



# The Digbeth Trust

Active in Turning Community Ideas  
Into Community Action

## **CASE STUDY 3 – RYDERS GREEN METHODIST CHURCH DAY CENTRE**

### **WELCOME**

This is the third edition of our Case Studies Series which shows how we are helping voluntary and community-based organisations to have a lasting impact in their communities.

For more than 20 years The Digbeth Trust has been supporting groups and communities to fulfil their ambitions and realise their potential.

These case studies illustrate how our staff and quality-assured consultants have helped groups with:

- Feasibility studies;
- Architectural plans;
- Business plans;
- Income generation strategies;
- Organisational development and performance improvement;
- Other sources of funding and support.

The case studies also show how the grants we have made have helped groups to develop their capacity to deliver important services to their communities.

**Our third case study is the Ryders Green Methodist Day Centre – a thriving centre for older people based in West Bromwich.**

If you would like more information about how the Trust might be able to help you please contact us.

### **ABOUT THE DIGBETH TRUST**

The Digbeth Trust is a development support organisation offering services to **voluntary and community groups** and **public and charitable funders** across the West Midlands.

#### Our Mission

The Digbeth Trust exists to enable the development of an influential, effective, independent and sustainable voluntary and community sector across the West Midlands through the influencing of policy and the provision of expertise.

#### Our Services

We provide specialist support to voluntary and community groups through our register of quality-assured consultants, links to other sources of support and access to funds.

We are a not-for-profit charitable company and a membership organisation.

**To find out more about The Digbeth Trust and the services we offer please contact us at:**

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Fax: 0121 248 3323

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**website: [www.digbethtrust.org.uk](http://www.digbethtrust.org.uk)**

In 2003 The Digbeth Trust was managing the **Greets Green First Steps Project**, offering short term grant aided professional support to voluntary and community groups in Greets Green. The programme was funded by Greets Green New Deal for Communities. The Trust employed a Greets Green resident as a development worker, based within the area. As a result the project was able to quickly identify local voluntary and community groups that might benefit from support through this programme.

The Digbeth Trust supported the Ryders Green Methodist Day Centre with three consultancy grants between 2003 and 2006. The Centre first opened in 1984, based in the refurbished church hall of Ryders Green Methodist Church in Greets Green, West Bromwich.

The Centre provides full day care for older people who, as a result of a physical disability or mental health problems, find that they are housebound and isolated. It has 120 places with a staff team of 6 together with several volunteers. It works in partnership with Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council's department of Social Inclusion & Health and St John Ambulance.

Each phase of support that the Trust provided to the Centre was tailored to the needs identified by the Centre itself working closely with the Trust's development worker. The community development consultants who provided the direct support were chosen from the Trust's register of quality assured consultants. One came to this work with a management background in Social Services, ideally matched to the needs of the Centre.

Initially the Centre asked for help with fundraising. Although they were in receipt of 80% of their costs through a revenue grant from Sandwell MBC, Centre staff were left to raise the remaining 20% through raffles, bingo and a sandwich making service, activities both time consuming and exhausting for everyone involved.



**“I come to the Centre since I lost my husband. I like the company. The nurse advised me to attend and I am happy I did”.** Mrs P aged 82.



**“Many older people are now living longer but can experience quite severe mobility problems. Older people are often cared for by their families with support from Local Authority Social Inclusion & Health. Day care can provide a much-needed change of scene for an elder and a few hours respite for their carer, who is often an older person his/herself. Day care provides the opportunity for food (a hot cooked meal at lunchtime) companionship and practical, emotional and spiritual support.”**

The Trust recommended that the Centre received help as follows:

[1] a process of business planning to underpin [2] a funding strategy to help with a more structured approach to fundraising.

The facilitated business planning sessions identified that strengthening the management committee through training and a new constitution would be key factors to help to sustain the service. The Trust's community development consultant was able to deliver this wide ranging in-house support over a period of 24 days in 2003.

The third phase of grant aided support with a different consultant was direct help with large funding bids. **Since the Trust provided this support the Centre has so far raised over £54,000 from charitable trusts for revenue and capital costs including a mini-bus due to be delivered in October 2007.**

**“What a difference The Digbeth Trust’s intervention has made to Ryders Green, more particularly the 120 members who need our care each week. From the start staff at The Digbeth Trust were very helpful.**

The first consultant helped us to recognise our strengths and areas for improvement. We now understand the day to day nuts and bolts of the organisation. We were also helped to see the different training needs of the committee. From now on the committee will be involved in team training.

The second consultant who worked with us was ideal. The committee and staff appreciated his approach. He was realistic and able to see our needs and work flexibly with us. We have gained more knowledge of fundraising and how to go about it. We raised £1,000 from Greet's Green New Deal for Communities to pay this consultant to continue to support our fundraising endeavours when his grant-aided time was completed.” Pat Briscoe - Manager



**“Older people are collected from their homes in a tail-lift minibus with a driver and escort to assist. The Centre is open from Monday-Friday 9am – 5pm and members attend 1, 2, 3 or more days depending on their level of need. Some elders have no family support and the Centre provides the opportunity for relationships to be formed.”**



**Ryders Green Methodist Day Centre  
Greet's Green  
West Bromwich  
West Midlands  
B70 0AW**





## PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL AID SERVICE (PTAS)

connecting the  
voluntary sector with  
consultants' expertise

PTAS offers:

- to voluntary and community groups: access to quality-assured consultants who can help you to improve your services and organisation;
- to consultants: access to a wide range of opportunities to make a difference to voluntary and community groups;
- to other partner organisations (including funders and statutory authorities): access to our database of quality-assured consultants to help with needs assessments, service evaluations, etc.

PTAS is a **free** service for voluntary and community organisations in the West Midlands. Currently we can only fund a small number of consultancy each year. However, for every group that contacts us we will:

- Assess your needs;
- Help you write a consultancy brief;
- Help you find a quality assured consultant;
- Give you advice about how to manage the consultancy.

If we cannot fund the consultancy ourselves we will signpost you to other sources of possible funding or organisations that might be able to help free of charge.

For more information please contact us or see our website.

[www.digbethtrust.org.uk](http://www.digbethtrust.org.uk)

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## OUR APPROACH:

We aim to deliver real outcomes for the groups and partners we work with. Our approach is to:

- tailor our support to the specific needs of individual groups;
- work with groups to transfer skills to build their capacity;
- focus on sustainable development – so that groups and projects develop realistically;
- facilitate links between groups and the wider policy and funding environment in which they are working.

## OUR IMPACT:

Recent evaluations show that the Trust is:

- Effective at reaching marginalised communities and groups;
- An effective administrator of grant funds – delivering positive outcomes for groups, individuals, communities and funders;
- Effective at helping groups to build their own capacity – thereby having a lasting impact on the efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the groups we work with;
- Effective at helping to lever-in additional financial and non-financial resources to the sector.

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