

York VCSE Assembly – Health and Care Funding

12 July 2023, 10am – 12pm, Main Hall



ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS / FEEDBACK

Question:

How do you want the York VCSE Assembly to manage funding opportunities going forward?

Feedback:

How the York VCSE Assembly manages funding opportunities:

- York CVS circulate the broad idea to York VCSE Assembly – contractual or grant opportunity, clarity and guidance on what works well so organisations can gauge whether they would apply.
- Facilitating joint funding bids to support smaller VCSE organisations.
- Application process around each specific project.
- Fair and transparent process; ensure good communications.
- Support is essential to the process.
- Establish a framework for the York VCSE Assembly to working within – not just one approach but a framework that each funding opportunity can be assessed against to decide how the funding opportunity should be managed.
- Make timelier asks - conversations at a really early stage - as soon as funding opportunity becomes available set-up a pre-application element – an information session to check eligibility and who is interested in applying or working in partnership (meeting/email).
- Capacity is an issue, could Two Ridings do more? Is there a way of having another funder hold monies in order to join up to avoid duplication and bringing grant programmes together?
- Encourage joint consortium bids.
- Enable bidding direct to funder e.g. York Health and Care Partnership not necessarily via York CVS.
- Consider targeting proportionally to size/income of organisation locally.

- Help us to be able to use different metrics from NHS/care (where appropriate) to help achieve their personalised care ambitions.
- Proposals – we need to move away from crisis response / reaction to avoid ‘mopping up’. Positioning ourselves as ‘prevention’ through good communications and the language we use.
- All proposals need to align to health priorities. Can have more than one proposal per organisation.

Funding Environment

- Sometimes organisations are put off because they know they can never compete.
- Feedback is really important for unsuccessful applicants. When unsuccessful, could they be signposted to other opportunities?
- Smaller organisations feeling trapped – resources needed to apply and make things happen to be eligible for funding but without funds it's difficult to grow. Need organisational development grants to help – role of York CVS improved to offer more support.
- Difficulty of recruitment based on small short-term funding and not knowing where funding is going to come from.
- Short-lived grants – proposals are time limited which means you have to constantly check in.
- Co-production / participatory grant making could be developed further to address power imbalance of what is needed on the ground and not always coming up with new ideas. The structure takes time to establish and resources are needed to be in a position to be able to support this.
- Collating data to demonstrate impact across the system/locality and benefit for each other, not just always organisation specific. Bringing data to the forefront to demonstrate saving. Share what data we have collectively e.g. small local organisations and national data. Include the voice of beneficiaries and patient experience.
- Size of grants – needs to be a mixture depending on need. Benefit of collaboration between national/small local organisations.
- Always focusing on the ‘new’ thing risks people losing part of their service that is working and successful because having to chase funding. How much can you do with ‘one-off’ pots of funding within a short timeframe and introducing something new?
- Applications cost - time and resources. Join with other funders to create common processes.
- Have we got organisations that are addressing the environmental/wider determinants of health?

Funding Criteria:

- Consider local need, the benefits and how project will be delivered and not on the size of the organisation. Overheads from national charities can be high and reserves need to be high but this doesn't reflect the local picture. Money could be ring-fenced for commissioned services. Local issues and themes, how do we elevate/share these with funder?
- Ensure due diligence – trade record, tight criterion regarding eligibility.
- Focus on the most efficient use of the money – local organisations might have more attention to detail
- Presentation of the project – decision make sure on merit and numbers. Merit – impact and sustainability.
- Ensure conditions, targets and outcomes are clear from the beginning of the process and keep the process succinct and efficient e.g. save previous funding big information on file.