



## Summary report of previous funding rounds and projects

### 1. Overview of the Fund

The purpose of the Third Sector Capacity Fund is to build capacity to enable third sector organisations across the North East region to engage in sustainable economic regeneration and associated activities which support the aims of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES). The overall aims of the Third Sector Capacity Fund are to:

- Build the capacity of the third sector to engage and contribute strategically to sustainable economic development;
- Grow and demonstrate the contribution that the third sector makes to sustainable economic development;
- Develop or expand activities that lead to greater financial and/or organisational sustainability within third sector organisations.

To date the Third Sector Capacity Fund has allocated funding as follows:

- Total spend: £1,113,257
- Total Leverage: £1,642,028

### 2. Round One

In total, 65 applications for funding had been received by the deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009 for Round One, seeking a total funding of £6,916,882.

Of these, 27 applications sought funding under Strand 1 (*Collaboration, Partnership Working and Innovative Activities*); 14 applications sought funding under Strand 2 (*Reducing grant dependency and preparing for commissioning*); and 17 applications sought funding under Strand 3 (*Responding to the Recession*). The vast majority of applications (48) were for larger grants of up to £150,000 – with just 17 applications for smaller grants of between £25,000 and £50,000.

Summaries of projects for which funding was approved by the Grants Panel are provided below:

## Contracts Matter - Acumen Trust

Contracts Matter aims to create a regional facility to support the creation and management of a series of 'supply chain partnerships', that will work together on a case-by-case basis to bid for and deliver the skills and employability services tendered by public funders. It is a membership-based contracting entity designed to be sufficiently flexible to allow different types of contracting partnerships to be developed involving different levels of sub-contracting. The first element of the project is the 'contracting element', encompassing supply chain relationships that will be developed between lead providers, sub-contractors and suppliers. The second element is the 'Support Hub', which is essential to ensure the effective operation of the supply chain partnerships, and which is the focus of this application. The key aspects of the supply chain model are as follows:

- **Uniqueness:** The supply chain model will differentiate itself as a unique partnership of third sector organisations of all shapes and sizes, capable of truly engaging the 'hardest to reach' priority target clients in skills and employability contracts on a major, regional scale.
- **Sustainability and financial capacity:** Every contract will be held and managed by a large Third Sector Organisation (TSO) (and in some cases private and public providers) with proven financial capacity to manage large-scale contracts, and the cash flow associated with them. This will give funding organisations comfort that they are contracting with strong, viable organisations, while smaller TSOs will benefit from sub-contracting opportunities.
- **Effectiveness:** The model will be very responsive to contracting opportunities. Using the members database, Contracts Matter will broker the best possible delivery partnership to respond to ITT's.
- **Scale and leadership:** With the potential to bring together all TSO learning providers in the region, the model could win and deliver contracts on a very large scale. It will create a powerful focal point, capable of competing with large private and public providers for large scale contracts.
- **Membership and independence:** The Hub will be an independent legal entity in its own right, constituted and owned by its members. All members will have an equal stake in the company.

*The TSCF Grants Panel agreed that there was substantial evidence of need for a supply chain "match-making" service such as this. However, they also highlighted that many of the issues identified in this proposal concerning the third sector's ability and capacity to compete effectively for public and private sector contracting and commissioning applied equally to small and medium enterprises. As such, Business Link delivered a range of related and complementary provision as part of their mainstream service. The Panel also emphasised the importance of linking up this service with NESEP provision.*

*Overall, the Panel felt that there was a convincing case for a project of this type that was time-limited and which could then become part of the mainstream business support offer. Subsequently the Panel decision was to approve funding of £149,909.*

### **Keyfund Social Licensing - Keyfund Federation**

This project's aim is to enable 1000's of disadvantaged young people to make an increased contribution to the economic development of the region by helping them to fulfill their potential and live sustainable and independent lives.

To achieve this, the project will;

- Formally partner with 8 VSOs in the North East over two years, using Keyfund's social licensing model.
- Strengthen the capacity of these 8 licensees (and our current one in Sunderland) to enable them to; diversify their income streams, raise their profile, increase their internal efficiency, evidence their impact, safeguard jobs, secure commissioning contracts with local statutory partners, add value to their current service delivery and compete with national youth organisations.
- Carry out a feasibility study to research how Keyfund can become a recognised and accredited programme for 'Foundation Learning Tier', developed by the DCSF (Department for Children Schools and Families). This forms the crucial first step for young people onto the QCF (Qualifications and Credit Framework) and forms part of the 14-19 vocational qualifications reform programme.

The licensees will in turn:

- Adopt and build upon a network of between 50 and 120 Keyfund members. Each member will be delivering the Keyfund programme directly to groups of young people and will be measuring the distance they have travelled in their development of 12 personal and social skills.
- Use a combination of the services and tools provided by the Keyfund Federation (developed with Round 1, Third Sector Capacity Funding) and their own local knowledge and networks, to strengthen the capacity of about 60 Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations (VCSOs) each. These VCSOs will be supported to provide higher quality services to their young people in the field of learning and development through the training and support provided to their Keyfund Members.

*The TSCF Grants Panel considered the Keyfund project proposal to be persuasive with the application demonstrating strong engagement with key disadvantaged groups in addition to extensive reach and impact. As such, it was the Panel's decision to approve the funding application for £125,000.*

### **Places for Everyone - PNE Group**

Places for Everyone aims to support Third Sector organisations to deliver successful capital development projects by increasing their awareness of the process, minimising mistakes and building their confidence. The programme has been

developed in partnership with the Development Trusts Association (DTA), Pentagon Partnership, Mosedale Gillatt Architects (MGA), the Big Lottery Fund, VONNE, Rowan Farm Management Consultants and Five Lamps. The three-year project is aimed at Third Sector organisations who are considering any type of physical regeneration project, from refurbishment and redevelopment of existing buildings to the construction of new buildings.

Places for Everyone comprise of seven key stages:

1. 'An Introduction to Capital Development' workshops
2. A practical toolkit
3. Access to one-to-one support
4. A small 'last chance' feasibility fund
5. Access to a bank of expertise and experience
6. An evaluation project to measure the impact of capital development in the region (to support funders in allocating resources)
7. A capital fund (future aspiration)

*Given the promotion by Government of asset transfers between the public and third sectors, the Panel considered this to be a potentially valuable project. Some concerns were raised about whether it would have sufficient regional reach and it was important, therefore, that PNE built appropriate strong relationships across the Durham and Tees Valley areas to complement the provision in the north of the region. The proposed level of funding earmarked for the Feasibility Fund element of the proposal was also questioned as it seemed low when looking at the typical costs associated with capital project feasibility studies.*

*The Grants Panel decision therefore was to approve the funding application for £148,700.*

### **Five Lamps Community Finance: Great North East Loan Fund - The Five Lamps Organisation**

Five Lamps, the only CDFI delivering personal financial services in the North East, is seeking to establish a regional loan fund which offers accessible, free face-to-face money advice; access to banking and access to affordable credit. Services will be provided to low-income and financially excluded individuals.

This project already has a £1million loan fund with associated revenue support and is working closely with the DWP Financial Inclusion Team with a view to expanding geographic coverage into Newcastle upon Tyne and other areas of the region not yet covered.

*The TSCF Grants Panel felt that there was a real need for a regional project of this nature to support and assist vulnerable, low income and financially excluded groups across the region and Five Lamps had an impressive track record in this field. Even at the best of times, these groups find it difficult to access appropriate support – whether it is financial or money advice, training or access to affordable finance –*

*and this has been particularly exacerbated by the impact of the economic recession. In light of this, the Grant's Panel decision was to approve the funding application for £130,000.*

### Round One Project Summaries

Project	Grant	Leverage	Strand
Acumen	149,909	129,081	Reducing grant dependency and income diversification
Keyfund	125,000	120,000	Collaboration and partnerships
Five Lamps	130,000	847,000	Responding to the recession
Project North East	148,700	24,000	Reducing grant dependency and income diversification
<b>Total</b>	<b>553,609</b>	<b>1,120,081</b>	

### Round One project outputs

	Jobs created	Jobs safeguard	Skills	Employ support	TSOs supported
Acumen	2	0	155	0	70
Keyfund	1	0	1312	0	408
Five Lamps	20	8	800	0	20
Project North East	0	0	200	0	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2467</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>698</b>

### 3. Round Two

In total 84 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) were received for Round Two. 36 of these were submitted under Strand One (Collaboration and Partnership Working), 30 under Strand Two (Responding to the Recession) and 18 applications under Strand Three (Innovation), with a combined total request of £8,486,326. This is over nine times the funding available for round two, and is considerably more than the entire value of the Fund.

Following the EOI assessments, 22 applicants were invited to submit a full application, for the deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> October. Of these, 21 submitted full applications.

At the Grants Panel meeting, on 21 October 2009, the following 5 projects were approved.

#### **ASPIRE2B – The Angelou Centre**

This project builds on the findings of the Aspire2 project which explored barriers faced by BME young women in achieving career aspirations. Aspire2B is engaging young BME women, those born in the UK and those arriving as spouses, in Newcastle. It will extend the services and activities developed in Newcastle across the North east region focusing on localities with significant BME populations- South Tyneside (Apna Ghar), Sunderland (BME Network/Sangini) and Tees Valley (BME Network/Tees Valley Women's Centre). The project will enable women to develop their knowledge, skills and confidence for engaging in economic activity through:

- Delivering culturally informed and customized information advice and guidance;
- Confidence building and personal development through motivational coaching;
- Working in partnership with FE institutions to deliver training in basic (ESOL, literacy and numeracy) and vocational qualifications, for example, NVQs in Youth Work, Childcare etc;
- Community based events to address religious and cultural barriers –Mothers and Daughters Events; and
- Influencing communities and mainstream agencies to recognize and address the barriers faced by BME young women in realizing their economic potential- through events and seminars.

*The TSCF Grants Panel was positive about the value of The Angelou Centre's project to explore and dismantle barriers for young BME women wishing to enter the labour market, but expressed some concerns around elements of the application. It was noted that the North East Regional Improvement Partnership had a stand of activity specifically targeted at the BME community. As such the Panel decision was to approve the funding application for £143,348.*

### **AIM – West Middlesbrough Neighbourhood Trust LTD**

A team of local young people will be recruited and trained to become Young Employment and Debt Advisors (YEDA) , and will develop and implement an effective service of engagement, Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) and support to young people aged 16 – 25 who are classed as NEET or at risk of becoming NEET. The IAG and support which will be delivered through the project will be in respect to financial/debt awareness and barriers faced by young people in relation to debt and employment. They will engage and work with the target group providing a peer mentor service in relation to debt and employment issues faced by young people. The project will also signpost to relevant services where more intensive support is necessary.

In order to engage with the target group, links will be created with voluntary, statutory and third sector agencies who are working with or in contact with the target group defined as 'hard to reach'. This project will broker the link between young people and service providers by the uniqueness of the peer led methods of engagement.

A significant element of the project is to deliver a 'Financial Awareness' training programme to young people to enable them to develop tools and techniques for empowering themselves around their finances. These young people will have the opportunity to gain an Activities or Peer Mentoring ASDAN award. A toolkit and support programme will be developed to support young people in taking more control of their money, which will aid the sustainability and replication of the project.

*The TSCF Grants Panel found much of value in this project's proposal to develop a model of peer-led employment and debt advice to support young people and the NEET cohort in West Middlesbrough. There was particular interest in the potential of this model and the extent to which it could be rolled out across the region and other areas as an example of best practice.*

*Subsequently, the Panel's decision was to approve the project application for £150,000.*

### **Collaborative Directions 2 Work – Street League**

Working in collaboration with a diverse range of partners, the project will engage 16+ NEET individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds in an innovative sport and education programme, with the overall aim to increase the number of young people engaged in education, employment and training across the North East.

At present in the North East, SUNEE is delivering a football for development project known as the '2nd Chance Programme' involving football coaching and multi-sport activities based at the universities for referrals from local Drug Intervention Projects and homeless hostels. Street League will be developing on this existing provision by incorporating Street Leagues full delivery model and increase capacity of the

programme.

Through this partnership, Street League will develop and add greater value to their '2nd Chance Programme' from football coaching delivered by university students, to professionally delivered weekly structured football, fitness and multisport sessions by professional full time FA qualified coaches. Specifically, this funding will facilitate the provision of Street League's successful Directions 2 Work programme in the North East to further enable target groups to gain the skills and qualifications needed to move into sustainable positive outcomes, and reach their personal aspirations and goals by being fully supported at every step of their journey.

The partnership between SUNEE and Street League will vastly increase existing provision by increasing numbers engaged; expanding services into surrounding areas and engaging additional target groups. All services will be delivered by our experienced staff who have the experience and expertise of working with the hard to reach client groups.

*There was widespread enthusiasm from the Grants Panel for this project, particularly with regards to its relevance to the REF and the potential of the project to engage the hard to reach NEET cohort. It was noted that the project had been widely successful in London. Richard Walton informed the Panel that the Northern Rock Foundation had previously rejected a funding bid from Street League as their intention to employ coaches did not fit the funding remit, but would recommend that the TSCF approved funding.*

*The Panel's decision, therefore, was to approve the funding application for £105,300.*

## **Groundwork North East**

### ***The Community Recycling Network North East***

The Community Recycling Network North East (CRNNE) will be established to assist, support, co-ordinate, promote and develop the regions community waste sector. It will be a membership-based organisation with members benefiting from both regional activities carried out by CRNNE and national activities carried out by the Community Recycling Network UK, through a reciprocal arrangement with CRN UK.

The CRNNE will ensure that the community waste sector is thoroughly consulted with and has a direct channel in to regional initiatives that affect them both directly and indirectly. A CRNNE would also act as a filter and distributor of information to the community waste sector, ensuring that the sector is aware of all regional and national issues that are relevant to it.

All activities will focus on the development of the community sector where organisations and groups have objectives and activities that relate to waste, better use of resources and environmental stewardship and will work towards the creation and safeguarding of jobs. Training will be developed specifically for the community

waste sector and delivered by partner organisations and experts in the region. The training topics will include:

- Waste Awareness
- Local Authority Procurement and how to win Contracts
- Waste Legislation and regulation
- General business issues and increasing business opportunities
- Networking, sharing information and creating beneficial partnerships
- Applying for funding

The CRNNE will offer the above part of the community sector a central point of contact that will lead to greater co-ordination and encourage the sharing of best practice and ideas, effective networking and the sharing of resources and equipment to encourage economies of scale and increase the sustainability of community organisations.

### ***Green Communities: Learning to Live Differently***

Our economy and our environment are changing. The North East needs to respond to these twin challenges in innovative ways to maximise opportunities to bring these two significant development areas together for joint benefit to the economy and to the environment. This project directly responds to the recession by delivering activity to support those who are out of work but 'job ready', it will support progression towards new employment opportunities for those people furthest from the labour market and opportunity to develop new 'Green Job' opportunities.

This will include:

- Development of a network of 'Green Communities - Climate Change Advisors' (employed staff and volunteers) who will work in partnership with residential and commercial partners to develop and then deliver small scale improvements to increase their resilience to climate change effects
- Delivery of relevant training and development to equip staff, volunteers and beneficiaries with the skills for future emerging job opportunities and the 'Green Jobs' sector
- Delivery of accredited and non-accredited environmental training and awareness raising, to communities and business to improve knowledge of and resilience to climate change in the region.

*The TSCF Grants Panel felt there was significant opportunity for complementary activity and synergies between the 'Learning to Live Differently' project and Groundwork's first application (The Community Recycling Project). In light of this, it was the Panel's decision to request that Groundwork considers combining both applications into a single project application.*

### Round Two project summaries

Project	Grant	Leverage	Strand
WMNT	150,000	42,400	Responding to the recession
Groundwork	111,000	147,000	Responding to the recession
Groundwork	50,000	25,000	Collaboration
Angelou	143,348	248,963	Responding to the recession
Street League	105,300	58,584	Collaboration
<b>Total</b>	<b>559,648</b>	<b>521,947</b>	

### Round Two project outputs

	Jobs created	Jobs safeguard	Skills	Employ support	TSOs supported
WMNT	4	2	112	20	20
Groundwork	2	3	400	30	40
Groundwork	0	1	90	0	40
Angelou	0.5	0.5	150	150	15
Street League	1	1	335	0	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>1087</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>180</b>