

The new priorities

As 1995 (the final year of the four-year funding period) approached, it was decided that it was an anomaly for the Trust to continue to run a four-year programme when the City Parochial Foundation had worked to quinquennial plans for many years.

It was therefore decided to bring the Trust in line with the Foundation, extending the 1992-95 programme by 12 months. So it was that plans began to be laid in 1996 for the next five years funding programme, stretching to the millennium and beyond. It should be stressed that the two bodies remain legally separate though share trustees and staff.

1997 - 2001

The Trust's plan for the period 1997 - 2001

was not in the end significantly different from the previous few years. The priorities for grant making continued to be:

- supplementary and mother tongue schools
- self help groups
- organisations working with people with disabilities
- refugee organisations.

In addition, a category of grant for in-house training was introduced while further grants for previously funded work remained. Though this essentially meant 'no change' there were good reasons for



Arachne, Greek Women's Group

Arachne was established in 1984 to meet the needs of the Cypriot community in Islington, particularly the needs of women and girls. Arachne has grown over the last 10 years and currently has six staff. They operate welfare rights sessions, an employment project, classes, play schemes and a health advocacy service.


Trust
for
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1988-98

this. Refugee groups had benefited from the funds made available by the Baring Foundation. Although this fund could not be renewed, it was important not to exclude the possibility of such groups returning for further funds.

The priority for organisations working with people with disabilities had only been extended 12 months previously, so it was important to allow further time for organisations to take advantage of this extension.

fundings available to such groups it was decided that the Trust should retain them as a priority for a longer period.

Supplementary and Mother Tongue Schools were a special case. They had become regular and frequent applicants. This could have been an argument for excluding them from the Trust's grant-making priorities, at least for a period, as they had greatly benefited from the Trust's funds over the years.

But the Trust had begun to work closely with these schools. A conference was held and the Trust had agreed to establish and fund a resource unit to assist them.

In these circumstances it was hardly appropriate to exclude Supplementary and Mother Tongue Schools from funding whilst offering them assistance through a newly established resource unit.

In addition to funding its core grant priorities the Trustees set aside funds for the Supplementary and Mother Tongue Schools Resource Unit and to extend the Small Groups Worker Scheme if necessary over the next five years.

Promotion of the 1997-2001 grant making priorities

The grant-making priorities for 1997-2001 may have been very similar to those of earlier years but the manner of promoting them, and the context was very different.

This was the first time that Helal Uddin Abbas and Ann Curno had promoted priorities at the beginning of a new funding process. They now had a three-month period in which to do so for both the Trust and the City Parochial Foundation through a series of presentations to a wide variety of audiences.

However, on this occasion there was more to say about the Trust's previous activities and achievements.

The Field Officers regularly shared the platform with other funders such as the National Lottery Charities Board and the Bridge House Estates Trust Fund.

It is interesting to reflect upon how

PROFILES

WINVISIBLE

WinVisible was established in 1984 and was originally based at the King's Cross Women's Centre. The organisation aims to provide services and promote the needs of women with disabilities.

When WinVisible first made an application to the Trust it had no funding at all. The Trust made a grant of £2,250 for the purchase of an electric wheelchair, its maintenance, and for a portable ramp. Ten years later the wheelchair and the ramp are still in operation.

In 1988 WinVisible was dealing with about 60 inquiries a month and offering basic sign language interpretation for deaf women. It has always been concerned to combat the stigma and prejudice faced by women with disabilities particularly black and minority ethnic women.

Ten years later the organisation is based in the Women's Crossroads Centre. It has remained small over the last ten years but has made a major impact on women with disabilities in London. The work has contributed towards increasing the profile of women with disabilities and help and advice are regularly requested from the agency. It is remarkable that without raising considerable funds the organisation has managed to widen its activities as well as raise its profile.

Until 1996 the organisation's income had remained at a low level (£2,000 per annum). However, in 1997 a grant of £100,000 was made to WinVisible by the National Lottery Charities Board, in order to enable the organisation to appoint a full-time Co-ordinator for the first time in its history.

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Self-help groups were applying to the Trust in increasing numbers. They were very much the type of small groups the Trust had traditionally targeted, that is those without staff, and existing on few resources. In the absence of a range of



Hackney Chinese Community Services

Hackney Chinese Community Services runs a wide range of activities including advice sessions, an elderly luncheon club, a carers support project, an elderly outreach project, a youth club, mother tongue classes, a mental health project and a health outreach project.

much has changed since 1988. At the beginning of the Trust's existence, few grant-makers promoted their priorities, or published grant guidelines, and certainly did not publish lists of grants made.

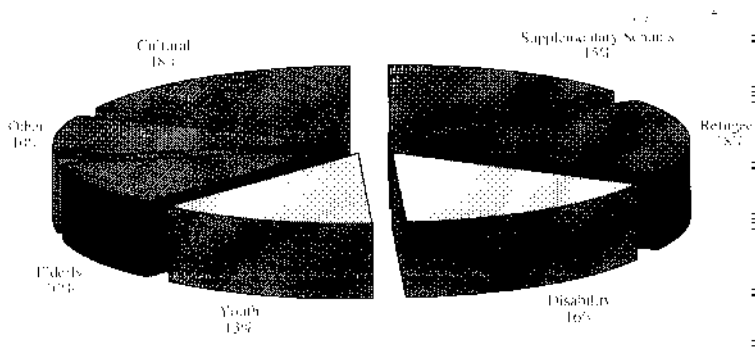
Visits to applicants were rare, while consultation with the voluntary sector was almost unheard of. Indeed several funders were nervous that the Trust's proactive approach would mean they all received more applications. Yet, by 1998 all of these activities are almost routinely

carried out by major trusts.

But the Trust for London is not a major trust in terms of the funds it has available. A grant-making income of about £600,000 per annum is tiny in comparison with many others. However, there are some inherent advantages of the Trust's style of working. It is possible to be knowledgeable about the constituency, to know well the context in which groups operate, to know the problems and the opportunities in different areas, to know the groups, to

Analysis of grant aid

£1,200,000 (2018)



know the vast range of communities in London, where they are located, their cultural diversity, their traditions, beliefs and ways of operating.

It is possible to get to know individual communities, to keep in touch with them and to be imaginative and responsive to their needs. We believe the Trust is all of these things and despite the changing environment it remains in a special position among trusts because of the type of fieldwork carried out. Among small groups in London it has a reputation that far outweighs the size of its resources.