

# THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND

## UK FUNDING COMMITTEE MEETING

13<sup>th</sup> June 2019 10am  
Plough Place, London, EC4A 1DE

### MINUTES

#### PRESENT:

Peter Ainsworth	Chair
Tony Burton	Vice Chair
Stella Everingham	Scotland Committee Member
Kevin Bone	England Committee Member
Michael Dobbins	Northern Ireland Committee Member
Elizabeth Passey	Board Member

#### IN ATTENDANCE:

Dawn Austwick	Chief Executive Officer
Joe Ferns	Director, UK Portfolio & Knowledge
John Knights	Senior Head of UK Portfolio
Assaya Imaya	Head of International Programmes
Yvonne Campbell	Senior Portfolio Manager
Kanak Chhatralia	Governance Officer (minutes)
Adam Payne	Governance Officer
Beth Bell	Portfolio Manager [item 8]
Liz Watchorn	Portfolio Manager [item 8]
Chris Manion	Learning & Programmes Manager [item 7]
Renu London	Portfolio Manager [items 8, 9]
Vicky Garfitt	Portfolio Officer [item 8]
Elly De Decker	Senior Head of Funding (South East)
John Rose	Director of Wales

#### 1. CHAIR'S WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Adam Payne to his first UKFC meeting.

#### 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1. Apologies were received from Sian Callaghan.

#### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1. Kevin Bone declared an interest in:

- i. Mental Health Innovations - LGT Impact is an investor in Big White Wall who are a potential competitor;
- ii. Homes for Good - Impact Ventures are an investor in Homes for Good Investments in which Homes 4 Good Scotland CIC is a 40% shareholder;
- iii. Beat Eating Disorders - Impact Ventures are an investor in Orri. Beat Eating Disorders lists Orri as a service provider and may refer patients to Orri.

3.2. Due to the above conflicts, the Chair confirmed these as disqualifying interests and therefore Kevin left the room during these items.

#### 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - UKFC(19)M01

4.1. Minutes from previous meeting were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

#### 5. ACTIONS ARISING - P07

5.1. All actions were covered in the papers.

#### 6. PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW - P08

6.1. The committee noted the portfolio update including the progress of the Digital Fund which had over 30 proposals in its pipeline and work to develop digital support proposals for smaller organisations. The team were now developing what the next stage/iteration of the programme would look like.

- 6.2. It was reported that the Digital and Leaders with Lived Experience programmes, as well as the forthcoming Data and Evidence Strategy were part of the UK Portfolio's broader strategy to support charities and community groups, further details on many of these programmes would be presented to the committee at future meetings for feedback. Members were pleased to note the number of new organisations applying to the Portfolio had increased by 26%, and that the team were placing greater emphasis on developing partnerships and signposting to other initiatives within the Fund where appropriate.
- 6.3. The committee queried whether the team were well resourced to deal with the capacity of the new work, and it was acknowledged that further consideration needed to be made on how work was allocated within the team and to allow team members opportunities to go deeper and develop stronger relationships with applicants. Whilst the portfolio team were working quicker, it was acknowledged that they were operating on a fraction of the cost of other portfolios and could do more with more resources and more capacity.
- 6.4. The committee expressed their thanks on the quality of the papers and requested that further information is added to the top of funding reports including:
- i. the countries involved in the proposals
  - ii. information on any prior grants similar to the BBO grading system - ie how organisations have managed grants; their relationship with the grant management team
  - iii. the websites of applying organisations
- 6.5. **ACTION: John Knights to incorporate historical information on grantee's and include countries involved on funding reports going forwards.**
- 6.6. The Committee were presented with updates on three grants:
- 6.7. **Fixers:** it was reported that Fixers had announced they had begun an orderly wind down resulting in closure in August and there had been no negative coverage so far. The team had held several conversations regarding next steps and reported that Fixers had dealt with this well.
- 6.8. **Silver Line:** members noted that Silver Line would not hit their forecasted income, and had been informed that a top up proposal would not be appropriate, but encouraged to look at something more fundamental, including considering relocating within another organisation. Should a proposal for additional funding be submitted, this would be managed at delegated authority level.
- 6.9. **Big Lunch:** take up on this initiative had been mixed due to weather. Members reported that PR had been mixed with some areas not receiving the expected promotional material. Eden had been encouraged to take a more people in the lead approach, and undertake research on customer experience to gain a better understanding of customer's motivation.
- 6.10. **ACTION: Joe Ferns to invite Eden to December committee, coordinating discussions with Elizabeth and Tony prior to the meeting.**
- 6.11. **The People's Projects:** the committee noted there had been a significant increase social media engagement and press coverage this year. The partnership with ITV would run for a further year, therefore steers were sought from the committee on getting a sense of the primary purpose of the initiative, with a view to developing the next iteration of The People's Project for consideration in September/ December.
- 6.12. **ACTION: Joe Ferns to update committee on the development of the next phase of The People's Projects.**

## 7. INTERNATIONAL - P09

### Overview

- 7.1. Imaya presented an overview of the international portfolio highlighting the open call for organisations who can lead on co-designing comprehensive programmes on agriculture and rehabilitation. The committee noted the wider engagement work being undertaken, including attendance at a recent conference in Canada, which was an interesting opportunity to engage with the wider disability sector in East Africa.

- 7.2. The team were now looking at how the East Africa Disability Fund advisory panel was operationalised and proposed the panel could support the co-design of future initiatives and work with other funders in the disability sector. The management of the panel could be done through one of our capacity building providers ie Global Giving.

### **Funding Decisions**

- 7.3. Decisions on international proposals presented for UKFC's consideration are restricted and can be found at Annex A.

## **8. PORTFOLIO DECISIONS - P10**

- 8.1. Decisions on proposals presented for UKFC's consideration are restricted and can be found at Annex A.

## **9. POSITION PAPERS**

### **Proposed Environmental Strategy- P11**

- 9.1. John Rose introduced the Environment Strategy with a proposed launch of the initiative in mid-July. The strategy recommended a multi-strand approach, working with local Beacon Communities at pace, whilst balancing the delivery in relation to other commitments, including the new Grants Management System.
- 9.2. Whilst there had been momentum in this piece of work and it had garnered a lot of engagement, it was acknowledged there was work still to be done, given the current external environment. The overriding aim was to support communities to make local change happen and reduce their impact on climate change and their carbon footprint. There was general frustration there was not enough funding for this work and not enough happening at community level. Elly reported that one of the types of change that would make a real difference was to the food cycle, ie growing local, transport arrangements, partnerships, sustainable land use and local renewable energy. There was also a need to reach out and share learning to other communities to gain a broader uptake and a bigger voice at wider policy level.
- 9.3. In the first phase of the initiative the team would work with 15 inner-city to rural communities and support them to become exemplars, with a view to expanding the reach and number of funded communities over time. In line with feedback received externally and internally, there was a need to work the communities and help them take up the initiative.
- 9.4. In discussion, the committee gave the following steers:
- i. Explore any unintended consequences of the initiative;
  - ii. Define what would characterise a 'beacon community';
  - iii. Study the regeneration of Talgarth for any usable learnings.
- 9.5. Tony related his involvement in the advisory group and was confident the portfolio was now ready to implement something at scale. **The committee therefore approved the direction of the strategy.**

*Kevin left the meeting*

### **Grow Wild Briefing - P12**

- 9.6. Renu provided an update on the progress of Grow Wild's grant request for a 2-year extension of the existing grant period to utilise an underspend.
- 9.7. The committee noted that whilst some activities would not be 'people in the lead', Grow Wild had been successful at engaging people in transforming spaces throughout UK.
- 9.8. Members were concerned about the lack of openness and transparency at times from Kew and felt that this should be addressed during grant management. However, the committee agreed to the recommendation to extend the grant.
- 9.9. **Decision: The UK Funding Committee agreed with the recommendation to extend Grow Wild's grant for 2 years using existing funds.**

**10. Any Other Business**

10.1. There being no further business the meeting closed at 1302.

**MINUTES AGREED**

**DATE**

**PETER AINSWORTH  
UK FUNDING COMMITTEE & BOARD CHAIR**