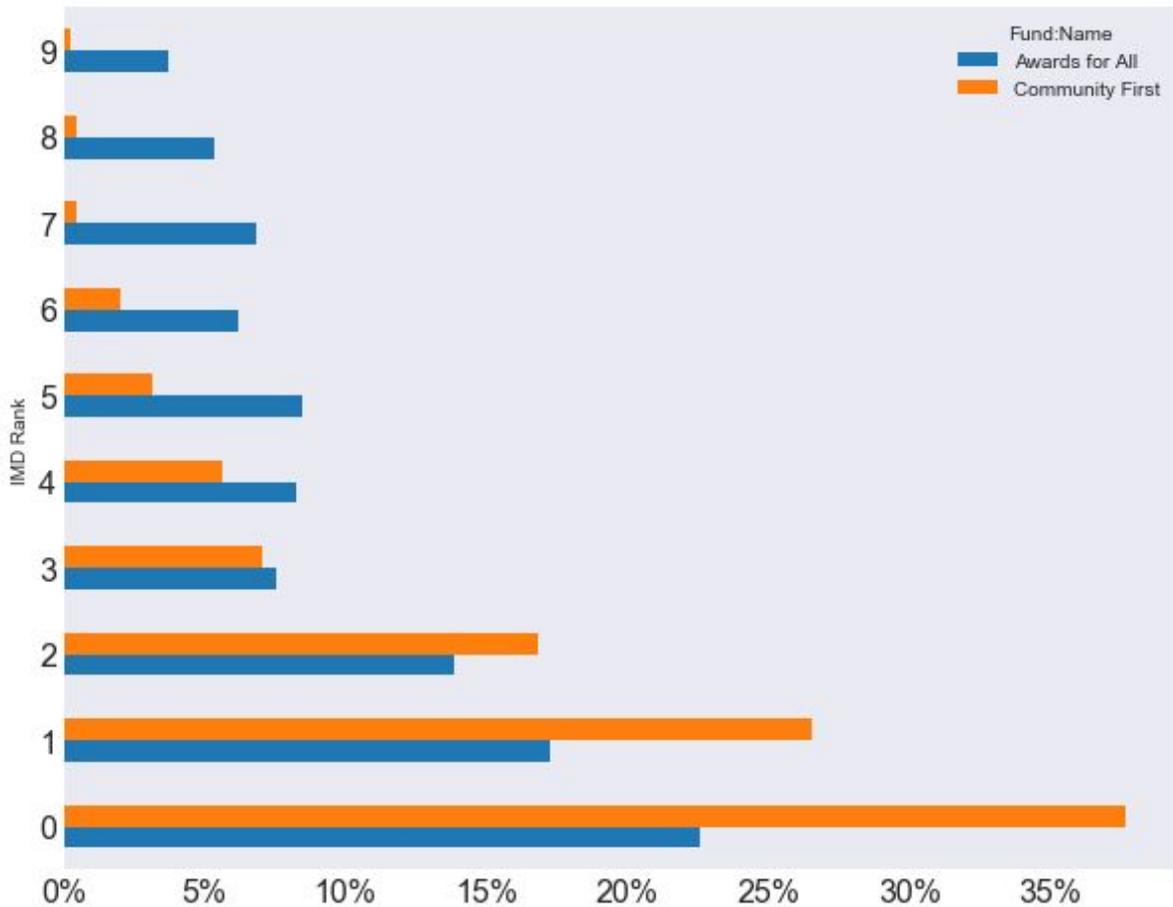
This suggests that the average size of grant was higher for Awards for All. The average (mean) grant is around £8,000 for Awards for All, compared to £1,500 for Community First.

Location by deprivation

By repeating the analysis by Index of Multiple Deprivation above for Awards for All, we can compare the distribution of organisations funded by the deprivation in their local area. This analysis suggests that Community First has a stronger focus on working with organisations deprived areas, although Awards for All also has a skew towards those areas. The chart below shows the proportion of grants from each fund made to each decile of deprivation. Over 35% of Community First grants go to the 10% most deprived local authorities, compared to 23% of Awards for All grants.

Proportion of grants by index of multiple deprivation (0 = most deprived)

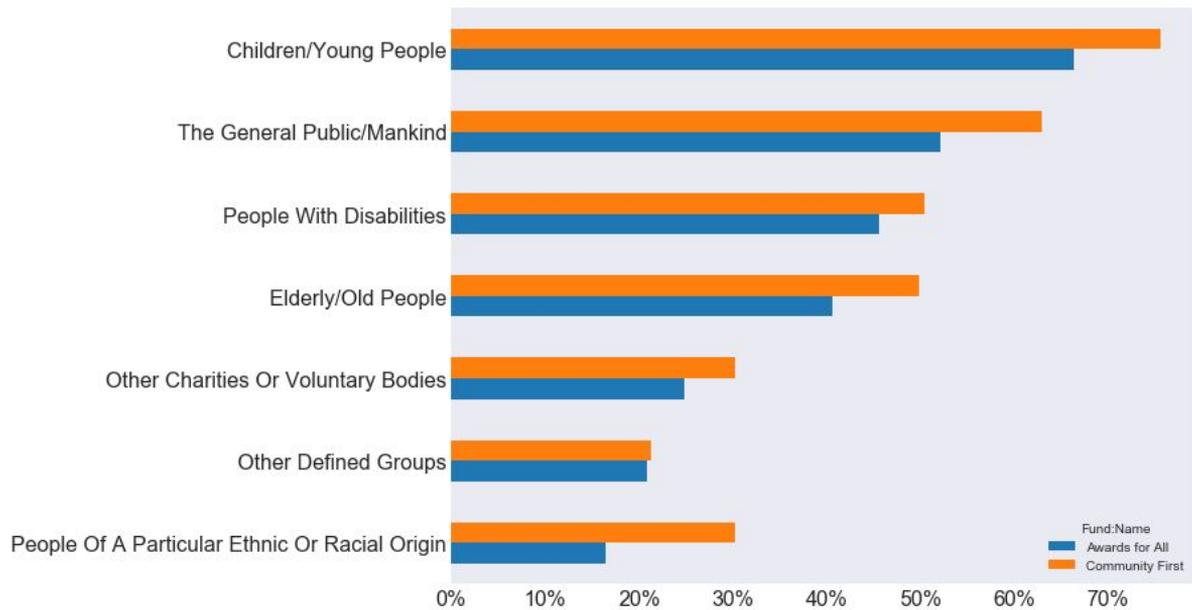
⁶ <https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/england/awards-for-all-england#>



Comparing charity beneficiaries

We can also recreate the analysis of registered charities in the data to bring in details of those organisations that are charities. The Big Lottery Fund data contains charity number, making this analysis easier for Awards for All as no matching needs to be done. 37% of Awards for All recipients have a charity number, compared to 15% of Community First recipients. This suggests Community First recipients are less likely to be registered charities, although it's important to bear in mind that these numbers were not in the original data and had to be matched, so there may be registered charities not captured.

We can compare the types of registered charities that have received funding from both funds. Looking at the beneficiaries of these charities, the pattern seems similar across both funds: the largest group benefiting from both funds is children and young people. But there are some differences: charities working with people from a particular ethnic group are more likely to receive funding from Community First, as are charities working with older people.



Overlap between fund recipients

With the data from both funds, we can also check how many organisations received grants from both funds. We would expect this to be a low number - both funds are aimed at smaller organisations, of which there are a large number. By matching on name and local authority it reduces the chance of organisations with generic names being incorrectly identified as the same.

The results show that of the 37,000 unique organisations identified in the data, only around 500 (1.3%) received grants from both Community First and Awards for All in this period.

Number of organisations receiving funding from Awards for All and Community First

