



## Empowering dreams – the Screening Group’s journey in transforming visions into reality

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Every so often, members, churches and departments within the Union dream up projects that will help their communities, champion a cause they support, or share the Gospel with people who may not know it yet.

Every endeavour that will make an impact begins as an idea and requires resources to make it a reality. This is where the vital work of the Mission Funding Screening Group (the Screening Group) comes into play.

The Trans-European Division (TED) initiated this function in 2015, and it has since been an active committee integral to the Division’s functioning; however, it is a relatively new endeavour at the British Union Conference (BUC), where the Screening Group was only formed in 2022. While the TED Mission Board can approve funding for projects, the BUC Screening Group holds power to recommend projects to the BUC Administrative Committee (AdCom), who can then decide whether a project gains approval.

The aim of the Screening Group is to identify suitable projects, programmes, plans and activities that are in line with the British Union Conference’s strategic objectives and to evaluate proposals against the defined criteria, as well as communicating with those initiating the proposals.

The Screening Group emerged as

a response to the need for a structured approach to channel the energy and enthusiasm of church members, churches and departments within the Union and Conferences into impactful projects, serving as a bridge between inspiring ideas and tangible actions.

The Screening Group is made up of the BUC Personal Ministries Director, the BUC Associate Executive Secretary, the Assistant Treasurers of the BUC, and the BUC Project Manager.

As stewards of financial resources, the Screening Group also monitors and reports on available funding, and only recommends financial support that fits within the current and expected future funding available, liaising with the TED Mission Board to maximise funding opportunities and finally monitoring the progress of initiatives approved by the BUC AdCom to ensure that ongoing or completed projects have reported as necessary. This commitment to follow-through and accountability safeguards the integrity of the initiatives and maintains transparency in the allocation of resources.

In the spirit of adaptability and growth, the Screening Group reflects on its operational procedures regularly, and this year the board aims to enhance representation by inviting participation from the North and South England Conferences and the TED, fostering a more synchronised and seamless process. This collaborative approach seeks to eliminate silos and prevent the duplication of efforts, ensuring a unified front in carrying out the mission of the church.

Some of the notable projects that the Screening Group has

recommended for approval have been to support the mission of the Cornerstone Counselling Service, which provides support to black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities, specifically women and children. It has also assisted with the Chiswick Homeless Project to provide meals, toiletries and clothing to the homeless; it contributed towards the Special Needs Camp, which provides support to families who care for disabled people; and, finally, it supports the initiative of a Global Mission pioneer among the Irish and Scottish people with the aim of reaching people where an Adventist presence does not currently exist.

This year, the Screening Group will also be reviewing project initiation documents (PIDs), which were introduced to allow BUC departments to apply for additional funding to support any projects they might have that cannot be supported by their allocated budget alone. Equally, sometimes the Screening Group refers individuals to a department that is better aligned with their project so that they can take a collaborative approach where possible and receive the full support of the vast experience that the various departments can offer.

The Screening Group exemplifies the transformative power of collective action, embodying the teachings of Christ by turning dreams into tangible expressions of love and compassion.

As the Screening Group continues to evolve, its impact resonates far beyond the BUC, inspiring communities worldwide to dream big, work together, and bring about positive change in the name of faith, hope, and love.