**COLLABORATION IN ALL ITS VARIETIES**

**Facilitated by Yorkshire Funders’ Kath Lindley (Prosper Wakefield)**

**& Carla Marshall (Sir George Martin Trust)**

**Attendees**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Calderdale Council | Carly | Gonzalez |
| Coalfields Regeneration Trust | Allison | Carr |
| Community First Yorkshire | Carole | Roberts |
| Community Foundation Wakefield District | Lisa | Milburn |
| Friends of St Monica's Hospital | Jane | Wintermeyer |
| Friends of St Monica's Hospital | David | Kenworthy |
| Give Bradford | Fozia | Naseem |
| Help for Health | Andrew | Mould |
| HEY Smile Foundation | Nick | Middleton |
| The BRELMS Trust | Jill | Malcomson |
| The Wharfedale Foundation | Uell | Kennedy |
| Wrigleys Solicitors | Ian | Potter |
| Yorkshire Building Society Foundation | Rachel | Cooke |

**Informal information sharing on applicants & initiatives**

* Most people in the room were already doing some sort of informal information sharing with other local funders and/or agencies, local authorities and partners. These included:
  + Prosper Wakefield and Sir George Martin Trust sharing intelligence on Wakefield District charities which need support and match funding their work.
  + Wharfedale Foundation considering reccomendations on strong applicants.
  + Help for Health collaborating with other Hull & Humberside health organisations.
  + Give Bradford working closely with the City of Culture 2025 team and Calderdale Council on the Year of Culture to ensure a strong legacy from these events and more support for small, local arts and culture groups.
  + Yorkshire Building Society Foundation brought in a team of Bradford third sector and funding ‘experts’ to enhance their knowledge and understanding of which applicants they should consider for their new, large, funding round.

**Established partnerships**

* A couple of funders had more established collaborative partnerships, including:
  + Friends of St. Monica’s Hospidal working with the five doctor’s surgeries in Easingwold and the wider NHS.
  + Prosper Wakefield and Community Foundation Wakefield District forming the funding collaboration with the frontline charity, Zarach, who provide beds, clothing, household goods and support for families in need.
  + Everyone agreed that focusing on one social issue, in one local area will make collaboration more simple and is a good starting point.
* Wrigleys Solicitors advised that if you are taking part in a more formal partnership you need to check that your organisation’s deeds will allow this and consider putting a written agreement in place.

**Barriers to collaboration**

* Mindset of some trustees or higher-level staff in a funding organisation.
* Tunnel vision about impact measurement/evaluation and how this will be reported on if there are more than one funder or partner involved in funding an organisation/joint initiative. This is a particular issue for funders who have to measure social impact and have very specific outcomes that must be measured for all funding.

**What the group would like to see more of**

* Frontline charities and groups working together more and putting in joint bids when appropriate. Yorkshire Funders’ infrastructure support members, HEY Smile and Community First Yorkshire want to encourage groups to come together and not be so competitive.
* But when funders receive these joint bids they should look at them positively and not be focusing on any minor complications which might come about regarding outcomes data and evaluation. Put your trust in the collaborative group working together and commend their collaborative efforts.
* Funders leading by example and doing more collaborative work themselves, including pooling funds to have a great impact.

**What Yorkshire Funders can do to help facilitate more funder collaboration & pooled funding**

1. ***Start a regular Funding Opportunities Alert email*** 
   1. This could be part of the monthly e-newsletter or a stand-alone email which goes out to Yorkshire Funders full database.
   2. Yorkshire Funders work more closely with FAWN (Funding Advice Workers Network) and ask them to send them details on any frontline charities/groups which need support. Ideally a specific request such as X Community Centre in X requires a further £5,000 to complete the renovation of their kitchen and toilets which will ensure XXX local residents can use the venue on a weekly basis which will help to reduce isolation and improve their mental health and wellbeing. Or X in X need a further £20,000 to pay the salary of their charity manager for the 2025/26 financial year as their Lottery funding is coming to an end.
   3. Funders then contact the charity/group directly if they are seriously interested in finding out more about the organisation and are keen to fund them.
   4. The Alert could also include details of funder collaborations, where the funders are looking for other grantmakers to join an initiative and consider pooling their funds.
2. ***Add a Funder Collaboration page to the website*** 
   1. Add case studies of Yorkshire Funders’ members’ informal and more informal partnerships and collaborations to promote and inspire others to take action.
3. ***Hold a new workshop on Impact, Monitoring & Evaluation***
   1. Yorkshire Funders held a Does Impact Matter? session in March 2023 led by NPC

<https://www.yorkshirefunders.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/NPC-Yorkshire-Funders-Online-Forum-presentation-March-23-final.pdf> and an Aligned Reporting online workshop in April 2023 <https://www.yorkshirefunders.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/IVAR-Yorkshire-Funders-Workshop-on-Reporting_Final.pdf> which provided insightful reading material.

* 1. A new 2025 session could incorporate impact or outcomes measurement in relation to monitoring collaborative funding and initiatives.

1. ***Bring back the idea of a Yorkshire Common Reporting Form to the Aligned Working Network***
   1. When this was first discussed earlier this year, there wasn’t much enthusiasm for the idea and most people felt it would be too difficult to agree on a few questions for all, but most Yorkshire Funders’ members want to know: How did our money help the organisation and the people they support? so should it really be that hard?
   2. Carla and Kath to put this on the agenda for the 6th March meeting.