



## Summary:

With limited financial resources, but with a huge amount of expertise, experience and drive the UBI Lab Network (incubated by Opus Independents, and part of Citizen Network) has grown from strength to strength, surpassing all expectations in terms of impact, policy papers, media coverage, its distributed membership and the political and social momentum it continues to generate across the world. The pandemic has renewed debates on the future of governance and the social contract and UBI is at heart of them.

Through their collective efforts, the hundreds of citizens, activists, academics, artists, volunteers, politicians and core staff team who make up the now 40-strong Lab Network have:

- shifted the Overton window on UBI with a range of successful events and media campaigns built around pledge campaigns and policy propositions.
- Growth of and support to, 40 citizen led groups called [UBI Lab's](#) across the UK all calling for further testing and piloting of Universal Basic Income.
- Over 30 [council motions](#) passed in favour of trialing UBI.
- Convened a [Cross Party Group](#) on UBI which spans elected representatives and parties across the UK and meets every six weeks.
- A pledge campaign across Cllr, Mayoral, Senedd and Holyrood elections w/ 656 elected representatives signing it in favour of trialing UBI.
- [17,000 testimonies](#) from the public on how a UBI would make a difference.
- 25 of the 60 seats elected in the Welsh Senedd were elected with a pledge in support of trialing UBI.
- 29 of the 60 seats in Scottish Parliament elected with a pledge in support of trialing UBI.
- A commitment from the Welsh Government to [pilot UBI](#) for the first time in the UK
- Councils across Northern Ireland coming together to advocate for a 'UBI as Peace Dividend' feasibility trial raising £100k to deliver in 2022.
- Established the foundations of a truly international movement of citizens around the world advocating for Universal Basic Income (UBI)
- Developed a range of policy papers, position statements, sense-making tools, guides and resources that are used internationally to inform organising and knowledge sharing on UBI

UBI is now a mainstream policy proposition across the globe, and one that has been taken increasingly seriously since the start of the pandemic.



In the UK, the Network has been effective in securing endorsements from leading economists, MPs, peers, public figures, local authorities, think tanks, and significant numbers of the public. We have formed the **first ever Cross Party Parliamentary and Local Government Group** on UBI, successfully lobbied the **Welsh Government to announce the first pilot in the UK** and raised £100,000 to deliver the first ever **feasibility study into 'UBI as a Peace Dividend' in Northern Ireland.**

To achieve this, the UBI Lab Network has reframed pilots, policy proposals, campaigns and engagements on social media as a necessary and proportionate response to the pandemic and advocated for politically feasible pilots and trials, all while being nimble, equitable, collaborative, democratic and open hearted in forming partnerships and working with citizens across the world.

As this innovative network of humans grows and finds further footholds, especially in nations outside the UK, our capacity to share and develop our learning, make connections and co-design projects and campaigns while genuinely affecting change to the quality of life of citizens around the world will

increase exponentially. UBI is a policy of participation, an idea which seeks to increase everyone's capacity to be involved and contribute to the problems that we collectively face.

2022 is not without its challenges. We must strengthen the ways in which we support and enable one another, as well as ensure citizens new to the Network are encouraged and enabled to form or join Labs around the world. We must resource new convener and lab support roles in order to continue to empower citizens in Labs to develop their own relationships, organise and improve their practice while benefiting from the sum of the interactions generated across the network. We must continue to develop and apply models, policy proposals and compelling arguments for a UBI in different contexts. We must support the emerging national pilots and feasibility studies in the UK and we must retain our equitable, distributed and value-led approach that informs everything we do.

While the below bullet points don't capture all of the action, activity, camaraderie and graft since March 2020, they do illustrate the scale, dedication and ambition that has been a hallmark of the UBI Lab Network in the beginning of the global pandemic.



## Timeline of Achievements:

### State of play in February 2020:

- Seven UBI Labs (Sheffield, Liverpool, Leeds, North East, Kirklees, Jakarta and Bucharest) and the nascent beginnings of a network
- Three council motions (Liverpool, Sheffield and Hull)

### March 2020 - November 2021

#### Labs

- Growth of 33 UBI Labs over 20 months
- The founding of six identity-based Labs: Youth, Womxn, Arts, LGBTQ+ Disability and Food
- International Labs have been founded in Washington DC, Iceland, The Hague, Bucharest, Jakarta, Perth (Australia), Buenos Aires
- The creation of UBI Lab Wales, a hub that includes UBI Lab Cardiff, UBI Lab RCT, UBI Lab Gwynedd and UBI Lab Swansea, Caerphilly, Newport and Wrexham.
- First incorporated Lab in Northern Ireland drawing it's own funding to support the team.
- We've seen Labs set up by academics, activists, councillors and citizens who want to explore what a Universal Basic Income could do in their community

#### Example Press

- [Dozens of local and national press articles](#) on the UBI Lab Network
- [Our Generation's NHS - Guardian feature on the UBI Lab Network](#)
- [520 elected representatives calling for UBI - story on our project in The Guardian](#)
- [James O'Brien interview with Jonny Ross Tatam](#)
- [BBC News coverage of the Northern Ireland pilot proposal](#)
- [Cardiff Council leader calling for UBI - Wales Online](#)
- [Resilience Proposal Launch - Open Democracy](#)



- Active and engaged social media accounts for all Labs

### **Lobbying think tanks and trade unions**

- Lobbied Joseph Rowntree Foundation to move their position on UBI and delete old blog articles with misleading claims w/regard to UBI
- Contributed to the [new position paper](#) from JRF on UBI.
- Working with the TUC to champion a UBI policy motion (ongoing)
- The National Apprentices Association are releasing statement in favour of UBI (Jan 2021)
- New Local (local government think tank) [hosted a blog](#) on UBI written by Simon Duffy
- Among many others, we brokered relationships with the RSA, Compass, Basic Income Conversation, Common Weal, Autonomy, Basic Income UK, Yang Gang, Income Movement (US), BIEN (Basic Income Earth Network), Basic Income Observatory South Africa, and BINS (Basic Income Network Scotland)

### **Created shared resources**

- [Basic Income FAQs](#)
- Guide to starting a UBI Lab
- [Guide to passing a council motion](#)
- [A UBI motion for Labour CLPs](#)
- [Sample press releases](#)
- Co-produced monthly UBI Lab Network steering group and equitable governance structure
- Co-produced agreement on UBI Lab Network values
- Co-produced 80 project ideas for individual UBI Labs to take up
- Co-produced a Strategic Framework for Labs
- Co-produced Lab incorporation strategy to enable Labs to obtain their own funding.
- Co-produced a membership survey and review to be published Dec 2021.

### **Pilots and proposals**

- [Peace Dividend for Northern Ireland](#) - a pilot model
- [Emergency Model UBI](#) at the height of the pandemic



- [Recovery Model UBI](#) for the UK during summer 2020, launched on the front page of the Yorkshire Post
- [Sheffield Pilot model](#)
- [Recovery UBI for Northern Ireland](#), as well as preparatory work to set up a cross-party working group to further a pilot in Northern Ireland
- [‘UBI+’ proposal](#) for disability groups
- [Easy read version](#) of the ‘UBI+’ proposal
- Published the [Resilience Model](#)
- Working with Policy Engine [published a costed](#) version of the Resilience model illustrating an 84% reduction in poverty.

## Campaigns

- Public launch of the ‘Emergency UBI’ proposal
- Public launch of the ‘Recovery UBI’ proposal
- [Letter to Rishi Sunak \(paywall\)](#) calling for a Recovery UBI in April
- [Letter to Rishi Sunak signed by 520 elected representatives in November](#) calling on him and the government to support Basic Income trials
- [Early Day Motion in Parliament in April in support of a Temporary UBI](#), signed by 100 MPs after a campaign by the UBI Lab Network
- [Worked with MPs to submit an Early Day Motion to Parliament in November](#), written by the UBI Lab Network, calling on the government to support UBI pilots. Signed by 60 MPs.
- In production - ‘Resilience Model’ proposal (2021)
- [Mayoral Pledge](#) project - asking Mayoral candidates across England in May’s local elections to pledge to support UBI trials
- [Senedd Pledge](#) Campaign - successfully calling on Welsh members of parliament to trigger a pilot.
- [Holyrood Pledge](#) Campaign - calling on candidates across Scotland to pledge in support of a pilot of UBI
- [Buenos Aires Pledge](#) campaign - calling on senators across Argentina to pledge in support of UBI to alleviate absolute poverty.

## Council motions

- Total of [32 council motions](#) calling for pilots now passed in councils across the UK



- Extensive local press coverage, instigated by the UBI Lab Network, of each motion passed and some national coverage in [The Guardian](#) and [The Independent](#)
- Motion passed by the Welsh Senedd supporting the principle of a UBI pilot in Wales, after successful lobbying work by UBI Lab Wales
- Queen's University Belfast passed a motion in support of a university feasibility study
- 5 out of 11 councils in Northern Ireland have now passed a UBI Lab-sponsored motion in support of pilots

### Example Events

- A talk by Scott Santens, American UBI activist and adviser to presidential candidate Andrew Yang
- [Women's Lab launch](#)
- [London Lab launch](#)
- [Bristol Lab launch](#)
- [Youth Lab launch](#)
- [Norfolk Lab launch](#)
- [Wales Lab launch](#)
- [RCT Lab launch](#)
- LGBTQ+ launch (scheduled for February 2021)
- Regular UBI Lab Leeds meetings with guest speakers
- [Why should councillors back Universal Basic Income?](#) event with Cllr Patrick Brown
- UBI Lab Arts supported an event in Camden
- ['Perspectives' event](#), bringing together the LGBTQ+, Womxns, Arts and Youth Labs to talk about how UBI intersects with these aspects of identity

### Project areas

- Working with Organise and Basic Income Conversation, [we mapped 17,000 testimonials](#) from the public across the UK in support of a UBI
- 'What would you do differently?' - a series of artworks by Toby Lloyd of UBI Lab North East drawing out real testimonials from the map and turning them into evocative cartoons
- Formed and became secretariat to the first ever [Cross Party Parliamentary & Local Government Group \(CPPLG\) on UBI](#)
- Questioned the metro Mayors of Liverpool City Region, Greater Manchester and North of Tyne about their support for UBI pilots - leading to agreement from Andy Burnham to join the CPPLG



- DWP Select Committee hearing of evidence - hundreds of submissions made from UBI Labs across the Network
- Caroline of UBI Lab Disability mapped the UK movement for a UBI using Miro software
- Expanded and updated our website, including regular blogs from guest contributors
- Extending our global network by forging partnerships with citizen-led initiatives of the global Cooperative, Citizen Network.
- We worked with artist Sara Qaed to create '[Freeing Your Feet](#)', encouraging artistic responses on UBI from supporters and members of the public
- Led by the Welsh Labs, the UBI Lab Network is part of the steering and advisory group for the Future Generations Commissioner's pilot proposal development in Wales
- We have submitted half a dozen Freedom Of Information requests to government departments, asking them to release information they hold on discussions around UBI (to date these have been rejected and we have formed a working group of solicitors within the Network to take this further)