



An invitation  
to join the  
**Benchlearning**  
Forum hosted by  
Sayer Vincent



# Benchlearning

Improving the effectiveness of charities  
through investigation, sharing and learning

## what is the Benchlearning Forum?

The **Benchlearning** Forum is a supported network of member organisations with a common interest in improving the effectiveness of charities. This forum aims to focus on support services in today's fast changing environment including information systems, HR, finance, marketing and communications. It is a platform for sharing learning and best practice, the exchange of ideas, past successes and implementation experiences.

## how will membership of the Forum benefit me and my organisation?

The Forum gives you the opportunity to:

- learn from other organisations' experiences
- explore issues you are facing with your peers
- network with other organisations
- discuss topics with other senior managers in your organisation.

## what does the Forum do?

The Forum activities are:

- investigation of current issues, experiences and practices through carrying out short surveys, research and comparisons with other sectors, and producing summary analysis and reports.
- sharing of information and ideas through case studies of organisations' projects and discussion of topical issues and challenges.
- support for change initiatives in organisations and sharing of the results.

“ I have found the different ways of engaging with Benchlearning inspirational. The survey and case studies create an excellent platform on which to base the round table discussions. These events provoke lively discussion where you can be sure to go away with something that you can apply back in your workplace; an excellent investment of my time. ”

Phil Durbin, Head of Corporate Systems, Salvation Army

“ Benchlearning has proved to be a valuable catalyst for engaging with peers, offering refreshing insights into shared challenges and opportunities. ”

Jane Deal, Head of Information and Knowledge Systems, RNIB

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## 2011 Forum – delivering more through successful partnerships

Our theme this year is working together in partnerships to achieve more. We will learn about different partnerships through discussion, case studies and networking at events, a short survey and website discussions. Each event will explore a different approach to partnership and include perspectives from different people involved in the partnership. The different approaches are:

- partnerships in organisations: the relationship between IS and other areas of the organisation
- partnerships with other organisations
- partnerships with suppliers.

Confirmed dates for 2011 are:

7 June • 8 September • 30 November

All are afternoon events taking place in central London.

### who should participate?

The Forum is open to senior managers from charities and other not-for-profit organisations. The Forum is relevant for managers of key functions including information systems, fundraising, finance and HR. A broad range of organisations are already participating in Benchlearning sessions including Action for Children, Brook Advisory Centres, CFDG, Historic Royal Palaces, Independent Age, Institute of Cancer Research, Islamic Relief, RNIB, Salvation Army, Sightsavers, Swanswell and Tate Gallery Foundation.

### about Sayer Vincent

Sayer Vincent is a firm of consultants and auditors specialising exclusively in the charity and not-for-profit sector. With five partners and over 35 professional staff, we are one of the largest teams of charity specialists with expertise in management, accounting and IT.

Our mission is to help charities to be more effective. We work alongside you as part of the team to help you to solve your problems and keep moving forward. We understand the importance of strategic focus and help organisation to make their vision become a reality. We have real hands-on experience of charities, and many staff have previously worked for charities and/or are trustees. We have a wide range of skills to draw on – project management and implementation, facilitation and training, as well as the core auditing and advising capabilities.

We actively research ways in which the sector can improve performance and seek to share this with charities. Benchlearning is one of the ways in which we seek to share learning and improve performance across a range of charities.

### booking and costs

There are two ways to book your place:

- Annual membership of the Forum costs just £350 (+VAT) per charity per year. You may then send a maximum of three people from your organisation to each workshop.
- Single place bookings are £100 (+VAT) per person per discussion.

A discount of 15% is available exclusively to CFDG members

To book places or for further information contact Paul Stirrat at Sayer Vincent on 020 7841 6360 or email him at [svinfo@sayervincent.co.uk](mailto:svinfo@sayervincent.co.uk)



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