



Transforming Local Infrastructure Funding Cluster

Case Study

TLI Funding Cluster and the Cross Sector Funding Group

This case study shows how shared goals helped to build strong relationships and enable high value collaboration between Wolverhampton's voluntary sector and Wolverhampton City Council.

Setting up the Funding Cluster

In 2012 the TLI Funding Cluster was established. Over 80 local voluntary organisations were committed to getting involved in collaborative funding bids that would benefit Wolverhampton.

Elsewhere Wolverhampton's Cross Sector Funding Group, with representatives from Wolverhampton City Council, Wolverhampton University, the Chamber of Commerce and Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council was being set up to increase the amount of external funding coming into the city.

This new group provided an ideal vehicle for the TLI Funding Cluster to get involved in strategic funding that would complement delivery of the city strategy. TLI Funding Cluster Lead, Colin Robinson explains:

"The fact that Wolverhampton's Cross Sector Funding Group began at the same time as the TLI Funding Cluster was happy coincidence. It meant we had a ready-made opportunity to develop a city-wide approach to strategic funding in partnership with Wolverhampton City Council. We didn't have to knock on the Council's doors – they were already there, willing to work together to meet a shared goal."

Collaborating on the first bid

The launch of the £165 million Big Lottery Fund, *Fulfilling Lives – A Better Start*, in October 2012 provided the first funding opportunity but tight

deadlines meant work had to progress quickly.

A bid team provided regular progress updates to the Wolverhampton Partnership and Cross Sector Funding Group. Voluntary sector involvement was a requirement of the fund, and a special voluntary sector event generated interest from several organisations wanting to deliver the project.

Colin takes up the story:

"Having submitted our expression of interest to the Big Lottery, it wasn't long before we found out that we were one of only thirty areas invited to submit a stage one application.

"At the time of writing our application is being finalised. Competition is high: only five local authority areas in the country will be selected to deliver the programme, which aims to improve the lives of babies and children up to three years old, over eight to ten years.

"We believe that our strong, local authority / voluntary sector working relationship gives us a good chance of a successful stage one application. Whatever the outcome, the seeds sown by the TLI Funding Cluster and the Cross Sector Funding Group will bear fruit as new opportunities arise."

More information

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