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To all News Desks

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### Empowering Community Organisations for a Greater Share

A new report by the Young Foundation will outline **how financial support** should best be provided to **local, voluntary and community organisations**. With small community organisations playing a crucial role in local areas through their contribution to social capital and community cohesion, community organisations are still **loosing out to larger voluntary organisations**, both in terms of public donations and public contracts.

The report **finds that the key principles** for grant making are:

1. **Decentralisation-** community organisations will benefit from working with grant making bodies that are 'close to the ground' and have local knowledge and expertise.
2. **Capacity-** small community organisations benefit from support before, during and after the grant has been given to build their capacity and confidence to seek further, longer term funding from elsewhere.
3. **Accountability-** the grant making process should aim to be transparent and fair. This will give reassurance to small community organisations that they have an equal chance of receiving funding.

The report finds that there is no single policy that can transform the position of small community organisations, but **recommends** that:

1. **Local independent funding organisations-** these should complement any funding that comes from either from central government or from local authorities.
2. **Links to elected bodies-** longer term independent local organisations should have a closer relationship to stronger community governance structures – including elected neighbourhood councils and parish councils.
3. **Better evaluation methods-** further research should be done on better ways of assessing how well community organisations are rooted in local communities.

The full report is available in pdf from The Young Foundation website ([www.youngfoundation.org](http://www.youngfoundation.org))

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Notes to Editors:

- 1) The report is published today by the Young Foundation. Authors: Julie Caulier-Grice and Louisa Thomson

- 2) This independent report was part of the evidence for the Third Sector Review. The report is supported by The Office of the Third Sector, but does not necessarily reflect The Office of the Third Sector policy.
- 3) The Young Foundation is a centre for social innovation that undertakes research to identify and understand social needs and then develops practical initiatives and institutions to address them ([www.youngfoundation.org](http://www.youngfoundation.org)).