

From: The Digbeth Trust

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DIGBETH TRUST CELEBRATES BIG LOTTERY BASIS GRANT: PLATFORM - SUPPORT FOR SMALL VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR ORGANISATIONS

The Digbeth Trust is delighted to announce that it is one of the two voluntary organisations in Birmingham to have been awarded a 3-year grant under the WM7 theme (projects that will increase infrastructure services for the full range of small VCS organisations) of the BIG Lottery BASIS programme. The aim of the project to be called 'Platform' is to increase access by small VCS organisations across Birmingham as a whole to infrastructure support by building on the platform of their existing strengths and capacity.

The project will formalise links with existing basic capacity building service providers with the aim of developing a seamless pattern of service for smaller groups. Funding will provide 6 part-time Development Workers based with 6 of the project partners (The Digbeth Trust, Birmingham New Communities Network, Women Acting in Today's Society (WAITS), Disability Support Group, Birmingham Association of Neighbourhood Forums and Community Network for Birmingham). The project will also provide training for people involved in small groups to become community researchers and consultants through the Centre for Community Research and the Chamberlain Forum. Finally there will be an innovative strand in the project to share good practice from community of place-focussed working (e.g. the Guide Neighbourhoods).

Further details: Pauline Roche, Chief Executive, The Digbeth Trust 0121 753 0706

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EDITOR'S NOTES

1. **BASIS (Building and Sustaining Infrastructure Support)** is the first Big Lottery Fund programme to focus solely on developing voluntary and community sector infrastructure. The scheme aims to fund a more expert, consistently available and sustainable set of support services for front line voluntary and community organisations across England.
2. The Digbeth Trust is a development support agency which builds the capacity of small groups in Birmingham and the West Midlands who are seeking to develop community facilities and services. More information on www.digbethtrust.org.uk
3. Birmingham New Communities Network is a coalition of over 60 migrant and refugee community organisations in Birmingham, which promotes new approaches to integration, social inclusion and cohesion.
4. Through Knowledge information and opportunity WAITS touches the lives of women changing their future by enabling them to overcome barriers so that they are able to make change individually or collectively for themselves, their families or their communities. www.waitsaction.org
5. Disability Support Group is a small business run by Disabled People for Disabled People - this funding will allow it to recruit its first staff member and will also allow it to become a charity.
6. Birmingham Association of Neighbourhood Forums is the organisation that represents and supports active citizens involved in 70 Neighbourhood Forums across Birmingham who work together to improve the quality of life of people in their neighbourhoods. www.banf.org.uk
7. Community Network for Birmingham (CN4B) is the umbrella body aiming to bring together and promote community networks in the city of Birmingham.
8. The Centre for Community Research (CfCR) supports the development of research capacity in organisations and communities by development of training, mentoring and ongoing support for groups and individuals interested in becoming 'community researchers'. www.cfcr.org.uk
9. Chamberlain Forum is the neighbourhood think-and-do-tank based in Birmingham which helps communities and public services work together to make better neighbourhoods. www.chamberlainforum.org