

PLAYING WITH THE BIG CATS





TODAY

- 1. THE FOUNDATIONS
- 2. THE CASE FOR SUPPORT
- 3. FUNDABLE OFFERS
- 4.A STRENGTHS BASED APPROACH
- 5.SMALL, CONSISTENT STEPS
- 6.WHAT TO AVOID



BEFORE WE BEGIN....



THE TRUTH ABOUT CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

- You don't need to be big to be valuable
- Corporates want purposeful and authentic partnerships
- Small charities can bring: trust, community credibility, agility, real stories
- It's not about size, it's about alignment and clarity



THE FOUNDATIONS MATTER

BEFORE OUTREACH - YOU NEED CLARITY ON:

- What you do
- Why it matters
- What difference support makes
- What a partner can actually do with you
- Who is doing this work? It takes dedicated, consistent time – are you ready?

THIS IS WHERE MOST SMALL CHARITIES GET STUCK.



YOUR CASE FOR SUPPORT -FOR CORPORATE EYES

- A corporate case for support should answer:
- What problem are we solving? (Make it real & urgent)
- Why does it matter to society / communities
 / the future?
- How do we solve it? (Clear model, accessible language)
- What impact does support have? (Specific, tangible, not abstract)
- Tip: Make it emotion + evidence, not a wall of stats.



FROM 'FUNDRAISING APPEAL' TO 'FUNDABLE OFFERS'

CORPORATES RARELY JUST "GIVE TO THE CAUSE." THEY SUPPORT PROPOSITIONS THAT ALIGN TO THEIR BUSINESS NEEDS.

BREAK YOUR WORK DOWN INTO:

- Programmes
- Themes (e.g., wellbeing, education, food insecurity)
- Outcomes (confidence, safety, access, community belonging)
- Geographies / communities

THEN SHAPE INTO CLEAR OFFERS A PARTNER CAN SEE THEMSELVES IN.



FUNDABLE OFFERS

INSTEAD OF: "SUPPORT OUR CHARITY"
TRY:

- Sponsor a community hub session
- Fund outreach to 10 local families
- Support development of new resources / digital tools
- Back a local coordinator / youth worker / volunteer lead

MAKE IT: NAMED, COSTED, PURPOSEFUL.

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SMALL CHARITIES OFTEN LOOK AT WHAT THEY LACK. LOOK AT WHAT YOU HAVE.

MAP YOUR ASSETS:

- People (staff, lived experience, volunteers, trustees with networks)
- Place (local credibility, belonging, community trust)
- Programmes (what's proven, what's unique)
- Visibility (events, networks, champions)
- Story (why this matters now)

YOUR ASSETS ARE YOUR ADVANTAGE.





ALIGN YOUR ASSETS TO CORPORATE WORLDS

- ASK:
- Who cares about this issue?
- Who touches these communities?
- Who benefits from solving this problem?
- Who has values that overlap with ours?
- Then map sectors → organisations → decision makers.

START WHERE THERE IS NATURAL ALIGNMENT, NOT SCALE.



SMALL, CONSISTENT STEPS = SUSTAINABLE PIPELINE

YOU DON'T NEED 100 CORPORATE PARTNERS.

YOU NEED THE RIGHT 5-10 CONVERSATIONS STARTED WELL.

WEEKLY HABIT:

- Reach out to 3 new contacts
- Reconnect with 2 warm leads
- Post 1 purposeful LinkedIn story
- Progress 1 next step with an existing conversation

SMALL, CONSISTENT, VISIBLE ACTION - MOMENTUM.

COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID



LEADING WITH 'DO YOU HAVE COTY?'



SENDING LONG FUNDRAISING PACKS WITH NO INVITATION TO TALK



ASKING TOO EARLY, TOO BIG



NOT HAVING COSTED, CLEAR PROPOSITIONS

FORGETTING THAT
CORPORATES ARE MADE OF...
PEOPLE



YOU CAN PLAY WITH THE BIG CATS BECAUSE YOU BRING....

YOUR NEXT THREE ACTIONS







BREAK YOUR WORK INTO 3-5 FUNDABLE PROPOSITIONS



MAP YOUR STRENGTHS -ALIGNED PARTNERS -OUTREACH PLAN

THANK YOU

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