

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a group of people in a meeting or workshop setting. The image is heavily overlaid with a semi-transparent orange color. In the foreground, a woman with dark hair in a bun and a blue sweater is leaning forward, gesturing with her hands as if speaking. To her right, another woman with glasses and a dark jacket is sitting at a table, resting her chin on her hand and listening. There are water bottles and glasses on the table. The overall atmosphere is one of active participation and collaboration.

involve

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2021/22**

**BUILDING A VIBRANT DEMOCRACY,
WHERE EVERYONE CAN SHAPE A
SOCIETY THAT WORKS FOR US ALL**



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WELCOME

WHO WE ARE

INVOLVE IS THE UK'S LEADING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CHARITY.

There are those who say democracy is in crisis. The lack of trust in democratic institutions is profound and powerful elites have manipulated many traditional forms of decision-making. We are realistic about the challenges faced by democracy, but optimistic about how to overcome them. We see democracy as a living system, rather than any one institution or event. And we are committed to ensuring our democracies are vibrant and fit for the future, by putting people at the heart of decision-making.

We work across the UK and internationally, with offices in Belfast, Edinburgh and London.

WHAT WE DO

WE WORK TO MAKE PARTICIPATION AND DELIBERATION AN EVERYDAY PART OF DEMOCRACY, TO HELP SOLVE THE CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY.

Since 2003, we have been working with governments, parliaments, civil society, academics and the public to create and deliver new forms of public participation that revitalise democracy and improve decision-making.

Our work is focused in three functional areas:

- **Innovation & Practice** – design and deliver innovative participatory and deliberative processes that influence decisions and policy and help institutionalise practice;
- **Capacity Building & Standards** – build the capacity of public servants and practitioners, and develop the body of evidence, principles and standards that support participatory and deliberative best practice;
- **Advocacy & Communications** – communicate why participation and deliberation are essential features for a healthy modern democracy, and ensure those in positions of power and influence understand and support their use;

By involving people at the heart of decision-making, we hope to create healthier, more vibrant democracies that are fit for the future.





OUR PEOPLE

WE ARE A SMALL, DYNAMIC TEAM OF 21, COMMITTED TO PUTTING PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF DECISION-MAKING.

We are experts in participatory and deliberative democracy, public engagement, governance, facilitation, policy-making, research and much more.

We also work closely with a number of skilled associates who enhance our communications, facilitation, project management and research work.

Our board

Our board of trustees bring a vast amount of knowledge and experience from national and local government, parliament, civil society, politics, business and think tanks. During the year and up to the date of this report our trustees were as follows:

- Claire Ainsley
- Paul Braithwaite (appointed 27 May 2021)
- Ed Cox (Chair)
- Temidayo Eseonu (appointed 27 May 2021)
- Golam Morshed (Treasurer)
- Hannah White (Deputy Chair)
- Julie Mellor
- Kathy Jones
- Paul Skidmore (retired 22 May 2021)
- Sharon Squires

2021/22 was also the year our former Director Tim Hughes stepped down, and new CEO Sarah Castell was appointed. Key members of management team are:

- Sarah Castell (appointed 6 September 2021)
- Tim Hughes (resigned 6 September 2021)
- Clive Mitchell (Director of Operations)
- Kaela Scott (Director of Innovation & Practice)
- Sarah Allan (Director of Capacity Building & Standards)
- Calum Green (Director of Advocacy & Communications)



OUR THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR STAFF AND ALL THE PEOPLE WE HAVE WORKED WITH THIS YEAR.

We could not deliver our ambitious goals without the valuable support of politicians, public servants, our funders, our partners and our board of trustees.

We would particularly like to thank all the members of the public that have taken part in our processes. Each project we have the privilege to work on with people from all walks of life reinforces our core belief that a vibrant democracy, where everyone can shape a society that works for us all, is possible.

Our charitable objectives

We are a registered charity in England and Wales (1130568), and Scotland (SC047314). Our charitable objectives are:

- 1 To advance education for the public benefit in methods and processes of public participation and democratic practice;
- 2 To promote good citizenship for the public benefit by encouraging and facilitating participation by the public in democratic and decision making processes with an intended outcome of enabling people to develop their capacities, help meet their needs and participate more fully in society.



AT A GLANCE

34 PROJECTS

WORKING WITH BOTH THE PUBLIC AND
DECISION MAKERS, TOTALLING MORE THAN

70,000

HOURS OF PARTICIPATION,
DELIBERATION AND TRAINING
IN HOW TO DO BOTH

2,300

PARTICIPANTS

250,000+

VISITORS ENGAGE WITH AND
USE OUR ONLINE RESOURCES

WHERE OUR
PROJECTS TOOK
PLACE



WHO WE WORKED WITH

PARTNERS

Belfast City Council

Camden Council

Carnegie UK & Scottish Government
on behalf of the National Digital Ethics
Expert Group

Co-operation Ireland

DEFRA

Devon County Council

Economic and Social Research Council

Electricity North West

Engage Britain

Greater Cambridge Partnership

Health Security Agency

Herefordshire Council

Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Natwest

Northern Gas Networks

Redbridge Council

Sheffield Council

The Government of Jersey

The Home Office

The Scottish Government

UK Parliament

UK Power Networks

UKBioBank

UKRI

University of Liverpool

FUNDERS

Calouste Gulbenkian

Esmee Fairbairn

European Climate Foundation

Forum for the Future (Friends Provident)

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust

UK Parliament

University of Westminster

Wellcome Connecting Science





FOREWORD

This year concluded with most lockdown restrictions being lifted in the UK in March 2022, and a major escalation of the Russo-Ukrainian War on 24 February; an attack on a country's right to democratic self-determination. Democracy – the rights, freedoms and power that we hold – has been the centre of public and political discussions.

At Involve, I am proud of the work we have done to work within this moment, and help build a democracy where everyone can shape our society, and where decisions work for as many people as possible.

We have worked across all four nations of the UK, delivering 70,000 hours of public participation, deliberation and training in how to do both with 2,300 people from all walks of life. This work has helped the public inform better decisions for our future, find common ground across divides, and empowered ordinary citizens. Whatever the technique, be it citizens' assembly or community conversations, we have found a way to bring those most affected closer to decisions that matter.

And this has had tangible results, such as unlocking a political deadlock on assisted dying in Jersey and working with the public to understand and choose our science and technology future through Sciencewise.

“WE HAVE WORKED ACROSS ALL FOUR NATIONS OF THE UK, DELIVERING 70,000 HOURS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, DELIBERATION AND TRAINING IN HOW TO DO BOTH WITH 2,300 PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE.”

Beyond our delivery, we have also worked with government, businesses, charities and communities to help them do what we do; include the public in decisions that matter. For example, our Local Climate Engagement work saw 75 local authorities apply to work with us to decide how to do their bit to tackle the climate crisis.

And, we are supporting the wider democracy sector too; we know that a vibrant democracy not only includes more public participation and deliberation in decisions, but also a better electoral system, clear and protected rights, transparent and accountable government, thriving civic institutions, a free press, sound political education and many more elements that are essential to a functioning democratic system. This year, we have used our skills in holding space, connecting people, finding common ground and strategy development to bring together those working towards these ends.

“WE HAVE USED OUR SKILLS IN HOLDING SPACE, CONNECTING PEOPLE, FINDING COMMON GROUND AND STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT TO BRING TOGETHER THOSE WORKING TOWARDS THESE ENDS.”

I’d like to pay tribute to the tireless work of our staff team, led by our new Chief Executive Sarah Castell. They demonstrate extraordinary creativity in pioneering new approaches to participation and engagement, often giving up evenings and weekends to make these powerful ideas a reality.

We hope the work described in these pages will give you hope and belief too. There are many that are willing, able and actively working to build the democracy that we need and deserve.



ED COX
INVOLVE CHAIR



01 INTRODUCTION



DEMOCRACY IN FOCUS

In recent years, the UK has faced a number of challenges to our democratic system. From how to implement the result of the Brexit referendum, to questions of who has the mandate to call a second Scotland Independence Referendum, our democracy is coming under significant pressure. Added to the longer trends of increasing distrust and disengagement, and a context where authoritarianism is now a part of our global politics, our democracy is in desperate need of renewal.

The silver lining? The public still expects a lot from the idea of democracy. There remains a broad consensus that democracy, in addition to guaranteeing free, fair, competitive elections and protecting civil liberties, should protect people against poverty and involve citizens in decision-making (as shown in British Social Attitudes [here](#)). And, practical ways to deliver on this ambition are being demonstrated everywhere. From the 600+ successful Citizens' Assemblies that have taken place in recent years across the world, to the Democrat Party in the USA 'putting democracy on the ballot' in the midterms and holding the senate against the odds, there is an increasing realisation that we need to build a democracy fit for the 21st Century.

WE ARE BUILDING A DEMOCRACY FIT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

With a mission to lead the UK in making participation and deliberation an everyday part of democracy, and to help solve the challenges of the 21st century, we are helping build a democracy fit for the future.

Read on to see how our work this year has helped to make this stronger, more vibrant democracy possible, in five areas:

- Making better decisions for our future
- Finding common ground
- Empowering citizens
- Supporting others to do democracy differently
- Building a vibrant democracy sector

This report complements our statutory trustees' report and audited accounts for 2021/22, which you can find on our website.

02 MAKING BETTER DECISIONS FOR OUR FUTURE

Many decisions we take now will affect us for generations to come. However, our political system struggles to make decisions that won't pay off until far into the future, with election cycles that encourage a focus on short-term and reactive decision making.

We champion and deliver participatory and deliberative approaches that bring the public into decision making. The work we have done this year has helped sharpen focus on the future beyond the next election and has demonstrated deliberation as a way to unlock politically difficult decisions.

A vibrant democracy creates the space to make decisions that deliver the future we need.





PROJECT:

ASSISTED DYING IN JERSEY

Unlocking political deadlocks on morally challenging decisions

The Government of Jersey appointed Involve to set up a Citizens Jury on Assisted Dying, after an e-petition in 2018 was signed by 1,861 people calling for the States Assembly to amend Jersey law and allow for assisted dying.

The recommendations formed by the 23 members of the Jury led to the States Assembly becoming the first parliament in the British Isles to decide 'in principle' to allow assisted dying in November 2021. Further detailed legislation is planned for late 2022.

This demonstrates how, when done well, public engagement can help unblock challenging moral issues and lead to clear decisions that affect us for generations to come.

[The project was covered in local and national media, ranging from BBC and ITV News, to the British Medical Journal and the Mirror].



PROJECT:

SCIENCEWISE

Understanding and choosing our science and technology future

Sciencewise is the UK government's internationally recognised public engagement programme, which enables policy makers to develop socially informed policy with a particular emphasis on science and technology. Involve runs the programme, on behalf of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), providing expert advice, assurance, and support to the programme. We were recommissioned, in April 2021, to deliver this role for a further two years.

By continuing to run the Sciencewise programme, we have been in a position to advise UKRI and others as to the best way to embed public voices in decision making; supporting UKRI to implement its public engagement strategy; and playing a key role in discussions about the future of public engagement in the science and innovation research ecosystem.

In the year 2021/22, Sciencewise completed seven dialogues and six were underway. This equates to 700 public participants, 147 specialist participants, 39 stakeholder participants, 60 event hours and 42,000 participant hours. These dialogues included issues ranging from Newborn Screening for Genomics England to the Ethics of data location for the Geospatial Commission.

<https://sciencewise.org.uk/>

03 FINDING COMMON GROUND

Difference and disagreement are essential to a healthy democracy, and we need to be able to find compromise and find common ground in a world where each of us has a different amount of power.

Currently, our democratic institutions struggle to help us to develop a shared perspective that rebalances power inequities and builds trust. So, important decisions about the future of our country often lack broad consent and over emphasise the views of the most powerful. This can mean delayed decisions, due to fear of political backlash, or decisions that don't meet the need of those struggling the most.

We believe that our democracy needs much better ways of helping us to challenge imbalances

in power, especially on issues we have a common interest in. We need ways to bring together people with different points of view, and different levels of power in society, to develop mutual understanding and create a shared vision for our future.

Our work this year has shown that people are not hopelessly divided, and that power can be balanced more fairly. When people are supported to play a balanced and fair role on a shared task, they build understanding and trust and often find they agree on many more matters than they disagree.

A vibrant democracy creates opportunities for people to come together, learn from one another and find common ground.





PROJECT:

CITIZENS ASSEMBLY ON DEMOCRACY IN THE UK

If politics isn't working for many people, what would make it work better?

This year we worked on the Citizens' Assembly on Democracy in the UK with the Constitution Unit. This was the first UK-wide deliberative process to ask the public to consider the future of their democratic system. It brought together 70 people from right across the UK for six weekends to explore, online, the big question: How should democracy in the UK work?

The Assembly was convened by the Constitution Unit at University College London (UCL) as part of its wider research project on attitudes to democracy in the UK today: Democracy in the UK after Brexit.

Learn more about the project [here](#) and read the final report.

Results were discussed in detail with all the major political parties, politicians, civil servants, and covered in the media. See an example of in-depth coverage in Prospect magazine [here](#).

The findings of the Assembly demonstrated public support for democratic renewal. Members, representing an informed public, called for honesty, transparency, openness, and integrity from politicians, and a balanced media which can scrutinise government. Deliberative innovations like Citizens' Assemblies overwhelmingly were seen as part of that renewal; but critically, members felt they should be advisory, rather than binding, on governments.



PROJECT:

EMBEDDING ACCOUNTABILITY IN DELIBERATION IN SCOTLAND

Scotland's Climate Assembly – agreeing a plan to tackle the climate crisis in Scotland, and building new mechanisms for accountability into citizens' assemblies.

Following the report of the landmark Scotland Climate Assembly in 2021 – and the Scottish Government's response to the Assembly's recommendations – the Assembly was reconvened for its 8th weekend of deliberations in February 2022. Involve was commissioned (in partnership with The Democratic Society) to design, facilitate and deliver this eighth weekend.

This innovative 8th session marked a major innovation in deliberative processes in the UK.

The session helped members to hold decision-makers to account and demonstrated the importance of feeding back actions after deliberation.

Experts scored the Scottish Government's responses to each of the Assembly's recommendations, concluding that for 60 of the 81 recommendations the Government's policy has changed positively in the direction of the Assembly's recommendations. Members would have liked to see more change from government – but said they saw clear links between some of their recommendations and policy development.

And the project does not end there. We have been awarded a small grant from the Scottish Government to continue working with the members of the assembly who want to build a longer term accountability mechanism, working together and networking with organisations working to tackle the climate emergency, the Scottish Parliament's Net Zero Committee and the Scottish Open Government Partnership Climate Network.

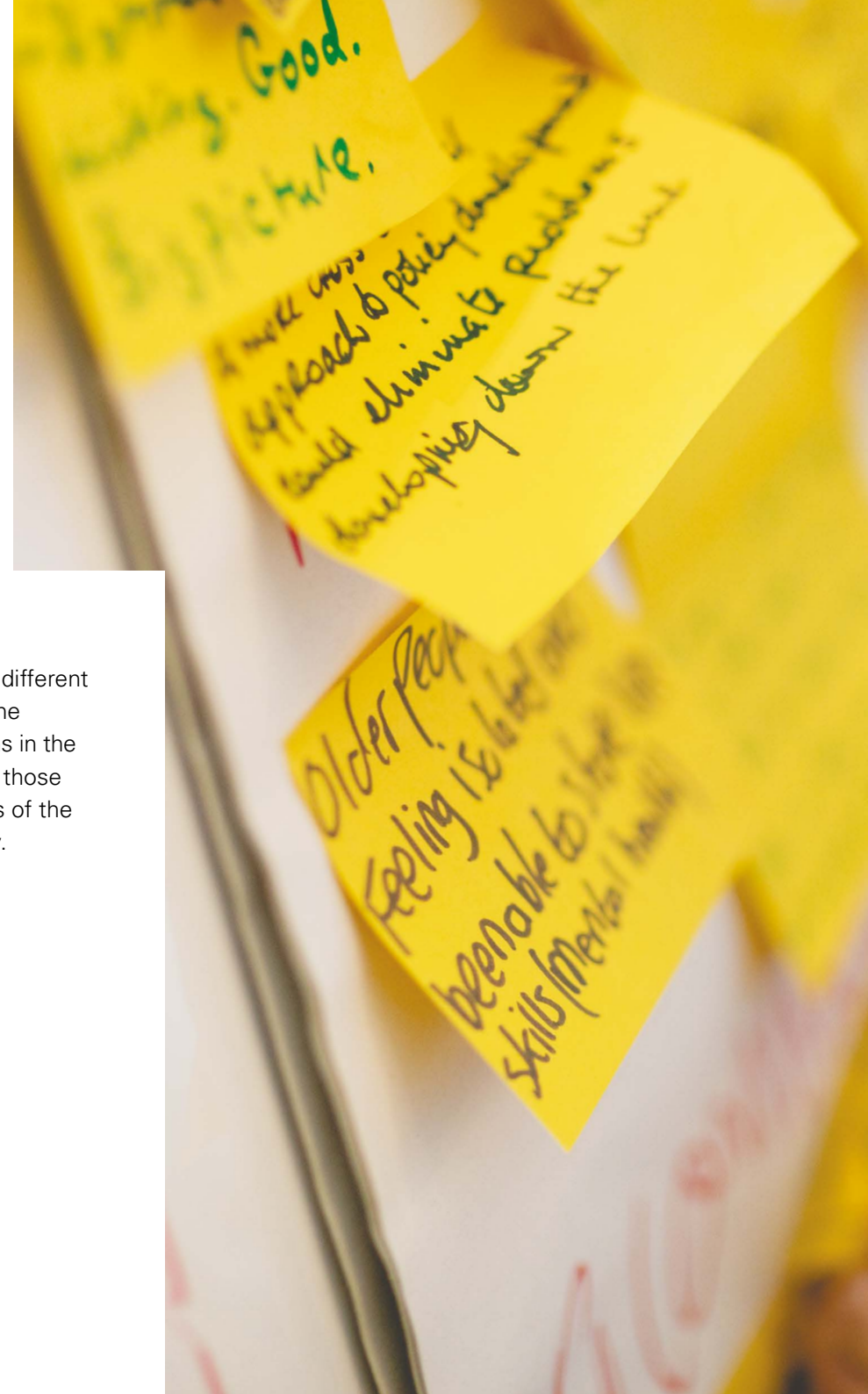
Additionally, two members of the assembly stood as candidates at the recent local government elections, directly because of their experience in the assembly, with one successfully elected.

As part of the Scottish Government's response to the Assembly's recommendation, Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP First Minister of Scotland said

“THESE RECOMMENDATIONS SHOW STRONG SUPPORT FOR LEADERS TO ACT WITH URGENCY, AND MAKE THE DIFFICULT DECISIONS NEEDED FOR SCOTLAND TO BECOME A NET ZERO NATION. IN THE WAKE OF COP26 IN GLASGOW, AND THE NEW GLASGOW CLIMATE PACT, IT COULD NOT BE MORE CRITICAL TO HEAR FROM THE PEOPLE OF SCOTLAND. AS THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT ACTED AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THOSE OUTSIDE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND THOSE INSIDE, SO TOO CAN THE ASSEMBLY PROVIDE A BRIDGE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND THE REST OF SOCIETY. TO THE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS – THANK YOU.”

The project was covered in local and national media, see here for an example in [The Scotsman](#).

04 EMPOWERING CITIZENS



Over three quarters (77%) of us feel that we, and people like us, have too little influence on how the UK is governed (as shown in [The Constitution Unit's work here](#)) This is a problem when, at its core, democracy is fundamentally about how people (demos) can have the power (kratos) to ensure that our decisions about how we live together are governed by our collective will.

This year Involve demonstrated just how many elements of our work are carefully crafted so that empowerment is at the heart of everything we do. We have supported easily-overlooked people, sometimes in difficult circumstances, to join our processes with confidence and ability to participate.

We have consciously engaged with different power dynamics at every stage of the process from design to what happens in the room. We have built the capacity of those in power to include the perspectives of the public in their decisions and delivery.

A vibrant democracy involves empowering citizens to be part of decisions that matter.





PROJECT:

CLIMATE ASSEMBLY UK – WORKING WITH UK PARLIAMENT’S SELECT COMMITTEES TO PLACE THE PUBLIC AT THE HEART OF DECISIONS TO TACKLE THE CLIMATE CRISIS

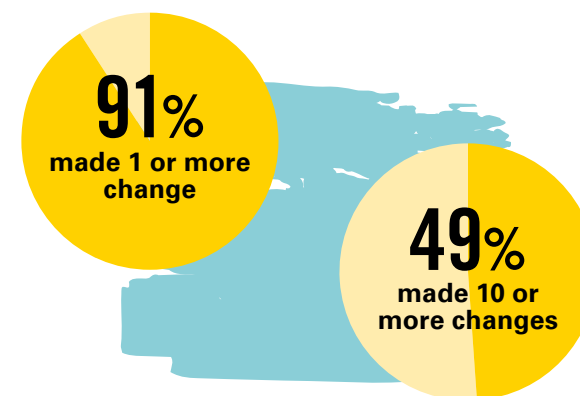
As part of Climate Assembly UK, we have had the opportunity to work with Newcastle University and others to evaluate the impact the process had on participants in more detail than usual. In doing so, we have learnt what many of the team hoped was true based on anecdotal experience.

We found that participating in Climate Assembly UK had a significant impact on assembly members’ views and behaviours, both during and after the assembly itself:

- Assembly members’ concern for climate change increased during the assembly and has continued to increase since it ended. Citizens that care about the big issues of the day are essential to a vibrant democracy, suggesting widespread use of deliberative processes like Citizens Assemblies could help tackle public apathy. (The proportion of assembly members who said they are ‘very concerned’ about climate change rose from 46% to 56% over the course of the process (January to May 2020), increasing to 72% one year after the end of the assembly (April 2021), and 74% two and half years later (September 2022). In comparison, the percentage of the UK population who say they are ‘very concerned’ about climate change has remained relatively static: Ipsos Mori polling suggests 52% were ‘very concerned’ in July 2019 and 54% were ‘very concerned’ in July 2022).
- Most assembly members, regardless of their initial perspective on climate change, said they had changed their behaviour since participating in CAUK. Not only did participants care more about the issue, but they’ve acted on that concern too. 91% of the respondents reported

they had made one or more changes to their behaviour since participating and 49% said they had made ten or more changes. Participating in CAUK impacted members with different initial views and backgrounds – their pre-existing views on climate change made no difference to the level of impact.

- Assembly members’ beliefs that ‘they have a say about what the UK parliament does’ and that ‘the UK system works fairly well’ increased during the assembly but have since decreased almost to their original levels. This presents us with a challenge for next year – all those who work on citizens’ assemblies must ensure the project has real impact, that this is communicated back, and that these opportunities move from being rare set-piece events to a normal part of our democratic practice.

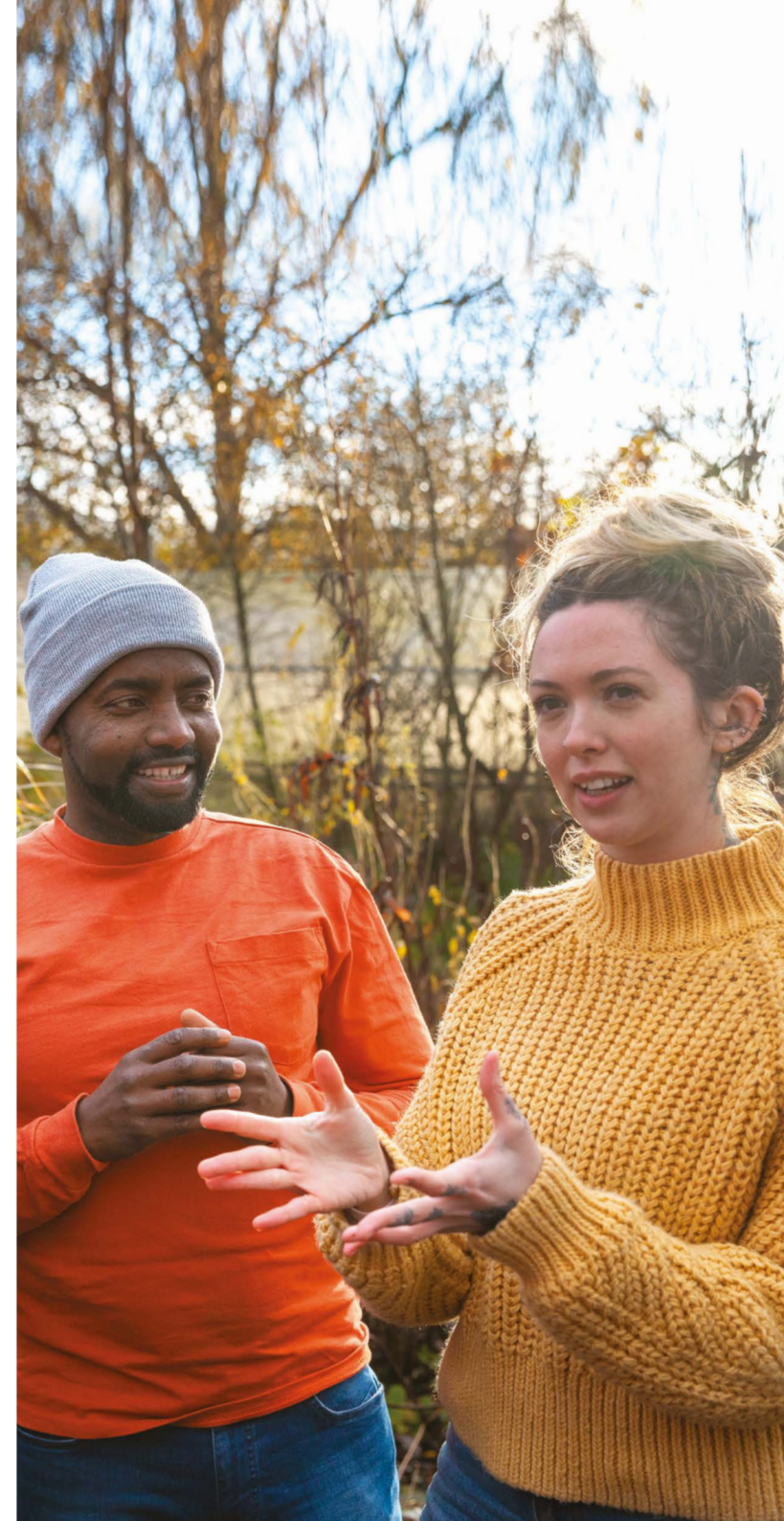


05 SUPPORTING OTHERS TO DO DEMOCRACY DIFFERENTLY

To achieve our mission, we know that others need to work towards our aims too. The renewal we need is not something that can be achieved by one organisation.

So, in addition to resources shared on our website, accessed by over 250,000 people, we have worked hard to support others to do what we do – work with people from all walks of life to shape a society that works for us all.

A vibrant democracy has everyone helping to shape a society that works for us all.





PROJECT:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION WITH COUNCILS IN IRISH BORDER REGION

We secured funding in 2021 from Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs to develop and run a programme of bespoke training on innovations in public participation for councils in the Irish border region, in partnership with the Irish Central Border Area Network.

Through the project, we conducted six days of training for 21 council staff. Amongst other outcomes, this supported an increase in confidence among participants to undertake public participation after training compared with beforehand. 100% of participants agreed with

the statement, 'I am clear on my role and the role of other stakeholders when developing a public participation project' compared with 35% before training, and 89% agreed with the statement, 'I feel confident to identify the right people to engage with the participation I am planning' compared with 18% before training. This suggests a growing group of decision-makers more comfortable to use and embed participatory and deliberative methods.

"I AM CLEAR ON MY ROLE AND THE ROLE OF OTHER STAKEHOLDERS WHEN DEVELOPING A PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROJECT."

35%

100%

"I FEEL CONFIDENT TO IDENTIFY THE RIGHT PEOPLE TO ENGAGE WITH THE PARTICIPATION I AM PLANNING."

18%

89%



PROJECT:
**TRAINING, COACHING,
MENTORING LOCAL
AUTHORITIES TO LEARN
FROM BEST PRACTICE IN
ENGAGING THE PUBLIC**

Building the culture and action plans needed for local people to decide how to tackle the climate crisis at a local level.

Avoiding the worst effects of climate change will be the biggest challenge in human history. Local authorities and partnerships will play a key role both in getting the UK to net zero and ensuring their areas are ready for changing conditions. To do this in a way that is effective and fair, they will need to engage the public. That's why

Involve, along with others, developed Local Climate Engagement (LCE) – a new programme that uses a combination of training, mentoring, peer-learning and hands-on support to assist local authorities in engaging their local communities.

“COUNCILS WANT TO INCLUDE THE PUBLIC IN CLIMATE DECISION MAKING! 75 LOCAL AUTHORITIES APPLIED FOR OUR LOCAL CLIMATE ENGAGEMENT PROJECT.”

The programme launched in late 2021, and 75 local authorities applied to take part, reflecting a wide range of regions, geographies, the political spectrum and types of local authority. This demonstrates the increasing interest in public engagement in climate decision-making. Of these, five were selected for the Project Group to receive training, peer learning, and practical support to run a public participation process. 16 were selected for the Coaching Group who will receive training, peer learning, and mentoring to support them to run/ commission their own public participation process. Of the 54 unsuccessful local authorities, 26 have since been back in touch asking for some form of further support throughout early 2022/23.



06 BUILDING A VIBRANT DEMOCRACY SECTOR

A vibrant democracy not only includes more public participation and deliberation in decisions, but also a better electoral system, clear and protected rights, transparent and accountable government, thriving civic institutions, a free press, sound political education and many more elements that are essential to a functioning democratic system.

This year, Involve has used our skills in holding space, connecting people, finding common ground and strategy development to bring together those working towards these ends.

A vibrant democracy includes a democracy sector that is greater than the sum of its parts.





PROJECT:

THE NEW UK DEMOCRACY NETWORK

Building a sector that's ready and able to deliver the democracy we need.

This year, Involve took on a major new project; hosting and stewarding the UK's Democracy Network.

The Democracy Network is a network of people and organisations working on issues of power, democracy and voice in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. We support each other to connect and collaborate, share and learn, build a way to agree ways forward, and take action and influence decision makers together.

The aim of the project is to help build a democracy in the UK fit for the 21st century, where more people have more influence over the decisions that affect our lives, more power and resources to improve our communities and where holding our politicians and governments to account is straightforward and accessible to all.

The project began when following a call for proposals, Involve was awarded an initial three-year grant of £350,000 from the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust (JRRT), which included a contribution of £50,000 from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT).

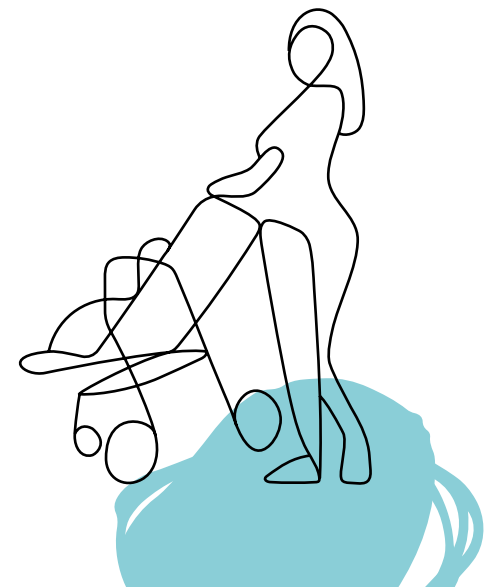
In the first year of the project, we focused efforts on building trust and relationships, bringing together a diversity of groups within the sector, and forming the governance and strategic approaches required for the Network to flourish.

This included:

- 100 one-to-one conversations by the project's Coordinator, Jessie Joe Jacobs, in the first 9 months
- 215 hours of time by 43 people across the sector to help form our strategy
- An established governance structure, including 16 members of our Steering Group and a Council of Reference of 30+ organisations

- Programme of 16 events with 150+ attending, and all attendees giving the events 4/5 or 5/5 for usefulness
- Set up of four 'Action Groups' under way, to address a range of major issues, agreeing a series of coordinated collaboration, campaign and communication workstreams rooted in analysis of existing efforts and sector gaps.

Since these successes, further funding has been secured from the Open Societies Foundation to deliver membership development work and to campaign together to improve our democracy. We have also launched the website and social media accounts, and our first Democracy Conference of 100+ people together, in person, will be held early December 2022.



07 RESOURCES

**CHECK OUT OUR
FREE RESOURCES ON
PARTICIPATION AND
DELIBERATION!**

KNOWLEDGE BASE

Our Knowledge Base has lots of free guidance on planning participatory processes, getting started with digital engagement, evaluating the impact of participation, how and why people participate and much more.

ACCESS IT

METHODS LIBRARY

Our methods library outlines over 50 different participatory and deliberative methods, including what they are, when they should be used, their strengths and weaknesses and what they cost.

ACCESS IT

DIGITAL TOOLS DATABASE

Our digital tools database includes a range of online tools to enable participation, collaboration and discussion.

ACCESS IT

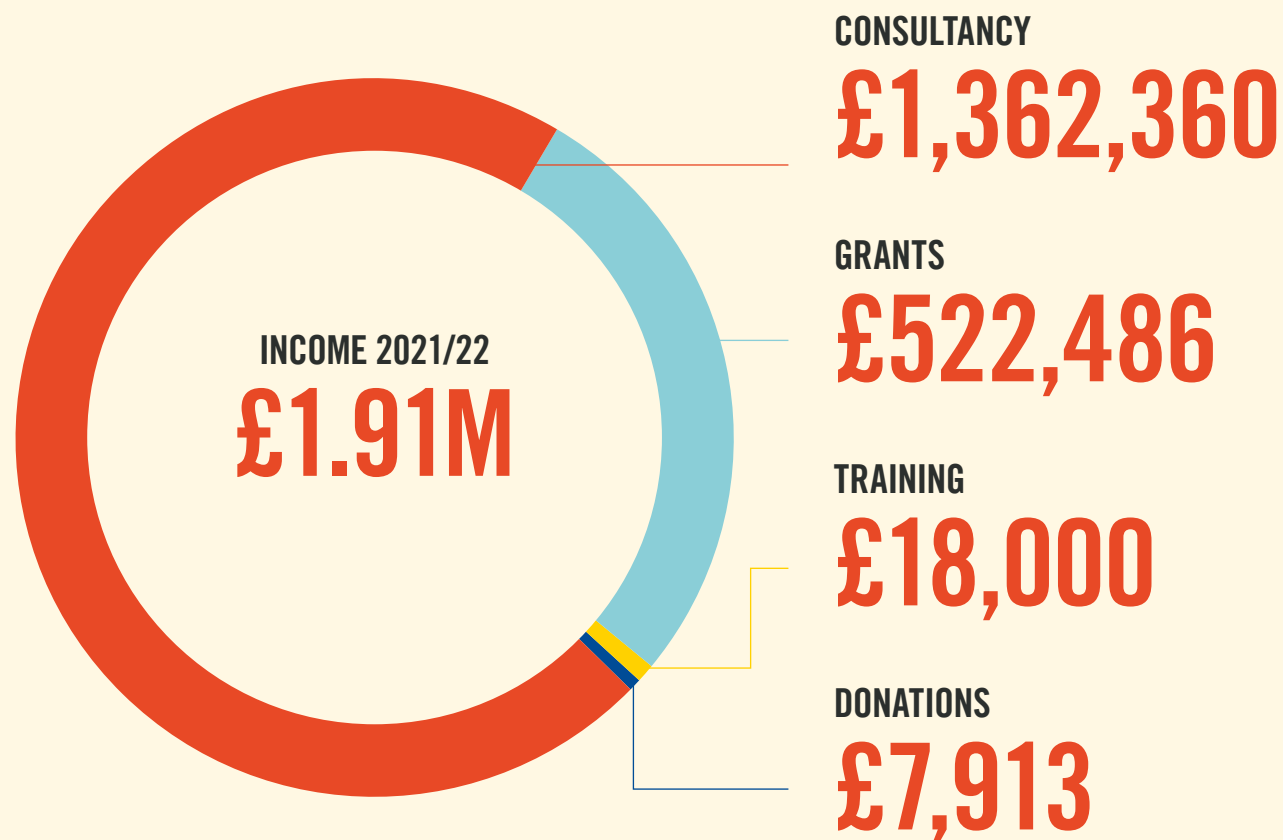
08 FUNDING AND FINANCES

THIS CHAPTER SUMMARISES OUR FUNDING AND FINANCES FOR 2021/22. IT COMPLEMENTS THE DETAILED BREAKDOWN IN OUR STATUTORY TRUSTEES' REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS, WHICH YOU CAN FIND ON OUR WEBSITE.

INCOME

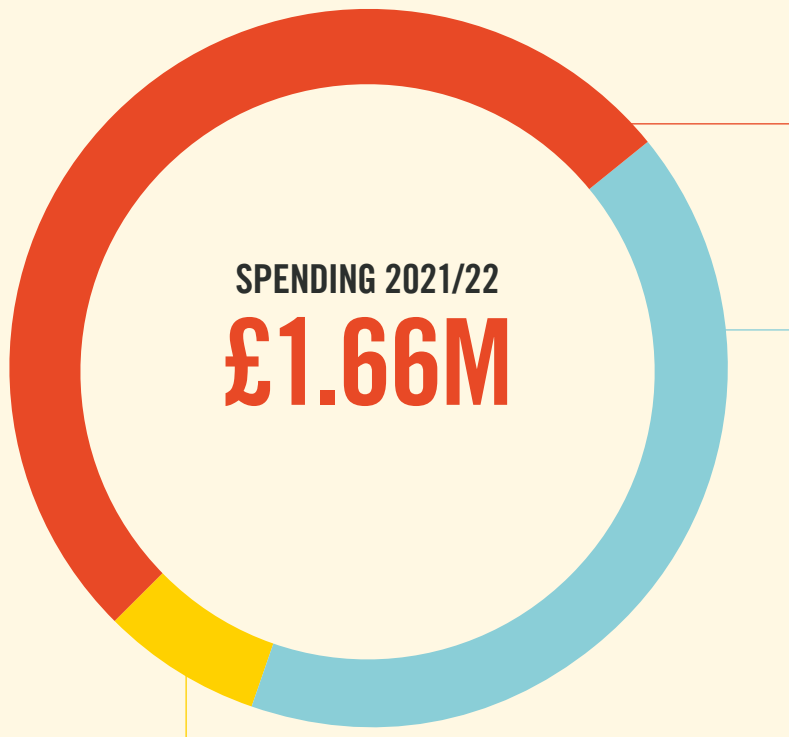
We raised a total of **£1.91 million** in 2021/22.

Our funding is a mix of consultancy and grant income, with a relatively small amount of donation and training income. Breakdown of funding in 2021/22:



SPENDING

We spent a total of **£1.66 million** in 2021/22. Breakdown:



PROJECT EXPENDITURE

£858,450

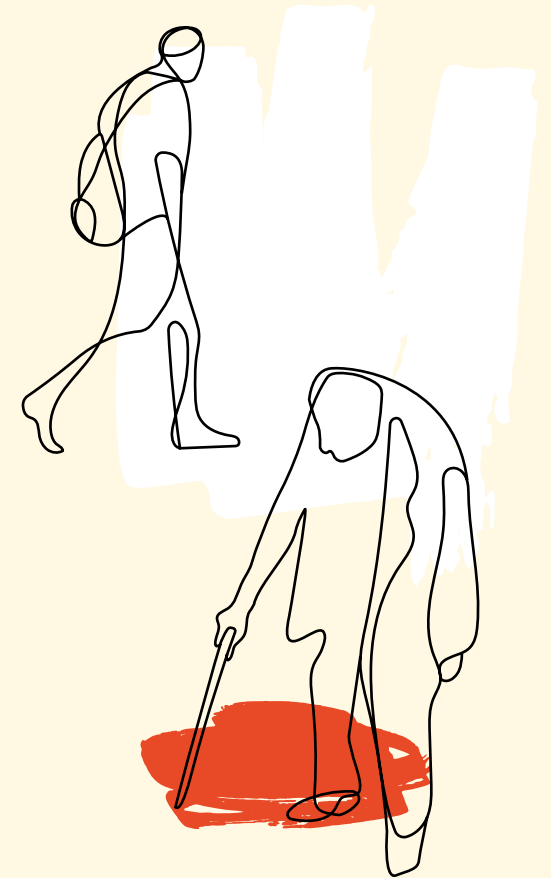
STAFF COSTS

£682,365

OVERHEADS

(RENTS, ICT, GOVERNANCE, AUDIT, ETC.)

£115,885

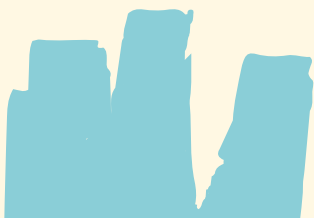


WHO FUNDED US

We believe in being transparent about the sources of our funding and purposes behind it. The following table sets out all of the funding we received during 2021/22 over £5,000.

CONSULTANCY AND TRAINING INCOME IN 2021/22

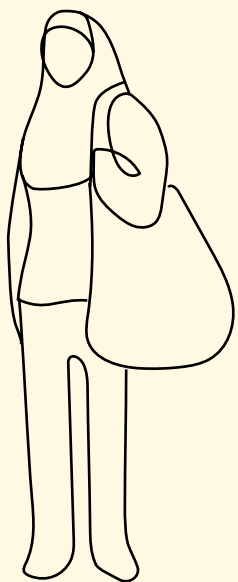
FUNDER	AMOUNT	WHAT THE FUNDING WAS FOR
Belfast City Council	£21,804	Review of the Belfast Agenda
Cambridgeshire County Council	£7,500	Follow up workshop to GCP Citizens' Assembly
Cambridgeshire County Council (via WSP UK Limited)	£25,476	Mill Road community consultation
Carnegie UK Scottish Government	£37,643	Data Ethics Panel
Cornwall Council	£15,280	Training and mentoring
Devon County Council	£146,940	Devon Climate Assembly
Economic and Social Research Council (via University College London)	£221,250	Citizens' Assembly on Democracy in the UK
Electricity North West	£27,077	Plugged In Panel
Engage Britain (via The Democratic Society)	£54,992	People's Panel on Health and Care
Environment Agency	£49,970	Rethinking Water 2.0
Genomics England	£15,450	Newborn genome screening – consensus building
Government of Jersey (via New Citizenship Project)	£36,388	Jersey Climate Assembly & Jersey Citizens' Jury on Assisted Dying.
London Borough of Camden	£17,150	Embedding support
London Borough of Newham (via The Democratic Society)	£5,625	Standing Citizens' Assembly
London Borough of Redbridge	£25,040	Community engagement
NHS Test & Trace	£28,317	Public Advisory Group; brought together to inform how key policies should be designed to minimise the spread of COVID in England.
Northern Gas Network	£42,277	Public Panel
RBS Nat West	£51,900	Pension planning: deliberative stakeholder engagement
Scottish Government	£13,500	Covid data engagement plan
Scottish Government	£71,790	Scotland's Climate Assembly – weekend 8
Scottish Government (via The Democratic Society)	£10,750	Scotland's Climate Assembly – members' network
Sheffield City Council	£19,826	Governance



The Home Office	£20,203	Civil Society Open Space; establish for space Home Office and civil society to engage with one another
The Joseph Rowntree Foundation	£5,989	Codesigning solutions to in-work poverty
The Parliamentary Works Sponsor Body	£76,950	Parliament restoration & renewal – community conversations
UK Biobank Ltd	£10,250	Engaging the public with biobanks
UK Power Networks (Operations) Ltd	£22,820	Pilot People's Panel
UK Research and Innovation	£245,306	Sciencewise
University of Liverpool	£28,072	Civic Data Cooperative – engagement and governance strategy
West Midlands Combined Authority	£6,500	Local Climate Engagement training

GRANT AND DONATIONS INCOME IN 2021/22

FUNDER	AMOUNT	WHAT THE FUNDING WAS FOR
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation	£100,000	Local Engagement on Climate Change
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	£100,000	Local Engagement on Climate Change
European Climate Foundation	£34,456	Climate Assembly UK follow up
European Climate Foundation	£15,292	Climate Assembly UK follow up
Friends Provident Charitable Foundation (via Forum for the Future)	£47,865	Just Transitions
Genome Research Limited	£32,947	UK Citizens' Jury on genome editing
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	£50,000	Unrestricted grant
Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust and Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	£132,127	Democracy Network





09 LOOKING AHEAD

AS OUR DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IS PUT UNDER INCREASING STRAIN, THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY AND IMPERATIVE TO MAKE A POSITIVE CASE FOR A STRONGER DEMOCRACY. OUR WORK IN 2021/22 HAS GIVEN US CAUSE FOR HOPE, AND IN 2022/23 WE WILL CONTINUE THE CHARGE. A FEW THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR...

THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN 2022/23

GROWING OUR IMPACT

Our team has grown over the last 3 years from 12 to 21 people in 2022. This will be coupled in 2022/23 with an increasing focus on the impact we want our work to have, and how we can use lessons learnt on projects to expand our reach and influence and drive real change.

PEOPLE'S PLAN FOR NATURE

We have been appointed by RSPB, WWF and The National Trust to run a People's Assembly for Nature, starting in November 2022, as part of a multi-pronged effort to build a People's Plan for Nature, rooted in the values, ideas and experiences of people from all corners of the UK. The People's Plan for Nature will include recommendations for governments (local and national), food and farming businesses, non-governmental organisations, communities, and individuals, all drawn from the Assembly.

This is an exciting project which suggests a possible new space to promote change – including the public in forming large-scale advocacy efforts within civil society.

DEMOCRACY NETWORK GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

As year one for this project set solid foundations, year two will see it form plans to face an external audience. The Democracy Conference in December 2022 will mark this shift, allowing people a major chance to connect, collaborate and celebrate good work. With two new members of staff, the project will then start to further support others, and build our own efforts to campaign for change.

POWER AND PRIVILEGE

Involve is increasingly looking at how ideas of power and privilege need to be more robustly considered in our work. For example, how do our processes navigate structures and cultures of systemic oppression that marginalise many of the voices that we seek to include? What is possible, or needs to be done differently, in deliberative mini public processes to truly address inequalities of power and privilege? We will start to look at these questions in more detail, and apply some potential answers in practice, throughout 2022/23.

GET INVOLVED!

We're committed to transforming how our democracy works, but we know we can't do it alone.

Here are some ways that you can get involved:

JOIN ONE OF OUR NETWORKS

SIGN-UP TO OUR NEWSLETTER

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

DONATE TO US

CONTACT US IF YOU NEED ADVICE, WANT SUPPORT OR ARE INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE.





FOLLOW US

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 https://uk.linkedin.com/company/involve_2

CONTACT US

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