

How to get fit for funding!

Funding is becoming even more competitive. Be sure that your organisation stands out by following this simple guide:

Our group is formally constituted

What is the legal entity of your group? Are you a registered charity, a limited company, an unincorporated group? Do you have a constitution, Trustees or directors? Are you registered with the relevant bodies? The Charity Commission has a wealth of information; check out www.charity-commission.gov.uk for more details.

We have at least two bank signatories

This is a requirement by many funders, who want to make sure that their donated money is going to be accounted for. Remember that signatories cannot be related or live at the same address.

We have the necessary policies in place

As a basis, it is essential that you have a constitution, a health and safety and an equal opportunities policy. If you are working with children, young people and vulnerable adults, you'll also need policies in place to protect these groups.

We have a fundraising strategy and business plan

Both these documents make good business sense. It's good to have a plan of what you are looking to achieve, and how, by when. In addition, you'll need to have a fundraising plan outlining where you plan to seek funding from, and when you'll make your approaches.

We know what we need funding for

Do you know how much your project is going to cost? Do you know how many people you will be supporting, and for how long? What are the outcomes (the changes you will make) that will arise from this funding? Have you got quotes for the cost of your project? Funders need the answers to all these questions.

Once you've got these in place, you're well on your way to funding success. Come in and talk to us and we can point you in the right direction.

Alternatively, if you are a member of SAVS you can complete our funding search online form, and send it in to us. We'll be able to complete a funding search on your behalf and send it through to you.

SAVS also carries out an 'organisational healthcheck' for groups, to ensure that they are robust and resilient. The healthcheck can also highlight areas which you need to develop or work on. For more information about this service, please contact the Funding Development Officer at SAVS on 01702 356008 or email funding@savs-southend.co.uk.

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