



the care forum
voluntary sector service

North Somerset Mental Health Network Meeting

17 October 2011

Attended:

Mark Ellis, Friend North Somerset Ltd; Janette Gaunt, Richmond Fellowship; Olivia Gore, Big Lottery Fund; Val Harris, Bipolar Organisation North Somerset; Gloria Ingham, Multicultural Friendship Association; Quentin Isaac, Somerset Racial Equality Council; Naftali Onchere, Mend the Gap; Andrew O'Sullivan, Quartet Community Foundation; Justin Parsons, North Somerset Council; Pauline Russell, The Bridge Project North Somerset; Chris Shepherd, Voluntary Action North Somerset (VANS); Jo Taswell, Alzheimer's Society; Gary Watkins, Friend North Somerset Ltd

Apologies:

Yvonne Bray, Regard; Nikki Edwards, National Autistic Society (NAS); Francis Gichamba, Flega Care Solutions; Roger Ingham, Multicultural Friendship Association; Jean Langmead, ; Alan Richardson, Crossroads - North Somerset; Martin Scott, Second Step Housing Association

Chris Shepherd, Voluntary Action North Somerset

Accessing funding is competitive and hard work. You need to know where to look for funding and Quartet Community Foundation and the Big Lottery Fund are the key organisations to approach for funding in North Somerset. Chris described the contents of the pack she had put together which included:

- "Funding central", NCVO's database which is accessible by everybody. It is free and easy to use.
- Sustainability toolkit. There is lots of useful information and there is a link to it from VANS website.
- E funding news, which is produced by VANS, but is not specifically about mental health. You can register to receive this on the VANS website.
- "Short funding search". This is specific to mental health and there are 30 Trusts you can go to.
- "successful funding applications". What you need to make sure is in place before you apply for funding. It is in easily accessible language. Normally this is sent to VANS members.
- North Somerset council search.

You can email your application for funding to VANS, so you can get help if you are new to it. A lot of groups have fed back and said how useful it has been.

Louise clarified that there is a link to "funding central" and the North Somerset council search from the VANS website. Chris confirmed this, they have done a small search and also a larger one covering national organisations Visit

<http://www.vansweb.org.uk/cms/index.php?page=pages-and-navigation>

Q: Is the amount of funding available steady?

A: A lot of trust funds have tightened their criteria and are now looking more closely at the accounts of organisations applying. They are also making their criteria more clear. Old trust funds drop off and new ones come in every day. Most small groups in North Somerset go to Quartet and medium sized ones to Big Lottery.

Q: Do they specify local organisations or can they be bigger organisations. The Alzheimer's Society is a national organisation, so we can't apply on a local basis for big lottery funding.

A: It will say if it is open to national funders. A lot of nationals have started breaking up projects to give a better chance of accessing funding.

Q: The Alzheimer's Association has business development managers in each region. A bid is going to "Silver Dreams" with one response from head office.

A: (Olivia) A lot of nationals apply for a project in every region.

A: (Andrew) Quartet funds activities in the old Avon area. It would depend on the activity. If it is a local organisation, it will have to have separate bank accounts etc.

Q: What about Gannett, which is part of the newsquest group?

A: Quartet only manages the national grants programme. You would apply to a local newspaper. Visit: <http://www.gannettfoundation.org/>

Andrew O'Sullivan, Quartet Community Foundation

Andrew is the Grants Officer at Quartet, dealing with North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Bristol. He has a colleague in Bath. Quartet is a community foundation and is part of a network covering the whole country. It is a small grants provider. They have fundholders who set up funds with them and build up permanent endowment funds. They provide a service for national organisations who want to make donations in the local area, such as Comic Relief. There is not a huge amount available at the moment. At the start of the year there are a lot of grants. The Express Grants programme is open at the moment. The small grants programme awards up to £2000. Grants are made to activities which are trying to tackle disadvantage in the local community. If an application is good and meets Quartet's basic criteria, they will try and fund it. There are trends which they are starting to notice. Increasingly, groups are applying more in order to cover core costs, usually in an attempt to bridge a gap. Community foundation trusts have been working in partnership with <http://localgiving.com/>. This site was set up by a participant in Channel 4's Secret Millionaire programme and is a not-for-profit organisation. The aim was to set up something similar to Just Giving, on a small local level. There are a lot of small groups, not registered as charities, and Quartet will vet them. The annual fee for being listed on the site is £72, although the first three months are free.

There are two to three grants programmes which will be running in the first half of the year, including Community cash (Comic Relief) and the University of Bristol grants programme (money raised in rag week). The online application form is on Quartet's website and is available in a downloadable Word version. The main part of the assessment asks groups to demonstrate a clear need for the activity in the local community.

Q: What are the average amounts awarded?

A: Up to £2000 on a regular basis. It depends on the application form. We look closely at cost breakdowns. Sometimes, we will give a contribution, rather than a full grant.

Louise: If you apply and are successful, can you apply again?

A: Each grant programme has a separate rule. With the Express programme, we ask people to wait twelve months. If a grant is awarded to a group in three consecutive years, we suggest they look at diversifying their funding.

Q: Do you fund ongoing activities?

A: It depends on the circumstances. There are guidelines in the Express programme, in case it's a core item.

Q: Quartet covers a wide area, would our organisation be viewed as two separate organisations?

A: Generally, some organisations cross the boundaries. Quartet could only accept one application from one group.

Q: How do you look at organisations based in North Somerset, but with a national or international reach?

A: Everything is focussed on the activity. It needs to be of benefit to people in our geographic area. It can open up grey areas if the group is a national organisation. We may be duplicating something in our area. If there is a strong base here and the activity is based here, it would broadly fit our grants programme.

Q: Can you explain the decision making process?

A: All the criteria is written down in the guidelines. Andrew breaks down the application and checks the track record and accounts of the organisation. It will go to panel (the Express panel is internal), then it will be prioritised at that time. It can be difficult at the end of the funding year. Sometimes the decision will be that there isn't enough money.

Q: Can you then keep it on file and notify them when there is funding?

A: That is not in place at the moment, but it is always worth talking to us. We receive a lot of applications and there are only two grants officers.

Q: What is the success rate?

A: Usually 60-70%.

A: Chris: The process of applying is very simple.

Q: Is there a specific inclination towards specific groups or any local activity?

A: It is really broad. There is a list of grants awarded on the website. The priority is on activities tackling disadvantage.

Olivia Gore, Big Lottery Fund

Link to presentation:

<http://www.thecareforum.org/assets/files/Volunatry%20Sector/Presentations/North%20Somerset/North%20Somerset%20Mental%20Health%20Network%20171011%20nn.pdf>

If you go to this page of our website www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/southwest in the bottom right hand corner you can sign up to receive monthly e-bulletin updates from the team here. This includes any new announcements, plus local case studies and help sheets.

Olivia works with the South West team, based in Exeter. Their role is to let people know what funding is available and feed into the assessment process. North Somerset is a development area. They are not getting as many applications as they would expect and have been working with VANS.

There are two main programmes:

- 1) Big lottery funding is the largest distributor of money raised from the sale of lottery tickets. All of the funding is aimed at disadvantage and there is a broad mission statement, the main areas are: carers; health; environment; general charitable/social activity. The end result/impact of the project is what they are interested in. The project needs to address one of more of the outcomes.
- 2) Awards for All. Applicants can apply for between £300 and £10,000. There is a very broad range of things funded under this. Projects have to be completed within a year and it is aimed at a new activity or expansion of what is already being done. You can re-apply to the

project for different activities. It is not aimed at ongoing staff costs, but one off, small scale projects. The success rate is approximately 50 percent.

It takes approximately six weeks for the award to be assessed. A guide is available on the website which gives an idea of what they are asking for. If approved, the grant money will be in the bank within two weeks. The assessment criteria are on the website. The key part is the section asking about the need of the project and how it involves a wide range of people. Some examples of health related projects that have been funded are:

- Westhaven Special School – cycling lessons for children with special needs and their parents.
- South Somerset Mind – wildlife volunteer activities for people with physical and mental health problems
- Street Children’s Centre – pilot project, counselling people on low incomes, with low level anxiety and depression.
- Relative support social group – funding of £382 for a Christmas event for parents and their carers.

If you are looking for more than £10k, for projects to be funded beyond a year or for core costs, then there is Reaching Communities. It is in two parts, one of which is for large building projects. There is funding from £10k to £500k. Up to £50k of capital funding can be included. It is essential that the project is helping those most in need. Users of the service need to be involved in designing and developing and evaluating the project. There needs to be a locally identified need. It can be used to fund existing as well as new projects. There is high demand for this. The first stage of the process is a filter and the success rate is 20%. The second stage is 30% to 50%, depending on the competition. If more than £300k is being requested, it needs to be a very high quality project. You can apply for different projects and hold more than one grant at a time. Projects for which grants have been awarded include:

- Cornwall, Gremlins: Sporting and physical opportunities for young people with a history of drug and alcohol abuse. Young people were trained to become community sports leaders.
- The James Hopkins Trust, Respite Centre, Gloucestershire: The grant provided more nurses and established a family committee, which showed user involvement.
- Plymouth Mind: Transformation to a more user led programme. A training and support programme for volunteers was established.
- Southmead Project: Aimed to improve the wellbeing of people who have been abused. Counselling was provided for members of the family.
- Devon Volunteering and Health: Aimed at isolated and socially excluded people. Befriending, support for carers etc.

£110 million pounds of investment is being made in the next few years in an older people’s programme. “Silver Dreams” was recently launched. It is being delivered in conjunction with The Daily Mail. Initial ideas are to be submitted by 28 October and ideas need to be described in one thousand words. Thirty ideas will be taken forward. Around five will be taken forwarded on a national scale and awarded up to a million pounds. Guidance notes, help sheets and case studies are available.

Q: What age do older people start from?

A: 50 and over.

Q: Louise: Is it five themes or five projects?

A: There are five themes to the programme, but the ideas going forward won't necessarily fit with those. It is five ideas.

Q: We have a five year business plan. Is it better to break it down into smaller chunks or better to present it as a single, large project?

A: It depends how much you are looking for and on what it is you want to do.

Q: Is voluntary and statutory sector partnership working prohibited?

A: No. A lot of our programmes are encouraging that joint working. As long as there is no overlap in funding something that is a statutory duty.

Q: Louise: Are you getting applications from organisations at risk of losing their statutory funding?

A: Yes, particularly in Reaching Communities. We are increasingly looking at what people will achieve at the end of the funding.

Q: Funding is difficult to come by. What is and isn't statutory funding is a grey area, do you have any advice?

A: It is difficult as it is always changing. Each local authority is different in what it will and will not fund. There is not much that the local authority is obliged to provide. The clearest example is that we cannot fund activities taking place during school hours.

Q: The idea we have is to help young people relate better to each other and build skills.

A: You need to make that very clear on the form and that you are using schools outside of school time.

Report back from the Mental Health LIT voluntary sector reps: Janette Gaunt

Janette is the new mental health LIT voluntary sector rep and has joined Martin Scott in the role. [Louise described the role of the LIT]. There is a monthly meeting, but so far Janette has only been to one. Primarily, there is a service user in care issue. The other main issues are:

- Patient and carer information. This information is complicated in the care cluster box.
- Getting information out in easier formats for carers.
- World mental health day. Friend put on an event in Weston.
- Kate Archibald fed back from the Carers Strategy Group. They are working on improving service user involvement and engagement.

The next meeting is on 15 November. If anyone has any issues, contact the Janette or Martin. Janette will send Louise the agenda, so she can circulate it to the network.

Report back for Shaping the Future of Mental Health in North Somerset meetings

Louise Hudson. There is a project group taking forward some of the changes around mental health provision in North Somerset. It is a multi agency group. The meetings are focusing on new clustering arrangements. Matters arising:

- The drafting of an appeals process for service users.
- A voluntary and community sector adviser, possibly Friend, to go to if you are not happy with your cluster allocation.
- The need for a clear guide in cluster allocation.
- A paper on mental health outcomes: how the third sector and others have to work smarter about how they present what they are doing. A clearer outcomes framework will be decided on.

Janette: The social inclusion group has been looking at outcomes which could be used across projects.

Louise: Workstream groups are currently beginning in the next few weeks: Workforce (staff support for the care cluster model); finance; transition, shared care pathways.

Kate and Julie will be coming to the next meeting on 10 January.

Information share

North Somerset BME Forum was set up five years ago. It is their anniversary on 19 November. There will be an event from 12 to 4pm at the Church Hall on The Boulevard. There will be an AGM and a celebration. The event will be very multicultural and they will be adopting a new constitution and charitable status.

Evaluation

What was the most significant outcome of the event for you?

- Good to get the support materials from VANS
- Learning more about the funding options.

Was the information provided by VANS useful (funding pack and talk by Chris Shepherd)?

- Yes
- Yes, but pack would have been fine on its own.

Are there any particular topics you would like to see covered in future meetings?

- Dementia provision. The closure of the Memory Clinic at WGH and what the future will be for service users now Clinic has transferred to Coast Resource Centre. Communication so far has been abysmal.

Are there any other comments you would like to make?

- Presentation from the big Lottery was excellent, clearly well prepared. Stood well above other presentations. More like this please.
- Care Forum are a strong player in the sector and would like to see more of them in North Somerset

Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 10 January, The Badger Centre, 10.30am-12.30pm.

Topic: Mapping the VCS and care clustering – Julie Kell and Kate Archibald. Contact Louise Hudson for further information.