

WEST MIDLANDS CHARITABLE TRUSTS GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT

2010

The West Midlands Charitable Trusts Group is a network of charitable trusts and foundations across the West Midlands. It exists to support the development of effective, sustainable, independent grant making practice in the West Midlands. It does this by facilitating the exchange of information relevant to the interests of charitable grant makers and providing opportunities for joint working and development.

2010 Summary

Overall – how has the year been? The worldwide economic downturn has continued to dominate not only the news but also the thinking of many of us involved in managing investments and / or raising funds. Public sector cuts and localism bill has implications for the VCS as well as the grant giving priorities. The Group has sought to assist our members to manage this uncertainty during the year through our seminar programme and newsletter. This is likely to remain a priority for us during 2011.

Changes in membership – we have seen new trusts joining and some longstanding members retiring such as Sported Foundation and Limoges Trust. Implementation of a new membership subscription structure.

Chairmanship – co-chairing how its being done.

Development Plan 2010 – Awards for All support

Our workshops and seminars (4 held in the year)

The committee on behalf of its members has been keen to look at ways to increase the membership. 4 Executive Committee meetings held in the year. Regional issues discussion at the meetings – very valuable and will look to hold such meetings for the wider membership in 2011.

Website and newsletter and marketing materials – 4 newsletters in the year.

Outlook for 2011 will remain challenging – both for us as Trusts and for the groups and communities we seek to support. Public sector cuts; uncertainty about investment returns; greater demands on trusts as well as on groups the trusts seek to support

Events over 2010

Tuesday 25th February

Talk – Social and Economic Needs of the West Midlands – WM Observatory, Stephen Howarth, Deputy Chief

(Attendance -12)

Tuesday 30th March

Annual Dinner and Business Meeting and Supper – Adrian Taylor, Director, Smith and Williamson Investment Management

(Attendance - 22)

Thursday 16th September

Workshop – Recruiting new trustees: good practice. Nigel Siederer Good Foundations

(Attendance – 10)

Wednesday 1st December

Seminar – sustainability Issues for Trusts and Foundations. John Iles, Bewdley Development Trust and John Merivale, City Bridges

(Attendance –5)

Membership

At the end of December 2010 there were 35 Trusts, 4 individual members and 6 honorary members (two ACF staff, Erik Pearse, Northern Rock Foundation). There are 3 new organisation members: Limoges Trust and Sported England.. The total membership based on subscriptions paid is 73 (Trusts can nominate up to 3 members per subscription).

Committee (at 31/12/10)

Fiona Adams – Mary Kinross Charitable Trust (Stepped down in September 2010)

Lynda Bending – Harborne Parish Lands Charity (WMCTG Treasurer)

Carolyn Bettis – William A Cadbury Charitable Trust (co-Chairman)

Sara Llewellyn – Barrow Cadbury Trust

Melinda Connelly – BBC Children in Need (co-Chairman)

Peter Cunnison – Lloyds TSB Foundation

James Fitzpatrick – Individual (stepped down in December 2010)

Delma Harrison – Henry Smith Trust

Yvonne Palmer – Birmingham Foundation

Donald Payne – Bewley Charitable Trust (Vice Chairman)

David Owen – Rubery Owen Holdings Charity

Pauline Roche – Digbeth Trust (Vice Chairman)

Barbara Welford – Grantham Yorke Charitable Trust

Kath Rees – Fate Trust

Carolyn Bettis, Secretary, William A Cadbury Charitable Trust, and Melinda Connelly Regional Manager, BBC Children in Need were appointed co-Chair of the Group at the Executive meeting in April 2010. Pauline Roche became an individual member of the Group after stepping down as Chief Executive of the Digbeth Trust and was elected onto the Executive Committee in March 2010 and appointed vice Chairman in the April Executive Committee meeting. 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.

The Committee would also like to thank in particular Fiona Adams, Mary Kinross Trust and James Fitzpatrick for their valuable work as Executive Committee members over the years. And finally, the members of the Group for their participation and commitment to continuing to coming together.

I 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.

Carolyn Bettis and Melinda Connelly
Co-Chair
23rd March 2011