

GEORGE - The South West Funding Advisers Forum

WHY WE NEED GEORGE

Research carried out for Funding South West (Funding Advice Services in the South West, Red Door Associates, 2004) found that 'the need and resources for funding advice is growing... more people flagged up the lack of capacity, the growing demand, and the inability to meet it, than any other issue.'

Funding advisers now have their own support networks in a number of counties. Members of these networks want to work together to further their shared interests, and a steering group has been formed to set up a region-wide network - GEORGE. Full membership will be open to all individuals who give funding advice free at the point of delivery to voluntary sector organisations and individuals, with membership also open to organisations. Associate membership is also planned for professional fundraisers and consultants.

GEORGE will work for the recognition of funding advice workers as the interface between the community, the voluntary sector, and funders; funders want to give funds appropriately; communities want to access funds; advice workers are the vital intermediary to lead the one to reach the other, and to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of everyone's objectives.

WHAT GEORGE PLANS TO DO

These are some of the things members of the steering group say GEORGE is for:

"GEORGE should support work to improve the quality of advice, and work on the measurement of the success of advice."

"Local and county groups of funding advisers are crucial. The role of GEORGE is to support and help develop these."

"Look at funding gaps and duplication, and influence funders to deal with these issues."

"Funding advice training, and building on the basic training for funders currently being offered."

"GEORGE should challenge funders where necessary. It needs teeth, and should criticise constructively."

At a meeting on 8 September 2005 the Steering Group adopted a constitution and agreed to launch GEORGE after a period of promotion and consultation over the Autumn and Winter.

Funding South West has already agreed to commission research to investigate the contribution that funding advice makes to the development of community projects and inward investment in local authority areas.

WHY GEORGE NEEDS YOU

The Steering Group believes that the time is right for GEORGE. But they need to know they are not alone. A membership organisation representing the needs of funding advisers and their clients across the region needs the support of all who share the same interests. So please register your interest in GEORGE by completing the form below and returning it to us.

If you'd like more information immediately, please contact John Skrine, Head of Funding South West, on 01823 250805.
john.skrine@creatingexcellence.org.uk

NAME: _____

ORGANISATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

I am:

- a Funding Adviser
 registering my organisation's interest
 a Fundraiser or consultant
 other (please state)

Please keep me informed about GEORGE

I would like to become involved now

Return to: John Skrine, creating:excellence, Ground Floor, East Reach House, East Reach, Taunton TA1 3EN.



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