**What is it?**

The Young Hammersmith and Fulham Foundation has been brought together to support the needs of young people by facilitating grant funding for community groups and charitable organisations that work together to:

* provide activities in the interest of social welfare, designed to improve the conditions of life of young people;
* provide support and activities which develop the skills, capacities and capabilities in order for young people to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.

The Foundation’s aim is to bring more financial resources in to H&F for young people, ensure greater communications across the youth providers and be a voice for this part of the voluntary sector. The Foundation will focus on providing services to young people and is creating a holistic approach, making sure that young people gain access to services to do with: housing; employment; crime and safety; health and wellbeing; training and education and, positive activities.

The Foundation will also look to work with a range of partners including those who work with people 19+ to ensure young people get access to opportunities as young adults.

**What does this mean?**

Many community groups are often small and not in a position to seek grant funding or get involved in issues that could really benefit the young people they are engaged with even further. This will be an opportunity to work with others with similar, but maybe different needs and acquire the right kind of funding to make a real difference. With this, there will also be a means for relevant groups to voice their concerns and observations to the sector and relevant statutory bodies.

**At what stage is the Foundation at?**

The Foundation has been initiated and is in the process of registering formally as a Charity. The Board of Trustees have at present been established, for a period, to get the organisation up and running as quickly as possible.

Fundamentally the organisation has been granted funding from the John Lyon’s Charity for £50,000 which is to be used to establish itself and pay those difficult core costs. Other funding will be sought to take the charity forward and, of course, to secure grants across the Borough. The John Lyon’s Charity believe in this approach and have established similar arrangements in other boroughs such as Barnet, Brent, Harrow and Westminster. All these boroughs have slightly different aims and objectives according to what is happening.

The next steps are for the Board to continue with the process of setting up the Foundation and to finalise the Foundation becoming a Charity, so that the money from John Lyon’s can be released.

**What can you do?**

Sobus has been involved in facilitating the Youth Partnership and has offered itself to help with the establishment of the Foundation. It is quite possible that some groups have not been involved in what was the Youth Partnership and are therefore not aware of what is happening next. It is also possible that some would see themselves as being involved in other ways, such as at a strategic level or as some kind of facilitator for a particular niche within this part of the sector.

If you do have an interest in being involved in this exciting new Foundation, then please let me know by contacting me, Nigel Jacques at Sobus.  My email address is nigel.jacques@sobus.org.uk

**Nigel Jacques**

**Secretary to the Young Hammersmith and Fulham Foundation**.