



The Surrey Voluntary & Community 2009 Conference and Funding Fair

Funding in Tough Times

Royal Holloway College, Egham

Thursday 25th June 2009

In partnership with Surrey County Council

Surrey Community Action (Surrey CA) held a conference for voluntary and community groups in Surrey on 25th June, at Royal Holloway College, Egham. The theme chosen, **Funding in Tough Times**, reflected the situation for the Third Sector and how local groups have been or expect to be affected by the recession.

Surrey CA were pleased to have worked in partnership with Surrey County Council, who were able to offer sponsorship towards the cost of the event, linking this event to work under the Surrey Strategic Partnership in delivering the Local Area Agreement (NI7 – Promotion of a Thriving Third Sector).

Thanks also go to Surrey Business Link who offered a prize for the best use of £250 which went to Surrey Crossroads, who work towards relieving stress for carers.

There were two main auditorium events. In the morning 4 key note speakers offering their expertise of increasing funds or lowering costs;

- Joe Saxton, Driver of Ideas at nfpSynergy
- Bill Bruty, Director, Fundraising Training Ltd
- Lesley Miller, Director of Business Services at Social Enterprise, London
- Victoria Anderson, Head of Advisory and Consulting at Charities Aid Foundation

and after lunch a lecture from a personal perspective, from Dr John Bird, MBE founder of The Big Issue.



There were 21 exhibitors covering issues such as banking (CAF, Unity Bank) or insurance (CASE), or funders (High Sheriff, BIG Lottery). Overall 67% thought they were a valuable part of the conference, 13% would like to have seen different exhibitors.

Just under 200 people attended the all day event.

Comments of the morning speakers and events:

Joe Saxton – quotes from forms

- Very clear excellent speaker
- Well researched
- Excellent focused and engaging

98% thought he was good to excellent as a speaker



Bill Bruty – quote from forms

- Informative & relevant

88% thought he was good to excellent as a speaker

Lesley Miller – 76%

Victoria Anderson – 57%

Morning Seminars: Scores from those attending

Big Lottery/Awards for All	79% good to excellent
Fundraising in the local community	76% good to excellent
First steps to trading	75% good to excellent
Funding strategies for sports clubs	100% good
Legacy fundraising for small organisations	100% good to excellent
Working with grant making trusts	92% good to excellent



John Bird, MBE – quotes from forms

- Extremely Inspirational and informative
- Excellent & Inspirational
- Very inspiring
- Good fun & informative, good after lunch speaker
- Very inspirational
- Inspiring
- Absolutely inspirational

95% thought he was good to excellent. He challenged people to be social entrepreneurs and include users in planning services.

Afternoon Seminars: Scores from those attending

Doing business with the public sector	64% good to excellent
Fundraising strategies for BME groups	100% good
Funding strategies for Youth Organisations	83% good to excellent
Legal and tax implications	60% good to excellent

Successful fundraising events
Winning corporate support

49% good to excellent
67% good to excellent



General Comments on the day

- Excellent
- Very well organised conference
- Thank you
- A good event with good approachable speakers
- First Class
- Good networking, well attended
- Really interesting day, thank you
- Very well organised event with great speakers

Evaluation:

83% felt it was relevant to their organisation (10% increase on 2008)

86% learnt new and useful information (15% increase on 2008)

81% thought the presentations were easy to understand

68% will apply to their work (5% increase on 2008)

66% will follow up contacts made

83% found the day worth while (as 2008)

68% would attend a similar event next year; a further 32% would depending on the topic.

100% thought the venue good to excellent

99% thought the lunch good to excellent

98% thought the administration good to excellent

Conclusion:

This was seen as a very successful, useful event. A great deal of networking took place, and there was a buzz of enthusiasm. Surrey CA see the situation over the next two years as being extremely difficult for the Third Sector and feel that a similar event would be as necessary, if not more so, next year.

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