



Welcome!

Charity Founders – Stronger Together

With Fiona Spargo-Mabbs and Graeme Donnelly

Please settle in and we'll be kicking off shortly...



Introductions



Ian Tate

Fundraising Manager, Benefact Group



Fiona Spargo-Mabbs

Director and Founder, Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation



Graeme Donnelly

Founder, BSQ Group

Welcome from the Benefact Group

Our common purpose is to **give** all available profits **to good causes**



**Directory of Social Change's UK Guides to Company Giving 2017-26.*





**DANIEL
SPARGO
-MABBS
foundation**

The drug education charity



DSM foundation
The drug education charity

Fiona Spargo-Mabbs
Director and Founder

Supporting young people to make safer choices about drugs

Three 'right' reasons for starting a charity



- ✓ Meeting a genuine need
- ✓ Filling a gap in current provision
- ✓ Bringing unique experiences, skills and insights.



**DANIEL
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Supporting young people to make safer choices about drugs

Our vision is...

...to ensure every young person in the UK has access to the drug education they need to make safer choices about drugs.



Our values are...

Compassion

Connection

Quality

DSM Foundation drug education

Evidence-based programme of drugs education from Years 6 - 13:

- **Interactive student workshops**
- Workshops/ webinars for **parents & carers**
- **Training** for teachers, school staff and other professionals working with young people
- Spiral curriculum of **age-appropriate programmes of lessons**
- **Youth Ambassadors'** programme
- **Touring production** of *'I Love You, Mum – I Promise I Won't Die'*



Supporting young people to make safer choices about drugs

DSM Foundation drug education



Working with 800+ settings across the UK

ACMD
Advisory Council on
the Misuse of Drugs

And wider work – including...

Middlesex University evaluation 2023 – 27

Advisory Council for the Misuse of Drugs

Drug Education Forum

Drugs on social media working group

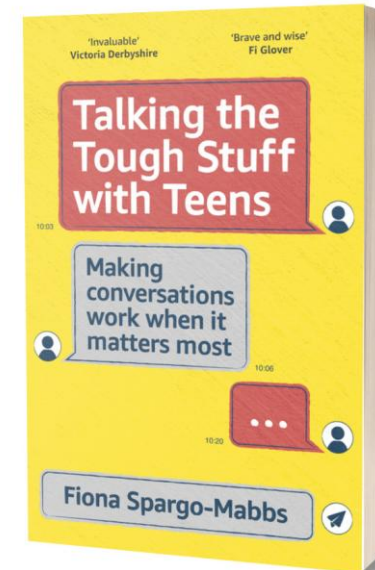
Media, conferences, podcasts, TEDx

Digital resources

Books for parents and professionals



sheldon^{PRESS}



Department
of Health &
Social Care



Middlesex
University
London

FUNDED BY

NIHR

National Institute for
Health and Care Research

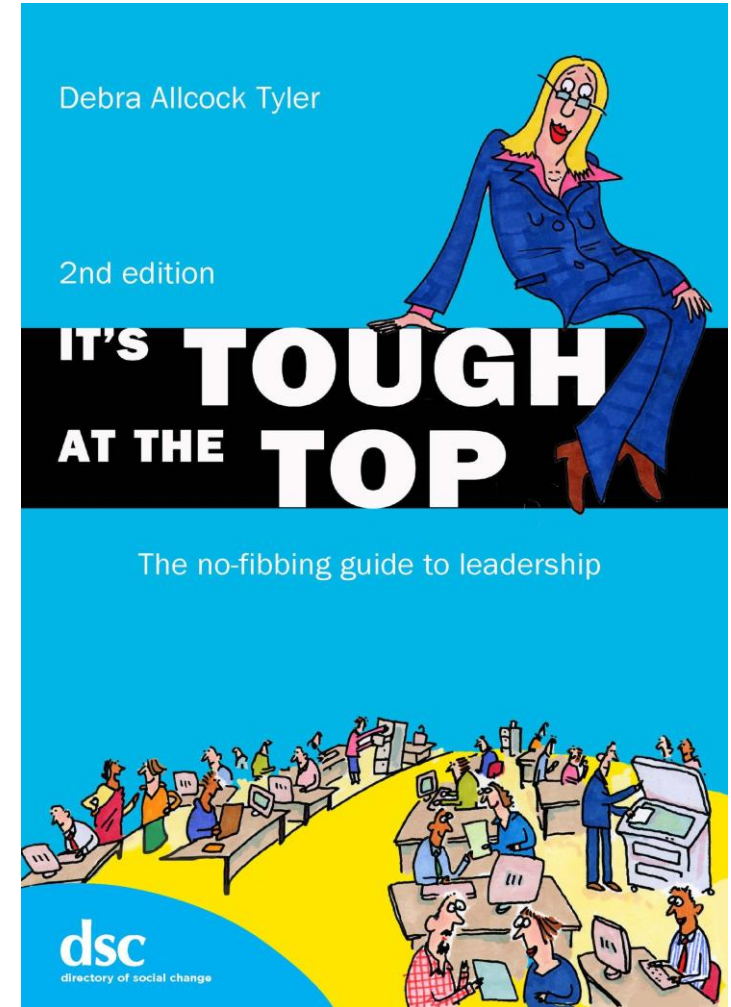
Supporting young people to make safer choices about drugs

Tip no.1 - Invest in your board

Founder-leader and chair relationship – Dynamic Duo



Founder-leader and trustee relationships



Tip no. 2 - Invest in your team



- Grow and nurture
- Be a good leader
- Beware of burnout

ideathon.

collaboration
company.

Tip no. 3 - Invest in yourself

- Eat, sleep, breath etc...
- Know your strengths.
- Keep learning.
- Keep reflecting.
- Peer support.



Charity fundraising webinars

Your free window into a wider world of fundraising advice and support, guided by seasoned industry experts offering insight into navigating the current fundraising landscape.



Supporting young people to make safer choices about drugs

Tip no.4 - Go outside!



Fiona's Four Top Tips...

1. Invest in your chair and board relationships.
2. Invest in your team - enable them to grow and flourish.
3. Invest in yourself – be your best for your charity.
4. Go outside - listen and learn from others.

And remember the sycamore seed...



Charity Founders - Stronger Together

Building a charity can feel lonely - let's
change that.

Graeme Donnelly | Founder & CEO, 1st Formations

Why I'm here

A founder who's built sustainable organisations

01.

Founder/CEO: 1st Formations
(14 years, 100,000s formed)

02

B Corp + certified carbon neutral

03

100+ staff, Covent Garden

04

3,000 sq ft office space donated
rent-free to 13 charities

The loneliness nobody posts

01

Responsibility

02

Pressure

03

Uncertainty

04

Silent doubt

Three lessons that help founders survive and build something sustainable

- 01.** Culture is not a luxury. It's survival.
- 02.** Clarity beats anxiety, know your numbers, priorities and risks.
- 03.** Loneliness shrinks when you build relationships and ask “stupid” questions.

Culture-first is a growth strategy

Culture over
output

Culture over
urgency

Culture over
firefighting

Knowing your numbers is emotional support

Daily Numbers
Minute

Cash-in / Cash-out
/ Runway

Clarity reduces
fear

Clarity beyond numbers

Founders need clarity about:

Numbers

Priorities

Risks

Ask the questions nobody asks

Be willing to look
“stupid”

Replace assumptions
with understanding

Clarity comes
from curiosity

Don't build alone

Founder circle

Experts on tap

Long-term
relationships

You are not alone.

One small action:
Message one founder this week.

Q&A



And finally... 5 things to look forward to:

1

Fundraising Webinars in 2026 ...

2

Get together at a fundraising forum ...

3

Register interest in Founder Forums ...

4

Listen to our podcast series ...

5

Join our Facebook Group ...



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Thank you for listening



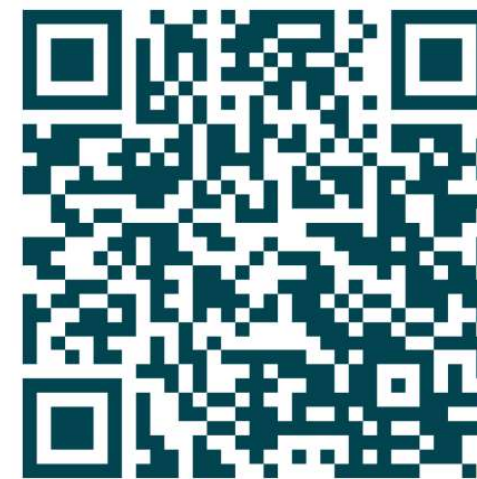
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The Benefact Group Charity Network -