

VCS Assembly Event 14th May 2015 Linden Hall

Notes of key note speech : Lyn Cole, Deputy Director England, Big Lottery

‘Working together to put people in the Lead’

Big Lottery distributes 40% of funds to community groups. In terms of regional indicative allocation, the north east does consistently well and Northumberland does well. The Sector is led by dedicated people and not afraid to challenge and speak their mind.

Applications must be about the needs of the community and relevant to the community. Local people have solutions to the challenges they face. Big Lottery Fund has a new strategic framework which is collaborative and outward facing, putting people in the lead. It focuses on what matters to the community drawing on the skills and assets of the people, identifying the strengths they bring and identifying the solutions.

Simple process – new pilot of 4 questions which is not onerous, Turnaround is four weeks. ‘What do you want to do and how will that help your community’ Pilot will run until the summer.

Six principles

- Confidence not control – discuss ideas rather than control what doing
- Focus on the strengths people bring and not the negatives
- Catalyst for others – access, volunteering, young people etc
- Broker conversations between groups – listen, learn and act on things that matter to communities
- Addressing diversity and tackling inequality ensuring funding supports all
- Use resources better – think and try new things differently. Collectively do things better. Have conversations with communities, know what works. Will provide access to knowledge that other funders hold.

Moving forward - reflecting on how well Northumberland had done already. The need to use the Lottery website to see funding – Awards for all, Reaching Communities, Large grants, Whiz kids. If project over £500k speak to Lottery. Local Team is available to deal with any queries and discuss proposals.

VCS challenged to hold Lottery to account and specify how things could be improved. Funding needs to be distributed equitably. There is a need to look at how we do things differently – pooling resources, volunteers, using social media. Need to keep up the good work, grow and have better conversations, get bolder. Partnership working for larger groups is not happening so much in Northumberland.