

'Sharing & Networking' Event held for Trust Grantees - April 2015

On the 22nd and 23rd of April 2015, the Sir Halley Stewart Trust held an event to bring together several of its grantees delivering prison-related projects – specifically in the fields of resettlement and desistance.

The first of its kind for the Trust, this residential event was held at Dartington Hall in Devon and ran from lunchtime on Day 1 to mid-afternoon on Day 2. It was designed to be an information-sharing, networking and personal development event – enabling organisations to share the learning from their respective projects, support one another and explore opportunities for collaboration.



The venue: Dartington Hall

The impetus for this event came from several project visits the Trust had conducted to prison-related Social grantees in 2014. Through these visits, it became apparent that it would be beneficial to establish links between certain projects working in similar fields. In the past the Trust had received positive feedback from introducing grantees to one another, and so this event was seen as a natural next step to facilitate project networking in person.

Eleven individuals attended to represent six of the Trust's grantees: [Choices Islington](#), [Community Chaplaincy Association](#), [Dartington LandWorks](#), [Hope into Action](#), [PACT at Eastwood Park](#) and [RECOOP](#). Three Trustees and the Trust's Secretary were also in attendance, along with facilitator Andy Bradley (from [Frameworks4Change](#)) and Graphic Recorder Anna Geyer (from [New Possibilities](#)). The graphic recording provided a pictorial rather than written summary of key event themes and discussions, which was then immediately available to inform the rest of the sessions, as well as future events.

Sessions at the event included:

- 'Listen and Tell', where attendees shared information about their respective projects with the other delegates. Areas covered included project activities, key achievements, challenges and aspirations for the future. Each presentation was followed by questions and supportive group discussions about each project.
- Self-Care and Care for Others – the balance.
- Working Together, Building Alignment and Resilience.



The attendees

Sir Halley Stewart Trust

The event was very much focussed on developing networks and identifying achievable next steps to continue information-sharing and collaboration in the future. The event came to a close after a group visit to Dartington LandWorks – one of the projects that was represented at that the event, which is based on the Dartington Estate.



Group visit to the Dartington LandWorks project on Day 2

Feedback from the attendees was very positive (both informally and via an anonymous online survey after the event), with 100% of respondents stating the Trust should run similar events in the future. Specific comments included:

Big thank you for hosting us all and giving us such a great opportunity to network and learn together. It was also good to get to know some of the trustees better and to feel more personally connected to the Trust.

Made some very useful contacts that I will definitely work in partnership with.

It felt very supportive working in an environment of shared values and beliefs.

I am certain the connections made at the event will enrich and empower the work we do.

We will definitely follow-up some ideas discussed at the event.

Found it to be very helpful, inspiring and reassuring! It was great to meet everyone, share ideas and start to think how, collectively, we can strengthen our own projects by working together.

The Trust was delighted with the response and is considering possibilities for future events.



Graphic Recording from the Day 1 sessions

