

LEARNING FROM THE PANDEMIC

CONFERENCE REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2023



West
Midlands
Funders
Network

FUNDERS SHAPING A
FAIRER WEST MIDLANDS

WMFN Annual
Conference

 Birmingham
27 June 2023



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BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT TO THE CONFERENCE.

The unprecedented period of the pandemic years led to a swift response by both funders, the VCSE and the wider stakeholders to the crisis that unfolded. As the pandemic years lengthened, the response changed from emergency to recovery. Funders responded by forging various ways of getting money to the VCSE sector quickly, through emergency grant-making, swifter and flexible processes, and collaboration between funders, the VCSE and wider stakeholders. A lot of short-term funding was put in place to aid recovery that is having implications for both funders and VCSE as the cost of living crisis and economic recession impacts on people's lives, where longer term, focused funding is required.

During the pandemic years particular issues dominated: The death of George Floyd in the USA raised subsequent responses in the UK on the systemic racism that continues to exist in key institutions. COVID-19 disproportionately affected people from Black and minoritised ethnic backgrounds, worsening the experience of existing inequalities, with many Black and minoritised ethnic led organisations facing closure. COP 26 raised the discussion on the impact of climate change and environmental issues that particularly impacted on those most socially and economically disadvantaged.

Members of the WMFN, wider non-member funders as well as the VCSE and public sector bodies were invited to attend.

The conference agenda sought to:

1. Understand the context in which we are all operating in.
2. Share positive policy and practice changes by funders and VCSE in response to the social issues and priorities raised during the pandemic years.
3. Explore and consider how together we can build on the positive changes that can be responsive to current trends, impact of the cost of living and issues facing the Third Sector.
4. Identify what are the key priorities for funders and the VCSE to work on that will embed further positive responses to needs of different communities of interest and place.

MORNING MAIN CONTRIBUTORS

Third sector learning from the pandemic years:

Mandy Wilson, Research Associate, University of Birmingham drew from a collaborative research project, led by the Third Sector Research Centre, undertaken in real time from April 2020 to March 2022 on community responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. The research looked at how did the community sector respond: The evidence gathered pointed to communities responding in ways that were resourceful, but some demonstrated what appeared to be a 'stronger' response than others. Some community responses were more comprehensive in terms of the needs they sought to address and the breadth of activities they developed. They were more strategic in understanding needs, coordinating efforts, and in planning and adapting responses, and they were more inclusive in terms of who was supported and who was engaged in delivering the response.

There were 7 possible explanations for different community responses to COVID-19:

1. Existing levels of deprivation
2. Levels of community cohesion
3. Levels of investment in communities
4. Strength of existing community activities
5. Community buildings and spaces available
6. Strength of network of community leaders
7. Strength of relationships with local authorities

Interestingly, though other factors were also important, more comprehensive, strategic and inclusive responses to COVID-19 arose in communities where there was a strong network of community leaders, extensive connections between existing community activities and strong relationships with local authorities.

[A copy of the presentation can be found here](#)

Funders learning from the pandemic years:

Eliza Buckley, Director of Research, IVAR shared the work with independent grant making trusts and foundations undertaken during the pandemic years to share how funders were responding to need during the emergency and recovery period and learning from each other.

Key changes made by funders that were seen as positive were:

- Streamlining processes and lighter-touch grantmaking
- Flexibility across the system
- Emerging focus on equity and diversity
- Trust/relational funding
- Greater collaboration
- A focus on learning and adaptation

What was identified as key factors in making these positive responses were:

- Changes in mindset and behaviours (being open to change, active listening and a spirit of generosity)
- Strong relationships (with grantees and other funders/partners)
- 'Champions' - change being driven by the will and energy of key individuals

A key quote shared in the presentation drawn from the work with funders during the pandemic was the sharing of power and control by funders:

'Philanthropy's primary role is to fund, support, and advocate for the nonprofits and communities doing the hard work of making our communities and our society better. The more we let go in that role, the more others can lead. The more we let others in, the better our ideas and relationships become.'

One key powerful response by some funders during the pandemic years was giving unrestricted funding – shifting the relationship between funders and funded organisations.

From this IVAR in conjunction with funders and third sector organisations have drawn together 8 pillars that underpin relational grantmaking:

- Don't waste time
- Ask relevant questions
- Accept risk
- Act with urgency
- Be open
- Enable flexibility
- Communicate with purpose
- Be proportionate

[A copy of the presentation can be found here](#)

MORNING BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

The focus of the morning breakout sessions was to reflect on and consider the positive changes and continuing challenges for funders in learning from the pandemic years.

A summary of the main sessions held were on Innovations in work practices and programme delivery; relationships between stakeholders; racial equity in funding and new approaches to funding. The key questions that participants responded to were: What have both WMFN funders and VCSE experienced as positive changes in work practices, programme delivery and stakeholder relationships; how have different stages in the grant making process improved or remain as challenges; what do funders continue to struggle with in improving racial equity in funding; what do VCSE need funders to prioritise in the continuing challenges in creating a more open and trusting relationship.

CHANGES IN WORK PRACTICES AND PROGRAMME DELIVERY	RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of funders have now introduced rolling programmes but there is still more work to do on this across various funding organisations, and the results of this approach / effectiveness are not yet known. • There is a tension for some funders between the balance of digital and human centred processes. • Progress has been made towards delegated decision making to allow more rapid decisions especially during and since the pandemic. • Funders have focussed on creating greater clarity on eligibility as well as a greater focus on supporting applicants by developing strong relationships with groups. • COVID funding acted as a step-up for some groups. • Funding has become more flexible and there is a less of a transactional approach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less of a transactional approach • More informative • More appetite for risk – but are changes temporary? • More opportunities for groups to ask questions • Less feedback for applicants on unsuccessful applications • Quicker decisions on applications under funders rolling programmes. <p>Key challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant reporting hasn't really changed • Need for organisations to tell stories of success • Monitoring reporting to different funders requires a lot of staff time from funded organisations • Need to explore further investment in supporting the development of funded organisations • Greater flexibility in reporting on the use of smaller grants
RACIAL EQUITY IN FUNDING	NEW APPROACHES TO FUNDING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives from Stephna Legacy Foundation and BRIG felt the pace of change on racial equity in funding has been slow and how can funders and other stakeholders improve their approach • Racial Justice v. Anti-Racism. Funders need to have a greater understanding of the difference between these two. Need greater investment in antiracist work. • Funders locally need to share evidence / numbers of Global Majority-led organisations being funded - contributes to greater understanding of who is being funded and who isn't • Funders need to invest in evaluation and reporting activities of Global Majority-led organisations to help them to build up their evidence base of what works • Lack of Global Majority people involved in the decision making within Funders - need to consider how to increase representation in decision making panels / positions within panels/positions within funding organisations 	<p><u>A copy of the presentation by Eliza Buckley, IVAR can be found here.</u></p> <p>What the VCSE sector would like funders to prioritise in making positive changes to any of the 8 pillars of open and trusting relationships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being proportionate based on the size of applicant and potential size of grant offered in the application questions and in the reporting on the use of the grant. • Greater clarity about the level of grant reporting on outcomes, impact and evaluation as part of the assessment process and potential cost implication for applicant. • Recognition of the cost to analyse 'what works' and report on this to funders and share best practice more widely. • Greater flexibility in funding programme application timetable – rolling programmes are better. • Greater collaboration between the VCSE sector and funders in design and delivery of strategic funding programmes.

AFTERNOON BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

The focus was to consider the short to medium term regional issues that face the third sector and the communities of place and interest they work with; in what ways can funders build upon the good practice in open and trusting relationships in the way with the VCSE and wider stakeholders to address these issues.

INEQUALITIES AND COST OF LIVING CRISIS	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
<p>Presentation from Janice Nicols, Birmingham CAB can be found here Presentation from Emma Central England Law Centre can be found here What are anti-poverty organisations highlighting are the key issues and needs of service users?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for leadership must come from communities • Lack of good jobs • Lack of long-term opportunities • Basic stuff like food and fuel because without this we can't move on <p>What are the capacity requirements of anti-poverty organisations to address these needs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funders not funding core costs • Full cost recovery • Cost of wages increasing • Encouraging funders to recognise capacity issues • Post Covid many organisations are concerned about long term sustainability • Funding is under pressure as costs are rising • Volunteering is becoming more difficult in terms of recruitment, sustainability and ensuring volunteering remains meaningful and reasonable <p>How can some of the changes to funding approaches shared this morning support this and what should we prioritise?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core funding - not a new issue / full cost recovery • Specialist knowledge and local knowledge • Small community organisations should be targeted • Larger organisations have a responsibility to partner with smaller orgs and to support with funding where possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation from WM Youth Focus can be found here • Presentation from Birmingham Youth Focus Board can be found here <p>What was the youth focussed VCSE and young people's experience during the emergency and recovery period of the pandemic years?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YP's social development pathways negatively impacted – particularly key milestones (transitions from primary/secondary/tertiary education) and disruption to formal and informal earning. • Use of public spaces e.g parks, open spaces by YP to socialise but seen as negative • YP experiencing isolation, anxiety and exacerbation of existing mental health issues • YP lowered expectations of life opportunities and choices. • Youth focused sector actively stepped up: flexible, adaptive, responsive and innovative. • Proactive in the provision of welfare, activity packs. • Youth workers recognised as Key Workers. • Youth focused organisations disappeared post short term funding during the pandemic. • Youth services became a priority post pandemic but on single issues rather than holistic response. • Demand for services from YP greater than an already under-resourced sector pre-pandemic. <p>What are the continuing challenges facing the youth sector and young people short to medium term in the region?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-pandemic under-resourcing of mental health issues for C&YP. An even greater urgency to invest in and address. • Income declined for socially disadvantaged families – acute for 1.4 million families with no recourse to public funds • Physical exercise declined and increase in obesity particularly prevalent in low income households • Youth sector – lack of buildings and staff for YP to easily access and use. • Difficulty to secure funding for youth sector staff including youth worker training. Seeing job vacancies with low no. of applicants with relevant qualifications and experience • Mentoring for YP in schools and community settings shifted to online provision. • Huge rise in school refusers (due to anxiety and mental health issues) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What should funders be prioritising? • Listening to the Youth Sector about what is needed • Proven approach/model – continue to fund rather than seek innovation • Funding for holistic services that are inter-related in meeting young people's needs • Early intervention approaches to reduce the risk of crises and presenting to key services. • Longer term investment in youth services (at least 10 years)

HEALTH INEQUALITIES – MENTAL HEALTH

- Presentation from Salma Yaqoob, Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Service and Neeraj Malhotra, Deputy Director, Public Health, Solihull MBC can be found here

Drawing from the data and evidence presented for Birmingham and Solihull – what are the current issues:

- CAMHS waiting lists are closed
- Lack of joined up services that take a holistic approach
- Lack of investment in early intervention approaches
- Social prescribing not funded within Third Sector
- Need to connect funders to social prescribers in the Third Sector
- Fewer localised health services – particularly for those registered disabled and those with learning disabilities
- Increased social isolation for all ages

How can grant funders consider these issues in funding approaches that support the VCSE?

- Reducing social isolation across all ages in different programmes of funding
- Place based/Hub model/local need – one stop multi-service provision e.g Dentist, opticians, nurses, VCS, researchers.
- Culturally appropriate education, awareness raising and marketing to get key messages across on model to diverse communities
- Data – centralised data source. Share data; up to date data
- Therapeutic Services – long term counselling provision; investment in therapy for children and young people
- Advocacy – advocating for service access, patient rights to services and emerging needs

VCS CAPACITY AND RESILIENCE

What is the sector's experience of changes in infrastructure support and development, organisational survival and growth?

- Loss of key people in the sector due to burnout leaving a need for new blood, talk about merging?
- CIC structure can be positive; need better guidance from Charity Commission and quicker turnaround.
- Lack of skills in sector especially to support people with lived experience
- Difference between core and project funding
- More support to work in partnership, need more networking across the sector, [CAF resilience survey](#) - increased demand
- Some micro organisations have folded and small groups too - some new structures (pop up ones during covid)
- Some growth post covid (no of orgs)
- Micro group support lost funding to larger group - working together on or in partnership seems not to be happening
- Better partnership working could improve services

What is the Sector's experience of volunteer recruitment, retention, profile, composition

- Success in keeping in touch
- Flexibility encourages young people
- Volunteering a dirty word?
- Its a privilege for some
- Numbers are decreasing
- Look at students, people with lived experience
- CSR can be a tick box
- Not strategic for some organisations
- Difficult to involve migrants - asylum sector / refugee / migrants not involved in volunteering

What is the Sector's experience of staff recruitment, retention, achieving diversity?

- Jobs hidden?
- Invest in the right process
- Sector doesn't pay well but good job satisfaction
- Smaller pool of people in labour market
- People don't want to work in the office
- More diversity in West Midlands - what is the data?
- Diversity an issue - tricky if low staff turnover of current staff and not currently diverse
- Fewer applications for vacancies - often few applicants or not the right applicants
- Some groups having to modify vacancies to make them more accessible
- Retention good in infrastructure orgs

What should funders consider over next 2-3 years to enable VCS to address above points?

- What is sustainability? Transparency?
- Funders who trust applicants are seen as better
- Funders have shifted priorities (again)
- Patch work of smaller grants programmes is very time consuming and although typical it's not ideal
- What if a group doesn't have a fundraiser?
- Where will AI in bid writing fit in?

KEY REFLECTIONS FROM PRESENTATIONS AND BREAKOUT SESSION DISCUSSIONS

Grant making can be a powerful part of funding the VCSE, the value of which can be hard to capture in quantitative terms alone. Grant making done well can confer distinctive value and benefits for both funders and funded organisations. It's clear that some important lessons have been learnt during the pandemic years for both funders and the VCSE, but there is still much to do if there is to be a more effective ways of determining where and how limited resources are directed to those that most need it. IVAR's 8 Pillars that underpin a trusting and open relationship will be important for funders to consider in their strategic and operational approaches. The cost of living crisis and increased inflation is also negatively impacting on funders' grant income that raise funding publicly and those with endowments. The VCSE are seeing this through increased operational costs, demand for services and reduced staffing and volunteering capacity to respond. So, what should West Midlands funders consider in the short to medium term?

Short term funding can lead to uncertainty, inefficiency and inability to forward plan for Third Sector. Giving more multi-year unrestricted funding can better support innovation, embed new work practices that are responsive and flexible to changing service user needs and provide continuity for key staff and service users.

The demands of reporting on funding. Cumbersome monitoring and reporting processes takes time and energy. Generally, not resourced as part of the funding secured, but also not on a joint understanding of the basis for reporting. Developing a mutual understanding and finding practical ways of making grant reporting more proportionate, simple and useful for funders and funded organisations to reflect on and learn from.

Rebalancing of power between funders and VCSE. Identifying those opportunities where joining up or collaborations can make a positive difference. Sharing evidence gathered by both funders and VCSE on effective models and approaches, whether it be grant making or VCSE services; amplifying the voice of the VCSE on service user needs and Sector capacity and capability issues – particularly those communities of place and interest most in need of resources.

KEY EVALUATION FEEDBACK

↘ KEY CONFERENCE INFORMATION

↘
110 PEOPLE REGISTERED
VIA EVENTBRITE

↘
129 PEOPLE REGISTERED INCL.
SPEAKERS & PRESENTERS

↘
91% PEOPLE WHO REGISTERED
ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE

↘
30% COMPLETED THE EVALUATION
IN LINE WITH SECTOR AVERAGE

↘
47% OF ATTENDEES WERE
MEMBERS OF WMFN

↘
53% OF ATTENDEES WERE FROM
VCSE ORGS OR PUBLIC SECTOR

↘
291 WEBSITE VIEWS OF THE CONFERENCE
INFORMATION (8% OF SITE TRAFFIC)

↘
8K TWITTER IMPRESSIONS AND
ENGAGEMENTS FROM OVER 40 POSTS

↘
900 VIEWS OF THE EVENT
ON EVENTBRITE (+73% ON 2022)

↘
£3.8K RAISED FROM
IN TOTAL

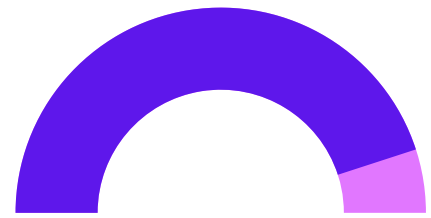
↘
£1.9K RAISED THROUGH
TICKET SALES

↘
£450 RAISED THROUGH
STANDS AND STALLS

↘
£1.5K RAISED FROM
CONFERENCE SPONORS

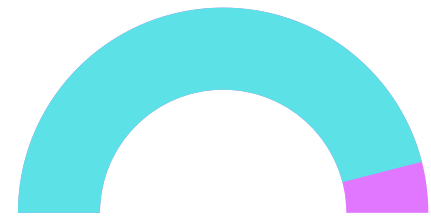


↘ EVALUATION HEADLINES



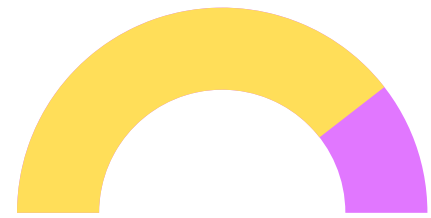
90%

INCREASED CONNECTIONS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS AT THE CONFERENCE



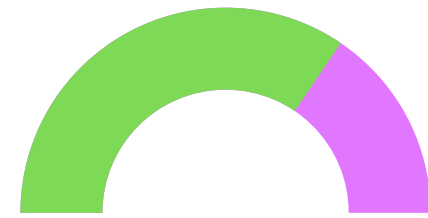
92%

DEVELOPED AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRIORITIES, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR FUNDERS IN THE WEST MIDLANDS



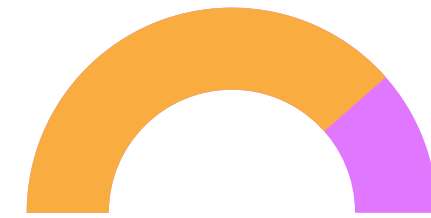
79%

INCREASED AWARENESS OF REGIONAL SOCIAL ISSUES AND IMPACT ON NEEDS OF COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST AND PLACE



69%

HAVE A BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF POSITIVE CHANGES IN FUNDING PRACTICE THAT BETTER MEETS THE NEEDS OF THE THIRD SECTOR



77%

INCREASED AWARENESS OF THE CHALLENGES FACING THE THIRD SECTOR IN THE WEST MIDLANDS IN MEETING THE NEEDS OF DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST AND PLACE



7.9/10

AVERAGE RATING OF ATTENDEE WORKSHOPS

0-POOR, 10- EXCELLENT



8.6/10

AVERAGE RATING OF CONFERENCE VALUE FOR MONEY

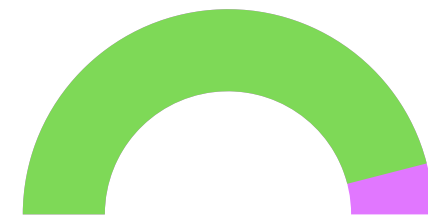
0-POOR, 10- EXCELLENT



8.4/10

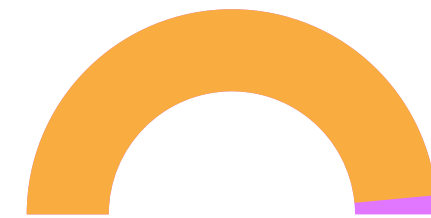
AVERAGE RATING OF CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

0-POOR, 10- EXCELLENT



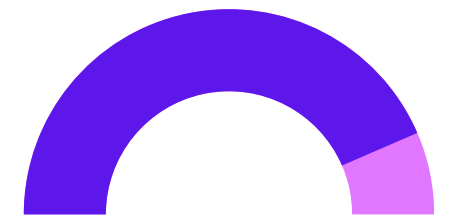
92%

SAID THAT STAFF WERE EXTREMELY HELPFUL OR VERY HELPFUL THROUGHOUT THE EVENT



97%

SAID THAT THEY RECEIVED ALL OR MOST OF THE INFORMATION THEY NEEDED BEFORE THE EVENT



87%

SAID THAT THE EVENT WAS ABOUT THE RIGHT LENGTH OF TIME

↙ **ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK -** IS THERE ANYTHING THAT YOU WOULD HAVE LIKED MORE OF OR LESS OF?

MORE OF AN OPPORTUNITY DURING MORNING / AFTERNOON TO UNPACK SOME CONVERSATIONS.

A LOT WAS FITTED INTO THE DAY, INCLUDED LARGE TOPICS THAT NEEDED MORE TIME. IT'S HARD TO MEET EVERYONE'S NEEDS AND THE SESSION PROVIDED A GREAT OVERVIEW. HOWEVER, MAYBE A FUTURE EVENT FOCUSED ON EDI AND HOW TO ACTION AND IMPLEMENT THE RANGE OF ITEMS RAISED TODAY.

MORE TIME DURING WORKSHOPS TO DISCUSS THE THREE QUESTIONS MORE FULLY, PARTICULARLY THE FIRST SESSION FELT RUSHED AND I'D HAVE LIKED TO CONTRIBUTE MORE. WOULD HAVE PREFERRED ONE SPEAKER AND A PANEL SESSION RATHER THAN TWO TO ALLOW FOR THIS.

IDEALLY WE COULD HAVE TALKED FOR LONGER IN THE WORKSHOPS AND IT WAS ACTUALLY GOOD THAT IN BOTH THE WORKSHOPS THE SECOND SPEAKER WASN'T THERE, AS THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO TIME FOR DISCUSSION.

MORE TIME FOR THE TABLE DISCUSSIONS IN THE WORKSHOP. MORE CLARITY ON WHERE PEOPLE SHOULD GO FOR THE AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS AS WHEN IT WAS ANNOUNCED EVERYONE HAD TO GO AND FIND THEIR NAMES ON 4 A4 PIECES OF PAPER, PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN GOOD TO JUST HAVE THE WORKSHOP LETTER, TITLE AND WHAT ROOM IT WAS IN ON LARGE PIECES OF PAPER TO GET PEOPLE TO THE RIGHT PLACES.

LESS EMAILS PRIOR TO THE EVENT, MORE TIME FOR THE WORKSHOPS, MORE COFFEE AFTER LUNCH BEFORE THE START OF THE AFTERNOON SESSIONS, BAN ON USING ACRONYMS ON PRESENTATIONS AND IN PRESENTATION SLIDES AS THE AUDIENCE DOESN'T NECESSARILY KNOW WHAT THEY MEAN AND IT IS BAD PRACTICE IN TERMS OF ACCESSIBILITY

MORE CHANCE TO NETWORK, THIS WAS A BIT LIMITED, BUT A DESIGNATED NETWORKING. NOT SURE HOW THIS WOULD WORK, MAYBE KNOWING AHEAD OF THE DAY BEFORE WHO WERE ATTENDING, AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY BEFOREHAND WOULD LOVE TO HAVE A CHAT - OR SOMETHING? THE WORKSHOPS DID TEND TO BE QUITE SIMILAR, BUT I GUESS THAT WAS WHAT THE DAY WAS ABOUT, AND I DO HAVE A LOT TO WORK WITH FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE.

LOVED THE VENUE! BUT WOULD HAVE LIKED MORE DIRECTIONAL SIGNS TO THE ROOMS AND BEEN TOLD WHERE TOILETS WERE DURING HOUSEKEEPING. REALLY ENJOYED THE WORKSHOPS. LEARNT A LOT FROM OTHERS.

FORMAT: I WOULD HAVE LIKED SOME COMFORT BREAKS. THERE WERE NONE FROM THE EVENT START TIME UNTIL LUNCH AT 11SH AND THIS IS TOO LONG FOR MANY TO GO WITHOUT A COMFORT BREAK. OTHERS I SPOKE WITH ON THE DAY EXPRESSED THE SAME.

THE PANEL SESSION WAS GREAT AND INTERESTING TO HEAR FROM PANEL MEMBERS, BUT THE SESSION WAS A BIT TOO LONG AND THE PANEL WOULD HAVE BENEFITED FROM AT LEAST ONE ORGANISATION THAT IS A FUNDER. I THINK THERE WAS ONE QUESTION FROM THE AUDIENCE THAT WAS FUNDING RELATED AND THE PANEL WERE INITIALLY UNSURE HOW TO RESPOND.

↙ ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK -
ARE THERE ANY OTHER COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK YOU WOULD LIKE US TO CONSIDER FOR FUTURE EVENTS?

1. THE MIC FOR THE SPEAKERS NEEDS TO BE IN LINE WITH THE SLIDES SO WHEN THE SPEAKERS TURN TO THE SLIDES THE MIC STILL CATCHES THEIR VOICE. 2. TOO MANY E-MAILS WERE SENT BEFORE THE EVENT (I GOT ONE A DAY AT ONE POINT). I THINK THIS WAS LIKELY DUE TO AUTO REMINDERS SO COULD BE CHECKED IN SETTINGS FOR THE BOOKING PLATFORM. 3. TALKS/CASE STUDIES FROM FUNDERS DOING IT WELL (E.G. SHOWING WHAT GOOD LOOKS LIKE, EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE ACHIEVING GREATER EQUITY, DIVERSITY, ETC.). 4. MORE TIME FOR THE DISCUSSIONS TO TAKE PLACE (E.G. COVERING FEWER POINTS IN THE SAME TIME OR ALLOCATING MORE TIME)

OVERALL: REALLY FANTASTIC EVENT, LOTS OF NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES. THE AFTERNOON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORKSHOP WAS PARTICULARLY GOOD. THE PRESENTATION FROM YOUTH FOCUS WEST MIDLANDS RESONATED WITH EVERYTHING WE ARE FINDING AS A YOUTH CHARITY AND THIS WAS REFLECTED IN OUR TABLE DISCUSSIONS THAT THE SAME ISSUES ARE IMPACTING THE SECTOR. THE YOUNG PEOPLE FROM BIRMINGHAM YOUTH CITY BOARD GAVE AN EXCELLENT PRESENTATION.

THE BADGES, OR LACK OF PROPER BADGES MADE IT DIFFICULT TO FIND PEOPLE WHO YOU REALLY WANTED TO MAKE A CONNECTION WITH. MAYBE BETTER BADGES, OR FOR ALL ATTENDEES TO PROVIDE A PHOTO, MAY AN INSTANT DIGITAL BOARD ON THE DAY SO YOU CAN FIND PEOPLE. THE QUALITY OF ATTENDEES AND ORG WAS EXCELLENT ONE OF THE BEST I'VE ATTENDED, AND WOULD HAVE LOVED TO HAVE TALKED WITH MORE PEOPLE FOR ADVICE, DIRECTION, NETWORKING. WELL DONE ALL!

BETTER USE AND UNDERSTANDING OF TECHNOLOGY AND DATA FOR FUNDERS AND RECIPIENTS-WILL BE CONTACTING WMFN TO DISCUSS

IT WAS AN EXCELLENT CONFERENCE OVERALL. BIT LESS PRESENTING IN WORKSHOPS AND SHORTER QUESTIONS FOR THE BRIEF GIVEN TO THE SESSION CHAIRS (PLAIN ENGLISH ETC)

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SPEAKERS IN THE WORKSHOPS AND HOW INFLUENTIAL THE DISCUSSION WOULD BE. NAME TAGS FOR ALL ATTENDING WITH ORGANISATION NAMES WOULD BE USEFUL. THANKS TO THE TEAM FOR A GREAT DAY!

NAME BADGES WOULD HAVE BEEN REALLY HELPFUL - I DID GRAB A LABEL AND WRITE MY NAME ON IT FOR OTHERS BUT IT WOULD HAVE HELPED IF EVERYONE HAD THEM.

THANKYOU FOR AN INFORMATIVE AND USEFUL DAY, GREAT TO MEET OTHER PRACTITIONERS AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE THIRD SECTOR IN THE WEST MIDLANDS

IT WAS WELL ORGANISED THOUGH THE PAPERS CAME OUT LATE. BEFORE 2020 THE FUNDERS WERE FOCUSING MORE ON IMPACT ASSESSMENTS BEING INTEGRATED INTO THEIR MONITORING REPORTS FROM PROVIDERS. WHILST IT WAS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR PROVIDERS AND CHARITIES TO ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE IN FUNDING ALLOCATION PROCESSES AND PRACTICES, I WOULD HAVE ALSO WANTED TO HEAR WHAT THE FUNDERS THOUGHT THEMSELVES WOULD BE THE LIKELY FUTURE TRENDS IN FUNDING, DECISION-MAKING, AND AREAS FOR TARGETING. I WAS SCEPTICAL WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED - COULD I JUSTIFY THE AMOUNT OF TIME - AND CAME AWAY THINKING THAT THERE WERE ENOUGH NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES, STIMULATING IDEAS AND A GOOD ENOUGH CAPTURE OF THE "MOOD" OF THE SECTOR AND, INDEED, MEETING FUNDERS IN A NEUTRAL AND FRIENDLY WAY, THAT IT WAS WELL WORTH MY ATTENDING.

ATTENDEE LIST

ATTENDEE LIST

CONTRIBUTORS

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ATTENDEE LIST

FIRST NAME	SURNAME	ORGANISATION
Shamiela	Ahmed	Heart of England Community Foundation
Maruf	Ahmed	Options for Life
Nadia	Ahmed	Pohwer
Stuart	Ashmore	SCVO
Hannah	Asprey Smith	National Lottery Community Fund
Jacob	Ayre	Wesleyan / Heart of England Community Foundation
Abbas	Baig	Refugee and Migrant Centre
Mary	Bairstow	Jigsaw Events
Alex	Ballinger-Chaudhary	St Germain's Emotional Wellbeing Service
Harpal	Bath	Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC)
Sami	Begum	Children in Need
Carla	Belle	Birmingham City Council
Thieba	Bibi	Green Square Accord - hall green Nns
Emma	Birks	Asylum Matters
Ann	Bolstridge	University of Birmingham
Niusha	Bonakdarian	Refugee Action
Claire	Bowry	The Eveson Trust
Annamarie	Brant	St Paul's Hostel
Simeon	Bright	Central England Law Centre Ltd
Susie	Bromwich	Kissing It Better
Gaynor Elizabeth	Brooke	Servol Community Services
Shari	Brown	Refugee and Migrant Centre
sue	Brueton	The National Lottery Community Fund
Brian	Carr	Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC)
Tony	Carr	Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC)
Lisa	Carroll	Lifespace Trust
Ed	Caswell	RBC Brewin Dolphin
Paulette	Chatwood	Wolverhampton City Council
Melinda	Connelly	BBC Children in Need

ATTENDEE LIST

FIRST NAME	SURNAME	ORGANISATION
Tina	Costello	Heart of England Community Foundation
Sarah	Cowley-Catchpole	Escape Arts
Claire	Dale	Carers Trust Heart of England
Phil	Done	Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC)
Rachel	Dutta-Choudhury	YMCA Sutton Coldfield
Stefan	Ferencz	Aston Villa Foundation
Sam	Flatley	Colebridge Trust LTD
Andrea	Gardner	Lifespace Trust
Cheryl	Garvey	Shakti Women in the Community
Elizabeth	Goodchild	Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC)
Lisa	Goodson	University of Birmingham
Ravi	Goyal	Horn Trust
Nikki-Dee	Haddleton	Steps to Work
Clare	Haines	Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust
Gurdeep	Hanspaul	Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC)
Siobhan	Harper-Nunes	Shakti Women Ltd
Jennifer	Harrison	North Smethwick Development Trust
Jennifer	Harrison	North Smethwick Development Trust
Warwick	Hawkins	United Religion Initiative UK
Faye	Hennessy	CAF Bank
Ian	Henshaw	Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC)
Andrew	Hitches-Davies	Architectural Heritage Fund
Andy	Hoole	Migration Policy and Practice
Helen	Hotchkiss	Belgrade Theatre
Helen	Jenkinson	Children in Need
Claire	Johnson	Birmingham Community Matters
Ben	Jowitt	CAF Bank
Helen	Juffs	Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC)

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FIRST NAME	SURNAME	ORGANISATION
Alicja	Kaczmarek	Centrala
Alice	Keil	Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid
Helen	Kelly	The National Lottery Community Fund
Catherine	Kelso	Stratford upon Avon Town Trust
Inge	Kettner	Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust
Zain	Khan	Heart of England Community Foundation
Sarah	Lafford	Heart of England Community Foundation
Rob	Langley-Swain	Purpose and Action Ltd.
Jackie	Lee	National Lottery Heritage Fund
Marcia	Lewinson	WAITS
Maureen	Lewis	Walsall Black Sisters Collective
Sara	Llewellin	Barrow Cadbury Trust
Taylor	McDonald	Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC)
Emma	McKay	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Lena	Mistry	Heart of England Community Foundation
Abdikhedir	Mohamoud	Horn Trust
Deepak	Naik	Together in Action Trust
Tracey	O'Brien	3C Solutions
ABIODUN	OLAITAN	RCCG CRA COVENTRY
Niamh	Oldham	Escape Arts
Natalie	Osborne	National Lottery Heritage Fund
David	Owen	Rubery Owen Holdings
Ethne	Owen	Rubery Owen Holdings
Wolfie	Papirnik	RBC Brewin Dolphin
Chet	Parmar	The Colebridge Trust Ltd
Keshena	Partridge -Bowie	Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC)
Angela	Pinfold	Make Good Grow

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FIRST NAME	SURNAME	ORGANISATION
Donna	Pryor	West Midlands Anti Slavery Network
Charles	Rapson	West Midlands Combined Authority
Lucy	Robson	Oak Foundation
Pauline	Roche	Northfield Community Partnership
David	Russell	291 Community Association CIO
Jovan	Samrai	West Midlands Anti Slavery Network
Brandon	Scott-Omenka	Carers Trust Solihull
Pritam	Singh	Drumatised
Surinder	Singh	The National Lottery Community Fund
Charlotte	Slater	Urban Heard CIC and Youth Opportunity Board Solihull
Rosa	Spawton-Rice	Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC)
Katie	Stafford	Get Grants Ltd
Claire	Stern	Central England Law Centre Ltd
Catherine	Stuart-Yapp	British Motor Industry Heritage trust
Tony	Thapar	National Lottery Community Fund
Kerry	Turner	Citizens Advice Solihull Borough
marie	von wurzbach	Refugee and Migrant Centre
Sarah	Wakeman	Carers Trust Heart of England
Lucy	Wells	Worcestershire Community Foundation
Adam	Wilkins	The Roughley Charitable Trust
Dorothy	Williams	Eric W Vincent Trust
Elvira	Wilson	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Leonie	Yeend	WCAVA

PRESENTATIONS LINKS

[BSol ICS Health Inequalities: an overview](#) by Salma Yaqoob ICS Health Inequalities Associate Director

[Overview of Youth Organisations across the West Midlands](#) by Youth Focus West Midlands

[Janice Nichols CEO Citizens Advice Birmingham](#)

[Emma Bates Central England Law Centre](#)

[Third Sector Trends 2022 New findings and current issues](#) - Tony Chapman, St Chads College, Durham University

[Birmingham Youth City Board Presentation](#)

[IVAR WM Funders Forum June 27th 2023 Opening Session](#)

[IVAR WM Funders Forum June 27th 2023 Workshop](#)

[Learning from Communities: responding to crises](#) - Mandy Wilson

[CAF Charity Landscape 2022 Report](#)



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