



Working together to strengthen London's voluntary and community sector

London Funders: Annual review of 2008 Executive summary

The Annual Review for 2008 can now be found on London Funders' website, www.londonfunders.org.uk. This is a brief overview of activities, membership, funding and governance for the calendar year. Our more detailed and formal report and accounts for the period are also available on the website.

London Funders is the membership organisation which works with funders and investors supporting London's voluntary and community organisations. It links all the sectors, providing foundations, funders from the public sector and corporate givers with opportunities to share their experience and learn from each other. It helps to forge productive relationships which contribute to the wider benefit and overall sustainability of London's voluntary and community organisations – to contribute to a vibrant, varied and fit for purpose third sector which is appropriately and fairly funded.

During 2008, membership grew and meetings were better-attended than ever as well as being representative of the various sectors from which members come. As our Chair Sara Llewellyn says, "We all work better for London when we understand the responsibilities and constraints of each other. London is a wonderful and special place – like no other. Londoners deserve the very best from our third sector and our job as funders in London is to help make London a great place for every resident through our support for, and partnerships with, that third sector."

Meetings are collaborative, cross-sector information exchanges, providing opportunities for exchange of ideas, learning and networking. Main meetings in 2008 were on "Working Money Harder"; funders' support of work with young people; funding faith communities; and tackling health inequality. Project groups looked at effectiveness in funding, research and evaluation, funding for voluntary sector infrastructure development, issues for refugees and migrants, and many aspects of the 2012 Olympic Games. Joint meetings with other partners drew attention to useful research, helped make sense of the array of quality assurance systems used by funded organisations, and delved deeper into monitoring and evaluation of work supported.

The [e-bulletin](#) is an information resource published every two months, covering succinctly news and information relevant to funders. The website includes reports of meetings and other publications, and links to members' websites.

London Funders ended 2008 with high expectations for 2009 and a commitment to supporting members in their work to strengthen the VCS in London. We will work to help members collaborate, especially in cross-sector links and partnerships - funders working together and learning together, responsive to the voluntary and community sector's needs. Inevitably, much of our work in 2009 is being shaped around supporting funders to cope with the impact of the recession on their own resources and on the organisations and communities they exist to support.