

Appendix 1.

"In 2011 we purchased Open 4 Community to enable residents and organisations to do their own funding searches and allow us to focus our time on more in-depth support and bid writing. This is a popular service amongst the local voluntary sector as responses to our 2012 VCS Survey demonstrate – over 30% of groups say they make use of the website. We have found this and the GRANTfinder service to be effective and easy to use and would recommend them to other local authorities."

Stephen Frost, Principal Community Investment Officer, LB of Hounslow

"Open 4 Community is an invaluable resource for us here at Southwark Council. We have been using it since 2008 to advertise all our funding opportunities, both grants and contracts.

Details of funding opportunities both nationally and locally are held all in one place and can be easily searched. Our funded groups know it as the place to go to for all council funding opportunities and beyond."

Katherine Pitt, Commissioning Officer, Southwark Council

"Open 4 Community enables us to extend our offer of support to the local voluntary and community sector in Leicester and Leicestershire. It enables community groups to access comprehensive funding information via our own website at a time and location to suit them. It is also a valuable tool in identifying support and advice available to develop their services."

Simon Jenner, Group Support Manager, Voluntary Action Leicestershire

"Open 4 Community has enabled BVSC to offer comprehensive and easily accessible funding advice and opportunities to the sizeable and diverse voluntary and community sector in Birmingham. At a time of economic uncertainty this has been an incredibly valuable tool.

Over the past 12 months we have seen a significant increase in the number of organisations exploring funding opportunities through Open 4 Community.

The monthly data reports have proved incredibly useful and have been utilised to support our reporting against various contracts."

Ian Angus, Business and Enterprise Programmes Manager, BVSC

