

**EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF GREATER
BRISTOL FOUNDATION'S GRANTS
PROGRAMME**

A REPORT

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April 2004**

EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF GREATER BRISTOL FOUNDATION'S GRANTS PROGRAMME

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This evaluation of the impact of Greater Bristol Foundation's grants programme seeks to answer three questions:

- What has been the impact of GBF's grant-making to date (using grants made in the last five years as a sample):
 - a) on the development of individual organisations that have received grants;
 - b) on those organisations' ability to collaborate within the sector (ie have GBF's grants helped them to work with others);
 - c) on the area as a whole through the activities of funded organisations, individually or collaboratively?
- How can GBF best monitor this impact as a whole and present that information going forward, thereby reducing the need to undertake one-off evaluation exercises?
- In the context of the prevailing funding environment and GBF's current and potential funding sources, should Trustees consider any changes in grant-making priorities for its discretionary funds?

The work took place between January and March 2004, using a detailed questionnaire which was sent to 300 groups who had received grants over the period April 1998 – March 2003. Follow-up interviews were held with nine groups, in order to explore in more detail issues raised more generally through the questionnaire exercise. Interviews were also held with ten strategic players within the four unitary authority areas, who have several years' experience of the development of their local voluntary and community sector and the development of its capacity.

The full report is in five sections: an analysis of grant data to provide a context for the evaluation; the impact of the grants on project users and local communities; the impact of the grants on the groups themselves; the impact of GBF's grants and grant-making within the bigger picture; and conclusions and recommendations for change.

Key findings – data analysis

The results of GBF's handling of funds which are focussed on specific parts of **the city** show up clearly: the inner city and parts of N and S Bristol have benefited in this way. There has been a steady growth of grant-giving to S Bristol over the last five years, but E Bristol has had less funding over the period than other parts of the city.

Grant-giving in **the surrounding unitary authorities** has increased since the widening of GBF's area of benefit in 2001, but South Gloucestershire has

continued to receive more grants than Bath & NE Somerset and North Somerset over the whole period.

GBF has consistently funded many more projects that benefit **children and young people** than projects benefiting other specific groups of people. A small proportion of funding has gone to **older people's** groups. **Black and minority ethnic groups** and **disabled people's groups** are well represented in GBF's grants.

GBF has a strong pattern of serially funding groups: 59% of questionnaire respondents had received more than one grant, and 10% had received five or more grants.

Key findings – the impact on project users and local communities

There is clear evidence from the impact on users and on local communities that GBF is **achieving its aims** of reaching people that are most disadvantaged and isolated, enabling people to take up opportunities not otherwise available to them, and involving people in improving their local community.

45% of the groups who responded reported an **increase in users** as a result of the grant(s), which contributes to the sustainability of their activities. Over half the groups said that their users had gained increased confidence, new skills, and had access to a wider range of activities. Other **benefits to users** were more friends/social activities, more involvement in the community, and more opportunities open to them. Half of the groups appear to be using some type of formalised monitoring and evaluation to find out about benefits to users.

Many social **benefits to their local communities** were reported by groups. More than half stated that more people were involved in community activities and there was better morale in the community as a result of their grant(s). However, a significant number of groups found it difficult to identify the impact of funded activities on the wider community.

There was also some evidence of **economic benefits**: some users had gained jobs through involvement in funded activities, and 21% of groups reported a decrease in crime and vandalism.

Key findings – impact on the groups themselves

GBF plays a key role in building the **confidence** of groups, particularly to make other grant applications: 64% of responding groups reported this. 51% reported that they had increased their **skills** in running and managing their group as a result of their grant; 12% gained **experience** of recognising needs, and planning and implementing a project as a result of their first grant.

Funding from GBF levers in significant amounts of **funding from other sources** to the voluntary and community sector in the area. Almost half the groups who responded stated that their grant(s) had enabled them to attract

other funding. Over 40 separate sources of additional funding were mentioned by groups.

GBF grants are one of a number of factors which contribute to **joint and partnership working** in the sector. 24% of groups felt that their grants had had a positive effect on this aspect of their work.

It is also possible to identify a number of **roles which GBF plays as funder**: pump-primer, lifeline, capacity builder, specific/discrete project funder, and pressure-easer.

Key findings – the bigger picture

GBF has an excellent reputation as a friendly and approachable funder. It is acknowledged and valued as having particular expertise in **securing commitment from the private sector** and **acting as a conduit** for resources to go in to the voluntary and community sector. Its **independence** from other sectors gives it a good reputation as an ‘honest broker’. Through working collaboratively with Local Authority Officers and serially funding many groups, GBF has the capacity to play a **strategic role** within the local funding environment.

GBF’s **publicity and promotion** are seen as good, but there are still groups who are not aware of it, particularly new groups and those in rural areas. More clarity and detail about priorities, criteria, and making further applications would be appreciated by groups, and they would also welcome non-monitoring visits.

GBF’s **identity** within the wider area is enhanced by having a local fund and a physical presence. Media awareness in South Gloucestershire is low, leading to a belief that GBF does not operate in the area.

Conclusions and recommendations

It is clear that GBF’s grants programme and its role as conduit and ‘honest broker’ have a major positive impact on individuals, voluntary and community sector groups and the wider community in the area. It is very successful in meeting its main aims: the report’s recommendations are intended to strengthen it further. **Recommendations** are:

Policies and criteria

1. GBF should agree clear criteria on serial funding for groups, and should include this on all appropriate publicity materials and application forms.
2. GBF should recognise its crucial roles as lifeline and pressure easer for many groups, and consider whether any discretionary funds should be earmarked for these.

Grant distribution

1. GBF should investigate why there are fewer applications from E Bristol relative to need, and discuss with Bristol City Council's Community Development team and appropriate infrastructure organisations any subsequent actions it might take.
2. GBF should continue its work in encouraging applications from older people's groups.
3. GBF should consider some form of restriction on spending from its discretionary funds to projects benefiting children and young people.

Strategic and wider development

1. GBF should recognise its role as a capacity builder, and consider whether it should develop its strategic level work with Local Authority and voluntary sector community development staff.
2. GBF should consider the desirability and practicalities of developing a local fund for South Gloucestershire, and a physical presence in North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.
3. GBF should seek to strengthen its relationship with The Care Forum and its networks.
4. GBF should consider, with other funders and infrastructure organisations, how groups can be helped to evaluate the impact of their activities on users and the wider community.

Profile and reputation

1. GBF should continue to take steps to recruit more Trustees who reflect the wider community.
2. GBF should consider what steps it might take to widen the diversity of the staff team, such as taking on a positive action trainee.
3. GBF should consider making more visits to grant-funded groups, particularly those that are new, smaller or isolated.

Publicity and promotion

1. GBF should target new groups and groups in rural areas with its publicity materials.
2. GBF should review its publicity materials and application forms for clarity on priorities and criteria.

3. GBF should seek to strengthen its relationships with the media in South Gloucestershire.

SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

1.1 Introduction

This evaluation of the impact of Greater Bristol Foundation's grants programme was commissioned in December 2003, and took place between January and March 2004. It seeks to answer three questions:

- What has been the impact of GBF's grant-making to date (using grants made in the last five years as a sample):
 - d) on the development of individual organisations that have received grants;
 - e) on those organisations' ability to collaborate within the sector (ie have GBF's grants helped them to work with others);
 - f) on the area as a whole through the activities of funded organisations, individually or collaboratively?
- How can GBF best monitor this impact as a whole and present that information going forward, thereby reducing the need to undertake one-off evaluation exercises?
- In the context of the prevailing funding environment and GBF's current and potential funding sources, should Trustees consider any changes in grant-making priorities for its discretionary funds?

1.2 Background

GBF has made grants to locally-based charities and community groups in the former Avon county area since 1987. In the first ten years, GBF's grant-making totalled £1 million but since 1997 it has increased considerably and is now around £7 million in total. It is expected that grants totalling over £2 million will be made in the financial year 2003-04.

Grants are intended for small community based organisations that:

- reach people that are most disadvantaged and isolated (people may be isolated due to poverty, disability, age or culture)
- enable people to take opportunities that would otherwise not be available to them
- involve local people in improving their community
- reflect the concerns and priorities of people living and working in the area

GBF manages a number of funds under contract that provide larger grants eg up to either £5000 or £7000. These funds come with their own set criteria. However, as they are also targeted at smaller, hard to reach groups of people, the principle of providing a small amount of funding to maximum effect in the most accessible and efficient way remains.

1.3 Methodology

The methodology for the evaluation comprised three strands: desk research and data analysis; consultation with grant recipients; and consultation with other external stakeholders.

1.4 Desk research involved analysis of the grants data for the five year period, and a limited amount of research on evaluating impact.

1.5 Originally it had been planned to identify a representative sample of approximately 300 grants from the period April 1998 – March 2003, but it soon became apparent that this would entail a huge amount of cross-referencing. GBF has funded a large number of groups on more than one occasion, and historically collected data solely on grants by fund within the Foundation until two years ago. Additionally, data from the first two years in this period is patchy.

It was agreed that a sample of 300 groups would not only be easier to identify, but might also give us more evidence of the impact of GBF funding over a period of time on the groups themselves. In fact, after amendments to take into account groups that we knew had merged or disbanded over the five-year period, the sample of 300 comprised the majority of local groups funded by GBF.

For direct feedback from the groups themselves, a questionnaire was sent out (Appendix A) with an incentive for a prompt return. It focussed on five broad areas:

1. The grants received by the group over the five-year period
2. Perceived impact on users
3. Perceived impact on the local community
4. Perceived impact on the group itself
5. Joint and partnership working by the group

Two groups were unable to fill in the questionnaire as the start of their projects had been postponed; one stated they were unable to fill it in until their admin worker had returned from sick leave; one envelope was returned unsealed and empty; and a further three groups had disbanded or merged.

Of the remaining 293, 131 questionnaires were returned – a rate of 44%. These were generally a good reflection of the diversity and geographic spread of GBF's grants. 19% of replies were from groups which are less than three years old, and 30% of responding groups have no paid staff.

1.6 Follow-up interviews were held with nine groups, in order to explore in more detail issues raised more generally through the questionnaire exercise.

These groups were selected after consideration of the funding role that GBF seemed to have played for them, and the impact that funding had had for the group.

1.7 Semi-structured interviews were held with ten strategic players (Appendix B) within the four unitary authority areas, who have several years' experience of the development of their local voluntary and community sector and the development of its capacity. Apart from one telephone interview, these were conducted face-to-face.

1.8 The rest of this report is in five sections. Key findings are highlighted throughout the text.

Section 2 analyses GBF's grants data in order to provide a context for the evaluation.

Section 3 evaluates the impact of the grants programme through considering benefits to project users, and the impact of funded activities on local communities.

Section 4 evaluates the impact of the grant on the group itself, and includes internal operational factors where the grant has resulted in changes. It also considers joint, collaborative and partnership working.

Section 5 considers GBF's impact on the wider picture and comments on the strategic role of the organisation in the area.

Section 6 gives conclusions and makes recommendations for change.

SECTION 2 – SETTING THE CONTEXT

2.1 Analysing GBF’s data on grants enables some broad conclusions to be drawn about levels of grant-giving in geographical areas and on types of beneficiary, and on trends over the five year period examined. It is important to note, however, that data is patchy, particularly for the year 1999-2000. In addition, it is not always possible to identify the location of groups, so numbers of grants and amounts of money are approximate. Nevertheless, the patterns of grants and spend are, I believe, robust.

This analysis does not consider application rates or success rates, as these are outside the scope of this evaluation.

2.2 Geographical trends

GBF’s original area of benefit was defined as “within a ten mile radius of Bristol Bridge”. This was widened in 2001 to cover the whole of the old Avon area. Table 1 shows the pattern of grant-giving over the whole area in the period 1998-2003 (a graph of this information is in Appendix C). It shows the result of this change, but also highlights the fact that South Gloucestershire has continued to receive more grants than Bath & NE Somerset and North Somerset over the whole period.

There may be a number of reasons for this. North Somerset and Bath & NE Somerset which have always seen themselves as separate from Bristol, whereas the urban fringe of South Gloucestershire may have tended to look towards Bristol and considered itself part of the city’s conurbation. The provision of Local Authority and voluntary sector community development workers is also likely to be a significant factor. South Gloucestershire Council has a well-established community work team: its manager commented that the pattern of grant-giving from GBF in the area over the last three years mirrors the focus of the community development workers. In contrast, North Somerset Council has very few staff to undertake community development work.

	South Gloucestershire	North Somerset	Bath & NE Somerset	Bristol
1998-99	7,200	1,380	4,005	84,065
1999-00	1,600	0	3,425	89,613
2000-01	32,035	4,209	7,090	204,421
2001-02	50,392	10,200	7,264	305,725
2002-03	110,111	82,546	83,986	680,000

Table 1: Distribution of grants by Local Authority Area

2.3 Table 2 attempts to analyse the data for Bristol over the same period by looking at grants which benefit specific communities in N and W Bristol, E Bristol, the inner city, and S Bristol (a graph of this information is in Appendix C). It is important to note that this analysis was done intuitively rather than by using ward boundaries, with the exception of the inner city. This means that

Easton and Lawrence Hill have been included in the inner city rather than in E Bristol. This analysis is indicative rather than scientific, but gives a good general impression of the breakdown of grants between areas of the city, and enables some observations to be made.

The results of GBF's handling of funds which are focussed on specific areas of the city show up clearly in this table: the inner city and parts of N and S Bristol have benefited in this way. The steady growth of grant-giving to S Bristol is also noticeable. This area has had a strong voluntary and community sector for some years, with a number of key 'movers and shakers' involved, some stable and well-established projects, and a history of good networking.

In contrast, E Bristol has had markedly less funding each year than other parts of the city. It is also noticeable that grant levels in the inner city appear to have decreased slightly in 2002-03, against a pattern of growth in all other parts of the city.

	N and W Bristol	E Bristol	Inner City	S Bristol
1998-99	30,827	4,260	18,304	30,674
1999-00	20,192	1,500	64,142	3,029
2000-01	36,908	8,700	88,693	70,120
2001-02	50,390	4,400	116,084	95,251
2002-03	65,067	27,896	110,971	127,161

Table 2: Distribution of grants by area of Bristol

Key findings:

1. Of Bristol's surrounding unitary authority areas, South Gloucestershire has consistently had more funding from GBF.
2. E Bristol has consistently had less funding from GBF than other parts of the city.

2.4 Trends in beneficiaries

Because of the limitations of the data for 1998-99 and 1999-2000, my analysis of grant-giving to beneficiary groups focuses on the last three years only. This analysis does not consider application rates or success rates, as these are outside the scope of this evaluation.

2.5 A large number of GBF's grants have always gone to projects that benefit children and young people. Over the last two years specific funds within the Foundation have targeted such projects, and they are generally a popular cause. Total grant amounts were £95,000 in 2000-01, and £256,000 in 2001-02. GBF's annual report for 2002-03 states that 53% of the total sum given out in grants went to projects benefiting children and young people. However, the data for this year puts projects benefiting Black and minority ethnic children

under the BME heading rather than children, and does the same for projects benefiting disabled children. It also uses the category 'benefiting families', which will include some projects that benefit children.

The proportion of funding going to projects benefiting children and young people is clearly considerably higher than this stated total of 53% (£830,510).

2.6 In contrast, very few grants have gone to projects benefiting older people. Total grants in 2000-01 were £2000; in 2001-02 this rose to £18,000 but one grant was for £8000; and in 2002-03 the proportion was just 1%, or £15,670. GBF has recently undertaken some analysis and research into this, which confirms that older people's groups tend to be very small and modest in scope. Most of them do not network in ways that the wider voluntary and community sector does, and there is a culture of 'making do' and not complaining. Nevertheless, there is a need for well-funded projects that benefit this age group.

GBF is now targeting publicity to older people's groups, but it will be some time before whether this is beginning to make a difference can be assessed.

2.7 Black and minority ethnic groups are well represented in GBF's grants data. In 2001-02 they received £48,000, and in 2001-02 £36,000; last year's percentage of 11% represents £172,370. Some of these groups have benefited from funds within GBF which are targeted on the inner city. The fact that GBF is local and easily accessible, and the community development work of the Black Development Agency and the Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Organisations will also be factors which contribute to these figures.

2.8 Projects benefiting disabled people received a similar amount of funding in 2000-01 (£19,000) and 2001-02 (£18,000) but this rose to £125,360 (8%) in 2002-03.

Key findings:

1. GBF has consistently funded more projects that benefit children and young people than projects benefiting other specific groups of people. Last year well over 53% of total grants money went to these groups.
2. A small proportion of funding has gone to older people's groups.
3. Black and minority ethnic groups and disabled people's groups are well represented in GBF's grants.

2.9 Patterns of grant-giving to specific groups

The questionnaire that went to groups asked them to list the grants they had received from GBF over the last five years. It is clear from their responses that GBF is a serial funder for a large number of groups who apply.

41% of respondents had received just one grant: 42% of these groups were less than 5 years old. 26% had received two grants. 15% had received three, some over a period of two or three years but two of them in one year. 8% had received four grants, most of them over a three year or four year period but one of them in one year. 10% had received five or more grants, all of them over a period of at least three years.

This figure of 59% serial funding on our sample is probably an underestimate. Several groups stated that they did not have access to records for the whole five year period or had only recently joined the project and did not know which grants were received before this date.

Key finding:

1. GBF has a strong pattern of serially funding groups: 59% of questionnaire respondents had received more than one grant.

SECTION 3 – THE IMPACT OF THE PROGRAMME ON USERS AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY

3.1 In the questionnaire, groups were asked to identify differences and changes that had occurred as a result of their grant(s). These were in three areas:

- difference to users of the project
- difference to the local community/community of interest
- changes to the way the group works

These sections of the questionnaire had a range of suggestions with tickboxes, to make it easier for groups to think about the impact of activities which had been funded by their grants.

Almost all the groups answered the section on benefits to users, though some appeared to find the question difficult:

“I have gone through the questionnaire which you sent to me, but unfortunately the majority of the questions do not apply to us. Basically I manage a football team which has 16 boys from various backgrounds, and with GBF’s help in supporting us we are in our third season.”

Some groups ticked only one or two boxes where the activity funded would suggest that there were more.

15 respondents either ignored the section on impact on the local community or gave an answer which showed they had not understood the question. Again, a number ticked only one or two boxes where the activity would suggest that there were more.

It is clear that there are still a number of groups who are not used to thinking about benefits and the impact of their group’s activities. With the increasing focus of funders, particularly larger ones, on impact, outcomes, and user involvement, these groups will always be at a disadvantage in trying to raise funds.

3.2 Impact on users

45% of respondents stated that they had more users as a result of their GBF grant(s): this contributes to the sustainability of their activities. This high proportion may be related to the overall growth of the group over a period of time when they received more than one grant, rather than a more direct link to a specific grant. Nevertheless, this is evidence of GBF’s impact on the sustainability of activities in the area.

3.3 A range of benefits for users were identified by groups, with the following most frequently mentioned:

- Access to a wider range of activities 59%
- Increased confidence 58%
- New skills 54%
- More friends/social activities 50%
- More involvement in the community 48%
- More opportunities 48%
- Some have found jobs 15%

These reported benefits tie in well with the overall aims of GBF's grants programme, though the percentages may be slightly over-inflated. It is clear that groups greatly value GBF and the way it works, and some may have 'over-egged the pudding' in a wish to express gratitude, support and goodwill.

There is also evidence here of the fact that some activities which are seen as having social benefits can lead to economic outcomes. Some people have clearly found jobs, and some of the new skills gained as a result of the grant will enable users to take up further opportunities for education and training.

"The grant enabled the girls to learn about living together as a group and to develop their skills to work individually and as part of a team. It gave them the opportunity to learn more about themselves and increase their confidence and self esteem."

"Some have gone on to University on Drama courses."

A wide range of other benefits were also reported, including a safer or more accessible environment, improved mental health, and services which respond more closely to their needs. Some comments were:

"Better quality of life – the kids had fun, and the parents were less worried."

"Increased ability to concentrate, and more regular attendance at school."

"Young carers who have an interest in policy development and awareness raising have the chance to become involved and develop skills and confidence to meet with policy makers."

"They are treated better by service providers."

"A positive interaction between learning disabled and the wider community."

3.4 Groups were asked how they had found out what users thought. Almost all respondents wrote something in answer to this question, but 11% wrote about consultation beforehand or how they had publicised the fact that they had been awarded a grant from GBF.

It is encouraging to note that 51% described the more formal monitoring and evaluation systems they use:

“Through post project evaluation with project workers; partnership organisations; and client groups of projects (ongoing during projects and in feedback at final events and celebrations).”

“We invite regular feedback from users/young people – during sessions, as pieces of project work are completed, and through our dedicated ‘user involvement’ project.”

38% said that they used informal feedback, word of mouth or observation. These are fairly typical responses for small groups, but user evaluation is good practice and need not be complicated or time-consuming.

Key findings:

1. 45% of groups who responded reported an increase in users as a result of the grant(s), which contributes to the sustainability of their activities.
2. Over 50% of the groups said that their users had gained increased confidence, new skills, and had access to a wider range of activities as a result of their grant(s).
3. Other main benefits to users were: more friends/social activities, more involvement in the community, and more opportunities open to them.
4. Just over 50% of the groups appear to be using some type of formalised monitoring and evaluation to find out about benefits to users.

3.5 Impact on the community

Groups reported many social benefits to their local communities/communities of interest as a result of their grant(s). The following benefits were most frequently mentioned by the groups who answered this question:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------|-----|
| ▪ More people involved in community activities | 55% |
| ▪ Better morale in the community | 52% |
| ▪ More pride in the community | 46% |
| ▪ More interest/support from the local council | 30% |

- New group started up 27%
- Decrease in crime/vandalism 21%

These reported benefits tie in well with the overall aims of GBF's grants programme. There is also evidence again of economic benefit: less crime and vandalism saves money.

A range of other benefits were reported. There were instances of knock-on effects:

"The enhanced building is now available for other agencies."

"It has raised public awareness of domestic abuse."

There were examples of changing people's attitudes:

"Publicity in the local paper has challenged postcode discrimination and negative attitudes."

"It has raised the profile of teenage parents as valuable members of the community."

There was evidence of better relationships in the community:

"Schoolchildren are more able to mediate each others' conflicts."

"There's continued improvement in our relationships with the local police."

There were examples of widening people's horizons:

"There's an increased interest in performing arts and high quality cultural productions."

"More interest in learning about woodland and ecology."

"Greater awareness of the possibility of 'non-car' travel."

There was also evidence of regenerating communities through building for the future:

"We're in an area used to failure and isolation, and have tried to become a place where children can achieve through play."

"People feel that those outside this community care about them."

"The children take control of the outcome – future sense of community."

3.6 Groups were asked how they found out about the benefits to the community, but many struggled with this question. 17% made no attempt to answer it at all. Some did not differentiate between users and the wider community even when the user group was quite specific and clearly limited in numbers, and referred back to the question about impact on users. Some wrote complete waffle! However, 39% of groups seemed to have understood the question and to have used some more formalised methods of evaluating impact on the wider community.

Measuring the impact of funded activities on the wider community is an important part of fundraising and service development, but many groups clearly struggle with the notion of this, let alone possible ways of doing it.

Key findings:

1. Over 50% of the groups who responded reported that more people were involved in community activities and there was better morale in the community as a result of their GBF grant(s).
2. A significant number of groups find it difficult to identify the impact of funded activities on the wider community.

SECTION 4 – THE IMPACT OF THE PROGRAMME ON THE GROUPS THEMSELVES

4.1 It is clear that GBF’s grants have had a considerable impact on groups themselves: small grants programmes are often a first stage for many small groups in applying for funding. Unsurprisingly, 64% of groups who responded to the questionnaire felt that they had gained more confidence to make other grant applications.

“Groups gain confidence from getting a small grant and delivering. This leads them to seek more funding for larger developments, and builds their skills and capacity to find other funds for themselves.”

- VCS infrastructure organisation

For many small groups, a successful grant application is a sign of encouragement and endorsement of their work. 65% of responding groups reported that they now have more confidence in what they are doing.

The following benefits were also mentioned by a large number of groups:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| ▪ Higher profile | 67% |
| ▪ Offering/planning new activities | 54% |
| ▪ Increased skills in running and managing the group | 51% |
| ▪ More members/volunteers | 50% |

However, these figures need to be treated with caution. Many groups have received more than one grant, and the period covered by this evaluation is five years. There may not be as clear-cut a connection between these changes and the GBF grant as the respondents state. Additionally, these are the perceptions of one individual within the group, and there may well be a ‘goodwill’ factor as described in section 3 of this report. Similar results, however, have been noted in evaluations of the impact of small grants on small groups in receipt of Awards for All funding in the South West, and in receipt of funding through the Somerset Community Chest.

Other benefits reported by groups related to participation, service quality and strategic direction:

“There’s been progression in terms of increased levels of youth involvement in all aspects of the work of the organisation.”

“Our work is more service user orientated. More staff and volunteers are service users themselves which changes the way we work – for the better – with clients.”

“We have more influence in the policy environment.”

“We’re more strategic and focussed: we send a clearer message to funders and partners.”

Stability and sustainability were another theme:

“We did not have the pressure of thinking up fundraising activities, which for blind people is not very easy.”

“We’ve merged, and now have stronger links with other agencies.”

“Over the years the ongoing support of GBF has helped sustain and improve the organisation as a whole.”

4.2 Almost half the groups who responded - 47% - stated that their grant(s) from GBF had enabled them to attract other funding. For some, the grant was the last element of the funding package to slot into place, thereby unlocking the other funding. For others, their grant was a crucial part of complicated match-funding arrangements.

“GBF is good at being a match funder, leveraging in money and enabling projects to go ahead. This makes a huge difference.”

- VCS infrastructure organisation

Others felt that the credibility and recognition which resulted from the grant contributed to the success of other funding applications. This high figure may, over time, rise even further: some groups received their grant less than a year ago and clearly expect to attract other funders in the near future.

Over 40 separate sources of additional funding were mentioned by groups, including central and local government, statutory agencies, the private sector, Lottery distributors, and charitable trusts. Groups were not asked for information on the sums involved, but it is clear that funding from GBF levers in significant amounts of funding from other sources to the voluntary and community sector in the West of England. This funding will in turn be contributing further to the stability, sustainability, and management capacity of many groups.

4.3 The contribution of GBF’s grants to networking, joint and partnership working is less clear. 64% of responding groups stated that before they received their first grant they already knew about other groups doing similar work, and 47% said they had been involved in joint or partnership working. Several groups stated that there were no other groups in the area doing similar work.

24% of groups felt that their grants had had a positive effect on their joint and partnership work. Some were now doing this where they had not been doing so before; others felt that the grant had strengthened their partnership working; and some said that they had extended their partnership work more widely. However, there have been other factors over the last few years which may have contributed to this. The Government’s emphasis is on partnership; regeneration

and other funding mechanisms require it; and agencies which provide infrastructure support to the sector continually promote it. It is probably safer to say that GBF grants are one of a number of factors which contribute to more joint and partnership working within the sector.

4.4 The views of Local Authority officers and VCS infrastructure organisations on groups' capacity for partnership working provide a useful context for these figures. Rural groups are still largely isolated and insular in their activities and their thinking: many seem threatened by the notion of even sharing information on what they do and how they do it. Bristol-based groups are more engaged in partnership working than they used to be, but territorial attitudes are still around.

“There are a number of factors which hinder partnership working among BME groups: generational differences, the influence of family connections, gender issues, the feeling of ‘ownership’ from the longstanding founder of the group, and territorial issues.”

- Black VCS infrastructure organisation

The focus of the Local Authority in its role as a funder affects the environment for partnership working:

“Where a Local Authority funds through competition between groups, it undermines partnership working.”

- Local Authority Officer

The reality for most small groups is that they do not have the resources to take a wider view and engage in partnership working, and there are tales of some who have done so and stretched themselves too thinly.

4.5 In organisational development terms, some groups have clearly been at a significant turning point at the time of applying to GBF, and the grant has enabled them to manoeuvre their way past this successfully.

For instance, before receiving their first GBF grant, 10% of responding groups did not have a strong management committee; 21% did not have an annual budget and regular financial reports; and 21% did not have experience of networking. This is not surprising, given that 19% of replies came from groups which are less than three years old, and that 30% came from groups without paid staff. 12% of groups gained experience of recognising needs, and planning and implementing a project as a result of their first GBF grant. These were almost all relatively young groups.

From further analysis of the questionnaire responses, it is possible to identify a number of roles which GBF plays in awarding grants. These can be summarised as:

- Pump-primer
- Lifeline

- Capacity-builder
- Specific discrete/pilot project funder
- Pressure-easer

4.6 The pump-primer

A number of new groups approach GBF for start-up funding.

Disabled People's Help uses volunteers to provide help with home and garden maintenance for disabled people. The group was set up in 2002 by two disabled people, with a small sum of money from the MS Society and the proceeds from two fundraising events. Within the space of a few weeks, the group was inundated with requests for help, and it was clear that funding was needed for equipment and for basic running costs. An application to GBF in early 2003 was successful, and the £1000 put the group on a steady footing. This was followed by a larger grant from the MS Society's Millenium Fund. Disabled People's Help continues to grow steadily as an organisation, and there is heavy demand for its services.

Many funders are happy to fund start-up costs for groups, but GBF's simple application form and quick turnaround make it an ideal funder for new, relatively inexperienced and sometimes fragile groups.

4.7 The lifeline

It is clear that funding from GBF helps some groups through a difficult period in their lives. Several groups stated on their questionnaires that if it had not been for their grant, they would not have survived. Local Authority Officers all highlighted GBF's role as a lifeline or safety net funder, where groups no longer fit LA priorities, where elected members make ill thought out decisions, and where activities are no longer 'flavour of the month'.

Groups whose users cannot afford the real cost of services are faced with the unenviable choice of increasing fees and watching numbers drop to unviable levels, or pegging fees and watching the bank account dwindle to nothing. These groups need the injection of funds from time to time in order for them to continue to provide a much-needed service. Several small rural preschools have received small grants from GBF which have enabled them to survive.

"GBF can make a real impact when things are difficult, such as a playgroup going through a period when they're short of four-year-olds."

- Local Authority Officer

4.8 As has been mentioned before, match-funding arrangements are often complicated. GBF has played a vital role for several groups through awarding grants at a crucial time.

SOS Club is an after-school club for 4-11 year-olds in Sea Mills which was set up with funding from the New Opportunities Fund in 2002. It runs sessions each weekday, and an all-day session on in-service days and throughout the school holidays. A high proportion of the children who attend have special educational needs. NOF funds certain aspects of the Club over a three-year period but expects an element of match-funding which increases as their funding tapers: this is expected to come from fees. GBF made three grants (£500, £2000 and £5000) to the Club between December 2002 and April 2003. This was a critical time for the Club, as it began with a small number of children and has built its credibility slowly but steadily. Without the grant from GBF, it would undoubtedly have folded. The Club needs to fundraise again this year, but for a smaller amount as numbers are increasing. It anticipates running at full capacity by the end of the NOF grant.

4.9 A small number of groups experience crises caused by external factors, which result in financial difficulties. A small grant from GBF can bridge a short gap between the end of one source of funding and the beginning of another. By providing a small financial “cushion”, it can also enable a group to concentrate fully on and deal with the crisis.

When Windmill Hill Community Association’s lease came up for renewal, changes of personnel at the landlords further complicated an already difficult and lengthy process. The organisation was plunged into a period of uncertainty which lasted for almost five years: bookings were affected, repairs and maintenance were neglected, the management committee lost confidence, and income dipped. The CA drew on its reserves to keep going, but these were exhausted by early in 2001. The group had an overdraft, and had reached crisis point. GBF’s grant of £1000 enabled the group to get back on its feet while negotiations on the lease were finally concluded. The CA is now financially stable and planning a number of new activities.

GBF’s reputation for approachability and flexibility is clearly a huge asset in its role as a lifeline funder. For groups in temporary crisis who are providing a valuable service which meets local needs, it plays a vital role.

4.10 The capacity-builder

Many groups secure two or more grants from GBF over a period of several years. A significant number of these are relatively young groups who are then able to develop activities, consolidate, and move towards a more sustainable future. GBF also funds training and consultancy, which can help build the capacity of groups.

Knowle West Media Centre began life as a photography project under the umbrella of Knowle West Health Association in 1995, and established itself as an independent organisation in 2002. The organisation uses photography, video and multi media as a tool to address social, economic and environmental disadvantage, involving local people in mini-projects on themes and ideas which have arisen from people within the community. KWMC has received five grants from GBF since late 2001. These have helped the organisation to pick up and

develop successful pilot projects, build strategic links with a wide range of agencies, enhance management capacity, and develop ambitious plans for the future. KWMC's long-term plan is to build a new flagship media centre in Knowle West that takes full advantage of the latest technology for the benefit of local people.

The Bangladesh Association Women's Group began on a shoestring in 1986. For a number of years the Group received only a small amount of funding towards its running costs, contributing the balance from members' own pockets, but in 2000 a grant from the Community Fund enabled them to employ their first member of staff and begin to move towards a more sustainable footing. However, the application had been primarily for rent and salaries, with a tiny amount of running costs: other running costs, and the costs of any equipment and activities, needed to be fundraised for. Over the three years of this Community Fund grant, GBF has given the Group five grants for equipment and activities. This has eased the fundraising pressure on staff and enabled the Group to build its capacity. A further grant from the Community Fund was secured late last year.

GBF's knowledge of the voluntary and community sector on the ground and its work with local strategic players put it in an advantageous position as a capacity-builder funder. It plays a crucial role in helping organisations to grow in a healthy and sustainable way.

4.11 The specific discrete/pilot project funder

GBF frequently funds larger, more well-established organisations who want to undertake a specific piece of work or a pilot project.

Bristol Drugs Project was established in 1986 and provides a wide range of services to its clients. The organisation is relatively well-resourced for traditional ways of working with drug users and their families, but cannot afford the type of 'non-essential' service which can make a difference to quality of life – such as theatre. GBF's grant of £6000 in 2001 enabled BDP to employ Bristol Playback Theatre to work regularly with several groups of clients.

“They worked with clients who are in the process of ending, or have ended, their drug use and are working towards re-establishing themselves in the community. The performance helped the clients to see the tremendous achievements they have already made and appreciate the opportunities that life without drugs could offer them. For many of these clients it helped them to see family reunions, pride in their appearance, spending money appropriately and reinforced the other positive choices they are now making.”

Hartcliffe and Witherwood Teenage Parents Project, set up in 1991, had been running well-attended sessions in local church premises for a number of years. Young parents are able to access a wide range of activities with crèche support, including courses and projects which help build skills and self-esteem. The Project was aware, however, that young parents in the Highridge part of the

area were not accessing the sessions because of the distance. A grant of £5900 from GBF in 2003 enabled the Project to set up a pilot scheme in Highridge.

Most funders prefer to fund discrete or pilot projects: in fact, the voluntary and community sector complains that often the only way to secure funding is to reinvent their activities as 'projects'.

“Continuation and core money is what’s needed, not reinventing what we do – ethically, this is uncomfortable.”

- VCS infrastructure organisation

GBF’s flexibility as a funder means that groups have the opportunity to undertake one-off or pilot projects with the added possibility of repeat or continuation funding.

4.12 The pressure-easer

Many small community groups run entirely by volunteers are able to 'tick over' and cover their general running costs through a mixture of fees and small fundraising events. From time to time, however, these groups need to spend a lump sum on a specific item of equipment or one-off activity. Using events to raise these funds in addition to general running costs puts a great deal of pressure on these groups: a grant from GBF can ease this.

“Small groups need funding from time to time just to keep chugging along – without GBF’s input, they’d probably fold.”

- Local Authority Officer

Charfield Youth Project was set up in 2002 following complaints from young people that there was nothing to do in the village. Top of the list of what they wanted was a skate park, so parents and the young people themselves began planning and fundraising. £37,000 was raised through events, donations and grants, but the Project was still £12,000 short and unable to start. GBF’s grants of £5000 and £7000 in 2003 were the last pieces in the funding jigsaw and allowed the skate park to go ahead. With the fundraising pressure over, parents were able to concentrate on other aspects of the Youth Project and its activities.

“When the cheque arrived we were almost in tears! We were so excited – we could go ahead and order the parts.”

In an effort to stand more chance of securing a grant from the Community Fund for a new vehicle, the Community Bus in Bath & NE Somerset pared down their application to cover capital costs only. When they were successful, the group knew that the amount of work, time and travel necessary to source the new vehicle would put part-time staff under enormous pressure. A grant of £1000 from GBF in 2002 funded extra hours for staff, so that existing activity sessions in local areas without community meeting places could continue while the new bus was being acquired.

Key findings

1. GBF plays a key role in building the confidence of groups, particularly to make other grant applications: 64% of responding groups reported this.
2. 51% of groups reported that they had increased their skills in running and managing their group as a result of their grant.
3. 12% of groups gained experience of recognising needs, and planning and implementing a project as a result of their first grant.
4. Funding from GBF levers in significant amounts of funding from other sources to the voluntary and community sector in the West of England. 47% of responding groups stated that their grant(s) had enabled them to attract other funding.
5. GBF grants are one of a number of factors which contribute to joint and partnership working in the sector. 24% of groups felt that their grant(s) had had a positive effect on this aspect of their work.
6. GBF plays a number of roles as a funder: pump-primer, lifeline, capacity builder, specific discrete/pilot project funder, and pressure-easer.

SECTION 5 – THE BIGGER PICTURE

A wider role

GBF's wider role within the area is well recognised by Local Authority officers, voluntary and community sector organisations, and individual groups.

5.1 GBF is acknowledged as having particular expertise in securing commitment from the private sector and acting as a conduit for resources to go into the voluntary and community sector:

“The role GBF plays as a coordinator/convenor/conduit of private sector funding works very well – it makes the money go a long way. They can manage this interface much better than most individual groups can.”

- Local Authority Officer

5.2 GBF is not a part of any particular sector, and this independence is seen as a great asset:

“GBF is seen as outside and independent – an ‘honest broker’, which is very useful.”

- Local Authority Officer

GBF's collaborative way of working undoubtedly contributes further to this. In North Somerset, GBF's input to the strengthening and coordination of the voluntary and community sector infrastructure has been greatly valued.

5.3 Within the Local Authorities, there are strong links between appropriate officers and GBF staff which are greatly valued. In Bristol and South Gloucestershire, GBF has good working relationships with the community development teams, sharing information on groups, getting funding opportunities known, and putting together possible funding partnerships. Both Local Authorities find this collaboration extremely helpful and would like to develop it further.

This is a much more strategic and proactive way of working than that of the more traditional funder who ‘reacts’ to applications that come in. With its track record of serial funding of many groups, it is clear that GBF has been playing, and has the capacity to play, a much more strategic role within the local funding environment than has possibly been recognised. This position is also enhanced by its resources:

“Other funders are getting narrower in what they're prepared to fund because of fewer resources. GBF is one of the few funders around without a narrow funding agenda.”

- Local Authority Officer

5.4 There are two factors which might affect GBF's capacity to develop this strategic role, however. Firstly, despite the friendliness and approachability of staff, some groups still see the organisation as rather middle class, with trustees

who are somewhat remote and who do not reflect the wider community. Secondly, GBF does not have much 'slack' as an organisation: resources and staff time are fully utilised. This could make the organisation vulnerable, particularly if key staff were to leave.

It has also been observed that it is difficult to see opportunities for infrastructure organisations to apply successfully to GBF. There is great pressure on this part of the sector and high expectations of it from small groups, but low levels of funding.

Key findings

1. GBF is acknowledged as having particular expertise in securing commitment from the private sector and acting as a conduit for resources to go into the voluntary and community sector.
2. GBF's independence from the private, public and voluntary sectors gives it a good reputation as an 'honest broker'.
3. Through working collaboratively with Local Authority officers and serially funding many groups, GBF has the capacity to play a strategic role within the local funding environment.

Promotion, publicity and outreach

Those interviewed had a number of comments and suggestions about GBF's promotion and outreach.

5.5 Generally publicity and promotion are seen as good, but there are still groups who are not aware of the organisation, particularly new groups and those in rural areas. It was felt that some targeted publicity would help. There is a perception that GBF does not fund many health and social care groups, particularly as many of these are larger organisations and are not geographically based. Whether there is evidence to support this or not, using The Care Forum's networks would certainly reach more older people's groups.

Media coverage in South Gloucestershire is perceived to be lower than in the other unitary areas, and this leads to the belief for some that GBF does not operate in the area.

5.6 There were requests for more clarity and detail on criteria and priorities. Some groups are confused when they apply to a specific fund and are then told that their grant is from a fund they did not apply to. Groups would also appreciate more clarity about making further applications to GBF: currently some groups clearly benefit from having discovered informally that they can reapply, while others believe that they can receive just one grant. More transparency is needed.

5.7 Although groups recognise that GBF staff are busy, many would welcome a visit, particularly BME groups and those that are new, smaller, or

isolated. Being awarded a grant shows them that someone independent values what they do, and a short non-monitoring visit would reinforce this and help to reinforce GBF's reputation as a friendly and approachable funder.

Because staff are often able to suggest other sources of money, some people would like to see GBF take on more of a development role with groups, helping them with funding strategies and other applications. This probably reflects the extent of need for this type of support within the sector rather than a considered view of the role of a community foundation. However, running surgery style drop-in sessions on an occasional basis on the premises of a grant-funded group could bring wider benefits to GBF's reputation and standing within the sector.

5.8 GBF's identity within the wider area is considerably enhanced by having a local fund and a physical presence. Having a presence in Bath & NE Somerset has clearly set a precedent, and South Gloucestershire is particularly keen to have a local fund.

Key findings

1. GBF's publicity and promotion are seen as good, but there are still groups who are not aware of the organisation, particularly new groups and those in rural areas.
2. Media awareness in South Gloucestershire is low, leading to a belief that GBF does not operate in the area.
3. More clarity and detail about priorities, criteria, and making further applications would be appreciated by groups.
4. Groups would welcome non-monitoring visits from GBF.
5. GBF's identity within the wider area is enhanced by having a local fund and a physical presence.

SECTION 6 – CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Previous sections of this report have documented evidence of the impressive impact of GBF's grants programme on users, communities, groups themselves, and the wider area. This final section discusses some of the issues in evaluating impact, and makes some suggestions for how GBF might wish to undertake this in the future. It also makes a number of recommendations.

6.1 Evaluating impact

Over the last few years a number of funders have begun to assess impact through considering qualitative outcomes rather than using quantitative measures. The Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales stated in its strategic plan for 2000-02 that they would assess the impact of their grant-making in the light of outcomes they wanted to achieve. The Foundation subsequently undertook a pilot impact assessment in 2001, using Compass Partnership. Awards for All England commissioned Annabel Jackson Associates to carry out an impact study in the same year. Awards for All in the South West considered impact on users, communities and groups themselves within a larger piece of research on 'what makes a successful project', also in 2001.

The well publicised move of the Community Fund to becoming a funder of outcomes has put evaluating impact centre stage. A pilot of the new application form and assessment process is currently being undertaken in Scotland, and a programme of training workshops for infrastructure and other 'helper' organisations was run during 2003.

The local picture reflects the move towards outcomes and impact. In South Gloucestershire, service level agreements within Youth and Community are now including some outcomes; in North Somerset, some grant documentation asks about soft outcomes (usually 'benefits to North Somerset residents'). In Bath & NE Somerset, Social Services are shifting to outcome-based funding in this new financial year, with the possibility that Youth and Community may follow.

6.2 Considering outcomes and impact offers benefits to funders and groups alike, but it is not without its difficulties. For the Community Fund, for instance, drawing up an outcomes classification framework for grants staff to use in the assessment process was difficult, with particular concerns about possible omissions and the ability of smaller groups to cope with the new focus. For lay people such as some trustees and Local Authority elected members, the concepts and language may be challenging to understand and to use in the decision-making process.

There is ample evidence that many voluntary and community sector groups struggle to identify impact beyond user level. The Lloyds TSB Foundation's report on their impact assessment pilot shows this, and, closer to home, the Awards for All in the South West's impact evaluation report does so. The responses to the GBF evaluation questionnaire demonstrate that within the

local area, evaluating impact is not widely understood, particularly by small groups. This was confirmed by all the Local Authority officers who were interviewed.

6.3 For GBF to assess impact in the future without external independent input, staff and trustees need to be clear why they are doing it and have thought about the use the organisation will make of the information. Is it for reassurance that grant money is making a difference, or for detailed information of what that difference is? Will the information be put on file and looked at from time to time, or will it be used strategically to inform priorities and development? Will qualitative information be used in publicity materials and promotional work?

There would seem to be three realistic options, which are detailed below with the main advantages and disadvantages. Answers to the questions highlighted above will refine this analysis and enable an appropriate choice to be made.

- 1. To add to the grant monitoring form some additional questions which particularly focus on impact.** These could focus on 'benefits to users' and 'difference to the wider community'. Advantages: little extra staff time needed; some useful information on an ongoing basis. Disadvantages: for a number of grants, the form will need to be filled in at too early a stage for clear results; results reliant on the group's ability to understand impact evaluation.
- 2. To undertake a questionnaire-based survey on an annual basis, using a modest but representative sample of grants.** Advantages: some quantitative information; some clear qualitative information which can be written up as a report. Disadvantages: staff time needed; results reliant on the group's ability to understand impact evaluation.
- 3. To undertake a rolling programme of evaluation visits to a modest but representative sample of groups, using a simple semi-structured interview format.** Advantages: good quality information from all groups; a clearer and more comprehensive picture of the impact of GBF's grants; enhanced credibility within the voluntary and community sector through more visits and face-to-face contact. Disadvantages: staff time needed; increased possibility that groups will try to give staff the answers it is thought they wish to hear.

6.4 Recommendations

It is clear that GBF's grants programme and its role as conduit and 'honest broker' have a major positive impact on individuals, voluntary and community sector groups and the wider community in the area. These recommendations are intended to make the organisation even more successful in what it does, and to help Trustees to decide whether any changes should be made to its priorities for discretionary funds.

Policies and criteria

1. GBF should agree clear criteria on serial funding for groups, and should include this on all appropriate publicity materials and application forms.
2. GBF should recognise its crucial roles as lifeline and pressure easer for many groups, and consider whether any discretionary funds should be earmarked for these.

Grant distribution

1. GBF should investigate why there are fewer applications from E Bristol relative to need, and discuss with Bristol City Council's Community Development team and appropriate infrastructure organisations any subsequent actions it might take.
2. GBF should continue its work in encouraging applications from older people's groups.
3. GBF should consider some form of restriction on spending from its discretionary funds to projects benefiting children and young people.

Strategic and wider development

1. GBF should recognise its role as a capacity builder, and consider whether it should develop its strategic level work with Local Authority and voluntary sector community development staff.
2. GBF should consider the desirability and practicalities of developing a local fund for South Gloucestershire, and a physical presence in North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.
3. GBF should seek to strengthen its relationship with The Care Forum and its networks.
4. GBF should consider, with other funders and infrastructure organisations, how groups can be helped to evaluate the impact of their activities on users and the wider community.

Profile and reputation

1. GBF should continue to take steps to recruit more Trustees who reflect the wider community.
2. GBF should consider what steps it might take to widen the diversity of the staff team, such as taking on a positive action trainee.
3. GBF should consider making more visits to grant-funded groups, particularly those that are new, smaller or isolated.

Publicity and promotion

1. GBF should target new groups and groups in rural areas with its publicity materials.
2. GBF should review its publicity materials and application forms for clarity on priorities and criteria.
3. GBF should seek to strengthen its relationships with the media in South Gloucestershire.

**APPENDIX A
GREATER BRISTOL FOUNDATION GRANTS PROGRAMME
EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE**

Your response to this questionnaire is confidential. Quotes may be used in the final report but will remain anonymous.

About your GBF grant(s)

1. What grants have you received from GBF over the last 5 years:

When	How much	What it was for

2A. What difference do you think the grant(s) made to the users of your project?

- There are more of them
- Increased confidence
- New skills
- Access to a wider range of activities
- Some have found jobs
- More involvement in the community
- Opened up more opportunities for them
- More friends/social activities
- Other – please state

2B. How did you find out what users thought were the differences made by the grant?

3A. What difference do you think the grant(s) made to your local community/community of interest?

- Better morale
- More pride in the community
- More people involved in community activities
- Another group/new group started up
- Decrease in local crime/vandalism
- Interest and support from the local council
- Other – please state

3B How did you find out what difference the grant made to your local community?

About Your Group

4. Before getting your first grant from GBF, did you have:

- a) a generally strong management committee, most of whom regularly attended meetings?
 Yes No
- b) any paid staff?
 Yes No
- c) an annual budget, with regular financial reports going to the committee?
 Yes No
- d) a clear vision of what you wanted to achieve?
 Yes No
- e) experience of recognising needs, and asking people about what they want?
 Yes No
- f) experience of planning and implementing a project?
 Yes No
- g) experience of filling in similar grant application forms?
 Yes No
- h) enough good volunteers?
 Yes No

i) good support in your local community?

Yes No

j) experience of networking with other groups?

Yes No

5. Since getting your grant, have there been any changes to a) – j) on the previous page?

a) Yes No

b) Yes No

c) Yes No

d) Yes No

e) Yes No

f) Yes No

g) Yes No

h) Yes No

i) Yes No

j) Yes No

6. Have there been any other changes in the way your group works, as a result of getting the grant?

More members/volunteers

Higher profile

More confidence in what we're doing

More confidence to make other grant applications

Increased skills in running/managing the group

Offering or planning new activities

Other – please state

7. Did a grant from GBF help to attract other funders to your project?

Yes No

If yes, give details

Joint and partnership working

8. Before you got funding from GBF, did you know about other groups in your area doing similar work?

Yes No

9. Did you work jointly or in partnership with any of them?

Yes No

If yes, give details

10. Since you've had funding from GBF, has this changed?

Yes No

If yes, give
details _____

Your contact details

Name of group:

Address:

Year the group started: _____

Name of person filling in this questionnaire: _____

All questionnaires returned by 2nd February will be entered in a prize draw.
YOUR GROUP COULD WIN £50!

Thank you very much for your help

Please return, in the enclosed s.a.e., to:

Lin Whitfield, 38 Downs Cote Drive, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol BS9 3TR

APPENDIX B

Strategic players interviewed as part of the evaluation

Muhammed Ali, Regional Director, CEMVO

Shaheen Chaudhry, member of GBF's Grants Committee

Vanessa Collier, Chief Executive, Community Action

Faith Davey, Director, The Care Forum

Derek Dodds, Community Regeneration Manager, Bristol City Council

Pauline Hawker-Bond, Assistant Director, Community Resources, South Gloucestershire Council

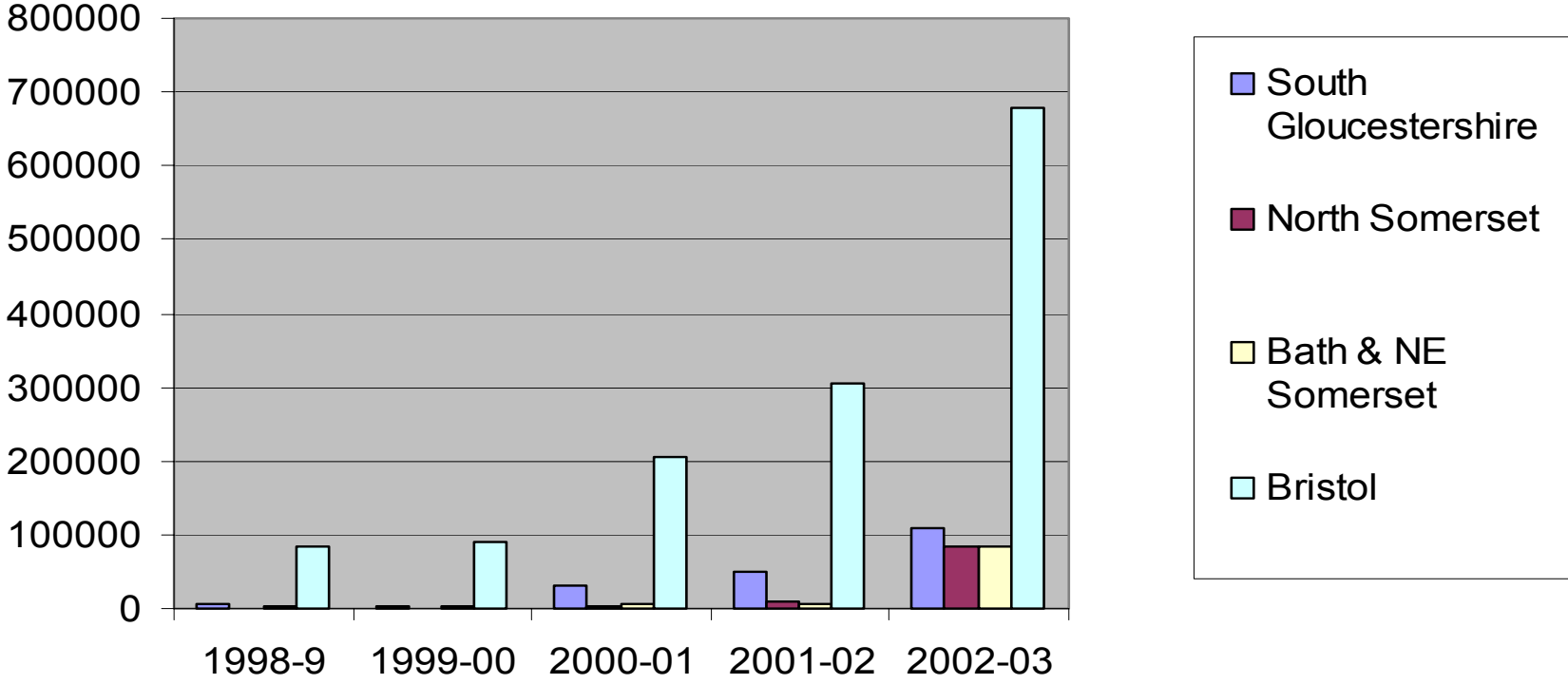
Paul Howard, Voluntary Sector Development Officer, Bath and NE Somerset Council

Phil Humphries, Senior Community Development Officer, North Somerset Council

Lyn Porter, Investment and Grants Manager, Bristol City Council

Wendy Stephenson, Acting Director, VOSCUR

Grant Distribution by Local Authority



Distribution by area of Bristol

