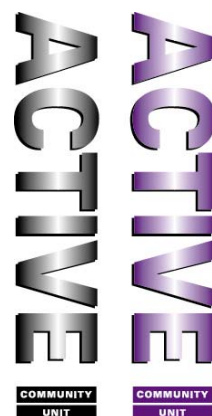


Feedback from regional mentor networking meetings

March 2002



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Appendices

Adapted RDA map

Map Update March 2002 UK time banks

1) Introduction

Time Banks UK (TBUK) held four regional mentor networking meetings in early 2002 in London, Chesterfield, Bristol and Newcastle. They were attended by 37 people, mainly from active time banks, current regional mentors and others with a strong interest in time banking. The aim of these meetings were to:

- consult those active in time banking about crucial developments in Time Banks UK, scheduled to take place April 2002 – March 2003
- promote networking between people interested in time banking in the regions
- provide a forum for discussion on time banking
- provide opportunities for those interested in time banking to inform TBUK's work
- start a process of ongoing involvement of the regional mentors and time bankers in TBUK's work

The objectives of the meetings were to seek advice on three pertinent questions:

1. How can we strengthen the regional network and what resources would be needed to do so?
2. How might an inter time bank credit exchange system work?
3. How can we organise TBUK as it becomes a constituted organisation, to ensure that time bankers own TBUK, and that they fully participate in its activities?

2) The regions and their mentors

TBUK is currently staffed by a full time Network Development Manager (based in London), one full time and two part time Outreach Workers (based in Gloucester, Wales and Scotland respectively) and one part time Project Manager (based in Gloucester). The outreach workers are the regional mentors for their areas.

There are a number of voluntary regional mentors around the country who give advice and assistance to people interested in time banking in their areas. In England the regions roughly correspond to the Regional Development Agency (RDA) regions, with the exception of a central one located around Derby, Sheffield, Nottingham and Chesterfield (see the adapted RDA map and Table 1 for more details). Mentors are located where people are interested in time banking, rather than sticking to predetermined geographic outlines, although these are useful for reference.

3) The state of play of UK time banking

See map update March 2002 showing current active and developing time banks, and Table 1 pg 5. An active time bank is defined as one that has a paid time broker and has started exchanging time credits. A developing time bank is one that has not started exchanging time yet, but has identified and worked towards obtaining the resources it needs to do so (funding applications are awaiting decisions, or a broker is already in post but not yet setting up exchanges).

There has been a continuing surge in interest in time banking not only in the UK but also from abroad. In the UK there are now 33 active time banks and 18 in development. There is a time bank in Germany, one being set up in New Zealand (a former UK contact), plus interest in Portugal and Israel.

This has been stimulated by the general growth of time banking world wide, and specifically in the UK by the TBUK conference in 2001, four training events held in 2002, a well resourced website and the appointment of two new part time outreach staff in Scotland and Wales.

In the UK alliances have developed with key organisations such as Mencap, Age Concern England, and the South London and Maudsley National Health Trust (SLAM), as well as local authorities and housing associations, which are experimenting with time banking as a tool to involve people in their activities in a basis of equality.

4) Findings of the regional networking meetings

a) Current activities in the regions

Scotland has three active time banks, all in Glasgow. Time brokers meet on a regular basis. The **North East** has two active time banks in Newcastle, and one developing in Blyth. Meetings tend to be informal and often between the time banks in Newcastle, as the time banks are close together. Both Scotland and the North East have already started exchanging time credits between time banks, and time bank participants take part in activities across the time banks in each city.

The **North West** region has two active time banks in St Helens and Salford, one developing in rural Cheshire and another in Salford. There is no communication between the time banks.

The **Central** region has three active time banks in Sheffield, Chesterfield and Eckington. Again, communication between the time banks is limited due to lack of resources. The time banks there are at a tender stage of development.

The **East Midlands** has two schemes in Leicester (active) and Rutland (developing). Fair Shares also have a 'Time for Childcare' programme in Leicester.

The **West Midlands** has one active time bank and a full time development worker.

Wales and the **East of England** are both developing ideas for time banks. The **Eastern region** has its own egroup and mailing list and has a time bank launching in Cambridge. There are also developing or relaunching time banks in Colchester, Bedford and Watford. **Wales** is seeking European Funding for a Community Currency Institute to be based at the University of Wales, Newport, as well as potential time banks in at least three sites in the Rhondda valley.

London and the South East currently has 9 active time banks and 8 developing. The majority of these are based in London, which is the best-resourced area in the country, with two full time workers until 2004. It has training for anyone interested in time banking, a quarterly newsletter, website where tbs can have their own page, awareness raising and promotion, site visits, bimonthly support meetings held at different time banks, and integration with regeneration programmes is starting to happen.

SLAM have also appointed a part time time bank development worker

The **South West** has a number of hubs of time banking activity, the main one being Gloucester with 8 time banks. Fair Shares are developing a rural 'Time for Childcare' programme in Moreton in Marsh, and a Young Fair Shares scheme. Moreton in Marsh is also developing a car share scheme.

Weymouth has one active time bank, as does Bristol with Music Melts, a time bank/LETS hybrid that encourages musicians to exchange services and resources for time. There is also a developing time bank in Tiverton, Devon.

The South West region has a strong LETS network. It has a regional LETS currency (CELTS) and Bristol has an interlets scheme between 7 LETS schemes. There is great potential for cross fertilisation and partnership between time banks and LETS here.

Table 1 Current active and developing time banks by region

Region	Active tbs	Developing tbs
Scotland	Gorbals East End Castlemilk	
North East	Arthur's Hill Benwell	Blyth
North West	Salford St Helens	Salford SALVE Cheshire
Central	Chesterfield Sheffield Eckington	
East Midlands	Leicester Leicester Time for Childcare	Rutland
West Midlands	Sandwell	
Wales		Rhonnda
East of England		Cambridge Bedford Watford Colchester
London and South East	Rushey Green Southwark Angell Town 3 Tower Hamlets schools Whittington People for people Havant	Hackney and New Islington Deptford Camden Croydon Islington Greenwich Mencap Brighton Portsmouth
South West	Gloucester x8 Weymouth Bristol North Cotswolds (Moreton in the Marsh)	Tiverton, Devon

b) Summary of regional resources needed

Additional services wanted
A Support
1. Additional staff: FT development worker and admin worker in each region (to coordinate funding and activities, presentations and promotion, develop best practice, and support time banks)
2. A regional base and regular meetings
3. Tb constitutions
4. Training
5. Fund raising training and help with fund raising, national funding expert, funding that takes risks
6. Inter time bank credit exchange
7. Update TimeKeeper/ design new database
B Profile
1. Recognition of time banking by other organizations (businesses, health service/GPs, and senior government level of value of time banking in regeneration and community capacity building)
2. Higher profile for time banking locally, regionally, nationally
3. Passionate people - local and strategic champions
4. Link with other economic and community activity, particularly social economy initiatives/services to enhance anti-poverty approaches
5. Mainstreaming into economic activity
6. Time banks to form part of wider regeneration bids and strategy
7. Work on equal footing with local authority
8. VBs and CVS/ link with other volunteering organisations
C Communications
1. More advice and literature about what is going on in other areas
2. Regional newsletter
3. Exchange of local newsletters
4. Videos made available and video of local participants
5. Leaflets etc to explain the concept of time banking
6. Help selling time banking to other organisations
7. Clear examples esp. press to get time banking idea across
8. Egroup, with topic of the month – first topic police checks
9. TBUK egroup archive on website
10. Preformatted literature with TBUK logo that tbs can adapt – a recognised TBUK identity to which tbs add their own slant
11. Research and reports that show that time banking works
D Other
1. Greater range of services available through the time bank
2. Access to community IT centres
3. Transport and transport between time banks
4. Quality standards
5. To be able to offer rewards. Involve businesses more. Offer city wide discounts on leisure services
6. More trading of goods/ have a tb shop
7. Discussion on safety
8. More time to grow time banks organically
9. Share job descriptions etc for different time bank models e.g. health
10. More variety in application of time banking and report on application of time banking

c) Resource implications

People favoured a non-centralised TBUK support network that did not impose a form on the time banks (like a benzene ring structure, or a hollow healthy tree). This would create a shower of learning centres rather than an exclusively centralized focal point for resources and information.

Communications with the regions and individual time banks is not easy, because no one currently has the time to facilitate this within the tbs themselves - they are setting up and growing their time banks. There is a loss of learning within the network as it currently stands because of inadequate support at regional level to share that learning. In practice this means that neither time banks, nor TBUK have the communication channels and information they mutually need to sustain and cultivate the network.

It is essential to have a pot of funding for regional admin, networking, capacity building, and development work so that time banks and TBUK get the support and information they both need. Otherwise the network will not grow, and time banks will continue to search for unsustainable 3 year funding in an uncoordinated manner and compete against each other.

There was debate as to whether combining development work (more regionally focused) with a communications role (more nationally focused) in one job would cause a conflict of interest.



Staff funding pot
(for workers)

+



Start up funding pot
(seed funding for time banks to stimulate match resources)

A 'Start up' funding pot would supply the back up to current outreach work. TBUK has outreach staff but people interested in setting up time banks then have to search for funding before they can get a time bank going. This is frustrating all round. A tb Start up fund would spark off match funding and supply the necessary resources such as insurance and initial running costs.

There could also be secondments of staff between time banks when extra help was needed.

d) Inter time bank credit exchange

Examples:

1. Mrs H in London sends her grandson some time credits in Glasgow (tb→tb transfer)
2. Abdul moves from Leicester to Gloucester and takes his time credits with him (tb→tb transfer)
3. Richard, the DIY worker at Rushey Green shares his learning with other time bankers (tb→tb transfer, part of visits programme and skills directory of time banks)
4. Someone contacts TBUK to find out more, and visits a tb to see how they work. (TBUK→tb transfer)
5. Ann from Angell Town attends a TBUK meeting (TBUK→tb transfer)
6. A tb participant from Angell Town wants to attend the TBUK conference (tb→TBUK)

Key points to note about initiating an inter time bank credit exchange facility are:

- We can do this using TimeKeeper, having TBUK and the tbs as organisational participants. TBUK could act as an intermediary between tbs if one were not an organisational participant of the other, and as a storage facility for time credits (but not as a central clearing house). As an organisational participant in the credit exchange TBUK could then recompense people for involvement in its activities, as in examples 4-6 above.
- Exchanges can be done between time banks without TBUK as an intermediary, but this would mean a loss of information on visits etc for TBUK, unless specifically organised by TBUK
- TimeKeeper is flawed and needs to be redesigned. It is difficult to extract quantitative information from it easily
- Use learning from Bristol Interlets, CELTS and the Pan European Community Currency Clearing House for ideas (contact TBUK for photocopies)

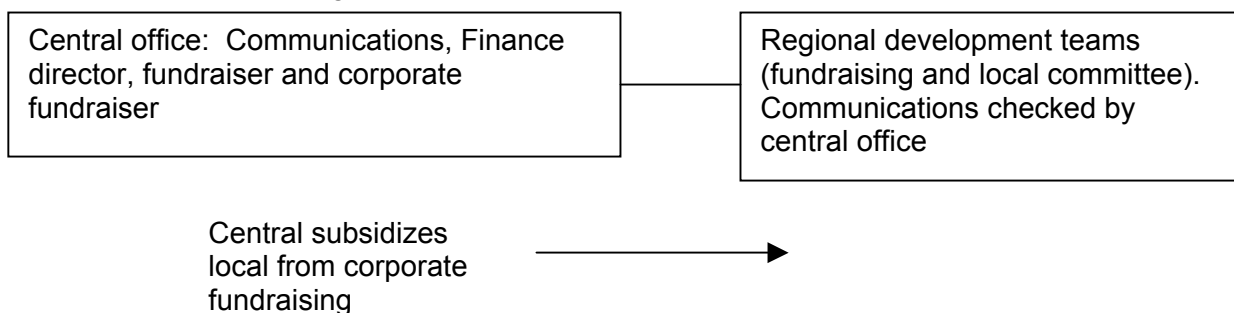
e) A democratic TBUK

TBUK is in the process of being constituted as a company limited by guarantee (it is currently an unincorporated consortium of the four partner members Fair Shares, the New Economics Foundation, Valley Kids and the Gorbals Initiative). TBUK will be seeking charitable status as an educational charity, educating about time banking (and its uses as a tool for regeneration and community capacity building) and coproduction.

Why do we want to constitute TBUK?

- Legal personality
- Limited liability
- With charitable status easier access to funding and get tax benefits
- Clear identity
- Unifying activities
- Servicing the network
- Resource centre (website to some extent is this)
- Research
- Best practice/case studies

A structural example was given:



The following were suggested as to how TBUK might develop

1. **Look at other models of networks** – CVS, London Regeneration Network, Community Champions Network – the Scarman Trust, development trusts, forum model
2. **Ways to facilitate** – not the ‘you buy into our version’ model but the live, practical model. Proactive, offering guidance, facilitating, giving advice on funding and obtaining charitable status, training, not interventionist. ‘Looking after the family’.
3. **Issues of standards and quality** – particularly having policy and practice around child protection. Could suggest having a written or email trail of meetings between participants. Need to foster an environment in which children can talk about their fears, occurrences etc. This feeds in with TBUK’s new status as a registered body with the Criminal Records Bureau for police checks, so that active time banks can police check potential participants who want to work with vulnerable people.
4. **Is TBUK a membership organization?** TBUK can only recommend it cannot enforce. If it were to fund organizations would those organizations need to meet its objectives? Agreeing values would be essential e.g. reciprocity, certain practicalities might not be. Is there ‘buy in’ by using model constitutions? If a membership type organization, would TBUK then be responsible for member’s activities? (it doesn’t want to do this; it does want to ensure quality standards).
5. **Developing a business plan** – issues of scale, do it in small stages, have very clear objectives, KISS
6. **Keep the NEF link along with the sustainability and social economy**
7. **What would the structure look like?** Staff group who report to a management board (time bank participants and brokers, TBUK directors and advisers)
8. **Role in supplying information on refurbishing centres and on establishing policy**

The involvement to time bank participants in running TBUK was a key issue at the regional meetings. Grass roots input needs to be deliberately captured and included in programme management and development. This includes participation in the job description of the regional workers – their involvement must be at the grass roots. Rotation of directors (33% at one go) with time limits to ensure continuity but no power hogging was also a key issue.

f) Other issues/suggestions that emerged from the regional meetings

- ICOM have a 'Select a Structure' document which is useful for time banks in choosing a structure (see references)
- Develop a computerised way to update your exchanges e.g. City Space in Bristol and London
- European funding objective 1 & 2 can have match funding of time linked to minimum wage. However, need time sheets which may be complicated, and funding is retrospective.
- Make the time broker role more akin to a glamorous knowledge holder/match maker.
- How could TBUK and Letslink work together without affecting tb participants benefits entitlement?
- Find out from the Inland Revenue about how businesses might be audited if they are exchanging tc's

5) Stimulating exchanges and achieving better community development through time banking

This topic crops up all the time and was discussed at both the regional meetings and the training.

People are very willing to offer help but less willing to accept it.

So what unmet community needs can time banks address to stimulate trading?

It seems like we behold one wing of our community transformational butterfly – that of individual exchanges, but we haven't linked it up with the other wing – community activities. This is only natural as time banks are young to the UK. But to really develop their full potential time banks need to engage with organisations in their communities and work to rebuild neighbourhoods through community activities that meet local needs.

The Charity Commission define this as urban and rural regeneration, and community capacity building,

Many time banks are already doing this. The focus at this early stage is still on individual exchanges rather than that of benefiting the wider community – but it's a role that time banks are quickly growing into, and its a way to really take the social justice agenda that time banking advocates forward. Its the way to put all the undervalued skills, time and community resources to good use, and to really make a difference locally.

Examples of time banking as a tool for community capacity building:

Gorbals Time Bank – Christmas parties for 600 kids 2001

Benwell HourBank - redesigning and decorating the youth centre. All ages took part.

Rushey Green garden project

Southwark HourBank garden project

Southwark community café

Cambridge community information centre (it will be staffed by time bank participants)

The time bank itself credits participants for their help and debits its own account. In this way, if a time bank has a huge negative balance, a community time debt, this is simply a measure of how much good work it has facilitated in its community. See Colin McGowan's example in the March 2002 newsletter.

Here are some suggested newspaper headlines:

- ## 7) How this information will be used

- |||||

10

9) Table 2: Action points from regional meetings

A Support	TBUK action	By	Your action	By
1. Additional staff: FT development worker and communications worker in each region (to coordinate funding and activities, presentations and promotion, develop best practice, and support time banks)	Staggered expansion of additional staff will be included in the business plan	July 2002		
2. A regional base and regular meetings	TBUK will host 5 regional meetings	April 2002 – March 2003		
3. Tb constitutions	Company Ltd by Guarantee, Industrial and Provident Society for community benefit and unincorporated legal structures documents all being done	June 2002		
4. Training	4 training events will be held	April 2002 – March 2003		
5. Fund raising training and help with fund raising, national funding expert, funding that takes risks	Include in business plan. Continue to share funding applications on the website and news on funding through the egroup	July 2002 Ongoing		
6. Inter time bank credit exchange	Trial online TimeKeeper	June 2002		
7. Update TimeKeeper/ design new database	Seek funding/partners and include in business plan	July 2002		
B Profile				
1. Recognition of time banking by other organizations (businesses, health service/GPs, and senior government level of value of time banking in regeneration and community capacity building)	Specialist publicity and events to share knowledge on how time banking is being applied			
2. Higher profile for time banking locally, regionally, nationally	TBUK now has press assistance for half day a week	Ongoing		
3. Passionate people - local and strategic champions	Use networking opportunities	Ongoing		
4. Link with other economic and community activity, particularly social economy initiatives/services to enhance anti-poverty approaches	Business Liaison Worker to be appointed early 2003			
5. Mainstreaming into economic activity	“			
6. Time banks to form part of wider regeneration bids and strategy	Increase focus on community activities for time banks to prompt more examples	In March 2002 newsletter		
7. Work on equal footing with local authority	Share and promote examples	Need stories		
8. VBs and CVS/ link with other volunteering organisations	Share and promote examples			
C Communications				
1. More advice and literature about what is going on in other areas	Promote calendar on website Encourage visits and use the inter time bank credit exchange to reward	Via Egroup August 2002 – March 2003		
2. Regional newsletter	Include in business plan			
3. Exchange of local newsletters				
4. Videos made available and video of local participants	Fair Shares have a video available. TBUK will collate a video library	March 2003		
5. Leaflets etc to explain the concept of time banking	TBUK leaflet and newsletter	Ongoing		

	available to give out, other resources on website			
6. Help selling time banking to other organisations	Included in training			
7. Clear examples esp. press to get time banking idea across	On website or can send photocopied examples on request	Ongoing		
8. Egroup, with topic of the month – first topic police checks March/April 2002				
9. TBUK egroup archive on website		April 2002		
10. Preformatted literature with TBUK logo that tbs can adapt – a recognised TBUK identity to which tbs add their own slant	To be included in business plan	July 2002		
11. Research and reports that show that time banking works	On website, National evaluation results	Nov 2002		
D Other				
1. Greater range of services available through the time bank	Diversify participants though partnerships			
2. Access to community IT centres	Link with libraries			
3. Transport and transport between time banks	Link with community transport schemes or look at Fair Shares car share scheme			
4. Quality standards	Discuss at conference	Oct/Nov 2002 Glasgow		
5. To be able to offer rewards. Involve businesses more. Offer city wide discounts on leisure services	Business Liaison Worker to be appointed early 2003			
6. More trading of goods/ have a tb shop	Business Liaison Worker to be appointed early 2003			
7. Discussion on safety	Safe and Alert doc on website Egroup	Ongoing		
8. More time to grow time banks organically				
9. Share job descriptions etc for different time bank models e.g. health	Put on website	June 2002		
10. More variety in application of time banking and report on application of time banking	On website	April 2002		

10) Table 3: Current regional mentors for TBUK

UK Region	Regional mentor	Contact details
Scotland	Colin McGowan	Gorbals Initiative, Adelphi Centre, 12 Commercial Road, Glasgow G5 0PG Telephone: 0141 429 6314 E-mail: mcgowancolin@hotmail.com
Northern Ireland		
North East	Barbara Douglas	Benwell Hour Bank, c/o Newcastle Healthy City Project, 14 Great North Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4PF Telephone: 0191 233 0200 E-mail: bgopnewcastle@nhcp.freemove.co.uk
North West	tba	
Yorkshire and Humberside	tba	
Central	Jill Robinson	Derwent Community Team, suite 15, Beaufort Business Centre, Beaufort St, Derby DE21 6AX Telephone: 01332 716390 Email: jill.robinson@derby.gov.uk
East Midlands	tba	
West Midlands	Jason Evans	Sandwell Time Bank, Agency for Health Enterprise & Development, Unit 16, Vision Point, Vaughan Trading Estate, Sedgley Road, Sandwell DY4 7UU Telephone: 0121 500 1616 E-mail: jasonevans@ahead1.freemove.co.uk
Wales	Geoff Thomas	Valley Kids, 1 Cross Street, Pewygraig, Tonypany, Rhondda Telephone: 0780 8229104
East of England	Chris Lee	50 Mill Road, Royston, Herts SG8 7AH Telephone: 01763 245413 E-mail: chrislee@care4free.net
London and the South East	Sarah Burns	New Economics Foundation, Cinnamon House, 6-8 Cole Street, London SE1 4YH Telephone: 020 7089 2859 E-mail: info@londontimebank.org.uk
South West	Joy Robinson	Fair Shares, City Works, Alfred Street, Gloucester GL1 4DF Telephone: 01452 541337 E-mail: fairshares@cableinet.co.uk

11) Useful references

ICOM – Industrial Common Ownership Movement

Co-op Union incorporating ICOM,
Holyoake House, Hanover Street,
Manchester M60 0AS
United Kingdom

UK Tel: 0161 246 2900
UK Fax: 0161 831 7684
Email icom@icom.org.uk

Website: www.euro-social-economy.org.uk/icom.htm

Time Banks UK

PO Box 139
Gloucester
GL1 4YP

Tel: 0870 702 7428

Email: info@timebanks.co.uk

Website: www.timebanks.co.uk

Fair Shares

City Works
Alfred Street
Gloucester
GL1 4DF

Tel: 01452 541337

Email: fairshares@cablenet.co.uk

Website: www.fairshares.org.uk

New Economics Foundation

Cinnamon House
6-8 Cole Street
London
SE1 4YH

Tel: 020 7089 2849 for time banking UK wide

Tel: 020 7089 2859 for the London Time Bank

Tel: 020 7089 2800 for general enquiries

Fax: 020 7407 6473

Email info@neweconomics.org

Website: www.neweconomics.org

Time Dollar Institute

Website: www.timedollar.org

Egroup: To subscribe to this group, send an email to:

Timedollar-subscribe@egroups.com

The future of money

Website: www.transaction.net