

Financial Sustainability



www.communityactionsuffolk.org.uk



VCFSE Organisation Development Team

- ✓ Governance support, start up & new organisations
- ✓ Financial Sustainability Support
- ✓ Training
- ✓ Quality Standards
- ✓ HealthCheck - Self Assessment
- ✓ Safeguarding
- ✓ Suffolk ProHelp
- ✓ Business Planning and Impact
- ✓ Village Hall & Community Buildings Specialist
- ✓ Social Enterprise Support

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Know ...

Your organisation

Your project

Develop a funding plan

Keep it clear and focused

Funding needs and priorities

Timescales and responsibilities

What was your organisation set up to do, main areas of work?

How much do you want to raise, which sources, when?

Keep on track, manage financial risk

Get funding fit



Constitution

Governing Document. Be mindful of mission drift
Mission & Aims & objectives

Accounts

Are they up to date and most recent? Reserves policy? Are you solvent, do you have restricted funding?

Policies

Including equality and diversity
Safeguarding & vulnerable adults etc. DBS

Procedures

Partnership Agreements

Board Buy In

Well governed and managed
Accountability



Quality Framework



Having effective policies and procedures are a foundation and hallmark of a safe, well run, sustainable organisation.



- Organisation HealthCheck
- Organisation HealthCheck Plus
- Quality Standards



[Community Action Suffolk Quality Framework \(QF\) - Community Action Suffolk](#)



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Think about diversifying your income

- Diversifying your income means Diversifying your risk
- Funder wants reassurance that you are a robust organisation with other sources of income
- Taking control of your own funding and being less reliant on external funding
- Remember - More sources of income means potentially more income in total to meet your organisation's needs



Funding 4 Suffolk

- Portal for searching for funding opportunities
- Free to register and use
- Filtering options by organisation type, area of work, and keywords



[Sustainability and Funding Advice - Community Action Suffolk](#)



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What funders are looking for

Meeting the criteria

Seems obvious but check and double check. If in doubt ask the funder. Is it innovative?

Evidence of need

What difference will you make, how do you know this is needed?

Evidence of skills

Are you an accountable well managed sustainable organisation?

Impact

How will you monitor the impact and evaluate the outputs and outcomes. What difference will you make?

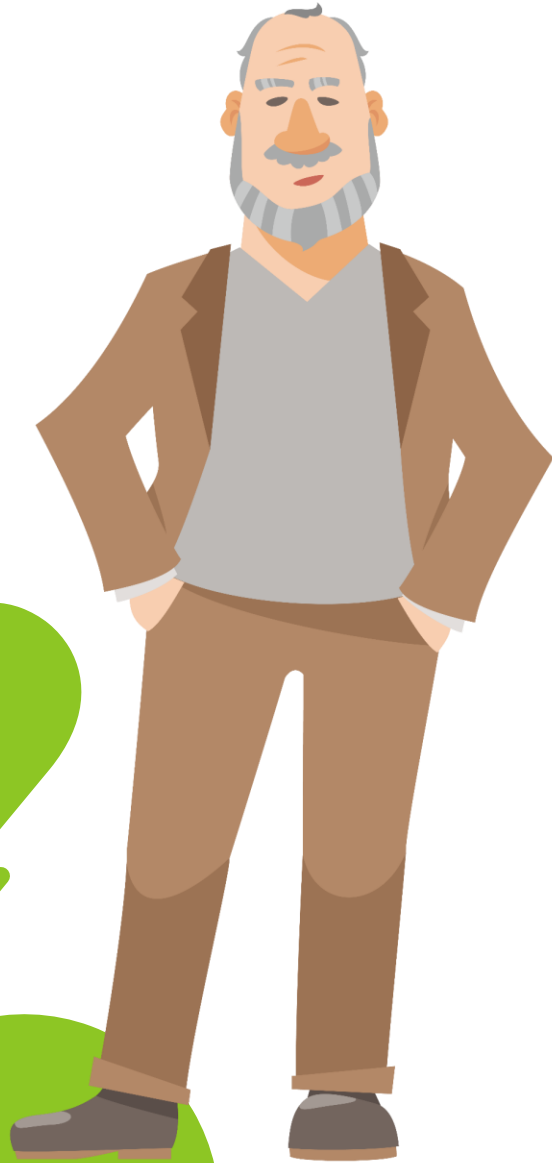
Budget

Do you have a clear and realistic budget for the project. How will this be reported on?

[Funding applications - top tips » East Suffolk Council](#)



Common mistakes



- Not meeting the funding criteria
- Poorly presented and inconsistent
- Wildly optimistic budget
- Some of the questions unanswered
- Not signed or submitted by deadline
- Documentation missing
- No research or evidence of need
- Vague answers
- No evidence of impact



Training Courses & Webinars

- How to approach Full Cost Recovery and Sustainability
- Financial sustainability: understanding the key accounting concepts
- Introduction to Safeguarding



[Training & Events - Community Action Suffolk](#)



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