



The Digbeth Trust

Active in Turning Community Ideas
Into Community Action

Update 2 – March 2007

WELCOME

This is the second edition of our Update. In this edition you will find out about:

- Our work on the new **Neighbourhood Performance Reward Grant** programme for Birmingham City Council;
- Our **Professional and Technical Aid Service** (PTAS);
- Our recent **Regeneration and Health Grants** round for the Heart of Birmingham Teaching Primary Care Trust;
- Funding opportunities from the **William Dudley Trust**;
- Our **policy and partnership** work.

Check out our website on a regular basis as we will keep it updated with information about our services and the work of others.

The next edition of this update will include some case studies of groups we have worked with – showing the achievements we have helped them to make for themselves and their communities.

We welcome your feedback on this update – and on all our services. Please contact us if you would like to know more.

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2007/08 ONWARDS

The Executive Summary of our new strategic plan is now available to download from our website. The plan sets out our aims, objectives and priorities for the coming year and beyond.

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:

Unit 321 The Custard Factory
Gibb Street
Birmingham B9 4AA

Tel: 0121 753 0706
Fax: 0121 248 3323

email: info@digbethtrust.org.uk

website: www.digbethtrust.org.uk



PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL AID SERVICE (PTAS)

Phase 1 of our PTAS service is now fully up and running. 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.

In the past 3 months alone we have circulated tender opportunities worth a total of £85,600 – covering a wide variety of activities, including:

- A crime audit for a community network;
- A programme evaluation for a partnership of voluntary organisations;
- An impact evaluation study for a local infrastructure organisation.

Our consultants register now includes architects, lawyers, planners, trainers, fundraisers, researchers and evaluators – as well as general management consultants. They are based all over the West Midlands including **Coventry, Walsall, Malvern, Stourbridge, Birmingham, Shropshire and Wolverhampton** – ensuring local knowledge as well as specialist skills.

We are currently developing the next phase of PTAS which will include:

- Providing a range of Continuing Professional Development services to our registered consultants;
- A feasibility study into the development of a skills brokerage service – to enable VCOs to share skills and expertise amongst themselves.

For more information please contact us or see our website.

This phase of PTAS' development has been supported by ChangeUp.



REGENERATION AND HEALTH SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

The Trust manages this £96,000 grants programme on behalf of the Heart of Birmingham Teaching Primary Care Trust. The final round of grants for this year's programme has just been made.

Here are some examples of the successful projects:

Fairbridge West Midlands - £5,838

To work with 'at risk' young people (aged 13-19) who are not engaged mainstream education, employment or training. They will participate in a series of healthy lifestyles activities, identify local services and produce a healthy lifestyles magazine, showcasing their work in a 'healthy lifestyles' themed community event.

B.E.T.I. (Birmingham Empowerment Training Initiative) - £6,000

Learning and Growing Together - Hindu women develop their "arranged marriage" sketch into a play to be performed in Birmingham – plus support for Arab women to produce their own sketches and promote health in their community.

The Rape and Sexual Violence Project - £5,335

To improve access for BME survivors by offering support and information in 5 South Asian Community languages, holding a BME focused launch event and consulting people about what they want from future RSVP services.

Somali Youth Development Organisation - £1,000

To work with the HOBtPCT to inform Somali families about training and employment opportunities in the local NHS.

Heart of Birmingham Teaching 
Primary Care Trust

Overall in this round we:

- received 194 enquiries for packs;
- held 7 briefings sessions to help potential applicants;
- received 56 applications.

86 people attended the briefing sessions, representing 91 organisations. 34 of those were given extra support in an additional one-to-one session totalling approximately 40 hours.



Some of the successful grant recipients attending the cheque presentation ceremony and monitoring workshop on 1st March 2007

NEIGHBOURHOOD PERFORMANCE REWARD GRANT PILOT

The Trust has been commissioned by Birmingham Community Safety Partnership to help them pilot a new way of supporting communities to become involved in tackling community safety issues in their area.

The groups participating in the pilot will be selected by the Council. The groups will decide what problems they wish to tackle and how they will do it. They will then take responsibility for overseeing the work with funding from the Council. If their project is successful in reducing the problem the group will be eligible to receive additional funding (a "reward grant") for further community safety work.

Our role will be to help build the capacity of the groups so that they can identify local issues and design projects to tackle those issues effectively. We will help them to develop the skills, systems and procedures to manage both their project and their organisation more effectively. We are providing a mixture of toolkits, one-to-one consultancy support and training.

If the pilot is successful the model will be rolled-out across the City.

This is an innovative and exciting project and is one of the pieces of work we are doing to help increase the ways in which voluntary and community groups can access public funding.

We will provide regular updates on this pilot project on our website.

If you are interested in talking to us about us undertaking similar work please contact James Fitzpatrick on 0121 753 0706.



THE WILLIAM DUDLEY TRUST

The Digbeth Trust administers the William Dudley Trust's grantmaking. The WDT funds groups in Birmingham and gives priority to smaller charities benefiting older people – those older people who are frail, housebound, at risk or experiencing ill health, poverty, disadvantage or disability. The average grant is currently £250.

For more information and application details please see our website or call us on 0121 753 0706.

ENTERPRISING COMMUNITIES – COMMUNITY INNOVATION FUND GRANTS PROGRAMME

The Trust manages a community consultancy grant fund on behalf of the Enterprising Communities Programme in Birmingham – using European funding.

Our Trustees can award consultancy grants to groups within the Enterprising Communities area to help them develop sustainable regeneration projects.

In the past 2 months we have awarded grants totalling £19,000. For more information about this programme please see the GRANTS page of our website.

CODE OF GOVERNANCE

As part of our commitment to continuing improvement, we are currently auditing ourselves against the Code of Governance which has been developed by the National Governance Hub. Following the audit we will be developing an action plan to ensure we address any issues it highlights.

You can find out more about the Code at:

www.governancehub.org.uk

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES GRANT PROGRAMME

We have once again been commissioned by the Heart of Birmingham Teaching Primary Care Trust to administer their Healthy Lifestyles Small Grants Programme in 2007.

The Healthy Lifestyles Programme aims to involve voluntary and community groups in tackling and preventing obesity by:

- Reducing barriers to and promote the uptake of healthy eating, and/or physical activity
- Increasing understanding of the barriers to healthy eating and/or physical activity
- Increasing skills and knowledge among communities
- Increasing support in communities for weight loss and management

To be eligible for funding, organisations must be a voluntary or community organisation based in the Birmingham wards of Aston, Bordesley Green, Handsworth Wood, Ladywood, Lozells and East Handsworth, Nechells, Soho, Oscott, Perry Barr, Sparkbrook and Springfield.

Grants of up to £7,000 are available.

The deadline for applications is midday on the 7th May 2007. You can get hold of a pack by phoning us on 0121 753 0706.

Heart of Birmingham Teaching 
Primary Care Trust

CHANGEUP SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

The Trust has been commissioned by the Birmingham ChangeUp Consortium to manage a new small grants programme aimed at improving the quality of capacity building services in the City.

The aims of the grants programme are to help capacity building organisations to:

- respond to new or emerging needs for capacity building support;
- enable small pieces of capacity building work to be piloted;
- fund time-limited pieces of work that will have a lasting impact on capacity building services in the City.

In order to be eligible for funding applicants must be a member of the Birmingham ChangeUp Consortium. The Consortium is a network of organisations that provide capacity building services to voluntary and community organisations (VCOs) in Birmingham. Membership is free and details can be found at:

www.changeupbirmingham.org/

There will be 2 grants rounds with deadlines of 26th March and 30th July 2007. You can apply for a grant of between £500 and £1,500.

Check out our website for more information.


Managed by Capacitybuilders
Supported by the Cabinet Office

21 YEARS OLD THIS YEAR

The Digbeth Trust is 21 in 2007. We plan to mark this occasion in various ways throughout the year. We will be contacting some of the organisations we have worked with over this period to ask them what difference our support made to them.

We are also preparing a special celebration at our AGM in November.

Please see our website for more information throughout the year.

We hope you will join us in celebrating our birthday.

POLICY DEVELOPMENTS AND EMERGING ISSUES

The Trust is playing an increasing role in policy work, for example through the Birmingham and Solihull Social Economy Consortium and the West Midlands Regional ChangeUp Group.

We believe that the next 12 months will be a crucial time for the voluntary and community sector as it faces the opportunities and challenges of:

- Increasing expectations to “professionalise” in order to deliver more public sector services;
- A move away from grant-funding towards commissioning and procurement;
- Changes in funding to the region from Europe and other major sources including the Learning & Skills Council and Business Links;
- An increased interest by public funders in social enterprise and transfer of public assets to the “third” sector;
- Changes to the funding and configuration of capacity building services.

As a voluntary organisation ourselves we will also face these challenges and we are working to ensure we are ready.

We will provide further updates through our website and this Update.

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS

The Digbeth Trust is a membership organisation. We currently have 102 members – the majority of which are voluntary and community based organisations.

If you share our aims and would like to support our work, please see our website for information about how to become a member and / or make a tax efficient donation.



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.

**The Digbeth Trust Limited is a company limited by guarantee registered in England No: 1985299
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