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---BEGINS---

Wolverhampton funding success

The Centre for Equality and Diversity (CfED) is celebrating today after securing two pots of money to help local voluntary and community groups across Wolverhampton help themselves. Both are interlinked and are called for short PROAct (PROfessional Actions) providing support so that small and medium sizes voluntary and community groups across the city are fit for purpose, are responding to local needs, are governed properly, can secure grants for projects and commissions to deliver their products, learn how to negotiated contracts, develop strategic partnerships with other groups and sectors and potentially merge together to provide better and more cost effect services.

These resources have been hard won in a climate of very competitive bidding. The first is an EU funded transnational programme from the Leonardo programme to test innovation in the UK using enterprise techniques developed first by the French lead partner and delivered in partnership with a regional organisation called Oake Associates based in Lichfield who specialise in partnerships and business development within the Civil Society sector across several European regions. The programme has additional partners in Italy, Germany, France, Portugal and the Czech Republic developing similar programmes with their own Civil Society sectors in cities like the old part of Lisbon for example.

The second resource is an Awards for All lottery grant amounting to £9,900 to help build project management and fund-raising skills; develop organisational group skills that help to develop local leadership across communities in the city and group training in organisational audits so that the individuals recruited can apply what they have learnt to their own organisation that will make it more sustainable in the medium to long term.

Kenneth Rodney Chief Officer at CfED said today.

“this is wonderful news we have been developing this dialogue for these key opportunities with funders for a number of months now; CfED wanted to bring additional support to the table in Wolverhampton because of the changing nature of public funding across the city; these two programme bring with them some core learning opportunities for voluntary and community groups particularly how we work together better, how we can develop our ‘niche’ markets particularly for older people and the young, look at the way groups function to deliver that need, how they are governed and respond to the some pressing needs within our communities; these are some of the key outcomes for us and if we can raise the bar in this way as part of this pilot funding it is hoped that groups will be in a better place to secure resources in the future”

The programmes are formally launched in March 2014 and any voluntary or community group in Wolverhampton can contact CfED on 01384 456166 or contact kenneth.rodney@cfed.org.uk

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---NOTES FOR EDITORS---

- (i) For further information or to arrange a photo shoot contact Kenneth Rodney on 01384 456166
- (ii) CfED is a company limited by guarantee (5745005) and a registered charity (1114821)