****

**ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY**

**18 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**WAKEFIELD TOWN HALL**

**Jan Garrill (Chair) Two Ridings Community Foundation**

**Carla Marshall (Co-ordinator) Sir George Martin Trust**

In attendance: Amanda Scott, Wakefield Council

Cat Chrimes, UnLtd

Kaye Wilson, Wharfedale Foundation & Voluntary Action Leeds

Pat Akerman, Voluntary Action Calderdale (FAWN rep)

Lester Mulligan, Charity Bank

Barbara Siedlecki, Metcalfe Smith Trust

Francis Wright, School for Social Entrepeneurs

Kerry McQuade, Wainwright Trusts

Ellen Cross, National Lottery Community Fund

Jenny Whitemore, National Lottery Community Fund

Abdou Sidibe, National Lottery Community Fund

Helen Robinson, Joseph Rowntree Foundation/Housing Trust

Richard Sorton, Joseph Rowntree Foundation/Housing Trust

Tim Cutts, Allen Lane Foundation

Sam Caldwell, Leeds Community Foundation

Nick Middleton, HEY Smile Foundation

Kath Lindley, Wakefield & District Health & Community Support

Elaine Strutt, Wakefield & District Health & Community Support

Margaret Whittaker, Wakefield & District Health & Community Support

David Wright OBE, Wakefield & District Health & Community Support

Helen Peacock, National Lottery Heritage Fund

Chris Woodyatt, Hesslewood Children’s Trust

John Ward, Charlies & Elsie Sykes Trust

Murray Edwards, Community Foundation Wakefield District

1. **JG welcomed everyone and each funder introduced themselves.**
2. **CM reminded attendees of the steps that had been taken to integrate the Yorkshire Grant Makers Forum and Yorkshire & Humber Funders Forum** and made sure that everyone was clear of the changes and happy with the new Yorkshire Funders Forum (YFF).
3. **Funders roundtable** – the following funders gave an overview of their organisation to ensure everyone was aware of what they do and how they do it:

1.Francis Wright, School for Social Entrepreneurs (SSE) 2. Kath Lindley, Wakefield & District Health & Community Support (WDHCS) 3. Amanda Scott, Wakefield District Council 4. Murray Edwards, Community Foundation Wakefield District 5. Nick Middleton, HEY Smile 6. Richard Sorton, Joseph Rowntree Foundation/Housing Trust

Points of note to come out of this session were:

* A number of funders were interested in meeting up with Francis from SSE to discuss how their organisation and/or the Yorkshire Funders Forum could collectively work with SSE to deliver training and support to local groups, focused on them being more entrepreneurial leaders and running more sustainable organisations.

***ACTION:*** FW and CM will be in touch with all the 18th September meeting attendees with some date options for an initial meeting and then if this progresses CM will make sure the full YFF database is kept up-to-speed with next steps and how to get involved.

* WDHCS are freezing their funding until January 2020 while they finalise their business plan and areas of focus for the organisation.
* Wakefield Council have set up a Brexit Emergency Fund and warned that if and when Brexit happens, they are expecting a significant rise in the need for food banks and other services for those living in poverty.
* Community Foundation Wakefield District will soon be moving into a new space in the Wakefield Trinity Shopping Centre so that they have an increased front-line public profile and act as more of a community hub.
* HEY Smile will be launching their new Beecan website which will match charitable groups with potential funders. This is initially for Hull and East Yorkshire. HEY Smile is also managing the new Audrey Moseley Trust which has a specific focus on inspiring, improving and identifying individuals with talent in the arts (Hull and East Yorkshire).
* Richard from JRF updated the group on its involvement with IVAR’s (Institute of Voluntary Action Research) latest research project which is focused on Aligning Reporting Principles. IVAR are hoping to hold a workshop before Christmas with 8-10 funders who each bring a charity/group they work with to explore if grant reporting could be made easier and to test six principals which IVAR have developed from their research.

***ACTION:*** 10 funders confirmed they would be interested in attending and Carla will work with Richard, IVAR and Abdou (who has kindly offered a meeting space) to organise the session.

1. **Focus on application systems and processes** – Tim Cutts from Allen Lane Foundation, John Ward from Charles & Elsie Sykes Trust and Jan Garrill from Two Ridings Community Foundation shared how their application and processes work in order to give attendees who might be thinking of updating their own way of working an insight into the different practices.

Points of note to come out this session were:

* During 2018/19 Allen Lane got 500 applications and they gave out 140 grants totalling £731K.
* During 20181/19 Charles & Elsie Sykes got 500 applications and they gave out 111 grants totalling £369K.
* During 2018/19 Two Ridings Community Foundation got 500 applications and they gave out 300 grants totalling £1million.
* Allen Lane Foundation and Two Ridings Community Foundation both use Salesforce (Allen Lane use free charity version). As Allen Lane only has two staff, they employed a specialist consultant for £5,000 to make the Salesforce software solution bespoke to them and to also assist with transferring existing information/setting up the new system.
* Everyone agreed that funders should try to have more people with ‘lived experience’ involved in the assessment process, be this as a trustee or on an assessment panel.
* All funders should ensure they do more than just ask the applicant if they have a safeguarding policy. They should talk to them on the phone or in person to ask for examples of when their safeguarding policy has been in put in to practice which will quickly show if they really are on top of this and have the appropriate procedures in place.

1. **FAWN (Funding Advice Workers Network) update** – Pat confirmed that a key issue which came out of their most recent meeting was that groups are finding it a challenge to secure capital funding for renovating community buildings and funding the general up-keep of buildings. The funders agreed that there did not seem to be many funders who purely give to capital projects and that the term ‘capital’ meant different things to different funders. There does seem to be a trend for funders to be focusing more on core funding.

Another topic of conversation was the use of freelance fundraising consultants and how funders feel about groups using them. Most funders agreed that if the consultant is helping to train the group how to write better bids and they then write the bids themselves this is beneficial, but most funders do not like bids which are obviously written by an external person as this puts into question the applicants’ skill set and sustainability.

1. **Focus on Funding, Barnsley, 9th October** – CM confirmed that SYFAB were incredibly busy organising the event and that the take up for the funding fair was very high, with a waiting list of 67. CM reminded all funders who are attending to reply to Bianca at SYFAB asap with their information.

PA from VAC also reminded funders to reply to her regarding the Halifax funding fair on 24th September.

1. **ACF training, York, 12thDecember** – CM updated the group on the new Yorkshire training session which will take place at JRF from 10am – 2.30pm. The training session is ‘Assessing Grant Applications – Exploring Key Principals Which Underpin Good Practice’. CM urged funders to book, as if this is a success, it is very likely that further ACF training will be held in Yorkshire in 2020. A few funders said they would be signing up and it was noted that there were only 9 places left on Eventbrite so there does appear to have been a good take-up so far.
2. **AOB**

* CM confirmed that she is working on the new [www.yorkshirefunders.org.uk](http://www.yorkshirefunders.org.uk) website which should go live in early November. Please email CM if there is anything in particular which funders would like to see on the website.
* CM checked if everyone who wanted to join the Forum’s online SLACK portal had been able to join.
* The idea of the YFF being able to support smaller charities/groups more quickly was raised, and also to be able to make each other aware if a group is in urgent need of support.

**The next Forum events are:**

* **14th November, 9.15 – 10.45am – Autumn Conference incorporating Roundtable at Thackray Medical Museum**
* **5th February, 10.00am – 12.30pm at Leeds Civic Hall with ACF’s Stronger Foundation’s session 1.00 – 4.00pm**