



Growing
Independent
Organisations



JANUARY 2011

GIO NEWS

A GIO AWAY DAY WITH POOL ARTS

"The Gio Team have given great support to us at Pool Arts recently, helping us to better understand the roles and responsibilities involved in running the organisation, and thinking about future challenges." - Alison Kershaw – Pool Arts

Pool Arts is a Manchester based charity that aims to challenge the barriers faced by artists who would otherwise be isolated or excluded. Their aim is to educate the public about the positive effects arts and culture can play in well being, expressed through the freedom of creativity and art. They provide studio space, support, training, professional and personal development opportunities for members. The artists involved include writers, photographers, textile and fashion artists, craftspeople and a DJ as well as contemporary visual artists. They work to create a supportive network of unity, empowerment and liberation; creating a community where everyone matters. Last month the Gio Project were invited as training facilitators to join the trustees, staff, volunteers and members on their annual development weekend.

"The training events are always really enjoyable, as well as challenging. Fran, our trainer, gave us a lot to think about. For some members this was their first experience of group training and everyone benefited" Alison Kershaw – Pool Arts

Pool Arts is democratic organisation, where the voice of the members are highly valued and influence the strategic direction of the organisation. On our away day we were able to discuss and develop the strategic priorities and action plans that will help the organisation in its pursuit of meeting the needs of its members and other stakeholders, in the years ahead. Within the development sessions, we explored a range of questions such as; what will success look like for Pool Arts? or how can we better prepare for challenges and threats ahead? The away day helped to generate a collective consensus and ownership of challenging decisions and identify the bold steps that are necessary to help take the organisation forward.





THINK SMARTLY ABOUT ISSUES OF ACCESSIBILITY

Here is a quick meeting and event checklist to ensure that you are thinking smartly about issues of accessibility:

Inclusive planning and consultation process - Do you know what people want to meet about and why? How have you consulted people? Who are your audience and what does this mean for your delivery? Organisation of the event or meeting? Do they require any additional support that you need to put in to place before the day?

Find the right venue - Does your venue have a basic standard of access for everybody? Does the venue have level or ramped access to the main entrance and an accessible toilet that you have checked. If not what alternative arrangements are you going to make if these are needed? Have groups met there before and had any problems? Have these problems been rectified?

Accessible publicity - Have you made sure that your publicity has covered various areas, not just the run of the mill email shoot? Get creative! Have you been to visit places and talked to people about your event? Is publicity available in different formats eg large print, e-mail, audio? Have you included Talking Newspapers in your mailshot?

Arranging for interpreters, communication support and personal assistants - Do you need an induction loop for hearing aid users? An interpreter for people who don't speak English? Do you need someone fluent in sign language?

Presentations - When the slide is on the screen: don't read off the screen and assume people are looking at it. People who are lip reading will be looking at you. Read the slide if you choose to and then pause for them to look at the screen. If you are using images – describe what is on the slide. Avoid saying things like "As you can see here...". Not everyone can see! Take your time and explain.

Paperwork available in alternative formats - Take at least 1 or 2 copies of any slides / handouts in full size. Can you produce information available on accessible websites, CD-Roms and DVDs? At least one copy of each.

Food and drink provision - Have you asked if anyone has any allergies / preferences for food and drink? Are these in the same room? It's hard enough for a non-wheelchair user to open a door with a coffee in their hand, but it is impossible for a wheelchair user – think about where the refreshments are served and whether the route is accessible. In the same room is always the best option.

Displays and registration - Have you thought about the way that registration will run? Are there any participants who might need longer to register and have you allocated this time? Are displays and labels situated at a suitable height for people who are sitting down to access them?

Layout and requirements of rooms and venues - Do your venues for meetings / events have a policy on a fire escape for people whose first language is not English? Or for people who are visually impaired? When stating the fire escape- don't just point. When using an induction loop, repeat any question from the audience so that it goes through the loop system, or make sure you have a roving microphone, but bear in mind that some people still rely on lip reading, so unless everyone is seated in a circle it may be necessary to repeat the question anyway.

If someone in the group complains about access don't just say 'it's not my fault I didn't know you were disabled'. Try and be constructive and actually ask what would make their life better. If someone is visually impaired, offer to send them the paperwork afterwards in the right format (check what that is!)

THE FIRST BRITISH STANDARD TO ADDRESS THE GROWING CHALLENGE OF DIGITAL INCLUSION

BS 8878 Web accessibility is a new Code of Practice and the first British Standard to address the growing challenge of digital inclusion. If you want to ensure any web product you commission or design is accessible for all, then this new standard will help you. It applies to all web products, including websites, web-services and web-based workplace applications (e.g. web-based email interface) that are delivered to users via Internet Protocol, through a web browser.

It has been designed to introduce non-technical professionals to improve accessibility, usability and user experience for disabled and older people. It will be especially beneficial to anyone new to this subject as it gives guidance on process, rather than on technical and design issues. BS 8878 is also referenced in the UK government's e-Accessibility Action Plan as the basis of updated advice on developing accessible online services. It includes recommendations for:

- * Involving disabled people in the development process and using automated tools to assist with accessibility testing
- * The management of the guidance and process for upholding existing accessibility guidelines and specifications.

The standard's publication is especially timely given that the new Equality Act 2010 places an obligation on information providers to ensure their web products are accessible. BS 8878 provides guidance on how to assess the impact different technologies can have on your customers. It also outlines your legal responsibilities in relation to web accessibility so you can assess what to do to achieve compliance. BS 8878 also contains text that organisations can extract and use in their accessibility or procurement statement.

Ultimately BS 8878 stresses the impact that an organisation's choice of technologies can have upon its audience and gives guidance on how to assess this. It also includes guidance for considering the needs of web users according to their specific disability, for example, people with physical impairments or people with learning disabilities. All sectors will benefit from this new standard.

Who is the document intended for? BS 8878 is intended for anyone responsible for the policies covering web product creation within their organisation and governance against those policies (e.g. Chief Executive Officers, Managing Directors, Headteachers, ICT managers).

There is a special discounted price for UK Charities and is available at the reduced price of £50. To order, contact BSI's Customer Services team on +44 (0)208 996 9001 quoting your registered charity number or order on line by emailing orders@bsigroup.com.

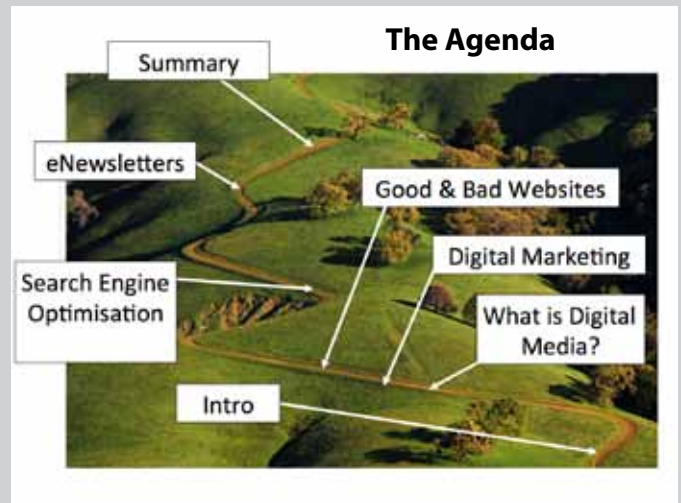


IT'S WHAT WE DO WITH DIGITAL MEDIA THAT MATTERS.

I recently ran the Gio Projects first training session on Digital Media entitled 'Using Digital Media to promote your organisation'. The session essentially provided participants with a selection of top tips including what makes a good website, search engine optimisation techniques and creating engaging email newsletters. Digital media is often overlooked in our sector but from the enthusiasm of the participants it is evident that people and organisations are beginning to get excited about it's potential. So on that note here's a little taster on why YOU should care about digital media too.

So what is digital media?

Digital media is an umbrella term that defines the various types of electronic media available to us including text, pictures, video and audio. Sadly though, the focus on digital being a technology often



removes us from understanding it's real opportunities because in doing so we are fusing together concepts and abilities related to storytelling, conversations and actual utilities. We need to understand them as different and start exploring them as different. Once we do this digital media becomes less about technology and more about humans. We begin to see that the unique effects of digital media are not driven by technology itself but are a result of digital technologies seamless integration with our everyday life.

There is no real life and digital life. It's the same place.



Our communication tool box is expanding. Those who don't experiment with the new digital tools will be poorer when it comes to understanding the new landscape and how it allows us to change and enrich the way we express ourselves and connect to peers, participants or service users. We must utilise the mechanics and dynamics of the online conversation in order to create a buzz. Not interrupting conversations but igniting them. The Goal should not be to add to the unwantedness, but to create deliberate and appreciated value.

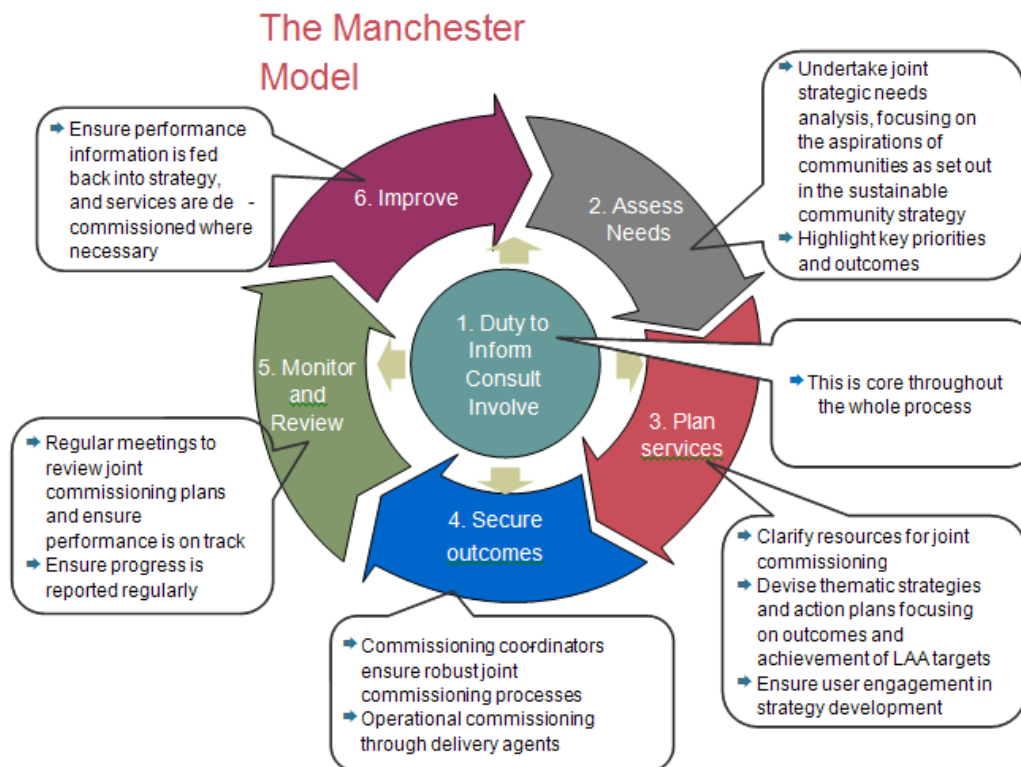
If you are interested in future digital media training sessions or one-to-one support then please email Hannah at Hannah@gioproject.org.uk



HOW TO ENGAGE IN THE COMMISSIONING PROCESS?

In our regular slot on commissioning and tendering we wanted to tackle a question that we get asked on an almost daily basis, 'how do I engage with the commissioning process?' To be honest there is no quick way to do this. It involves investing time and resources both of which are very precious but what we would consider a wise investment.

Firstly, find out how the system works in your area of expertise. Look to see what service planning is currently going on. Are there any relevant consultations taking place that you can engage with to help identify gaps, trends and needs? Do you have any data or evidence that you can add to this? What is the commissioning process? Is it the Manchester Model?



If contracts are related to the local councils the best place to visit is the Vault, which is a part of the Chest (the Local Authority electronic tendering portal - https://www.thechest.nwce.gov.uk/procontract/supplier.nsf/frm_home?openform). Here, there is a list of all the current authority contracts and the value.

Next, clarify the commissioner's interests and priorities. What is driving their plan? Can you find out about key strategies and commissioning intentions that are often uploaded to their websites? These documents often have a name and contact details attached. What are the political, economic, social and technological considerations? As you might expect cost is a big driving force currently. What are the commissioners' targets? Are there any national directions? How, as an organisation, can you help them to meet their targets?

Finally the biggie, build a relationship with the commissioners over time. This can be easier said than done as people often do not know who the commissioners are. However there are events and consultations that you can find out about and start to talk to people about who you should be engaging with. Use their language, especially if they are talking about using outcomes. The voluntary and community sector are great at working on outcomes for their service users. Build different relationships, don't rely on just one person. Stress the added value that commissioning with your organisation can bring and have evidence that you can use if needed. Talk about more than funding. It will be obvious to commissioners that you are chasing money, try to develop a relationship based on more than that such as collaboration, partnerships and investment.

EVENTS



DATE	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	VENUE	TIME
22ND JAN	ICA YOUTH PARTICIPATION CONFERENCE	To give people the chance to explore models and approaches to participation and help local people have more of a voice and a say in decisions that affect them. For more information call 0161 232 8444	Assembly Halls, Manchester Metropolitan University	ALL DAY
18TH FEB	THE BLACK HEALTH AGENCY BIG LAUNCH	Democracy House will be the new centre for the all of the Black Health Agency's (BHA) work in Greater Manchester. It will feature a dedicated meeting / performance space for people who use their services and for community groups. At the event BHA will be launching their 5 year plan to build on their work within health equality. There will also be speakers and special guests, including Stephen Bubb, Chief Executive of the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO). For further information, contact 0845 450 4247.	Democracy House, M16 0QA	ALL DAY
24TH FEB	SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS MASTER CLASS: PROFITING FROM THE ENVIRONMENT	A free event to help and advise organisations on practical measures that can be implemented to improve business operations and sustainable practices. Organised by Envirolink Northwest, the event will look at waste management, how to generate your own green energy, and how to implement sustainable procurement.	The Gateway Conference Centre, Liverpool	8.30 - 14.30
28TH FEB	GIO PROJECT FUNDING FAIR	Based on the success of last years event this is an opportunity to talk to a range of funders. Call the Gio project in 0161 832 0934 to find out more.	TBC	AM

We would love to hear from any organisation wishing to contribute or advertise in the Gio Projects newsletter or website. If you have something you would like to share with other community organisations then please email hannah@gioproject.org.uk

www.gioproject.org.uk

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

John Ellerman Foundation

Details: The Foundation will fund core costs, especially to small and medium-sized charities. Grants are rarely awarded towards capital costs. The Foundation provides support for project or core costs incurred by national charities, whose work falls within the Foundation's fields of interest, as follows:

Health and Disability - Organisations, including self-help groups, for the relief and support of those with serious medical conditions. Severe physical disabilities, including the deaf and blind, mental illness and learning disabilities.

Social Welfare - Disadvantaged children and young people, needy parents and families and elderly people.

Arts - Music and opera, museums and galleries, theatre and dance.

Conservation - Protection of threatened animals, plants and habitats, promotion of better understanding of and solutions to major environmental issues like climate change and biodiversity. Development and extension of conservation facilities/sites. Promotion of sustainable ways of living, including renewable energy technologies.

Who for: Applications are welcomed from registered charities with a UK office.

Grant amount: The minimum grant available from the Foundation is £10,000. Whilst there is no upper limit, grants above £100,000 are rarely awarded.

Deadline: Applications may be submitted at any time and will be assessed at the next monthly Trustees' meeting.

Further information: Link to guidelines: <http://www.ellerman.org.uk>, or email barbra@ellerman.org.uk

Allchurches Trust

Details: The Trust exists to promote the Christian religion and to contribute to the funds of charitable institutions.

The Trust supports appeals from churches for:

- * building and restoration projects;
- * repair of church fabric;
- * church community initiatives;
- * religious charities;
- * charities preserving the UK heritage; and
- * other charitable causes.

Who for: Anglican churches and churches of other denominations in the UK may apply. Christian communities and organisations, as well as registered charities and schools in the UK, are eligible to apply for funding.

Grant amount: No minimum or maximum value of grant is specified. Applicants should show what other sources of funding have been secured.

Deadline: Applications may be made at any time.

Further information: Link to guidelines: <http://www.allchurches.co.uk/applications/index.aspx> or email atl@eigmail.com

SALRC - Grants for Organisations

Details: The Society assists women domiciled and habitually resident in the United Kingdom who are living alone in their own home (either owned or rented) and in genuine need, irrespective of age or social status. The aim of the scheme is to award grants to other organisations in order to broaden the scope of the Society's work.

Who for: The Trustees will only consider grant applications for projects that are for the exclusive benefit of women in financial need.

The Trustees will not consider projects that also benefit men, children, women who are not in financial need, or from other grant-making organisations.

Grant amount: There are no minimum or maximum levels of funding specified. The Society has £50,000 available for funding during 2011.

Deadline: 25 March 2011

Further information: Link to guidelines: http://www.salrc.org.uk/guide_to_grants_for_orgs.htm or email admin@salrc.org.uk

Ashden Trust

Details: The Trust aims to make lasting changes in the UK and internationally. It focuses, in particular, on climate change, sustainable development and improving the quality of life in poorer communities.

The Trustees are currently prioritising the following areas of interest:

- Household Energy Efficiency in the UK.
- Preventing Deforestation.

Grants are made under the following six category headings, Sustainable Development International, Sustainable Development UK, Sustainable Regeneration, People at Risk, Arts and Sustainability, Social Investment Fund

Who for: Registered charities or institutions with charitable status within the UK may apply. However, only an extremely small number of unsolicited applications are successful.

Grant amount: Grants of between £1,000 to £20,000 are made to organisations with a track record of delivering innovative and effective projects.

Deadline: Applications can be made at any time.

Further information: Website: <http://www.ashden-trust.org.uk> or email ashdentrust@sfct.org.uk

If you would like a friendly critical eye to have a read through a funding application before you submit it to the funder then The Gio Project are willing and happy to work with you.



Hannah's winter commute to work....

BE PART OF GIO NEWS

Gio News will be published bi-monthly and distributed to over 400 voluntary and community organisations across the City of Manchester as well as to public bodies in the City. Organisations can arrange to have information/publicity flyers put into Gio News. This must be agreed in advance with the editor, Hannah Taylor, and 400 copies of the flyer must be delivered to Gio by the distribution date.

The cost of including flyers in Gio News will be:

- Commercial Organisations - £70
- Statutory Bodies - £60
- VCS Organisation outside of Manchester - £40
- Manchester-based VCS Organisations - £30



GIO PROJECT FUNDING FAIR

In February 2010 The Gio Project held it's first funding fair. It was a great success and so on the request of many people to hold a similar event again, the Gio Project is pleased to announce it will be hosting the 2011 Funding Fair on the Monday 28th February.

Last year we had over 80 organisations attend to talk to 10 funders including The Heritage Lottery and The Big Lottery Fund, The Community Foundation for Greater Manchester, The Peter Cruddas Foundation, Loyds TSB and The Co-Op Foundation.

More details will follow early in the New Year. Alternatively you can call the Gio project on 0161 832 0934 or email hello@gioproject.org.uk to find out more.

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LOTTERY FUNDED

