The Skills Collaborative
Menu of Services

For UK grant partners of Oak Foundation’s
Housing and Homelessness Programme
A ‘one stop skills shop’ for challenging times

- The Skills Collaborative has been designed in response to the pressures facing grantees in this uniquely challenging current environment: we offer pro bono access to a wide range of professional support services which are all designed to support your organisations and your staff to continue to deliver your missions and critical services.

- As a partnership of 3 providers - Cranfield Trust, Pilotlight and Pro Bono Economics – we offer a collective support menu focusing on 3 areas: developing leadership, strengthening organisational resilience and evaluating impact.

- All our services are delivered by skilled professionals: business leaders, economists, management consultants, specialists in finance, comms and HR, mentors, and trainers. The formats and delivery models are very varied to provide flexibility. We work with you to find the best support for you.
How the support model works

1. **Apply online**
   - The form asks about your challenge or opportunity. You don’t need to specify which support service you’re looking for, though if you know, you can tell us this.

2. **Discuss your needs with us**
   - We then schedule a call to explore which type of support from our menu of services could be most helpful, depending on your situation and preferences, especially the time you have available and what kind of experience you are looking for.

3. **Connect with provider & agree scope**
   - Once we have agreed which type of support seems like the best fit, we connect you with the provider and brief them on our conversation, so that you do not need to apply from scratch.

4. **Take part in the support**

5. **Discuss your needs with us**
   - We are available as an ongoing resource to discuss your evolving needs and priorities.

6. **Take part in more support?**
   - We envisage that you may want to take part in more than one piece of support, perhaps building on the first piece of support. We will do our best to enable this, resources allowing.
Overview of services

**Organisational resilience (page 5)**
1:1 consultancy projects

Range of team-based programmes

**Leadership development (page 6)**
Mentoring

Peer to peer exchange

Holistic coaching-based programme with a team of business leaders

**Economic evaluation of impact (page 7)**
Unlocking Impact Workshop

Analysis

Advocacy

Advice

Data First Aid
## Organisational resilience services

### 1:1 consultancy projects

**In a nutshell**
A pro bono consultant from the commercial sector is matched to your project based on their transferable skills and experience

**Who does what**
The consultant supports and advises you, sharing their expertise and experience. Projects are supported by a Cranfield Trust project manager

**Focus areas**
Areas covered include:
- Strategy and business planning
- Financial management
- Scenario planning
- HR
- Marketing and communications
- Governance
- Facilitating ‘away-days’ or merger discussions

**Timeframe**
Around 7-12 days’ input over 6 months

### Team-based programmes

**In a nutshell**
A range of structured programmes with a team of up to 6 business professionals from leading commercial organisations, designed to tackle specific issues or opportunities your organisation is facing

**Who does what**
The team produces research-based reports with actionable recommendations, analysis and implementation plans. Programmes are managed by a Pilotlight project manager

**Focus areas**

**Make a Difference Day**
- Issues or opportunities which are operational but of strategic importance, e.g. post-Covid planning

**Setting Directions**
- A strategic issue connected to business change, e.g. generating commercial income; scaling a programme to new sites

**Unlocking Insights**
- An issue of strategic importance, e.g. forecasting growth in service need and how this forecast should shape strategy

**Timeframe**
- **Make a Difference Day** 1 day;
- **Setting Directions** 6 - 8 weeks;
- **Unlocking Insights** 10 weeks
## Leadership development services

### Mentoring

**In a nutshell**
Mentoring can offer a senior level ‘critical friend’, someone who can share their knowledge and experience, whilst supporting you to consider your leadership decisions and impact

**Who does what**
Cranchfield Trust and Pilotlight both offering mentoring. In each case, they will match you with a mentor. As the mentee, you set the agenda.

**Focus areas**
The mentee brings their own issues or areas they would like to discuss in the mentoring sessions; could include both professional and personal aspects

**Timeframe**
Around once a month, timeframe varies

### Peer to peer exchange

**In a nutshell**
A reflective space to share challenges and insights with other charity leaders

**Who does what**
Charity leaders meet in small facilitated groups

**Focus areas**
The participants bring their own issues or reflections on their experiences

**Timeframe**
Various options

### Holistic programme with a team of business leaders

**In a nutshell**
A structured programme where a team of 4 business leaders works with the leader of a charity and board members to build leadership, governance and strategic planning

**Who does what**
Charity leader and business leaders attend all meetings; business leaders take a coaching and mentoring approach. A Board member attends at least 3 meetings. Pilotlight Project Manager facilitates meetings and drives the process for the best outcomes

**Focus areas**
Project aims can include:
- Strategy: vision, mission and objectives
- Business planning to prioritise decisions
- Fundraising strategy
- Governance: improve board effectiveness

**Timeframe**
One meeting per month over 10 months
Economic evaluation of impact services

**Data First Aid**

**In a nutshell**
Support from a dedicated volunteer economist who can help charities with data analysis or visualisation, spreadsheets or short pieces of research.

**Timeframe**
1-5 days support over 1-2 months

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**Unlocking Impact Workshop**

**In a nutshell**
Flagship introductory workshop for charities to learn about the economic approach to measuring and valuing the impact of their work.

**Timeframe**
Half day interactive workshop

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**Analysis**

**In a nutshell**
In depth economic evaluation to measure the impact of a charity or intervention on society against the costs of delivery. This may allow the charity to say “for every £1 spent, we generate £X of benefits to society”.

**Timeframe**
6-18 months

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**Advocacy**

**In a nutshell**
Rigorous analysis of evidence to quantify the benefits of policy change or the cost of a problem, e.g. cost to UK taxpayers for failing to support children exposed to domestic violence.

**Timeframe**
6-18 months

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**Advice**

**Feasibility** of an Analysis or Advocacy project, i.e. whether sufficient data and/or evidence exists.

**Workshop Plus**: Workshop plus bespoke 1:1 sessions with economists, to take your next steps: building a framework for your charity’s data, identifying potential evidence sources to use in an economic evaluation, and choosing which outcomes to focus on.

**Timeframe**
3-12 months
Contact us

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