



FEBRUARY 2024

# IMPACT REPORT

## Arts Council England Project Grants Match Funding 2023 - 2024

Each year, RBCN (Rochdale Borough Culture Network) distributes up to £5,000 in match funding to individual artists and organisations, including small arts companies, voluntary, and faith groups. This year, three organisations have received a total of £4,000, leveraging an incredible £99,873 in Arts Council England Project funding for the borough.

**£4000** supported 13 artists and organizations.

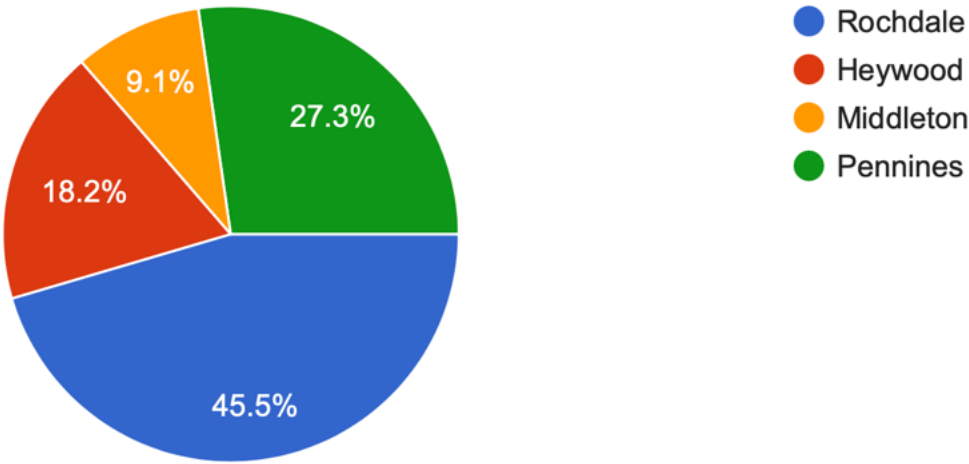
83 creative practitioners were engaged in these projects. 43 of these lived in Rochdale Borough.

benefited from these activities as participants and/or audiences.

**2,544 people**

### Which township did your activity take place in?

11 responses



RBCN surveyed grant recipients to understand the impact of the investment and gather feedback.

“The profile was for people aged over 60. All but one had a self-described long-term health issue. The group was set up to eliminate social isolation, and the feedback we achieved was overwhelmingly positive. The attendees would like to attend other sessions in future.”



Zafar Iqbal & Sonia Khan with deputy mayor Shakil Ahmed

“This was the first **AJK Film Festival** ever held in the world where Kashmiri language and culture was promoted via films. The response and feedback is very positive, and therefore we are already working on a second **AJK Film Festival** in the summer here in Rochdale.”

“Thank you for the fund. It paid for a minibus to take my teens on an operational trip to **Manchester Art Gallery.**”



Local freelancer, Dani Burke, took a group of young people from Rochdale to Manchester Art Gallery.

“The numbers attending the lantern performance in the park far exceeded our expectations and was achieved through minimal advertisement of the event. It demonstrated real local support for the event and the general feeling at the event was very positive and uplifting. We hope that we can continue with this event year on year and develop it into an annual celebration of our community.”

“Thank you for supporting me to work with new groups who aren't as engaged with arts groups.”



Visual artist Susan Kane collaborated with Create and Connect, a self-funded arts society in Littleborough. Through RBCN funding, Susan shared her expertise with the group. Create and Connect operates twice monthly at Star Tree Studios, with a full membership and a waiting list. They recently held a successful exhibition at Littleborough Coach House. Seeking to inspire their members and other local artists, they invited Susan to demonstrate her skills, aiming to elevate artistic practises in the community.