

Area West Committee – 15th February 2012

## 6. Somerset Community Foundation

*Strategic Director: Rina Singh (Place and Performance)*  
*Assistant Director: Helen Rutter (Communities)*  
*Service Manager: Alice Knight, Third Sector and Partnerships Manager*  
*Lead Officer: Alice Knight, Third Sector and Partnerships Manager*  
*Contact Details: alice.knight@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01963 435061*

Justin Sargent, Chief Executive of the Somerset Community Foundation (SCF), will make a presentation on the work of the Foundation and specifically a new programme called Local Giving.

### Background Information on the Somerset Community Foundation

*“At the heart of our approach is a strong belief in the importance of helping communities respond to their local circumstances in their own way”*

<http://www.somersetcf.org.uk>

- Part of a national network of Community Foundations, charities dedicated to strengthening local communities, creating opportunities and tackling issues of disadvantage and exclusion.
- Direct grants to local charities and voluntary organisations that make a genuine and lasting impact on the lives of local people.
- Set up in 2002 to provide a new independent funding body to tackle poverty and disadvantage throughout Somerset. Since 2002 SCF has distributed almost £3m in grants to a wide range of local charities. Since 2006 has built a £2m endowment fund for the county.
- Provide a service to help personal and business donors achieve their specific charitable goals within Somerset.

### Main Programmes

#### Surviving Winter Appeal

- Somerset Community Foundation has a scheme to enable all who can afford to forego some or all of their Winter Fuel Payment (WFP), to make a donation to help those who need extra help during the winter months.
- The money raised by the Surviving Winter Appeal will be used to support local charities and community organisations who can reach the people most in need of help and make sure they can afford to stay warm, eat well and remain mobile, as well as help them in practical ways such as ensuring they can make doctor's appointments, get to the shops, and maintain an active social life.
- Find more at [http://www.somersetcf.org.uk/surviving\\_winter\\_appeal.html](http://www.somersetcf.org.uk/surviving_winter_appeal.html)

## Community Grant Programmes

- The Foundation administers a variety of funds for grant making. Priorities are:
  - Supporting vulnerable and frail older people and their carers
  - Supporting communities affected by rural isolation and loneliness
  - Improving life opportunities for disadvantaged young people and adults.
- Applications are invited from voluntary led, community targeted organisations with a management committee, a constitution (or working towards one) and a bank account.
- Preferred average grant size is £2-3000 or below. The next deadline for applications is 9th March 2012.

## Raising Aspirations

- A programme based on philanthropy and partnership to address the growing gap between the attainment of young people in Somerset and the average for England, particularly by children from the poorest families.
- The Raising Aspirations programme has been designed by Somerset Community Foundation to address this issue through a mentoring scheme, grant making and by bringing together people to develop further ideas and mobilise resources.
- Funding has been secured from a local charitable trust to run a 3 year pilot mentoring project in partnership with Crispin School in Street. Contacts are being developed with the professional community, people in trades, in music and the arts, and in the public sector to secure volunteers to provide one to one mentoring to the pupils in the school.
- We already have funds in excess of £50,000 per annum from funds established within the Foundation by local donors and business to support the grant-making aspect of the programme, and we expect this to continue to grow.

## Somerset Guardians

- A programme aimed at the business community to provide a corporate charitable donations service.

## Local Giving

- A national programme being operated in partnership with the Somerset Community Foundation.
- Local Giving is a web based fundraising scheme for community groups and potential charitable donors to be matched without the requirement of a formal grant making / application process.
- Eligible organisations need to have clear charitable aims, and also be based and working in Somerset. There is a fee to appear on the site for more than three months, but the initial period is free.

**Background Papers:** None.