



Planning Effectively for a Stronger Future

Did you know that developing a simple action plan can help your organisation become more sustainable and help you build a stronger future?

For so many organisations the last two years have been a rollercoaster ride with lots of uncertainties, but as things are finally beginning to settle down and as we enter a new normal, the need to plan for the future is now more important than ever.

Having a plan which is linked to outcomes can help you understand what you want to achieve, be clear about the difference you want to make and what steps are needed to achieve your ideas.

The process of developing a plan doesn't need to be complicated and should always start by understanding the needs of the community you support. This can be done in many ways but getting ideas and opinions of people will help you decide what activities and services you can provide to meet those needs. An easy way to do this could simply be to ask people what activities and services they would like and if they would prefer to attend in person or virtually which many people have done throughout the pandemic.

Understanding the wants and needs of an organisation could raise several questions including:

1. Do these suggestions fit with your purpose?
2. What do you need to do differently to achieve this?
3. How much will it cost?

Financial planning is also important as it provides you with an overview of your budget, both now and over the coming months.

We know that many organisations have been supported financially with the Governments COVID support grants and furlough scheme, but with recovery being slow for some and the imminent rise in energy costs, a financial plan will help identify any gaps in your budget when additional funding is needed.

Having an action plan to support the development of your organisation together with a financial plan will provide a good overview of your organisation which will inform your decision making, helping you build a stronger future.

Here at DCA we can offer advice and support on planning and offer a series of development workshops to help you start the process.

If you would like to find out more, please don't hesitate to get in touch. If you have been working directly with one of our Community Support Team you can contact them in the usual ways or email info@durhamcommunityaction.org.uk and your enquiry will be directed to a member of the team.