

Annual Community Interest Company Directors' Report on Creating Space For You (CIC)'s Community Benefit until Year End November 2011

Creating Space For You (CIC) was formally registered in November 2010. However, it was built on the foundations of work that was done from January 2010. Here are details of the work that was done prior to the social enterprise forming, until the end of November 2011:

Professional Training Certificate for Volunteer Centre Managers in York and North Yorkshire (April – July 2010)

Designed and delivered accredited training to Volunteer Centre Managers, raising their confidence in delivering training to Volunteer Managers and supporting them to develop materials and resources for their training that could be used consistently on a sub-regional basis.

Community benefit:

- Upskilling staff in the voluntary and community sector who were working with volunteer involving organisations
- Offered extra support in order to help the group develop their materials, half a day @ £250
- 2 volunteers from a local charity were given places totalling £660. They both went on to achieve the Professional Training Certificate and obtain paid employment as a result

York Social Enterprise Network (June 2010 – date)

Facilitated the development of the York Social Enterprise Network (YSEN) in association with York Council for Voluntary Service, enabling social enterprises to network, develop trade and opportunities for peer learning. Facilitation has included organising and chairing first and following meetings, organising guest speakers, delivering training, typing up minutes and developing an online directory of social enterprises in York where social enterprises can publicise their work:

<http://yorksocialeternetwork.wordpress.com/>

Community benefit:

- Collaborative projects have been started as a result (printing and design related SEs working together)

- Social Enterprises are trading more regularly with each other
- City of York Council uses the online directory to look at which social enterprises are in the local area and has started to make contact with SEs with regard to tendering opportunities
- YSEN are looking at developing a consortium so that joint funding can be applied for and joint projects can be undertaken
- CS4U have given 2 days a month of time over 17 months = 34 days @ standard day rate of £500 per day = £17,000

Know Discrimination (July – March 2011)

Contract through North Yorkshire and York Forum (previously North Yorkshire Forum for Voluntary Organisations) to raise awareness of the Equality Act 2010 with 100 advisers in Voluntary and Community Sector organisations that provided advice and guidance to their clients. These organisations included the Citizens Advice Bureaux, Volunteer Centres, housing associations and various charities. Sessions helped advisers to explore what discrimination is, how it may affect their clients, and what action they could take as a result. The materials were made available to advisers, enabling them to cascade the training to their colleagues.

Community benefit:

- These sessions were open to volunteers for free, and 6 took up the opportunity totalling £300

Creating a Climate for Change (October – February 2011)

Contract through North Yorkshire County Council in partnership with an environmental charity in York called Friends of St Nicholas Fields.

Designed and delivered bespoke workshops aimed to encourage and support local VCS organisations to reduce their energy consumption by enabling leaders to inspire others in their organisation to take action with regard to the climate change agenda. Representatives from approximately 100 organisations took part. Participants were able to identify changes they could make within their organisation that could save both energy and money, and created a plan of action to help them inspire others to take action.

Community benefit:

- These sessions were open to volunteers for free and 5 took up the opportunity totalling £250

Supporting consortia of Volunteer Centres across North Yorkshire to compile the Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation File for Volunteering England (January 2011 – October 2011)

Contract to collate evidence that had been gathered, and support Volunteer Centre Managers to produce evidence in line with the standard, ready to be assessed at the end of October 2011.

Community benefit:

- Supporting Volunteer Centre Managers in gaining an understanding of the Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation process

Pot Luck (May 2011)

This was an opportunity for local organisations and social enterprises to promote themselves and the work that they do, to an audience who voted for their favourite project. Project then won a proportion of the ticket sales.

Community benefit:

- Organisations had an opportunity to promote their projects to a different audience, having to think about how they did this in an interesting and engaging way
- Organisations received feedback from the audience on ways they could develop their idea, contacts that might be able to support them, and useful resources that may be helpful
- One organisation: Friends of York Walls won £300 from ticket sales to create activity leaflets that could be used by families to explore the York Walls in more detail
- CS4U given 14 days in publicising and facilitating the event, at £500 per day = £7,000

Successful and stress-free networking (July 2011 - ongoing) opportunity for Voluntary and Community Sector organisations to network with the private sector

3 events have been run, 2 in York and 1 in Leeds. Events have attracted a diverse range of businesses, charities, social enterprises, and volunteers have accessed free places. On average, 96% of participants felt more confident about networking as a result of the session.

Community benefits:

- Outcomes for Voluntary and Community Sector: 1 new possible trustee, 5 visits arranged to VSC organisations, raised awareness within the private sector of all organisations present, increased understanding of social enterprise and the benefits that SEs can bring to the private sector
- 15 volunteers have taken part for free (totalling £750) and a further 39 organisations have taken advantage of the bursary to take part (totalling £1,248)

Various bespoke workshops and events (ongoing) including organisational development, volunteer programme development, world café style events, open sessions, workshops specifically for volunteers including confidence and dealing with challenging behaviour.

- 1 half-day session organised through a specialist trainer who given their time for free, usual cost: £500
- 1 day session given by CS4U for free to volunteers, usual cost £1,000

One to one leadership coaching (ongoing) with senior staff in Voluntary and Community Sector organisations, helping them to develop their skills and build resilience in order to respond effectively to the current quickly changing environment.

Community benefit:

- Total of 16 sessions given @ £100 per session = £1,600

There has been significant community benefit from the work Creating Space For You has done that cannot be quantified financially, such as the benefits to people's self-esteem, the relationships that have developed as a result of taking part in training with a diverse range of participants and the aspirations that have been raised.

However, it is also impressive to note that Creating Space For You (CIC) have contributed £30,558 to upskilling the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors around York and North Yorkshire.