



## Welcome

A late, late Happy New Year to you all, seems like a lot has happened in the world just in the first month. There is also quite a bit of funding news, so I'll let you all dive in.

### **Plunkett Foundation - Community Pub Business Support**

More than a pub: The Community Pub Business Support Programme is a unique two year programme established to help support community ownership of pubs in England. Its value is £3.62 million and is jointly funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government and Power to Change.

We're leading this exciting programme and delivering it in collaboration with Co-operative & Community Finance, Keyfund, the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), Co-operative Mutual Solutions, Pub is the Hub and Locality. For the first time it will offer the community pub sector access to an end-to-end support programme including capacity building and a finance package made up of loans and grants.

The programme will increase the number of community-owned pubs open and trading. For many communities, pubs are not just a place to drink; they are central to people's sense of place and identity, they provide an opportunity for meeting up, and they foster community cohesion.

Support will be targeted at community groups looking to take on ownership of their local pub. As valuable community assets, support will enable groups to deliver and evidence significant social benefits and impact. Support will be available to help groups develop their ideas but we are seeking groups committed to delivering a community pub for the benefit of the wider community, overcoming local issues. These activities could include the provision of employment and volunteering opportunities, work place training and additional services such as a shop, post office, library, internet café, cash point, prescription services and informal meeting spaces for a range of community activities.

What support is available? - A comprehensive package of business development support, advice and loan and grant funding has been developed to assist community pub businesses consider their viability at all stages of their development which includes:

- A flexible package of support including:
  - an advice line
  - events
  - workshops
  - peer-to-peer study visits
  - business development advice.

- Flexible bursary awards of up to £2,500 (inclusive of VAT) to fund pre-feasibility costs such as public consultation and valuations.
- Combined loan and grant funding up to £150,000 £100,000 but not exceeding £75,000 £50,000 in grant contribution (average grant is expect to be c. £37,500, average loan may be around £42,800). Where the loan and grant combination is required the loan funding is a prerequisite and grant monies will only be released once the loan has been approved with a loan provider. The amounts and ratios available are discretionary and will be assessed against the group's ability to service a loan, meet the eligibility criteria and clearly demonstrate their wider social and economic impact. There is an expectation that groups will raise some level of community finance which will be taken into account when determining the funding mix.

Who is eligible for support? - The programme is seeking communities looking to consider taking responsibility for and ownership of their local pub, through purchase or long-term lease. All applicants for loan and grant funding will be expected to evidence clear and significant viable benefits to their local community for their plans, as well as some funding already raised within the community.

For more details upon the programme and eligibility please go to the Plunkett Foundation website [here](#).

## **UK Community Foundations - #iwill Fund launched**

The #iwill Fund is designed to give young people the chance to lead change and make a positive contribution to their communities. UK Community Foundations have opened the #iwill Fund alongside the [Big Lottery Fund](#) and the [Department for Culture, Media & Sport](#).

#iwill is a UK-wide campaign aiming to get 6 out of 10 young people involved in social action by 2020. Big Lottery Fund and the Department of Culture, Media & Sport have invested £20 million each to the #iwill fund to support young people to access high quality social action opportunities.

Social action involves activities such as campaigning, fundraising and volunteering, all of which enable participants to make a positive difference to their communities. The idea is that social action develops the skills and knowledge of young people that employers look for.

The #iwill Fund will be released through our [network of 43 Community Foundations](#) across England.

“Focusing on getting young people involved in their community at a young age will build a new generation of active, involved citizens. We’re proud to be key partners delivering this programme.”

Our Chief Executive, Fabian French, has written a blog post on the #iwill campaign’s official website. To read the blog post, click [here](#).

## **Comic Relief – Tech vs Abuse initiative**

Millions of women and girls in the UK are subject to violent and controlling behaviour, most often at the hands of someone they know well. There are organisations throughout the country working to support women and girls, to raise awareness of the issues, advocate for change and equality, and tackle harmful behaviour. We are committed to supporting women and girls to take the lead in creating change that will enable everyone to live safe and fulfilling lives.

Comic Relief has been committed to supporting work in this area for over 20 years. While frontline services and strategic advocacy work remain the necessary backbone of support for survivors of abuse, we also recognise that we live in a changing world which is leaving us increasingly dependent on technology for all aspects of our daily lives and interactions.

That's why we are launching a new 'Tech vs Abuse' funding initiative, a small targeted fund for technological innovation and creative digital solutions, to improve the safety of women and girls affected by domestic abuse.

We are inviting applications to create, adapt, scale up or roll out digital solutions which respond to one of five design challenges:

- Fifteen minute window - Provide or curate key information online for women experiencing domestic abuse in a way which is easy to find, simple to navigate and quick to interact with.
- Effective real-time support services - Enable women to find and access services for support (including referrals) when required, day or night, seamlessly and with minimal logistical and emotional burden.
- Safer digital-footprint - Provide people affected by domestic abuse and frontline professionals the confidence and knowledge they need to use technology and stay online safely, with full control over their online data, privacy settings and social media accounts.
- Accessible legal and financial information - Use the creative opportunities of the web to raise awareness of what an abusive relationship looks like, provoking women and girls experiencing abuse to recognise this and get support.
- Realising it's abuse - Use the creative opportunities of the web to raise awareness of what an abusive relationship looks like, provoking women and girls experiencing abuse to recognise this and get support.

We have developed these through research with over 200 survivors of domestic abuse and 350 sector practitioners. Further details can be found at [www.techvsabuse.info](http://www.techvsabuse.info).

The application process for 'Tech vs Abuse' opens today, 12th January 2017 and will close at midday on 13th March. For more details and to apply for funding visit our [grants page](#).

## **Comic Relief – Levelling the Field initiative**

The lives of women and girls across the world have improved in many ways over the last 25 years, but there is still much to do. Empowering women and girls so that they are safe and free to lead the lives they choose is a key programme area in Comic

Relief's new global strategy. Sport is a powerful tool for social change, and can be used to address issues affecting women and girls. It can support the development of essential life skills, deliver powerful messages, foster confidence and improve self-esteem. It can also be used to challenge gender roles and propel women and girls toward better lives.

Levelling the Field, offers funding to organisations working in partnership in the UK, which use the power of sport to empower women and girls to reach their full potential.

This is a £1 million initiative funded by Comic Relief and the Treasury to support projects in the UK. Applications are welcome for a minimum of £30,000 and a maximum of £250,000, over a period of between 12 and 36 months. We are encouraging a variety of different types of projects. This could be a pilot for an innovative piece of work or the continued development of a proven piece of work. Funding is available for project delivery, research, or for a campaign.

There is no minimum / maximum turnover for applicant organisations. Key dates and process. We will be open for proposals from 5th January 2017 to midday 16th March 2017.

Once we receive your proposal, we will initially check whether your organisation and proposal are eligible for funding under this initiative and then shortlist the strongest proposals to go through for a full assessment. We will aim to notify all applicants of our decisions at this stage in April 2017. If your proposal is unsuccessful at this stage, we will be unable to provide any additional feedback due to our limited resources.

Assessments of the shortlisted proposals will take place during May 2017 and final decisions will be made by our Grants Committee and Trustees. We aim to inform all applicants of the final decision in July 2017. If your proposal is unsuccessful at this stage we will write to you explaining the reasons why and may offer further feedback by phone.

To find out more about the initiative visit the Comic Relief website here: [www.comicrelief.com/grants/initiatives/levelling-the-field-uk](http://www.comicrelief.com/grants/initiatives/levelling-the-field-uk)

## **Galaxy Hot Chocloate Fund**

The fund is looking to help small, local community projects and groups through their GALAXY Hot Chocolate Fund.

From November 7<sup>th</sup> 2016 until February 26<sup>th</sup> 2017, they are seeking to award a total of seventy, £300 donations to help community groups and people across UK and Ireland. Five donations will be awarded each week, four by a panel of judges and one through the People's Choice award to the organisation with the most weekly votes.

For more details upon how to enter and how to vote please visit the fund's website [here](#).

## **Building a Stronger Britain Together – Round 2**

A second round of the ‘Building a Stronger Britain Together’ programme has been launched. Decisions for the first round were made in December a total of £1.3 million will be awarded.

The Home Office have set aside £2 million for round two, with the grant funding providing groups with the opportunity to apply for projects that meet one or more of the BSBT objectives:

- Fewer people holding attitudes, beliefs and feelings that oppose shared values
- An increased sense of belonging and civic participation at the local level
- More resilient communities

Details of the programme including guidance notes and the application form can be found at the UK Government website here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/building-a-stronger-britain-together>

Please note that the timeframe for applications is slim, application forms will close on **Monday 6 February**.

## **Comic Relief and England Rugby – Try for Change Fund**

In partnership with England Rugby, Comic Relief is launching its first funding initiative through the Try for Change fund on 6th February 2017.

In 2016, Comic Relief and England Rugby joined forces to launch the Try for Change Fund. The fund will use rugby union and the rugby union community to deliver social change in England and across the world. Bringing together rugby's core values of teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline and sportsmanship it will work to tackle a number of social challenges around education attainment, social inclusion, unemployment, mental and physical wellbeing, personal development and community cohesion. Sport can play an important role in improving the lives of millions of people across the world, bringing people together to play, learn, improve their health and benefit from shared experiences. Try for Change works to promote, support and grow rugby as a tool for social good. It aims to help people reach their goals and fulfil their potential, as well as deliver long-term benefits to the wider community.

The first initiative launched under the Try for Change Fund is a small grants programme aimed at supporting smaller charities, community groups, and local community rugby clubs in England. Organisations can apply for between £2,500 and £10,000, for up to 12 months. We will be prioritising applications which target the most vulnerable and marginalised groups, for example young people who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training), local refugees, or young offenders.

If you are interested in learning more about the Try for Change Fund, England Rugby – in partnership with Comic Relief – are hosting a Seminar at Twickenham Stadium on Friday 17th February from 12pm until 2.30pm. For more information on the seminar please contact Tim Wainwright at [timwainwright@rfu.com](mailto:timwainwright@rfu.com)

For more details and to apply for funding from the Try for Change Fund, please check back on the Comic Relief [grants page](#) from 6th February 2017. We will be providing details of future funding initiatives in due course, including a programme of larger grants in England.

## **Local Giving – Sustainability Report**

The report explores the key issues facing local charities and community groups in the UK in 2016. It finds a local voluntary sector facing an ever-increasing demand for services, stimulated largely by an escalation in referrals from other charities and the stretched public sector. At the same time, local organisations are finding it more and more difficult to access funding - particularly to cover core operational costs. A knock-on effect of this is that, without the necessary funds to pay salaries and retain employees, more than three quarters of groups are also seeing a reduction in paid staff. This is compounding existing skill gaps - particularly within fundraising and marketing - and leaving the sector ever more reliant on volunteers. The current situation means that, without significant changes, predictions for the future are bleak. Fewer than half of the local organisations we surveyed were confident they would still be operating in five years time. For more details and to download visit the Local Giving website [here](#)

The report also contains a number of recommendations from Local Giving including:

- that government, grant makers, voluntary sector organisations and businesses work together to ensure the provision of more accessible unrestricted funding opportunities for local charities;
- that continued support is given to local charities to build fundraising capacity, thus helping them to diversify their sources of income;
- that funders take responsibility for reducing inefficiencies in grant application processes in order to save local charities and community groups valuable time which would be better dedicated to service delivery.

## **Twitter @EMFundingForum**

- [#Charity](#) income from [#legacies](#) has risen over previous years and now totals over £2.24bn. Find out more: <http://ow.ly/T7fv307FDZO> [#volsec](#)
- Need help telling your community group or orgs story? Useful NEW resource on writing & pitching a press release! <http://bit.ly/2j4Ew71>
- Our 2017 Professional Development Programme is open for bookings! Download the brochure [here](#) for the funders and grantmakers from @ACFoundations
- 35% say they would leave a [#charitable](#) gift in their will; but in reality, only 7% do. Find out more: <http://ow.ly/T7fv307FDZO> [#legacygiving](#) from @nfpSynergy
- You told us our application materials were too complex, so we've simplified our Reaching Communities guidance& forms <http://ow.ly/A43m307TnNx> from @BigLotteryFund

## **And finally...**

Without wishing get too involved in politics, fingers crossed that things start to improve as the year progresses. Not much more to say on that one for now!