

Dormant Accounts Northern Ireland – Consultation Framework

The Department of Finance has directed The National Lottery Community Fund to deliver Dormant Accounts funding in Northern Ireland. We are now engaging with the VCSE sector to determine how this funding should be delivered. From this we will develop a strategic action plan and lay it in the Assembly.

Around £16m of Dormant Accounts funding for Northern Ireland has accrued over the last 10 years. It is anticipated that money will continue to be available on an annual basis.

- How do we explore ways of spending down all or some of the initial £16m pot quickly over the coming years?
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This funding should benefit the VCSE sector by growing its resilience, increasing capacity and encouraging sustainability.

Tell us your views on:

- What are the existing barriers to resilience in the VCSE sector?
- In what ways does the sector need to build its capacity?
- How could this funding support the sector to build its capacity?
- What does a sustainable third sector look like?
- How might this funding support sustainability in the sector?

The National Lottery Community Fund defines a resilient VCSE Sector as one with organisations that have the confidence, capacity and resources to achieve their aims. Organisations can be flexible, adaptable and strategic with a clear understanding of their environment. Organisations are sustainable if they have financial flexibility and longevity.

- What do you think of this definition?
 - Do you agree with it?
 - Does it make sense to use this as a basis for this funding?
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In order to achieve the aim of this funding, we want to explore the ways and how it could be distributed.

Tell us your views on grants:

- What size grants should be?
- How long should grants be for?
- What could grant funding be used for?
- What share of the pot should grants be?

Tell us your views on loans:

- Should money be available through loans?
- What type of loans?
- What could loans be used for?
- What size should loans be?
- What share of the pot should loans be?

Also tell us your views on:

- What other ways could we distribute this funding?
- What should the assessment process look like?
- What questions should the assessment process ask?
- Who should make the decisions?