

As a passionate social enterprise we aim to build community cohesion, individual skills and talents, particularly with those working in some of our most socially deprived and diverse neighbourhoods and looking to better the lives of people facing, what can seem often, like intractable problems. We look to build individual and organisational capacity, through focusing on governance, income generation and sustainability and try to capture the enthusiasms and energies of individuals, finding solutions and grasping the assets that we all possess.

Our support is delivered through expert training and mentoring that encourages and supports individuals and members of community groups to become 'Big Society' activists and fundraisers – finding a voice in shaping local services and increasing their ability to meet the needs of the disadvantaged communities they care about. Consultancy support is provided to help with fundraising, organisational strengths reviews, business planning, marketing, beneficiary consultation/involvement, evaluation and impact reporting.

We have four key team members with in-depth knowledge of both the rural and urban voluntary and faith sectors, local government including the LGA, relevant Government departments: DCLG, DCMS, Department for Education, Home Office, Health and Office for Civil Society. We are experienced 'hands on' advisers on the Big Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund, small and large grants and a vast array of charitable trust and foundation sources; combined with significant community development, training and mentoring expertise and passion for a better, more just and tolerant society.

We also run our own projects with external funding, and secure contracts from a wide range of organisations to provide VCSE sector guidance, community development and engagement, research, evaluation, marketing and fundraising.

Over several years, as part of the CIC's 'pro bono' programme, the organisation has undertaken significant capacity building assignments with groups like Portuguese Community in Action (East), Promoting African Refugees Community Association (Peterborough), Barking & Dagenham Somali Women's Association and the Polish, Latvian and Sudanese communities in Thetford and Peterborough respectively. In all cases developing close partnership and co-production working relationships.



Latterly, Big Society Funding has received payment for its services (largely via the Big Lottery Fund *Building Capabilities and Communities Can* programmes) to support many groups in developing their monitoring, evaluation, marketing and beneficiary consultation processes. The results of this have greatly assisted the consultancy team in then being able to establish how well many under-funded – but vitally positioned – groups have performed in relation to achieving their outcomes for the disadvantaged communities they serve. Finally, alongside this paid work, we have also sought to commit around 10% of our time to delivering unpaid pro bono consultancy to help the smallest and most financially fragile but important VCSE organisations to survive.



We are an independent and non-political, not-for-profit organisation.

Please feel free to contact us for an initial consultation and meeting.

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Our key services include:

CARRYING OUT STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION TO BETTER UNDERSTAND NEEDS

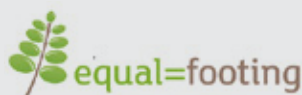
CARRYING OUT EVALUATIONS TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF CURRENT
WORK AND PROMOTING THIS IN COMPELLING IMPACT REPORTS

CREATING COMPELLING MARKETING MATERIALS

DEVELOPING NEW INCOME GENERATION
STRATEGIES FOR CONTRACTS & GRANTS

**DEVELOPING AND WRITING FUNDING AND TENDER APPLICATIONS,
INCLUDING CREATING COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS AND FRESH WAYS OF WORKING**

eg: consulting



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