**MEETING OF THE ENGLAND COMMITTEE**

**10th November 2021**

**Microsoft Teams**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT: IN ATTENDANCE:**

John Mothersole Chair Jon Eastwood Interim Director, England

Rosie Ginday Member Mark Purvis Interim Director, England

Maggie Jones Member Sophy Proctor Deputy Director, England

Tarn Lamb Member Abdou Sidibe Deputy Director, England

Kevin Bone Member Vicki Ramsden Senior Head of Performance

Ray Coyle Member Ruhina Begum Young Person in the Lead

 Kim Forsyth Young Person in the Lead

Katie Crystal Governance Officer (minutes)

**FOR SPECIFIC ITEMS:**

David Knott Interim CEO

Julia Parnaby Senior Head of Knowledge & Learning

Tamsin Shuker Senior Head of Evaluation

Scott Hignett Head of Funding, Strategic Programmes

Peter Dobson Funding Manager

Alex Hayes Head of Funding, Strategic Programmes

Thomas McCulloch Head of Funding, Strategic Programmes

Yanique Swazey Funding Manager

1. **CLOSED SESSION**
	1. The Committee held a closed session for members only.

*The ESMT, Vicki Ramsden, Tamsin Shuker, Julia Parnaby and the Governance Officer joined the meeting.*

1. **CCSF EVALUATION, PRE-CRSIS RESEARCH & IMPACT REPORT & IMPROVEMENT**
	1. This item was taken first due to the availability of the presenters.
	2. Tamsin and Julia provided the Committee with an overview of the findings from the CCSF evaluation. Some of the highlights from the report included:
2. A quarter of grant holders (26%) used some of their grant to retain staff or recruit new staff.
3. Over a third (37%) of all grant holders used some of their grant to provide training to staff & volunteers
4. Over half (52%) used their grant to support the coordination of their volunteers.
	1. The evaluation also revealed that, on average, each grant directly supported 456 unique beneficiaries. Collectively, grant holders supported 5.2 million beneficiaries across the lifetime of their grant. The funding distributed under the CCSF was shown to improve the mental health of beneficiaries, increase their social contact, improve their self-esteem, confidence, and resilience, and reduce feelings of loneliness.
	2. The CCSF was found to have been an effective route to distributing emergency response funding and was successful in reaching small or medium sized organisations to deliver targeted support to people and communities disproportionately impacted by COVID. The crisis funding increased community support to vulnerable people affected by the pandemic and crisis funding also reduced temporary closures of essential charities and social enterprises.
	3. The Committee extended their sincere thanks to the team for their work on the evaluation. The members were pleased to see that the CCSF had been so successful and that an evaluation report now exists to demonstrate its impact.
5. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
	1. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all. There were no apologies received.

**Declarations of Interest**

* 1. There were no conflicts of interest.

**Minutes of the Meeting Held on the 8th of September & 6th of October 2021**

* 1. Both sets of minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meetings.

**Matters Arising**

* 1. The Action log was reviewed and updated.

*David Knott joined the meeting.*

1. **FUND UPDATE**
	1. David Knott addressed the Committee, noting his recent appointment as permanent CEO. He thanked the members for their contributions to the work of the Fund. The Committee congratulated David on his appointment as CEO.
	2. David noted the importance of recognising the achievements of the Fund throughout the pandemic. The renewed commitment to communities signals the Fund’s forward-looking plans. The success of, and learning from, the CCSF will be used to steer future decisions and impact data will be utilised to drive strategy.

*David Knott left the meeting.*

1. **ENGLAND UPDATE & KEY ISSUES**
	1. The Committee was provided with an update on the status of the England Portfolio. Demand has recently been dropping within Awards for All which has allowed the teams time to reflect and connect. The Jubilee Fund is launching on the 17th of November. This fund will award grants to projects that are celebrating the Jubilee. The Committee noted that the award size for the Jubilee Fund was higher than similar programmes that had previously been run by TNLCF. The members were informed that the focus of the fund will be to create legacies that carry on following the celebrations. Larger grant sizes over two years will allow for better longer-term opportunities.
	2. It was noted that demand for funding has increased in certain areas of the country over the course of the pandemic. The members discussed the potential for reassessing how funds are allocated across the regions to reflect this change. Once the most recent census data is available for review, this can be further explored. The Committee also noted the importance of ensuring that less affluent communities have the resources and skills required to apply for larger grants. The members discussed ways that these skills and resources could be developed and achieved.
	3. An update on EDI in funding was provided to the Committee. TNLCF has made positive progress on EDI as a whole. Eighty-two percent of grants made are reaching individuals with protected characteristics. The Committee was thanked for their dedication to equity, diversity, and inclusion both within funding and internally across the England portfolio.
2. **UPDATE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**
	1. The members of the England Committee provided updates on their lead roles within the Fund.

*Scott Hignett, Peter Dobson, Alex Hayes & Thomas McCulloch joined the meeting.*

1. **STRATEGIC PROGRAMMES: LEARNING & LEGACY**
	1. Sophy provided the Committee with an update on the Fund’s strategic programmes. Over £590m has been invested in England over the past 10 years through these programmes. This funding is being delivered through five long-term programmes which support babies from conception through to people in later life: A Better Start, HeadStart, Talent Match, Fulfilling Lives and Ageing Better. There is now considerable learning available from all five strategic programmes. The members were asked to reflect on what aspects of the learning they believe should be focused on, as well as how it should be incorporated into TNLCF’s responsive funding.
	2. The strategic programmes have created a wealth of evidence and learning which provides valuable insight into how some of societies most entrenched social problems can be tackled. Some of the learnings highlighted by the team included:
2. That systems change needs to be a long-term ambition which involves all relevant partners and has their buy-in.
3. The importance of long-term funding and funding in partnership with others to create systems change, to create legacy and impact beyond our funding.

1. The impact that true co-production can have on individuals, partnerships and systems – giving people a voice not only leads to greater confidence and self-worth, it creates more impactful programmes of work and better policy and strategy decisions.
2. That creating an effective test & learn culture takes time and needs trusted relationships to be in place. That without a test & learn culture and flexible approach to funding true co-production can’t happen.
	1. The Committee acknowledge the importance of ensuring that the learning from the strategic programmes translates into similar, continued learning within the responsive programmes. The members were informed that training modules based on the learning will be developed and rolled out across the Fund. The Committee highlighted to need to also ensure that the learning is available to the sector. The team informed the members that an event-based approach to handing over the learning was being developed. Conferences on the learning will be held with school leaders, community directors and key sector colleagues.
	2. The need to determine the best avenue for closing the programmes was noted. The Committee was presented with several potential ‘end games’ for the strategic programmes and discussed them. The members noted that the partnerships team could also benefit from applying end games when considering change.
	3. The Chair thanked the team for their work over the years on the Fund’s strategic programmes.

*Scott Hignett, Peter Dobson, Alex Hayes & Thomas McCulloch joined the meeting.*

1. **FUNDING DECISIONS**
	1. Funding decisions are restricted and can be found in Annex A.
2. **REFLECTIONS ON THE DAY**
	1. As this was the first time the Committee had met face-to-face since to onset of the pandemic, the members reflected that the meeting had felt much more collaborative in person.
3. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
	1. Being that there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 16:30.

**SIGNED: DATE:** 18/01/2022

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**John Mothersole**

**CHAIR**