



Training

Friends of Burnage Library (FoBL)



Burnage Activity and Information Hub is a warm and welcoming creative space at the centre of the community. The Hub is managed by Friends of Burnage library (registered charity) and incorporates a contemporary library service alongside a range of learning, IT, cultural and volunteering opportunities, devised to meet local needs and to appeal to all ages and sections of the community. Friends of Burnage library maintains an enthusiastic and well-supported volunteer team and works closely with other local community organisations and partners.

Several Trustees of FoBL are relatively new to both the voluntary sector and, more specifically, to the role of trustee and we had identified the need for basic bid writing training as essential to understanding and developing this key aspect within that role.

Stuart, from The Capacity Building Team at Macc, had delivered a course for us, last November, on 'The Role of the Trustee' which had gone down very well with the team, so when we decided that there was a requirement for us to undertake bid writing, as part of our collective responsibility, we again turned to Macc for assistance.

Our first point of contact, when arranging the training, was Cheryl who liaised with us throughout the process to ensure that the training we received was exactly what we had requested and was tailored to meeting our organisational requirements. Stuart also contacted us to ensure that he could include anything in the session that we specifically requested e.g. the type of bid/fund that we had previously applied for or that we might think of applying for in the future. Post-training support, by both Cheryl and Stuart, has also been spot-on with follow-up e-mails and the offer to act as a 'critical friend' when we submit a funding application and assistance with accessing the Macc Funding Portal.

- We now have a much better understanding of how the bid/funding process works
- We know where to look for potential 'funders' and to identify the requirements specific to different types of funders
- We had the opportunity to actively participate in the learning process by writing our own bids, thereby sharing knowledge and experience within the team
- The session was well-structured and 'flowed' in a natural and logical way from one section to the next
- We were given an invaluable insight into the way a funder will look at and differentiate between different bids
- We were advised to research any funder prior to submitting a bid to see what kinds of projects they had funded in the past
- Practical steps and tips for writing any bid were given, such as 'the 3 what's and a why' and the 'golden thread'
- Useful, common-sense information was passed on which gave us a better appreciation of what it takes to submit a successful bid e.g. talk to the funder, if possible!
- We were encouraged to think creatively but also to reflect critically when writing a bid and to evaluate at each stage of the process
- We were advised not to re-use bids by tweaking here and there as funders do and will talk to each other (there's no 'one size fits all' for applications)
- We felt encouraged, supported and motivated throughout the training session but we also welcomed the constructive critiquing in the simulation exercise!
- The training we received from was: 'relevant, practical, interesting and enjoyable and provided us with the opportunity to team-build using our individual strengths and shared commitment to achieving our organisational aims and objectives'. A fantastic, professional service from the staff at Macc!

January 2018