

The Freshwater Foundation

Who are we and what do we do?

- ❖ A small grant making charity based in Ealing, offering funds to community and voluntary groups in Ealing & Hounslow
- ❖ We've only been going a year or so, we're still finding our feet and we're only slowly coming to the attention of people in the area...

! *But!*

- Despite our small size and tentative start, our ambitions are considerable:
 - ✓ Making grants is only the beginning...
 - ✓ We aim to be a body that supports groups in many ways: training in key areas of charity management and law, support and marketing services to groups.
 - ✓ More broadly, acting as a forum and focus where groups can come together, find common ground and perspectives and learn from each other – and talk to the world beyond...
- We come to these tasks with a curious mix of expertise and inexperience:
 - ✓ We have a strong background of expertise and professional skill in both education, business and IT and considerable legal and general knowledge of charities.
 - ✓ But – the detailed experience of actual groups and their wishes and aspirations is missing, and it is these that must drive our efforts.

Partnership is vital! My purpose today – to start to forge that partnership

Grant Making

Eligibility

- Promotes Voluntary Effort
- Small\Medium Sized Organisation
- £2K\£0.5K
- Charitable

See: <http://freshwaterfoundation.org.uk/grant-applications/>

Scrutiny

- Probity\Compliance
- Competence
- Benefits

- ✓ Application (you convince us)
- ✓ Visit (we help you convince us)

Partnership

Decision

- Board Decision
- Conditions
- Assistance\Training\Capacity Building

- ✓ Conditions (you assure you us)
- ✓ Assistance (we help you assure us)

Partnership

Training & Capacity Building

What's Our Expertise?

- Core Charitable Management\Legal
- Planning
- IT

What Do You Want?

- Are we on the right lines?
- *Provisionally*, yes (initial research)
- More research needed



Research Partnership

- <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TLYJT2L>
- Consult LB Ealing\LB Hounslow\CVS\Community Networks etc.
- Groups Funded

Decide Final Offerings



Delivery Partnership

- Courses (*your* needs*our* expertise)
- Seminars (*your* expertise*our* organisation)

Looking Ahead

The Prospects for Partnership

I've only been doing this job for a short while, but already it has made a very profound impact on me:

❖ Dynamic & Flourishing Local Initiative

- It is no exaggeration to say how staggered and inspired I have been by the enterprise, energy and passionate moral commitment of the groups I have so far met – it is just incredible what people are doing and I find myself elated and inspired to do better myself by their efforts.
- And my experience, and informed opinion suggest that this sort of initiative is on the increase.

❖ A Responsive Local Government Environment

- Again, I have been very impressed by the local government people in this area that I have met. No longer the top-down managerialists of the past, the concern now seems very much to empower and expand the voluntary sector in all its diversity, not control and contain.
- And broader expertise seems to confirm this: where central government flounders and loses trust, local government grapples more successfully with local problems and forges trust and partnership.

❖ *Where do we fit into this new partnership between the Voluntary and the Statutory?*

- I don't know! But I am convinced that organisations like ours can provide an important part in it, both as supporter and constructive critic of both, as conduit between the two and as a source of independent overview and vision – *and our charity's longer term aim is to continue to explore and develop this role – something we can **not** do alone.*