



How **Modern Grantmaking** helped the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts: a Case Study

The goals

The [Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts](#) (SFCT) is the operating office for 16 grant-making trusts established by three generations of the Sainsbury family, together with a number of associated charities and companies’.

We were invited to design and deliver an in-person training workshop for trust executives to support further grantmaking skills development across SFCT.

Our approach

We initially interviewed colleagues working as trust executives and in the People Team to understand what specific grantmaking skills development training could be of most use to a range of colleagues working for different grantmaking organisations across SFCT.

Based on initial discussions, we produced a draft plan for a highly interactive training workshop then further improved this with colleagues from SFCT. We also shared all training workshop materials with SFCT well in advance so that we could co-design elements of these together.

Over the course of the training workshop, participants had an opportunity to learn more about Modern Grantmaking values, to debate key practices in grantmaking that SFCT was keen to explore further or to improve on and to develop an action plan to put learning into everyday practice.



The impact

Trust Executives and other grant-making staff have since met to discuss the outcomes and impact of the workshop and to identify future priorities for similar events. Following the workshop the structure of the regular grant-makers' meetings has changed and the membership extended.

“Gemma’s and Tom’s bespoke workshop to our grant-making executives was excellent and feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive. The morning was engaging, interactive, practical, and good fun. Gemma and Tom guided and helped us throughout, encouraging everyone to participate. The areas covered have already led to further discussion.

Gemma and Tom were easy to work with, encouraged the workshop to be co-designed and were very responsive. SFCT’s Trusts have different approaches to grant-making, and Gemma and Tom took great care to fully consider all aspects and tailor the workshop accordingly. This approach was really appreciated by those attending and resulted in a very focussed and successful workshop.”

Helen McLeod, Trust Executive, and Sarah Copeland, Head of People, Learning & Impact, The Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts

“I loved the session - it was fantastic to have an opportunity to discuss issues with colleagues...It felt like a safe space to air concerns or questions, and it was delivered by real experts.”

Workshop Participant, The Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts