

Dear Member,

Over the past three years or so there have been a number of developments in charity fundraising, and funding in general, which have raised some important issues and problems for the disabled people's movement. Amongst these developments, for example, are the static and demeaning representations of disability that we have traditionally been confronted with through charity advertisements in newspapers, magazines and on street hoardings, and which have suddenly "come to life" in mini documentary dramas (as witnessed in television spectacles such as "Children in Need" and "Telethon"). Charities are also now permitted to advertise on television, and you may have seen the recent Spastics Society advertisement piloted in the Granada TV region.

These extensions of activity in charity fundraising are part of what some might see as the present government's political and ideological programme of transferring the responsibility for providing financial support to so-called needy groups and individuals away from the State towards individual benefactors and commercial enterprises. This has resulted in a decrease in, or more restrictive forms of, statutory funding and a consequent increase of groups looking towards charities and Trusts for funding.

This situation has brought forth increasingly active and public campaigns by disabled people against events such as Telethon. However, this campaigning has occurred simultaneously with disability groups (including GMCDP) getting money from Telethon. This has raised a number of controversial issues which are far from resolved.

Therefore, rather than drifting further into controversy, we have made a serious^{*} attempt at GMCDP to address some of these issues by producing the paper "Guidelines to Funding". Whilst this paper has been approved by the GMCDP Executive Committee it nevertheless remains controversial.

Given the importance of these issues for the disabled people's movement, it seems appropriate that we should open up this debate to our membership for their comments.

Attached is a copy of "Guidelines to Funding", and a short questionnaire which we hope you will try to respond to.

If you prefer to phone in your comments, please ring Ian Stanton on 061-273 5154.

If you wish your comments to remain anonymous, that's okay.

Ken Lumb
(Co-Deputy Chair, GMCDP).

** attempt*

The Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People

Applying to charities, trusts, and the commercial sector for funding;

Proposed statement;

GMCDP recognises the traditional role played by many charities in maintaining the segregation, institutionalisation, and resultant oppression of disabled people.

GMCDP further recognises that this oppression is often carried out under the banner of "good deeds and worthy causes", and that Charities and Trusts raise vast amounts of money in order to support their own and other peoples' activities.

GMCDP totally rejects this approach to disability issues.

As a voluntary organisation GMCDP is fully aware of the above considerations with regard to applying to Trusts or Charities for funding, yet is also aware of the need to strike a balance between

- a) severely restricting its' funding options by refusing to have any connection at all with such bodies, and
- b) lending credibility to the traditional activities and images of such bodies by accepting money from them, money which may have been raised in a way which demeans disabled people.

Applying to charities for funding;

If GMCDP is to develop and expand its activities new sources of funding will have to be found. The following need consideration -

- * Are there any bodies from whom GMCDP would not accept funding?
- * Are there some bodies from whom GMCDP would accept funding, though only with conditions?
- * Are there some bodies from whom GMCDP will accept funding unconditionally? - as is the case with AGMA, for example.

Proposed conditions for acceptance;

1. That the body to whom a funding application is being made does not raise money in a way which is demeaning or oppressive to disabled people, or to other oppressed groups in society. Any applications which are turned down or not considered are to be brought back to Executive Council for ratification.
2. That the areas for financial support identified by the funding body to whom an application is being made are not contrary to the principles of GMCDP and/or the disability movement.
3. That GMCDP is not required to participate in publicity which undermines our aims.
4. That GMCDP has control over the project funded.
5. That any reports or publications resulting from the project will remain the property of GMCDP.

Draft one - 1-3-90.

draft two - July 26, 1990

draft three - Aug-Exec agreement. 1990.

Are you a FULL member or an ASSOCIATE member? FULL / ASSOCIATE

Do you think the "Guidelines on Funding" paper is good idea?

YES/NO

Can you suggest any alterations or additions to the paper?

Do you know of any charities or Trusts we should definitely NOT seek funding from? (If yes, please state why).

What do you think of the belief that it's alright to campaign against certain charitable events whilst at the same time getting money from them because funding options for disability groups are limited?

Other comments?