

## Annex D : EMFAN Steering Group facilitation

### Key challenges for the sector

<p><b>Political</b></p> <p>Possible change of government next election            May elections            Getting councillor support for funding advice works and how it benefits their voters            Funding world is changing due to cuts, infrastructure changes etc            Huge changes in national political agendas – NHS, local government, social impact etc            The move from local delivery to more generic and centralised services despite ‘localism’</p>	<p><b>Economic</b></p> <p>Different funding opportunities now available            Getting groups to do their homework about evidencing need            Charging for services – unrealistic that everything is free            Lack of funding for funding advice            How funding advice is provided – increasingly through the development worker role            People aren’t aware of the funding that is still available – need to do more to publicise</p>
<p><b>Social</b></p> <p>Cuts are generating more funding demands            Reduction of local services despite local impact            Social change – less time to attend evengs            Fragmented parochial infrastructure – challenge around breaking down protectionism and work collaboratively            Many groups rely on older volunteers and fundraises – how will that culture continue?            Are people less engaged in their communities now – media says not but local action says differently.</p>	<p><b>Technological</b></p> <p>Increased use of the web            Lots of groups still not accessing social media – certain groups will be left behind.            More funders going online for applications            On line giving and social networking bringing new benefits            Too much focus on technology as an end in itself – not as a means to an end            IT broadband limitations in rural areas</p>

### What could EMFAN do looking forward – what are the priorities (open discussion)

- Regular meetings and events which inform, network and ‘bring the right people together’.
- Offering FANS access to bigger networks
- Improving the quality of local networks through links, learning, better structure and approach to their work
- Differences of view as to whether funding advice should be a separate service or part of the development worker role. Where FA is provided by a council, this is not possible.
- Difference of view around Fanoogle and FM. A real question about the VFM of Funding Monitor and Fanoogle – limited evidence of who has got funding and from where. Some argued that this process takes time. Fanoogle was considered more useful provided the content could be kept up to date – a real challenge with limited resources.
- Real question about the value of case studies and sharing information about successful funding bids – what works in one area would not necessarily help in another and there could be some ‘politics’ (with a small p)

Questionnaire result

	Very effective	Quite effective	Not very effective	Ineffective	Not sure
Funding advice network	xx	xxxx			x
Funding advice learning programme	xxx	xxx			x
Sign posting service		xxx	x		xxx
Funding monitor			xx	x	xxxx

**What elements of EMFAN’s work would you like to see continued**

Chances to network and exchange ideas  
 CPD – upskill on new developments  
 Would like more on impact  
 Funding advice learning programme is very important  
 Making sure that networks in each area keep going rather than one large network as people are pushed for time – perhaps have 1 yearly event  
 Networks have been useful.  
 Good as a funder to see many funding advisors in one place – some events have been really useful and informative  
 Reasonably regular meetings  
 Ideas/experience exchange  
 Learning  
 The network itself – peer to peer sharing via events  
 Support for countryside FANS  
 Build on fanoogle and populate it by encouraging people to list types of funding and other support that they give  
 The networking events – some of the best events I have ever attended

**Give one example of a successful outcome achieved by EMFAN**

Some great regional events  
 Great work with the team on a joint event (stepping up to enterprise)  
 The training for funding advisors has been really helpful  
 Joining funding advisors together and linking counties together for joint working – improving the quality of local networks.  
 Increased effectiveness of funding streams and alternatives e.g. social finance  
 When organising a meeting for the newly reformed Northamptonshire FAN I went on Fanoogle to track down other funding advisors in the county not usually on ‘our’ network.  
 Increased networking  
 Improved knowledge and skills sharing