

Welcome

Well Spring is nearly here, and from the news and information in this E-Bulletin there are a few funds clearly trying to get us out and about, and doing a little bit more. And on pancake day of all days!

Sport England – Funding for Volunteering

Our new strategy for volunteering, [Volunteering in an Active Nation](#), sets out our plans to allow more people to engage in all types of volunteering through sport and physical activity.

Our aim is to enable people from all walks of life to enjoy the benefits of volunteering in sport and physical activity – whatever their background, age or interests. And we want to make the experience as appealing and rewarding as possible for everyone.

To help achieve this, we have two new funds that aim to create exciting new volunteering and social action opportunities.

Opportunity Fund - Our [Opportunity Fund](#) aims to get people from in economically disadvantaged communities to volunteer. We want to invest in projects that benefit people facing disadvantage as a result of the community they live in – and that allow them to make a positive contribution to those communities. These could range from inner-city areas with high levels of crime and social exclusion to remote rural areas with few services.

Potentials Fund - We want to create opportunities that get people helping others from an early age. Many of those who take part in social action regularly started when they were as young as 10. Sport attracts many young people and can provide a springboard to social action. Just over half of young people prefer sport to any other volunteering pastimes.

We're keen to test bold new approaches with our [Potentials Fund](#) to get young people involved in social action that includes sport and physical activity – especially those who might not have been involved in sport before.

Find out more about both of our new funds in our [volunteering investment guide](#).

Insight Guide - To support you in the development of your idea, we have also produced an insight guide that contains useful insight from a range of sources, including national surveys on volunteering across all sectors, what we know about volunteering in sport specifically, as well as #iwill's research into youth social action.

More details upon the strategy for volunteering and about how to apply for funding can be found [here](#)

Coalfields Community Investment Programme now open

The Coalfields Regeneration Trust has relaunched the Coalfields Community Investment Programme providing funding up to £10,000 and practical help to organisations/groups operating in the former coalfield areas in England.

The Coalfields Community Investment Programme – Funding Support is a £500,000 fund created to support activities that tackle some of the key challenges that still remain in coalfield communities. Funding of up to £10,000 is available for projects that deliver in the top 30% most deprived coalfield communities and that will make a positive difference in addressing the following themes:

- Skills: Growing the skills of people in order to increase their opportunities
- Employment: Developing pathways to increase the number of people in work
- Health: Supporting projects that increase participation in activities/services that improve the health and wellbeing of people in former coalfield communities.

Our offer is now live and all the information on registering an enquiry and applying for funding relating to a project is on the following [page](#) and clicking on the Funding Support. Please read all the information and the guidance notes carefully before deciding whether to complete the Eligibility Survey.

The Coalfields Community Investment Programme – Practical Help is a range of free services and resources available to registered/incorporated organisations such as registered charities, companies limited by guarantee, community interest companies and charitable incorporated organisations operating in the top 30% most deprived coalfield communities.

For more information please see the link [here](#) and click on the Practical Help signpost.

NatWest Skills & Opportunities Fund

Our Skills & Opportunities Fund is one of the many ways we're contributing to the communities we live and work in. In 2016, we gave away a total of £2.5m across the Group to fund projects in charities, social enterprises, community groups, state-funded schools and colleges across the UK and Ireland, and we have allocated a further £2.5m to be split across two rounds in 2017.

Our focus for this funding is to support organisations that help people in disadvantaged communities to develop, create or access the skills and opportunities they need to help themselves, specifically in the areas of financial capability and enterprise. We believe that helping people gain such skills and access opportunities to learn can help turn their lives around and build better communities for everyone; when we build stronger communities, we all grow.

We want to support as many people and organisations as possible. So, even if your project doesn't make the shortlist, we may still be able to offer our skills and expertise to help you get your project off the ground. To be eligible for this type of support, make sure your project meets the regional priorities and the set criteria before you apply; where we believe we can add value and your project has particular merit – we will contact you.

Supporting local communities - We've split the country into seven regions, each with its own decision making board, in order to distribute our Skills & Opportunities Fund. Although all regions will be looking to fund projects that enable people to help themselves, each will have differing priorities that recognise regional differences. Prior to [applying for funding](#), you must look at your region's priorities by clicking on the links below, and make sure your application complies with the requirements otherwise your application may not be eligible and may get rejected. Grants up to a maximum of £35,000 can be applied for.

We are making some changes to our website and how we communicate the Fund to put more focus on what is important in the local communities that we live and work in. In addition to refocusing our website on the priorities for each region, we will also be bringing you updates on the difference that previous winners have made in their communities. If you would like to receive updates about these changes, please [register your details here](#).

Regional priorities - To make a difference in our communities we need to focus on what is important in each local area. Below you can learn more about priorities in each region – and the kind of projects they are looking to support. For the Midlands and East region:

"In the Midlands and East, we're looking to encourage projects to help build a long-lasting legacy and make a real difference in our disadvantaged communities. We'd like to fund projects that can deliver measurable positive social impacts which help entrepreneurs to start their own businesses. We also want to support projects that improve the financial education of disadvantaged people, help them to manage their personal finances more effectively and with an aim of gaining a recognised qualification." Midlands and East Board Chair – Janat Hulston

The deadline for applications has been extended to **Friday 3rd March 2017**.

Leicestershire County Council's SHIRE Community Grants

Leicestershire County Council's SHIRE Community Grants programme for 2017-18 will soon be open for applications.

Although the details of the SHIRE Grant Fund for 2017-18 are in the process of being finalised, it is expected that the grants will continue to be focussed on supporting projects that provide community-based solutions for vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

We are inviting organisations from the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, who are working with vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, to attend a Launch Event on: Monday 13th March, 5.30pm to 8.00pm, at County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester

The event will include the opportunity to:

- Find out more about the new SHIRE Community Grants Programme 2017-18
- Hear about successful community projects which have been delivered with the help of SHIRE Grant funding
- Learn more about the Council's approach to working with the voluntary and community sector, to help achieve the aims and objectives of our Communities Strategy

There will also be an opportunity to network with other organisations and share and learn from each other.

We will providing a buffet and refreshments from 5.30pm, with the event to begin at 6.00pm, in Sparkenhoe Committee Room at County Hall.

If you are interested in attending this event, please go the following website to book a place:<https://www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/grants/events/2017/03/shire-community-grants-2017-18-launch-event>

Please note that space is limited, and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis, so please ensure you book a place as early as possible. For more information about the event, please contact noel.singh@leics.gov.uk , tel: (0116) 3057020, or andy.hayes@leics.gov.uk , tel: (0116) 3057269

Fans Fund Small Grants Scheme

The Premier League Fans Fund is a three-year commitment from the Premier League to fund projects and organisations which improve the relationship between fans and their clubs, the way football supporters engage with each other and fans' experience of the game.

The Fans Fund Small Grants Scheme offers grants of up to £20,000 for projects that look to address the aims of the scheme. The three aims of the scheme are to:

- Improve the relationship between fans and their clubs
- Improve the way football supporters engage with each other
- Improve fans' experience of the game.

Project Criteria:

- The duration of a funded project would range from a one-off event/campaign, to a project running over a period of three years.
- Projects that strengthen the relationship between professional clubs and their fans will be favoured.
- Applicants must discuss potential projects with, and have support from, associated Clubs before an application is submitted.
- There are two tiers of projects: Up to £5,000 and Up to £20,000
- Total project costs must not exceed £50,000.
- Applications for a grant of over £10,000 will be required to complete a development plan.
- Capital projects are ineligible.

For more details upon the programme click [here](#).

Sport England - Funding for the Core Market

There are 2 main aims for the fund these are:

- **Keeping people active when life changes.** Disruptions are unavoidable but what is important is that, when circumstances change, people are supported to find the next activity that meets their new needs. This may mean that an organisation that regularly supports people through major changes (e.g. GPs or student unions) can build this support into their service or advice, or that

those providing the activity are able to meet the changing needs of the individual.

- **Helping to support the people who drop out more than others.** Women, people with a limiting disability, those less well-off and people aged 55+ are the most likely to stop exercising regularly when life changes. We want to work with partners to better understand what can be done to help these individuals to stay active.

For both of these aims, we want to see a reduction in the number of people who stop doing sport and physical activity. Partners who receive our investment will need to demonstrate that their work has resulted in more of their target audience staying active. This might be compared to previous years or compared to control groups.

How will we do this? Our new fund aims to reach those people within the core market who are outside the reach of sport's [national governing bodies](#).

Applicants will need to explain how they plan to support people whose circumstances and ability to do sport and activity are at risk – or who have stopped completely.

We expect to make individual awards of between £50,000 and £500,000. In exceptional circumstances, investments of up to £1m may be made.

Who should apply to this fund? We want to be innovative and bold with this new investment and hope to attract a range of organisations through an open process. This may involve investing in organisations with new ideas that may require some 'seed' funding to prove or test concepts and help us learn something new. It may also involve those with a strong track record of keeping people active already.

We want to work with a range of providers who can help people stay active when their lives change. You may be:

- Health professionals supporting those with an injury or illness to find activity that fits their current situation
- Colleges and universities supporting those starting a new phase of education
- Estate agents supporting those moving house to find new activities in their local area.

We won't just fund sports bodies or activity providers. You could be an organisation that supports people with a long-term illness or injury, or one that advises people when they're retiring. We are looking inside and outside the sport industry. We'll be encouraging collaborative bids, where organisations want to work together to help people do different activities. This may include:

- Helping those with sport-related injuries to find another activity that keeps them active and helps them recover.
- Complementary seasonal activities made easy to move between them when seasons change
- Supporting new parents to find ways to stay active that fit in with their new responsibilities.

We're interested in innovation with this investment. We're not looking to fund more of the same existing activities – or interfere where something is already successful and thriving. To find out more about the Core Market and this fund visit the Sport England website [here](#).

Key Fund workshop - Investment Readiness for Social Investment

Are you thinking of setting up a social enterprise and need finance to get it off the ground? Or do you run a social enterprise that is looking at social investment to help you grow or develop a new idea for increasing income?

Key Fund's workshops are aimed at anyone who is looking to apply for social investment and has not previously applied. The workshops will help improve understanding of what social investment is and what you need to do in order to apply. These free sessions are open to social entrepreneurs and social enterprises looking to start up, grow or develop or purchase equipment or buildings for their social enterprise through loan finance.

The workshops will cover:

- What is social investment?
- Different types of borrowing
- What is required in order to apply
- Measuring social impact
- Key Fund's current funds and application process
- Post award requirements and support

To book onto the workshop please book through the Eventbrite [link](#).
Leicester, Thursday 16th March, 9am – 12.30pm.

At Voluntary Action Leicestershire - 9 Newarke Street, Leicester LE1 5SN

For more information or if you have any questions then please contact Cat Chrimes:
cat.chrimes@thekeyfund.co.uk

BBC Children in Need – Volunteer Committee members

BBC Children in Need is currently recruiting volunteer committee members, for its Regional Advisory Committee in the Central region, which covers West Midlands, East Midlands and parts of the East of England. Please see the link below to the advert and job description for more details and please pass on to your contacts across the region.

Volunteer Committee members: <http://careerssearch.bbc.co.uk/jobs/job/Volunteer-Regional-Advisory-Committee-Member-Children-in-Need-Central/20082>

BBC Children in Need is positively changing the lives of disadvantaged children and young people throughout the UK. We celebrate diversity and positively encourage applications from all parts of the community to join our Central Regional Advisory Committee. This is a great opportunity for committed and enthusiastic people to support BBC Children in Need's assessment and decision-making processes.

Anyone interested in the committee roles can contact the Melinda Connelly, Regional Head, on 0303 081 7805 or 07720 671423, or email at melinda.connelly@bbc.co.uk for an informal chat about what the roles entail.

National Lottery Awards

Get your favourite National Lottery funded project the recognition it deserves. Enter your chosen project into this year's National Lottery Awards- the annual search to find the nation's favourite Lottery-funded projects. Winners receive a £3,000 prize for their project and star in a BBC One television show. Deadline for entries is midnight on 7 April. Details upon the awards and how to nominate projects can be found [here](#).

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- Explore the landscape of will + legacy donations in the UK: Facts and Figures - legacies for charities <http://ow.ly/bhQr308BqjA> from @nfpSynergy
- How can small [#charities](#) find success when applying for grants? Dir. of grant making [@HarrietStranks](#) shares checklist [here](#) via LBF EW
- Our latest review of the political, economic, social and tech trends affecting charities is out today: <http://blogs.ncvo.org.uk/2017/02/20/the-road-ahead-what-will-2017-mean-for-charities/> ... from @NCVO
- How are charities subsidising government contracts and should they continue to do so? join our free discussion 9 May <http://www.thinknpc.org/events/should-charities-step-in-for-public-services-in-an-era-of-austerity/> ... via @NPCthinks
- Calling all researchers interested in education & social mobility! Could you be our next research fellow? <http://bit.ly/2kmjwKj> #postdoc from @suttontrust
- Job alert [#heritage](#) come and join us [@ArchHFund](#) <http://ahfund.org.uk/jobs> from @HeritageInsight

And finally...

Another bumper issue of funding news and events this month. This highlights to me that there is a lot of activity from funders and grantmakers - developing their programmes and initiatives to help tackle issues within communities and meet the demands of the wide and varied third sector.



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