

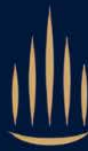


THE BEACON PHILANTHROPY AND IMPACT FORUM

Thursday 29 February 2024 at The Guildhall, London

SCHEDULE OF THE DAY

- 08:15** - Registration and welcome
- 09:00** - **Welcome: James Goad**, Managing Director at Owen James
- 09:05** - **Opening Address: An introduction** with **Giles Shilson**, Chair at City Bridge Foundation
- 09:15** - **Keynote: Why are we here?** with **Cath Dovey** from The Beacon Collaborative
- 09:25** - **Keynote: Progress through effective partnership with government** with **The Rt Hon Stuart Andrew MP**
- 09:35** - **Roundtable Discussions #1:** Please refer below for more information on the topics up for discussion with your peers
- 10:25** - **Tea and coffee break**
- 10:45** - **Keynote: Labour's vision for philanthropy and impact in support of a Society of Service** with **Thangam Debbonaire MP**, Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
- 11:05** - **Panel: The rich tapestry of generosity, how far has the UK come?** With **Patricia Hamzahee**, FRSA Advisor, Investor, Philanthropist and specialist in Social Enterprise & Responsible Finance and **Ajaz Ahmed**, Founder, Investor, Trustee and Philanthropist and winner of the 2022 Spear's Impact Award. Chaired by **Zaki Cooper**, Director and Co-Founder, Integra Group
- 11:30** - **Roundtable Discussions #2:** Please refer below for more information on the topics up for discussion with your peers
- 12:20** - **Structured networking with an enriched session for Philanthropists only**
- 12:55** - **Lunch**
- 13:40** - **Panel: Progress through regulatory alignment** with **Rory Brooks** CBE, Independent Trustee, Charity Commission, Philanthropy and **Sacha Sadan**, Director ESG at the FCA. Chaired by **James Broderick**, Chair, Impact Investing Institute
- 14:20** - **Keynote: The power of your catalytic capital - How your investments can help scale lasting change** with **Jeremy Rogers**, Manager of the Schroder BSC Social Impact Trust and Chief Investment Officer at Big Society Capital
- 14:40** - **Roundtable Discussions #3:** Please refer below for more information on the topics up for discussion with your peers
- 15:30** - **Keynote: Celebrating what have we achieved so far and why the future is bright** with **Cath Dovey** from The Beacon Collaborative
- 15:50** - **Closing Remarks: James Goad**, Managing Director at Owen James
- 15:55** - **Wave goodbye:** Event ends but do join us for informal networking over a glass of fizz at Tokenhouse, 4 Moorgate, London, EC2R 6DA



The Beacon Collaborative

THE BEACON PHILANTHROPY AND IMPACT FORUM 2024
THURSDAY 29 FEBRUARY, OLD LIBRARY AND PRINT
ROOM, GUILDHALL YARD, LONDON EC2V 5AE

Roundtable Topics

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THE ECOSYSTEM:

I. Are we speaking the same language?

In 1987, the UN’s Brundtland Commission defined sustainability as: *development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*

This call to action has been interpreted widely in the non-profit sector, and by commercial and financial organisations. The result has been widely diverging approaches, with their attendant jargon and practices.

In this session we will explore if tribalism has become a barrier to sustainable impact.

- How well do non-profits and the philanthropy sector understand the sustainability practices of the financial sector, and vice versa?
- Do we have a truly shared understanding of the goals of sustainable development?
- Does language actively prevent the development of effective partnerships for social and environmental change, e.g. in community action or the development of blended finance?
- Have we given up on collaborative solutions, believing our own approach is the best?

2. Why we need a national strategy for philanthropy and impact

Philanthropy and impact investment seek to contribute to solutions and drive positive change for people and planet. The motives may be altruistic, but, without a supportive environment, individuals and initiatives will falter or fail to grow beyond their initial stages.

In this session we will explore what are the essential components of an enabling environment for impact and what role we can each play in proving the support for positive change. What is the role of:

- Government to remove barriers and to promote and celebrate groundbreaking work
- Regulators to set the tone on responsibilities and accountability
- The charity sector to identify need and target resources effectively
- The philanthropy sector to guide, educate and intermediate
- The professional services to unlock financial resources and to structure and advise
- Donors and impact investors to build the confidence of others as pioneers and seed funders

3. Common data and technology infrastructure – The next frontier

If we imagine for one moment that the policy and regulatory environment can create the conditions for growth in philanthropy and impact investment. What next?

The philanthropy and impact sector are currently geared up to dealing with small numbers of pioneering clients, not the mass market. So, what will it take to build a common infrastructure for giving that ensure that all those who want to give or invest effectively for impact can identify the places and opportunities where their money will drive change?

Data and technology have long been identified as a weak spot in the charity and philanthropy sectors. In the charity sector, data is fragmented, retrospective and reported in unhelpful formats. In the philanthropy sector, it is heavily siloed and with no common standards, hindering efforts to develop common analytical tools that can channel funds where they can be most effective.

If we want to connect donors to needs and investors to impact opportunities at scale, we urgently need to lay the groundwork for a common technology and data infrastructure. We can't rely on philanthropists to do this work because philanthropists can only create start-ups, not solutions; this is a sector problem that needs a sector solution.

So, what are the next steps?

4. Impact Investing vs Philanthropy: The role of private capital in driving positive change in society

In an era marked by unprecedented global challenges, this session aims to explore the resilience and transformative potential of impact investing amidst uncertainty. How is rising inflation, interest rates hikes, the Palestine and Ukraine war and the energy crisis in Europe going to influence the evolution of impact investing?

Expert: Hermina Popa, Managing Director, Big Society Capital

5. Do we have a shared vision yet for impact reporting?

Google “impact reporting frameworks” and the first article suggests 17 different approaches and that is just in the social impact world. By the time you add in impact investing and other measures of sustainable progress the field proliferates further still. So, is it realistic to set a single vision for impact measurement either now or in the future?

There is clearly a long road to travel toward a universal concept of impact, but what can we do in the short term to level the playing field between charities, funders and impact investments?

- How can we support charities to report efficiently against agreed impact measures?
- What do funders really need to make impact-led decisions?
- And will impact investment always need a different kind of measures and standards?

6. Connecting the sector – Tools and strategies to accelerate collaboration

Bringing multi-disciplinary expertise together is never easy, but in the field of impact different skills and viewpoints drive change. For profits and non-profits, investors and social enterprises, professionals and frontline providers need to find opportunities to connect.

So, what resources does our sector need to build in order to connect these different and varied players? What need does this fill for the different kinds of actors in the impact community? And what innovations could improve our ability to connect and collaborate?

PHILANTHROPIC CAPITAL:

7. Support Generosity – Whose responsibility is it?

To maximise impact, the non-profit sector needs to be laser focused on frontline need. This, combined with prevalent funding practices, leave little capacity for donor engagement. Yet, lack of engagement between charities and donors fosters mistrust and holds back potential major donors from giving more.

So, whose responsibility is it to educate donors (and those in other sectors) on the practices that drive social and environmental impact? Charities themselves? Financial advisers? Regulators? Government? Trusts & foundations? Other donors? Or a stronger philanthropy sector?

If the latter, then who will fund the urgent investment needed to build tools, processes and best practices to ensure the philanthropy sector can enable and intermediate greater philanthropy in the UK?

Expert: Isabelle Hayhoe, Senior Philanthropy Advisor, Vice President, Barclays Private Bank Limited

8. How do we encourage more peer engagement and impact?

Research has shown that peer influence can double levels of giving, and that the most effective donor education is peer to peer. Yet changing behaviours (including the use of technology, changing generations and the impact of new social norms) have reduced opportunities for peer-to-peer donor engagement.

In this session we will examine:

- Why is widespread peer engagement missing from the UK landscape of giving?
- What do we need to do to change that?
- Does peer influence have the same effect on impact investors that we see among donors?
- What is the future of peer engagement and impact - what, who, where can we learn from?

9. Sharing Power – Building trust

Over the last decade there has been a radical transformation in grant making practices. At the core is a recognition that sustainable social and environmental change only happens when power is shared between those with financial resources and those who have the greatest experience of deprivation, inequity and degradation of the natural world. Power sharing can put communities back together and can drive sustainable change.

In this session, we will explore what power sharing means in practice in the grant making community. And, what can policy makers, corporates, wealth managers and philanthropists learn from these practices with respect to their own sustainability agenda?

INVESTMENT CAPITAL:

10. Let's address philanthropy's innovation gap

Despite huge potential and need for innovation in philanthropy, there's nowhere obvious for innovation to surface, be explored, invested in, or adopted. In particular, there is nowhere that is independent and can be considered a true civic space or commons for ideas or experiments that could move the dial.

In philanthropy, innovation is often incremental in nature rather than groundbreaking – it's part of a process that requires more than a quick fix or short-term outcome.

- Are we missing opportunities for transformation in philanthropy?
- Whose role is it to tackle this?
- How do we create an innovation culture and ensure it is diverse, inclusive and collaborative?
- What types of funders can be asked to create the flexibility, agility and patience for innovation?

11. Impact Momentum – Will the FCA's new SDR rules finally meet client demand?

In November, the FCA released PS23/16, its final guidance on the Sustainability Disclosure Rules. The four new product labels mean that the FCA now has a regime directly regulating positive impact products in the UK for the first time. With a minimum qualifying criteria that funds must have at least 70% of assets invested according to sustainability criteria PLUS an evidence-base, the regulator intends to meet growing client demand for impact solutions.

The four product labels match move across the impact axis of the spectrum of capita. In summary:

- **Sustainability Focus:** at least 70% of assets invested according to sustainability criteria
- **Sustainability Improvers:** also have KPIs that can demonstrate progress to their sustainability criteria
- **Sustainability Impact:** also have a theory of change and mechanism for measuring impact
- **Sustainability Mixed Goals:** use a combination of the other funds with clear disclosures

Alongside the new fund categories is an anti-greenwashing rule to ensure sustainability claims are not misleading.

Supporting the regime, the regulator will put in place an independent working group for the advice industry to support the new product regime.

Is this the breakthrough that trusts and foundations have been hoping for to support mission-aligned endowment investment? Will it help philanthropists to leverage their impact? And, does it matter that the regime stops short of social investment and philanthropy as it moves across the spectrum of capital for those seeking to maximise their impact across the whole spectrum of capital?

12. Is sustainable finance coming of age?

2023 saw the launch of multiple efforts to improve level of sustainability disclosures to support the growth of sustainable investment, from the International Sustainability Standards Board, to the SEC and the European Union's SFDR* and CSRD** the frameworks for reporting, and therefore, measuring sustainability claims are proliferating at pace.

In the spirit of sharing knowledge between the finance and impact communities, what are these regimes and what will be the practical benefits of the emerging disclosure regimes on the quality and quantity of sustainable investment options available to investors? Will they help us to come to a shared understanding of how investment can support our common sustainability goals?

*SFDR: Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation, **: Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive

13. Getting to grips with impact measurement requirements?

The raft of regulations and standards emerging in the field of sustainable finance will put greater onus on investment managers to report on impact, yet the frameworks for impact measurement are far from standardised. A recent report by the Global Impact Investment Network (GIIN) found only about half of the impact investment market players codify their impact targets in legal documents, and only half have their impact externally audited.

There is still a huge gap to close between impact measurement aspiration and achievement.

What are the current best practices in impact measurement for investors? And, how will the challenges of impact measurement affect the development and distribution of impact investment solutions by mainstream investment managers in the near future?

14. How will extending VCT and EIS tax reliefs enable a better social impact economy?

The recent UK Government announcement to extend VCT and EIS tax reliefs for another decade has been met with mixed reactions. Some have welcomed the move, arguing that it will provide much-

needed support for businesses and the economy. Others have expressed concern that the extension will disproportionately benefit wealthy investors.

VCTs and EISs have a long track record of supporting UK businesses, particularly in their early stages of growth. By extending these tax reliefs, the Government is sending a strong signal that it is committed to supporting innovation and entrepreneurship in the UK. But are they being sufficiently used by impact enterprises?

- What impact do we anticipate the announcement having on the social impact sector?
- What do we need to do to ensure these tax reliefs benefit the most enterprising social impact organisations, including those from under-served or recognised areas, or led by disadvantaged founders?
- Will this help to attract new investors to the social impact sector, to enable more participation and long-term sustainability and growth?
- Will this have any knock-on effects on pure philanthropy or blended finance?

15. Navigating Impact Investing. Unveiling sectors, strategies, and themes shaping the future

This session aims to explore the sectors, strategies, and investment themes that resonate most with the ever-expanding pool of impact-oriented capital. We will look to explore:

- The Rise of Impact-Oriented Capital and the significance of aligning financial goals with positive societal and environmental outcomes
- Trends and Transformations in Impact Investing - key sectors, strategies, and investment themes that are gaining traction globally.
- Spotlight on impactful sectors
- Showcase innovative investment strategies that have demonstrated both financial returns and positive impact - Examples of blended finance, impact bonds, and other creative financing mechanisms, and how these strategies can be scaled and replicated in different contexts.
- A deep dive into specific investment themes (e.g. gender equality, climate action, social justice, etc).

16. Deploying capital. An opportunity to drill into the impact capital can have in two areas:

An opportunity to drill into the impact capital can have in two areas:

- **For climate impact:** where are the best emerging investment opportunities in energy transition, climate adaptation, food systems, natural capital solutions, water and carbon removal?
- **To address wealth inequality and social problems:** what are the innovations, models and impact funds that are meaningfully addressing inequality? How is capital being deployed in tackling issues such as affordable housing and healthcare, sustainable communities and financial inclusion?