Why we opted for Idox's Open 4 Community portal – Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire

idox

One company: Infinite possibilities

Established in 1990 as Northampton Volunteer Bureau, Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire (as it is now known) works to support voluntary and community action across all of Northamptonshire's communities, supporting people into volunteering, helping the development of VCS organisations and managing a number of community projects including Age Span.

Looking for a way to support hundreds of groups, organisations and individuals from across the county, Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire turned to Idox's Open 4 Community solution. Here, Carolyn Howe, Senior Sector Support & Development Officer, explains why...

Why did you choose to subscribe to Open 4 Community?

We needed a solution that could provide groups and organisations with a way of searching for their own funding opportunities.

The portal had immediate value being outward-facing, but also allowed us to maintain a personal touch with the registration process and the seamless branding and integration into our website. Subsequently, we can still maintain close contact with local groups.

Key service benefits

> **Integrate into your existing website and tailor to match your current branding**

> **Provide an enhanced support service for your local community groups without the need to commit additional staff resources**

> **Receive automatic email alerts and weekly e-newsletters**

> **Gain statistical insight featuring vital contact details that can be used for future marketing campaigns, and for proving the tool's impact**

> **Publish your own content – including your local initiatives, news and events – creating a true community hub**

VOLUNTARY
IMPACT NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
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'O4C allows us to provide a breadth of funding information, making our beneficiaries more informed, empowered and equipped in the funding world.'

What objectives and goals does Open 4 Community help you to achieve?

We have a countywide contract to support the development of the voluntary and community sector. Open 4 Community helps us to achieve the objectives outlined in this contract on a county level by:

> Helping VCS organisations to increase their income through new funding.

> Supporting VCS groups to be more enterprising and to develop their services with less dependence on the public sector.

It supports us by having a tool that enables groups to do things for themselves. Once signposted, we've found that people often feel able to carry out their own funding searches.

Subsequently, Development Officer time is freed up, saving vital staff resource. In addition, we hope the data we collect on registered users will help us to identify trends and groups in need of additional support.

What do you think are the key features and benefits of Open 4 Community?

The system is easy to use and provides the latest funding information which we know is accurate and comprehensive. Intuitive features such as automatic email alerts, weekly newsletters and the ability to generate bespoke funding reports only add to its value.

The Idox team has been really helpful in getting the installation set up in a short timeframe and adapting the platform to be exactly what we wanted.

They matched it to our branding to provide a tailored portal fit-for-purpose.

How does it support your local community?

Many people running community groups or operating as trustees do so in their spare time at evenings and weekends. They may not necessarily be able to come and meet with a Development Officer during office hours. This resource means they can do funding searches and keep up to date at their own convenience, but still contact us if they require additional help.

Ultimately, the funding platform allows us to provide a breadth of funding information at our beneficiaries' fingertips, making them more informed, empowered and equipped in the funding world.

For more information on how your organisation and its beneficiaries can gain from a new approach to funding information, please contact us on: 0844 874 0739 or visit www.open4funding.co.uk

idoxgroup.com