

I am a Director of Enthum Foundation, a charity who have set up a residential therapeutic accommodation for asylum seeking children Eastbourne. We opened in July 2018. We were lucky enough to receive a grant this year from the Blagrave Trust to help us in the setting up phase of the project. We are just building relationships with funders, so the Partners Day was the first time we have had an experience like this before.

The day kicked off with three inspirational speakers including Darren Keenan, an Advocacy Academy graduate who recited a very moving poem he had written about his own personal experiences of growing up in London and the challenges in his family that he had grown up with. (<http://www.theadvocacyacademy.com>) That pretty much set up the tone of day in giving voice to young people with a focus on their importance and role in society on every level.

There were plenty of opportunities during the day to speak to other people, workshop ideas and discuss topics and themes around empowering young people and themes and ideas that came up. I found myself in challenging and honest conversations between representatives from charities, funders and trustees.

I think the way the day was structured was dynamic and gave everyone opportunities to share and be heard. Many of the people I spoke to felt that they had a very inspiring and informative day. Although we are new to funders and meetings like this, I find the Blagrave Trust's approach supportive, enlightening and progressive.

Thank you!