

Voluntary Value

2008-2011



Voluntary Value



Partners

Direct support to organisations involved or wishing to be involved in ESF programme activities was provided through partnership agreements with existing infrastructure organisations well established and well connected in their area of operations. These partners are listed below and a summary of their activities and achievements is provided later in this report.

Bournemouth & Poole, & Dorset, Swindon, Wiltshire

The Learning Curve
learningcurve.org.uk

Bristol & West of England

Voscur
voscur.org

Devon & Torbay

Community Council of Devon
devonrcc.org.uk

Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire Association for Voluntary & Community Action (GAVCA)
glosassembly.org.uk

Somerset

Voluntary Sector Training Alliance (ViSTA)
vistaproject.org.uk

Plymouth

Support to groups in Plymouth was provided directly by South West Forum as it was not possible to contract with a suitable local partner.



Acknowledgements

The **Voluntary Value** project was managed by South West Forum and funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) and South West of England Regional Development Agency. It ran from October 2008 to September 2011.

Voluntary Value was managed by Simon Charters (to April 2011) and Jane Smallcombe (from April 2011) with administrative support provided by Debra Horide.

Background

The original European Social Fund (ESF) Framework for the South West 2007-2013 identified that there was a clear need for “support for voluntary and community sector network organisations to encourage participation of the third sector in the ESF programme activities”.

In 2007 the UK government was stressing the important role that voluntary sector organisations played in reaching people who are at a disadvantage in, or excluded from, the labour market and advocated the use of Technical Assistance to encourage their participation in the ESF programme activities. There was particular emphasis on the sector’s role in projects that promote social inclusion, gender equality and equal opportunities.

Against this background, South West Forum (SWF) with a key strategic role to promote and develop the voluntary and community sector in delivering the programme to disadvantaged people and communities submitted a proposal for an ESF Technical Assistance programme for the South West competitiveness area. The proposal had two main components: a regional strategic co-ordination and policy engagement function and direct support (including information, advice and partnership brokering) delivered through partnership agreements with local infrastructure organisations and networks or consortia. This programme, Voluntary Value, became fully operational in October 2008.

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South West Forum



Key Achievements

An Extensive Network

Working with local Voluntary Value partners, South West Forum has established a network of approximately 1,500 voluntary and community organisations working in the skills, learning and employment fields. By participating in this network and specific networking events, groups have:

- Accessed information about ESF commissioning opportunities, ESF provider activities and broader-based skills, employment and worklessness funding and policy developments.
- Had opportunities to share information and knowledge and develop new collaborative relationships.
- Provided evidence of how well informed organisations are able to engage with ESF opportunities.
- Had an effective route for influencing policy at national and regional levels

Successful Policy Lobbying

In seeking to increase the engagement of voluntary groups in ESF delivery, the project has demonstrated the value of well-positioned lobbying to key regional policy makers. Key achievements and activities include:

- SWF organising a consultation with voluntary groups on the refresh of the ESF Competitiveness Framework, and representation at mainstream Framework refresh consultations.
- Direct engagement with potential providers and the ESF co-financing organisations: the Skills Funding Agency, Department for Work and Pensions, and the National Offender Management Service.
- Participating in principle ESF and European Programmes committees and representation on other regional groups, including the Third Sector European Network, a national ESF Technical Assistance project.



Development of a Social Purpose Consortium – CLESP



Through Voluntary Value, South West Forum led the development of a South West wide consortium with the objective of enabling small and medium size voluntary groups to have the opportunities to help deliver ESF programmes and contracts. This had been actively encouraged (even demanded!) at Voluntary Value conferences and meetings across the region.

CLESP, the community learning, employment and skills partnership, was established in 2010 and now has a membership of over 100 organisations. While CLESP's first bid, involving 45 organisations, to the Skills Funding Agency was unfortunately unsuccessful the process provided valuable learning and demonstrated there was a real appetite for this approach from across the sector. South West Forum and partners as well as CLESP members are now lobbying for improvements in Skills Funding Agency procurement processes. The Forum argues that SFA commissioning and procurement should better reflect the government's "Big Society" aspirations to open up public service contracts to the voluntary sector and social enterprises.

In the meantime, South West Forum and Voluntary Value partners are concentrating on increasing the capacity of voluntary groups to be delivery partners, as subcontractors, in skills and learning. In partnership with The Learning Curve, the Forum was successful with a bid to the Learning and Skills Improvement Service's Regional Response Fund. A programme of seminars are taking place including 'Learning and Skills, Where is the money and how can I get some?', 'ACTOR training' and 'How to be a subcontractor' as well as guidance being given to main contractors on how they can engage with the sector.

Funded by



Workforce Development for Voluntary and Community Organisations

The project has continued to pay attention to the workforce development needs of social purpose organisations and through the Workforce Development and Governance Group share intelligence and ideas, linking with Skills Third Sector. The Forum, with its Regional Voices partners nationally, is currently carrying out an extensive mapping exercise of organisations providing learning development opportunities to and for the social purpose sector.

Through this group the need for low cost, shared solutions for workforce development at a time of budget cuts was identified. The Open University offered to develop its free Openlearn resources to be geared specifically to the needs of trustees. The outcome of this work, CharityWise, offers free, flexible, self help, online materials for social purpose organisations to develop the skills, knowledge and capabilities of their trustees.

www.open.ac.uk/blogs/CharityWise/ is your doorway to the materials.



ViSTA



Why ViSTA became involved as a partner?

ViSTA has extensive experience of working with a variety of funders as well as working with community groups who tackle issues relating to worklessness. In addition to this, ViSTA has acted as an advocate for the voluntary and community sector at local and regional steering groups and with other strategic bodies, in order to promote and maintain the value of the community sector.

ViSTA's history with managing and supporting ESF projects

ViSTA has over six years experience of leading consortia bids and projects with a broad foundation of funding, including ESF and DEFRA funding. This has placed us in a key position in the county to support and develop networks and capabilities within the VCS to respond the new funding opportunities.

What has been achieved during the project?

- Regular e-bulletin newsletters throughout VV project to over 980 VCS organisations in Somerset, sharing ESF news and promoting the value of working together on funding applications and project management.
- 1:1 meetings to progress ideas relating to the needs of the VCS regards skills, employment and worklessness, as well as discussing funding opportunities
- Website link relating to Voluntary Value project - www.vistaproject.org.uk/page/volvalues

ViSTA ESF Project summary

Enact – ESF project - 42 VCS groups supported towards more effective enterprise skills (in partnership with Learning Curve)

Somerset Capacity Building Project – ESF funded – 900 learners engaged in skills development programmes and training from more than 300 organisations

Wise project (Women and Skills & Employment) – ESF project - 160 women in Somerset benefitted from training to support their employment potential, with a focus on women from communities who are marginalised from mainstream provision (in partnership with Somerset Racial Equality Council and others)

Think Smart – ESF project - 250 staff & volunteers from small VCS organisations gained training and accreditation in work related skills.



Pictured right:

ESF project team at ViSTA at Think Smart Awards Ceremony in March 2011. From left to right – Angela Kerr, CEO ViSTA; Bradley Welch, ViSTA ESF project administrator and Sara Iles, ViSTA Think Smart project manager – all of the team pictured also benefitted from accredited learning courses as VCS employees, as part of the ESF project. (Think Smart project as part of consortia managed by Learning South West – photo courtesy of Learning South West)



Pictured previous page:

ESF Think Smart tutor, Liz Simmons, receiving an award from the Chief Executive of Learning South West, Paula Jones, as a result of training delivered to the care organisation, Plus One Ltd, Wellington, Somerset.

Key learning points and the challenges and opportunities ahead

This work has reinforced the importance of a strong, vibrant voluntary and community sector and their ability to act in a responsive, creative and dynamic way. We do however need the fact acknowledged by funders and statutory agencies that unless consistent investment is made in this sector, the capacity and capability of those key community partners will dwindle and become extinct very quickly. In reality, many of the goals and expectations of the VV work were thwarted because of bigger national changes to funding availability and contestability and so the change we had hoped to deliver and made steps towards delivering were not possible. Despite this setback, we have been able to deliver the project according to the contract, but without the new investments we were hoping to create in the sector. Working in a VV consortium, across the South West, with the support of South West Forum, gave us the opportunity to deliver the project successfully.

There is great value in valuing the voluntary sector, particularly smaller organisations which create real change in communities and local economies. Through this a genuine impact can be made within communities, creating change in the lives and potential of individuals.

The capacity of the VCS to engage with learning and skills to develop voluntary organisations is fluid, can be mobilised relatively easily if the right people are engaged, offers responsive solutions which can be built quite quickly, on receipt of a realistic investments; equally, it can disappear very quickly and be irretrievable.

It has been unhelpful that the recent funding regime has shifted and provided an ‘all or nothing’ pattern of feast or famine.

Another learning point recognised is that although many agencies appear to prioritise strategic outcomes and long-term planning, in reality it appears that the picture is muddled and even within the same department there are differences. Inconsistency and uncertainty for funding for the voluntary sector does not deliver real change.



Voluntary Value in Bristol and West of England



Voscur is a support and development agency for voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations based in Bristol. In Bristol we partnered with Hartcliffe and Withywood Ventures, and the Black Development Agency to deliver the Voluntary Value project.

Voluntary Value enabled us to strengthen our links with other support and development organisations in the three unitary authorities that surround the City of Bristol: DEVELOP in Bath and North East Somerset, Voluntary Action North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire Council for Voluntary Service.

Many voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations provide a range of support to vulnerable people across the West of England, particularly those who are furthest away from the job market and need long term support to get to this point.

New contracting arrangements meant that local organisations, with good track records, who have built up skills and knowledge over the years, were concerned about their survival, and the possibility of the withdrawal of support for their client groups.

It was important for us to get involved with the Voluntary Value project, so that we could ensure that local groups were kept up to date with the European Social Fund training and skills agenda. We also wanted to ensure that local groups were able to raise their concerns with, and influence regional policy makers.

This was achieved through the distribution of regular bulletins from South West Forum, and by bringing groups from across the four unitary authority areas together, to meet with representatives of South West Forum, Jobcentre plus, the West of England partnership, and local authorities.

We recognised that it would be important to bring groups together to encourage joint working. National, regional and local organisations took part in networking and 'speed matching' events that enabled groups to find out about each others' specialisms, and to investigate opportunities for joint working and/or bidding. Issues such as existing relationships with providers such as colleges, how can the Compact be used in these relationships, and how can we ensure that smaller organisations are valued and treated fairly were just some of the areas that came up for discussion at these events.

Groups felt that it was very important that there is an opportunity for smaller groups to be able to deliver and that the Community Learning, Employment and Skills Partnership (CLESP) may be the vehicle for this to happen. Working with South West Forum to spread the word about ESF, we were able to encourage groups to register their interest in the Community Learning, Employment and Skills Partnership. Personal contact with South West Forum staff was important in instilling confidence in groups wishing to participate.

During the summer of 2010 Voscur and CVS South Gloucestershire worked with statutory sector partners from the West of England (WoE) Skills and Competitiveness Board to organise a number of events and training sessions to enable WoE Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations to develop an understanding of the new DWP contracting process; and to be ready to negotiate with successful prime contractors to be part of their offer. More than 50 organisations attended meetings and events. Feedback was very positive and we hope to have the opportunity in the future to track these smaller groups' engagement with prime contractors subject to resources being available.

Gloucestershire Voluntary Value Project

Gloucestershire Association for Voluntary and Community Action (GAVCA) became involved as a partner in South West Forum's Voluntary Value project as it was keen to support and strengthen the engagement of local voluntary and community organisations (VCOs) in delivering the South West ESF programme.

It was particularly interested in supporting local VCOs to understand more about ESF funding, network and share good practice with each other in relation to skills, employment and worklessness, and provide a mechanism for collecting and feeding back information to the South West ESF programme on emerging trends.

In delivering the project, GAVCA:

- set up a specific mailing list for (210) local VCOs interested in skills, employment and worklessness
- co-ordinated the dissemination of related information from South West Forum's Voluntary Value project and other sources to this mailing list and the wider county VCS (2500 VCOs)
- organised meetings for interested VCOs to discuss funding opportunities and policy developments relating to skills, employment and worklessness
- responded to related queries raised by these VCOs and raised appropriate issues with South West Forum's Voluntary Value project.

Common issues identified by local VCOs during the project included:

- difficulty accessing ESF and related funding related to
 - (a) the move towards big contracts and exclusion of small providers (and the connection to communities/imaginative approaches that they bring)
 - (b) the amount of bureaucracy involved in ESF sub contracting
- interest in partnership arrangements with other VCOs – e.g. CLESP.

Going forward, although GAVCA was successful in communicating ESF funding opportunities and policy developments to the local VCS, concern remains that the 'rhetoric does not necessarily match the reality'. Specifically, the size and scope of ESF and related contracts is a significant, often insurmountable obstacle to local VCOs seeking to access funding for skills, employment and worklessness and the potential value of the creative work they do with communities is being missed altogether.



Voluntary Value in Devon and Torbay

The Community Council of Devon vision is of active communities shaping their own futures with improved opportunity and quality of life for all.

Over the last six or seven years this has led us to become heavily engaged in skills development through the provision of adult learning opportunities particularly in rural communities. We have delivered a number of programmes addressing different issues around skills and worklessness and developed a model of delivery (the Learning Host model) which responds directly to user needs.

Initially working under the umbrella of the Devon & Torbay Learning Partnership the Community Council of Devon (CCD) has extended its 'learning' connections through membership of the Devon Association of Learning Providers Executive and through its role as Chair of the Devon Community Learning Partnership.

CCD also has strategic connections through the Devon Economic Partnership (until its recent demise), Productive Skills for Devon, Devon Renaissance and as a member of the Management Board of the Devon Consortium of Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations

The opportunities offered as a sub regional partner for Voluntary Value enabled the Community Council to use its connections within learning networks and the wider Voluntary and Community sector to further promote learning and skills as a response to worklessness and improving the quality of life for people across Devon and Torbay.

Reaching into the Voluntary and Community Sector

The project has been very effective at providing information to VCS organisations. This has been achieved through a variety of routes.

- The Community Council used its website to publish information and articles about Voluntary Value. Articles were also featured in our quarterly magazine, Village Green.
- News and information was disseminated through email networks and wherever possible tailored specifically to meet the needs of groups in the Devon and the Torbay areas.
- The Voluntary Value monthly newsletter ran to 25 editions. Readership went from 35 VCS groups in the Devon area to 60 groups. In Torbay 17 groups readership increased to 24 groups.
- Through its membership of the Devon Worklessness Group, CCD was able to keep other members informed of developments and add value to the overall programme.
- A number of other forums were attended to promote Voluntary Value, South Devon & Torbay Workforce Development Group, North West Devon Workforce Development Action Group; a workshop was held at a meeting of the Devon Community Learning Partnership and the opportunities were highlighted through Sustainable Funding training events.
- An event titled 'Voluntary Value Devon & Torbay Skills Employment & Worklessness Forum' brought groups together to hear presentations from co-financers, prime providers and sub contractors; and to identify and discuss key issues and concerns.

What challenges have been identified?

- Throughout the lifetime of Voluntary Value a number of ESF tendering rounds were delayed and rescheduled. This made it difficult for VCS organisations to plan their responses.
- In the end tight deadlines and over complex processes were also seen as barriers for organisations whose capacity was more focused on delivery than bid writing.
- A recent Skills Funding Agency decision to use ACTOR scores rather than open tendering to allocate funding was perceived as acting against the interests of smaller VCS groups and lacking in transparency.
- VCS organisations are often too small to win a contract from the co-financing organisations and are left to fight for sub-contracting opportunities.
- Larger regional or national Prime Providers are remote from the needs of people living in Devon and Torbay, are not aware of what provision is available, and less likely to engage those with multiple needs.
- An ongoing impression that Prime Providers name VCS organisations in their bid documents and then fail to follow that through into delivery.

But the outcomes are positive

The general level of awareness of ESF has been raised considerably throughout the VCS in the Devon and Torbay authority areas. Although there is little to suggest at this stage that the increased awareness has led to any increased involvement in service delivery. Nevertheless at a recent Devon Worklessness Group meeting VCS representatives felt confident to raise a number of challenging questions with Work Programme Prime Providers which showed both a good level of understanding and also a willingness to be involved and to challenge processes.

Throughout the project feedback was invited from the VCS. Opportunities were provided at the meetings attended, via email to the Community Council and through the Skills, Employment and Worklessness Forum. Whilst the level of feedback was perhaps less than it might have been (which to an extent demonstrates the lack of connection the sector feels with ESF provision), the Community Council was pleased to deal with a number of diverse enquiries:

- From a number of groups to discuss specific project proposals and the opportunities that might be provided through the ESF.
- About the processes involved (eg DWP right to bid)
- Specifically about the NOMS programme and the fit with local priorities
- For information about Prime Providers and existing local sub contractors
- About promoting opportunities for sub contracting on Work Programme delivery.

We believe the information and signposting we were able to provide through Voluntary Value will have helped to support groups in progressing their agendas.

Engaging with the LEP:

As the project comes to a close the Community Council has been able to plan an event at which VCS organisations engaged in learning, skills and employment can meet with the newly formed Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). This event will be open to groups from the Devon and Torbay areas as well as from Plymouth and from Somerset. Our Voluntary Value groups will have an opportunity to find out more about the LEP and discuss with LEP Board Members the skills and employment priorities for Devon and Torbay and how the VCS can support the LEP in driving up productivity. This will provide a very positive closing event for Voluntary Value in Devon and Torbay.



Voluntary Value for Swindon, Wiltshire, Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole

Learning Curve has effectively established communication networks in Swindon, Wiltshire, Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole and a long history of partnership working with ESF, learning and skills and workforce development. Therefore, it seemed a natural progression for Learning Curve to apply to become a partner in the Voluntary Value project in those areas. There are 136 contacts for Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole and 100 contacts for Swindon and Wiltshire. It is known that our newsletters or information from them is forwarded on to many other organisations. In addition, we also send out individual mailings for information sharing or invitation to events.

During the lifetime of the project 25 newsletters have been distributed providing updates about ESF programmes. The Voluntary Value newsletters have also been used to publicise the community grants programme, the LSIS Regional Response fund, CLESP, other funding updates and links to other meetings and events of interest to Voluntary Value recipients. Organisations receiving Voluntary Value newsletters also receive Learning Curve newsletters and social media is now also being used as a method of communication.

Since the start of the Voluntary Value Project, several different events have been held which were well attended and appreciated by the organisations attending. The Voluntary Value networks have been used in order to publicise events and training which would be relevant, not least the LSIS funded regional response fund which has been delivered by South West Forum and Learning Curve. Events varied from small local update events through to joining with other organisations to provide a larger event, such as an event was held in Bournemouth in 2010 which provided updates on ESF, funding for learning and skills and an exploration of how to include ex offenders as



volunteers. The opportunity was taken at events to encourage people to complete a networking form in order that we could increase the direct distribution numbers. Voluntary Value coordinators also attending other events taking along information and recruiting new contacts.

In June 2011 a meeting was held about the emerging LEP in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole, this meeting was much appreciated. The discussions were lively and animated and the strong message that emerged was that people wanted to be included with the LEP but as there was not one in BDP as yet it was felt it was not clear how useful or otherwise the LEP would be. Communication was seen to be very important but no one was keen on the notion of setting up another network, it was agreed that it would be better to tap into existing networks using Voluntary Value and the CVSs in the area. A LEP is now in place in Swindon and Wiltshire and a meeting will be held in September 2011.

Over the lifetime of the project we have responded to many queries from Voluntary Value contacts. People have expressed the value that they place on communication, receiving information and networking opportunities which are the areas where Voluntary Value has been strongest.

The Learning Curve Voluntary Value co-ordinators provided representation for VCOs at a regional level and fed back information to members through newsletters and other means.



Achievements and Challenges ahead

- Improved communication and flow of information
- Regular distribution of newsletters containing relevant up to date information
- Local events held across the area
- Voluntary Value coordinators to deal with enquiries
- Improved flow of communication and advice both ways between VCS and associated statutory bodies
- The formation of CLESP by organisations across the region to in order to come together to put in joint bids
- Due to the many changes in the learning and skills environment the opportunities for joint contracting between VCOs have not been available in the way originally anticipated
- Cuts and changes in personnel will affect the flow of information
- At times the SFA has been less than clear about what it will be doing with ESF, this has created uncertainty and difficulties for organisations wishing to be involved with ESF programmes.



Challenges Ahead

At a time of high and rising youth unemployment; reducing employment in the public sector and cut backs in many public services, not least support services for young people and children, the role of the social purpose sector is likely to be more important than ever. The government's "big society" and "localism" agendas envisage a growing role for voluntary and community action, social enterprise and voluntary effort. But there are major challenges ahead to ensuring the voluntary and community sector is able to participate fully in the delivery of ESF programme activities and in the wider employment and skills field. These include:

The imposition of minimum contract levels run the risk of squeezing out smaller providers which are often well placed to meet the needs of particular disadvantaged communities and people.

"Payment by results" as used in work programme contracts tends to favour larger highly capitalised commercial organisations able to cashflow delivery from the start.

ESF delivery contracts are becoming larger in monetary and geographical terms making it virtually essential that voluntary groups work collaboratively and in formal consortia and partnerships yet these take time to develop.

Efficiency demands on the Skills Funding Agency, DWP and others has meant a reduction in staffing levels and face to face contact and increasing reliance on complex on line procurement processes which reduce the scope for flexibility and applying local knowledge.

The "centralisation" of programme monitoring committees (as reflected in the closure of GoSW based ESF staff) has reduced the ability of social purpose organisations working through South West Forum and others to inform and influence priorities and strategy.

Although there is a commitment to supporting voluntary sector Technical Assistance in the second half of the ESF programme (2011-13) within Priority 3 of the ESF Framework, albeit at a reduced rate of 1% of the programme value (down from 4%), there is real difficulty in unlocking this resource. This is because previous sources of matched funding from within the region are no longer available, given the closure of SWRDA, much reduced flexibility for using SFA funds and severe spending pressures on local authorities. There is widespread recognition that support for the social purpose sector to engage in ESF should continue through to 2013 but no agency is accepting responsibility that this should be resourced.

Resources

On **South West Forum's** website you will find resources and information. You can sign up to one of many interest groups and receive regular bulletins including news and details of events/training.

www.southwestforum.org.uk and click on Ebulletin.

Other resources can be found via the tabs on the left hand side – particularly look at Collaboration and Networking pages to find information about CLESP and the Workforce Development and Governance Advisory Group.

The Learning Curve, our partner in the LSIS project, Skills for Change, has information about the project activities and will host a directory of social purpose organisations wanting to become delivery partners as well as guidance and other materials.

www.learningcurve.org.uk

CharityWise is a collection of free Open University materials online for people who are on responsible for leading and managing small charities and voluntary and community organisations -

www.open.ac.uk/blogs/CharityWise/

Information about **European Social Fund** – opportunities, activity and news can be accessed via

www.dwp.gov.uk/esf/

The Skills Funding Agency - <http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/> has regular updates, guidance notes, consultations and opportunities for learning and skills providers. The Approved College and Training Organisation Register (ACTOR) is the Skills Funding Agency's on-line e-tendering application for the procurement of education and vocational training services and can be accessed at skillsfundingagency.bravosolutions.co.uk/web/login.shtml

For information about Department of Work and Pensions and its executive agency **Jobcentre Plus** look at www.dwp.gov.uk/about-dwp/customer-delivery/jobcentre-plus/

The **Skills and Learning Intelligence Module** is managed by the Marchmont Observatory, at the University of Exeter and provides access to growing archives of labour market research, networks, data, news and good practice, and information - www.swslim.org.uk/index.asp

The **Third Sector European Network (TSEN)** promotes the third sector's voice and interests within national and international European Union funding structures www.tsen.org.uk/aboutaims.asp

ESF Community Grants

South West Foundation, in partnership with The Learning Curve and the Skills Funding Agency, will shortly be opening a new grant programme for the South West. The Community Grants programme, funded by the European Social Fund and the Skills Funding Agency, is aimed at supporting small charitable voluntary and community organisations, to deliver projects that will help and support people furthest removed from the labour market to pick up the skills and confidence that will enable them to move toward employment.

This particular programme covers all of the South West (excluding Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly – these areas are being handled by a different agency). Grants up to £12,000 will be available although it is envisaged that most grants will be in the region of £6,000 to £8,000.

South West Foundation is holding a number of information seminars throughout the region running through to early October in Bristol and South Devon. For more information about the seminars and programme visit South West Foundation at www.the-foundation.org.uk/GRANTS.htm Or The Learning Curve's website www.learningcurve.org.uk/news/new-community-grants-programme-south-west

South West Foundation is responsible for administering the grants and The Learning Curve's role is around capacity building.

Last year's round of ESF Community Grants with South West Foundation, The Learning Curve, the Learning and Skills Council and the European Social Fund working in partnership delivered a funding and capacity building programme of over £600,000 to voluntary and community sector organisations throughout the South West Region.

You can see a list of those organisations who were awarded grants last year on South West Foundation's website www.the-foundation.org.uk/GRANTS.htm



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