



Community First

Managed by the Community Development Foundation
Supported by HM Government's Office for Civil Society

1. New Community First Logo

The new Community First logo is now available to download from our website:

<http://www.cdf.org.uk/content/funding-programmes/community-first>

We've also provided an updated briefing pack, communication tips paper and sample press release. We hope you find this useful.

1. Do you want to know what Community First Panels in other parts of the country are doing?

Then check out the Community First Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Community-First/402308993129444>

Remember you don't need a Facebook account, or to have used Facebook before to view the site. We are using this site to post news from panels, examples of funded projects and general updates from CDF, so it's worth checking it regularly. You could also provide a link to the page from your panel website.

2. Is Your Website up to Date?

Now that all panels are awarding grants it is important to ensure you are using your website or Facebook pages to keep people informed of progress. CDF are currently undertaking checks of all panel websites, and asking for all panels to ensure that their website contains the following information as a minimum:

- Who is on your panel
- What are the local priorities for funding in your ward
- Contact details (your unique panel email address)
- Dates of meetings
- What happened at meetings
- What projects you agreed to fund
- How funded projects progress and what they ultimately achieve (photos and videos are a great way to do this)

Our partner TalkAboutLocal have lots of helpful information on developing interesting content for your website here: <http://talkaboutlocal.org.uk/quick-start/>

3. Find out more about the Endowment Match Challenge in your area

As well as giving out funding through the Neighbourhood Matched Fund, Community First is also aiming to raise £150million through the Endowment Match Challenge. The Endowment Match Challenge covers all of England, and seeks to raise donations to build endowment funds which will support community activity for years to come. Through Community First the government will match every £2 donated with £1 of its money.

A network of Community Foundations is responsible for raising funds locally for Community First, and we would like to encourage you to get in touch with your local Community Foundation to find out more about their work. Community Foundations manage funds for a range of donors, so this may also be an opportunity for you to find out about other funding opportunities that may be available in your area.

You can find out more about the Endowment Match Challenge, and get contact details for your local Community Foundation at this link:

http://www.communityfoundations.org.uk/working_in_partnership/community_first

4. Panel Support Events

We are planning a series of events to support Community First Panels over the next few months, you should have received an email from us telling you about this and inviting you to complete a short survey.

We're really keen to hear from all panels about what support would be useful for you, so if you haven't already please do take a few minutes to complete the survey.

The link to the survey is here: <http://www.keysurvey.co.uk/f/461355/15d6/>

We also now have dates schedule for the meetings, so please save the date for the meeting in your area:

Coventry	Tuesday-13-Nov-12
Bristol	Tuesday-20-Nov-12
Portsmouth	Thursday- 06-Dec-12
Manchester	Wednesday-16-Jan-13
Birmingham	Tuesday- 22-Jan-13
Plymouth	Thursday- 24-Jan-13
Nottingham	TBC last week Jan
Leeds	Friday -01-Feb-13
Liverpool	Wednesday-06-Feb-13
London	Friday-08-Feb-13
Sheffield	Tuesday-12-Feb-13
Newcastle	Thursday-14-Feb-13
Hull	Tuesday-19-Feb-13
Birmingham	Thursday-21-Feb-13
Leicester	Tuesday-26-Feb-13
London	Thursday-28-Feb-13

5. Informing funded organisations of their grant award

So that funded groups are aware that they have been awarded a grant, we would like to encourage panels to use the following brief template which you can email to groups once you have submitted a funding recommendation to CDF. We hope that this will help funded groups to understand the next steps, and be able to contact us should there be a problem. Feel free to adapt the email to suit your needs.

Dear [insert name]

I am pleased to inform you that [insert organisation name] has been successful in its application for a Community First grant in [insert ward name] ward. A recommendation has been sent to CDF to provide funding of £[insert amount], to fund [insert project title or brief this description].

Within the next 2 weeks you should receive 2 emails from CDF:

- 1. A guidance document on the next steps, which will come from a member of the CDF team, from an address in this format - firstname.lastname@cdf.org.uk*
- 1. A temporary password to allow you to log on to your account and accept you grant, this will come from the address - mail@grantapplication.com*

Please look out for these emails, if you have not received them within 3 weeks from the date of this email, please contact CDF on CommunityFirst@cdf.org.uk or telephone 020 7833 1772. Before contacting CDF please check your inbox, and in particular your 'junk', 'spam' or 'bulk' email folder to see if the emails have gone into here.

6. Find your hidden assets and win a chance to co-design your community!

An action research project is inviting communities to work with a team of academics to identify the right ingredients for areas to design places and spaces that will help local people to achieve their visions for future improvements.

What makes a 'well-functioning' community?

What makes a community resilient, self-sustaining and inclusive?

These questions will be explored through workshops and 'on the ground' creative activities. Up to £5000 may be available from February 2013 to support four communities to share their experiences, produce case studies and develop something that represents and supports community well-functioning.

The proposal has to be completed by October 31st so please contact Alison Gilchrist, independent community consultant, by the 23rd if you'd like to know more or to be considered for possible involvement. Apologies for the short notice. E-mail: Alison@alisongilchrist.co.uk. Tel: 01539 725195.