

# MEET THE CLB TEAM

A LOOK INTO THE TEAM'S WORK

**Meet...**  
**Steve Smith,**  
**Funding and**  
**Development**  
**Officer**



## The Role

**Q** Hi Steve, please tell us about your role at Community Links Bromley.

**A** My job title is Funding and Development Officer. In practice the role is quite wide and varied.

My main tasks are supporting groups and organisations to identify and draft strong funding applications. Part of this work is proactively seeking out new opportunities that I promote to groups through various routes including the weekly ebulletin and the website and providing advice to individuals when requested.

For example, this advice can be around drafting the application, ensuring that the organisation has the correct risk and safeguarding policies.

I also support on other areas of organisational development through structures, procedures and increasingly building partnerships. But I receive plenty of ad hoc requests too.

I have been asked, for example, for information on the gift aid process and also on how to calculate salaries for specific employment roles within organisations.

I add to and update the resources pages of the CLB website to assist members.

# The Role (continued)

We are always looking to expand and improve the pages and will soon be adding a section where we can host information about vacant office and activities spaces available to the voluntary sector within the borough. [Resources - Community Links Bromley](#).

The role also entails the delivery of training or workshops on topics of interest or specific funding pots. I am also active on developing the voice of the sector through a more inclusive representational structure of forums and networks. This work is still at an early stage.

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# About funding opportunities

**Q** Are there any current funding opportunities you would like to highlight for organisations in Bromley?

**A** There are various funding opportunities out there.

Eligibility will depend on the type of support and services that organisations are delivering and their size and structures. So, reading through the guidance notes is essential before spending valuable time on writing an application.

At present there is grant funding to enable organisations to develop or expand alternative provision so that day centres and respite service users can be offered some additional support whilst the COVID-19 lockdown is in place.

There is another that is seeking to address isolation in young people through sport. But these are just 2 examples of many.

At present a significant number of grants are focused on addressing the direct negative impacts of Covid-19. Many funding opportunities are open for very short periods so that fast decisions can be made, and the money can flow quickly to support projects. For example, the London Community Response Fund waves are only open for a couple of weeks before they close and therefore it's essential to know when these grants are first announced.

There is also a growing preference from funders to see more applications from organisations working in partnership than on their own.

The best way to ensure you don't miss out on new opportunities is to subscribe to our weekly bulletin and keep an eye on the funding pages on the CLB website. [Help with Funding - Community Links Bromley](#)

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## Issues in the Bromley Borough

**Q** What sort of issues are you working on in Bromley Borough?

**A** I've been working with a broad range of Bromley organisations and groups, probably too numerous to mention here. I was successful in being awarded funding to deliver sports to people with learning disabilities working in partnership with some of our local organisations. I have built on this partnership approach to work towards another sports related bid. I also assisted several organisations with their applications to Wave 4 of the London Community Response Fund.

We have also been engaging with some of the less formal sections of the sector, in the Mutual Aid groups, who have been providing much needed support for grassroots communities during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Apart from support on various funding and development opportunities, I've been investigating how CLB can reform its forums and networks to improve and widen the representation and voice of the sector. I've also been expanding our social media platform to extend our profile and reach and a new Instagram account set up at the end of September now has over 220 followers.

## Upcoming workshops

**Q** Are there any upcoming events or workshops people can sign up for?

**A** Yes, we've got quite a few coming up in the next months. Some are delivered by Community Links others by partners.

Next week we have a Learning Disability Coronavirus Vaccine Discussion Forum followed by events on social value, domestic abuse, risk assessment, property management and the volunteer coordinators forum. And there will be many more as the year progresses.

All are being delivered online at present and are free to sign up. [Events Training - Community Links Bromley](#).

## Life outside work

**Q.** What do you do outside of CLB?

**A** I reside in Bromley with my wife and two daughters who are both studying at University.

I am a keen runner and football fan - I hold a Crystal Palace FC season ticket. I also have an interest in electronic music and meddle in home recording.