**WMFN**

**Members Roundtable Exchange 25th October 2023**

**National Lottery Heritage Fund: Natalie Osborne** [**Natalie.Osborne@heritagefund.org.uk**](mailto:Natalie.Osborne@heritagefund.org.uk)

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.

For 2024-25 the summarised plans for the different programmes on website: Strategic programmes will look to transform the heritage in 20 different places, put heritage at the centre of local approaches to boost pride in place, revitalise local economies and improve people’s connection to where they live, work and visit. The programmes on Nature Cities and Towns; Integrated Landscapes and Heritage in Need. <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/about/heritage-2033-strategy/delivery-plan-2023-2026#heading-2>

Natalie Osborne, Regional Manager, will be covering Stoke and Walsall to get in contact: [Natalie.Osborne@heritagefund.org.uk](mailto:Natalie.Osborne@heritagefund.org.uk)

**WMCA: Tony Thapar - Community Environment Fund contact: tony.thapar@wmca.org.uk**

Currently seconded from the NLCF and leading on the Community Environment Fund at WMCA. Tony was interested in finding out from funders their appetite for embedding a sustainability and environmental agenda in their grant making approaches. From his own work the following three aspects seem key in looking at environmental concerns for funders:

* Promoting a sustainability agenda in grant making
* The relationship between cost of living issues and tackling environmental and sustainability issues
* Implementing adaptations for climate change

BBC Children in Need: Melinda Connelly, indicated that BBC CiN is introducing a question into all of our applications forms asking for applicants' thinking/approaches to climate change and any proposed actions they will be taking.

NLCF: Nicola Thurbon, stated that the Community Fund has the climate action fund and environment features as a pillar of our new strategy, so it starts with community. We are exploring what this looks like in our new portfolio review. Also, the NLCF track its footprint and have an environmental committee and lead.

HLCF: Investment in tackling climate change as one of its 4 principles for future programmes and this reflected in their strategic programmes: Nature Cities and Towns and Integrated Landscapes.

Barrow Cadbury Trust: Has looked to integrate the climate change agenda in its three grantmaking programmes of Economic Justice, Migration and Criminal Justice. The latter being a more complex one to consider in what and how to embed the principle. Debbie provided a link: <https://barrowcadbury.org.uk/about/climate-change-plan-and-progress-2023-24/>

Roughley Charitable Trust: Sought to ask grantees for feedback on considerations a funder can take on how grantees address the climate change agenda. Also the Trust has put in place a responsible investment policy that its investment managers seek through what it invests in to reduce the carbon footprint.

Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust: As part of their 8 pillars of support seek initiatives and practices that protect the environment and look at adaptations for climate change. Though small in funding amount it is an important principle the Trust seeks to maintain in its grant making approach.

BVSC: Provision of carbon literacy training to the VCSE sector, plus also facilitates a VCSE sector energy and environmental network.

Carbon literacy support and training was raised by members as a way of way of improving knowledge and understanding of how both in ones’ own organisation as well as what can be considered by potential applicants and grantees in addressing aspects of climate change and environmental concerns.

**Tony particularly would be interested to work with members and wider funders on adaptations to climate change. WMFN will look to work with those members that are interested in moving forward on their journey to embed good practice in embedding a sustainability and environmental agenda in their funding approach.**

Resources referred to in the discussion:

The Groundwork Capital Grants under VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme <https://x.com/groundworkuk/status/1749356387656769831?s=20>

<https://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/resources/adapt-to-survive/>

<https://www.wmca.org.uk/news/16m-fund-to-help-homeowners-pay-for-energy-efficiency-improvements/>

Carbon Literacy Training - <https://www.wmca.org.uk/what-we-do/environment/carbon-literacy-training/>

**Funding for the Phoenix Way Programme, NLCF: Kanisha Warrican and Kianna Leader**

A presentation of the Phoenix Way Funding Programme is attached. This is an initiative that was founded by Ubele Initiative at a national level with involvement of a range of Black and racially minoritised organisations operating at regional and sub-regional levels. The purpose is to address racial equity in funding. To find out more and connect with the team that cover

the 6 regions in England – details are in the presentation. For the Midlands Kanisha Warrican is the funding officer: [Kanisha.Warrican@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk](mailto:Kanisha.Warrican@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk) and phone no: 07812 490 843

Additional information on: Currently Phoenix Way Programme are advertising for organisations to join the Midlands Regional Advisory Board and WM development worker posts. <https://www.ubele.org/our-work/the-phoenix-way>

To get updates: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/phoenix-way-uk/recent-activity/all/>

**Midlands Regional Advisory Board and WM Development Worker Posts - Deadline is 31st Jan 2024 for both. If you have any organisations, contacts etc that this would be relevant for, please do forward the information.**

**Economic Justice Programme, Barrow Cadbury Trust: Debbie Pippard**

The programme will focus solely on Birmingham and is taking a strategic approach. The goals are:

* Everyone in Birmingham has sufficient material resources to have a fulfilling, sustainable life free from concerns about meeting basic needs;
* Structural barriers to achieving a sustainable life resulting from an individual’s race, disability, gender, other protected characteristics and class are removed; and that
* People at risk of or experiencing economic injustice can influence decisions about the local economy.

Placed based work has already begun and is supported by Centre for Economic Studies (CLES) with an Anchor Network of key economic players in the WM – mainly statutory. Some success has been achieved with an NHS employment programme for entry level posts. There is also an advisory group – Economic Justice Network that is looking to exchange practices and learning, which is a mix of VCSE and statutory bodies. Links and the inter-relationship between economic justice and equality and environmental concerns are being considered. There are also plans to introduce participatory approaches to funding advocacy initiatives on economic justice as well as building a movement of supporters that is being facilitated by NEON: <https://www.neweconomyorganisers.org/>.

Link to BCT Economic Justice Action Network information hub incl link to sign up for action network meetings <https://huddlecraft.notion.site/The-Action-Network-Information-Hub-104c94ccb2334f65858e34a58825f5f0>

To find out more contact: [d.pippard@barrowcadbury.org.uk](mailto:d.pippard@barrowcadbury.org.uk)

**BVSC Section 114 Birmingham City Council: Ian Henshaw**

A presentation was provided by Ian and is attached.

**BVSC has also organised a briefing with Cllr John Cotton and Prof Graeme Betts (Adult Social Care) on the outcome of section 114 for the 8th February @ 1pm -2.30pm online. To find out more: Please**[**click here**](https://teams.microsoft.com/registration/a7kKRsJUs0SyctVBNRvRLA,zjmxJJw4xEC4rzcIpk-59w,1Nd4LGEZQEePVQ_DX26qAw,_o_FZxnS4UeLpAsDDOyNRQ,N9g7ohAWd0ucpxNxpLGfZA,abSJ_2ksWkGCGqiV1gfsXg?mode=read&tenantId=460ab96b-54c2-44b3-b272-d541351bd12c)**to register to attend the event and provide your contact details.**

**This is an online TEAMS event and once registered you should automatically receive a TEAMS link. If this does not come through please check your junk mail or contact**[**elizabethg@bvsc.org**](mailto:elizabethg@bvsc.org)**who will forward on details.**

In addition, below is the information mentioned relating to:

Funding secured by NAVCA from Lloyds Bank Foundation for a joint research project analysing both quantitatively and qualitatively the implications of the outcome of section 114 on funding budgets. If any members are interested to find out more contact:

Director of Research Sophie Wilson:[SophieW@bvsc.org](mailto:SophieW@bvsc.org)

For anyone interested in supporting the continuation of the Bed Poverty Project mentioned by Ian, please contact Taylor McDonald:[TaylorM@bvsc.org](mailto:TaylorM@bvsc.org)

Details of the Bed Poverty Project (from Birmingham City Council’s Website below)

**Dream Team Bed Poverty Project Now Live!**

Birmingham City Council (BCC) has partnered with Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC) supported by Barnardo’s to ringfence some of the Round 4 Household Support Fund money to provide support to families suffering from Bed Poverty. This funding is currently available until 31st March 2024.

**What are we looking for from schools?**

* To help identify those children without suitable sleeping arrangements, for example: **beds that are irreparable and/or dangerous, no beds and sleeping on the floor or sofa, sharing beds with siblings/parents or families involved in providing kinship care where family members have taken over responsibility for caring for a child often at short notice etc.**
* Talk to those children and families and identify the family’s needs around beds & bedding to improve their current arrangements.
* Refer those children and families into the bed project using the referral form, RAG rating the family based on if further support and intervention may be required, or the home environment may need a further inspection by our Family Engagement Worker, prior to delivery of beds

**What will we do?**

* Where required our Family Engagement Worker will carry out a home visit – this will be for those families the school feels need to be Red RAG rated.
* Provide a suitable bedding bundle for the family consisting of:
  + Bed (bunks, single beds, trundle beds, double beds, cots – as required)
  + Mattress & Mattress Protector Bedding (4 Season duvet, pillows, bedding set – including character themed bedding)
  + PJ’s (including character themed) Age/Gender appropriate
  + Hygiene kit

Once the order is confirmed and finalised, our bed provider will arrange with the family to deliver and assemble the beds.

**WMFN Events Update:**

Trustees have agreed the theme for this year’s annual conference and it will be on Participatory Principles in Funding Approaches. If members have any good practice to share or piloting of programmes based on participatory principles from which there is learning, please do let me know: [dipali@wmfn.org.uk](mailto:dipali@wmfn.org.uk)

A further data focussed event is being organised for the end of March 2024 that will look at how funders can use different sources of data and information to help inform funding approaches. It will particularly look at existing funding data available, VCSE data and local authority service data based on particular social priorities. Further information will be sent out to members.

Attendees:

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| Sophie Tobin – Sported, Chair | |
| Dipali Chandra – WMFN | |
| Karen Grice – Grimmitt Trust | |
| Melinda Connelly – BBC Children in Need | |
| Claire Haines – SCCT | |
| Stuart Morton – South Birmingham Friends Institute Panel | |
| Louise Cotton – Baron Davenport Charity |
| Debbie Pippard, Barrow Cadbury Trust |
| Ian Henshaw – BVSC |
| Pauline Roche – Roche News |
| Tony Thapar – WMCA |
| Nicola Thurbon – NLCF |
| Peter Hardisty – HPLC |
| Kanisha Warrican – NLCF Phoenix Way Programme |
| Kianna Leader – NLCF Phoenix Way Programme |
| Steven Simpson – HPLC (apologies given) |
| Adam Wilkins – Roughley Charitable Trust |
| Claire Bowry – Eveson Trust |
| Nicola Osborne – Heritage Lottery Community Fund |
| Jackie Lee – Heritage Lottery Community Fund |
| Wesley Lovett – Charity Bank |