24 August 2020

Hello everyone,

Welcome the fortnightly briefing. We'd like to make this as useful and interactive as possible, so welcome feedback and suggestions about content.
If you know anyone else who'd be interested in receiving the briefing, feel free to forward, and encourage those to whom you forward to email nicola@devoncf.com to be put on the mailing list. Briefings will normally come out on a Thursday.

Click on the **BOLD COLOURED** links to be redirected to useful resources – Right click on the links if you want to open it in a separate window.

Below the Radar

This isn't strictly speaking a Covid report, but it does feed directly into conversations going on currently about the importance of very small, local, informal community-based groups, and the work they do to bind communities together.

Here, the Local Trust update a series of Nesta-commissioned projects from 2015, with improved data now that the open data movement has gained some momentum. The report uses data from the 360giving grantmaking database to extrapolate information about unregistered community organisations, an area notoriously difficult to research because the organisations are, well, unregistered.

This is a pre-Covid dataset (2016 to end of 2019), which is a bit of a shame, as no doubt numerous additional community organisations would have been recipients of emergency funding over the last few months. It focuses on grassroots organisations (i.e. local organisations embedded in the community and volunteer-led) that don't have a formal registration as a charity, company or other legal form, but do provide a charitable or public benefit. As a secondary subject, it considers smaller registered organisations, similar to community orgs in nature and operations, such as sports clubs, scout groups, playgroups, and parish councils, etc (referred to here as 'registered grassroots). This second category is a bit woollier, and less interesting, as there are other, better ways to learn about them. Because they are, well, registered.

The research found nearly 13,000 unregistered organisations on the 360database that received grants between 2016 and 2019.

- The grants data they appear in is likely to be the only official data source that records their existence.

- The research found 11%, or one in nine grants on the database were to unregistered organisations.

- Half of these were National Lottery Community Fund grants, especially Awards for All. Of those non-NLCF grants, half were for under £2000.

- This 11% of grants by number, accounted for less than 1% of total grantmaking reported on 360giving by value.

- Almost all grants to unregistered organisations were for a year or less, often for very specific, one-off expenditure, such as organising an event, or repairs to a building. Their areas of activity were very broad – more diverse than their registered cousins.

- In comparison, registered charities were far more likely to receive repeat grants.

- The report found these organisations are distributed widely across the country. There was no clear concentration of grants made to organisations in areas with higher levels of deprivation.

The findings suggest that below-the-radar organisations are not simply smaller or more informal versions of larger registered charities. They also cover a different range of activities that contribute to community wellbeing and connectedness, and carry out those activities in ways that are different from more formal organisations.

The report is an excellent advertorial for 360giving, which provides such important data about grantmaking, but is only as good as the number of funders who publish through it. The observations it makes are a useful starting point for further, qualitative research. How much do we really know about unregistered organisations in Devon, their contribution and their priorities and challenges? Is anyone interested in collaborating to find out more?

Spotlight on ... Educational Inequality

Amid the chaos of the government's mishandling of the process for awarding GCSE and A level grades this summer, one element of the discredited algorithm used to attempt to insure against grade inflation stood out clearly. Students' individual results would be directly tethered to the past performance of their school or college. Whilst we were busy recognising that this disadvantaged
clever children in schools with more mixed cohorts, light was also shone on the more systemic challenges to students from **disadvantaged backgrounds.**

The government was right: poor students in the UK are statistically more likely to get worse exam grades than their more well-off counterparts. According to a **Unicef report** looking at educational inequality in 41 of the world's richest countries, the UK ranks 16th from the top. Students from disadvantaged backgrounds are 18 months behind when they take their GCSEs, and fewer than half of British children living in poverty reach the expected levels of English and Maths by the end of primary school, according to **Teach First.**

Closure of schools has only widened this gap. By the end of May, children in better-off families had received the equivalent of a week and a half more learning that children in the poorest households, according to a survey by the Institute of Fiscal Studies. Access to resources, such as online classes,
videoconferencing with teachers, and study spaces within the home is worse for children from poorer families, with only 47% of secondary pupils from the poorest fifth of families reporting that their school is providing online classes or videoconferencing with teachers, compared to 64% of state school pupils from the richest households and 82% at private school. Fewer than half of primary school children from the least well-off families have access to their own space to study.

The government has come up with various **initiatives** to combat this, including providing advice
to parents and carers, resources in English, Maths and PE and providing laptops, tablets and wireless routers (for internet access) to certain students, although this was very limited. There have also been several online series with celebrities e.g. PE with Joe, Myleene's Music Klass, and **BBC bitesize** released daily lessons for years 1-10 too.

In Devon ...

The University of Exeter and the University of Plymouth are both honouring offers made to students based on their centre-assessed grades, even when they were originally rejected for their course based on their original grades, except in the cases of course which have specific limits (e.g. medicine, dentistry), where they are working with students on an individual basis, and in some cases offering places for 2021.

The Centre for Social Mobility at the University of Exeter are offering **funding** to four research projects, which aim to mitigate differential educational experiences as a result of coronavirus.

[Plymouth YMCA](#) enlisted a strong team of volunteers, including teachers, and supplied vulnerable young people with educational resources and IT equipment to support them with remote learning.

[Halberton and Uplowman Federation](#) have provided education packs, including numeracy, literacy and crat activities, for vulnerable children at their two primary schools to encourage home learning.

[Tiverton Co-Operative Learning Partnership](#) have provided stationary, IT equipment, and Wi-Fi dongles to vulnerable children to ensure they could get involved with home learning.

[Hayward's Primary School](#) provided laptops to disadvantaged families to support home learning for their children.

[YMCA South Devon](#) are supporting young people with their 'Fit for Life' programme, which is an IT based social activity programme, replacing their usual group sessions and individual support, which will include counselling and educational resources, aimed to break down barriers to learning.

[Plymouth Argyle Community Trust](#) provided 'kit bags' to children, which included stationary, books, sports equipment and delivered a series of online activities using these items to engage children in learning and physical activity.

[Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust](#) have provided IT equipment for families to help reduce educational disadvantage during school closure.

[Seadream Education CIC](#) sent science and activity packs to families to help reduces isolation, improve mental health and maintain contact with families while activities were suspended.

[The Amber Foundation](#), which provides home for homeless young people, improved their Wi-Fi connection to support online learning and access to training. They also bought two more computers.

[Chulmleigh Community College](#) have purchased tablets for disadvantaged pupils to access remote learning to ensure students who were not provided with one by the government scheme.

Devon Community Foundation
giving more locally

Coronavirus
Click for our help & support

Click to donate to the
Devon Coronavirus Response & Recovery Fund

Click to donate to the national appeal | NET

#shouldertoshoulder #GiveLoveDevon

Mid Devon Mobility – £4,421
Tiverton/Crediton & surrounding rural villages
Setting up a shopping and medication collection service and telephone befriending service for elderly, disabled and rurally isolated people.

Soul Singers CIC – £632.98
Plymouth
Ongoing costs for maintaining remote mums and toddlers sessions, and beginning to introduce small face-to-face opportunities.

Ubuntu Counselling Services/Multicultural Services – £11,628
Devon
Covid counselling service to isolated BAME communities across Devon.

Provide Devon – £3,600
Plymouth
Providing basic hygiene and toiletries to those experiencing hardship attending the foodbank

Battling On CIC – £5,900
Stonehouse and Devonport, Plymouth
Engagement with young parents in a deprived area of Plymouth to avoid social isolation and support mental health; provision food parcels and children's activity packs.

Devon and Cornwall Furniture Reuse Project – £3414
Plymouth
Encouraging peer support and helping to address mental health issues for people with accommodation challenges