

About Charitable Trusts West Midlands

Established in 1975 and formerly known as the West Midlands Charitable Trusts Group, it is the leading membership association for trusts and foundations in the West Midlands. With 50 members ranging from large national trusts that give grants in the region to local grant givers and individuals.

Charitable Trusts West Midlands is an incorporated and unregistered not for profit organisation. The CTWM provides charitable trust funders with an opportunity to share and learn from each others experience of grant giving and develop good practice in grant making; explore matters of common concern, and forge productive relationships that contribute to the wider benefits and overall sustainability of the region's voluntary and community sector.

The organisation also aims to provide a route for charitable trust 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.

It does this by:

- * Organising an annual programme of talks, seminars, workshop and networking events for its members;
- * Producing a newsletter between 3/4 times during the year informing members of future events, developments in the charitable trust world and regional issues of interest to trusts and foundations;
- * Maintaining a members website, which provides information on the annual programme of events, publications, briefings, news items relevant to the work of trusts and foundations;
- * Linking with other relevant regional membership organisations that have a common interest in supporting the development of the voluntary and community sector in the region



Charitable Trusts West Midlands ANNUAL REPORT 2011



CTWM Executive Committee members with Sir Stuart Etherington (CE NCVO) @ 2011 Autumn Conference

DEVELOPMENTS AND ACTIVITIES 2011

With the help of the Awards for All Grant, the organisation has re-vamped its logo design and updated its marketing material with a new website address (www.ctwm.net), a new information leaflet on the organisation and programme of events to reflect a different approach to events. The 4 quarterly newsletters continue. The October conference was very significant as we hosted Sir Stuart Etherington, Chief Executive of the National Council of Voluntary Organisations in front of a sell-out audience at Woodbrooke. In a change to previous formats, the event was conducted as an interview of Sir Stuart by one of our co-Chairs, Pauline Roche. There was a lively exchange of views and the format went down well with all attendees.

Membership has experienced some changes. We continue to strive to increase membership each year, though 5 trust memberships have lapsed over the year – of which two trusts have spent out,, three new trusts have joined.

More widely, the continued economic downturn, public sector cuts and localism bill have implications for the VCS as well as the grant giving priorities. CTWM has sought to assist our members to manage this uncertainty during the year.

Our priorities for 2012 are to remain an essential and challenging network for trusts and foundations, and for the voluntary and community sector, and to build partnerships with other relevant regional organisations. We are reviewing our governance arrangements to ensure we are fit for purpose, and building on the business planning work we carried out in the last year. We believe that CTWM is still a vital network for existing and new funding bodies and we look forward to continuing dialogue.

We will investigate other marketing and communication methods in order to keep the membership and other interested parties aware of news and events of interest, and to encourage members to collaborate with each other where appropriate for the benefit of our beneficiaries.

Membership

At the end of December 2011 there were 33 Trusts, 3 individual members and 6 honorary members (two ACF staff, Erik Pearse, Northern Rock Foundation). One Associate member joined in 2011 – Charities Aid Foundation on Line in West Midlands. There are 3 new organisation members: Young Musicians Trust, Big Lottery and the George Henry Collins Trust. The total membership based on subscriptions paid is 86 (Trusts can nominate up to 3 members per subscription).

Committee (at 31/12/11)

Lynda Bending – Harborne Parish Lands Charity (Treasurer)
Carolyn Bettis – William A Cadbury Charitable Trust (stepped down April 2011)
Melinda Connelly – BBC Children in Need
Peter Cunnison – Lloyds TSB Foundation
Delma Harrison – Henry Smith Trust (stepped down in May 2011)
Yvonne Palmer – Birmingham & Black Country Community Foundation (Co-Chair)
Donald Payne – Bewley Charitable Trust (Vice Chairman)
Debbie Pippard – Barrow Cadbury Trust
David Owen – Rubery Owen Holdings Charity
Pauline Roche – Individual member (Co-Chair)
Barbara Welford – Grantham Yorke Charitable Trust
Kath Rees – Fate Trust (Stepped down in December 2011)

Yvonne Palmer and Pauline Roche were appointed as co-chairs of CTWM at the Executive Committee meeting in July 2011. Donald Payne was re-appointed as vice Chairman in the April Executive Committee meeting and Lynda Bending as Treasurer. The Committee met 5 times during the year and all the meetings were generously hosted by Anthony Collins Solicitors.

Thanks

The Committee would like to take the opportunity to thank:

Awards for All for providing additional funds to take forward plans to develop the work and services of the Group to its members.

3 members of the Executive Committee have stepped down during the year – Carolyn Bettis, Kath Rees, Delma Harrison due to their workloads. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking them for their valuable contribution to the work of the organisation.

We would also like to thank Dipali Chandra, the Group's Secretary, and the members of the Executive Committee for the hard work they have put into the Group's activities and development.

Yvonne Palmer and Pauline Roche
Co-Chairs
22nd March 2012