



# Skills Share

Providing opportunities for voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations to benefit from employee-volunteer expertise



In association with



York Literature Festival and Karen Millar, Data Governance Manager at Aviva, recently took part in the Skills Share programme in order to create an initial business plan for the festival during its transition from a voluntary group to a charitable incorporated organisation.

From when it began in 2007, York Literature Festival has steadily grown, featuring a wider range of diverse events for adults and children year on year, appearing at more venues city-wide. The programme includes author and speaker events, performances, workshops, poetry, theatre, cinema, reading groups, and any relevant literature-related artistic activity.

YLF contacted York Cares regarding Skills Share in order to seek advice and assistance in designing their first business plan as they saw it as an opportunity for an independent external assessment and a means of supporting them to see a way forward.

Karen Millar and the team met up for 2 hours a week over a 6 week period offering her expertise, guidance and mentoring and helped them to create a three year business plan during a crucial time in the charity's development. This was greatly appreciated by the YLF team and Nick David, Chair, York Literature Festival gave special recognition to Karen for her hard work and efforts by providing her expertise and time to the team.

“ My experience of the York Cares Skills Share was really positive, it was a great chance to use the business planning skills I've developed during my time at Aviva to help the Festival Board of Trustees in planning their strategy.

Karen Millar, Data Governance Manager at Aviva



## Skills Share programme

### Outcomes for employee volunteers and partners

- Opportunity for employee volunteers to apply skills in another sector
- Offers a 'critical friend' to organisations or causes which benefit the community
- Provides VCSE organisations an insight into a business perspective and new directions for their work
- Allows for an understanding between two sectors
- Each Skills Share partnership is bespoke so time commitment and focus skills and aims are negotiable

If you would like to get involved in our Skills Share programme then please contact York Cares on 01904 323482 or via [info@yorkcares.co.uk](mailto:info@yorkcares.co.uk)

## Results and Achievements

- Worked with the Trustees to review all area of the charity and its processes finance, governance, partnerships and sponsorships, pricing, programming and marketing
- Developed a three year business plan
- Karen is hoping to become a trustee of the festival once a position becomes available



“ Karen was brilliant! We are immensely grateful to her for her efforts.

Nick David, Chair, York Literature Festival



Get in touch

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Making York  
a better place

