Phone a friend today!

Gary Beharrell - Chair
East Midlands Funding Forum

As I read through the local newsletters, through the press and when I listen to people, I hear nothing but gloom and doom, no funding available, cuts to services, redundancies. Across the sector I hear tales of woe. This overbearing mood makes us blind to other important messages we should be listening to, other things we should be concentrating on and other things we should be taking into consideration.

Firstly we should remember why we are here, as funders and investors in the sector we are about people and supporting those in need, whatever those needs may be. In order to combat the pervasive gloom, I have been chasing up some previous grant recipients and seeking out positive stories from them, both to support our learning as a grant maker, but also to ensure we remember what we do this for, and frankly to cheer ourselves up a bit. This has been a most rewarding experience. So go on phone a grantee today.

On the positive side of these harder times, now can often be the catalyst for creative thinking not only amongst those we fund, but also amongst ourselves. The recession has a different impact on us all. For some a spike in applications due to the areas they may support (e.g. debt advice), an increased profile and being seen as a stable funder such as local authority.

For others it may mean a drop in demand, as the sector is unwilling to start new projects or perceptions that less funding may be available from that organisation.

Either way, it is now more important than ever for funders to talk to each other. We should be sure we are working together and look to ways to support each other, often informally, but occasionally through more formal routes. So go on, ring a funder today!

Disclaimer: This article was in no way sponsored by BT or any other phone provider!
We are running a Funding and Support speed-dating event for Funding Advisers and Development Officers in the region on 29th July in Leicester. This is an all day event to give those who support frontline organisations an update upon the funding and support opportunities available.

Visit the REM website for more information: www.regenerationem.co.uk

Risk in Funding
EMFF Network event—24th June

The meeting focused upon how funders and investors assess and view risk. Speakers and workshops leads included the Royal Bank of Scotland, Lincolnshire County Council, Futurebuilders England and the Social Enterprise Loan Fund.

The meeting highlighted that it is important for funders and investors to clearly spell out at the start of a process what they expect in terms of the risk assessment of a project or programme of work from those seeking support. A common problem within this can be the language used, with the adoption of risk assessment coming from the private and public sectors to the third sector.

What is common among risk assessment is the need for those seeking funding and support to demonstrate their planning skills, including how they are aware of the what if’s and Plan B for their project or organisation. Helping the investor to know that you understand the possibilities of where things might go wrong during a 1-5 year period will help to reduce the concerns they have over their funds. It was highlighted that the sector needed greater support in terms of business planning, and for this to include risk assessment.

Also different funding and investment organisations are able to accept different levels of risk, those providing loan funding may be able to take greater risk than those providing grants from public funds. Even within the one funder their programmes may have varying levels of acceptable risk. For funders and investors there isn’t a one size fits all for risk assessments.

Assessing risk as part of an application process is not an exact science, and still requires an individual or group of individuals to make a judgement upon the information provided to them. As with the whole assessment processes the judgements made will depend the type of activity the proposed work involves, and the funders or investors own appetite for taking risk.

For both funders and investors, and delivery organisations looking at carrying out an assessment of the risks for a piece of work, be this an individual project, a funding programme, or for the whole organisation, it is important that the approach to risk is supported and sustained, and something that is not treated as a one-off exercise, which is then shelved and forgotten about.
One really positive benefit of the Local Area Agreement has been its emphasis on the need to work in partnership with the Third Sector. The introduction of National Indicator 7 (NI7), creating an Environment for a Thriving Third Sector, emphasised the importance of this partnership and the need for us all to work together to ensure the success of the Third Sector because of its positive impact on people’s lives.

In Nottinghamshire we already had a cross-sector working party of the LAA developing a Compact Plus that we could all sign-up to and use as the framework for managing our relationships. The working party felt that a practical and supported Compact would form a strong foundation on which to build an Environment for a Thriving Third Sector, so they ‘morphed’ into the T3S group and have continued to integrate and develop these twin strands of work.

The LAA partnership and its individual members have agreed in principle to the Compact Plus and so now work continues in cross sector sub-groups which are looking at producing detailed codes of practice on, communication and engagement; funding; monitoring and dispute resolution and improving capacity in the VCS. These codes will then be promoted to enable their practical application.

The Nottinghamshire LAA partnership also agreed to fund a post within a Countywide Infrastructure group to support the development of the Compact and enable VCS engagement with the LAA partnership through network support and development. This has been a really positive contribution. Alongside the development of the Compact the T3S group is organising a county-wide survey of the sector so that we will have a clear local picture of the state of the sector and what groups feel they need to maintain and improve their position, whether from District or County Councils, other local state sectors such as the PCT’s or the Police or from VCS infrastructure organisations. The survey process is quite complex and so progress has been slow but we hope to have something to share by National Compact week when we also hope that at least the first of our detailed Compact ‘codes of practice’ will be launched.

I think that we have tried to supply a little extra capacity in the sector and link initiatives and work together to try and work effectively. In other areas, authorities and Third Sector organisations are approaching NI7 in different ways and I look forward to exploring this issue in detail at the EMFF Network meeting when we can share ideas and good practice to make our work stronger and more innovative. For more information go to: www.nottscc.gov.uk

Wendy Young, Nottinghamshire County Council

EMFF Network event
23rd September, Derby - venue tbc
We will be looking at NI7 and third sector activity within the region. Included within this will be how authorities are working with NI7, and how these and other Funders and Investors can ensure a thriving third sector can be developed.

The event is for the EMFF membership and local authorities and other bodies involved in looking at and contributing to NI7.

For more information please visit: www.regenerationem.co.uk
Adultism – just another piece of jargon or reality?

What do we understand by the phrase ‘Adultism’? At Diversity Hub we use the phrase alongside ‘young people’s oppression’ as being the mistreatment of young people just because they are young. For many years we considered ourselves as pioneers in the way we consulted with young people and gathered and acted on their opinions. However, it wasn’t until we recognised the need to be more pro-active in putting young people central in all our work that we realised the limitations we were placing on them and how our practice did not truly reflect our ambitions. We now have experienced young leaders who act as mentors to the adults in the organisation and work alongside us on our project and organisational development.

Benefitting from the mentoring our adultism is kindly, but firmly, pointed out to us. Those instances when we find ourselves disempowering young people, unawarely taking away their voice and confidence, by ‘doing it myself because I know what I am doing’, finishing sentences for young people, and not giving them the space and time they need to express themselves – in short doing all the things to young people that adults once did to us (and we all swore we wouldn’t be like them when we grew up!). Our young mentors also support us as we improve and work towards being an ally to young people.

Young people and adults within Diversity Hub have jointly got together to pool our years of experience and learning to produce a publication: Empowering Young People: Adults as allies. This practical workbook will help individuals, practitioners, policy-makers, commissioners of services, schools, organisations – in fact, anyone who works with or for children and young people – to encourage positive engagement and participation of young people, so they can achieve increased outcomes including: increased achievement, raised self-esteem and emotional literacy, alongside a corresponding decrease in anti-social behaviour and reduction in bullying.

The workbook is a challenging, encouraging and exciting tool. It challenges the mistreatment and oppression experienced by young people whilst offering fun and practical exercises that help us all to become more effective allies to young people. The publication offers something for everyone with theory and reflection sitting alongside practical exercises – and for adults, having the chance to reflect on what it was like in our day is both illuminating and nurturing. To access the booklet and for further information please visit the Diversity Hub website at: www.diversityhub.org.uk or to discuss further call them on tel: 0116 222 9977

Funding Survey

The Financial Inclusion Champions team is keen to get more information on how funders are responding to the current financial challenges. With this in mind a short survey has been devised for funders to complete, with the results of the survey being shared in a future edition. The survey can be found at www.fichampions.com

To find out more about the Champions work you can contact them direct at: karl.walkinshaw@leicestermoneyadvice.org.uk or call 0116 242 1150
The East Midlands Business Champions programme - created and funded by the East Midlands Development Agency (emda) - recruits high calibre, proactive business figures to act as mentors to new enterprises, providing commercial expertise to the community.

Working with voluntary and educational organisations Business Champions form a unique link between the private and public sector supporting projects and initiatives where the commercial perspective is needed. They work closely with schools on curriculum and career development, mentoring social enterprises, as well as performing an ambassadorial role – flying the flag for the region.

**Business mentor helps mix a path to success**

Established in 2001, Charity Shop DJ is about bringing together people from different communities to share their musical stories. They also produce cultural and artistic projects which have a strong social agenda prioritising equality and inclusion. Their clients range from arts councils, music festivals and museums. The company is growing quickly and has been receiving lots of commissions. It was these issues around growth and how best to manage all those different projects together that led Andy Jupp, Director of Charity Shop DJ to Business Champions.

Andy attended a Business Champions monthly networking event in February 2008, where he pitched to a room full of Champions for a mentor to advise him on project management, people management skills and fundraising.

Champion Ali Sinclair, Director of In your Element that offers coaching and mentoring services, heard Andy speak and was so inspired by the concept of Charity Shop DJ that she offered to help there and then.

Ali has 25 years experience of managing and leading engineering and IT projects. She recognised that Charity Shop DJ was a small organisation so there was a limit to what Andy could do alone, she has helped him understand the value of collaboration and partnership.

Andy is quick to credit the programmes recent successes to Ali’s expert help. “She helped give us that top level strategic understanding, of where the business can go. Ali’s clear assessment of where we were at and implementation of some very specific coaching skills were invaluable. To have this input from someone in the business sector has meant that I am now able to understand management and strategic thinking, which is something I’ve never had any formal training in.”

Over the past year the business has moved from organising small projects and events to significant programmes and international events. Ali has found working with Charity Shop DJ extremely rewarding, she comments “I get lots of enthusiasm and really positive vibes from the work they do and the work we do together. Andy as an individual has gained a huge amount of confidence which has helped him to take his business forward - it has grown out of all proportion with more to come.” Ali predicts that as a business and an organisation there is significant potential for projects that link in to regional and international agendas for the developing economy and community well being.

Ali has been working with Andy for over 12 months now and still continues to be very involved. Andy is often asked by colleagues outside the East Midlands where he can get an Ali Sinclair from – a testament to the valuable work Business Champions are doing across the East Midlands. For further information please visit: [www.businesschampions.org.uk](http://www.businesschampions.org.uk)

“I am now able to understand management and strategic thinking, which is something I’ve never had any formal training in.”
Is Your Community Organisation in Need of Volunteers?

Do you have a project that needs some manpower e.g. gardening, painting or how about a party or day out arranged for your organisation?

**Nottinghamshire Cares may be able to help**

We are currently looking for volunteering opportunities for company employees who live or work in Nottinghamshire.

This could be a task such as painting, decorating, creating an educational garden, clearing an overgrown site, taking people out on a day trip, organising a party or painting a fence.

In fact, we will consider any task or project, which could be completed by a group of willing volunteers within 1 or 2 days and will benefit your local community.

Things to think about:

- Can the team challenge be completed within the time frame?
- How many volunteers would you need?
- We cannot offer specialised skills, e.g. brick laying, plumbing
- Do you have any budget or materials to help fund or be used for the project?
- Can you provide someone to act as the main contact to liaise with volunteers?

As a volunteer-using organisation, you must be insured against any injury to the volunteer or any property damage or injury caused by the volunteer to a third party whilst working for and under the supervision of your organisation (e.g. where a volunteering opportunity is at a local community centre, the liability is with the centre).

**Please get in touch....**

Helen Moore, Nottinghamshire Cares, Business in the Community, 30-34 Hounds Gate, Nottingham, NG1 7AB

Tel: 0115 924 7411 or nottinghamshirecarers@bitc.org.uk
**Funding Updates**

**Launch of the second round of ESF Community Grants funding in Leicestershire**

These grants are designed to assist small not-for-profit groups based in and run by people from the community they support.

The aim is for community groups to undertake activity that helps engage and progress disadvantaged individuals in positive community work. Projects should provide an opportunity for them to develop their confidence and skills and be more able to take advantage of further opportunities that help them progress towards the labour market.

Groups can apply for up to a maximum of £10,000 (the average in the last round was £7642)

Potential applicants are strongly recommended to contact us well before the application deadline of 4 September 2009, so maximum support can be provided.

For further information please visit: [www.ccp.org.uk/vocolls](http://www.ccp.org.uk/vocolls) or contact:

Mick O’Hara—Learning & Skills Manager  
mick@ccp.org.uk  
Tel: 0116 2293019

Anita Solanki—VOCOLLS Administrator  
anita@ccp.org.uk  
Tel: 0116 2293018
Since 2000 the EMFF has been helping people to access funding

**Big Lottery Fund recession response and strategic framework**

An additional **£43 million** is to be invested across the UK to tackle the longer-term effects of the recession on communities. BIG is working closely with stakeholders to determine what form the support will take, but it is thought it could include targeted funding for specific services such as debt advice and support to help train increasing numbers of volunteers.

Additional funding includes a £20 million increase in the Reaching Communities programme, and a £7.2 million boost to the BASIS programme will also help build capacity in the sector.

The investment responds to evidence from voluntary sector bodies that the recession is putting severe pressure on the UK’s voluntary and community groups. According to research compiled by NAVCA, demand for services is up 30-50 per cent in some geographical areas - and resources, such as income and staff, are under strain.

The investment has also been informed by BIG’s recent consultation, *Big thinking*, which asked the public how BIG’s estimated budget for new funding programmes of around £2.8 billion should be spent over the next six years (2009-2015). *Big thinking* attracted around 3,500 online survey responses and involved a further 3,000 people at events across the UK. A key difference in BIG’s approach will be an enhanced UK-wide target that at least 80 per cent of funding goes directly to the VCS between 2009-2015. A range of other factors that will determine BIG’s approach to funding through to 2015 are contained in BIG’s Strategic Framework, which can be found at: [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/bigthinking](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/bigthinking)

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**Core funding and free training for health charities**

**2010 GlaxoSmithKline IMPACT Awards**

GSK’s IMPACT Awards are designed to recognise and reward charities that are doing excellent work to improve people’s health.

- Organisations must be at least three years old, working in a health related field in the UK, with a total annual income between £10,000 and £1 million.
- Up to 20 awards will be made. An overall winner will receive **£35,000**, nine other winners receive **£25,000** and highly commended and runner up organisations receive **£5,000** or **£3,000**.
- Organisations that win or are highly commended for an award will also be offered free training valued at **£3,500**.

Guidelines and application form are available at: [www.kingsfund.org.uk/gskimpactawards](http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/gskimpactawards)

Closing date for applications: 5pm on 25th September 2009
Futurebuilders is the largest social investor in the UK. Its aim to substantially improve the financial and strategic capability of the third sector so that it can play an ever greater role in improving the lives of the people and communities it serves. Futurebuilders provides sustained, flexible and individual professional support to organisations that are delivering public services, ensuring that they have the right financial, managerial and governance structures to take on investment loans and to compete successfully for contracts in the public sector.

Futurebuilders manages the government’s Modernisation Fund, which offers interest free loans of between £30,000 and 500,000 to Third Sector Organisations delivering services that benefit people or communities that are affected by the recession. A range of financial products are also available to Third Sector Organisations through the Futurebuilders Fund, which offer investment to organisations that want to increase their capacity to bid for - and win - public sector contracts.

Futurebuilders England has also recently taken on the management of the Department of Health’s Social Enterprise Investment Fund, which supports social enterprises in the delivery of innovative health and social care services, and the Communitybuilders fund, which aims to deliver empowered, cohesive and active communities by investing in the sustainability of multi-purpose, inclusive community-led organisations.

The application process for all funds is simple. Contact our Business Development team who help prospective investees shape good quality applications, provide initial eligibility checks as well as advice on the required documentation so that organisations have the best chance of succeeding.

Contact the Business Development Team today on 0191 261 5200 or email: info@futurebuilders-england.org.uk

Details about our funds and services can be found on our website: www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk

£10,000 Grants for Lincolnshire Communities

Community Lincs has secured over £200,000 from Lincolnshire Enterprise to provide a small grant scheme for parishes that have undertaken a Parish Plan or other good community consultation that can demonstrate need and support.

The grant scheme ‘Active Parishes’ will run until March 2011 and provides grants of up to £10,000 to support the delivery of projects related to business, enterprise and skills.

Projects that relate to training, adult learning, providing local facilities such as a community shop or farmers market, producing a business directory or website are just some examples of projects that maybe eligible.

Enquiries will be welcomed from Parish Councils, Community Groups and small businesses. Contact the Active Parishes Grant Officer on tel: 01529 302466 Email: activeparishes@communitylincs.com

Or visit the Community Lincs website at: www.communitylincs.co.uk
**Funding Central website launched**

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) and the Office for the Third Sector have launched a free website containing details of funding opportunities for voluntary organisations.

Funding Central provides information about 4,000 grants, contracts and loans offered by local, regional, national and European funders. Further developments of the site will include a funders zone and an Infrastructure support area. Visit [www.fundingcentral.org.uk](http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk) to take a look.

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**Training and Events**

- **21st, 22nd July and 11th August**: Coaching for Regeneration - Ep2 programme for Funding Advisers and Development Officers **FREE**
- **29th July**: REM and EMFF Speed dating event for Funding Advisers and Development Officers **FREE**
- **2nd September**: East Midlands Intelligence Network: Data Sharing **FREE**
- **16 - 17th Sept.**: Introduction to Regeneration - 2 day programme
- **23rd September**: EMFF Network meeting: NI7
- **29th September**: Welcoming Diversity and Prejudice Reduction workshop
- **30th September**: Evaluation: Use in Policy Making **FREE**
- **1st October**: An Introduction to Reading Accounts
- **7th October**: An Introduction into Applying for Small Grants
- **21st October**: An Introduction into Sustainable Funding
- **3rd November**: Conflict Resolution workshop
- **5th November**: An Introduction to Applying to Trusts and Companies for Funds

For further information upon the above training courses and events please visit the REM website at: [www.regenerationem.co.uk](http://www.regenerationem.co.uk) or call the office on tel: 0115 979 2333

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**Contact Details**

For further information about the work of the Funding Forum, or to contribute to the newsletter please contact: James Kirkpatrick - Director of Funding and Community Engagement, Regeneration East Midlands, Unit 8 Provident Works, Newdigate Street, Nottingham, NG7 4FD.

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Website: [www.emfunding.org.uk](http://www.emfunding.org.uk)