

Big Society Funding Outline Strategy



Company No: 07815137

Big Society Funding is a four-year old Community Interest Company set up to support the VCSE sector to build its capacity and encourage people and members of community groups to become 'Big Society' activists, community champions, leaders and fundraisers - finding a voice in shaping local services and increasing their ability to meet the needs of the disadvantaged communities that they are passionate about.

Through an approach of 'co-production', we aim to develop and roll out innovative, yet practical, solutions that help organisations, whose income is in decline and whose capacity requires strengthening, to deal effectively with pressing social issues and develop local services.

We run a number of inter-related innovative projects and services and offer consultancy and tools to voluntary, social enterprise and public sector organisations intent on creating social value to 'survive and thrive'.

It is important to state that we are working within a context of ongoing austerity and severe reductions to the financial income-base of the VCSE sector – a trend that doesn't look like altering for the next 5 to 10 years at least. The preceding period for this sector (commonly referred to as 'the good old days') saw unprecedented investment in the sector primarily through central government, local government and lottery funding, leading to a doubling of the number of charities to around 180,000 within 15 years. This enlarged sector required support and co-ordination and further abundant funds were made available through national programmes such as Capacitybuilders and locally via well-funded Councils for Voluntary Services. Today, these support organisations are under-resourced and stretched and therefore unable to deliver the support the remaining front-line organisations so desperately need. There is gap which urgently needs filling. This is the context in which Big Society Funding is working.... this is the gap we endeavouring to find solutions for. Our current work is focused on the East of England and London and occasionally further afield.

Our Portfolio of projects, tools and consultancy services are as follows:

Strand	Project Name	What It Is	Potential Development Funding	Ongoing Income
People	Fiery Spirits & Inclusive Communities	Mobilising people from all communities, especially those most disadvantaged, as community activists, leaders, fundraisers and enterprise champions	Comic Relief, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Big Lottery Fund (BIG), Young Foundation, LEPs, Lloyds Foundation, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, local Community Foundations, Evelyn Trust & Tudor Trust	Client fees
Places	Big Society Community Hubs	Creating inspiring spaces for people to work, learn, share and build communities and enterprise together - including EU ideas and creativity exchanges	Charity Bank, Triodos, Social Investment Business, Venturesome, BIG loans fund, LEPs & EU funding streams e.g. LEADER, Building Better Opportunities	Client fees
	Big Society House	Creating international opportunities for groups of fiery spirits to come together for creative and productive personal and organisational development opportunities	LEADER	Client fees
Funding	My LEP	LEP/EU Funding brokerage and support to the VCSE to contribute to growing the local economy	LEPs	Client fees
	Big Society Consortia	Creating bidding and delivery Consortia and Partnerships made up of large and small local VCSE organisations	Local authorities, public agencies & CVSeS	Client fees
	Big Society Bursaries	Capacity-building consultancy bursaries to deprived communities' organisations and groups	Pro bono support & advice	Grant funding
	Big Society Funds – New Grants and Income	Latest funding news in quick digestible format – straight to your Smart-Phone, Tablet or PC		Client fees
Resource sharing	Marketplace	Promoting via discussion, word of mouth and e-bulletins socially and financially beneficial opportunities for our members		Client fees