

UKSPF Training Grant Case Study:

Chester Cathedral

About Chester Cathedral

Chester Cathedral is many things to many people; a vibrant community of worship, an ancient abbey, an archaeological treasure, a cultural hub, a centre of musical excellence and a unique blend of medieval and modern history.



The Cathedral wanted to develop their funding/sponsorship team consisting of 2 staff members. They had recently expanded into a new premises (former bank building) which was taken back into Cathedral management; creating a new volunteer hub, arts space, education space and conference event facility 'Project Discovery'.

This new dynamic space brings great opportunity but also a challenge alongside existing requirements. The need to develop sponsorship, fundraising, relationship management across all aspects of activity including corporate clients in addition to the support for volunteers and trust/foundation clients placed greater need for robust systems being in place.

Whilst very capable, neither team members have specific training in this area and the proposed qualification will support them in their roles and offer effective CPD. A critical area is to ensure the governance and qualitative reporting of the outcomes and impacts of any funding and sponsorship, this qualification will future proof the team as there are increasing demands on them to secure external funds and manage existing relationships.

The Chartered Institute of Fundraising training gave an opportunity to enhance their skill set and build organisational growth. This accreditation will empower their team, enrich their fundraising capabilities, diversify the donor base, and augment revenue streams. Investing in this professional development not only ensures adaptability to evolving trends but also aligns with their policy for enhancing staff retention, further reinforcing their strategic goals and mission.

How has the training grant benefited you?

“Taking the Chartered Institute of Fundraising Management course has significantly enhanced my professional knowledge and skills. This training is already benefiting Chester Cathedral, where it has strengthened our fundraising capabilities and helped us develop more strategic approaches to securing vital funding for our mission.

Additionally, I’m pleased to share that I’ve since been promoted to Fundraising Manager, a role I feel well-prepared for thanks to the knowledge and skills gained from the course.

I found the application process very straightforward and easy to navigate. The advisor I spoke with was incredibly kind and helpful, which made the experience smooth and enjoyable.”

- **Abbie-Eve Valentine, Fundraising Manager**