Bristol Funders Network

The Bristol Funders Network (BFN) was established in 2019 to foster collaboration and communication among funders in the Bristol area. The network aims to enhance the impact of funding by sharing knowledge, co-ordinating efforts, and addressing common challenges faced by the VCSE sector.

Membership

The network's membership has grown significantly since its inception, starting with a few key organisations and expanding to include a diverse range of funders. Current members include BBC Children in Need, BBRC, Bristol Charities, Bristol City Council, City Funds, Denman Charitable Trust, Henry Smith Charity, John James Bristol Foundation, Lloyds Bank Foundation, National Benevolent Charity, Origin Foundation, Power to Change Trust, Resonance, Sovereign Network Group, St Monica Trust, The Anchor Society, The National Lottery Community Fund, The Nisbet Trust, and Van Neste Foundation.

Key achievements

1. ***COVID-19 response:*** The network quickly adapted to the challenges posed by the pandemic, meeting online and supporting frontline charities.
2. ***Collaborative approach to funding:*** Successful collaborative approach to funding, including Bristol City Council's Impact Fund and Coronavirus Recovery Fund.
3. ***Collective identification of focus areas:*** The membership shares learning to help inform priority focus areas such as strengthening the capacity of the VCSE sector, underfunded areas, and funding equitably.
4. ***Funders directory:*** Creation and publication of a directory of funders to increase awareness of local funders, improving transparency and accessibility.

5. ***IVAR principles:*** Encouraging members to adopt the IVAR principles for flexible funding, promoting a more equitable and effective funding environment.

Meetings

The Bristol Funders Network meets six times a year, ensuring regular communication and collaboration among its members.

The Bristol Funders Network continues to evolve, with a strong focus on collaboration, fostering best practice, and addressing the pressing issues faced by our communities. Through our collective efforts, the network aims to create a more resilient and supportive environment for the VCSE sector in Bristol.

Bristol Funders Network – Directory (November 2026)

Organisation Name	***Overview of organisation***	***Website***
BBC Children in Need	Grant funder, open to not for profit organisations supporting disadvantaged children and young people up to the age of 18. Applicants can apply for core or project costs for up to 3 years.	www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/grants
BBRC	Impact Investor operating across the South West.	https://bbrcinvestors.co.uk/
Bristol Charities	Grant funder, area of benefit Bristol: focus on the relief of poverty, providing grants to individuals facing appliance poverty. Broadening grant making remit in areas of priority and high deprivation to fund joined-up/integrated community work.	Home - Bristol Charities
Bristol City Council - Community resource team	Local authority. Grant making team within Communities and Public Health service.	www.bristol.gov.uk
John James Bristol Foundation	Grant funder, area of benefit Bristol; Children and Young People, Education, Health, Social Welfare, Older people plus support for community capital projects.	www.johnjames.org.uk

Organisation Name	*Overview of organisation*	*Website*
Lloyds Bank Foundation, England and Wales	We partner with small and local charities people, and communities working towards a more just and compassionate society.	https://www.lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk/
National Benevolent Charity	Grant funder, area of benefit Bristol, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire & Swindon: focus on the relief of poverty, grants to not for profit organisations and individuals.	www.natben.org.uk
Quartet Community Foundation	Grant funder across the West of England (former Avon area), matching philanthropists with local causes they care about.	www.quartetcf.org.uk
Resonance Limited	Social impact property fund manager with the mission of connecting capital to social enterprise. We provide life changing homes and solutions for people and communities facing crisis. With peoples' homes at the heart of what we do, our impact labs team develop the eco-system, around and ahead of our impact property funds, so that we innovate new solutions, pilot systemic change, increase supply and scale opportunity.	https://resonance.ltd.uk

Organisation Name	*Overview of organisation*	*Website*
St Monica Trust	Grant funder across Bristol, BANES, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset. We work with individuals, organisations and communities to improve the lives of older people in the region, through joint projects and funding for organisations and individuals.	https://www.stmonicatrust.org.uk/charitable-foundation/our-grants
The James Tudor Foundation	Grant funder; area of benefit UK (and some international funding via UK-registered charities). Fund work relating to the relief of sickness, including palliative care, medical research and health education	www.jamestudor.org.uk
The National Lottery Community Fund	Grant funder; area of benefit UK, with regional and local teams; 2 main funds: Awards 4 All up to £20k and Reaching Communities for larger grants, focus upon local communities	https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/
The Nisbet Trust	Grant funder, area of benefit Bristol: Children and Young People, The Arts, Prevention of Homelessness, Community Cohesion	www.nisbettrust.co.uk
The Origin Foundation	Grant funder, area of benefit Bristol: Children and Young People	Origin Foundation – Inspiring Brighter Futures
The Van Neste Foundation	Providing funds for organisations working for social change and caring for children and young people	www.vanneste.org.uk

Organisation Name	*Overview of organisation*	*Website*
The Society of Merchant Venturers	SMV is a social purpose organisation working across the Greater Bristol area. Collaborating with others, we help communities to thrive.	www.merchantventurers.com
The Anchor Society	We provide grants to individuals and organisations to improve the lives of older people 55+. We operate in Bristol, BANES, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset.	www.anchorsociety.org.uk
Fund Their Future	Grant funder to not for profit organisations supporting local communities predominantly in the greater Bristol area.	
Zurich Community Trust	The Zurich Community Trust serves as the independent charitable arm of Zurich Insurance in the UK. Through our strong partnerships and programmes, we harness every opportunity to improve the lives of vulnerable individuals within our communities. Established in 1973, we are one the UK's longest-standing corporate trusts.	www.zct.org.uk/who-we-are