



Help tackle loneliness in Devon

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Background

Devon has a less favourable performance in social connectedness when compared to “like” authorities; 13th out of 16 and has been decreasing since 2013.



Methodology

- **5,500** surveys placed with 220 different organisations, along with feedback boxes
- Participated in **37** community events
- **45** people, representing **42** voluntary groups attended Clarity CIC focus groups
- Over **50** people attended our Devon Campaign to End Loneliness Conference
- **25** people representing various church groups and organisations attended our Loneliness Conference, organised with Diocese of Exeter
- **22** people entered our photo competition
- **2,402** loneliness web pages visited



The three top factors people felt caused loneliness in themselves or others

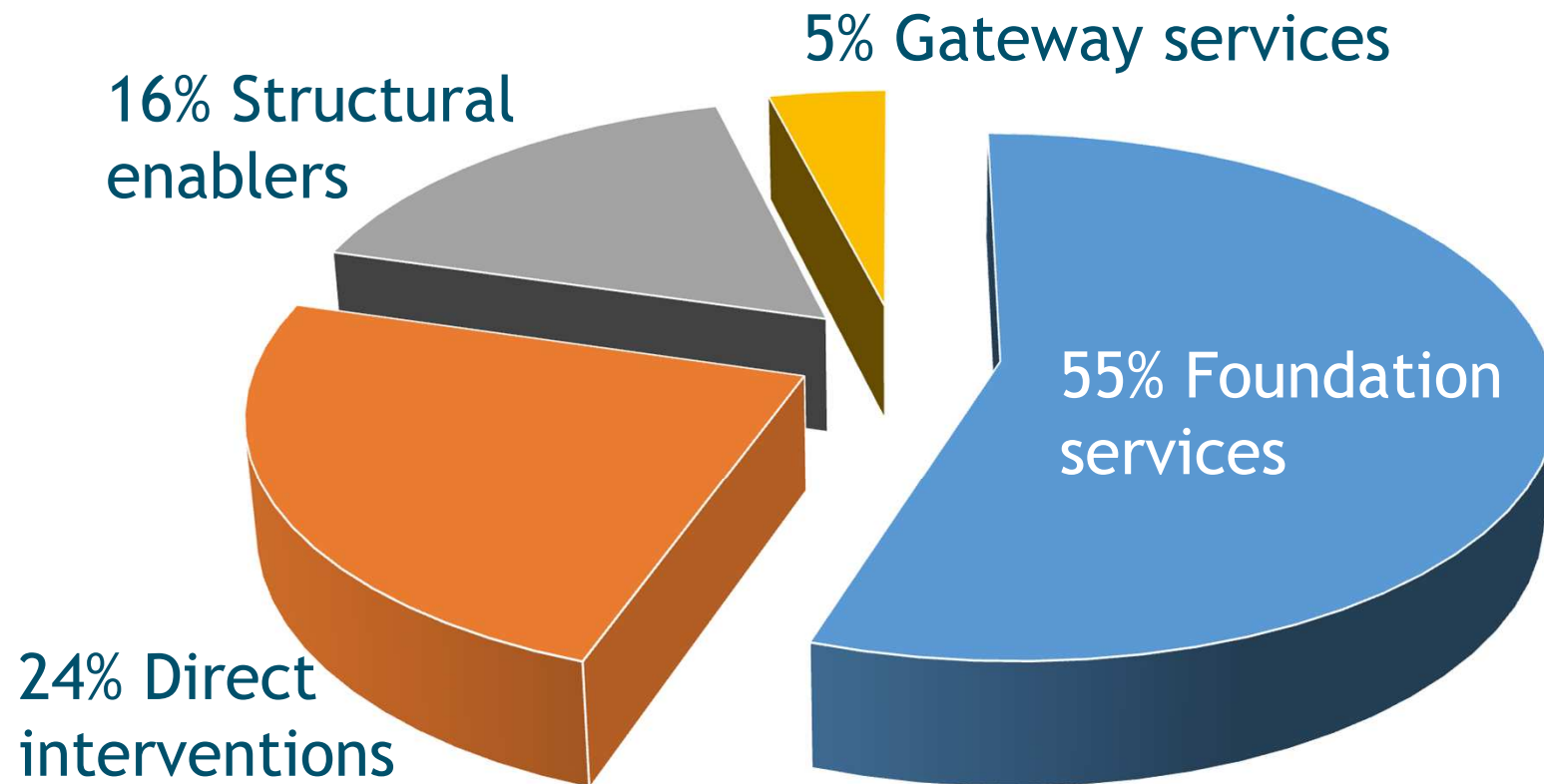
- Life events and trauma
- Personal circumstance
- Psychological responses

I am an only child. I have withdrawn from society since 2004 when I got hearing loss at age 38. I cannot cope with busy buzzy areas. Do not cope with crowds...withdrawn to communicating online.



477 people completed our loneliness survey

Key areas respondents felt would help people feel less lonely



Comments from VCSs to Commissioners

Recognise the sector's contributions

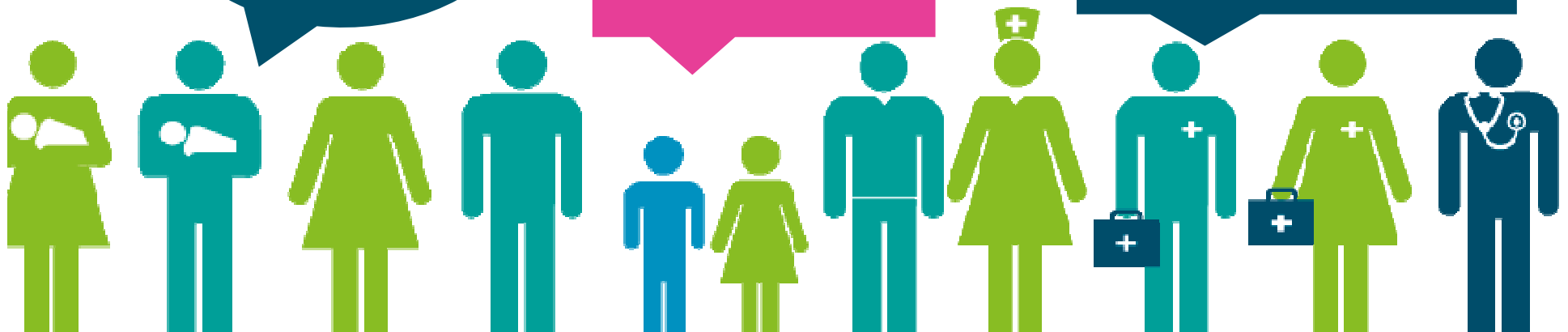
Provide appropriate referrals

Help smaller organisations with longer term funding

Allow for innovation & learning

Recognise the sector's contributions

Provide a joint up approach; parity across Devon



The top 3 interventions that help people feel less lonely were:



- Spaces where people can be with others
- One off community events and opportunities
- Social group drop ins e.g. coffee mornings



Recommendations

Educate

Design

Create

Collaborate

Sustain

Carry out



The image features a large, abstract graphic composed of several overlapping, rounded shapes in various colors: a large green shape on the left, a dark blue shape in the center, and a large pink shape on the right. Smaller, semi-transparent versions of these shapes are scattered around the main elements. In the top right corner, the text 'healthwatch' is written in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'health' in dark blue, 'wat' in pink, and 'ch' in green. Below it, the word 'Devon' is written in a smaller, dark blue font.

healthwatch
Devon

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