

# The Transition Fund

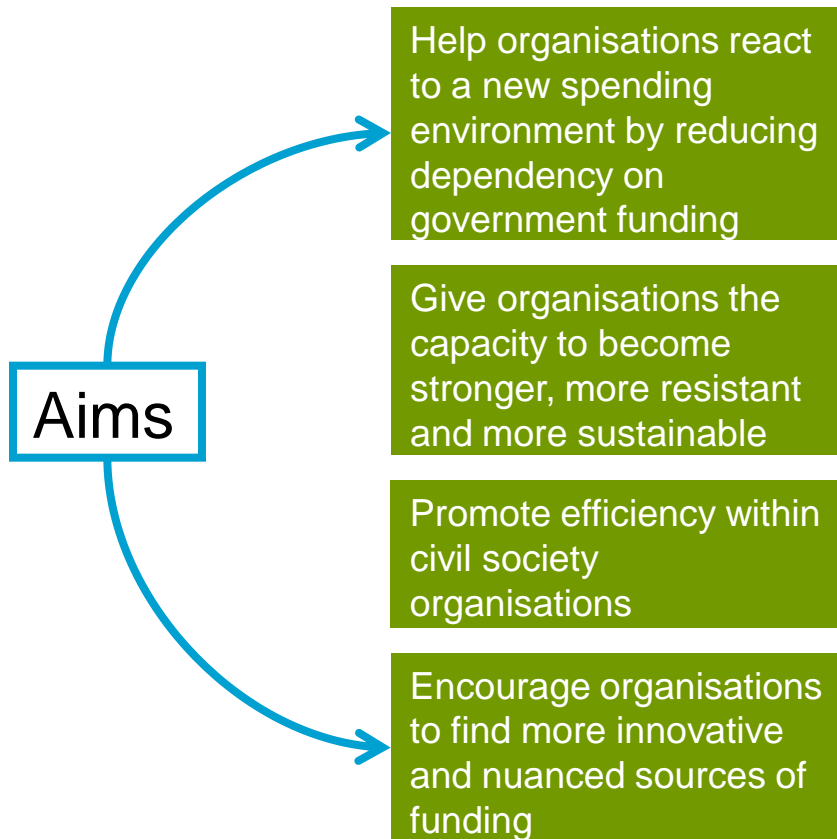
**Interim findings**

February 2012

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# The Transition Fund provides a lifeline...

“Over time, many civil society organisations have become dependent on funding from public bodies and are now facing uncertain futures. The Transition Fund will help charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises survive and be in a position to take advantage of future opportunities.” Nick Hurd (Minister for Civil Society)



**Launched:** November 2010

**Funded by:** The Office for Civil Society, Cabinet Office

**Delivered by:** The BIG Fund

**Total amount of funding:** £100m

The fund provides a lifeline in the short term so that charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises are able to manage the transition to a tighter funding environment and take advantage of future opportunities presented by the Big Society.

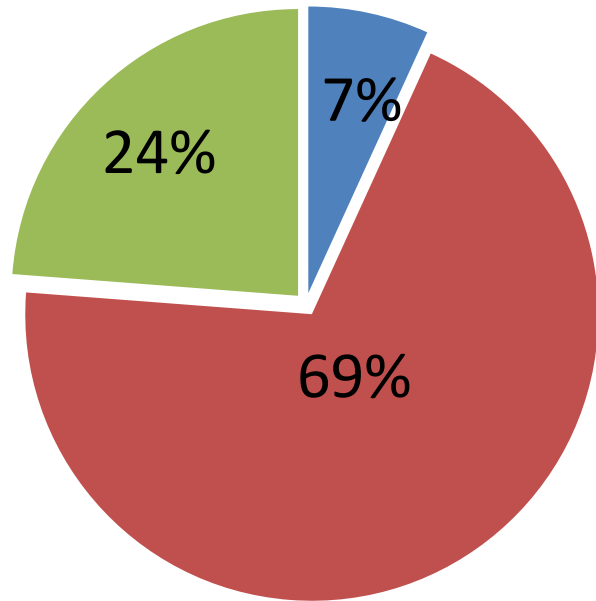
# To be considered for funding organisations had to demonstrate that:

- 1 Their total income for the previous year was between **£50,000** and **£10million**.
- 2 **At least 60%** of their total income came from tax payer-funded sources.
- 3 They were spending **at least 50%** of their total income delivering frontline public services in one or more of the sectors specified. (See p5 for list of sectors)
- 4 They could provide evidence, or reasonably believe that between April 2011 and March 2012 their organisation would experience a **reduction of at least 30%** of the tax payer-funded income they had previously received for the delivery of public services in England.
- 5 They were delivering the majority of their services in England.

# The Transition Fund provided valuable support to over 1,000 organisations...

## Spread of Awards across income bands

■ Small ■ Medium ■ Large



The Transition Fund was awarded to organisations of varying size.

76% of grants awarded went to organisations with an income of less than £1m. The spread of awards reflects the higher number of applications from medium sized organisations (70% of total applications) compared to large (22% of total applications) and small (8% of total applications) organisations.

**Small** Income of £50k\* - £100k

**Medium** Income of £100k - £1m

**Large** £1m - £10m

\*the range starts at £50k due to the eligibility criteria for the Fund (open to organisations with an income of £50k - £10m)

# The Transition Fund supported organisations across a range of sectors\*

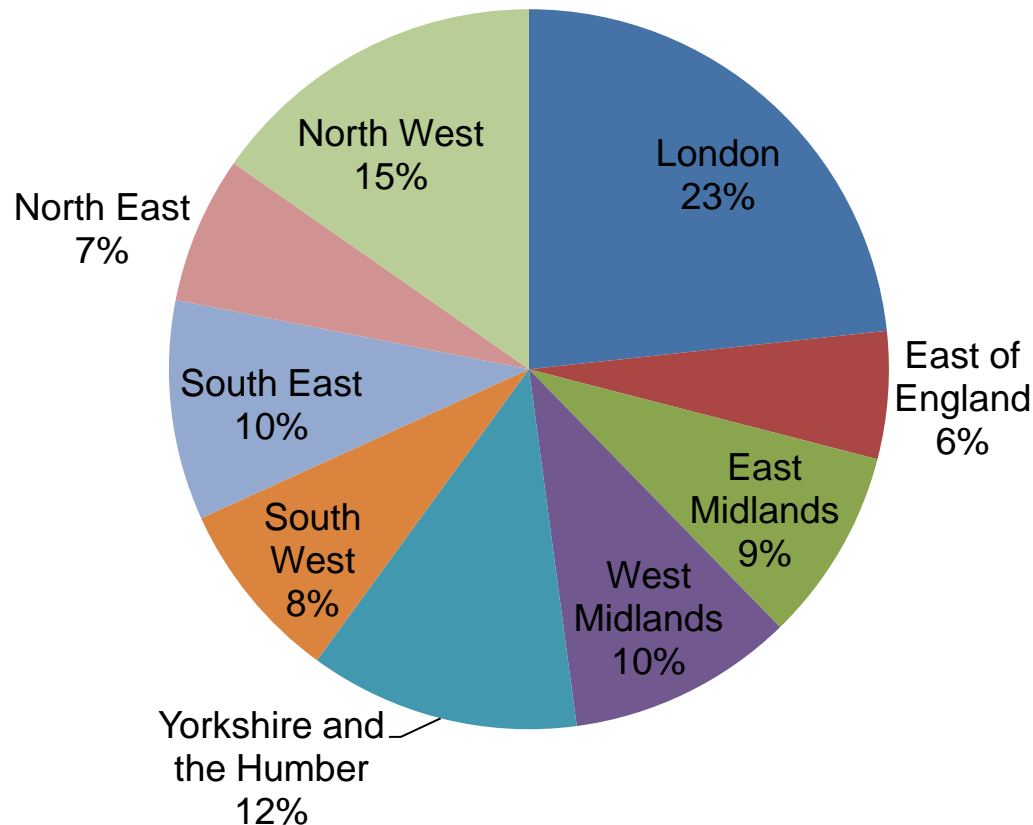


The Transition Fund supported many organisations across a diverse range of sectors - therefore helping civil society to continue to provide a large range of high quality, public services.

\*Note that organisations receiving awards deliver services across a range of sectors, therefore figures do not add up to 100%.

# The Transition Fund awarded grants across all nine Government Office Regions

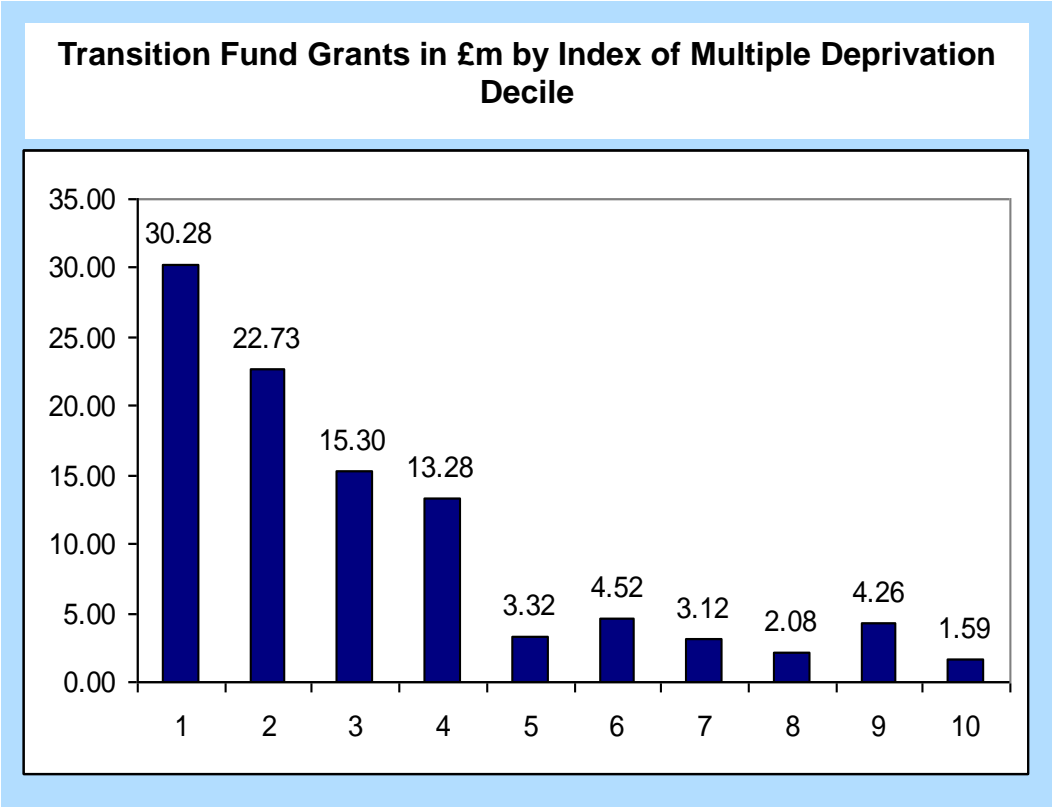
Total number of awards awarded to each region



The Transition Fund is helping to make a difference in all regions of the country.

London had significantly more awards reflecting the number of organisations providing services in the capital.

# The Transition Fund is well targeted at organisations in areas of high deprivation



The Transition Fund helped to support organisations in deprived areas. Over 50% (£53 million) of grants were awarded to organisations based in areas in the top twenty percent of deprivation.

This distribution reflects the higher number of organisations delivering services in areas of high deprivation.

# Recipients of the Fund have already implemented a number of transition activities:

Development of new services to generate new income streams


Development of new business plans to find efficiencies

Development of new partnerships

Redesign of current services

Training for staff to become more flexible and able to adapt to new situations

Restructuring of the organisation



Transition Fund grants have been used by organisations to fund activities to help manage the transition to the tighter funding environment and become more sustainable and resilient in the longer-term.



# Evidence to date suggests that the Fund is having a positive impact:

## Child Action North West

Provides services to improve the lives of young people, their families and their communities

**Grant Awarded:**  
£ 260,649



### **Transitions:**

3 new tender opportunities with Blackburn, Lancashire and Salford councils.

Building a consortium of local providers to deliver services to the community.

Re-appointed or replaced most of the staff who were initially made redundant.

## Gateshead Citizens Advice Bureau

Offering free, confidential, quality advice

**Grant Awarded:**  
£ 253,328



### **Transitions:**

Exploring partnership working

Creating a CIC trading arm to manage and deliver services, restructure and support training

Recruiting more volunteers to deliver services

## **Cumbria Business Education Consortium Limited**

Increasing the employability of young people through employer engagement

### **Grant Awarded:**

£ 78,000

### **Transitions:**

Exploring new funding options for greater sustainability.

Exploring new avenues for income generation including commodities and saleable services for greater self-sufficiency.

### **Comments:**

“The Transition Fund provided “space to work strategically with schools and other partners to secure the long term sustainability of the work experience programme” *Faye Davies CEO*

## **The Globe Gallery Limited**

Community based contemporary arts organisation

### **Grant Awarded:**

£ 32,500

### **Transitions:**

Developing new relationships with other providers including Arts Council England, Newcastle City Council and Durham University.

Diversifying income generation.

Engaging with the private sector to share knowledge, ideas and skills.

Improved IT efficiency in order to reduce costs

### **Comments:**

“The OCS Transition Fund award has been vital to Globe Gallery and has allowed the organisation to develop new strands of working aimed squarely at increasing independent income and diversification of areas of service. It has given us the confidence to develop innovative, user-focused public service provision and the ability to be well placed to expand our unique offer in the future.”

## **UrbanBiz**

Social business supporting skills, enterprise and employment

### **Grant Awarded:**

£ 172,000

### **Transitions:**

Developing and redesigning existing and new services in priority areas

Restructuring the organisation

Training staff to respond to challenges - UrbanBiz is now Matrix, Customer First, OCR, City and Guilds accredited

Securing private sector advice and support

New partnerships and alliances – December 2011 UrbanBiz were successful in tender applications for the delivery of work, skills, and business start-up support in the Greater Manchester area, delivering services for groups including NEETs, benefit claimants and those in disadvantaged areas.

### **Comments:**

“The Transition Fund enabled us to position ourselves strategically to take advantage of contracts emanating from the Department of Work and Pension's (DWP) Work Programme in South Yorkshire, and North Yorkshire & the Humber.”

“The TF has enabled UrbanBiz to become more resilient, agile and able to take opportunities presented by a changing funding environment.”