



Foundations for Bristol's Third Sector Recovery Take away from the meeting on 24th June 2020

The One City Approach through the COVID-19 crisis

From Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol



“The initial idea of the City Funds was to gather in a single pot a share of the CSR spendings of local businesses to make grants and investments. And over time we would grow that pot into an endowment. So over 10-15 years as a City, not as a City Council, we have a pot that we could use it to invest in our key priorities. City Funds is one of the tools to deliver the City Plan. We're looking at what we can do to build our own strengths. “

“By getting ourselves organised, we are being very clear about where we want to go, what we want to do and the sequence we need to get there. This is the One City Plan which says that in 2050, we want to be an inclusive, sustainable city that is a city of hope.”

“Now because we had this structure in place in the lead up to COVID, we were able to reorient all the structure quickly around tackling hunger in a city under lockdown. We've also done it around the economy with the economy board meeting weekly instead of quarterly, looking at survival of businesses, supporting the community sector and plan for the recovery. And we've also done it around Sustainable Development Goals with the explicit aim as a city to meet the SDGs that feeds into the City Plan and the City Funds.”

“By developing a united front, we can deploy relationships and try to convince the government and outside investors. Our hope is that our desire to work together with partners, along with the existence of a plan gives a better handle on the context. You're invited to the table to help us shape that One City Plan. We want active partnerships and trusting relationships helping us think about our future and articulate it. “

“There is so much energy about how we can work together. We realise that no single organisation in Bristol can work without the others. But actually, we do need to work across the city boundaries as well, across the UK and internationally [...]. The impact of this work is going far beyond our expectation. If we can make the join upright, we can do things that change global systems as well as doing the work that needs to be done in our communities locally.” Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol

Quartet Community Foundation response to the crisis and our effort for the recovery

From Sue Mountstevens, Chair of Quartet Community Foundation, and Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner



“COVID-19 has highlighted the sheer inequities and the fragilities of our communities. And the case for fundamental change is growing. This is a unique opportunity to turn this crisis into an era of change. We need to aim high, we need to think radically, we need to deliver. This strategy needs to be backed up by resources and by many and diverse voices working together.”

“One of the cornerstones for this recovery plan is City Funds. It's exciting, it's dynamic, and it's different. As Marvin said, we need to shape this together. So



we need to be supporting local action, looking at community decision making, testing new ideas, and fostering innovation and partnership.”

“If there are only two words that you take away from this session, it's got to be collaboration and partnership. City Funds has a vital role in building a Place-Based Giving Scheme. We've moved a long way over the past year, but we need to do so much more.”

The recovery plan for the third sector in Bristol

From Ronnie Brown, Philanthropy Director for Quartet Community Foundation



“The recovery plan contains four interrelated strands to what we believe any long-term recovery plan for the local third sector in the Bristol area will require. We obviously want to work collaboratively alongside others to implement it. We can't deliver the plan alone, and we hope that it will provide a focus to secure the resources needed to support this implementation.”

“Quartet has got about 290 fundholders and we're working with them and other local philanthropists and charitable trusts to identify which strands they would be most interested in supporting, aligning efforts and funding wherever possible to make a coordinated impact within these

strands of work.”

The challenges for the third sector in Bristol

Sandra Meadows, CEO of VOSCUR, Member of the City Funds Governing Board and Chair of the Community Initiatives Funding Priority Group for the City Funds.



“I've been in the sector for about 30 years now. And I have seen the most remarkable changes in the last five years. Marvin is right when saying that the One City Approach and the City Office have made an incredible difference to our ability to work collaboratively and collectively with shared objectives and goals.”

“COVID-19 has exacerbated systemic inequalities and the response and recovery could compound that rather than resorb them. Recovery needs to proactively include sector organisations that are inclusively tackling inequalities with the imperative around BAME communities. We need to target and prioritise, but most importantly, be mindful about how we

differentiate our responses wherever necessary.”

“City Funds has a model which deliberately attempts to include as many people as possible. There are distributed leadership and diversity within the boards. Tackling the root causes of poverty and inequality is quite a challenge. The sector as a whole will be different post COVID. It will require a more nuanced and targeted response focused organisations and communities the most impacted by the crisis.”

“Rebalancing the power within grantmaking context, on a practical level, means recognising that perhaps grantmakers are not always the best people to make funding decisions. By opening our structures to people with lived experiences we will challenge our perceptions and our usual way of operating. City Funds has gone some way down this road by creating a new grant panel that includes people with lived experience. I think the model of the City Funds is very well placed to progress in this direction.”



Take-away from the discussion

“The conversation highlights how we can match the city aspirations with the national funders’ priorities. A sweet spot is to be found in between, where we can align or pull funding. For the city to have clarity about what it wants to achieve, and its plan for doing it is immensely attractive to funders. And that bears out in the way that we’ve managed to align and pull our funding in various instances.” Moira Sinclair, Paul Hamlyn Foundation

“What I like about City Funds is the collaboration, the ability for funders to work together in the way that the sector was telling us. We are here all the time asking the sector to demonstrate how they’re working together, how they’re working in collaboration, how they’re not competing [...]. And they were asking the same of us to simplify the process. So we were really enthused by helping to establish City Funds as a mechanism to do that.” Tim Temple, National Lottery Community Fund

“We have been working in Bristol to identify the barriers to economic inclusion for migrant and refugees. [...] To lower these barriers, we are piloting new flexible financial instruments such as micro-lending. There is a need to engage at a more local level. That is why the place-based approach developed in Bristol is so powerful to test new ideas. If this pilot works in Bristol, we could replicate this programme in other locations.” Amir Rizwan, Comic Relief

“The research conducted with Comic Relief on the issue of Economic Inclusion is an example of how City Funds as a vehicle can move from research that is necessary to understand an issue, and where the gaps are, and then move to test possible solutions. And that requires a combination of different types of support, from small grants through to social investment.” David Barclay, The Good Faith

“We are very excited about your work around participatory grantmaking and the involvement of people with lived experience. Obviously, given who we are, we are interested in engaging with children and young people. After COVID there are lots of threats to the youth sector, but there are also opportunities to think differently in the future.” Ralph Hartley, BBC CIN

List of attendees

Name	Position	Organisation
Andy Street	Chair of the Governing Board	City Funds
Marvin Rees	Mayor of Bristol	Bristol City Council
Sue Mountstevens	Chair of the Governing Board	Quartet Community Foundation
Sue Turner	CEO	Quartet Community Foundation
Sandra Meadows	CEO	VOSCUR
Ronnie Brown	Philanthropy Director	Quartet Community Foundation
David Barclay	Partner	The Good Faith
Rosemary MacDonald	CEO	UK Community Foundation
Ashleigh Milson	Senior Campaigns and Public Affairs Manager	Charities Aid Foundation
Tim Temple	Funding Officer	National Lottery Community Funds
Amir Rizwan	Senior Advisor – Social Investment & Social Innovation	Comic Relief
Mary Mosinghi	Grant Manager	The Henry Smith Charity
Clare Rance	Manager, South West	Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales
Ralph Hartley	Head of Funding Partnerships	BBC Children In Need
Mhairi Sharp	Operations Director	National Emergencies Trust
Moira Sinclair	Chief Executive	Paul Hamlyn Foundation