

Finance Service – Introduction to Finance for VCFS organisations

What did they do?

Nick Carroll, Karen Cranham and Jennifer Sambell from the Finance Service ran free workshops for the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) on an Introduction to Finance.

The team delivered two workshops to 36 representatives from VCFS organisations from across Surrey. The team developed the workshop by selecting and adapting material from the courses Finance run for staff so it was relevant for voluntary organisations of all different sizes. The course gave an introduction to the topic covering a broad range of subjects from financial statements to budgeting and budget monitoring.

How was it?

Karen said "I really enjoyed delivering the course; the delegates were very engaging and participated throughout the morning. The feedback was very encouraging and the group also got a lot out of networking with similar organisations".

Nick said "I enjoyed developing and delivering the course to a range of customers, I wouldn't normally meet. The New Models team very helpfully obtained feedback from the VCFS sector on our course outline, which helped us shape it for our audiences. Meeting the delegates and discussing their issues was great too. It made us think about and explain finance from a different perspective, which helps us understand our own subject better and gets us to interact with different customers. At the same time, I feel we provided something which will help sustain Surrey's VCFS sector, which is an important part of providing services to Surrey residents."

How does the volunteering make a difference?

The delegates were all from varying financial backgrounds, some of whom were completely new to finance. The team was able to provide confirmation of good practice, address specific queries from delegates and point them in the right direction for further help (which sometimes happened to be other, more experienced volunteers in the same room!).

The workshop was really well received with delegates saying:

'It was a very interesting and useful course.'

'I found the workshop good and the workbook very good'

'A useful introduction to terminology used and overview of areas involved in finance.'

We are looking to work with other colleagues across SCC on similar initiatives so if you or your team would like to get involved then please contact: employeevolunteering@surreycc.gov.uk

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