

Mental Health Investment Fund Round One: Executive Summary

Context

The Surrey All Age Mental Health Investment Fund (MHIF) is a collaborative venture between Surrey County Council and Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care Board. The fund forms part of the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

This report provides a summative overview of the projects funded in the first round of the MHIF, the progress made to-date, and the potential benefits these projects have yielded across Surrey.

The MHIF is in place to support the aims of the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Strategy:

- Remove barriers that prevent people from accessing support
- Help prevent mental health challenges within the Surrey community
- Encourage people to be proactive in improving their emotional health and wellbeing

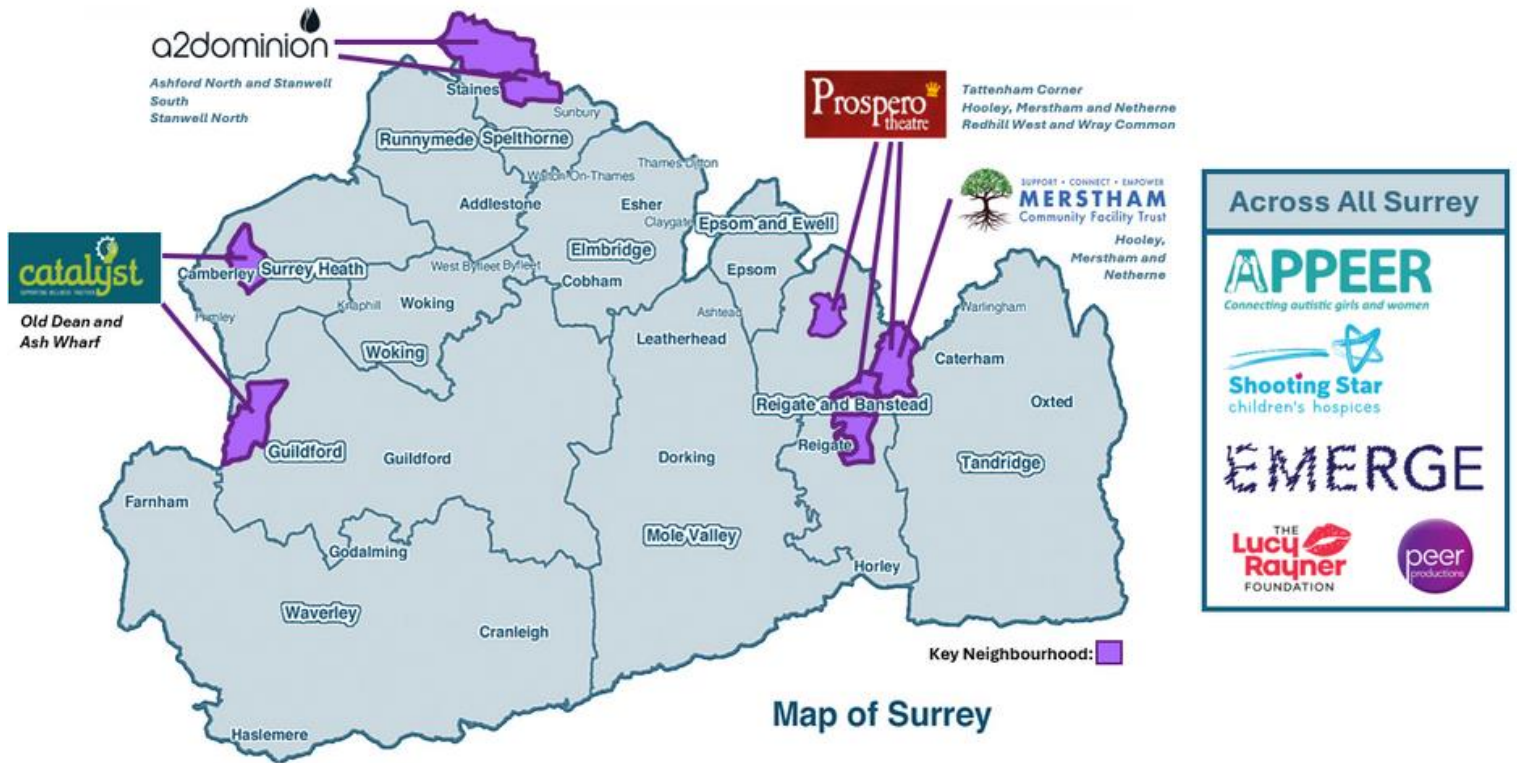
Round One

The first round of MHIF has granted a total of £530,000 to ten projects across Surrey. Each project has an aim to support the emotional wellbeing of individuals living in Surrey through a focus on preventing poor mental health and aiding those with mental health needs. These aims help to enable access to early, appropriate support, preventing further escalation of their needs, while also addressing social isolation. One project, East Surrey Care Farm, has since been incorporated into the round two evaluation due to mobilisation timeframes.

EMERGEProspero
theatrecatalyst
SUPPORTING WELLNESS TOGETHERa2dominionSUPPORT • CONNECT • EMPOWER
MERSTHAM
Community Facility TrustShooting Star
children's hospicesAPPEER
Connecting autistic girls and womenTHE
Lucy Rayner
FOUNDATIONpeer
productions

Key

The MHIF seeks to address inequalities across the county, with several recipient projects supporting 'key neighborhoods' with higher levels of deprivation, as identified by the NHS Core20PLUS framework.



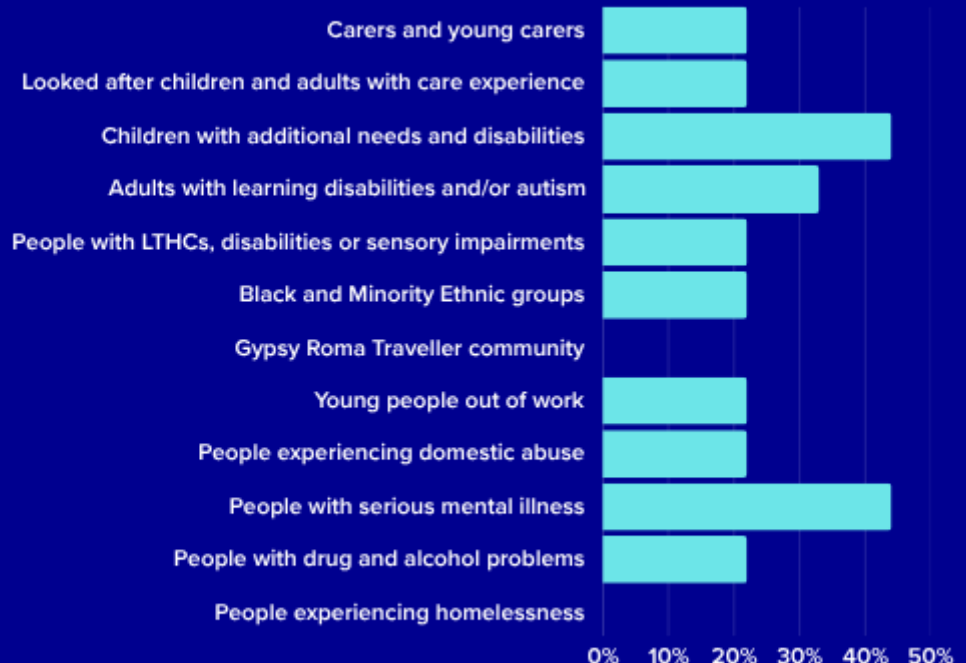
Emerge Advocacy, the Lucy Rayner Foundation, Peer Productions, Appeer CIC, and Shooting Star children's hospices, provide services that cover the whole county.

Priority Populations

All projects are seeking to support vulnerable groups of people across Surrey. Priority populations that are particularly exposed to potential inequality, or are traditionally hard-to-reach, were identified as part of the Surrey Health and Wellbeing strategy, with the MHIF actively prioritising projects and organisations with the expertise to help redress such inequality.

The first round of funding particularly sought to provide early intervention and to address social isolation within groups particularly exposed to these risks.

Number of projects targeting each Priority Group



Reach

All nine projects included within this report have successfully implemented their proposed services, reaching vulnerable populations within priority groups and key neighbourhoods both directly and through clinical infrastructure. Uptake has developed over the courses of projects and feedback on both the experience of services, as well as the impact they have had, is highly positive.

1,154

Therapy sessions delivered

Direct intervention to individuals, including those at-risk of admission to acute services, families struggling with household finance, and bereaved parents.

14,598

Performance attendance

The delivery of two touring plays targeting children and young people across Surrey's schools. Educating people about mental health, tackling negative stigma and empowering children to seek help.

394

Group sessions

These sessions include a range of services, such as group therapy and peer support, social engagement and activity-based interventions. These services are reaching hundreds of vulnerable people every month.

Legacy

Beyond to the development of local facilities and impact upon clinical pathways, three of the projects have successfully secured further funding through either the council or the National Lottery Community Fund.

- Appeer CIC
- Emerge Advocacy
- Lucy Rayner Foundation

Impact

While it is clear that the first round of MHIF funding has made positive progress in supporting the council's strategic aims, a limitation exists in terms of measuring the full impact of these services. Given the relatively small size of the grants awarded, in-depth evaluation of impact would have diverted funds away from delivery. The examples below demonstrate how the projects are feasibly yielding an economic return on investment to health and social care systems regardless.



Emerge Advocacy provides support to young people following discharge from acute mental health services, reducing the risk of re-admission (20% of patients are re-admitted within six months). A single avoided readmission could cost up to £24,000, more than organizations project grant.



Shooting star children's hospices have implemented on-site support for the neonatal intensive care unit in Ashford and St Peter's. In addition to supporting families, it has reduced pressure on hospital staff, improving efficiency and quality of care delivery.



Several projects seek to address social isolation. Catalyst Wellbeing Garden have helped individuals successfully re-join the workforce. A single full-time, minimum wage example would raise an estimated £2086 in tax per year, which would exceed the value of the grant in fewer than ten years.



A2 dominion housing association estimate that their support services help families gain an average of £1,200 in financial support, increasing economic stability in the region. In Surrey alone this could amount to more than £150,000 thanks to MHIF-funded expansion.

"The Mental Health Investment Fund has been a catalyst for change, empowering charities across Surrey to deliver life-changing support. By investing in grassroots innovation and collaboration, we are strengthening communities and ensuring mental health care is more accessible, compassionate, and impactful."
– Sue Murphy, VCSE Alliance