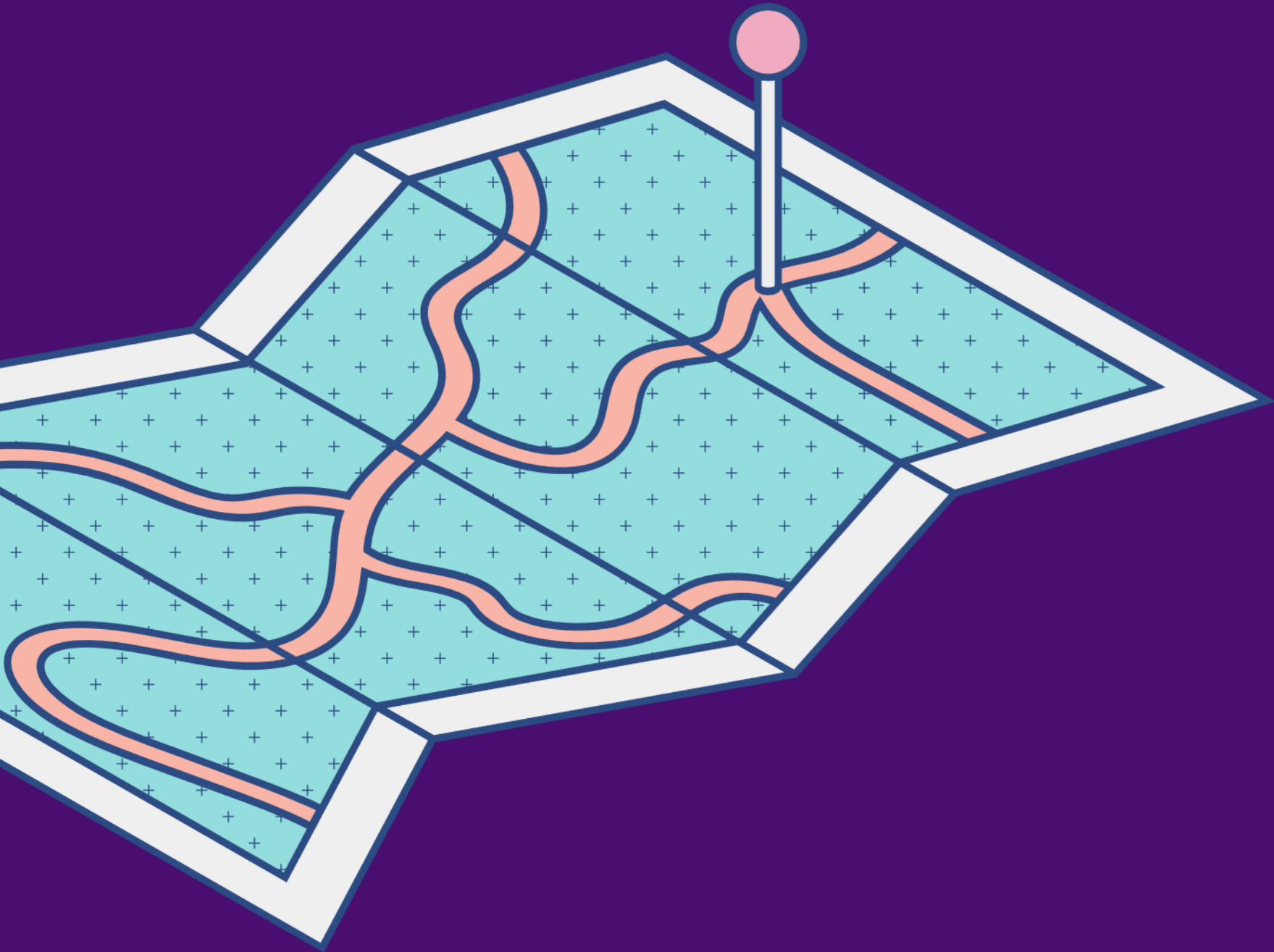


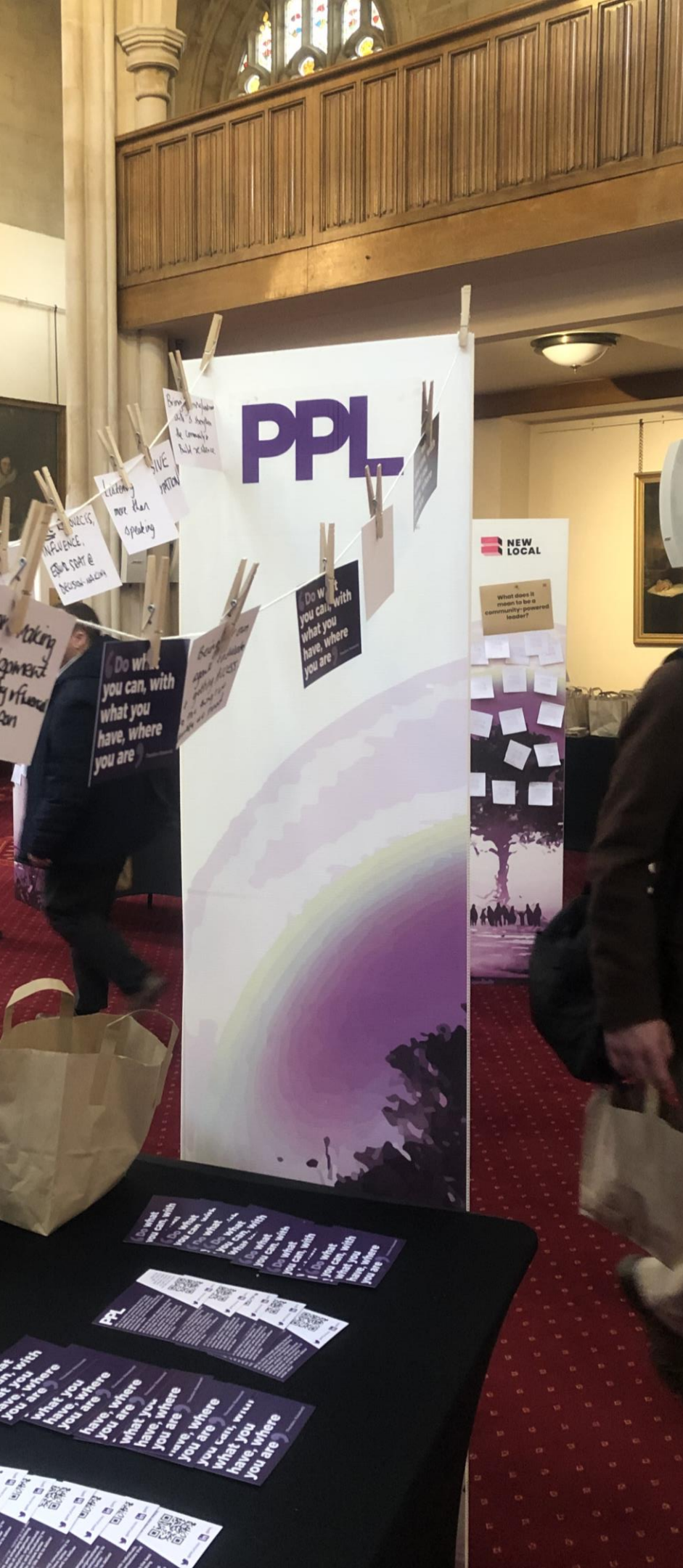
STRONGER THINGS 2022



# Community Power: The Movement Grows

Transforming lives by igniting  
community power in place-based  
partnerships

**PPL**



# PPL X Stronger Things 2022

PPL is a social enterprise and B Corp that exists to promote better health, wellbeing and economic outcomes across the UK working with individuals, communities and the organisations that support them.

We sponsor Stronger Things, helping to keep it free to attend.

This year we ran a breakout session **“Transforming lives by igniting community power in place-based partnerships”**. We wanted to share the highlights of the discussion with you!



# What have you seen work well in terms of igniting community power at place?

## 1) Initiatives

- Community transport
- Food banks, especially during Covid-19 response
- Citizen assemblies
- Community champions
- Community-led action / mutual aid
- Social prescribing
- Participatory grant-making
- Crowdfunding
- Investing in the voluntary and community sector
- Paying people to take part in co-creating solutions

## 2) Specific local projects

- **Heart Heroes** – Patient participation groups linked to GP practices were trained to test blood pressure and look for irregular pulse; this has empowered communities and raised awareness of cardiac health
- **One Newham** – working together around Covid-19
- **Camden Citizen Assembly** on health and care
- **Wigan deal** – took the time to shift mindsets on organisational sovereignty
- **Thurrock** – strengths-based conversations on what local people want to do leading to real change for communities
- **East Sussex enhancing partnerships** – mapping community links to enable connections and find people who help on specific issues
- **Swansea** – local area coordinator network
- **Well Doncaster** – appreciative inquiry at place
- **Wakefield Big Conversation** – enquiry-led approach to training the community in good health



# What have you seen work well in terms of igniting community power at place?

## 3) Ways of working

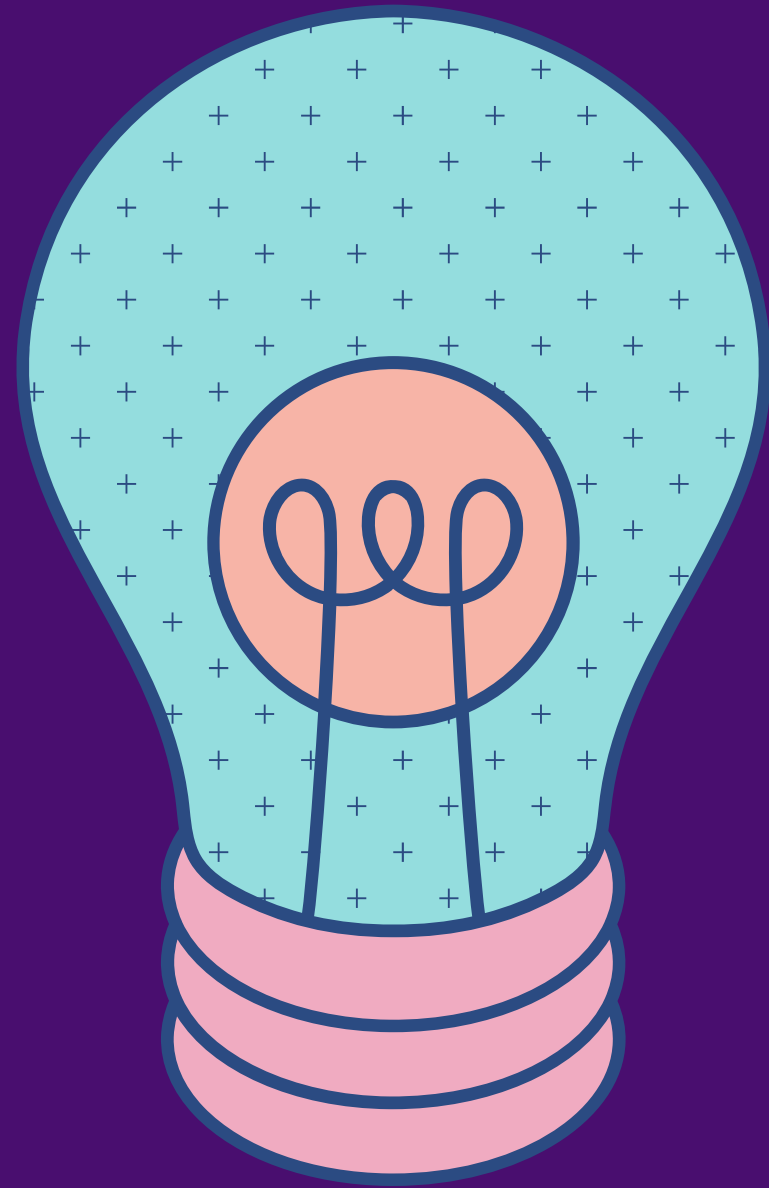
- **Bringing people together around a clear shared goal** that is driven by real demand from communities and backed up by data
- When communities and services both feel they have **permission** to get on and do things differently
- **Focusing on issues that are real to people** e.g. night-time safety, mental health
- **Breaking down barriers between organisations** and bringing together all of the key partners involved in tackling an issue
- Working with **faith groups**
- Understanding place as **“where people live”**
- **Pooling budgets** into shared projects
- **System leaders** talking about and living values, shifting to more “human” language
- Focus on **building community assets**
- Getting out into communities and **doing real work** with them, not just talking about it
- **Addressing wider determinants** of health
- Genuine and active **listening**
- **Involving young people** in decision-making, especially around mental health – using schools as a link through which to do this



# What are you excited to try after today?

- Build on existing community action
- Unite around a common goal
- Be more inclusive in the way we engage local people
- Start with questions, not answers
- Invest in communities, with communities
- Continue to break down barriers between organisations
- Take risks as organisations
- Applying the learning from Covid around devolved leadership, cutting bureaucracy and allowing funding to flow
- Tackle “masked deprivation”
- Make more use of pharmacies – link to focused funding and footfall through health centres
- Spend the time that community power takes
- Being more aware of the importance of language
- Really “get out of the way” to enable community engagement and empowerment
- Set up navigators / community connectors
- Pay local people to participate in engagement and co-production
- Use a broader range of methods for public engagement
- Put time into developing a shared set of values and trusted partnerships at place
- Try different approaches to grant-making e.g. panels of young people involved
- Create space for creativity to flourish
- Start from places of strength and build on local assets
- Work on truly sharing power





**Can place-based partnerships be the answer to the question “How will we carry on the strong collaborations with communities that we developed during the Covid-19 pandemic”?**

# Get in touch

If you'd like to chat to one of the PPL team about how you can keep the momentum on community power going in your local place-based partnership, we'd love to hear from you. Give us a call, drop us a line or connect with us on social.

**PPL**

