

# MEETING OF THE ENGLAND COMMITTEE

19<sup>th</sup> May 2021  
Microsoft Teams

## MINUTES

### PRESENT:

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| John Mothersole | Chair  |
| Rosie Ginday    | Member |
| Maggie Jones    | Member |
| Tarn Lamb       | Member |
| Kevin Bone      | Member |
| Ray Coyle       | Member |

### IN ATTENDANCE:

|                |                              |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Elly De Decker | Director, England            |
| Jon Eastwood   | Deputy Director, England     |
| Mark Purvis    | Deputy Director, England     |
| Sophy Proctor  | Deputy Director, England     |
| Katie Crystal  | Governance Officer (minutes) |
| Dominic Newlyn | Governance Officer (minutes) |

### FOR SPECIFIC ITEMS:

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Tamsin Shuker   | Senior Head of Evaluation                  |
| Hellen Kelly    | Funding Officer                            |
| Nicola Thurbon  | Senior Head of Regional Funding (Midlands) |
| Marc Elliot     | Funding Officer                            |
| Amanda Form     | Funding Officer                            |
| Allan Anderson  | Senior Grant Making Manager                |
| Greg Westwood   | Funding Manager                            |
| Abdou Sidibe    | Head of Regional Funding (York & Humber)   |
| Rachel Stephens | Head of Funding                            |
| Kieran Lewis    | Funding Manager                            |
| Sarah Gibbs     | Head of Programme Development              |
| Roger Winhall   | Head of Funding                            |
| Steve Lowden    | Funding Officer                            |
| Sarah Pattinson | Funding Manager                            |

## 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all. Apologies were received from Ruhina and Kim.

### Declarations of Interest

1.2. There were no declarations of interest.

### Minutes of the Meeting Held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2021

1.3. The Minutes from the meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2021 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

## **Matters Arising**

- 1.4. The Committee had previously taken a decision via correspondence on an application from Contextual Safeguarding in the VCS. The Chair confirmed for the record that the Committee had agreed to reject the application.
- 1.5. Elly provided the Committee with an update on the open actions. The members were informed that Cassie will be invited to EC in September to update Committee on any developments from the UK portfolio.
- 1.6. Elly also noted that EDI updates are now embedded in the England Portfolio updates, meaning action 211 on the log could be closed. Best practice for circulating papers to the Young People in the Lead participants is currently being explored. The July meeting will include reflections on the Young People in the Lead programme and its progress into the second year.
- 1.7. **ACTION:** Reflections on the Young People in the Lead programme and its progress into the second year to be on the July agenda.
- 1.8. The Chair noted that the Committee would like to communicate with the Fund's Heads of Regions and their equivalents regarding the decisions and discussions that take place in each meeting. It was proposed that the Committee would draft a two page note to staff following each meeting which would detail the context of the conversations held.
- 1.9. **ACTION:** Committee to send communications to Heads of Regions and equivalents following each meeting. Communications to detail the context of decisions and conversations.
- 1.10. Elly informed the members that a paper addressing federated organisations would be brought to EC in September. The paper will explore the Fund's appetite for engaging with these larger organisations as we move out of the pandemic.
- 1.11. **ACTION:** Paper on federated organisations to come to EC in September.

## **2. UPDATE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

- 2.1. Tarn noted that the women and girls programme is coming to an end across the country. Advice on this should be provided to the relevant members of staff. Elly informed the members that the teams are looking at funding priorities in this area.
- 2.2. It was noted that the Chair of the Board, Blondel Cluff, had visited Wolverhampton HeadStart with the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. This was very positive for all involved.
- 2.3. Ray has been in touch with the A4A team. Applications are increasing and the teams are working hard to ensure demand is met. Mark Purvis agreed to meet with Ray to discuss.

- 2.4. Maggie had met with the Yorkshire and Humber team. The team is currently discussing a strategy for balancing applications for post pandemic recovery and non-Covid related grants. The Committee was interested in knowing if there was a Fund-wide approach to this or if it is to be determined by each team. Jon informed the members that there is a clear narrative in England surrounding funding priorities. ESMT is working with teams to understand the narrative as well as the data surrounding the priorities.

### **3. ENGLAND UPDATE**

- 3.1. Elly provided the members with an update on the England portfolio. In the last month of the previous financial year, the teams committed a record £86.2m. In total, England committed £538m to 14,821 organisations in the last financial year. Additionally, of the 14,821 grants awarded last year, 10,492 were for less than £10,000 and 4,329 were for over £10,000k. Eighty-four percent of awards made were to organisations with incomes below one million pounds.
- 3.2. Overall, funding was aligned with the Fund's regional indicative allocations. The Committee noted that, when compared to other areas, London appeared to be overserved and some regions outside of London appeared to be underserved. Elly informed the members that the teams are exploring ways to address the imbalance. Elly also noted that the numbers are slightly skewed by national partnerships and do in fact more closely match the indicative allocations.
- 3.3. Elly noted that working with others during the emergency allowed the England portfolio to reach communities most impacted by the pandemic. Though significant improvements have been made, the numbers indicate the need for a continued focus in this area going forward.
- 3.4. As expected, the new financial year has been busy for the teams due to continued pressures in the sector. The demand for funding remains high and the teams are continuously working through applications. Additional clarity for teams regarding the repositioning of the Fund following the emergency response is also being provided. The England narrative previously discussed with Committee will focus on a thematic approach that may help to manage demand in the coming months.
- 3.5. The Committee was provided with an update on NLA4A. The teams currently have additional temporary support to address the closure of the CCSF programme. Applications continue to shift towards traditional community projects as restrictions lift. The teams are working to ensure that there is diversity in grant making. Data will be used to inform the teams of the areas where the Fund has the most and least reach. This data will be used to undertake targeted communication and outreach.
- 3.6. The Committee was provided with an update on regional teams. Collectively, the teams made record levels of awards in March in support of England and Fund Corporate spend objectives. The focus now remains on team well-being and learning from the last year.
- 3.7. The regional teams have collectively developed and agreed an improvement plan and progress is being made on an ongoing basis. Team wide activities have focused

on areas such as stakeholder engagement, data and reporting and resource modelling.

*Tamsin Shuker joined the meeting.*

#### **4. CCSF EVALUATION INTERIM FINDINGS**

- 4.1. Tamsin provided the Committee with an overview of the interim findings of the CCSF evaluation. It was noted that the final report will be published in August of this year. The feedback from grant holders and volunteers has exceeded expectations. 13,660 volunteer surveys were completed. Additionally, 10,535 end of grant surveys were completed by grant holders. The qualitative fieldwork undertaken during the evaluation involved 274 interviews with grant holders and the delivery of between 25-30 case studies.
- 4.2. The evaluation has shown that many grant holders used the funds provided through CCSF to adapt their services to online delivery. Additionally, CCSF enabled some organisations to deliver significantly more services than they did in the prior six-month period and had enabled a small minority to continue to operate.
- 4.3. Improving mental health and wellbeing and reducing loneliness were the most common outcomes reported for beneficiaries. Additionally, volunteers reported benefits such as a sense of connection to their local community, improved mental health and wellbeing, improved employability and skills development.
- 4.4. Tamsin informed the Committee of the success of the grant holder learning hub. The hub is an online platform for both CCSF and TNLFCF emergency funding grant holders. Members of the learning hub can engage on the platform through facilitated activities and events based around specific themes.
- 4.5. The findings have demonstrated a proof of concept for similar evaluations following the emergency. The teams are proud of the work and motivated to develop the model further.
- 4.6. The Committee thanked Tamsin for her input and congratulated the team on the excellent work carried out on the evaluation.

#### **5. FUNDING DECISIONS**

- 5.1. This information is restricted and can be found in Annex A.

#### **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Being that there was no other business, the meeting concluded at 16:10.

**SIGNED:**



**John Mothersole  
CHAIR**

**DATE:**

07/13/2021