

WMFN

Members Roundtable Exchange 25th October 2023

NLCF Awards for All update: sarah.handley@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk (covers Birmingham)

From the 15th November Awards for All will be increased to £20,000 that can be spent over a two year period or less. The rationale for this increase is due to the impact of cost of living and inflation on VCSE organisations and feedback from the strategic review consultations from the VCSE Sector on how much more could be done with this level of funding by smaller organisations. The priorities and criteria have not changed and it's unclear how long this change in level of funding and timeframe for its use will be in place. If applicants have made an application prior to the launch date, they will be able to withdraw and wait to make a fresh application from 15th November onwards. There is an expectation that there will be high competition for this once launched and decisions may take longer to make.

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england>

School for Social Entrepreneurs (SSE): Dirk Rohwedder dirk.rohwedder@sse.org.uk

A Cost of Living Challenge Fund is launched by SSE. A grant of up to £25k can be applied for to match trading grants that are around services and support activities that address cost of living issues. The deadline for applications is the 9th November (a tight deadline).

Eligibility and process for applying can be found on the website link.

<https://www.the-sse.org/courses/cost-of-living-challenge-fund/>

A programme of webinars to support slightly larger social enterprises and VCS organisations is being launched to support them being 'contract ready'. This will be delivered in 3 sessions that will look at access to Government contracts; what is required to be 'contract ready', and winning government contracts.

<https://www.the-sse.org/our-courses/vcse-contract-readiness/>

Commonwealth Legacy Funding Programmes: Tina Costello

Tina@heartofenglandcf.co.uk

Heart of England Community Foundation has secured management of two Commonwealth Games Legacy Funding programmes: 'Inclusive Communities Grant Fund' and an Environmental Fund. Both are open to the VCSE and the former is open to the whole of the WM region and not just the WMCA region as is the latter.

Inclusive Communities Grant Fund is being launched on 6th November. Stakeholder events to promote the Fund are being organised for online. If you are interested in attending please contact Heart of England Community Foundation. This is open to funders in the region to encourage it being circulated more widely to the VCSE.

Grants will range from:

Up to £15k – for more general running costs and will have a quick decision making turnaround

£15k - £75k – to cover mental wellbeing, arts, culture and creativity, physical and general activities.

£75k - £300k – Likely to be for consortia or partnership type bids

Up to £100k for small capital projects that will already have planning permission in place or it is not required.

The deadline for applications is very tight and successful applicants will need to spend the funds by December 2024. Further information will be made available on the HoECF website (currently not yet live).

National Lottery Heritage Fund: Natalie Osborne

Natalie.Osborne@heritagefund.org.uk

The Heritage 2033 Strategy has been launched and is available on the website:

<https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/about/heritage-2033-our-10-year-strategy>

Key changes for the next 10 years are:

Investment in places, not just individual projects, to bring about benefits for people, places and our natural environment.

Strengthening partnerships with governments, local authorities and statutory agencies and creating new collaborations with those who share NLHF vision.

Creation of a simplified investment framework and form the foundation of our shared vision for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone.

The current small grant fund £3k - £10k will be closed from 1st December and not re-open as there will be a scoping exercise to identify the best ways to deliver smaller grants in the future.

£100k - £250k grants – this will close from the 3rd November and re-open at the end of January 2024

£250k- £10mll this will remain open for mainly strategic initiatives

The Fund's 4 Investment Principles will underpin the approach

- **Saving heritage:** conserving and valuing heritage, for now and the future.
- **Protecting the environment:** supporting nature recovery and environmental sustainability.
- **Inclusion, access and participation:** supporting greater inclusion, diversity, access and participation in heritage.
- **Organisational sustainability:** strengthening heritage to be adaptive and financially resilient, contributing to communities and economies.

Projects will be asked to take all four investment principles into account in their applications.

The recent announcement of a £200mll fund for Heritage places to boost local economies and pride in place: <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/news/ps200million-funding-heritage-places-will-boost-local-economies-and-pride-place>

Cost of Living: Birmingham Voluntary Service Council elizabethg@bvsc.org/
RosaS@bvsc.org

The event is part of Birmingham City Council's Cost of Living Week 6th – 10th November.

Birmingham VCFSE Cost of Living Event

Wednesday 8 November 9.30am – 2.30pm

The Old Library, Zellig, Gibb Street, Digbeth, Birmingham, B4 9AT

Places are now allocated on a first come, first served basis.

If you have any questions about the event please contact Elizabeth Goodchild, Strategic Partnership Manager, BVSC at elizabethg@bvsc.org

Household Support Fund

Last 4 years BVSC has been managing part of the Household Support Fund. The current programme for this year is providing £200 towards households that are struggling and need hardship grant support. To date £3million has been allocated within a 10-week period to households in Birmingham. Though the fund is closed, it will reopen to receive application shortly up until the end of December 2023. The evidence from applications being received is that though food poverty continues for many households, greater demand has been seen for energy arrears due to the lack of credit now available from last winter energy costs. Across the UK the Government has made available £500million for household support programmes. There is also a likely to be an increase in homelessness due to the inability to cover energy costs and maintain households spiralling into increasing household debt. There was a short discussion on different emergency hardship grant payments. Austin and Rosa indicated that there were several ways now available that local authorities have established for payments: voucher redemption schemes with particular retail and commercial outlets, Post Office cash pay-out schemes, credit on bus passes with bodies like National Express.

Birmingham City Council's announcement of a Section 114 due to its inability to balance its books (equal pay and Oracle system costs) has implications for VCSE. There is limited information of what this will mean currently and is likely to start to have an impact from the new financial year April 2024. A Senior Leaders meeting held by BVSC that had presentations with updates on what is currently known will be circulated once made available by BVSC. If members are interested in knowing when the next meeting is to contact Elizabeth Goodchild.

<https://www.bvsc.org/news/cost-of-living-week-6-10-november>
<https://www.bvsc.org/Event/birmingham-vcfse-cost-of-living-event>
<https://www.bvsc.org/cost-of-living>
<https://www.bvsc.org/Event/engage-for-funding-forum0611>
<https://www.bvsc.org/hsf>
<https://www.bvsc.org/birminghams-city-council-section-114-notice>
<https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/livingsupport>

Austin Rodriguez provided a link to local authorities in the region that funders can directly contact to find out more about schemes over the winter that they are running: Household Support Fund 3 management information for 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

WMFN next key event:

West Midlands and Birmingham ONS Data Insight: Implications for funding and service priorities seminar 22nd November 2023 9.30am – 12.30pm followed by lunch and networking @ [Investec](#), Birmingham Book through [Eventbrite](#)

Dates of future Members Roundtable Exchanges – will be circulated shortly – Jan, April, July and Sept/Oct tbc.

Attendees:

Tina Costello – HoE Community Foundation
Dipali Chandra – WMFN
Carla Belle – BCC NDCU
Austin Rodriguez – Solihull MBC (Chair)
Dirk Rodwedder, School of Social Entrepreneurs
Louise Cotton – Baron Davenport Charity
Emma Wright – Edward’s Trust
Karen Dobson – Eveson Trust
Elizabeth Goodchild – BVSC
Peter Hardisty – HPLC
Karen Grice – Grimmitt Trust
Rosa Spawton-Rice – BVSC
Natalie Osborne – HLCF