

Fenland Area Community Enterprise Trust – FACET.

Developing a Funding Strategy.



Introduction to group

FACET ([Check out their Facebook page here](#)) is a major provider of health and social care for adults with learning and other disabilities from across the whole of Fenland and beyond. It provides vocational and accredited training in Independent Living Skills and Skills for Work, offering a wide range of daily programmes and activities including Community Support, Horticulture, Woodwork, Catering / Fun Cooking, Art and Craft, Drama, Music and Movement, Basic Skills, Employability Skills, IT etc.

FACET has developed a range of accredited and vocational training programmes, supported by the provision of work experience and training placements in community-based enterprises which exist under the organisation's umbrella, and include a horticultural project, a woodworking enterprise, 4 Charity shops all known as 'FACET Homes and Gardens' and a small catering training enterprise. All of these enterprises offer considerable scope for future growth and through these, disadvantaged individuals have been able to gain new skills and undertake work experience and voluntary work placements, which in some cases have led to paid employment.

FACET also supports students who wish to move into supported living from the family home. The support involves liaising with parents and all agencies involved as well as enabling the student to take this step.

The Need

Jane Turner, the Training and Quality Assurance Manager, has responsibility for developing a Funding Strategy Plan for the Trustees. As part of this she attended the NCVO Sustainable Funding Course in the first part of 2014. In September 2014 CCVS were asked by the Manager if we would provide Jane with some mentoring to help her complete the plan.

What was done?

It was agreed that we could provide up to three sessions of one hour plus over the course of 4 months. Jane had previously attended the Making good Funding Applications and Making Professional Funding Applications workshops, and during the mentoring period she attended the Developing a Funding Strategy workshop and the Making a Reaching Communities workshop.

CCVSI provided a description of the mentoring support which could be offered, this defined the process and outlined the outcomes and objectives.

Two mentoring sessions totalling about 3 hours were delivered. These explored the barriers that were perceived to be stopping the development of a strategy, the issues and opportunities facing FACET, what areas of funding and fundraising could be developed, and how it could be put into action.

Jane felt the NCVO course had not been as helpful as it could have been. She wrote after the first mentoring session,

“Found the first session interesting, in that talking it through showed me that I had become buried under negativity from the training attended in London. I think that it highlighted more of what I could not do rather than could do, which was not helpful and I have looked at the information since and the sustainable funding strategy currently being revisited and I can now see clearer what needs to be done”.

The Impact/change

A completed Funding Strategy was developed and has been sent to the Trustees for approval. This has included an assessment of FACET's current funding and how this can be moved forward in the future. The strategy will look to include all FACET's staff, volunteers and supporters in the future and will look at increasing income by using online selling.

Testimony

“Overall feel more positive about the funding strategy and keen to get on with it.”

“I would like thank you for your support over the past few months, it has been very helpful and I have definitely got things to take forward”