

# Communities of Interest Network: Evaluation Headlines



Findings from an independent evaluation for Forum Central  
by Sarah Frost & Simon Rippon, September 2021

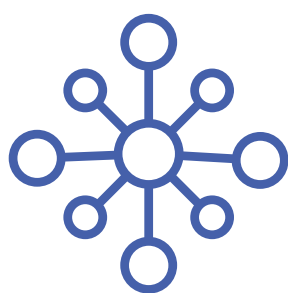
Read more: <https://forumcentral.org.uk/communities-of-interest/>

## BROAD MEMBERSHIP



Has a broad membership of both third sector and public sector organisations representing a diverse range of communities and issues. It's served to highlight the needs and challenges faced by different communities of interest - especially those at most significant risk.

## A LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE HUB



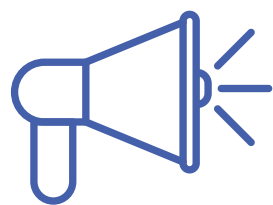
Has been a place for information, conversations, and ideas related to the Covid-19 response to be shared, where members identify opportunities to develop practice and resources. Members feed in what's happening and what's known around Covid-19 and promote what's available to help address the needs of different communities.

## FOSTERS PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION



Has been a mechanism for partnership working and collaborative delivery models - ensuring power and agency are mobilised across partnerships, within the third sector and statutory bodies, and with local people. A strong platform for peer-to-peer dialogue about inequalities and space to practically work through related issues - including focus on the value and potential for intersectional work.

## MAINTAINS VOICE OF THE THIRD SECTOR



Had a core role in maintaining the power of the voice of the third sector and been a platform for meaningful engagement with communities for use by commissioners and others tasked with addressing inequalities. Has potential as a vehicle to share lived experiences of communities and as a convener to increase the voice and representation from COI, supporting practical activity by third sector groups.

## SUPPORTS SYSTEM STAKEHOLDERS



Has been a helpful conduit for stakeholders to place and establish work strands that contribute to strategic objectives on inequalities. Has the potential to support system stakeholders in delivering activity related to post-Covid social recovery.

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