

Theme: Stepping up, leading the way

8.15-9.15	REGISTRATION				
9.15-10.00	OVERVIEW – Ian Theodoreson, Chair, Charity Finance Group INTRODUCTION and FILM - Caron Bradshaw, CEO, Charity Finance Group OPENING PLENARY – Vibrant Economy – Sacha Romanovitch, CEO, Grant Thornton				
10.00-10.10	MOVE TO REQUIRED SESSION				
	STRATEGIC PLANNING	INSPIRATIONAL LEADERSHIP	TECHNICAL DEEP-DIVE	GOOD GOVERNANCE	FUTURE THINKING
10.10-10.55	1A Reporting under the new regime Price Bailey's review of the Top 100 charities for Charity Finance and the research we conducted for the Preparing Charity Accounts book, uncovered a real need for charities to change the style and form of reporting their achievements in their accounts. In this session we will highlight some examples of good practice – taking real examples rather than just the theory – from several charities to show how you can change the way you present your accounts. In addition Marie Curie will demonstrate how this works for them in terms of collating and selecting targets to report against. Helena Wilkinson, Price Bailey Andrew Whitehead, Marie Curie	1B Culture: the role of finance We all know that culture is enormously important in organisations, but it always seems intangible and feels like something you can have no influence over. Getting the culture right can help to make sure that you have an approach to finance that is fit for purpose. This session will consider what organisational culture is and how it reveals itself. We'll look at the hard and soft controls that contribute to culture and how finance can best influence these. You'll come away with a fresh perspective on your organisation and the role of finance. Judith Miller, Sayer Vincent Kate Morris, Volunteering Matters	1C Pensions Update The pensions landscape has evolved enormously over the past few years. Fiona Frobisher, Head of Policy, will be outlining the Pension Regulator's approach to valuations in the current economic climate and how issues of covenant strength play differently in the charity sector. She will also address automatic enrolment, including a review of the present position, highlighting what TPR is doing to help employers, and priorities for 2017. Fiona Frobisher, The Pensions Regulator	1D Workshop: Involving staff in Governance issues This workshop will explore the advantages and disadvantages of involving staff in governance issues. Using the example of involving staff in risk mapping to demonstrate how the same techniques can be used to involve staff in many areas of governance which are often seen as the preserve of the few. Jenny Howard, Muscular Dystrophy UK	1E Public Sector Partnering The public sector's going through a time of metamorphosis, with some councils not halving but concertinaing in size over the next 12-18 months. £360m of cuts over 5 years for Lancashire County Council alone, with not enough money to fund statutory obligations. These challenges present an opportunity for the NFP sector. They might not shout about it, but the public sector needs our help. However, just being the best might not be enough to build viable NFP/Public partnerships. The Lancashire Wildlife Trust, has built a connectivity and commonality with the NHS and local councils. What's the journey and the result? Ed Livesey, The Wildlife Trust for Manchester, North Merseyside & Lancashire
10.55-11.25	REFRESHMENTS				
11.25-12.10	2A The role of procurement and its relationship with finance The session will examine what the benefits can be for an organisation of having a managed procurement function and its relationship with the Finance function. Focusing on the reasons for and experience of setting up a managed procurement function at WWF-UK, the session will explore what the benefits have been, some of the learning experiences as well as looking at how it interacts with Finance. It will finish with a look at future plans. Adrian Warburton, WWF-UK	2B Leading Change in Uncertain Times Finance has to take a leading role in innovation and change. How can you help your charity innovate new services and new income generation. How do you identify and respond to challenges and opportunities. Pesh Framjee & Naziar Hashemi, Crowe Clark Whitehill	2C Tax oddities There are a raft of obscure tax traps and opportunities that charities often overlook – this session looks at these in overview, providing warnings for the unwary and new sources of funds for the visionary. Jasmin Bryan, BDO LLP	2D The trustees, the fraudster and the role of the auditors In the past couple of years we have come across increasing amounts of fraud, some big and some small but all of it impacting the morale of organisations as much if not more than the reserves. We will share some examples of how fraud occurred and how it might have been avoided. We will discuss the roles and responsibilities of staff, trustees and auditors when it comes to minimising the risk of fraud and identifying fraud. We will also share our thoughts as to how trustees can work effectively in this area. Cara Turtington & Liz Hazell, Saffery Champness	2E Panel discussion: New Sources of Funding As traditional sources of funding are squeezed, organisations are exploring alternative forms of investment as a new way of funding their activities. The focus of this session will be on how charities can secure viable longer-term sources of funding and which types of funding may suit their organisation. Dan Hird, Triodos Nick Temple, Social Enterprise UK Lesley Dixon, PSS
12.10-12.20	MOVE TO LUNCHTIME PLENARY				
12.20-13.00	LUNCHTIME PLENARY - Brexit Panel and Q&A This panel session will explore how civil society should respond to the Brexit vote Fabian Picardo QC MP, Chief Minister, HM Government of Gibraltar Baroness Hayter, Shadow Minister, DExEU Baroness Stedman-Scott OBE Gina Miller, SCM Direct				
13.00-14.00	LUNCH and Finance Count Drop In at stand 30 in the Benjamin Britten Lounge				

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14.00-14.45	<p>3A Panel discussion: 4Children – prioritising the needs of beneficiaries in the face of financial crisis</p> <p>This panel session will discuss the key concerns and issues which arose as part of the winding down of 4Children which, despite becoming insolvent after the loss of a key contract, managed to preserve substantially all the charity's services and over 95% of employees' jobs. Former chief executive Imelda Redmond will explain the underlying difficulties the charity faced and the concerns of trustees and the executive team in the run up to its administration. Benn Richards will explain the key legal issues that emerged and how insolvency law was applied to assist in the process. Adam Stephens will explain the issues he had to consider in advising the charity in the run up to his appointment as administrator and subsequent to his appointment</p> <p>Chair: Andrew Studd, Russell-Cooke LLP Benn Richards, Russell-Cooke LLP Imelda Redmond, Healthwatch England Adam Stephens, Smith & Williamson LLP</p>	<p>3B Developing a finance team talent strategy</p> <p>An effective strategy should be designed to find and keep the required talent for your finance team, we will review what a finance team talent strategy is, why it is important to have one and what you can do to enable the development of your approach.</p> <p>Amnesty International will present a case study following their journey and the development of their plan, focussing on the challenges of retaining and motivating staff and sharing clear strategies for you to use in your own organisation.</p> <p>The session will finish with top tips for improving team happiness and engagement.</p> <p>Nicki Deeson, Amnesty International</p>	<p>3C How can good information management strengthen your charity's reputation?</p> <p>Charity records are an asset to any organisation: they tell people who you are, what you have achieved and why donors and the public should trust you. In this interactive workshop delegates will learn how good archives and records management can protect and strengthen your charity's reputation. As the debate around whether charities should be subject to Freedom of Information requests picks up pace, and the scrutiny over charity finances and governance remains heightened, now is the time to ask yourself if you know how your charity manages information, what regulations you need to comply with and how your charity's information management practice can be improved.</p> <p>Dr Charlotte Clements, University College London</p> <p>Replaced by Anjelica Finnegan, CFG</p>	<p>3D Panel discussion: Governance</p> <p>The panel will discuss current thinking on charity governance, including the Lords' Committee Report, the sector's Code of Governance and findings of the recent consultation on the Code. Almost 200 organisations and individuals responded, most strongly supportive, but also raising some challenging questions.</p> <p>Panel members will also speak from their own experience of governance and what works in practice. This will include financial oversight, the role of the Chair, and why skills and knowledge, systems and procedures, and culture and behaviour are all important. We also hope to gain insight from the wider experience of audience members taking part.</p> <p>Neal Green, Charity Commission Andrew O'Brien, Charity Finance Group John Williams, Association of Chairs Judith Miller, Sayer Vincent</p>	<p>3E Tech and trends</p> <p>Payments in the UK are about to go through a generational shift that will change the way we pay forever. This session highlights the changes taking place over the next 2 years and explores how the way charity donations are made may be transformed for everyone's benefit</p> <p>Chris Higham, Virgin Money Giving</p>
14.45-14.55	MOVE BETWEEN SESSIONS				
14.55-15.40	<p>4A What a difference a year makes...</p> <p>Using the charity MNDA as a case study, the session would highlight a charity going from feast to famine following the significant increase in income from the Ice Bucket challenge. We would look at managing the expectations of funders and supporters on how to utilise these funds, the changes in strategy and reserves policies and also looking at financial governance – the difference between cash and commitments – ensuring trustees do not over commit charity resources.</p> <p>The session will cover the principles of good financial governance and considerations for developing and communicating strategy and reserves policies.</p> <p>Kathryn Burton, haysmacintyre Linda Cherrington, MNDA</p>	<p>4B Stepping up</p> <p>Why the CFO role now is a great way to prepare for becoming a modern charity CEO. Simon Hopkins is CEO of national poverty charity Turn2Us. He will share his thoughts on how the changing narrative on the role of finance has made it much more natural for the charity CFO to break the glass ceiling and step up into the top job.</p> <p>Simon Hopkins, Turn2Us</p>	<p>4C Seven Big Ideas</p> <p>A Finance Director needs to be imaginative in tackling some of the thornier technical issues such as restrictions on income streams; leveraging reserves; core costs; and mission drift.</p> <p>Neil has addressed seven big issues head on during the last three years. He will explain the story behind each challenge, and the simple practical solution he came up with.</p> <p>Imagination from a Finance Director can un-nerve Trustees, which is always fun, so this session will appeal to anyone with problems to solve and anyone with a sense of mischief ...</p> <p>Neil Goulder, Keech Hospice Care</p>	<p>4D Trustee financial skills, competencies and training</p> <p>Strong governance and bold leadership is arguably the primary safeguard to ensuring the effectiveness of any charity. This is the clear message emanating from the Charity Commission; hence there is a high imperative for your charity - and its trustees -to seek best practice. In contrast poor governance has undeniably allowed some of the worst sector failures to take place. So how do your trustees know they are doing a good job? If financial governance is not good enough are you part of the problem?</p> <p>This session will share the results of our survey [with CFG] into trustees' financial awareness, competency and training. We will explore what charity executives can do to support trustees to achieve the financial governance their charity needs, and will provide practical solutions to overcome potential barriers.</p> <p>Sudhir Singh, MHA MacIntyre Hudson</p>	<p>4E Implications of the election on charities</p> <p>In this session, CFG's Policy and Research manager will guide you through the implications of the snap General Election and provide CFG's latest analysis of the promises made on the campaign trail. The aim is to give delegates the space to look ahead and anticipate any challenges and/or opportunities that may arise from the election result – whether these might be in the form of deviations away from current fiscal policy, or changes in the value of the pound and so on.</p> <p>Anjelica Finnegan, Charity Finance Group</p>
15.40-16.10	REFRESHMENTS				
16.10-16.40	CLOSING PLENARY - Creating an Agile Organisation - Simon Hayward				
16.40-16.55	Closing remarks by the chair				
16.55-18.00	Drinks reception and Inspiring Financial Leadership Nominations				