

# South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau

(A company limited by guarantee not having a share capital)

## Our work

### Funding information, advice and guidance (FIAG)

High quality funding information underpins all of SYFAB's work. We continually research and produce easily accessible information on funding: new funding streams, changes to funding priorities, upcoming deadlines, and changes that affect the funding environment.

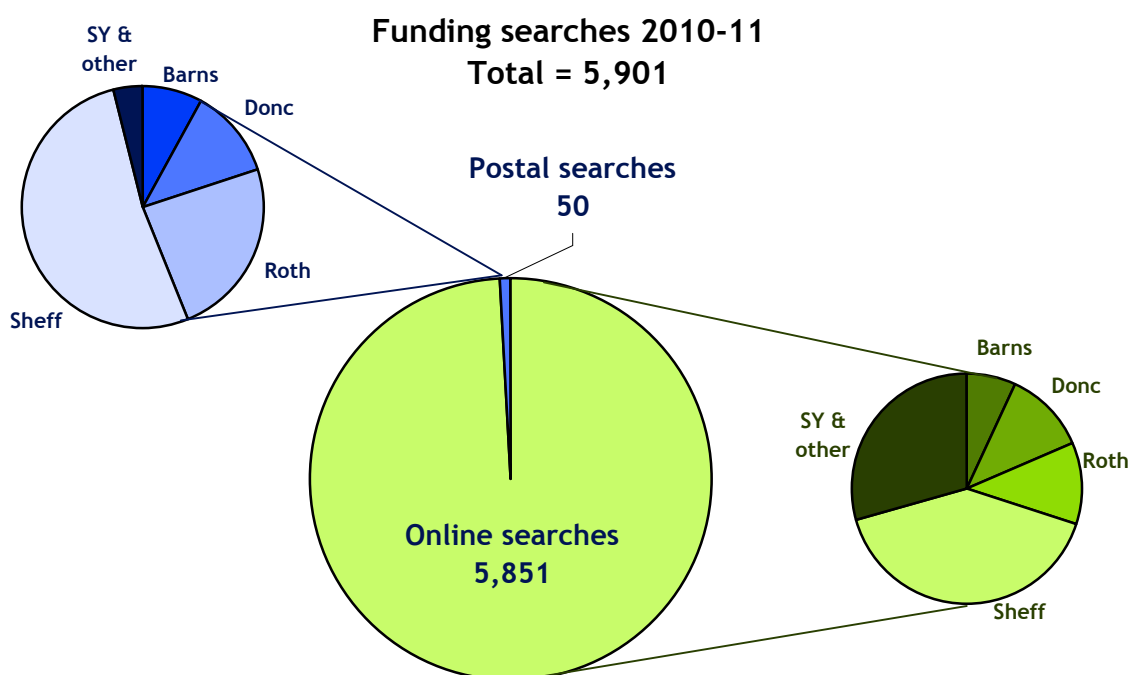
Funding advice is an essential partner to funding information. Many groups who come to us initially for information need further support in making their projects more attractive to funders, from learning to use written language with confidence to demonstrating the need and effectiveness of their proposed interventions.

We also provide training in fundraising and funding-related topics to help groups to understand the fundraising process and develop skills which equip the group better to meet their aims. Currently this ranges from basic introduction courses and preparing groups to grasp the fundamental principles of approaching funders through to intensive form filling workshops and bespoke training on request. This is an area of our work that we want to develop further, developing online training opportunities and offering coaching to increase the funding skills of our users and to pass on our funding expertise to other development workers, so that they can cascade it to their service users.

### Facts and figures - how our services have been used during the year

#### Funding search

- Available on our website at <http://fundingsearch.syfab.org.uk> - enables groups to carry out their own searches of the most relevant and popular funders, and print off the results
- For users who are unable to use the online tool, we can carry out the search for them and send the results by post



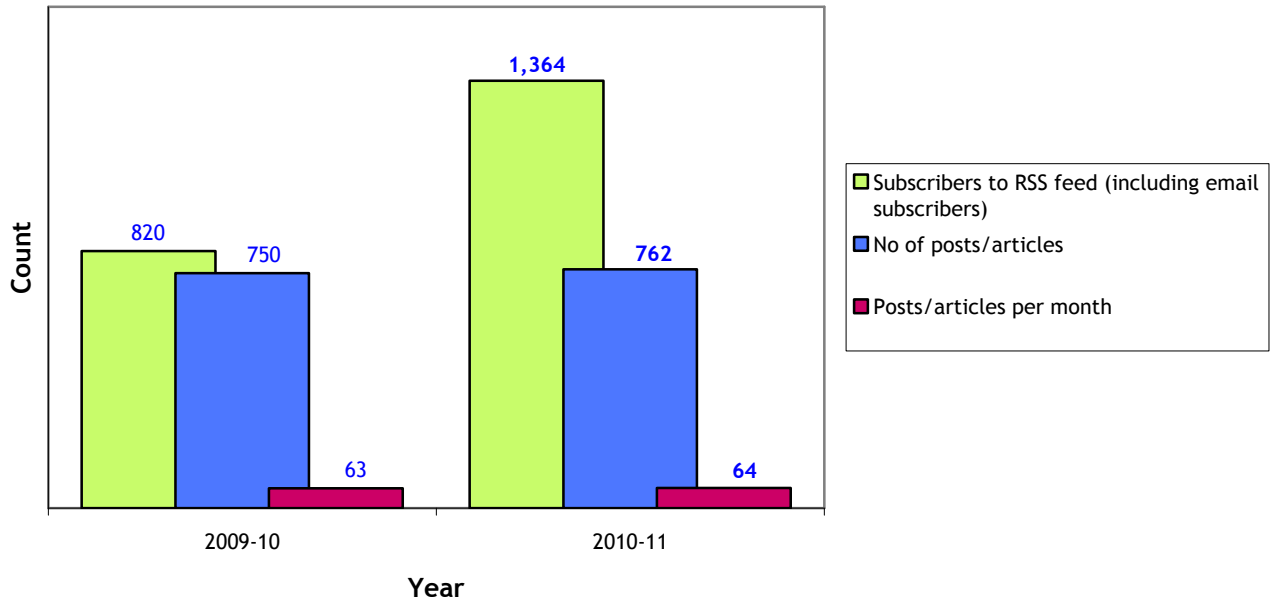
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## Funding News from SYFAB

- **Blog and RSS feed** - our funding blog on the SYFAB website at <http://syfab.org.uk/fundingnews/> updated daily with news and information on funding opportunities:

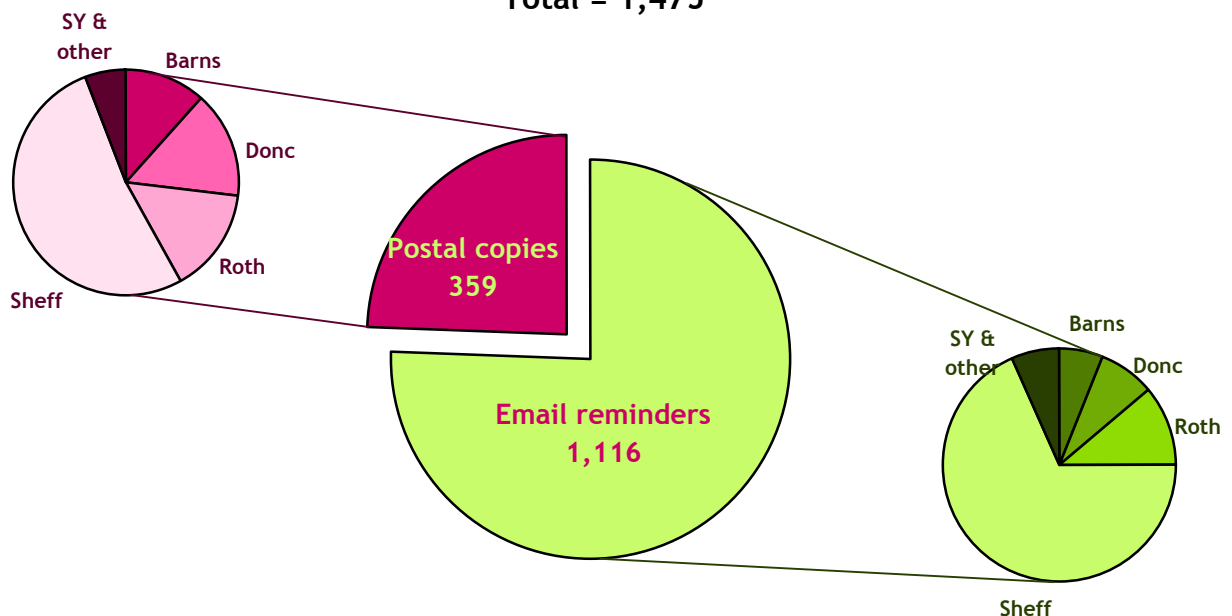
Funding News from SYFAB blog



- **Emails** - subscribers to this mailing list can opt to receive posts from our blog to their email address either daily or weekly (previously we sent subscribers a monthly email prompt to download Funding News from our website)
- **By post** - until April 2011 we produced our 10-times-yearly newsletter which we circulated by post and published it on our website

Funding News distribution as at 31 March 2011

Total = 1,475



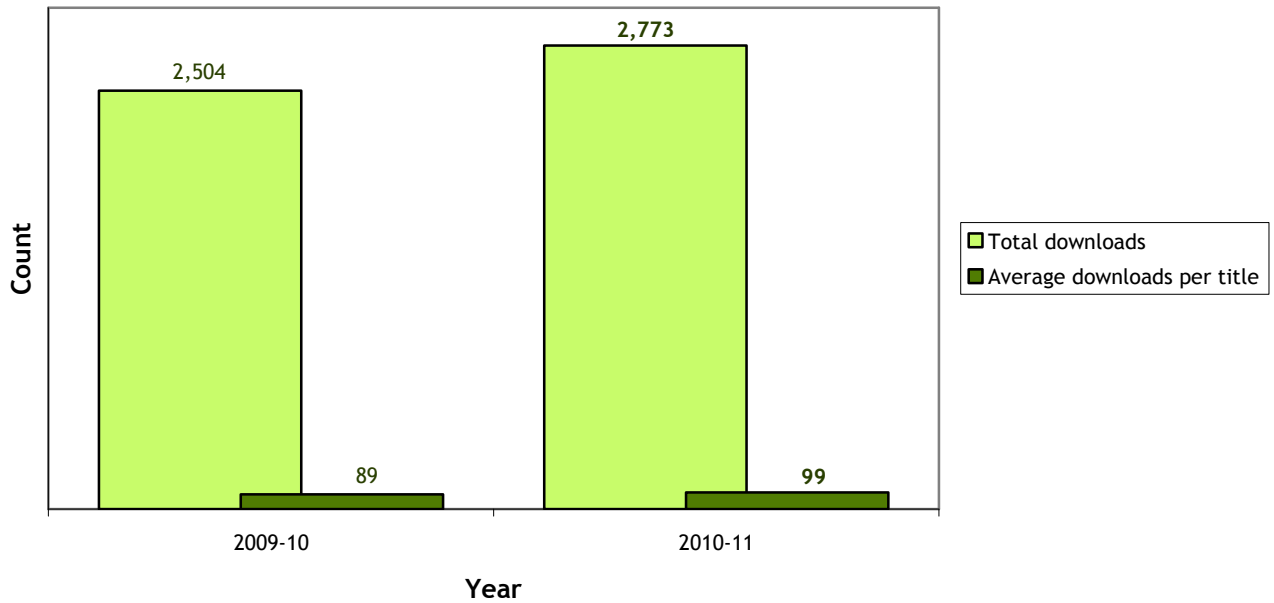
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## SYFAB Information Sheets

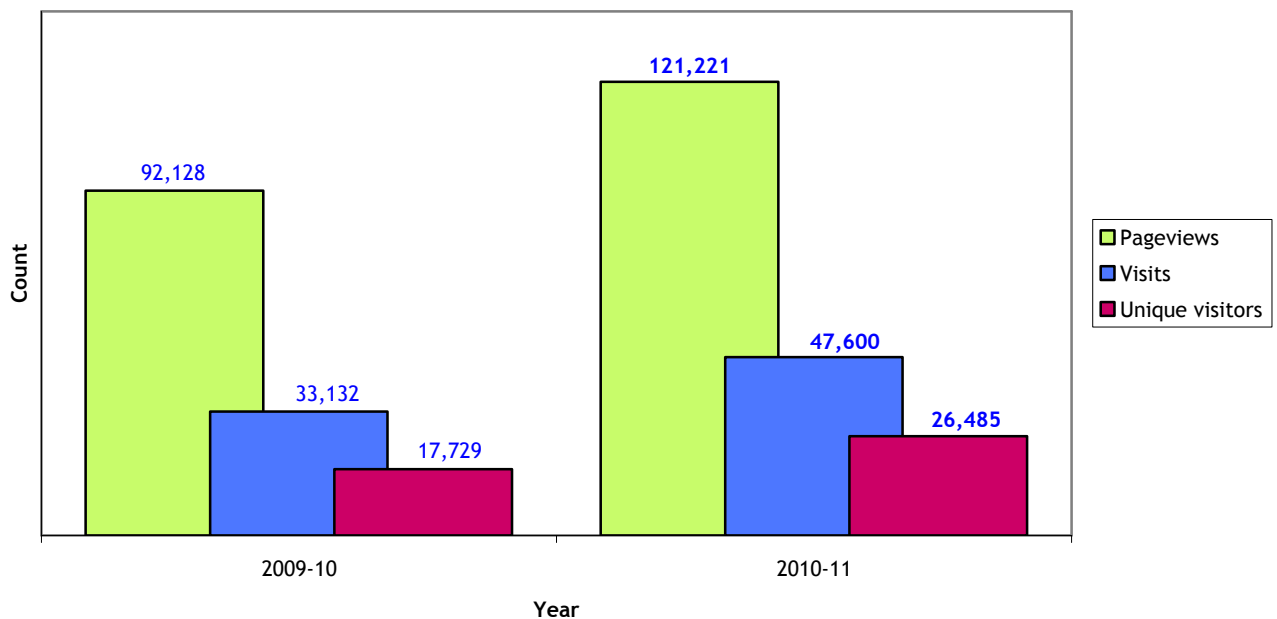
- A range of guides on funding and fundraising and related topics, available on paper or from our website:

### Information Sheet downloads



The overall traffic to our website continues to increase as we make more of our services available online:

### www.syfab.org.uk website traffic

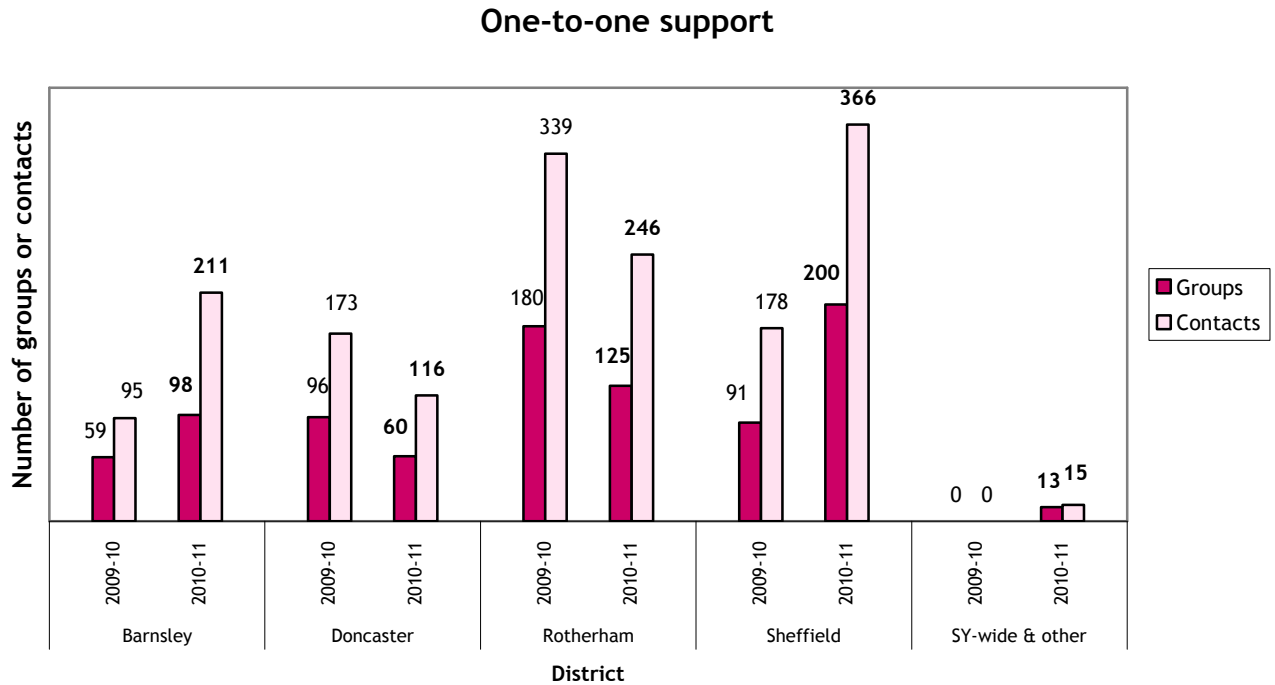


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## One-to-one support

- We support groups through appointments and funding advice surgery slots:



- Total number of **surgery events** held during 2010-11 = **98**

Many of our surgery events are delivered in partnership with other organisations. During 2010-11 we have delivered **joint surgery sessions** with:

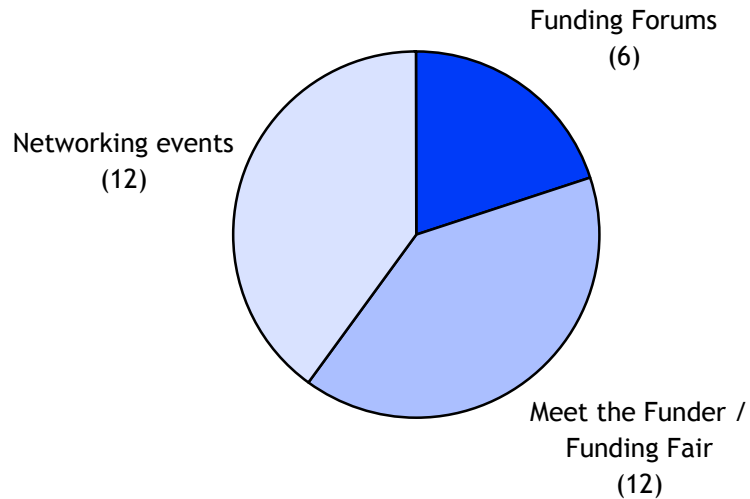
- Coalfields Regeneration Trust
- Darnall Forum
- Gleadless Valley Community Forum
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- South Yorkshire Community Foundation
- Together for Regeneration

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### Meet the Funder, Funding Forums and other networking events

We have delivered a total of 30 of these events in 2010-11:



We often deliver events in partnership with other organisations. Our **event partners** in 2010-11 have included:

- Awards for All
- Barnsley Community and Voluntary Network
- Barnsley Infrastructure Consortium
- Coalfields Regeneration Trust
- Forge Community Partnership
- Maltby Town Council
- Rotherham MBC
- Rural Action Yorkshire
- Sheffield BME Network
- Sheffield City Council
- South Yorkshire Community Foundation
- Together for Regeneration
- Voluntary Action Sheffield

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### Training and workshops

Training events and number of times delivered:

- Introduction to funding (12)
- Finding funders (2)
- Completing application forms (1)
- Fundraising workshops (16)
- Researching funders (1)
- Developing a funding strategy (1)
- Getting your project up and running (1)
- Developing a strategic plan (1)
- Financial planning in voluntary organisations (1)
- Working together to develop your organisation (1)
- Funding, marketing and investment workshop (1)

In 2010-11 we have delivered a total of **38 training events and workshops** attended by people from **243 organisations**.

Partners we have worked with to deliver training in 2010-11 include:

- Doncaster MBC
- Doncaster Infrastructure Network
- Elsecar Heritage Railway
- Rotherham Adult Learning Partnership
- RotherFed
- South Yorkshire Community Foundation
- Voluntary Action Sheffield
- Worsbrough Sports & Development Association

We also have an Open College Network accredited Funding and Fundraising course, but we have been redeveloping this course and have not delivered it during 2010-11.

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## Strategic work

For SYFAB, getting involved in strategic work means trying to have an influence in the way funding is delivered, helping to shape funding policy and practice. We also work closely with other infrastructure organisations to help make sure that voluntary and community organisations can access the support they need.

This year, we have been involved in strategic work with the following organisations, networks and partnerships, amongst others:

- Barnsley Infrastructure Consortium
- Barnsley Community and Voluntary Network
- Barnsley NI 7 Working Group
- Doncaster Infrastructure Network
- Rotherham Infrastructure Network
- Rural Action Yorkshire (Rural Networking Events)
- Sheffield Compact Steering Group
- Sheffield Infrastructure Partnership
- Sheffield Interim Joint Compact Delivery Board
- Sheffield Third Sector Assembly
- South Yorkshire ChangeUp Consortium
- South Yorkshire CVS Chief Executives group
- Yorkshire & Humber Procurement Network

We have also represented and advocated on behalf of voluntary and community organisations to funding bodies in order to address particular issues that we felt were unclear or sometimes unfair. We see this as a key part of our role, representing the views of our members and taking up issues on their behalf.

The challenge for organisations in the voluntary and community sector is trying to get the balance right between the service delivery and activities that meet immediate needs, and the strategic, policy and campaigning work that could ultimately have a greater impact on the underlying issues and needs we try to meet. With the latter, the cause and effect are more difficult to measure, and the work is more difficult to fund. We must also be aware of the conflict between being funded by an organisation whose practice we may need to critique.