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*A software system that enables public, third sector and private sector organisations to identify suitable funding from a list renewed on a daily basis.*



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**April 2017 to  
September 2017**

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**CAVA Team**

During 2016 it became very apparent that for some reason the funding fayres had become less attractive. Decreasing numbers attending, and less funders agreeing to come along provided a picture of something that looked like it had passed its sell-by date. A brief questionnaire to groups was sent out. Responses coming back seemed to say that groups still wanted to gain information on possible sources of funding. But, the funding fayres were at the wrong time and venues. To compliment the funding fayres we have over the last couple of years organised funding spotlights. These have proved popular in the past. But again a couple that were organised during 2016-17 the attendance levels were not to the level of previous ones. Something different had to be considered to ensure that the service we provide was still relevant and suitable to our members.

An organisation named I-DOX had contacted Engage Renfrewshire on several occasions, to talk about their online based funding search engine. They wanted to run an info session on the system in the hope of convincing us to buy it. They had confirmed that they had approached as many TSIs as they could, with limited success. Previously when they had informally approached Engage the costs were quite prohibitive which ensured that we could not afford it. This time we saw the potential of the system to offer us the opportunity to provide relevant and up to date information on funds and funders.

It was agreed to purchase the system for a year and to review this over the year to consider if we should continue to use it. After some thought as to the most effective way to use it, agreement was reached that 1-2-1 sessions would be arranged for groups to attend and chat about their funding needs. This information could be used for the drop-down menus, giving the groups a more detailed list of potential funders. We also signed up for the daily updates from I-Dox. This has proved very effective, as on a daily basis around 12 updates are emailed directly to Engage. This information is then uploaded onto social media, or emailed directly to specific organisations who may benefit from the information provided.

The organisations that have come along to the 1-2-1 sessions so far are:-

Renfrewshire Effort To Empower Minorities (REEM)

Recovery Across Mental Health (RAMH)

Food Train

Doggy Chillin

Meal Makers

Renfrewshire Law Centre

Paisley Methodist Church Hall.

We approached a few of the groups and asked them for updates on how things have gone.

#### **Was the GRANTfinder session worthwhile?**

“The session was very useful, thanks, It gave me a really good idea on the funders out there!”

“The GRANTfinder session was worthwhile because it identified new trust we are eligible to apply to!

“The session was worthwhile, partly for knowing potential funding sources and for highlighting learning how to increase chances of success with a funding application!”

#### **From the list that was provided by GRANTfinder, which funders did you apply to?**

“Unfortunately none. I did find the information slightly overwhelming because there were so many funders and I struggled to make sense of them all!”

“Applications are still being drafted, however, information was also shared!”

“We have applied to both Postcode Lottery and Bank of Scotland!”

**Have you been successful with any of the applications?**

“No!”

“N/A”

“We have been unsuccessful with Postcode Lottery and still waiting for response from Bank of Scotland!”

**If successful, how much have you received?**

“N/A!”

“N/A!”

“Not yet received any!”

**Would another session with GRANTfinder be of any value?**

“Yes please, or rather if the list is still available if I could get sight of it, it would help me go through the list and come up with a priority list!

“Yes another session with a more specific focus, which identifies smaller Trusts would be very worthwhile!”

“We would be pleased to attend another Grantfinder session to increase awareness of technics for a successful application and the potential funding sources that may be out there!”

**Is the GRANTfinder session something that you would mention to other groups or association to try?**

“Yes, definitely!”

“Yes I have recommended the GRANTfinder session to external groups and colleagues!”

“Yes, I highlight Grantfinder sessions to other community groups; as being a good source of information about finding funding sources!”

To see the front page of the system go to:- <https://www.idoxgrantfinder.co.uk/>

