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ISSUE NO. 59

Foreword

Welcome to issue 59 of the North West Network Newsletter.

In this edition we have focused on a number of new developments in the North West of England. The Regional Economic Strategy for the next three years was launched by the North West Development Agency in the spring. A steering group comprising representatives of the voluntary and community sector is being established to take forward elements of the strategy relating to quality of life and social inclusion.

Paul Harris was recently appointed to the post of Project Director with responsibility for One North West, here at North West Network. Paul's personal profile follows this foreword section and details of the rebuilding of One North West can be found in the article, "One North West – New Beginnings".

With support from the Big Lottery Fund, North West Network's Big Coaching Project is going from strength to strength. The first round of training has now completed in Greater Manchester, and emerging messages from evaluation are indicating successful impact on volunteer managers. In the New Year, North West Network will begin recruiting volunteer managers from Lancashire to participate in the Big Coaching Project.

We are rapidly approaching the end of this year and the official end of the 2000 – 2006 European Structural Funds programming period. Depending on who you ask, the new programmes for 2007 – 2013 will be operational after the spring of 2007. North West Network is working hard to ensure that the voluntary and community sector has an opportunity to both influence and access the funds in the new programme. Detail around the progress towards approval of the UK / regional programmes has been provided by the European Team.

A busy autumn has seen North West Network facilitate a consultation event about the Comprehensive Spending Review for black and minority ethnic organisations and continue to work closely with volunteering infrastructure in pursuit of increased engagement with the Regional Economic Strategy.

If you have any views on the information we have provided in this newsletter or if you would like to submit an article for inclusion in a future edition then please contact Denise Marriott, Communications Officer. Tel: 0161 236 6493. E-Mail: denise@nwnetwork.org.uk

Enjoy the newsletter.

North West Network

Staff Profile

This month we have another staff profile kindly given by Paul Harris, Project Director for One North West (1NW).

Hello,

I was born in Greenwich, London in 1974 and spent most of my childhood years in Norfolk. Following five years of study in theology, I began a career in local government. This began with town hall security, progressed into democratic services and concluded with four years in the co-ordination and strategic delivery of services to asylum seekers and refugees. At the end of 2004, I joined the voluntary sector (Citizens Advice Bureau) and worked in Oldham to develop the borough asylum seekers and refugees strategy, which meant working across the local strategic partnership (LSP) to improve accessibility of services to asylum seekers and refugees.

Whilst working in Oldham I completed a Professional Certificate in Management and since joining North West Network (NWN), successfully obtained membership of the Chartered Management Institute. I have also recently been appointed as a Trustee of Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations (GMCVO).

I have been married for five years and we have a wonderful daughter who is two years old. I enjoy socialising, pubs, walking in the countryside near where I live and watching films.

I look forward to my time with NWN, in particular, developing 1NW into a valued network for the black and minority ethnic (BME) voluntary and community sector. The article "One North West – New Beginnings", featured later in this newsletter sets the scene for this work.

Best Wishes,

Paul Harris MA (Manchester) BA (Manchester) CertMgmt (Open) MCMI
Project Director for One North West

Objective 2 (ERDF) Regional Round Up

The Objective 2 Advisory Group at its meeting in Manchester on 14 September 2006 received a report from the European Programme Executive at Government Office for the North West about the performance of the Objective 2 element of the Structural Funds Programme 2000 – 2006.

The Objective 2 Advisory Group meets quarterly and is responsible for the management of the Objective 2 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) section of the Structural Funds Programme in the North West.

The Voluntary and Community Sector was represented at the meeting by John Hacking the Senior European Officer from North West Network.

Total spend for the programme so far is at £380m (66% of programme allocation) which is still £14m short of the 2006 n+2 target. N+2 is the principle by which the spend required of a programme under the Berlin Profile is calculated. N is the commitment year and +2 is the year by the end of which funds committed in N have to be spent or returned. The N+2 target for 2006 is £394m.

It was reported that Government Office for the North West is taking action to ensure that the n+2 target is met and that the relatively low level of spend this year is at least in part caused by the fact that a number of plans and measures have now reached 90% of contracted spend and this means that no further payments can be processed until the final audits have been completed.

If any readers wish to know more about the Objective 2 Advisory Group and what it does please contact John Hacking, Senior European Officer. Tel: 0161 236 6493. E-Mail: john@nwnetwork.org.uk

Objective 3 Regional Round Up

LSC Greater Manchester

LSC Greater Manchester has published the results of their Fifth European Social Fund (ESF) Co-financing Prospectus for their 2004-2006 ESF Co-financing Programme. The total amount available across all measures was £12.2m and projects invited under this round will run between 1 October 2006 and 31 December 2007.

A three stage appraisal and approval process was used for this prospectus, with external volunteers involved at every stage to enhance transparency of the LSC's open and competitive tendering process.

At stage one of the process, 275 tenders were received across all sectors requesting £56,040,280. 103 applications were from the voluntary and community sector (VCS), requesting a total of £17,662,616. 19 tenders failed to meet the basic submission requirements and did not progress to appraisal. 35 were graded C or D at appraisal and were not invited to progress to stage two of the process. The remaining 221 applications were invited to proceed to stage 2, 84 of which were from the VCS.

190 stage two tender forms were submitted to the LSC with a total value of £38,180,379. 64 were from the VCS requesting £8,506,345.

81 bids were approved for ESF funding across all sectors, securing £10,907,624. 26 projects and a downsized project from the VCS will be funded from the VCS securing £2,718,427 ESF.

The fifth prospectus was also seeking to approve a number of 'reserve' projects which are not guaranteed funding but which will be given priority for any funds that are returned unspent or withdrawn from those projects that have been approved for funding either through the fifth prospectus or previous tendering rounds. 17 projects were approved for reserve funding valued at £2,585,711. 12 projects and a downsized project on the reserve list are from the VCS securing a further potential of £977,116.

If you would like more information on LSC Greater Manchester please visit www.lsc.gov.uk/Regions/NorthWest

LSC Cheshire and Warrington

There are currently no open invitations to tender for LSC Cheshire and Warrington. If you would like more information on LSC Cheshire and Warrington please visit www.lscdf.org.uk

LSC Cumbria

LSC Cumbria has secured further funding through ESF in addition to funding through the Local Intervention and Development Fund (LID) and now called for a further application round. The deadline for Round 9, was 12.00 noon 1 December 2006. This round called for projects starting on February 2007 and end no latter than February 2008. If you would like more information on LSC Cumbria please visit www.lsc.gov.uk/Regions/NorthWest

LSC Lancashire

There are currently no open invitations to tender for LSC Lancashire. If you would like more information on LSC Lancashire please visit www.lsc.gov.uk/Regions/NorthWest

LSC Greater Merseyside

There are currently no open invitations to tender for LSC Greater Merseyside. If you would like more information on for LSC Greater Merseyside please visit www.lsc.gov.uk/Regions/NorthWest

Jobcentre Plus

Jobcentre Plus has produced their Co-financing Prospectus for the European Social Fund Objective 3 Round 3. Jobcentre Plus is currently in the process of assessing the applications and full results will become available on their website www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk

Alternative Bidding Round 13

A call for bids was made by Government Office for the North West (GONW) under the ESF Objective 3 Programme. Round 13 was open to measures 1.2, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 5.1. Projects running between 1 July 2006 and 31 December 2007 were being requested under this round. 65 applications were submitted across all sectors with 7 being submitted by the VCS. A total of £6,888,833 was requested across all sectors, £491,220 was requested by the VCS. Across all sectors 53 applications were successful, 6 of these coming from the VCS. £5,521,973 was successfully secured in Round 13 with £437,821 coming to the VCS.

Round 13 was the last opportunity to bid directly through GONW to the programme. There will not be any other alternative (direct) bidding rounds and from the indications we get through the negotiations for the next programming period it seems that co-financing will take completely over alternative bidding in the future.

LSC restructuring

Over the past few months the LSC has restructured at regional levels. For ESF this practically means that ESF from now on, and indeed to take the example of the recent Cumbria invitation to tender, will be managed as a process centrally from Manchester. The LSC has transformed in order to meet their new agenda which challenges them to achieve a balance between local delivery, regional strategy and national policy.

The LSC website has changed too. The general LSC North West page is www.lsc.gov.uk/Regions/NorthWest

Information about ESF in the North West can now be found on the following link: www.lsc.gov.uk/Regions/NorthWest/ESF

Funding alerts from North West Network

For the current programming Period 2000-2006, Objective 3 funding is nearly fully committed and if there are any potential under spends or funds for recycling they will be committed through the LSC. North West Network will post any last opportunities to tender into the programme on our website and will let all interested parties know as soon as calls for tenders are announced. Please note that subject to demand, North West Network will be holding training events well in advance for submission for tenders for interested organisations in the sub-regions. You can find information about new invitations to tender and dates for future training events at North West Network's website as well as dates and information for future training events.

To register for our email bulletins please contact Denise Marriott, Communications Officer. Tel: 0161 236 6493. E-Mail: denise@nwnetwork.org.uk

Consultation on the new European Social Fund (ESF) Programme for England 2007 – 2013

The consultation was launched by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on 30 October 2006 and will close on 22 January 2007. The purpose of the consultation is to seek views on the draft European Social Fund (ESF) Operational Programme for England and Gibraltar 2007 – 2013. The responses received from the consultation will inform the draft of the programme that DWP submits to the European Commission in early 2007. The programme will set out the priorities for ESF so that it addresses the challenges facing the labour market whilst also adding value to the national employment and skills strategies.

The launch of the consultation follows the publication on 23 October 2006 of the UK National Strategic Reference Framework for the new batch of Structural Fund programmes. This Framework determines the high level priorities for future Structural Fund spending in the United Kingdom as well as providing indicative ESF allocations for the UK's regions.

The framework states that there will be a single ESF programme for England (instead of the current 12 separate regional ESF programmes) which will have an ESF budget of €2.75 billion. As a result of enlargement and the reform of the Structural Funds, there will be significantly less ESF funding than in the present programme. The funding will reduce from €6 billion in the current programme to around €2.75 billion in the new programme. A proportion of this allocation will be "ring fenced" for Merseyside, South Yorkshire and Cornwall with the remainder being shared among the nine English regions. This in turn will be allocated across the regions on the basis of employment and qualifications data. The North West allocation (excluding Merseyside) will be €298 million.

The Framework sets out two main priorities for ESF in England. These are:

- Extending employment opportunities. This will be primarily for unemployed and inactive people and will attempt to tackle barriers faced by disadvantaged groups; and
- Developing a skilled and adaptable workforce. This intends to tackle the skills deficits that hold back productivity. Its focus will be on supporting without basic skills and level 2 qualifications.

The draft programme is available on the www.esf.gov.uk website together with a covering consultation document which seeks views on nine consultation questions. If you are interested in submitting a

response, please contact us at North West Network and we will co-ordinate the Voluntary and Community Sector responses at a regional level for submission.

The programme establishes the national priorities for spending ESF money in line with the Lisbon agenda and the Government's employment and skills strategies. Within these priorities, each region will develop its own strategy for addressing its distinctive regional, sub-regional and local needs.

Following the consultation, the responses received will be analysed and a revised Operational Programme will be drawn up. There will then be a period of negotiation with the European Commission before it approves the new programme. Assuming all runs smoothly, it is anticipated that new projects under the new programme could commence at the end of 2007 or early 2008.

Most of the delivery of the programme will take place at regional level. Regional Skills Partnerships will have the leading role in developing regional ESF strategies. These regional ESF strategies will provide the framework, along with the Operational Programme, for co-financing organisations to develop detailed ESF delivery plans. Co-financing organisations will have the responsibility for bringing together ESF and the required domestic match funding and for contracting with providers.

North West Network will be carrying out a full consultation on the Operational Programme with the voluntary and community sector. We will contact you again separately in the next couple of weeks to explain how we plan to engage with the consultation process and to invite you to an event. This event will be for voluntary and community sector organisations who wish to express their views on the Operational Programme. Once we have your views we can then feedback these views and comments through the appropriate channels therefore affecting the Operational Programme for the good of the voluntary and community sector.

The closing date for responses to North West Network is 15 January 2007

North West European Regional Development Fund Operational Programme 2007-13

The current cycle of European Structural Funds Programme will draw to a close at the end of this year. Although activity in the programme will continue into 2008 planning for the new Structural Funds period 2007-13 is underway.

Agreement has now been reached on the National Strategic Reference Framework and the budget has been allocated for the new programme. We now know that the North West will receive a total of £459m of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in the programme period 2007-13 of which £190m will be "ring-fenced" for Merseyside.

A regional plan for ERDF in the North West and how it will operate for the next 7 years is currently being developed.

Government Office for the North West has engaged the services of Regeneris Consulting to draft the North West Operational Programme (NWOP) for ERDF. The first draft was presented to members of the Programme Governance at an event on 8 August 2006 attended by the North West Network European Team.

The development of the NWOP is being overseen by the Operational Programme Steering Committee and the detailed work is being undertaken by the Technical Advisory Group. North West Network represents the Voluntary and Community Sector in the form of John Hacking, Senior European Officer.

There will be extensive consultation on the NWOP in the coming months and we will keep you informed as events develop.

A regional consultation event on the ERDF regional Operational Programme, and the national ESF Operational Programme, for the 2007-2013 programming period will be held on Friday 8 December 2006 in the Platinum Suite, Reebok Stadium, Bolton. (Full details of the consultation event were circulated on a North West Network email bulletin on 2 November 2006.)

North West Network will be carrying out a full consultation on the Operational Programme with the voluntary and community sector. We will contact you again separately in the next couple of weeks to explain how we plan to engage with the consultation process and to invite you to an event. This event will be for voluntary and community sector organisations who wish to express their views on the Operational Programme. Once we have your views we can then feedback these views and comments through the appropriate channels therefore affecting the Operational Programme for the good of the voluntary and community sector.

North West Structural Funds Programmes 2007-13 Cross Cutting Themes (CCTs)

In the 2000 – 2006 European Programmes in the North West of England there were three Cross Cutting Themes (CCTs) in operation. Namely, Information and Communication Technology, Equal Opportunities and Sustainable Development.

The consultation document on the new European Social Fund Programme for England (see article on new ESF Programme) proposes that the new programme will contain two CCTs:

- Gender equality and equal opportunities; and
- Sustainable development including environmental sustainability.

These themes it is proposed will build on good practice developed in 2000-2006. All activities will be expected to address these themes.

The discussions taking place in the North West currently on the subject of CCTs are broadly in agreement with the view expressed in the national ESF Operational Programme document but there is general support for the two cross cutting themes being called Environmental Sustainability and Equality and Diversity.

The North West European Regional Development Operational Programme which is also currently out for consultation (see article on the development of the North West Operational Programme) also addresses the issue of CCTs and supports the establishment of two CCTs, namely Environmental Sustainability and Equality and Diversity.

This is still very much work in progress and the North West Regional Development Agency in conjunction with other regional partners and stakeholders will take forward the development of CCTs and will work toward producing a CCT implementation plan. North West Network is involved in the discussions on behalf of the Voluntary and Community Sector in the North West.

Discussions are continuing and the views of the Voluntary and Community Sector on the issue of CCTs will be gathered during the consultation period on the new European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund Operational Programmes in the coming few weeks. For more information keep checking the North West Network website: www.nwnetwork.org.uk

European Social Fund (ESF) – Voluntary Sector accession in the current programming period

European Social Fund (ESF) provides financial support for training, workforce development and vocational activities for unemployed and employed people and seeks to promote lifelong learning, equal opportunities and social inclusion.

In the 2000-2006 Programming period, Objective 3 is funded in the North West Region through ESF and supports projects taking place within the North West region, excluding Merseyside.

ESF is an important source of funding for activities to develop employability and human resources. In the beginning of the programme ESF was accessed through an open and competitive application process to the Government Office for the North West (GONW).

In 2000 North West Network enabled Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations access a total of £5,182,372, this represents approximately 16% of all allocated funds. Compared with all other sectors, North West Network administered the largest proportion of applications, a total of 26.48%. Of all the projects administered by North West Network 40% received approval. Similarly, in 2001 VCS organisations in the North West accessed a total of £11,369,684, in 2002 £9,650,086 ESF was accessed by the VCS. In 2003 the VCS secured a further £2,115,844 representing 19% of all monies accessed in that round.

2003 saw an alternative arrangement for the application and accession of ESF money, the introduction of co-financing alongside the alternative (or direct) bidding method. In this new arrangement part of the funds were channelled to co-financing organisations (the Learning and Skills Councils (LSCs) and Jobcentre Plus) who held tendering rounds for specific activities to be carried out in the sub-regions, i.e. Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Lancashire and Cumbria. Accession figures are patchy so we can only get a partial print of VCS accession through co-financing after 2003. In 2003 through co-financing from the figures North West Network holds at present the VCS accessed £14,087,927.

In 2004 VCS organisations in the North West accessed £4,959,169. In 2005 the VCS accessed £4,007,078 and in 2006 4,133,364. In order to be able to print a complete picture of what has been accessed by the sector during the lifetime of the programming period 2000-2006 we are awaiting further accession figures by the co-financing organisations. However, with the figures available to North West Network at the time of print the VCS have been successful in accessing a total of £56,135,524.

Big Coaching Project

North West Network (NWN) is well into the first round of its Big Coaching Project supported by the Big Lottery Fund. All elements of the project have been successful with twenty four beneficiaries being supported by the project so far.

Coaching

In response to the high demand for coaching the number of volunteer managers being coached in round one exceeded the milestones set out in the Big lottery Fund.

NWN's coaches have been coaching volunteer managers from a variety of volunteer involving organisations across Greater Manchester since September. All volunteer managers have completed or are just about to complete a mid point evaluation.

Coaching has helped volunteer managers to move forward in a variety of situations. Specific issues around managing volunteers (for example, planning inductions, creating evaluation questionnaires) have been important to some volunteer managers; others have found more generic issues such as building confidence, time management and communicating with colleagues to be the things they needed help on.

This flexibility highlights the value of coaching; by being specific to individual needs, coaching has helped people get to the root of the issues affecting their volunteering programmes and by placing a greater emphasis on volunteer managers finding their own solutions to problems and/or ways to achieve their goals, coaching has a sustainable impact.

More detailed information on the successes and lessons learned during the first round of the Big Coaching Project will be featured in the first year evaluation report which will be available on the NWN website in 2007.

Coaching will have a phenomenal impact on the volunteer managers receiving it and NWN expects it to continue to be oversubscribed throughout the life time of the project.

SAM Volunteer Management Cascade Training

NWN have developed SAM Volunteer Management Cascade Training to widen the Big Coaching Projects impact.

NWN have completed round one in Greater Manchester, training staff from seven volunteering infrastructure organisations on how to use SAM Volunteer Management (a self assessment manual developed by NWN) to support volunteer managers in their local area.

The training focused on building the confidence of participants to be able to deliver SAM Volunteer Management to support volunteer managers through practical experience. The training programme featured three individual practice sessions in which participants used SAM Volunteer Management on their own, with someone from their own organisation and to support a volunteer manager from an external organisation. The experience of using SAM Volunteer Management was supported by three group training sessions. A participant reflected on each practice and developed ideas, tools and strategies to improve how they will deliver SAM Volunteer Management during the next practice and/or after their training is complete.

All seven people that have been trained are now NWN approved SAM Volunteer Management Practitioner and will receive SAM Volunteer Management free of charge to use with groups in their area. They plan to use SAM Volunteer Management in their own unique way; examples include using SAM Volunteer Management:

- In a one to one setting
- In group training
- To facilitate part of a volunteer managers network meeting
- To compliment an existing quality standards initiative

NWN Approved SAM Volunteer Management Practitioners are:

Dorothy Shears	Volunteer Centre Hynburn and Ribble Valley
Sue Vickers	Volunteer Centre Tameside
David Sharples	Volunteer Centre Tameside
John Aitken	Experience Volunteering Manchester
Peter Sloan	Volunteer Centre Bolton
Julia Hewer	Stockport CVS
Maggie Murdoch	Volunteer Centre Salford
Mike Hall	Trafford CVS and Volunteer Centre
Jill Mayers	GreaterSport

SAM Volunteer Management Practitioner's contact details, along with the area's they cover, will feature on NWN's website in the

coming months so you can contact them directly about SAM Volunteer Management.

NWN would like to thank all SAM Volunteer Management Practitioners for their commitment, enthusiasm and valuable feedback. We are looking forward to continuing to support them in the future and working with more infrastructure organisations over the course of the Big Coaching Project.

Outcomes Training

In the first year of this project Outcomes Training will be focusing on sport volunteering organisations. NWN will be running outcomes training with three organisations in the New Year.

For more information on Outcomes Training please contact the North West Network Outcomes Champion James Hadleigh. Tel: 0161 236 6493, E-Mail: james@nwnnetwork.org.uk

Big Coaching Project Round 2: Lancashire

In response to the level of interest received, NWN is going to hold the next round of the Big Lottery Project in Lancashire. We would like to hear from you if you are:

1. A volunteering infrastructure organisation who can identify volunteers managers who would benefit from coaching. Would like a staff member to be a NWN Approved SAM Volunteer Management Practitioner and have free access to a great resource to support volunteer managers in your area.
2. Someone who is responsible for volunteers that would like one to one support to achieve goals or find solutions to problems. Would like to explore what you do well and areas in which you can improve. Wants to achieve positive changes. Is willing to give time to your own development and try new things.

If you are interested in this project please contact Carol or Dan.
Tel: 0161 236 6493. E-Mail: carol@nwnnetwork.org.uk, dan@nwnnetwork.org.uk or visit the North West Network website: www.nwnnetwork.org.uk.

Please note you will have to become a member of North West Network to access support from the Big Coaching Project.

Public and Private Sector Organisations

Public and private sector organisations will not be eligible to receive services as part of The Big Coaching Project. NWN prioritises voluntary sector organisations over other sector organisations in all of the services offered as part of the Big Coaching Project.

However, NWN recognises that the same needs still exist in statutory, education and private organisations and is keen at looking at ways it can bring these services to the sectors. NWN will attempt to make the services accessible by finding specific solutions such as bespoke coaching or SAM Volunteer Management Cascade Training at a cost or helping organisations and/or networks to develop funding bids to bring in NWN's support for free.

For more information please contact Carol or Dan. Tel: 0161 236 6493, E-Mail: carol@nwnetwork.org.uk, dan@nwnetwork.org.uk.

SAM Volunteer Management Cascade Training: A participant's view

Article by Jill Mayers
GreaterSport

I have worked for Greater Manchester Sports Partnership as the Volunteer Development Officer for the past three years. GreaterSport is one of forty-nine county sport partnerships in England whose role is to create a single system and co-ordinated approach for sport and physical activity. I am responsible for a young volunteer programme (Millennium Volunteers and Step into Sport) which links young people in with volunteering in sport and physical activity. This programme also looks at improving the infrastructure and volunteer involving capacity of sports clubs and organisations to encourage them to involve young volunteers.

North West Network contacted Sports Volunteers North West in summer 2006 to tell them about an opportunity for me, as the Greater Manchester Volunteer Development Officer to undergo SAM Volunteer Management training. I was to be the guinea pig for the other Sports Volunteer North West Officers and for sport in general! After an initial meeting with Carol and Dan I was certain that this programme would be beneficial both to local level sports clubs and to the sporting network; however was unsure how exactly this support would be rolled out.

Once I understood the SAM Volunteer Management process I was a little concerned about whether I would have the answers to help people. I'm sure people working in the voluntary sector will know

how rapidly things such as legislation are moving; imagine combining this with the world of sport development! I was concerned then that I would be caught out and not know answers; however I think it is important to stress that this is a self assessment tool for the organisation so your role is not to know all the answers but to encourage the individual to find answers through their own reflection and ideas. You are a guide not an oracle!

I found the training sessions to be really useful in bringing the programme to life, and instead of the training staying inside the classroom you actually have to apply the toolkit with a colleague/friendly organisation. I found this experience useful (as did the individual) in helping you structure your discussions and learning when to use SAM Volunteer Management and when to revert to normal conversation.

Now that I have completed the training programme I am looking at applying SAM Volunteer Management in several ways. Firstly I am going to get North West Network to come back to deliver training to a network of Sports Development Officers (from the local authorities of Greater Manchester), these individuals will offer local level support to improve the volunteer involving functions of sports clubs and organisations. On an individual level I will be looking at offering SAM Volunteer Management through the GreaterSport website and by targeted support offered to clubs that want to involve young volunteers specifically.

For more information please contact Jill Mayers on 0161 223 1002 or E-Mail: jillm@greatersport.co.uk.

One North West – New Beginnings

Article by
Emile Pinel, Chief Executive, North West Network



Background

One North West (1NW) is the North West of England's black and minority ethnic regional voluntary sector infrastructure. It was established by North West Network in 2001. In July 2006, North West Network recruited Paul Harris to the position of Project Director with responsibility for One North West.

An Introduction

North West Network is a charity; formed by its members and established as a company limited by guarantee. North West Network is governed by a board of trustees. The board of trustees is a partnership of voluntary organisations from across the North West of England, elected by, and reflecting the membership of the charity. North West Network provides a range of support to the voluntary sector in the North West; including access to and influence over European Structural Funds, support for volunteer managers through one-to-one coaching and wider benefit via the cascade of training in the use of SAM Volunteer Management through local volunteering infrastructure to local volunteer managers. Further and specific support around the access to and influence over the regional agenda is provided for black and minority ethnic (BME) voluntary organisations through the regional BME voluntary sector infrastructure project, One North West.

The Story So Far...

In 2001, North West Network secured funding to develop regional infrastructure for black and minority ethnic (BME) voluntary organisations. A network of BME organisations has been established. In some local areas, the project has assisted with the development of local networking structures, delivered (in partnership with local agencies) a community leadership initiative and facilitated a series of consultation events across the North West contributing to the development of the region's equality and diversity strategy. More recently One North West hosted a consultation event to enable a response to the Comprehensive Spending Review of the Future Role of the Third Sector in Social and Economic Regeneration. In terms of voice and influence, One North West has membership of the Northwest Regional Development Agency Regional Economic Strategy Advisory Group and the North West Regional Assembly.

Current Issues

One North West is currently reviewing its direction; developing mechanisms to promote and support the effective engagement, contribution and influence of the black and minority ethnic voluntary and community sector as active partners in regional policy development and implementation, for the benefit of diverse communities in the North West of England. By working with regional stakeholders and decision makers, such as the North West Regional Assembly (NWRA), Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) and Government Office For The North West (GONW), whilst also developing its profile, presence and accessibility to local organisations, a flow of information, views and perspective from the regional agenda to local organisations and back again will be established.

One North West Project Advisory Board

In November 2006, North West Network advertised for expressions of interest from individuals wishing to join the One North West Project Advisory Board. The Advisory Board will provide specialist advice to North West Network on BME (black and minority ethnic) voluntary and community sector infrastructure needs and will support the development of project strategies, policies and work plans.

Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA)

One North West has met regularly with NWDA (Northwest Regional Development Agency) during the autumn of 2006, to discuss how the voluntary sector can engage with delivery of the RES (Regional Economic Strategy). Focusing on the delivery of actions with a voluntary sector lead; RES actions 108 and 109 around tackling social exclusion and the role of the sector in public service delivery. A steering group, comprising a mix of infrastructure and front-line organisations, and including One North West, has been established to oversee the delivery. One North West is a member of the (NWDA) Regional Economic Strategy Advisory Group which is a multi-agency partnership that monitors delivery of the RES. Additional contributions to delivery of the RES are made through the review and scrutiny function of the North West Regional Assembly (NWRA). One North West is working with the NWDA to ensure that front-line BME VCOs (voluntary and community organisations) are not merely recipients of RES delivery, but instead; that they are actively engaged in taking forward RES delivery in their own communities and finding local solutions to tackling social exclusion.

North West Regional Assembly (NWRA)

Through North West Network, One North West is a member of the NWRA (North West Regional Assembly) and the SEEP (Social Economic and Environmental Partners). The NWRA has

responsibility for (regional) transport, housing, planning, policy and stakeholder integration, European strategy, and the review and scrutiny of the NWDA's (Northwest Regional Development Agency) delivery of the Regional Economic Strategy. Through membership of the NWRA, One North West is planning to further develop its capacity to participate in and influence decision making around these areas (the regional agenda) on behalf of front-line BME (black and minority ethnic) voluntary organisations. Also through membership of the NWRA; One North West has secured membership of the North West Equality and Diversity Group. One North West, through Siddika Ahmed, formerly One North West's Network Development Manager, held the chair of the Equality and Diversity Group in 2005.

Government Office for the North West (GONW)

North West Network works in partnership with GONW (Government Office for the North West) to deliver regional infrastructure for BME (black and minority ethnic) voluntary organisations. The Government Office has an interest in BME communities and issues that is broader than voluntary sector infrastructure; and in pursuit of this objective it is investigating the merits of a BME panel (or similar; discussions around implementation are ongoing). One North West is a member of the (GONW) working group that is considering this issue, to ensure that the potential of such an initiative is maximised; complementing voluntary sector infrastructure and BME organisations.

And Finally...

One North West is uniquely placed in the North West region, by its geographical remit, covering the whole of the region, and additionally by its ability to participate in, engage with and influence regional government, regional decision making and decision makers. In the summer of 2006, Capacity Builders, the organisation set up to manage to the ChangeUp programme, launched its first major funding programme, 'Improving Reach'. And in the spirit of re-building and re-configuring infrastructure to improve the support services available, North West Network met with Capacity Builders and submitted a proposal to develop its capacity to engage with the regional agenda and specifically the economic agenda, looking to secure resources that will assist the progression of front-line BME organisations towards delivery of social inclusion targets identified by the Northwest Regional Development Agency and partners through the Regional Economic Strategy.

For more information about One North West, please contact Paul Harris Project Director, at North West Network. Tel: 0161 236 6493. E-Mail: paul@nwnetwork.org.uk. Website: www.onenorthwest.org.uk

Comprehensive Spending Review of the Third Sector



Article by
Paul Harris, Project Director for One North West

HM Treasury and the Cabinet Office led by Ed Miliband, Minister for the Third Sector, have been undertaking the largest ever review of the third sector; meeting with the sector at a variety of regional and more local events across the country. The government has been particularly keen to hear from small community groups and to reach people at grass roots.

Following the North West event in Manchester back in July, One North West (1NW) sought to promote a black and minority ethnic (BME) response to the review. The consultation event in October drew together representation from different organisations and networks (including representation from HM Treasury and Cabinet Office) and grappled with pertinent issues affecting the BME voluntary and community sector (VCS).

1NW analysed responses following a rigorous discussion and developed a response to government.

Key points that we asked government to consider whilst conducting the review were as follows:

- The government has shifted the debate on race relations by subordinating race equality to community cohesion. The government's community cohesion policy sees problems in disadvantaged neighbourhoods on the lack of integration, contact and understanding between different racial groups, and places less emphasis on the structural inequalities and discrimination that continues to perpetuate and reinforce those community divisions along ethnic lines;
- The current climate of community cohesion and integration is full of contradictions, in that it has bred suspicion and mistrust of some ethnic groups but at the same time it asks for greater involvement of communities in each other's affairs;
- Important for the government to recognise that BME communities are well placed to engage with wider communities on the cohesion agenda and tackle the 'parallel lives' of some minority groups – the government needs to consider ways of supporting this engagement;
- Sufficient and sustained funding from local and central government needs to be in place to allow for a successful and thriving BME sector with funding sustainable beyond one year commissions/grant awards;

- A portfolio of support options is needed to adequately meet the diverse requirements of voluntary organisations and community groups;
- Too often local and central government initiatives aimed at ethnic groups are 'tagged on', not integral to mainstream programmes/strategies;
- To help accessibility of funding for BME sector, it is important for the complexity of funding to be reviewed and processes simplified;
- Government needs to address how it can make public appointments more accessible to applications from BME people;
- Government needs to consider the merits of adopting a "Community Based Commissioning" model to enable local government to engage better with the Third Sector for provision of local services; and
- Greater investment in local BME Infrastructure through the Regional BME Infrastructure Networks, such as One North West, would enable the sector to access targeted support services.

If you would like to see a copy of the full response this may be downloaded from [www.onenorthwest.org.uk/public/documents/One North West Response to CSR 2 October 2006.pdf](http://www.onenorthwest.org.uk/public/documents/OneNorthWestResponseToCSR2October2006.pdf)

The government's review team has since entered into their analysis phase where responses from around the country are examined and fed into the government's strategy for the next ten years. Interim findings from the review will feed into the December 2006 Pre-Budget Report (PBR). Emergent findings will be tested out before the Budget Report 2007 (March). The review final outcomes emerge Summer 2007.

More details about the PBR can be found on the website: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pre_budget_report/prebud_pbr06/prebud_pbr06_in dex.cfm

For more information about One North West, please contact Paul Harris Project Director, at North West Network. Tel: 0161 236 6493. E-Mail: paul@nwnetwork.org.uk. Website: www.onenorthwest.org.uk

NCVO Overview of the Compact – 2006

Article by

Saskia Daggett, Compact Advocacy Manager, NCVO



It's been an interesting year for the relationship between government and the voluntary and community sector (VCS). I've been in the world of the Compact for one year this month and there's been a noticeable difference in the amount the Compact is being talked about. There are lots of positive initiatives coming from central and local government; a new Office of the Third Sector, and a Minister to lead it, tasked with implementing the Compact, the new Commissioner for the Compact, a revitalised Compact Voice (previously Working Group) and Compact Plus, not to mention the Local Government White Paper, Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP) and Local Area Agreements (LAA). It's enough to make your head spin. What really matters though is the experience of front line voluntary and community organisations. Are they being paid on time and in advance of expenditure? Are black and ethnic minority (BME) organisations being clearly valued and supported by government? When funding is withdrawn from BME projects do government run joint reviews to assess the impact? Are VCS organisations being funded for three years or more? Are consultations twelve weeks long and widely publicised? Unfortunately the evidence from the programme is – well no, not really. The Compact Advocacy Programme is an initiative for the VCS, we campaign, advocate and lobby on behalf of organisations where government have breached the Compact, if you feel your local council, Primary Care Trust or Government Office has breached the Compact please contact us and we'll see if we can help. For more information visit www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/compactadvocacy.

Its not all doom and gloom however, I was at the Annual Meeting on the Compact (22 November 2006) with all the relevant local government and sector representatives and key central government departments and their Ministers. Thankfully the focus was 'how are we going to implement the Compact better?' as even Ed Milliband himself said there can be a lot of rhetoric around the Compact and not much action, this meeting seemed a little different. The Compact Advocacy Programme presented evidence for the first time at this meeting on the experience of organisations we've supported. The VCS made it clear that government really needs to start performing on the Compact by paying for the full cost of projects, by paying in advance and on time, to support BME local infrastructure, and to train all their relevant staff on the VCS and the details of the Compact. The government officials there seemed quite responsive on this and it will be interesting to see where we are this time next year – I think we should all be hopeful. Also in

regards to the VCS we need to use the Compact more, I often hear organisations stating that 'the Compact has no teeth'. Well we are the teeth, the documents aren't going to fly off the shelf and make themselves work, it's up to us to cite the undertakings and hold our government partners to account. With this and the Government working to improve their practice and the Commissioner overseeing this, maybe next year we'll see a real improvement in the relationship between the sector and government.

If you would like more information please contact Saskia Daggett, Compact Advocacy Manager, NCVO.

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Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA)

Article by
Malcolm Kennedy, Health Policy and Development Manager
Northwest Regional Development Agency

The Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) leads the economic development and regeneration of the North West of England. The NWDA will invest £1.5 billion between 2006 and 2009 and directly influence a further £1.2 billion of other public and private sector investment into the region.

The NWDA's vision is to forge a clear identity for the region as vibrant, ambitious and globally-competitive, building on its history of innovation, a skilled and productive workforce and an outstanding quality of life.

Formally, the NWDA is accountable to, and reports into the Department of Trade and Industry. Additional accountability is provided within the region through the North West Regional Assembly (NWRA).

The Regional Economic Strategy (RES), launched in March 2006, sets out a clear vision for the region's economy and identifies specific priority actions to meet the economic challenges and opportunities of the next ten years and close the economic gap with the rest of England. Whilst led by the NWDA, the RES is the region's strategy, having been drawn up by an Advisory Group of 25 public private and voluntary and community sector partners and following extensive consultation with over 4000 organisations.

The RES sets out 122 actions for achieving its vision, across five themes:

1. Business
2. Skills and Education
3. People and Jobs
4. Infrastructure
5. Quality of Life

In the current RES, 45 of the 122 actions have been designated as transformational actions that the region must prioritise to really drive growth.

The 'quality of life' theme includes two RES Actions 108 and 109, which identify the voluntary sector as a lead delivery partner:

- RES Action 108: Promote the role of the voluntary and community sector, social enterprise, trade unions, and faith communities in tackling social exclusion and improving community cohesion.
- RES Action 109: Undertake capacity building activity of the voluntary and community sector and social enterprise to enable delivery of high quality public services, including through the development of local and regional compacts.

The RES also acknowledges the role of the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in engaging people in work and training and starting up businesses.

A problem which faces regional agencies such as NWDA is how it ensures progress of actions in the RES when the lead body is unclear. The VCS is too amorphous a term when we need someone to step up to the plate and take the responsibility. It is for that reason that the NWDA is considering financing the development of a VCS strategy focused primarily, though not exclusively, on RES Actions 108 and 109. The development of such a strategy can help direct the co-operative relationship between the VCS and the Northwest Development Agency over the next three years.

It should be made clear that the development of this strategy will be overseen by an advisory board that will encompass the three major regional agencies, NWDA, NWRA and GONW as well as an experienced group of VCS members, including North West Network and One North West.

An initial meeting to get this off the ground reached a consensus on these points and a proposal for supportive funding for the development of the strategy is under consideration by the senior management team at the NWDA. The strategy will provide the framework for actions which will assist the VCS in engaging communities, deliver high quality public services, tackle social exclusion and engage people in work and training.

The RES sees voluntary, community, faith and trade union partners having a critical role to play in delivering these actions in the RES. Successful delivery requires committed leadership at all levels throughout the region and by striving to improve relationships with all the representative bodies within the VCS. But for purposes of RES delivery a single interface with the sector from within the region is a necessity. Hopefully the envisaged advisory group could take on a role beyond the development of the strategy and provide co-ordination of third sector engagement with the NWDA. The aim is effective partnership to deliver common objectives. Ultimately this is the well being of the people of the Region.

Northwest Regional Development Agency, PO Box 37, Renaissance House, Centre Park, Warrington, Cheshire, WA1 1XB. Tel: 01925 400288

The NWDA is responsible for the sustainable economic development of England's Northwest. For more information please visit the website: www.nwda.co.uk and read the new Regional Economic Strategy. Website: www.nwda.co.uk/res.

Volunteering Infrastructure

One of the key themes of ChangeUp is volunteering. In 2004, Volunteering England published 'Building on success: strategy for volunteering infrastructure in England 2004 – 2014' (downloadable from www.volunteering.org.uk) - a ten-year vision and strategy for the volunteering infrastructure in England, developed in consultation with the voluntary and community sector. Subsequently, Volunteering England was appointed as the lead body for volunteering under ChangeUp, and numerous activities have been developed including current projects looking at a sustainable funding model for volunteering infrastructure, training for volunteer centre managers, and development of the England Volunteering Development Councils – both regionally and nationally. The North West EVDC, of which North West Network is a member, provides a regional forum for discussion, including commenting and making recommendations on the future delivery of Building on Success and thus the direction of volunteering infrastructure development. The revised version of Building on Success will be published before the end of the year.

Volunteering infrastructure is delivered at local level by Volunteer Development Agencies – also known as Volunteer Centres and, historically, as Volunteer Bureaux. In order to support the development and modernisation of local volunteering infrastructure, Volunteering England developed a Volunteer Centre Quality

Accreditation process, which enables Volunteer Centres to demonstrate how they are delivering on 6 essential core functions. Achieving these core functions ensures that a Volunteer Centre is able to offer a quality service – whether to individuals who are interested in volunteering, and to organisations – whether from the public, private, voluntary, faith and community sectors – to help them ensure that they have the support they need, in order to be able to successfully involve volunteers in their activities.

The six core functions for volunteering infrastructure are:

1. Brokerage

Volunteer Development Agencies (VDAs) primary function is to match both individuals and groups interested in volunteering with appropriate opportunities in the local community. VDAs hold information on a comprehensive range of opportunities. They offer potential volunteers support and advice matching their motivation to volunteer with appropriate volunteering opportunities.

2. Marketing volunteering

VDAs stimulate and encourage local interest in volunteering and community activity. This may include promoting and marketing volunteering through local, regional and national events and campaigns. VDAs will manage and promote a national brand for volunteering.

3. Good practice development

VDAs promote good practice in working with volunteers to all volunteer involving organisations. They deliver training and accreditation for potential volunteers, volunteers, volunteer managers and the volunteering infrastructure.

4. Develop volunteering opportunities

VDAs work in close partnership with statutory, voluntary and private sector agencies as well as community groups and faith groups to develop local volunteering opportunities. VDAs understand the potential offered by the local communities and work with them to realise this potential. VDA will target specific groups which face barriers to volunteering. VDA work creatively to develop imaginative, non-formal opportunities for potential volunteers.

5. Policy response and campaigning

VDA identify proposals or legislation that may impact on volunteering. It will lead and/or participate in campaigns on issues that affect volunteers or volunteering. VDAs campaign proactively for a more volunteer-literate and volunteer-friendly climate.

6. Strategic development of volunteering

As the local experts on volunteering VDAs inform strategic thinking and planning at a regional and national level. Once a Volunteer

Centre achieves quality accreditation, they also earn the right to use the national brand, making them easily identifiable as a quality service, belonging to the national network of Volunteer Centres.

As England's national volunteer development agency, Volunteering England works to support the development of volunteering infrastructure by providing a wide range of services, from good practice advice to research, access to training to toolkits on developing employer supported volunteering projects, from campaigns to specialist development staff in areas such as volunteering in sport, or in health and social care. At regional level Volunteering England supports activities which aim to build partnership working between different agencies, and to raise the profile of volunteering infrastructure. Nationally, we work to influence policy and strategy, to create greater awareness of, understanding of, and investment in volunteering infrastructure.

You can find out more about Volunteering England at www.volunteering.org.uk

Sally Rimmer, Regional Volunteering Development Officer for Volunteering England. Tel: 0161 707 8989 or 07921 049 038.
E-Mail: sally.rimmer@volunteeringengland.org.

Local Volunteering Infrastructure: Tameside Volunteer Centre

Volunteer Centre Tameside is a local VDA (Volunteer Development Agency) providing volunteering infrastructure in Tameside, Greater Manchester that has worked closely with North West Network, helping to develop SAM Volunteer Management, the North West Network self assessment manual for volunteer managers; and recently completed the Tameside Coaching Project, where North West Network's Volunteer Management Team worked with members of the Tameside Volunteer Managers' Network to provide coaching for volunteer managers and specifically with Tameside Volunteer Centre staff to introduce cascade training in the use SAM Volunteer Management to deliver wider local benefit from good volunteer management.

Who are we?

Volunteer Centre Tameside acts as a broker - matching volunteers to the hundreds of voluntary opportunities available throughout Tameside. It also provides facilities such as room-hire and colour photocopying to voluntary and community groups in the area. The centre also runs a variety of volunteering related projects; including The Miles of Smiles Community Transport Scheme and the Building Bridges supported volunteering project. The centre was established in 1975 as Tameside Volunteer Bureau. Our aim is to build a strong,

vibrant base for volunteering and voluntary activity through developing volunteering opportunities, recruiting and placing volunteers and by supporting Volunteer Recruiting Organisations in Tameside. In 2003 we were awarded Volunteering England's Quality Standard Mark in recognition of the quality of service delivery.

What we do and how we can help you

We enable people to do voluntary work, offer an advice and placement service to people who are interested in becoming volunteers and advice, training and support to organisations who seek volunteer help. In this way we try to ensure that volunteers are not discriminated against and that volunteers are supported in their voluntary activity. We contact local organisations whose work involves volunteers and collect information on these organisations and the volunteering opportunities available. We also work with these organisations to develop new volunteering opportunities.

If you'd like to volunteer but feel you may need some help to do so because of a disability or other difficulty, we have a supported volunteering project called 'Building Bridges' that has been designed to help. Contact us for more information and an informal chat about how we could support you to volunteer

We have been asked by the NHS Primary Care Trust to run a volunteer car scheme. Volunteer drivers will take people who would struggle to use public transport to and from health-related appointments. For more information on becoming a driver, or registering as a passenger on the scheme, see the "how we can help individuals" section on our website.

Free training courses are now available to all voluntary and community sector organisations. See the training calendar on our website and apply online. Our centre in Ashton-Under-Lyne also provides meeting rooms, office accommodation, a payroll service and other resources for voluntary and community organisations. For more information please contact 0161 339 2345.

Volunteer Centre Tameside, 95/97 Penny Meadow, Ashton-under-lyne, Tameside. Website: www.tamesidevb.org.uk E-Mail: office@tamesidevb.org.uk

**List of frequently asked questions compiled by Regional
Volunteering Development Team at Volunteering England**

What are Local Area Agreements?

A Local Area Agreement (LAA) is a three year agreement that sets out the priorities for a local area, based on the local Sustainable Community Strategies. These priorities are agreed between central government and a local area, represented by a local authority and the local strategic partnership.

LAAs simplify arrangements for pooled funding streams from central government to local authorities which help to join up public services more effectively and allow greater flexibility for local solutions to local circumstances.

LAAs are structured around four blocks (or policy fields):

- Children and young people
- Safer and stronger communities
- Healthier communities and older people
- Economic development and enterprise

Every LAA must include the mandatory outcomes and indicators for each block, as set out in the guidance issued by Central Government. There are also additional mandatory outcomes and indicators relevant to areas in receipt of specific funding streams. Finally there are optional outcomes and indicators that an area can choose to include.

What is the reward element?

Areas should propose a number of top priorities for improvement locally, where they intend to deliver 'stretched' performance over 3 years in return for Performance Reward Grant. The Performance Reward Grant is paid on the achievement of at least 60% of the stretched target. Local Authorities have the freedom to choose the number of stretched targets they wish to negotiate for their LAA reward element. Previously they were required to negotiate 12 stretched targets.

What is a Pump Priming Grant?

This is paid to the local authority to be used to aid delivery of the reward element stretched targets.

What is meant by pooled funding streams?

Certain funding streams from central government are being gathered together in to local 'pots' for each of the LAA blocks. This will increase flexibility and ensure that the funding is able to go to where it is needed most to meet the priorities under each block.

For example, eleven separate funding streams can be pooled together under the Children and Young People block, including Neighbourhood Renewal Funding and Positive Activities for Young People. Depending on the local area, there may be additional funds they can choose to pool centrally. Furthermore, local partners such as the Police, Sport England, Learning and Skills Council and Big Lottery, can choose to align their funding with the LAA to help meet local priorities.

What are single pot authorities?

Some areas have been granted single pot status. In these cases, it will not be necessary to group funding streams (or outcomes) under the four LAA blocks. Areas will have freedom to spend any pooled funding on the achievement of any of the outcomes agreed as part of the LAA, irrespective of the original funding stream. Targets will need to be included for all mandatory outcomes and indicators. The aim of the single pot LAA is to further investigate the key benefits of this additional flexibility.

Who is in phase 3?

Listed below are the local authorities who are in Phase 3 of LAAs. If your local authority appears below this means that they will from 1 April 2006 be working towards developing a Local Area Agreement to be submitted and signed off by Government Office by March 2007.

Barnet	Gloucestershire	Milton Keynes
Bath & N E	Hackney	Newcastle upon Tyne
Somerset	Halton	Newham
Bexley	Haringey	North East
Bournemouth	Havering	Lincolnshire
Bracknell Forest	Hillingdon	North Lincolnshire
Bristol	Isles of Scilly	North Somerset
Bromley	Kingston-upon-Hull	North Tyneside
Bury	Lambeth	North Yorkshire
Calderdale	Lincolnshire	Plymouth
Cheshire	Liverpool	Portsmouth
City of London	Medway	Reading
Cumbria	Merton	Redcar & Cleveland
Dudley	Middlesbrough	
Ealing		

Richmond-upon-Thames	Southampton	Wandsworth
Rochdale	Southend-on-sea	Warrington
Rutland	Southwark	Warwickshire
Salford	Staffordshire	Wiltshire
Sandwell	Sutton	Windsor & Maidenhead
Sefton	Tameside	York
Slough	Thurrock	
Solihull	Torbay	
	Trafford	

June – September 2006

Local areas will develop the first draft of the Local Area Agreement. The first draft needs to be submitted to the Government Office by the end of September 2006.

September – December 2006

During September Government Offices will consult with central departments and continue to work with areas to refine the agreement.

What is the role of the voluntary and community sector?

The LAA must include a statement setting out how the voluntary and community sector (VCS) and local people have been informed, consulted and given the opportunity to participate in the process and the delivery of the outcomes. The VCS should be represented on the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

What are Local Strategic Partnerships?

Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) are intended to be cross-agency, umbrella partnerships that include all sectors of society i.e., public, private, community and voluntary. The LSP remit is aimed at working together, to improve the quality of life in a particular locality. The LSP is responsible for developing and driving the implementation of Community Strategies and Local Area Agreements. The Government sees them as the main mechanism for the coordination of delivery of better local services.

Volunteering and Local Area Agreements – where are the links?

Volunteering can make a real contribution to the priorities of each LAA. The need to increase volunteering is included as a mandatory outcome within the Safer and Stronger Communities block.

Safer and Stronger Communities	
Outcomes	Indicator
Empower local people to have a greater choice and influence over local decision making and a greater role in public service delivery (Mandatory)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increase in the number of people recorded as or reporting that they have engaged in formal volunteering on an average of at least two hours per week over the past year (Mandatory)
Build respect in communities and reduce anti-social behaviour (Mandatory).	
To reduce crime, the harm caused by illegal drugs, and to reassure the public, reducing the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour (Mandatory).	

However, volunteering organisations might also want to demonstrate the role volunteering can play across the other three blocks - Children and Young People; Healthy Communities and Older People; and Enterprise and Economic Development.

Here are some examples of possible outcomes and the indicators volunteering could contribute to. Where outcomes and indicators are mandatory, this has been stated:

Children and Young People	
Outcomes	Indicator
Stay Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in volunteering by young people aged 14-19 and develop opportunities and support for those young volunteers, providing a safe opportunity for them Increase in number of volunteers to help deliver services for children and young people such as out-of-school clubs and mentoring

Children and Young People	
Outcomes	Indicator
Be Healthy (Mandatory if the LA is in receipt of specific grants)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase % of volunteering by young people volunteering in sport activities • Increase in the number of volunteers delivering sporting activities and health promotion services to children and young people
Enjoy and Achieve (Mandatory where the LA is in receipt of NRF).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in volunteering by young people aged 14-19 and develop opportunities and support available to those young volunteers • Increase in number of young volunteers in cultural sector and those receiving accredited training and developing job related skills
Make a Positive Contribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in number of young people aged 14-19 volunteering
Achieve Economic Well Being (Mandatory where Connexions funding is received)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in number of young volunteers receiving accredited training and developing job-related skills and experience through volunteering

Healthier Communities and Older People	
Outcomes	Indicator
Improved health and reduced health inequalities (Mandatory)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop volunteering opportunities within VCS and statutory sector to help deliver services for older people • Increase number of volunteers delivering these services

Increased life expectancy and reduced health inequalities (mandatory for areas in receipt of NRF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased number of volunteers of health services
Improved quality of life and independence of vulnerable older people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of older people volunteering, improving quality of life; independence and enabling them to make a positive contribution
Make a positive contribution	

Enterprise and economic development	
Outcomes	Indicator
Increase employment (mandatory if the area is in receipt of NRF) Increasing skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in number of volunteers from hard to reach groups and those who are economically inactive, providing an opportunity to gain confidence; develop skills; access training and increase employability. Develop supported volunteering for vulnerable groups, increasing basic skills and employability

By encouraging more people to volunteer, local volunteering organisations may be able to access pump-priming money to build their capacity to help achieve agreed stretch targets.

Why should volunteering organisations get involved in Local Area Agreements?

Local Area Agreements are not just important in themselves. The model of partnership working embodied in the LAA is likely to be here to stay. If volunteering organisations do not get involved from the start there is a danger that they will be marginalised, both in influencing and undertaking service delivery.

LAAs are a new and evolving policy initiative and the real benefits of involvement are likely to become clearer over time (as well as some

of the potential costs). However, at this stage, there are some key potential benefits, including the opportunity to:

- Demonstrate the added value that volunteering can bring to the LAA – by increasing volunteering, social capital and improving service delivery for the voluntary and public sectors
- Contribute to changes in the way services are delivered for the benefit of communities
- Secure additional funding and other kinds of support for increasing volunteering
- Strengthen volunteering infrastructure

Central government funding streams are increasingly being pooled through LAAs, while local funding may also be directed towards LAA priorities through Local Strategic Partnerships. The LAA sets out local priorities, so if the sector is able to influence and ensure that volunteering is reflected as important, then this will help to ensure a more secure funding environment for the future.

There may also be immediate funding available through pump priming grants, if volunteering is agreed as a stretched target.

But, Local Area Agreements are not just important in themselves. The model of partnership working embodied in the LAA is likely to be here to stay and to become an important feature of local area funding and rewards. If the sector does not get involved there is a danger that it will be marginalised, both in terms of influencing and undertaking service delivery. Voluntary organisations need to approach the LAA as an opportunity to build and strengthen relationships, covering not only initiatives such as LAAs, but also mainstream partnership work such as Local Strategic Partnerships and other partnerships such as sustainable development and the community strategy.

How do we benchmark volunteering activity?

A key challenge for volunteering organisations getting involved in stretch targets is that they will need to be measured against a baseline. This will mean surveying local residents in some way to establish whether there has been an increase in volunteering at the end of the three years. This will present its own difficulties. Experience in some areas suggests that the measure of volunteering used will be quite restrictive. It may also mean that targets will be developed against existing data, as this will be easier to collate – however, these targets may not be as effective as others.

In addition, stretch targets, by their very nature, will tend to be quite challenging, and therefore hard to achieve. Very often there will be factors outside the control of the voluntary that will impact on the level of volunteering in an area.

Therefore, the choice of targets needs to be carefully thought through. Are they relevant? Are they achievable? Can the data be collected to measure what you are trying to achieve? Will you be able to conduct a replicable study at the end of the process?

The Institute for Volunteering Research (IVR) has been helping Suffolk with their work on collecting information on volunteering. They will be happy to talk to people about some of the lessons that they have picked up there. Contact IVR at Instvolres@aol.com

What if our LAA has already been produced and volunteering isn't included?

An LAA should be a live, developmental document. The LAA is reviewed every six months and is subject to an annual 'refresh'. The refresh should examine the outcomes, targets, funding streams and measures to be included in the remaining years of the LAA. If local priorities come to light which were not previously included, the outcomes and targets can be changed to reflect these. The refresh process therefore presents a critical opportunity for VCS organisations to engage with the LAA, even if they were not involved at the beginning, and indeed, this should be actively encouraged.

Can you give me an example of a voluntary organisation that has successfully engaged with their LAA for the benefit of volunteering?

Yes. Volunteering Nottinghamshire (a federation of local Volunteer Centres in Nottingham) has been working with the Nottinghamshire LAA. They successfully argued that volunteering should be a key priority for the LAA and agreed to increase formal volunteering by a stretch target of 5.5% (2.5% over normal expected growth of 3%). In this case, formal volunteering is defined as people volunteering from groups and organisations at least two hours per week. Volunteering Nottinghamshire has been awarded a pump-priming funding of approx £123k over the next three years to achieve this target. If successful, the LAA will get a reward of £1.6m.

Volunteer Centre Westminster has also, importantly, ensured that the Volunteer Centre is identified as the delivery agent for achieving the stretch targets related to volunteering activity. For more information please contact Chris Reed, Chief Executive, Volunteer Centre. E-Mail: chris@volunteercentrewestminster.org.uk. Tel: 02074027875

The LAA funding is additional investment in volunteering infrastructure that will improve services to both volunteers and volunteer involving organisations.

How can I get involved in my LAA?

To get involved in your LAA, you should contact your Local Strategic Partnership; Community Empowerment Network, Local Voluntary Development Agency or Local Authority. You might want to find out what stage the LAA is at; any priorities and outcomes already identified; the process for VCS engagement and how to influence the priorities, outcomes and measures. Think about where volunteering and the voluntary sector can add value to the priorities; how the outcomes could be measured; the potential partners you might work with and what resources are needed to achieve these targets, on the basis of full cost recovery.

Where can we go for further help?

Department for Communities and Local Government for official guidance. www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1161635

IDeA has produced a comprehensive range of information sources and operates a telephone helpline on LAAs.

www.ideaknowledge.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?wax=quik_mn_0_0&pageId=1174195

NAVCA has produced guidance notes and lists other sources of information. www.nacvs.org.uk/resources/la/laa.shtm

Volunteering England's Regional Volunteering Development Team can help to provide regionally specific information, where it is available. For moer details please visit the website:

www.volunteering.org.uk/aboutus/regionalvolunteeringdevelopmentteam/#1

Printed sources to compile this information include:

Making it work Voluntary and Community Sector involvement in Local Area Agreements.

www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk/idk/aio/1359044

Sally Rimmer

Regional Volunteering Development Officer (North West)

Volunteering England Direct line: 0161 707 8989

Switchboard: 0845 305 6979 Mobile: 07921 049 038

E-mail: sally.rimmer@volunteeringengland.org

Website: www.volunteering.org.uk

News

Commission for Racial Equality Change of Address

Please note that the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) Manchester is moving to a permanent address with the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) and Disability Rights Commission (DRC). Their new contact details as follows:

Commission for Racial Equality, 5th Floor,
Arndale House, Arndale Centre, Manchester, M4 3EQ

The main EOC switchboard number is 08456 015901

The fax number for CRE staff is 0161 838 8304

Please also note that there is now a national advice and information line for those that have experienced race discrimination and the contact number for that is: 0207 939 0000.

Department of Communities and Local Government Shake-up

The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG's) new mission – 'to promote community, opportunity and prosperity' has been matched by a new structure, and a broader remit. The remit now includes race relations and community cohesion; equality; and cities roles in climate change; as well as the older remit for deprived communities. For example, Joe Montgomery - previously director of the Tackling Disadvantage group - now heads up the Places and Communities group. Other key policy groups are Policy & Innovation; Corporate Delivery; and Equalities.

National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2006-2008

The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2006 – 2008 is now available. Published by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on 13 September 2006 the plan sets out the government's strategies and programmes for tackling poverty and social exclusion for the next two years.

'Working Together' is the third UK National Action Plan (NAP) on social exclusion. It explains how people from across the UK will be co-operating to tackle social exclusion and make a decisive impact on poverty. The plan also refers to the role that ESF plays in promoting social inclusion by helping disadvantaged groups into work.

There are three parts to the NAP.

Section 1 - highlights the key challenges that need to be addressed as part of our commitment to tackling poverty. These are summarised under five key headings: the economic situation; child poverty; access to employment; access to quality services; and discrimination.

Sections 2-5 - outline the four key policy areas which the UK will be pursuing during the period 2006–2008 which will best contribute to the achievement of our goal of making a decisive impact on poverty: eliminating child poverty; increasing labour market participation; improving access to quality services; and tackling discrimination.

Section 6 - outlines the extent to which we have worked with others outside government in the design and delivery of our policies. It reflects the wide range of 'actors' from the devolved administrations, central and local government and the voluntary and community sector who are increasingly working together to ensure that social inclusion issues are mainstreamed across all relevant policies and services, and how they are working together in their delivery.

This Action plan has been developed in line with all EU member states who identify their current position re: social inclusion and what actions they are taking across government in this field. This encourages governments to have joined up thinking in terms of social inclusion. An Action Plan is also produced for employment.

The document and its seven Annexes are available at www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2006/nap/

Tendering for Care (TfC)

TfC provides a range of information, training and support, tailored to the needs of care providers and voluntary sector organisations across the UK. They have launched an upgraded website which includes a leaflet about the site, new features and workshop places.

For more information please visit www.tenderingforcare.com

L-POWER

Learning about People's Organisations Working on Exclusions in the Regions

L-POWER is a project supported by the Big Lottery Fund, to learn about if and how grassroots groups are able to influence the policy and programmes aimed at tackling poverty and exclusion.

L-POWER will be producing a report to raise awareness and lobby for the process and support to enable grassroots to have a stronger voice and be recognised as key stakeholders of policy and programmes to combat poverty and exclusion.

To find out more and complete the questionnaires please contact Kenny Dunkwu on 0115 911 0455 or E-Mail: L-power@cefet.org.uk
Website: www.L-power.org.uk

L-POWER C/O CEFET, 114 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3HL

Student volunteering merger

The board of Student Volunteering England has voted unanimously in favour of merging with Volunteering England. This is likely to take effect from 1 April 2007.

For more information please visit

www.volunteering.org.uk/aboutus/mediacentre/Student+Volunteering+England+decides+to+merge+with+Volunteering+England.htm

Acevo seeks trustees to help shape future

2007 is a highly significant year for acevo, as it represents the 20th Anniversary of the Association's formation.

At this year's AGM to be held along with a Parliamentary Reception on 24 January 2007 there are a maximum of four potential Board members to be elected.

For more information please visit the Acevo website at www.acevo.org.uk/main/index.php?content=newsitem&news_id=269

Charity Commission celebrates new Charities Act

The Charities Bill received Royal Assent on 8 November 2006. This means that the Bill has become the Charities Act 2006 and is now law.

For more information on the Act please visit:

www.charity-commission.gov.uk/news/charbillnews.asp

NGOs exploit ICT to lobby for change

A new report published by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) and the ICT Hub in partnership with the Hansard Society and supported by The Vodafone UK Foundation has found blogs, webcasting and online discussion groups are changing the way charities campaign and consult. The findings highlight that people are shifting their attention from conventional forms of new media, such as websites, to newer forms, such as web casting and blogs. NGOs are also increasingly using online and email discussion forums to be more effective, accountable and reactive. This enables charities to demonstrate a collective voice, pass on views to policy makers and influence otherwise distant organisations.

For more information please visit the NCVO website www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/press/releases/?id=3501

Compact Week

Each year voluntary and community organisations and government are asked to do one thing to help raise awareness of the Compact and how it can assist voluntary and community organisations. Get involved and do something to promote the Compact.

Nominations are also open for this year's Annual Meeting Commendations – recognising good practice relating to the Compact. More information can be found on the website:
www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/compactadvocacy/?id=3462

HM Treasury / Office of Third Sector review of the future role of the third sector in social and economic regeneration

Submission by the Charity Commission

1. It is estimated that there are between 300,000 and 500,000 Third Sector organisations in the UK, with charities forming a major element of the third sector. The Charity Commission is the regulator and registrar for charities in England and Wales:

190,000 charities are registered with the Charity Commission; a further 212,000 organisations are currently exempted or excepted from registration (including 150,000 sports clubs and 30,000 cultural or arts organisations) many of which will become eligible for registration under the provisions of the forthcoming Charities Act.

2. The Charity Commission is also the guardian of charitable endeavour – ensuring that money given for charitable purposes is used for those purposes and that charities modernise to meet new challenges in a changing society. A key statutory objective for the Commission under the forthcoming Act will be to promote high levels of public trust and confidence in charity, and, in so doing, encourage charitable giving and volunteering. Some 900,000 people in this country are trustees of registered charities, giving their time and expertise freely. Millions more contribute their time to charities by volunteering for roles that directly carry out charities' main purposes. www.charity-commission.gov.uk/news/response.asp

Children, Young People and Families Grant Programme

This national grant programme will fund voluntary organisations to do work of national significance that supports the outcomes of the *Every Child Matters: Change for Children* programme. The grant programme was created to help the DfES make its funding to voluntary organisations more strategic and to make it easier for organisations to apply for funding for work that improves outcomes for children, young people and families. It aims to contribute to increasing stability in the voluntary and community sector by offering longer term funding. The programme is open to charities, or non-profit-making organisations set up and run on similar lines to a charity. A limited number of strategic and project grants will be awarded in the programme's second round.

For more information please visit the Government Funding.org.uk website www.governmentfunding.org.uk

Local Government White Paper

This autumn's Local Government White Paper provides the best chance in a generation for central government to shift power to local people and those who serve them.

Through its people and places campaign, the Local Government Association (LGA) urged the Prime Minister to grasp this opportunity to set the framework for a historic deal on devolution that can then be embedded next July in the Chancellor's spending plans for the next three years.

The White Paper has nine chapters and annexes on its implications for areas such as community safety, health and well-being, the economy, housing and planning, children and young people, the third sector and climate change. For further please visit www.whitepaper.lga.gov.uk

Noticeboard

North West Network Membership Renewal

Just a gentle reminder, enclosed with this mailing, you will find a North West Network membership renewal form for the period of 1 January to 31 December 2007. The cost of membership remains the same as last year and we ask that these forms be completed and returned to us as soon as possible.

As the year draws to an end, both the North West Network Team and Board of Trustees wish to thank Members for their continued support throughout 2006 and we look forward to working with you during the year ahead.

Grants for Community groups available from Greater Manchester Policy Authority (GMPA)

GMPA the governing body for Greater Manchester Police, is inviting community groups and charities within Greater Manchester to apply for a grant of up to £1,000. This special fund, called the Police Property Act Fund, is made up of money received by the police from property confiscated by order of court and then sold.

GMPA will welcome applications from local community groups and residents associations who want to make a difference in their local area. Last year nearly three hundred applications were received and a wide range of worthwhile projects were supported across the Greater Manchester area. GMPA are particularly keen to award grants to projects that are aimed at improving community cohesion between different ethnic groups, particularly involving young people, and schemes that help to prevent and reduce the fear of crime.

The closing date for applications is 31 January 2007.

For further information or to request an application form please contact Melanie Tomlinson on 0161 793 3851. E-Mail: melanie.tomlinson@gmpa.gov.uk or download an application form from www.gmpa.gov.uk/site/whatwedo/PPAFund.htm

Grants will be awarded in April 2007.

Adventure Capital Fund

The Adventure Capital Fund (ACF) is a unique partnership between three government departments, several Regional Development Agencies and leading players in the field of social and economic regeneration, all of whom are dedicated to the development of long term sustainability of community-based enterprises in areas where traditional market forces fail to apply. The aim is to fill the investment gap that faces community enterprise organisations, and to increase investment-readiness of community organisations wishing to move to greater sustainability through enterprise. The fund which started in December 2002 has a total value of £10,000,000. Prospective applicants should be aware that this fund primarily provides loans rather than grants

The ACF's general investment principles are:

- To provide loans, funding and some gift capital to fill the gap between traditional grant aid and commercial loans (such as those from Banks or other lenders);
- To encourage organisations to use different types of finance, and to begin to move away from relying on grant support in the long term;
- To be flexible enough to respond to the needs of each organisation;
- To focus on the financial and social returns from the investment rather than on monitoring activities;
- To share risk. Some projects which are relatively high risk will receive investment, providing this is balanced by the potential for high financial and social return. All organisations which receive investment will be worked closely with to maximise the chances of success, manage risk and protect the investment; and
- To work with organisations to develop impact evaluation, of value to both ACF and the organisation.

ACF are looking for applications from organisations that feel they are ready to use the investment as part of a finance package that will enable them to grow and become truly sustainable. ACF would not normally cover the total cost but supply funding as part of a mixture of finance (which can be raised from other sources, e.g.

grants, funding from Banks or Community Development Finance Institutions). ACF will assess each investment individually, but intend mentoring, business advice and support to play an equal part with funding in their investment.

Priority Areas

Applications are welcome from any organisation that meets the core criteria, but ACF are particularly interested in hearing from:

- Organisations that are or could become community anchors
- Organisations led by members of Black and or Minority Ethnic communities (BME)
- Rural organisations
- Organisations that are pioneering new ways of working
- Organisations that can demonstrate excellence in what they do and inspire best practise in others, for example, some of our investors act as mentors

ACF will only accept applications from organisations who meet all the criteria listed below:

- You must be an organisation: individuals cannot apply. An organisation might take the form of a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG), with or without charitable status, or any other recognised structure;
- You must be working within a local community, which can be defined as a place (e.g. inner city, small town, rural district etc) and people (e.g. you work with local refugees, groups of disadvantaged young people etc);
- You need to be independent and community-led, not controlled by the private or public sector;
- You have to be working in England;
- You need to be involved in enterprise. This can be trade or any other income-generating activity, where you are intending to make surpluses that will be re-invested for the benefit of your community;
- You must have a track record of delivering to your community
- You must be able to plan and deliver successful community based enterprise activity; and
- ACF will not normally invest in organisations that have been running for less than a year. Your enterprise, however, might be a new activity for you that will contribute to the longer term growth and/or stability of your organisation.

Application Procedure:

Applications are invited from Community Organisations that already, or are about to undertake enterprise activity in England. Prior to completing an application form, prospective applicants will need to demonstrate that they fulfil the criteria by completing an eligibility

quiz. Once the quiz has been completed successfully the application form can be accessed. For more information and to access the quiz and application form, go to the ACF website at www.adventurecapitalfund.org.uk.

There is no closing date for applications, and organisations can apply at any time. Applications will be evaluated on a rolling basis, but it can take up to six months to complete an assessment and reach a decision. All main investment decisions are made by an investment panel (comprised of a mix of independents and partners) which normally meets quarterly.

Contact Information: Stacy Francis, c/o Local Investment Fund
7th Floor, Ibex House, 42-47 Minories, London, EC3N 1DY
Tel: 020 7488 3455 E-Mail: info@adventurecapitalfund.org.uk

Big Lottery Fund – Breathing Places Programme

The Breathing Places programme is a UK wide small grants programme developed in partnership with the BBC. £4 million has been made available for the second phase of Breathing Places with grants ranging from £300 to £10,000.

The closing date is 13 December 2006

Voluntary and community groups, schools, statutory health bodies, parish councils in England, town councils may apply. Groups must have a constitution and a bank account. This aim of this programme is to create, develop or improve green spaces. A breathing place is a green space that benefits wildlife and the local community. It may be local woodland, roadsides, parks, local nature reserves or wildlife areas, ponds, green corridors and wildflower meadows.

The programme offers the opportunity for schools and local communities to create their own wildlife-friendly green havens. For more information about the Breathing Places programme go to our website www.biglotteryfund.org.uk or call the Big Advice line on 0845 410 20 30.

£10 Million for Youth Volunteering

National youth volunteering charity V - launched last May by the Chancellor - aims to inspire a million young people to volunteer, and hopes the money will create at least 30,000 places for those between 16 and 25. Part of the money will help create specialist teams to work within host organisations. For further details, visit www.wearev.com

Tenants Empowerment Programme – Right to Manage Grants

The Tenant Empowerment Programme supports the Government's housing aims of increasing the effectiveness of housing

management and improving the quality of life of residents living on local authority estates. The programme enables local authority tenants to access independent advice, training and information directly. This helps them to challenge, influence or control how housing services are delivered to their communities. Right to Manage grants are made available to help tenants consider the management options available to them and then to provide support through the process.

The total fund value amounts to £3,640,000 and is for 2006/07 only. Applications for funding will be considered subject to the availability of funds. The Housing Corporation will not commit to fund projects beyond the current financial year

The priorities for the 2006/07 Tenant Empowerment Programme are:

- Tenant training and capacity building;
- Innovation into Action;
- National and regional tenant bodies; and
- Right to Manage grant.

For further information please contact:

Enquiries and Complaints Team, 1 Park Lane, Leeds, LS3 1EP

Tel: 0845 230 7000 Website: www.housingcorp.gov.uk

Kerrching – Youth Opportunity Fund

Kerrching – Youth Opportunity Fund is a pot of money aimed at young people aged 13-19 (or up to aged 25 if the young people have special needs). It is managed by young people from Oldham Youth Council who makes decisions about the allocation of the funds. There are two types of grants:

- An Area based grant (up to £5000) for activities that are benefiting young people within their local area;
- A Community Cohesion grant (up to £10,000) for activities that involve young people from across the many diverse communities of Oldham.

The deadline for this fund is 9 December 2006

Application forms are available from Jodie Barber. Tel: 0161 9113116. E-Mail her at jodie.barber@oldham.gov.uk.

Conservation Foundation Environmental Award Launched

The Conservation Foundation and O2 have launched a new award scheme to help provide funding for projects designed to improve local environments throughout the UK. Awards of up to £1000 are available to local groups and individuals for the hire of tools or equipment, and to purchase plants, paint, signs, materials etc.

Further Information can be found at:

www.conservationfoundation.co.uk/ActLocalAwards.php

The LankellyChase Foundation

The LankellyChase Foundation wish to encourage access to the arts, in particular amongst those who historically have been least able to participate, such as those in rural areas or with special needs. Their main programmes are:

- Arts
- Breaking the Cycle
- Free and Quiet Minds
- Heritage
- Developing Communities
- Offenders and Society

There is no specific deadline but the Trustees do meet in April, July, October and January.

Further Information can be found at www.lankellychase.org.uk/

Football Foundation Capital Project Scheme

The Football Foundation's Capital Projects scheme is open to local authorities, educational establishments, football clubs, multi-sport clubs, registered charitable organisations, companies limited by guarantee and unincorporated not for profit organisations.

The scheme primarily supports organisations that wish to build develop and/or refurbish facilities in order to sustain and/or increase participation. Types of facilities funded include:

Grass pitches drainage/improvements; changing rooms; floodlights; artificial turf pitches; pavilions and clubhouses; and some revenue cost (e.g. a football development officer).

The Foundation provides grants that cover 50% of project costs but may in exceptional circumstances provide up to 90% of a project's funding. Further information can be found at:

www.footballfoundation.org.uk/seeking-funding/capital-projects

The Allen Lane Foundation – Funding to Support Groups Facing Problems in UK Society

The Allen Lane Foundation is a charitable Trust that makes grants to voluntary not for-profit organisations whose work benefits groups of people who face discrimination in UK society today. The Foundation is interested in funding work that benefits one or more of the following groups:

Asylum-seekers and refugees; gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgender people; gypsies and travellers; offenders and ex-offenders; older people; people from black and minority ethnic communities and migrant workers; people experiencing mental health problems; or people experiencing violence or abuse.

Single, one-off grants range from as little as £500 up to £15,000. Grants repeated for more than one year vary from about £500 per annum up to £5,000 per annum, for a maximum of three years.

There is no deadline for applications. For more information please go to: www.allenlane.org.uk/priorities.htm

Clore Duffield Small Grants for Performing Arts Education (UK)

Organisations that wish to undertake activities that enable young people aged 0-18 to experience the performing arts may be eligible to apply for funding under the Clore Duffield Small Grants for Performing Arts Education programme. This is a £1 million programme that will operate between 2005 and 2010 and will provide grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 for education programmes for under 18's, that cover every aspect of the performing arts including, opera, dance, music, musical theatre, the spoken word and theatre.

The next deadline for applications is 14 March 2007

Visit the website for further information:
www.cloreduffield.org.uk/small_intro.htm

Big International Programme

Both the Strategic Grants & Small Grants strands from the Big International Programme are now open for applications. The Strategic Programme will provide for five to ten grants worth £1m to £5m whilst the Small Grants Programme will provide grants up to £10,000. Voluntary and community sector organisations working with overseas partners can apply. If you want to find out more then please go to: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/apply-uk

Hilton in the Community

The Hilton Foundation supports the education and health of young people aged under 25 in order to ensure that they have a brighter future. Registered charities working with young people can apply up to £50,000 from two different grant programmes:

- Education grants – to provide training, educational equipment, activity-based learning, sports equipment and transport
- Health grants - to fund medical equipment, care facilities, activity-based holidays, awareness and prevention campaigns, and hospices

Further information can be found at www.hilton-foundation.org.uk/

£50M for Community Buildings from The Big Lottery Fund

The Community Buildings programme will give communities the chance to improve their quality of life by funding buildings that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. The programme will pay for creating and improving facilities that offer a wide range of services and activities to a broad range of local people.

The average grant is expected to be around £250,000 with the total number awarded to be around 200.

The deadline for applications is 30 April 2007

For more information, please go to:
www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_community_buildings

Family Learning Programme

The Big Lottery Fund has recently launched Family Learning. This is a programme that helps parents to understand more about how their children learn and encourages adults and children to learn as a family. This programme is worth £40 million with grants of between £10,000 and £500,000 being available for over five years. It is anticipated that the average grant will be for between £100,000 and £150,000.

The fund should primarily be used for revenue costs. Projects can be for new work, existing activities, core work, or a combination. Projects should benefit families in the most need. These are families who face barriers to participation in learning or who are not confident in supporting their children's learning.

Family Learning operates a two-stage application process. An outline proposal must first be submitted, and applicants will be informed within 10-15 days whether to make a full application. The programme is open until 29 August 2008 and applications are welcome at any time. For further information please go to:
www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_family_learning

The Henry Smith Charity

The Henry Smith Charity provides grants totalling over £20 million a year for a wide range of purposes across the UK. The type of projects that the Trust may fund fall under the following categories:

- Hospitals and Medical Care: Projects providing residential care, health care or outreach services for those who are sick or in need
- Hospices and Palliative Care: Projects providing residential care, health care or outreach services for those who are sick or in need
- Medical Research: Specific medical research projects from recognised 'Centres of Excellence'
- Disability: Projects aimed at the rehabilitation and training of the disabled
- Elderly: Projects to help elderly people, for example residential or health care and emotional support such as befriending services and day care centres

- Young People: Projects that provide support to young people at risk particularly those living in areas of considerable deprivation
- Drugs and Alcohol: Projects aimed at the support and rehabilitation of people with drug and/or alcohol problems
- Community Service: Projects that provide support for communities in areas of considerable deprivation including ethnic minority groups
- Family Services: Projects which provide support to families at risk
- Homeless: Projects providing practical support for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness
- Holidays for children: Projects which provide holidays or outings for children from areas of considerable deprivation or children with a disability, aged 13 or under

There is no deadline for applications.

For further information please go to www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk

Barrow Cadbury Trust

The Barrow Cadbury Trust operates three grant-making programmes which are open to registered charities in England and Northern Ireland. The Trust has recently announced that the Offending and Early Intervention Programme has been replaced by the Young Adults and Criminal Justice Programme.

This programme aims to develop practical solutions to help young adults make the transition to adulthood and improve their life chances. It is keen to support groups working with young adults on the following issues:

- Mental health;
- Drug and alcohol abuse; and
- Education and employment opportunities.

There is no deadline for applications and there are no minimum or maximum levels of grant available. For further information please go to www.bctrust.org.uk

Other European Funding

PROGRESS

PROGRESS is a new fund that has been developed by the European Commission. It will replace the four funds which previously dealt with social inclusion (combating discrimination, gender equality, combating social exclusion and incentive measures in the field of employment). The fund will be administered by DG Employment, and will cover the following five areas:

- Employment;
- Social protection and inclusion;
- Working conditions;
- Anti-discrimination and diversity; and
- Gender equality.

Furthermore PROGRESS will finance the following type of activities:

- Analytical activities such as dissemination of data, carrying out surveys, publishing guides;
- Mutual learning and awareness-raising such as workshops and seminars on best practice, conferences and media campaigns; and
- Support to 'main actors' such as funding of EU-wide networks.

There will be a budget of €743m over seven years, which will run from January 2007 until December 2013. The intervention rate will be up to 80%. PROGRESS is the transnational funding stream, so it is expected that potential projects will need to include partners from at least three Member States. It is open for voluntary and community sector organisations to apply for, particularly those operating at a European level.

Culture 2007 Funding

The new Culture 2007 programme was launched recently replacing the former Culture 2000 programme. The general objective of this new programme will be "to enhance the cultural area shared by Europeans and based on a common cultural heritage through the development of cultural co-operation between the creators, cultural players and cultural institutions, of the countries taking part in the Programme with a view to encouraging the emergence of European citizenship".

The specific objectives of the Programme are:

- To promote the transnational mobility of people working in the cultural sector;
- To encourage the transnational circulation of works and cultural and artistic products; and
- To encourage intercultural dialogue.

Funded projects must have a strong European element to them, and be developed and implemented by at least 3 partner organisations from 3 different eligible countries. Funding of up to EUR 500,000 is available. **Application forms are now available online, with the first deadline being 22 December 2006.**

For further information go to www.culture2007.info

Territorial Co-operation Programmes

The 2007-2013 Cohesion Policy has three objectives: convergence (former Objective 1); regional competitiveness and employment (former Objective 2 and Objective 3); and territorial co-operation

Territorial Co-operation Programmes will have the following three strands:

Cross-border Co-operation - Cross border regulations are contained in Article 6 of the ERDF regulations but can go beyond the regulations in order to achieve a balance between tighter priorities and partnership opportunities. The UK will be involved in 6 cross-border programmes. These are:

- Ireland – Northern Ireland – Scotland
- Ireland – Wales
- Gibraltar – Spain
- Channel Programme
- Lower North Sea Programme
- PEACE Programme: Ireland - Northern Ireland

Transnational Co-operation – Programmes will be focused on four priorities: Accessibility, Environment, Innovation and Sustainable Urban Development. The UK will be involved in 5 transnational programmes:

- Gibraltar – South West Region
- Atlantic Arc
- Northern Periphery
- North Sea Programme
- North West Europe

Inter-regional Co-operation & Networks – There will be 4 main Europe-wide programmes:

- Interreg IVC (Inter-regional cooperation) innovation & environment
- INTERACT (technical assistance & support programme)
- URBACT (building urban networks)
- EPSON (European spatial planning observatory)

Training and Events

North West Network AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on 11 December 2006 at EMF House, Charlotte Street, Manchester, M1 4FL. This event is a great opportunity for you to meet the Team and for us to respond to any of your questions. There will be a Caribbean lunch at 12.00 pm with the AGM proceedings starting at 12.30 pm. If you are a member of North West Network and have not yet registered your attendance, please contact Jane Stanistreet, Operations Manager, North West Network. Tel: 0161 236 6493. E-Mail: jane@nwnnetwork.org.uk. We very much look forward to seeing you there.

Free Training for Community/Voluntary Groups and Volunteers

The Scarman Trust has developed a training programme for the end of the year. Places are free to community and voluntary groups and volunteers who will be given priority. Any spare places can be taken by paid workers, although there will be a charge in this instance.

For more detailed information on what each course can offer, either visit our website www.thescarmantrustmanchester.org or call 0161 839 2613. Further courses are to be arranged and will be detailed on the website.

Managing a Community Building

7 and 8 December 2006

The Angels, Endcott Close, Gorton, M18 8BR

The course provides participants with an overview of what is involved, will raise awareness of the responsibilities of management committee members and develop an understanding of charity status and organisational structures and also encourage good practice.

The programme has three aspects:

- Managing a Charity - recognizing the responsibilities of charity trustees in the administration of the charity.
- Managing Community Premises - various methods of occupying premises. Understanding licenses and other regulations, including Health & Safety.
- Managing People - employing staff, recruiting and retaining volunteers and ensuring the committee is effective

Marketing Training

11 December 2006

GMCVO, St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Ardwick M12 6FZ

Create a marketing plan for your Centre or Project. Develop simple strategies to meet the needs of your community and improve your products/services and financial opportunities.

A much misunderstood topic that many community associations often rate as quite low in the scheme of jobs to do. It is no use having a wonderful centre or great activities if you don't let the community hear about it.

Good marketing need not cost the earth and many examples of this are shown throughout the programme. You'll be put to the test talking about your centre/project and you'll have a chance to try out some of the methods discussed.

As an additional touch the programme also looks at presentation skills, another area often forgotten about by community associations. Tips and tricks to overcome nerves and how to plan a presentation are discussed.

Managing a Charity Training

13 December 2006

North City Library, Rochdale Road, Harpurhey, M9 4AF

Thinking of, or just gained charitable status? Are you a new trustee or committee member? Then this programme is for you. It aims to give you an outline of the legalities of running a charity and the responsibilities of charity trustees.

The programme, amongst other things, helps you to understand the legal categories in charitable law and what the charity commission expects of a charitable organisation. It looks to dispel any myths of what being a charity trustee means and has a fun look at what is a charitable activity and what is not.

Funding Advice Training

12 January 2006

Woodville Resource Centre, Shirley Road, Cheetham Hill, M8 0OE

Don't know where to start? Feeling isolated? You are not alone. There are many directories, guidelines and booklets that have been published and many seminars held, all trying to show how to apply to trusts. However sources at grant givers tell us that the overall standard of applications has not risen despite all these tools.

This session is all about practical issues not about where to apply. We look at everything from the first discussion about applying

through to the actual written application. It investigates common mistakes that prevent successful applications and analyses case study applications.

For more details please visit www.thescarmantrustmanchester.org

Publications

Volunteering for Everyone

This publication is produced by the Local Government International Bureau (LGIB) to inform local government of developments within the European Union likely to have an impact upon the services which they provide.

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Volunteering for Everyone - A Guide to organisations who want to include & recruit volunteers who have a learning disability.

To download the PDF version please visit;
www.volunteering.org.uk/aboutus/latestnews/

The End of the Affair? Public Trust in the Management of Charities

This report summarises the findings of acevo's Research Inquiry into Public Trust in the Management of Charities, conducted throughout 2005. The inquiry focused on perspectives on public trust, and the role of CEOs in promoting and preserving the "charity" brand. Statistics from an acevo survey of 207 Chief Executives and 25 Chairs, conducted in April and May 2005, were provided as raw material for the inquiry. A further focus group of 30 acevo members was held on 6 October 2006.

www.acevo.org.uk/main/publications.php?content=pubcatalog

The Code of Good Governance for the VCS - Free publication

The Code of Good Governance for the VCS (third sector) has now been published. The Code is designed for all those involved in the governance of voluntary and community sector organisations, and particularly for trustees and chief executives. It will also help staff, volunteers, members and service users to understand what they can expect from a well-governed organisation. Download your free copy using the link attached.

www.acevo.org.uk/main/publications.php?content=pubdescription&pid=265&category=Main+Publications

The Case for Change: Third Sector Provision of Employment Services

This publication is a response to the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCSU) report 'Third sector provision of employment related services'. For more information please visit

www.acevo.org.uk/main/publications.php?content=pubdescription&pid=416&category=Main+Publications

For Good Measure

NAVCA's appeal for action against unnecessarily bureaucratic reporting arrangements imposed by funders on the voluntary and community sector.

www.navca.org.uk/publications/forgoodmeasure/