Welcome
Lots and lots of news items this month, with a range of funding opportunities and news from funders and grantmakers. Enjoy.

SHIRE Community Grant programme 2016/17 is now open
To help deliver the priorities of Leicestershire County Council's Communities Strategy, the SHIRE Community Grant programme will enable voluntary and community sector organisations (including social enterprises and Town/Parish Councils) to deliver community-based projects, services and activities which directly benefit the most vulnerable people in Leicestershire.

Eligible organisations will be able to access grants of up to £10,000 and/or smaller grants of up to £3,000 for community based projects and activities that are focused on supporting vulnerable/disadvantaged people and communities. We are particularly interested in funding new and innovative projects that will:
- support the most vulnerable individuals and communities in Leicestershire
- provide early intervention and prevention based solutions
- complement existing services already being delivered

Organisations interested in applying for a grant are asked to contact the Grant Officers to discuss their project proposal before completing an online application form.

Application Deadlines - Although applications can be submitted at any time, bi-monthly deadlines for applications have been scheduled for:
- Monday 20th June 2016
- Monday 15th August 2016
- Monday 24th October 2016
- Monday 19th December 2016

Applicants will be advised of the decision on their application within 4 weeks of each Deadline Date. Projects approved for funding will need to be completed within 12 months of the grant award being made.

Application Process - Before completing the online Application Form, please read the Guidance Notes carefully. The Guidance Notes contain important details about the criteria for funding, along with the Council's process for awarding funds.

Please ensure you have contacted the Grant Officers before submitting your application to confirm that, in principle, your project is eligible. If you have any queries about the grant fund criteria or process, or if you would like to request an electronic or paper copy of the Guidance Notes, please call the Grants Officers on (0116) 305 7269 / 305 7020, or email: shiregrants@leics.gov.uk.
**Comic Relief – Strategy Refresh**

Comic Relief has launched a refreshed grants strategy, details of which can be found on their website here: [www.comicrelief.com/grants](http://www.comicrelief.com/grants). As part of the strategy refresh there has also been a number of funding initiatives launched, these include:

**Maternal Mental Health** - In the UK we are currently inviting applications from community based organisations supporting women and families experiencing Maternal Mental Health issues. Funding is available to organisations in the North West, South West and East England Regions and organisations in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. Grants of **up to £120,000 are available for 2-3 years**, the application process is open now and the deadline for applications is Midday 15th June 2016. Further details are available [here](http://www.comicrelief.com/grants).

**Girls in Gangs** - Research and evidence shows that gang-involved girls and young women navigate a range of harmful environments which can expose them to high levels of sexual exploitation and increased criminal activity. We recognise that this is a complex issue. Evidence shows the need to work much more systemically and calls for multi-partner, collaborative approaches to support young women and girls effectively in reducing their likelihood of joining gangs, reducing the harm they face within gangs and supporting them to leave gangs. Proposals are welcome for **up to £150,000 for 18 months of activity**, with the potential for a further £150,000 for a subsequent 18 months period. Funding for this second phase will be agreed after the initial 16 months following first-year reporting and learning from the evaluation. This is open to applications and the deadline for applications is 13th July 2016 (midday). Further details are available [here](http://www.comicrelief.com/grants).

**Sport in Communities** - We’re seeking proposals which use sport as a catalyst for change, helping people to do two key things: **Take ownership:** feel part of increasingly inclusive and cohesive communities. **Feel empowered:** to identify and solve the social issues affecting their communities. We expect to make between 15 and 30 grants across the UK and we’re inviting proposals for work in several of the UK’s most deprived areas:

- Scotland - Glasgow and North Lanarkshire.
- Northern Ireland - Belfast and Derry.
- Wales - Blaenau Gwent and Denbighshire.

Proposals are welcome for grants **between £40,000 and £75,000 for up to two years of activity**. The programme is open for applications now and deadline for applications is 11th July, 2016 (midday). Further details are available [here](http://www.comicrelief.com/grants).

We will also be **opening a new fund in mid-June** for small to medium organisations across the UK called **Core Strength**. Funding of **up to £40,000 over 2 years** will be available to locally significant organisations working in our theme areas of Children and Young People, Women and Girls, Health and Wellbeing and Strengthening Communities with turnovers of **between £100,000 and £500,000** to support core running costs and work to increase the capacity and stability of organisations. Further information will be available on the grants pages of their website in due course. They anticipate launching further initiatives in Autumn 2016.
Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation
– Donor Matching Scheme

The Community Foundation works to increase private giving to local needs. We do this by setting up private donor funds – which are like a donor’s own personal charity, but for less expense and administration.

We continually build our database of local groups and the work they do within our communities, and we do this through our forms below. These forms give groups looking for funding space to give details of ongoing funding requirements they have or activities they would like to run.

If we find a donor whose interest matches the work of your group, we will present your information, among others, to see if they might support it. There is no guarantee that we will be able to find funding for you but it will increase your chances of being showcased to interested donors.

Funding requests of up to £3,000 can be considered but typical grant awards are often much less than this. Please don’t just apply for the maximum amount: apply for what you need.

It is important that you read the application guidelines below to make sure you are eligible to apply. There is no deadline for submission, and once you have submitted your forms, you need not contact us again, we will contact you if you’re successful or if we need any more information from you.

To find out more about the donor matching scheme and other funds visit the foundations website here.

HLF – Skills for the Future programme

Skills for the Future is a grants programme for projects which provide paid work-based training placements to meet a skills shortage in the heritage sector and help diversify the workforce. Grants will be from £100,000 to £750,000.

In two previous rounds, in 2010 and 2014, our trustees awarded grants to 93 projects, investing £47m across the UK. To date, 40 projects have completed, over 1,700 trainees have been recruited and 1,300 of those have finished their placement.

On 24 June 2016, we will publish guidance and forms on our website when the programme opens to applications. There will be a two-round application process, with 29 September the deadline for first round applications.

Pre-application workshops - If you would like to register for one of our information workshops then please book via Eventbrite.

- Edinburgh: 27 June (afternoon)
- London: 29 June (morning)
- Belfast: 30 June (afternoon)
- Cardiff: 1 July (morning)
- Nottingham: 8 July (morning)
- Birmingham: 11 July (afternoon)
- Leeds: 13 July (afternoon)
- London: 26 July (morning)
If you experience any issues booking a place or you can’t attend a workshop but would like to receive an alert when programme guidance is ready, please email the Skills team.

Programme priorities - The programme is intended to:

- fund high quality, paid work-based training opportunities
- provide placements that equip people with the skills to pursue a career in heritage
- address identified skills shortages in the heritage sector
- increase the diversity of the heritage workforce
- enhance the capacity of the heritage sector to deliver sustainable training and share good practice

We will assess projects against three outcomes. With our Skills for the Future investment:

- people will have developed skills
- people will have learnt about heritage
- more people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage. This outcome will be weighted in our assessment. Our Trustees would like to see strong proposals for the recruitment of a diverse range of people into the heritage sector

Sport England – New 5-year Strategy

More than one in four people in England (28 per cent) do less than 30 minutes of physical activity a week. But research shows that those who do the least activity stand to benefit the most, even if it’s just small changes like gentle jogging, swimming or playing rounders in the park.

As well as continuing to support people who already play sport, there will be a much greater emphasis on groups who are typically much less active such as women, disabled people and those from lower-socio-economic backgrounds.

Read the new strategy Towards an Active Nation.

The strategy will help deliver against the five health, social and economic outcomes set out in the Government’s Sporting Future Open in a new window strategy. 1 in 6 deaths are caused by inactivity

Key features of the new strategy are:

- Dedicated funding to get children and young people active from the age of five, including a new fund for family based activities and offering training to at least two teachers in every secondary school in England to help them better meet the needs of all children, irrespective of their level of sporting ability
- Working with the sport sector to put customers at the heart of everything they do, and using the principles of behaviour change to inform their work
- Piloting new ways of working locally by investing in up to 10 places in England – a mix of urban and rural areas
- Investing up to £30m in a new volunteering strategy, enabling more people to get the benefits of volunteering and attracting a new, more diverse range of volunteers
• Helping sport keep pace with the digital expectations of customers – making it as easy to book a badminton court as a hotel room
• Working closely with governing bodies of sport and others who support people who already play regularly, to help them become more efficient, sustainable and diversify their sources of funding.

Funding simplified - We have also simplified our approach to funding, reducing the number of investment programmes from more than 30 down to seven. And we'll introduce, new, more straightforward, application forms to help smaller organisations access funding.

Coalfields Regeneration Trust
There are now less than 2 weeks left to submit your completed application forms to the Trust for the Employment Theme – deadline date 10th June 2016.

The Coalfields Regeneration Trust is dedicated to improving the quality of life for the 5.5 million people living in Britain’s former mining communities. Many of these communities still require support due to the huge impact the closure of the mines had upon them.

The Coalfields Community Investment Programme (England) is a £500,000 fund created to support activities that tackle some of the key challenges that still remain in coalfield communities. The fund is open to projects that deliver in the top 30% most deprived coalfield communities and that will make a positive difference in addressing the following themes:

• Skills: Growing the skills of people in order to increase their opportunities
• Employment: Developing pathways to increase the number of people in work
• Health: Supporting activities that improve the health and wellbeing of all age groups

Our offer is now live for the Employment Theme only and all the information on registering an enquiry relating to a project is on the following page: Coalfields Community Investment Programme (England)

Please read all the information and the guidance notes carefully before deciding whether to complete the Eligibility Survey.

Grassroots Giving – Skipton Building Society
Community groups from across the UK are being invited to apply for a slice of £81,500 funding as the award-winning Grassroots Giving programme launches for 2016.

Grassroots Giving has already donated £241,500 to 483 small organisations since it was launched three years ago. Last year we rewarded 162 groups with pots of £500 to help them continue their amazing work in local neighbourhoods across the country. We also uncovered more fantastic stories of hard work and dedication, UK wide, to add to the ones we saw in 2013 and 2014.
Details of all our winners so far can be found elsewhere on this website. In 2016 we will be handing out pots of £500 to another 163 deserving causes so don't miss your chance to be one of the successful organisations.

Applications for Grassroots Giving in 2016 are now open - an online form and further details are available here. Other keys dates for 2016 are:
- Applications close 29 July
- Shortlisted groups announced 1 September
- Public voting opens online and at Skipton Building Society branches around the country on 1 September

**Big Lottery Fund - Women and Girls funding announced**

Women and girls are at the heart of more than 60 projects across England which will support them to regain and retain control of their lives. Funding is focused on not only providing help for women of all ages faced with extremely difficult situations such as stalking, sexual exploitation, violence against them but also in mentoring and connecting young girls with role models.

New projects announced include development of the first national online resource for women subjected to sexual violence, mentoring for young girls and support for women who have been stalked following an abusive relationship.

The Big Lottery Fund is investing £45.5 million in 63 projects. A further £3 million will be invested in evaluating and learning including supporting the projects as they develop and then sharing details of the work of each so that other women and organisations can benefit in the future.

The Girls’ Network will use £749,720 to expand its successful mentoring network for disadvantaged teenage girls and young women aged 14-19 from across England. Young women and girls will be matched with professional women who will meet with them regularly to explore career opportunities, develop their skills, confidence and self-esteem. They will be provided with the help and guidance they need to achieve their own goals through education and beyond.

The organisation has identified that women and girls who are not in education, employment or training are likely to remain in this situation longer than their male peers. This results in women not being able to afford childcare, losing their confidence and subsequently finding it even harder to get into employment. They already have 40 organisations on board where girls will be connected with mentors through a tailored programme that meets their individual needs.

Rape Crisis England & Wales receives more than £3 million to develop a new online platform to support women and girls who are survivors of sexual violence. Its Weaving The Web project aims to empower women to get support and provide choice on how and when they access services. In the past year, Rape Crisis Centres have had around 3,000 women and girls on their waiting lists and their ambition is that women and girl survivors of sexual abuse get support when they want and need it.

The organisation will be working closely with women to develop a safe and secure online place. It will be designed to fit alongside existing face to face support for women
by offering web-based counselling, forums, web and video chat and self-help tools. Its 48 member organisations have seen an increase in demand for their support and the new online platform will ensure that women and girls have access no matter where or when they need it.

Rape Crisis co-chair Dawn Thomas said: “Digital technologies have become a significant and completely integrated part of our daily lives and many women and girls, of all ages and backgrounds, already routinely access information and services via the internet. Yet there is no national resource specifically designed to provide the range of information and support that women and girls, who have experienced sexual violence of any form, want and need online. This project responds to the unprecedented level of demand for specialist support services from sexual violence survivors.”

Further details and the full announcement can be found on the Big Lottery Fund website here.

**Grants Officer opportunity at Foundation Derbyshire**

Foundation Derbyshire is currently seeking a Grants Officer on a permanent contract basis. 17.5 to 22.5 hours per week (days to be negotiated but preferably to include Thursdays and Fridays). Salary of £19,000 to £24,000 p.a. pro rata (dependent upon experience)

Based in Belper, Foundation Derbyshire is a local registered charity, grant maker and philanthropy hub. We’re building an endowment fund, using the income to provide grants to local groups working to tackle disadvantage, build stronger communities and enhance the quality of life in our county.

Our donors, who set up funds, are individuals, families, local businesses and groups who share a common aspiration of wanting to support Derbyshire based community activity and charities on their own doorstep.

The grants officer will have responsibility for several donor funds. The role will involve promotion of all funds, support of applicants, and the assessment of applications received as well as presentation of funding bids to decision making panels.

Please contact us for an application form and job description. We will not accept CVs.

Telephone: 01773 525860, Email: hello@derbyshirecommunityfoundation.co.uk

Closing Date: Thursday 30th June 2016
Interviews to take place on Monday 11th July and Tuesday 12th July

**Wellbeing 2 programme findings – Big Lottery Fund**

A healthy, balanced diet is an important aspect of maintaining health and wellbeing. Our Wellbeing 2 funding aimed to increase awareness of, and access to, healthy foods.

**What the funding delivered** - 43% of adults said they had made positive changes to their eating habits because of a project.
What can Wellbeing 2 tell us about healthy eating?

- Shorter courses for families (such as a cooking session, recipe creation, or a healthy shopping trip) can be popular and help people take their first steps towards adopting a healthier attitude.
- But if we want to develop skills around food, then longer term courses that gradually pass over responsibility for eating and diet are more likely to be the answer.
- We need to make healthy eating activities enjoyable and fun! If the tone of the activity is dull or demanding then it’s less likely to illicit long term change.
- Good projects tick two boxes. They address both “what’s effective” and “what people want to take part in”.
- Through all this work, we should demonstrate how healthy eating can be achieved on a budget.
- Quick wins can be good. So providing clear, simple recipes that only use a few ingredients may be quick and simple, but can be a big step in the right direction.
- Food is sociable. As well as improving eating habits, group activities also promote social interaction (which in turn aids wellbeing).
- We should provide appropriate food-related activities that are culturally aware of the people who may want to take part.

The funding in action – Bolsover Church of England Junior School in Derbyshire has over 290 pupils and has been a Food for Life gold award holder since 2010. Some years ago, the school had no facilities for cooking, growing or farming. They now have a specially designated cookery classroom with dedicated design technology teachers, garden, polytunnel, an orchard and a ‘farm’ where they raise chickens, pigs and goats.

Headteacher Rowena Herbert tells us how the school has changed its culture, with a little help from Food for Life. “The children have developed new skills, gained in confidence, and are seeing what they have grown. Food for Life has raised awareness of the whole of food culture – what we eat, how we produce and cook it – and the children really enjoy this. Many people comment on how food orientated we are, which I feel is invaluable because we have been identified as an area with a high obesity problem.”

Pupils had the opportunity to cook, grow and farm. The activity links to the curriculum and gets staff, pupils and parents working together. The school ran competitions to encourage children to design new school-meals, with the winning entries being added to our lunch menu. Many of the dishes on the menu include produce grown in the school garden.

“On Friday afternoons we have enrichment time, in which pupils choose activities ranging from cooking and growing and to sport, first aid and beauty therapy. We have food theme nights, where children set up the canteen like a restaurant and take bookings. We have a school shop, which sells goods and produce made or grown in school workshops. Every fortnight, we offer a roast dinner for people in the local community and in which we have a maximum of 40 guests each time. The children serve the guests, which is a great way for them to mix with the community.”
“We see it as paramount importance that our pupils understand where their food comes from and how the choices they make in life can impact on their health and wellbeing. We provide a rich, enhanced curriculum in which food is at the forefront of everything including developing our pupils’ skills in farming and gardening.”

In 2015 the School became the first ever to win Lead Association for Catering in Education’s ‘School Food Achievement Award’, ‘presented to a primary or secondary school, who in the opinion of the judges, has strived to achieve the most significant improvements in food and education, taking a whole school approach’.

Twitter @EMFundingForum
A few links from our Twitter feed that might be of interest:

- If it is impact that matters most, why do we still talk about large #charities and #smallcharities? http://ow.ly/4nuqmo volsec from @NPCthinks
- People are more likely to donate to charity if they live in a country which offers tax incentives #charitytuesday http://po.st/QcUHhC from @cafonline
- What do funders think about your reserves level? http://bit.ly/1V5XWbT My thoughts are in this piece from @GdnVoluntary from @emmabeeston01
- How @CitizensAdvice saves public money and changes lives - our #impact report: http://bit.ly/1T0BFtc from @CABImpact
- Our new interactive report explores the impact we’ve made in 2015: http://bit.ly/25b3eEZ from @LBFEW
- #Statoftheweek 400k people work full-time & provide at least 20 hours of unpaid care a week http://bit.ly/1WZn2qm from @jrf_uk
- 4 key tips on collaboration for #funders > http://ow.ly/umL300BF5L Write up from our recent event with @TheBulldogTrust #fundercollab from @NPCthinks
- UK Giving is the definitive report to how people in the UK give, and is now available: http://po.st/s6npMm from @cafonline
- Large charities are making 11% losses on government contracts - more details here via @CFGtweets

And finally...
You will need a break after getting through this bumper issue, and if you aren’t already enjoying the ‘Summer’ during half-term holidays, then hope your hols come soon.