

Well Street Common Neighbourhood: Funding and Development support

Our priorities for funding and development work

Fears about what it takes to secure funding remains an obstacle for many local groups and organisations in need of financial support. Our aim is to build confidence and skills, addressing fears of failure and disappointment that stop many from taking those first steps.

Our priorities are to:

- A. **Make the best use of what is already in place and grow it.** That means helping existing groups reach out to new people who need their support; letting people know what's there for them; encouraging people to try new solutions.
- B. **Share knowledge and get the right training and skills in place.** That means getting different groups all working more closely together; building community confidence and knowledge in how best to fundraise through training and skill sharing.
- C. **Making sure people don't slip through the net.** That means making sure any member of the community including who are lonely, homeless, have learning disabilities, dementia or mental health issues (priority areas identified) receive the help they need.
- D. **Make sure nobody loses out because of change.** That means protecting existing help and the funding that pays for it.
- E. **Open up fresh spaces and partnerships.** That means looking again at relationships between people from different backgrounds, ages, abilities and wealth as well as challenging ideas about where activities should happen.

Programme of funding and development support

In November 2019, we met as the newly established funding and development working group to agree a programme of funding and development support for Well Street Common groups and organisation.

The programme below reflects local needs and current priorities identified through April's Open Space event, one to one mapping of approximately 40 local groups and organisations, and September's first Partnership meeting.

The programme will run for the period of the project to June 2020.

- **Fundraising training: what makes a good fundraising application?** Training aimed at addressing funding fears and building confidence and skills.
- **Fundraising surgery 1:** focusing on *Hackney's community chest fund* a maximum group of 5 will work through the funding application process. One to one follow up support will help completion of funding bids.

- **Fundraising surgery 2:** focusing on the *Awards for All* grant, this will be a session for groups with a funding idea and a budget in mind.
- **Organisational one to one development and funding support:** the Well Street Common survey and mapping has produced organisation specific plans identifying development and funding needs. The aim is to provide support and facilitate connections to meet gaps and needs where possible.
- **1:1 funding advice line support:** a monthly advice line service on the first Monday of each month will address questions and provide funding development support. This will also tie in with Hackney CVS's 'Critical friend' bid proof reading service.
- **Local 'funder' surgeries** from Well Street Common venues. Focusing on funders with a Hackney focus (including the National Lottery Community Fund, East End Community Foundation, Hackney Parochial Charities, South and West Hackney Parochial Charities) the aim is to build knowledge of what is available and help develop local funder relationships.
- **A collaborative bid for Well Street Common:** with high concentrations of temporary accommodation located in the area, the bid will seek to utilise local community spaces and activities to help address the complex needs of those living in temporary accommodation. It will develop 'hub' spaces for people to cook, share food, socialise, run homework clubs and access other activities.

Other priorities we believe need to be addressed include:

- Creating longer term fundraising and development support for the local area;
- Sharing locally focused funding information and tools;
- Holding lunchtime 'learning circles' to share helpful experiences and insights, for example, in making a joint funding bid;
- Building feedback opportunities with funders like Hackney Council, recognising the opportunity for collective feedback offered by the Well Street Common Neighbourhood project;
- Building opportunities for corporate funding support.