



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE NETWORK

19.11.15 at London Funders

Participants

Kerry	Luker	BBC Children in Need
Greg	Woolley	CAN
Sharon	Long	Children England
Ciaran	Rafferty	City Bridge Trust
Anne-Marie	Smith	City of Westminster
Chiku	Bernardi	Impetus - The Private Equity Foundation
Daisy	Boehm	John Lyon's Charity
Anna	Hoddinott	John Lyon's Charity
Erik	Mesel	John Lyon's Charity
Cathryn	Pender	John Lyon's Charity
Rebecca	Johnson	London Borough of Barnet
Jim	Minton	London Youth
Kirsty	Bowman- Vaughan	Money Advice Service
Rachel	Wharton	New Philanthropy Capital
Jenny	Oppenheimer	Pilgrim Trust
Alice	Millest	Social Finance Ltd
Melissa	Wong	Youth Music

In attendance

Camilla	Pallesen	London Funders
David	Warner	London Funders

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Ciaran welcomed everyone to the group and introductions were made.

2. Report of last meeting, 28th July 2015

The last meeting focused on homelessness and had a presentation from Helen Mathie of Homeless Link. There were no changes to the meeting notes.

3. Care Leavers – learning from the Impact Incubator work (Social Finance)

Social Finance is a not for profit organisation that partners with the government, the social sector and the financial community to find better ways of tackling social problems in the UK and beyond. We look at how the private and public sector can spend money more effectively and most known for our social impact bonds.

The Impact Incubator brings together foundations' expertise in tackling social issues and Social Finance's ability to develop and implement new social business models. The Impact Incubator has been supported to date by City Bridge Trust, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Tudor Trust



One of the projects the Impact Incubator has been working on is how to improve outcomes for care leavers. This is a collaborative project between Social Finance and a group of charitable foundations. The research process included research reports from other organisations, a survey of care leavers, interviews with service delivery organisations and advice from academics, think tanks and sector experts.

The themes that emerged in the survey included the importance of peer support, supported accommodation to enable care leavers to start to 'find their feet', accessible mental health support and safe/suitable housing. The variation between different local authorities and the services they provide was also evident from the survey.

One of the key learning points that came out of the process has been that there needs to be more sharing of best practice across local authorities and other stakeholders. Social Finance is therefore interested in setting up a 'data observatory' which collects and benchmarks LA performance and shares best practice. The current Business Plan outlines the key workstreams and actions in the coming months and suggests that this 'data observatory' should be piloted with 5-10 co-development LAs and then be followed by others after the first phase has been completed.

The project is currently both looking for funding and for any insights into how the project might work in practice and on the ground. If you have any recommendations or ideas, please get in touch.

4. Q&A and open discussion on care leavers and related challenges

The issue of lack of adequate housing, especially in London, was echoed by several in the group, and suggestions were made at the previous meeting that housing solutions for university students should be extended to young people enrolled in apprenticeships. Furthermore, the biggest providers of housing in London are currently coming from the private sector, which raises issues regarding the possibility of improving services.

Some attendees were wondering how they could get involved in funding projects if it is run by local authorities, as many funders are unable to fund local authorities.

The practical implications of the 'data observatory' were discussed. Questions around ownership of the data were asked, as some attendees felt that local authorities might feel reticent towards uploading information if it was hosted by central government. This might expose their services to future criticism in relation to targets met and spending cuts.

There has been a flurry of new 'knowledge hubs' and 'data centres' recently, and those working on this 'data observatory' would have to be mindful of this. It must be a centralised system with simplified information. Some attendees suggested that the 'data observatory' could host information on what good service looks like and what funders are looking for in this area of work.

Furthermore, more information on the care leavers' journeys in and outside of London would be helpful, as many children and young people in care have had complex journeys. Information from Department of Work and Pensions and Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services would also be able to be able to get more holistic information about care leavers and their developments.



Many local authorities have to outsource their care leavers' support to large charities. It looks as though only large charities are able to support in this area. The group wondered why smaller organisations were not able to provide services in the same degree as larger organisations. Some attendees were wondering whether there was a lack of the right type of expertise in smaller organisations and whether funders had an opportunity to fund capacity-building for these smaller organisations.

5. Quality Mark (London Youth)

London Youth will be celebrating the Quality Mark standard on 25th November. The London Youth Quality Mark is a bespoke standard to identify best quality services for young people. It has been developed by practitioners and young people within the sector. It measures the services according to issues such as safety and safeguarding, housing, partnership and engagement with young people.

The standard is an evidence-based portfolio model, which has been accredited by City and Guilds. The accreditation lasts for three years and has been divided between bronze, silver and gold. Bronze indicates that the organisation has met the basic requirements for accreditation, whereas silver and gold is awarded on innovation, partnership and young people engagement with the project. So far, London Youth has accredited over 200 organisations.

There have been three key findings so far:

1. The clubs and young people involved in the project have appreciated the encouragement from the funders, and have valued highly the non-monetary reassurance of this process.
2. Many clubs feel the process has helped them improve their services and some clubs have received more funding as a result of having all their policies in place (which is needed to reach the bronze standard).
3. The process has led to stronger partnerships as there has been collective sharing of experiences.

The main learning for London Youth has been that the renewals process has been challenging, as all clubs must renew every three years. This means repeating the process (which might take up to a year) every three years. Furthermore, London Youth feels the standard setting must become more digitalised as it is easier for organisations to do their accreditation online.

The real value of the Quality Mark is that it is establishing what quality is for funders and rewarding organisations where good work is being done for children and young people.

Several attendees highlighted that they valued the Quality Mark in their assessments for funding. Although it was not a condition for funding, it was definitely appreciated as a mark of excellence. Furthermore, funders felt that the organisations which have gone through the Quality Mark process were more aware of their policies and their organisation's remit. It was suggested that it might be good to have a workshop on the Quality Mark in more detail for Children and Young People funders to focus more on understanding the qualitative elements and how outcomes are measured. London Youth stressed that they would be happy for funders to attend an assessment visit to understand more about how the Quality Mark is assessed.

Several attendees mentioned that they thought it would be helpful if London Funders would be able



to endorse this process, amongst other accreditation processes and impact measurement systems, to enable quality services to receive recognition for their work. This would not mean that the Quality Mark would automatically make organisations eligible for funding, but it would highlight that funders are looking for quality. This could help with the criticisms against the charity sector and CYP services following the Kids Company backlash. The quality of services will become especially important as public funding is likely to decrease with the Comprehensive Spending Review (published on 25th November 2015).

6. Member news and update

The group updated each other on activities and current challenges:

- BBC Children in Need exceeded their previous years' income for their recent Appeal. The majority of their staff are moving to Salford, so they are currently moving the staff out of London. They could also finally announce a partnership with the Premier League on youth violence.
- CAN Invest is working on an early intervention fund which is being match-funded. The loans given through this fund are between £5,000 and £100,000.
- City Bridge Trust has been working on establishing three new Youth Foundations (with John Lyons' Charity, see below)
- Children England is reviewing several areas including the commissioning of young people services (report will soon be published), the relationship between youth work and early intervention, and areas within the voluntary sector.
- City of Westminster will be hosting a conference in January on mental health services and the invitations will be sent out soon.
- Impetus is currently looking at educational outcomes of their projects and has started mapping their impact journeys. They have completed 15 of these processes and it has been a powerful programme of work for the organisation.
- John Lyon's Charity has, together with City Bridge Trust, funded the establishment of three young people foundations; one for Brent, one for Barnet and one for Harrow. These foundations will focus on four priorities: their role as fundraising vehicles; their ability to provide venue-sharing services; capacity-building; and small grants. They will be bringing funders and local authorities together. These young foundations are hopefully the first of many, as there has been interest from other boroughs.
- LB Barnet are focusing on developing their 'youth zone', which is a new initiative offering a state of the art building with high-tech sports and musical production facilities for young people.
- London Funders are, amongst other things, working on the Review of the Civil Society Support in London. The Review will present the emerging findings at the conference on 17th December.
- London Youth is still working on the Vision for Young Londoners and anyone who is interested in getting involved is encouraged to get in contact. They are also focused on their Quality mark event next week (25th November 2015).
- Money Advice Service has recently published UK-wide strategy on financial capability and they are currently working on outreach services to improve financial education.
- New Philanthropy Capital has published a speculative report on the CSR which highlights some likely effects on the sector. They are also researching the impact of faith-based charities and have found that more than 55,000 charities are currently classified as faith-based. They will be



sending out a survey for these organisations and encouraged all attendees to forward this survey to any organisations involved in faith-based work.

- Pilgrim Trust has reviewed their priorities and will focus on early action/intervention in relation to girls and women. They will also focus at girls and women at risk (during transitions such as moving from primary to secondary school and leaving school).
- Youth Music has wrapped up their ‘musical inclusion’ programme, which included 26 projects. They are publishing their report that includes recommendations to infrastructure. They have also reviewed their funding priorities and they will now be focusing on early years, SEN, NEETs, economic cold-spotting and youth justice.

7. Any other business

Ciaran highlighted to the group, and especially to new members, that these meetings are meant to discuss any topic of interest, so any suggestions for future meetings are very welcome.

8. Date of next meeting

11th February 2016