

## SPECIAL THANKS

### The Trustees would like to thank:

Barrow Cadbury Trust, South Birmingham Friends Institute Trust, Owen Family Trust, Limoges Trust and Eveson Charitable Trust for additional grant support which has enabled us to further develop our work and services to members; Tyndallwoods Solicitors, Harborne Parish Lands Charity, National Lottery Community Fund and Brewin Dolphin Charity Investment for hosting events; members continued contribution and involvement in the Network; our Secretary Dipali Chandra for her valuable service.

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### Keep in Touch!

Follow us on Twitter [@westmidsfunders](https://twitter.com/westmidsfunders)

Like and follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/WMFundersNetwork>

Visit our website [www.wmfn.org.uk](http://www.wmfn.org.uk)

Send us your news and information to share: [dipali.chandra@wmfn.org.uk](mailto:dipali.chandra@wmfn.org.uk)

Find out more about membership [www.wmfn.org.uk/membership](http://www.wmfn.org.uk/membership)

**And don't forget to let your contacts know you are a member of WMFN – use our logo, link to our website, share our news**

**WM Funders Network** is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. It is the leading membership association for charitable trusts, social investors and public bodies in the West Midlands. We help members to work more effectively and efficiently, share and learn from each other's experience of funding, and explore matters of common social concern that informs our funding decisions. We have 68 members ranging from large national foundations and social investors to smaller family trusts that give grants and social finance in the region to the voluntary and community sector and social enterprises, and individuals. The organisation also aims to provide a route for funders to be able to engage formally with private and public funders and their networks to increase opportunities for co-ordination and collaboration to better meet the needs of the diverse communities in the region, through their support of the third sector.

Charity registration number 1173579

## ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

**WM Funders  
Network** 

[www.wmfn.org.uk](http://www.wmfn.org.uk) [@westmidsfunders](https://twitter.com/westmidsfunders)

# ORGANISATIONAL REPORT



2018 -19 has been an active and productive year. Since becoming a CIO our accounting period is now April to March. The landscape of funding for third sector organisations continues to evolve as public sector cuts and the rolling back of services impact on charities and the voluntary and community sector. Added to this, the continued uncertainty of Brexit, has impacted on communities and democracy and affected progress on a range of policy agendas. Our programme of events and activities reflects some of these changes and the interests of our members and the wider funding sector.

Our AGM keynote speaker was [Grace Wyld, Associate Consultant, New Philanthropy Capital](#), who delivered a **Talk titled: Diversity and Good Governance**. Members and guests considered the value of diversity at Board level; attracting and keeping diverse trustees; how diversity can improve the quality of governance and the difference it can make.

Our roundtables covered topics such as funders that give more than just funds and what works; the impact of welfare reforms and housing on vulnerable individuals; the progress of the Birmingham Poverty Truth Commission and its impact on the practices of public bodies. Our information briefing was on the introduction of GDPR and its requirements for funders. A training workshop was held on grant management systems to help members consider what is currently available and right for them. The National Lottery Community Fund kindly hosted a seminar on social mobility to consider the divisions that exist in the West Midlands with key speaker, [David Johnston, Chief Executive, Social Mobility Foundation](#) and former commissioner on the Government's Social Mobility Commission.

This year the Annual Conference was part of the national [Data4Good conference 2018](#) hosted by 9 partners, led by data specialists Data Orchard. Members attended a range of workshops as well as a closed workshop for members that explored how data can inform the allocation of resources. [James Bowles, PhD student, Third Sector Research Centre, University of Birmingham](#) shared some of the tools he has developed to look at charity data openly available, and how that can help to map a location. He shared a map of charities in the West Midlands and in particular wards in the city. [Austin Rodriguez, Commissioning Manager, Birmingham City Council](#) shared how open data on funding in the region, and in particular Birmingham, is helping to inform their commissioning approach and bringing together services in a locality to work more closely together.

We will continue to strive to put forward an exciting programme of events and activities that will focus on the themes of collaborative approaches, blended finance for the third sector and open and shared data to better inform decision making, which we believe will enable our members and the wider third sector to improve the quality of life for those most disadvantaged and vulnerable in society

## Pauline Roche, Chair

This is the first full accounting period of the new legal entity following the transfer of assets from our legacy organisation, Charitable Trusts West Midlands, and the charity is off to a flying start. While membership income appears to be slightly behind last year's figure this is not due to a decline in membership subscriptions but rather the date at which payments were received and a number of subscriptions for the 2018/19 period actually being received in 2017/18. Grant income is significantly higher than budget however it should be noted that £5,000 of 2019/20 income was received in this period.

The budget expectation was that the charity would spend down reserves by £2,232 in 2018/19. Careful cost control has ensured that the in year deficit after one-off exceptional income was only £957 and when taking into account this income the charity has generated an in-year surplus of £4,042. The charity has is in a strong position to deliver its planned programme of activity in 2019/20 and continues to have the resources it needs to achieve its charitable purpose.

## Steven Simpson, Treasurer

## Trustees (at 31/03/19)

Pauline Roche – Managing Director, RnR Organisation (Individual Member) – Chair

Peter Hughes – Regional Manager, Charity Bank - Vice Chair

Steven Simpson – Chief Executive, Harborne Parish Lands Charity – Treasurer

Melinda Connelly – Regional Manager, Central Region, BBC Children in Need

David Owen OBE – Chair, Owen Family Charity Trust

Debbie Pippard – Head of Programmes, Barrow Cadbury Trust

Laura Rollason – Marketing Officer, Big Lottery (Stepped down September 2018)

Popinder Kaur – Chief Executive, The Haven

The Board met four times during the year and the meetings were generously hosted by Tyndallwood Solicitors and Harborne Parish Lands Charity.

## Ambassadors

Judy Dyke and Robert King were our Ambassadors in 2018-19. They help us raise the profile of WM Funders Network and gain new members and supporter:



JUDY DYKE



ROBERT KING

## Events and Activities

24th April – Roundtable Discussion: Funding Plus – what works, with Peter Cunnison, Lloyds Bank Foundation and Melinda Connelly, BBC Children in Need at Tyndallwoods (Attendance 10)

15th May – Information Briefing: GDPR Information, Advice & Guidance for Small to Medium Sized Trusts. Speaker: Darren Wright, Inside Outcomes at HPLC (Attendance 18)

22nd May – Annual General Meeting and Discussion: Good Governance and Diversity. Speaker: Grace Wyld, Research Associate, NPC at Brewin Dolphin (Attendance 22)

27th June – Seminar: Grant Management Systems – finding the right one. Speaker: Iain Pritchard, Adapta Consulting at Brewin Dolphin (Attendance 17)

24th July – Roundtable Discussion: Poverty and Truth Commission – update on progress, with Fred Rattley, Poverty and Truth Commission at HPLC (Attendance 11)

19th September – Seminars: Social Mobility – a divided West Midlands. Speakers – David Johnston, CE; Tina Costello, HoE Community Foundation; Matt Poole, Big Lottery Fund at National Lottery Community Foundation (Attendance 21)

25th September – Roundtable Discussion: The Impact of Welfare and Housing Reforms on Vulnerable Individuals, with Jude Hawes, Citizens' Advice Stoke on Trent, Ruth Stebbens, CASBA Advocacy, and Joy Doal, Anawim at Tyndallwoods (Attendance 6)

14th November – Autumn Conference: part of the Data4Good Conference 2018 – closed workshop for members (Attendance 25)

22nd January – Roundtable Discussion: Funders Approach to Safeguarding. Speaker: Melinda Connelly, BBC Children in Need at HPLC (Attendance 12)

7th February – Briefing: Brexit – implications for the third sector. Speakers: Andy Churchill, Network for Europe; Mick McAtee, Centre for Financial Inclusion; Jill Rutter, British Futures at Brewin Dolphin (Attendance 16)

13th March – Seminar: Databases for Charities – finding the right one. Speaker: Iain Pritchard, Adapta Consulting at Brewin Dolphin (Attendance 14)

## Key Developments & Activities



**Funding and Sponsorship:** We remain grateful to members who continue to pay their membership subscription. Also, without the additional contribution of particular members towards the running costs, we would not have been able to develop the Network services. We are also grateful for the 'in kind' support that members have provided.



**Outreach:** We continued to take forward our development plan and have become involved in the Birmingham Investment in Neighbourhoods and Communities hub - a model of greater collaboration and co-operation with other types of funders interested in investing in local disadvantaged communities. We continue to build relations with other national and local funding networks including ACF, WM LA Funding Officers Forum and Small Charities Commission, West Midlands Funders Forum and local voluntary sector infrastructure support organisations as well as public sector bodies.



**Communications:** We circulated on average 6 events e-bulletins and updates per month, 8 news updates over the 12 months and we updated the website on a regular basis. Our Twitter account (@westmidfunders) has 884 followers, up 92 from 2018 (including members on Twitter). Our new Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/WMFundersNetwork/> has 44 followers. We continue to use dedicated hashtags for our events to spread news about our work and connect with others doing similar work, and we use these routes to circulate information and promote members' work.



**Events:** We ran 11 events throughout the year, thanks to Trustees, sponsors, speakers and facilitators. Attendance ranged from a minimum of six at one of the roundtable discussions to 25 at our Annual Conference closed members' workshop. We welcome ideas for events, activities and discussion topics, as well as help with organising and sponsoring the events programme, so if you have a contribution to make, we'd love to hear from you.