Needs and approach to addressing them

Needs		Approach to address needs	Detailed design
➢ Funding cuts in the order of 20% are too big to accommodate without the need for fairly significant restructuring within the sector. Logically, both the nature of services provided and network of organizations providing this need to change significantly to meet the changed conditions. However, making changes that impact identity and basic structure are difficult to make and on a personal level, hard to approach positively and objectively. (C 40% of patients told that they are unlikely to survive the next 10 years if they don't change their lifestyle, don't change.)	⇨	• Aim to develop capacity in approaches to working collaboratively and to re-organising services and organizations • Aim to provide fora; supportive environments where leaders build strength and determination to respond boldly and innovatively	○ Opportunity for regular strategic thinking space in a supportive environment. ○ Hearing stories of people taking on similar challenges and sharing learning. ○ Finding out about useful approaches for tackling complexities and demands of such challenges. ○ Opportunity for repeated attendance and engaging progressively, addressing different facets at increased depth.
➢ The current climate increases pressure to demonstrate organizational efficiency and effectiveness, more holistic and joined up services (and also to enact a more caring society 'Civil' or 'Big Society'). Pressure to be accountable, increased through funding pressures and public sector commissioning adds pressure to become business-like and favour larger business-like organizations. There is a need to provide support in ways of doing this. However, much business thinking does not value or work well with the values of localism, bottom up organic growth and nourishing volunteer spirit. There is a need to provide support in managing this tension. There is a key need to support the sector take on both these challenges and to access the large body of knowledge and practice already in existence which encompass both facets of the challenge.	⇨	• Aim to develop capacity in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of organizations and more joined up working (and to underpin a more caring society). • Aim to promote approaches to effective organization and management that value and help enact civil society values, local engagement and self-direction and make an asset of the values of wider impact, sustainable development, localism, and the resultant organic nature of growth AND encourage responsiveness to the changing environment; particularly the reduction in funding, and meet requirements to retain confidence and (where appropriate) access public sector contracts (and need for more wide-spread engagement in promoting civil society).	○ There is a broad body of knowledge that meets the above aims, however there is currently not widespread awareness of this in the sector. A unique selling point of The Civil Society Forum is access to this body knowledge via the Founders, other members and their networks.

EJR / Needs & approach to addressing them