

Chairman's foreword

Grants totalling £5.6 million were made to over 300 organisations during 2000, the penultimate year of the Foundation's current 'Quinquennial' programme. This Review provides an early opportunity to begin reflecting on the outcomes of the last four years, and to use the lessons learned in planning our priorities for the period 2002-2006.

Our continuing mission is to seek out and, through the energies of voluntary sectors charities, to support the poor of London – young and old, long-standing and new. Amongst those who are most in need, refugee communities are a particular challenge. They are here to stay, but they need time and support to integrate themselves into the wider London community. In the short-term, however, the associated social and racial tensions can lead to much suffering, as the experiences of Damilola Taylor and his family so tragically demonstrated.

The Foundation has been **Taking the initiative** (*page 12*) in addressing some of these social and racial tensions by developing the work of the Employability Forum, launched last year. The Forum is now a member of the Government's refugee integration programme, and joins the Refugee Education Unit and the Resource Unit for Supplementary and Mother-tongue Schools as significant bridges in the integration process. The Trust for London also continues to address the needs of small groups working with refugees and migrants.

The establishment of the Social Exclusion Unit in the Cabinet Office in 1997, and the

subsequent raft of new central Government policies in response to urban poverty, was followed in 2000 by the re-creation of London-wide government and the election of the Mayor and Greater London Assembly. These developments, plus the National Lottery's Community and New Opportunities Funds, are significantly changing the political context within which the Foundation works.

Trustees and staff are anxious to ensure that their work with the voluntary sector complements and enhances public policies, focussing on opportunities and needs that might otherwise be overlooked. To this end, we are also **Working in alliance** with other funders (*page 7*) to ensure that our programmes help to fill gaps in a multiplicity of evolving public initiatives. A classic case is our work in Merton addressing the issue of school exclusion, which is jointly funded with the Corporation of London's Bridge House Estates Trust Fund and the Equitable Charitable Trust.

The Foundation also continues to place emphasis on work in specific local areas, recognising the impact that local people can have in their own communities. In the case of the Bellingham Recreation Project, local residents were brought together to discuss and evaluate the gaps between local needs and local resources in an area that until recently has missed out on central and local government funding programmes.

Through our **Special programmes** (*page 10*), too, a high level of participation by young people has been sought in the development of the nine voluntary youth

organisations that we have funded as part of a special youth initiative.

An important lesson we have learned is that how we support the voluntary sector is key to ensuring the best use is made of the resources available. To enable the work of other charities to be as effective as possible, and thereby bring maximum benefits to the people they aim to serve, more is often needed than grants. A more effective approach can be characterised as **Funding plus** (*page 3*). It is exemplified in our support for infrastructure grants, our contribution to the London-wide Governance Project and, in March this year, the launch of *Financial Fitness*. This is a pilot training programme that will help organisations to establish and maintain robust financial systems.

Trustees also recognised during the year 2000 that effectiveness starts at home. In the last 12 months the constitution and governance arrangements of the Foundation have been reviewed to ensure that the Foundation has appropriate structures and systems in place for its efficient operation through the early years of the new Millennium.

The year also saw new staff at the Foundation. We welcomed Martin Jones as the new Director of Grants and Programmes. Martin came from the Camelot Foundation where he was a Programme Manager. We have also increased the number of field officers from two to three by creating a post with special responsibility for monitoring and evaluation; Sara Bennett, previously Director of the Chelsea Social Council, has been appointed to this position.

Our Senior Field Officer, Alison Harker, moved to another grant making charity during the year, and I record once again the trustees' appreciation of her loyal and dedicated service to the Foundation and the Trust. Lady Winifred Tumim and John Barker have retired as trustees and I am delighted to record our warm appreciation

of their service to the Foundation. In conclusion, I thank the Clerk, the rest of the staff and my fellow trustees for their undiminished commitment and hard work throughout the year.

Professor Gerald Manners

Chairman

Funding plus

Meeding the needs of the poor of London – for which purpose City Parochial Foundation and Trust for London exist – has led Trustees to take a keen interest both in the outcomes of funding programmes and initiatives, and in the many groups that carry out the work on the ground.

What has become apparent is that such groups often need advice and help to ensure that they are efficiently run and thus can make best use of any funds they receive. This has led to the notion of ‘funding plus’ – looking at all aspects of the work and not simply distributing grants.

For instance, pressures to help meet the needs of their clients means that small organisations – many of which are run entirely by volunteers – do not always pay sufficient attention to administrative and other necessary functions. Problems include poorly kept records – particularly financial – and a tendency to take shortcuts on issues such as governance, with an over-reliance on trust between members of committees.

These concerns led the Foundation and the Trust to set up the Small Groups Workers scheme in the mid-1990s, to identify needs and see how these could be met. It was followed by the financial monitoring investigation, which revealed that it is not just the smallest organisations that can do with help.

The work has been extended, and now encompasses the Governance Project, financial fitness training and the appointment of a monitoring and evaluation field

officer to assist organisations and help the Foundation and the Trust in their deliberations on future funding priorities.

What all these initiatives have shown is that they can help create a virtuous circle: if organisations can develop improved and robust administrative, financial and accountability systems, they are better prepared to meet the needs of their clients and can do so in a more efficient way, thus ensuring that grant is used to maximum effect.

The Governance Project

The Foundation has a longstanding interest in how small voluntary organisations are run and managed, arising from experience of



Governance Project Co-ordinator Kevin Nunan (left) makes plans with Susan Akaose-Adu from Best of Friends, Jennifer Laing from Hammersmith and Fulham VSRA and Clare Stokes from the FIRM. Behind are the Islamic Social Association, Wandsworth Pensioners Forum and in the corner – Merton Hard of Hearing Resource Centre.

news/sorp

Helping charities get fit financially

How to keep fit financially

Financial training can help small voluntary groups to develop their financial systems and then create a secure base for future development. This is the main finding of *Financial Fitness: the struggle of staying fit*, a small voluntary organisation, the subject of a pilot training programme supported by the City Parochial Foundation (CPF) and its sister funding body the Trust for London among some of the organisations that they fund.

"In recent years, small organisations have found increasingly complex financial requirements, and as a result funding, we have become accustomed to help ensure that they can survive," says Alison Myers, Chief of CPF.

"We are ready to continue to provide a response"

Getting fit for business

Most charities and voluntary organisations – especially small ones – never have enough money to carry out their work properly because the demands on them

change and account for charitable and public funds. "That is your sector that, if we know that these organisations have a solid grounding, it means a lot of the worry and means that they can get on with their jobs task of alleviating poverty and disadvantage with confidence, and in full knowledge of the resources available to them."

Alison Adams, regional director of the London Finance Group believes that some organisations fail at the first levels of learning money they do not know "in a simple step by step, in their efforts to secure some funding, even though the work they do is very good."

develop sound financial systems and provide a secure base for future development. If they have a solid grounding, it reduces a lot of the worry and ensures that they can get on with their real

Financial training for smaller charities. Several financial training for very small start-up charities can make the difference between success and failure, according to a new study by the City Parochial Foundation and the Trust for London. The report, *Financial Fitness*, suggests that funders

play in supporting training for small organisations. The report finds that good quality financial management training significantly improves the ability of small charities to grow and develop. It recommends that small charities that develop reliable financial systems before they begin to consider

Grant gives should by a means that small and open minded organisations have access to good, local and local financial training. It says Carol Hardick, former director of the City Parochial Foundation says "Simple advice from people small and starting struggles that don't cost more than

Grant funding plus - the virtuous circle

Chris Smithson, a freelance journalist specialising in the voluntary sector and an adviser to the City Parochial Foundation, reports the findings of a new CPF research project.

City Parochial Foundation and the Trust for London have chosen concerned for some time that the desire to meet the growing needs of citizens means that voluntary organisations do not pay enough attention to developing adequate administrative and financial systems. In the mid-1990s, CPF established a pilot Small Groups Working scheme

to examine their requirements and the scheme was a great success around the country. The project, conducted by the Trust, which confirmed that many organisations do not have the need for robust systems and, as a result, strategic research was followed up with

it, also run by the Community Studies show that good quality financial training significantly enhances the ability of small charities to develop adequate financial systems at an early stage of an aid a more secure base for future. Their addresses are available

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Funders called on to support training

FUNDERS SHOULD GO beyond funding project costs, according to a recent report. The report recommends that funders should ensure to fund, grant quality, low cost financial training for small voluntary organisations.

Speaking at the launch of *Financial Fitness: the struggle of staying fit*, Nigel Shuster of the Association of Charitable Foundations said: "There is more to giving grants than giving money. Funders have a responsibility to help provide systems for financial management."

The report reviewed work by the Community Remuneration Project on behalf of the City Parochial Foundation and the Trust for London. CDF

funding many refugee and community organisations. Early in 2000, this led to the establishment of the Governance Project, developed following consultation with a number of agencies, including other funders such as London Borough Grants and Lloyds TSB Foundation, regulatory bodies such as the Charity Commission, councils for voluntary services (CVSs), and infrastructure and national umbrella bodies such as the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO).

The purpose of the Project is to enhance the effectiveness and viability of new and emerging organisations by developing their governance skills through a programme of training and consultancy that co-ordinates the resources of various partners, including support bodies, training agencies, networks and funders.

The pilot Project – which involves 20 small organisations from four boroughs (Hammersmith & Fulham, Southwark, Merton and Wandsworth) which volunteered to take part – is likely to take 18 months to

complete. It is headed by a project worker based with Voluntary Action Camden, who works with the CVSs to identify areas of intervention and appropriate sources for guidance and help. This can be in the form of group training, development work with specific staff and trustees, or individual advice from consultants.

The steering group hopes that the Project will show that there are suitable models which can help small organisations develop best practice in governance, and that these can be successfully implemented. Success will bring benefits to all: the organisations themselves, funders, regulatory bodies and management committee members and – most importantly – to the individual beneficiaries.

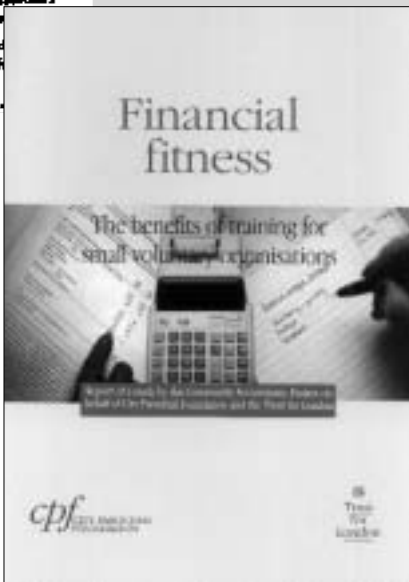
Financial fitness

Because of the close relationship with beneficiaries, City Parochial Foundation and Trust for London have become increasingly aware that many groups experience difficulty with financial control. This can lead to unreliable accounts, late or erratic

The report on Financial fitness received wide coverage in the charity press, and also made the Society pages in *The Guardian*, which accompanied its piece with a cartoon (below). The report itself was widely circulated and well received. One unexpected response came from Maura Muldoon, Development Officer at the Sports Council Northern Ireland. She pointed out that many of the organisations involved in the delivery of sport are voluntary in nature, and struggle to keep up with modern day financial accountability procedures.

She added: "When I read your report it struck me that the training delivered would be of such benefit to a much wider audience (geographical as well as functional) than I am sure you originally anticipated. The report clearly demonstrates the value of financial management training for small organisations and I shall certainly be encouraging the organisations I liaise with to read the report and take on board the findings."

"Thanks again for sending me a copy of the report and keep up the good work."



Copies of *Financial fitness – The benefits of training for small voluntary organisations* are available from Carol Harrison on 020 7606 6145.

claims for grant instalments and failure to provide reports required under the conditions of funding.

It has become clear that it is all too easy for groups to set aside financial governance and control, regarding it as less important than the 'work' of the organisation. As a result they risk falling prey to fraudulent activities and sharp operators. More importantly, poor awareness of their financial state of affairs almost certainly results in poor decision-making: poor financial management can result in potential beneficiaries not receiving the best services.

In addition, charities face increasing burdens imposed by the Charities Act 1993 and the SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice) accounting. Public interest and concern has grown, manifesting itself most acutely in concerns over the amount of funds 'wasted' on administration.

In 1996, the Foundation's trustees decided to carry out a more thorough evaluation of areas of concern and commissioned a report – *Financial Monitoring of Funded Organisations* – which was published in 1998.

This was followed up in 1999/2000 by a pilot training programme organised by the Community Accountancy Project on behalf of the Foundation and the Trust among some of the organisations they fund. The results of this training were published in a report – *Financial fitness – The benefits of training for small voluntary organisations* – which among its findings revealed that:

- good quality financial management training significantly enhances the ability of small voluntary organisations to develop adequate financial systems;
- organisations managed and operated on a totally voluntary basis are just as capable of developing sound financial management systems as organisations with paid staff;
- the provision of financial management



CARTOON: ROBERT THOMPSON.

training at an early stage of an organisation's life will provide a more secure base for future development.

The report also recommended work with other funding organisations to extend financial training. As with the findings on small groups and governance, the Foundation and the Trust are already making the results of this report widely available so that others can take up the lessons. Discussions are already taking place with other funders to see how this may be taken forward together.

Monitoring and evaluation

City Parochial Foundation and Trust for London have a long-standing commitment to monitor the work they have funded. The lessons monitoring can teach are underpinned by three key factors:

- the Trustees wish to be assured that grants have been used properly and that the Foundation's financial input has had positive results;
- monitoring can assist funded organisations to develop and improve their own practice;
- monitoring contributes to the Foundation's and the Trust's own knowledge and informs future grant making practice.

This approach has been reviewed periodically and adapted to reflect lessons learned and to take account of any changes needed.

In early 2000 the decision was taken to appoint a dedicated field officer with responsibility for monitoring and evaluation. The aim was to build on previous experience and reflected the Trustees' desire to take a more pro-active approach to evaluation.

This led to the appointment of Sara Bennett – previously Director of the Chelsea Social Council – in June 2000. Her initial task has been to develop and formalise the specific arrangements for monitoring grants and to

introduce a system for developing appropriate frameworks for evaluation of significant projects from their inception.

Organisations receiving funding of more than £50,000 are required to set up an evaluation framework from the outset of the grant. This is carried out with the support and guidance of the Field Officer. It enables the organisations to focus on their outputs and methods for evaluating the impact of their work at an early stage.

In turn, the Foundation benefits from more structured assessment of funding programmes. Both positive and negative lessons taken from evaluation can have a profound effect on future decisions on funding priorities and ways to deliver services.

The Foundation is pleased to be leading the way through this approach and, as in the past, will share its experience with other funders.

Working in alliance

Co-operation between funders has grown over recent years. This has improved understanding of the different roles each can play, assisted in co-ordination of grant-giving and led to the development of a more standardised approach to the provision of advice and guidance on best practice.

City Parochial Foundation and Trust for London have taken this further and developed Alliance Funding, where several funders work together to develop strategic partnerships with the agencies which are funded to provide services.

We believe that long-term funding of this sort results in a more creative partnership built, hopefully, on mutual trust and respect, which, in turn, results in a better outcome for the beneficiaries.

So far, three partnerships have developed around education issues. These involve refugee education, tackling school exclusion and mother-tongue teaching and supplementary schools.

The Refugee Education Unit

Young refugees face many difficulties when it comes to starting or continuing their education. It was these problems that encouraged the Foundation to establish the Refugee Education Unit (REU) in 1996 in partnership with a consortium of funders including Tudor Trust and Henry Smith's Charity.

After considering a number of agencies and institutions the consortium invited Praxis – an organisation established in the East End

in 1983 – to become the host of the scheme.

The main aim of the REU is to give refugees – principally young men – education opportunities and to support them in achieving their aspirations. The Unit has interviewed more than 840 clients – the vast majority asylum-seekers aged under 35 – from 58 different countries.

The Unit provides advice, guidance, monitoring and support to potential students. Very often this means meeting and assisting them wherever they are located or based, including hostels, bed and breakfast hotels, and at refugee community organisations.

This holistic approach is now seen as an important service by funders, educational institutions and the voluntary sector alike. In 2001, Praxis is re-structuring the REU to create a new Education and Enterprise Unit. The aim is to integrate its work more with existing activities, and the Foundation will continue to support this vital work in its new phase.

During the year, the Foundation also continued its support for the Refugee Education Awards Scheme. This has now made awards to 428 individuals since it started in 1997. It is administered jointly by the Foundation and Praxis with the expert guidance of the Foundation's Education Adviser, Robin Hazlewood.

Resource Unit for Supplementary & Mother-tongue Schools

Research by Trust for London revealed that

many supplementary and mother-tongue schools needed not only financial support, but also additional skills to obtain and handle funds and to set up and run classes more effectively. The Unit was established the following year to meet these needs.

In practical terms, the Unit:

- runs workshops and seminars on topics relevant to teachers and managers of schools;
- visits schools to help with progress evaluation and assessment;
- provides information, advice, and consultancy;
- facilitates networking between supplementary and mother-tongue schools themselves, and between them and state-maintained education;
- gathers information on issues concerning supplementary and mother-tongue schools in London;
- publishes a Bulletin, a Directory of Schools with over 1,000 entries (funded by Department for Education and Employment – DfEE), and guidelines to assist schools in their work.

The Unit is now established as an independent charity under the leadership of founder Director Mohammed Abdelrazak. It has also secured additional funding from the National Lottery Charities Board (now the Community Fund) and the BBC Children in Need Appeal. A glowing independent evaluation of the NLCB-funded work was published this year.

Four areas for development over the next three years have been identified:

- to publish a national directory of supplementary and mother-tongue schools;
- to launch three guideline booklets – for parents, for school managers and for teachers;
- to develop a multi-level accredited training programme in collaboration with one selected university (in the first instance);

- to bring the issues highlighted by supplementary and mother-tongue schools provision to the forefront so that they are considered within the context of higher education, and that trainee teachers are made aware of the benefits flowing from the approach.

The success of the Unit has raised the profile of supplementary and mother-tongue schools which are now, at last, being recognised by other major funders, including the New Opportunities Fund.

Exclusion from schools

Following concern over the increasing number of pupils being permanently excluded from London schools, and in particular the disproportionately high number of black Caribbean boys, our Education Adviser, Robin Hazelwood, undertook a project to investigate the education provision for such pupils in a number of boroughs in London.

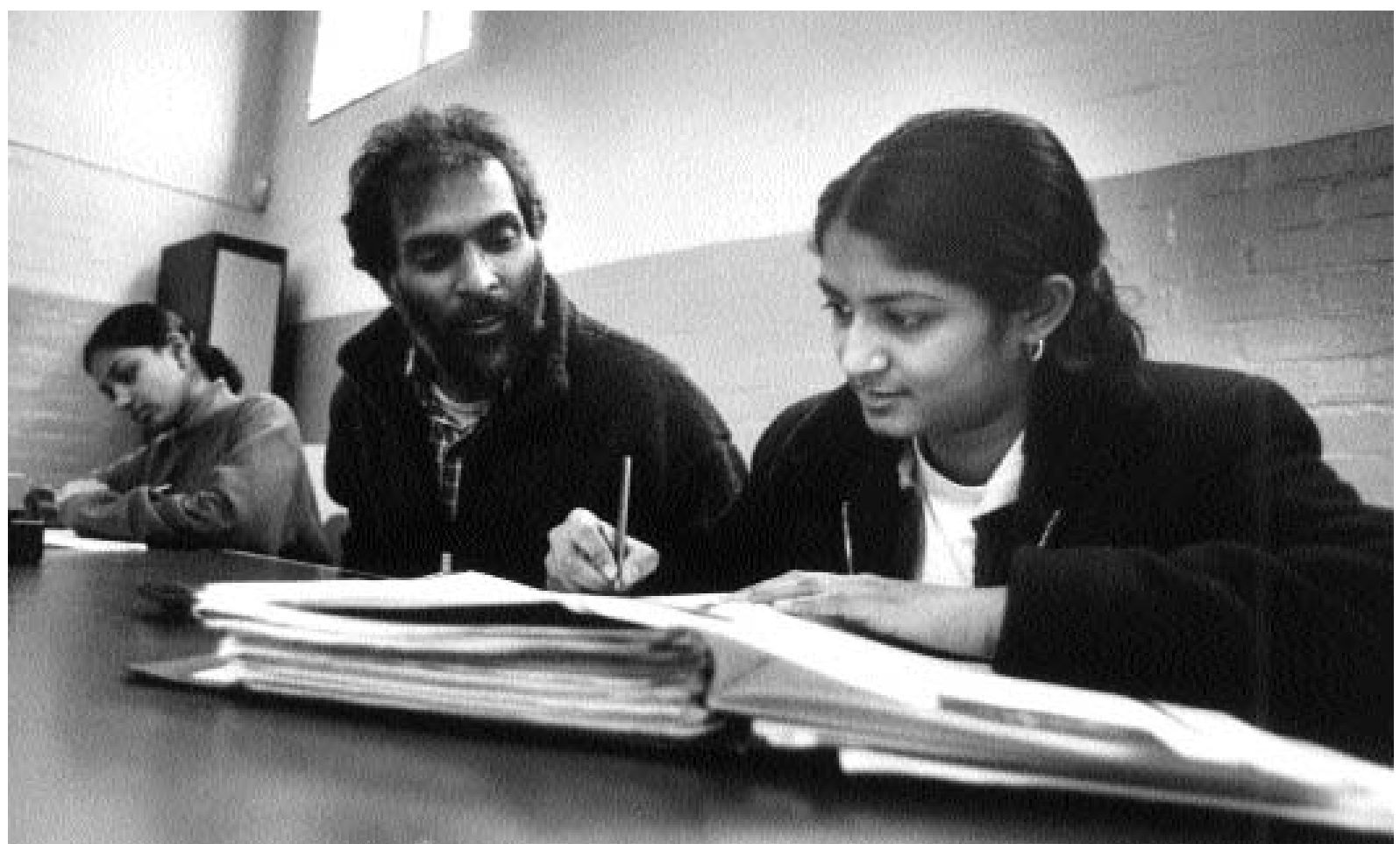
After looking at a number of alternative approaches in local education authorities (LEAs), an alliance was set up with Bridge House Estates Trust Fund and Equitable Charitable Trust, to see how voluntary organisations might help in developing innovative solutions to improve services and prevent school exclusion.

Merton was selected and three projects agreed.

- the Challenger Project funded by Bridge House Estates Trust Fund
- the Fame Project funded by City Parochial Foundation
- the Jigsaw Project funded by Equitable Charitable Trust

Jigsaw and Merton Education Business Partnership (MEBP) were selected to carry out the work.

Fame, the specific project funded by City Parochial Foundation, supports pupils excluded from education and also provides help to their parents.



The funding provides MEBP with a co-ordinator to work with parents, pupils and voluntary agencies such as the Merton African-Caribbean Organisation, African and African-Caribbean People's Advisory Group and Capital Mentoring. These agencies are members of the Empowering Parents and Children Forum that works to support parents and pupils to raise achievement in their education.

Since the project was first considered, the government has decided to act on school exclusion. This has led to delay while the funding alliance waited to see where money would be directed. There were further delays because of a transfer of responsibility for school exclusion matters from the LEAs to individual schools, and because of the time it has taken to attract appropriate staff.

As a result, all three projects are still in their infancy. But the need for action is increasing: it was reported at a recent

South London Tamil Welfare Group

alliance meeting that the number of pupils needing help had doubled.

School exclusion remains a major issue but cannot be tackled in isolation from the complex issues of family and other social concerns. This is why local voluntary organisations will be vitally important in helping to provide solutions.

Special programmes

Another approach adopted during the 1997-2001 Quinquennium has been to develop special programmes which take a co-ordinated approach towards tackling issues of specific concern to Trustees. These cover disability and youth.

Again, an important aspect involves evaluation to ensure that the approach is working and to learn for future programmes.

Youth Programme

The Foundation established its Youth Programme after consulting a number of voluntary youth organisations. In all, nine were funded to provide specific services to their client groups.

In addition to grants, the Foundation has also brought the nine organisations together for three meetings a year to discuss relevant issues and to share appropriate information. The Youth Programme is currently being

evaluated and a report is due to be published in July 2001.

But already, lessons are coming across. Organisations involved have tended to assume that they know what is best for young people, and often that relates to preparing for the future. However, listening to the young people reveals that they would rather have projects which deal with the problems of today.

Disability Programme

Because of concern that Trust for London was attracting very few applications from small disability organisations, and especially those working in the black and minority ethnic communities, the Disability Programme was set up in April 1999 by the Foundation. As a result, grants were made to the Greater London Association of Disabled People (GLAD), People First, (an organisation run by and for people with learning disabilities), and the British Council of Disabled People (BCODP, based in Derby) to work together on a joint project called Count Us In.

The overall aim of Count Us In is to put in place support for small, local organisations in London concerned with problems facing

Pedro Club



The Youth Programme

New Horizon Youth Centre Identifies vulnerable and homeless young people in the Kings Cross/Somers Town area and supports them through a process that leads to re-settlement and continuing support. New Horizon has begun to run short-term residential sessions, which the Foundation has funded.

Brandon Centre The Centre adopts a counselling approach to the family planning needs of emotionally vulnerable young women, and provides a psychotherapy service to children and young people who have emotional and behavioural problems. The Foundation funded the work of a part-time doctor at the Centre.

Raw Material Music and Media Education Limited Raw Material is a music and media educational charity formed by young people and workers active in the music, media and performing arts. The Foundation funded the Youth Arts & Enterprise Scheme, which is designed to train young people to become youth art leaders.

Pedro Club The Pedro Club, based on a deprived estate in the London Borough of Hackney, offers a range of activities. These include an out-of-school learning and support centre – which the Foundation funded – music and drama, sporting activities, a computer project, and summer and holiday residential courses.

Downside Settlement Situated in Bermondsey in an area of dense housing with an acute lack of facilities, the Settlement offers a range of activities including a

community radio station, drama, cross-country running, adventure weekends, lifeguard training and sports facilities. The Foundation awarded a three-year grant towards running costs.

Who Cares? Trust This Trust works on a broad range of matters relating to young people in care. It runs projects and development programmes covering health, disability, education, life skills and preparation for employment. The Foundation funded a time-limited study to look at the availability of information relevant to the well-being of children and young people in care.

Fourth Feathers Youth Club The Fourth Feathers Youth Club provides a wide range of activities for young people in the London Borough of Westminster including sports activities, holiday schemes, music and education support. The Foundation made a contribution towards the refurbishment programme for modernisation and redevelopment of the Club.

Youth Works Hackney Based on the Frampton Estate, Youth Works Hackney is empowering young people to help regenerate the physical, social and economic environment. The Foundation made a contribution towards the Project Manager's salary.

409 Project The 409 Project works with young people aged 10 – 16 in the London Borough of Lambeth who are in trouble with the police. The Foundation funded the post of a Preventative Fieldworker to work with young people at the very early stages of contact with the police.

disabled people, to enable them to sustain and expand their activities. Particular efforts are made to develop work with disabled people from black and minority ethnic communities, and self-advocacy groups of people with learning difficulties.

In this way, the Disability Programme will help to develop an effective and independent voice for these marginalised groups of disabled Londoners.

Staff of the Foundation are involved in the

steering group, as is consultant Manghanita Kempadoo. Inevitably, in the first year there have been tensions as the group of three very different agencies have begun to learn to work together in a common cause. However, each group has much to bring to the partnership and we are optimistic for the coming year.

Taking the initiative

An important aspect of the Foundation's and the Trust's recent activity has been to concentrate efforts through initiatives. These include working with disadvantaged groups such as refugees needing employment, and taking action to help neglected communities – the Local Areas Initiative.

Work on these has developed rapidly and has expanded through collaboration with other funders.

Employment for refugees

In 1999, City Parochial Foundation invited a number of agencies working with refugees to a series of meetings to discuss the barriers which prevented refugees with professional qualifications from finding

appropriate employment. The discussions led to the establishment of an informal organisation now known as the Employability Forum. This has since developed into an independent company limited by guarantee, under the chairmanship of Lord Limerick.

The main aim of the Forum is to assist refugees and asylum seekers, who are eligible to work in the UK, to prepare for appropriate employment.

Employability has identified five basic areas of activity over the next two years:

- influencing policy on integration;
- developing relevant English and ESOL provision;
- individual portfolios for refugees;
- pilot training programmes in the areas of teaching, IT and finance (incorporating work experience elements);
- better information on a variety of issues.

The Policy sub-group of the Employability Forum has the aim of working on policy issues with government, employers and refugee agencies to dismantle the legislation and policy barriers to employing refugees. It has brought together the Department for Education and Employment, the Home Office, refugee agencies and employers, and has been highly successful in getting concerns and issues discussed across sectors and in influencing action.

Considering the relatively short time Employability has been in operation, its status and influence has been considerable.



It has recently been asked to become a member of the National Refugee Integration Forum, the spearhead of the government's new integration policy.

The core agencies that have taken part in the development of Employability are City Parochial Foundation, Praxis, the Refugee Council, Refugee Education Training and Advisory Service (RETAS), Refugees into Jobs and Skills for Southern Sudan. A number of other refugee agencies including the Evelyn Oldfield Unit have participated.

Local Areas Work

Local Areas Work is one of four major strands of the current five-year funding strategy. Through it, the Foundation is supporting community-based initiatives which work closely with local people in response to a range of community issues and needs, over extended periods of time. The rationale behind this is that social and economic need results from a wide range of factors: major top-down regeneration initiatives can fail to take into account the views and expertise of local people. Thus they can by-pass those who would benefit most.

Four Local Areas Work initiatives have been supported during 2000.

- **St Peter's North Community Project (see panel)**

The Project, where the Foundation is working with Peabody Trust, deals with issues of deprivation and race in Tower Hamlets. It has been successful in securing Government funding for a number of training projects and establishing specific community groups, and is now in the process of developing greater community participation.

- **The Bellingham Community Recreation Project (BECORP)**

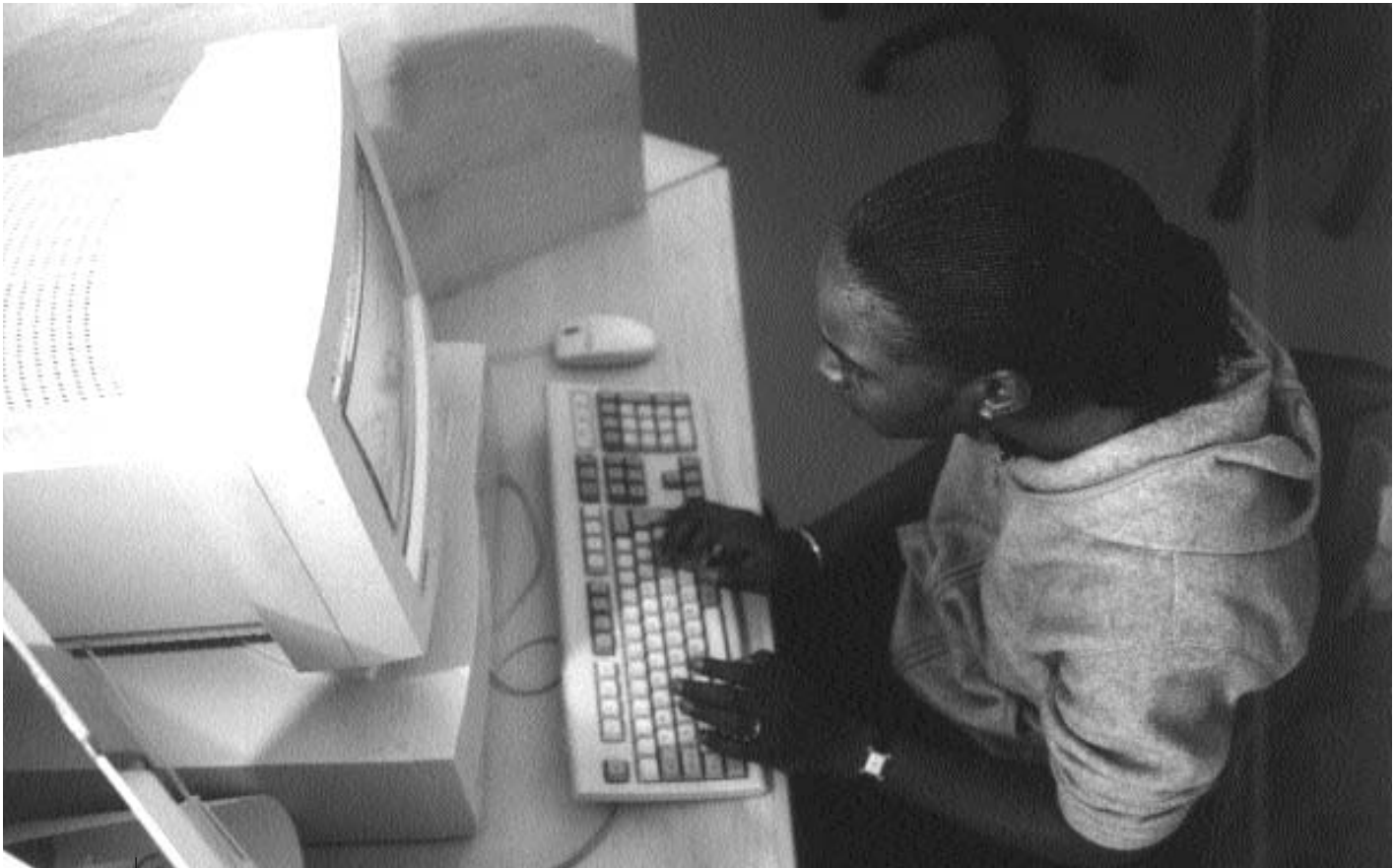
Early work of the Project has brought people together to discuss overall needs in this area of Lewisham. This has highlighted the area as one with considerable needs but limited resources, and one which has missed out on central and local government funding

St Peter's North Community Project, Tower Hamlets

This project provides a wide range of activities, which are reaching many different sections of the community.

Examples of the activities include:

- the Digital Learning Ring which attracted no fewer than 82 adults during recent months and PC maintenance classes are also attracting students. Many are going on to obtain qualifications. Similarly, 10 women are training towards sewing qualifications through the Heba sewing class;
- a number of ESOL courses are run to improve knowledge of English;
- St Peter's Youth Alliance runs weekly football training sessions for up to 30 young people; ten young people are involved in graffiti removal on the Ellsworth estate; and a drugs awareness project has been organised. A survey is being carried out to assess women's educational and social needs: it will also be used to inform residents about activities at the centre;
- the Cicero group, now in its second year, involves a mixed age group all born outside the UK, studying citizenship, democracy and the European Union. Activities have included a visit to Brussels in March 2001;
- more than 150 local people have received advice from the Project's Employment Service and, to date, 20 have obtained employment;
- 25 children are registered for a Homework Club, a project funded by the Spitalfields Market Community Trust;
- a girls' Drama Project has 22 participants and will be liaising with the Heba group to make costumes for a production;
- African Dance and Music is being promoted through A Zimba Ngoma, which is putting on two weekly workshops.



programmes in the past. The work of the Project has contributed to Bellingham being chosen as an Education Action Zone and a Sure Start area. Other activity has involved extensive consultation to set up a structure that will enable local people to participate in the running of the Project.

- **Greenford Southall Detached Youth Project**

The Greenford Project has developed an initiative to reach young people who have fallen outside the job market and other networks. Young people in four localities have become involved in a programme of social education.

- **Kilburn Youth Resource Centre**

Work in Kilburn identified the needs of young people as paramount. In partnership with Camden and Brent Youth Services, the Foundation's funding has led to the establishment of this Centre which is focussing on a number of projects with young people, who are themselves involved

Digital Learning Ring, St Peter's North Community Project

in the running of it. It has been successful in securing Single Regeneration Budget funding.