



Meeting notes from ACO Grantmaking Forum 5th February 2015

British Dental Association, 64 Wimpole Street, London W1G 8YS

Start time 11am

Present: Dominic Fox-ACO , Jason Tetley- RL Glasspool Trust(Chair), Dorothy Toyn(Speaker) Chartered Physiotherapy Members Benevolent Fund, Shebnem Emiroglu- Elizabeth Finn Care, , Caroline Hobden- IET Connect, Claire Brandon- IET Connect, Dawn Jackson- Elizabeth Finn Care, John Sands-SALRC, Sarah Mitchell-BDA Ben Fund, Nigel Hamilton- Help Musicians UK, Sharon Cooper-Collins-RECT, Tonia Haworth-Hospitality Action, Helen Butler- R.L Glasspool Charity Trust, Ben Calverley- Family Fund, Anni Broadhead- Support Network, Glenda Barnard- Book Trade Charity, Gill Evans- Electrical Charity, Eunice Bornasty-Cinema and TV Trade Charity, Alex van Straubenezee- Newstraid Ben Fund,

Apologies- Ivan Savage- Timber Trades Benevolent Society, Evelyn Strouts-Officers Association, Judith Smith-Charity for Civil Servants, Malcolm Williams-Shipwrecked Mariners' Fund, Abi Smith-Railway Benevolent Fund, Valerie Coleman- Maritime Charities Funding Group, Mandi Leonard-Salespeople's Charity.

Agenda Items-

Dorothy Toyn- Chartered Society of Physiotherapists Members' Benevolent Fund

Made a presentation on collecting data, her methods, benefits and how the data was used. (Power point presentation can be found on ACO website)

Following the presentation there was general discussion about the value of using benchmarking data to compare against gathered data. Also the merits of using internal and external comparators such as demographic information derived from organisations such as the Office of National Statistics as well as the use, provision and commissioning of databases.

Open Forum.

Databases- There was continued discussion around the experience of databases and their commissioning. It was agreed that ACO would issue a brief survey to members about their needs and experiences to share with members. Stuart Moon from RL Glasspool will be presenting to the GMF on this subject later in the year.

Working Poor- Alex von Straubenezee- Newstraid, asked what people's knowledge and experience of the working poor was, as they were doing research into this. Jason suggested the Joseph Rowntree Foundation Monitoring Poverty and Social Inclusion as a starting point

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/MPSE2013.pdf>

Volunteers and Contracting out visits – Sarah Mitchell initiated some discussion around the use of volunteers and the need for contracting out visitors. Family Fund contract out for their Core Assets and Children’s Services. Dominic Fox mentioned that Diane Stevens of the Rainy Day Trust was in talks with the NUS about working with students.

Asylum and asylum seekers- Anni Broadhead was interested to know if anyone had any knowledge in the area, Sarah Mitchell said that she had used the Refugee Council. This is obviously an area of interest. Dominic Fox said that he was discussing with CABA working beyond the UK and was seeking a round table discussion about this regarding best practice and challenges.

Migrant workers from the EEA -John Sands raised concerns about changes to benefits for people coming from the European Economic Area waiting 3 months before claiming benefits. He had a case of an applicant who had changed from ESA to JSA and had lost housing benefit because it was a new claim. Whether this now counts as a new claim (as the effective date of claim would have normally been the start of any linking claims) was questioned. Jason Tetley said that he would raise this when he had a meeting with CPAG.

Financial Conduct Authority Applications- Anni Broadhead explained that she had now completed her FCA application regarding regulated activities, such as beneficiary loans and debt counselling at a cost of £800. She commented that the advice given by Jonathan Burchfield of Stone King LLP in his presentation on the Financial Services and Marketing Act was invaluable. He also suggested a few potential financial ‘workarounds’ but these have yet to be tested. However Anni felt that it adds nothing to the business or benefits the beneficiaries of the fund.

ACO update – Dominic Fox.

Website content- Benepedia is growing, ACO is about to launch a library listing recent research reports and useful publications. There is now a training page which currently includes a training course at Cass Business school with discounts for ACO members. Rathbones Investment, the new corporate will also be offering training events. If you are offering training events members may advertise it on the website.

Training Services- In addition to the training page on the website ACO is hoping to develop group training events. So please tell us what your training needs are.

Benchmarking Report Feedback- The report has been widely welcomed and ACO have learned that results were skewed by the number of very small charities and many charities who missed the deadline. The ACO board away day will discuss how best to use the research to support members.

Local Welfare Provision- ACO has continued to lobby on local welfare provision and has been lobbying against withdraw of funding which will impact on vulnerable people and the benevolent sector. It was found that Local Authorities had been hesitant in the management of the funds, including some which had closed early. There has been a written statement from government saying that an extra £74 million will be made available for local welfare provision but this will not be ring fenced. This leaves questions about whether local authorities will restart closed schemes and their adherence to quality standards. There will be a meeting with London Funders about what the scheme could look like. And in the autumn ACO will examine the impact on ACO members.

Future Topics –The Payments Council on new ways of making payments to beneficiaries especially using new technologies. We will also be looking at pensions provision, databases for grant giving and it processes.

Next Meeting- 14th April 11am BDA offices. 64 Wimpole St, London W1G 8YS

We would like to extend our thanks to the British Dental Association for supporting the meeting..,