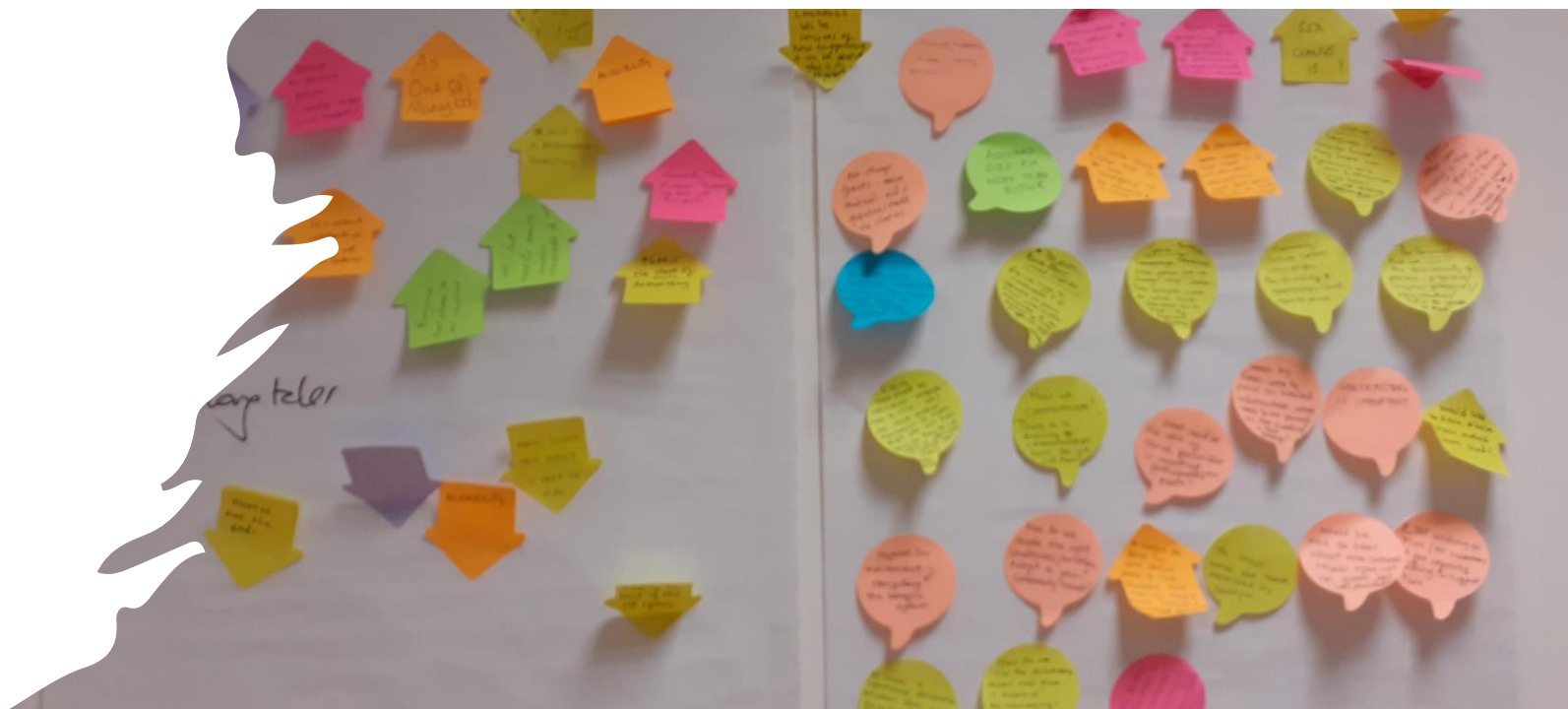


# Participatory Grant Making (PGM) Learning Together Workshop

12<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Our questions, curiosities, top  
tips and learning lessons



# Engagement, inclusion and involvement

01

What is the best way to reach the genuinely hard to reach – being genuinely inclusive?

02

What do people feel is the best way of engaging people in the first instance in PGM?

03

What is the best way to get more diverse range of people involved in PGM / panels? i.e. not the usual suspects, the loudest voices or those with the time to be involved

Questions and curiosity from the PGM learning together workshop

# Removing barriers, making things easy and fair

How do you remove barriers to involvement?

04

How do we make the process easier?

05

I really would like to know how participants are compensated for their time.

06



# Funding processes and behaviours

07

Why are some funds so complex and not people-friendly?

08

How do we spread the net to individuals / groups who don't know or realise that they wish to go after or could go after funding?

09

Can it be made easier / more accessible for people? i.e. small amounts, too many hoops to jump through.

10

How do you run a PGM scheme that doesn't force community groups to compete against each other?

11

Why aren't funders keen on funding existing projects? "If it's not broken don't fix it."

# Risk and failure

How do we alleviate risk and fear of funders giving money away and things failing?

12

What can we afford to lose? (i.e. loss is allowed in PGM)

13

# 'Change' and the difference that PGM could make

When we talk about good outcomes of PGM – for who?

14

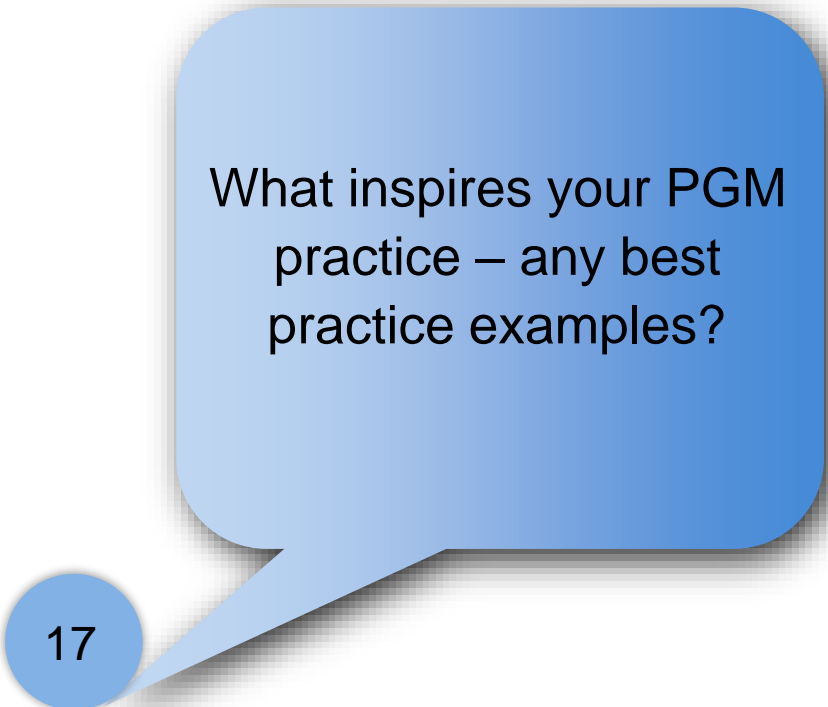
What policies have people / organisations changed as a result of PGM?

15

Could we develop a set of robust metrics (not traditional, onerous or in the realm of the 'experts') that show the true value / power of community based initiatives to show to power?


16

# Inspiration



What inspires your PGM practice – any best practice examples?

17



Why is PGM not always in place?

18

# Future – even better if...

19

PGM is brilliant, but what might be even better than PGM models as we know them currently?

20

In 10 years' time, what do we all want to see re: justly, fairly funded independent thriving communities?

21

What does PGM of the future (year 2040) look like?

# Our top tips

We shared some PGM experiences and learning lessons boiling these down to some 'top tips' on cards that were typed up after the workshop – here's what we came up with.....





# Top tips 1-5

1	The success of PGM is measured in relationships built and personal journeys not just the impact of the grants and money moved.
2	Let's keep talking (supporting) about the people who look after the people – mental health support for the supporters.
3	You have two ears and one mouth – listen more than you talk, be curious and know you and your opinion are valued and valid.
4	Build and communicate a container for the process including what cannot be done. Be pushed and challenged to reshape the container.
5	It's important to meet people where they are – adapt, change, grow, evolve with participants (young people).

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The success of PGM is measured in relationships  
built & personal journeys, & not just the impact of the  
grants & money moved ~ Kate McLaven



# Top tips 6-10

6	Long live PGM whatever it looks like. Learn from others. Change the process for the better.
7	It always looks different even though it follows some key principles.
8	Removing barriers to inclusion. Payment for involvement Gift – bravery by Jan and Ali to work through all the issues and worries involved in enabling people to be involved (referring to the York Deciding Together experience)
9	People are very nervous / scared when applying for funding. How do we take time to put all people / groups at ease and give confidence to go through the process?
10	Value residents / people. TRUST.

# Top tips 11-15

11	Failure is an option!
12	Recipients of services provided / funded can advise on how good they are.
13	Give everyone the chance to be involved. Have an incentive!
14	Payment for involvement. It is a thank you for your participation and shared experience. Include payments for transport and more often than not refreshments.
15	Funders should be using PGM in at least some of their work; even if it's just a pilot!



# Top tips 16-18

16	Be as proactive, mindful and purposeful as possible in regards to who's around the table – be as representative, diverse and inclusive as possible! Set the ball rolling with power.
17	To do PGM properly it needs to be properly resourced with ongoing facilitation and development support.
18	I hope that as a local authority we get to a place – ready – to engage in PGM. I think we have a select few who would be up for it so it's turning that into a reality or at least a more consistent reality.

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The time flew too quickly, but there is a strong appetite to ask more questions of each other and discover the very different ways we all appear to approach PGM.

We are interested, and sometimes differ, in our opinions about PGM philosophy, ambition and aspiration, its practice, its process(es), its language (lots on this!), its merits, drawbacks and its development for the future.

We want to know more about the way in which people come together, how they decide to decide together and make community grant awards. But we're also clear that PGM is much more than the awards themselves. It seems to be a tool, alongside other approaches, for achieving something much wider and socially just.

We seem to agree that PGM is more participatory than traditional community grantmaking but does it, or could it, shift power?

We're not certain yet....



Thank you to all who were able to come to the workshop or wanted to but couldn't quite make it on the day....**perhaps this is the start of a community of practice?**

In the room we had people with lived experience of PGM, applicants for community grants, community development workers / 'bridge builders' and people who have worked on the ground to facilitate PGM in places, and investors.

We had examples between us of place based PGM and thematic PGM where it has been aimed at a particular issue such as mental health / and / or communities of interest. **It was fascinating but we just scratched the surface!**

1. Alan Graver
2. Ali Spaul
3. Amber Graver
4. Astrid Hanlon
5. Bill Chatt
6. Christine Frazer
7. Judith Webster
8. Karen Atkinson
9. Kate McLaven

10. Keith Marsden
11. Kerry Lee
12. Lisa Holden
13. Matthew Joseph
14. Nils Stronach
15. Rebecca Blakey
16. Sarah Norman
17. Thomas Waring
18. Trevor Mahon

Apologies were sent by these people who have experience of, and express interest in, the PGM topic and they would have no doubt added even more insight to our workshop. We shall keep in touch with them of course...

- Ewan Muirhead
- Gemma Sciré
- Michelle Smith
- Paddy Chandler
- Tom Jenkinson



Feels like  
we're just  
getting  
started  
together!

- We made connections and have agreed to share emails to stay in touch.
- Some have agreed to visit one another in-person to learn from each other's practice – a trip to see Christine in Teams & Dunston in Gateshead was mentioned over lunchtime....
- We have so many more questions for each other. We may decide to convene again in 2024?
- Summary workshop notes including all those post its we created will follow in the New Year.





Thank you!



**SKYBLUE**  
RESEARCH & EVALUATION

# Got some thoughts about what next?

- Please contact Alan who was bowled over by everyone's enthusiasm for the subject and is grateful for the support that has been given to inform the feasibility study that will be written in January 2024.
- That report will go to Marie-Ann Jackson, Head of Localities, North Yorkshire Council as part of wider considerations as to the future use of UK Shared Prosperity funds to support 'People and Communities' as per the published Prospectus.
- Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have something further you wish to share for the study or perhaps have an interest in taking this group further yourself should there be interest in this idea?

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