

Commitment Statement

At the Blaggrave Trust we:

- Recognize that running and sustaining high impact work can be incredibly difficult and never more so than now. We are passionate about ensuring that we do everything we can to support, and therefore increase, the effectiveness of, the organisations and individuals that we are funding.
- We understand that for many, the business of raising funds and reporting on their use, can absorb a disproportionate amount of time and can detract precious energy away from core mission.
- Know that mutual accountability to both young people using services provided by our partners, as well as to us as a funder, is essential – where possible we want to break down the power imbalance between funders and funded, and enable an open and trusting relationship where both sides can learn and make progress.
- Are focused on the people we seek to serve. We are committed to ensuring that everything we fund supports the self-reliance, sense of confidence and sense of self of young people. We therefore prioritise partners that listen to young people carefully at all stages of their work, and adapt and course-correct accordingly. Providing core funding where we can enables this.
- Set ourselves high standards from which to hold ourselves to account, and monitor and review our own progress

The following commitments signal the ways that we seek to put into practice these ideas in our daily work and how we uphold our values:

Funding practice for ongoing funding opportunities

- Wherever possible if the mission of a charity is in line with our own, we will provide unrestricted multi-year funding (3 years).
- We will embody a spirit of partnership and mutual respect. This will be reflected in the way we work and our processes:
 1. We will acknowledge and respond to first stage grant requests within a month.

2. We will ensure that first stage application to final decision will take between 2 and 4 months.
3. We will not ask for further information unless we have sufficient funding to support the request and already have a high degree of confidence in the quality of the charity's work and fit with our mission.
4. We will not ask for information that we will not use. We will give strong weight to existing evidence and research that supports work, whether that is external or internally produced. We will not ask you to produce information for us that is already available elsewhere.
5. We will always give clear feedback: on rejected applications at first stage, at full proposal stage, and on reports prepared for us.
6. We will be open to phone calls and discussion at all stages of application.
7. We will visit every charity that we wish to fund to learn more about their work and, wherever possible and appropriate, to meet the young people they support.

Learning

We commit to learning from our partners and sharing the learning that we ourselves gather. We will do this by:

1. Ensuring that reporting to us supports the kind of learning that is useful to partners – in particular, the feedback that beneficiaries give to charities about the value of their work. We will only ask for bespoke reports if there is a clear case for doing so.
2. We will proactively share the findings of our own learning as a funder and that of our partners where appropriate.
3. We will facilitate collaboration and learning between and amongst our funding partners, though our annual partner meeting, communities of practice and other means.
4. We invite anonymous feedback from our partners at regular points in their relationship with us, and publish the results

This is a 'live' statement. Please email any comments to Jo.wells@blagravetrust.org