



Autumn 2006

Dialogue

**The quarterly magazine of
the Community and
Voluntary Sector Forum**

A network in action

**Creating a community & voluntary sector mental
health strategy**

Hello and welcome to the autumn edition of Dialogue Magazine.

After eight years heading up the Forum I am saying farewell, and will be off to pastures new.

It's been a blast, I've met amazing people, learnt about things I didn't know existed and achieved, with the help of many hundreds of people, exactly what I came here to do.

Which was to support local community and voluntary organisations to establish a Forum that brings people together, enables ideas, information and best practice to be shared, plus gives the Sector a voice in the major decision making partnerships in town.

Of course there have also been the lows, notably the outbreaks of bickering over the past three years, and the utterly astonishing use of threatening and aggressive behaviour. However, even that has resulted in a positive, as its much easier these days to spot warmth, compassion and loyalty.

So forwards and onwards, with recruitment underway to fill four staff posts, which will of course keep us all busy for a month or so.

Plus a number of potential Trustees have responded to our advertisements in the local media.

Meanwhile two Forum Trustees, Sylvia Alexander-Vine and Joan Fraser have resigned. We thank them both for their time and energy, although particularly Sylvia for her contribution to the Forum since 1999; we hope that she will remember us always with fondness.

The other work matter, which has kept us very busy, is organising presentations by Forum Members as part of The Children's Trust Induction as shown on page nine. We hope that by supporting these events, all community and voluntary organisations will have an opportunity to understand how they can work with, and benefit from the Children's Trust.

And finally, the motions proposed by the Forum Trustees to update the Memorandum and Articles are still to be addressed. The Forum will hold a Development Evening to provide an opportunity for Members to input their views before the matter is brought back to a conference.

However with recruitment, issues connected to our occupancy at Community Base and the massive

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numbers of Children's Trusts induction meetings, the Development Evening may have to be take place during December and the matter brought for a Members vote to the March Conference.

With warmest wishes for the future.

Anna

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Dialogue is the magazine of the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum. If you would like to contribute to future editions of the magazine or have comments about this one, please contact Katy McGrory on (01273) 234003. The views expressed in Dialogue are not necessarily those of the Forum as a whole. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure information in this issue is accurate, readers should obtain independent confirmation of information they wish to rely on.

A Community and Voluntary Sector Forum Mental Health Strategy



One of the Forum's key building blocks is its ability to bring people together. The Mental Health Network is a good example of this in practice, having been active for many years and recently completing a piece of research (in partnership with the University of Brighton) to help them work towards the development of a mental health strategy for community and voluntary sector projects with an interest in mental health in Brighton and Hove.

The project needed to capture the shared values and good practice within the sector in order to build on this good practice. It needed to develop a consensus about how the sector could work together to build capacity and sustainability. Such a consensus would help identify any development work which needed to be done to help the sector become more proactive around competing for funds, tendering to provide services and sharing resources.

Between January and March this year, the members of the Network together with a researcher from the University facilitated a dialogue about the shared values and visions within the sector. In total, 68 people

took part in this consultation, and 22 local organisations were involved. This included 18 service users, four volunteers, two carers, 40 paid workers from the voluntary sector, one student on placement and three statutory sector workers. The semi-anonymity of the group (participants in the research knew who was in the group but weren't able to identify individual responses) helped to encourage participation and debate.

It was vital that all the major stakeholders expressed their opinions and were able to work towards some sort of agreement, so a participatory approach to the consultation was adopted, which combined interviews with key people as well as group meetings. The Mental Health Network were able to state their collective views and vision in to coincide with a local reorganisation of health service trusts, in order to be able to negotiate contracts and influence the pattern of service delivery.

FINDINGS

Needs and gaps in services

There were a large number of needs and gaps in current services identified, as well as needs to continue to provide services for specific communities. It was felt that the statutory services' responses to people in crisis was poor and that training was needed. It was agreed that there was a need for better access to, and more of the following:

- crisis services
- out of hours services
- drop-in services
- day services
- supported housing

- respite services
- holidays social and leisure activities for people with long term mental health needs
- talking treatments
- accompaniment and transport
- alternative therapies
- more alternatives to drug treatments as a first option in mainstream services
- community support workers
- support time and recovery workers
- low threshold preventative services
- support at home
- learning and work advice
- support in employment or education
- support for young people and their families
- preventative work re bullying in schools
- bilingual interpreters
- welfare advice.

It was agreed that existing information and advocacy services are over stretched and there is a need for neighbourhood-based services for people who are too unwell to travel. The idea of a one-stop shop for information, advocacy and advice was also supported.

It was also agreed that there is a need for separate services, or more support, for the following specific groups:

- Black and minority ethnic communities
- refugees and people who have suffered trauma
- lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people
- older people
- women
- men who have experienced abuse
- carers

- people with a dual diagnosis
- people diagnosed with Personality Disorder.

It was also agreed that more preventative work could be done to raise public awareness about mental health and dispel myths (eg in relation to transgender people). Another point was that the police station is not a suitable place of safety.

Benefits of existing voluntary sector provision

The interviews and focus groups with service users showed that service users were more trusting of the voluntary sector and found it more accessible than statutory sector services. They felt that existing voluntary sector mental health projects led to important outcomes such as: giving hope, increases in self-esteem, building confidence, developing friendship and support networks, building a sense of community, improved well-being, improved quality of life.

There was a strong view expressed that returning to paid work was not always a realistic outcome but that voluntary work was an important opportunity giving structure and meaning to people's lives.

Voluntary sector services were also seen to be more empowering for services users and seen to have a preventative effect for people vulnerable to relapse.

Overall, it was agreed that the sector works in a preventative way, promoting recovery, reducing relapse and hospital admissions.

The diversity of the sector was seen

as a strength offering people choice and the sector was seen as being more able to engage with communities than the statutory sector.

There was an agreement that further partnership working with the statutory sector was desirable. This could include taking on a care-coordinator role or providing integrated services where people can access primary and community care alongside self-help and user led activities.

Representation and Involvement.

There was agreement that a number of current initiatives support user involvement; these were the Expert Patient Programme, Carer's Voice training and the LIVE sessions, although transport would increase participation.

It was also agreed that statutory services would benefit from training from service users and voluntary sector providers to make statutory services more accessible.

It was also felt that user involvement within the voluntary sector could be improved with an identified need for a user forum to provide representatives to all relevant voluntary sector management committees.

Future ways of working and capacity building

There was a high level of agreement and consensus within the panel that the sector needed to find ways of working together more in partnership to tender to provide services or to obtain funding. It was felt this would lead to less

duplication and allow knowledge, expertise and resources to be shared.

It was agreed that more information was needed about how to develop partnerships and share costs of resources suggesting the need for capacity building and/or infrastructure support in this area.

The idea of developing social enterprises was also supported but again developmental needs were identified in order for this to happen.

The mental health network was seen as a good way of sharing information but it was also agreed that there was a need to identify organisation able to take on an infrastructure role for local mental health voluntary sector projects.

The research was carried out by Hazel Platzer; copies of the full report are available from the Forum.

Furniture Now!

Furniture Now! (FN!) is a Reuse, Recycling and Training charity operating from Lewes since 1994 and also now Eastbourne (since April 2005). In 2005 over 3,000 low income households in East Sussex and Brighton and Hove benefited from the provision of low-cost furniture supplied by the charity.

FN! has funding to offer free training accredited by the Open College Network (OCN) and the National Council for Further Education (NCFE) in applying many different decorative paint techniques to furniture. The training centre is at the Lewes Warehouse and the courses are available free to those who are long term unemployed or who are socially disadvantaged. The courses start regularly throughout the year and Furniture Now! can also provide an allowance towards transport costs to and from Lewes. Courses start every 6 weeks.

Furniture Now! collect and deliver free of charge in Brighton & Hove and have served 2050 clients from Lewes so far this year. They now take fridges and freezers and a few select electrical items.

They welcome people coming to their Lewes with support workers and can bill agencies on behalf of clients and can supply the VCS with furniture, though individual clients would have to pay up front.

For more information, contact Rik Child, Director of Operations Unit 1 Phoenix Works, North Street, Lewes. BN7 2PE. Tel: 01273 479528 or email: director@furniturenow.org.uk

Recycled Craft Classes - One step closer to an Eco-Xmas!

Have you ever wondered if there was anything useful or creative you could do with your waste? Surely there's a use for all those old plastic containers, drinks cans and brightly coloured magazine paper. Well here's the answer...

Innovative, contemporary jewellery designer, Jasmine Fish, is running a series of workshops at Brighton Peace and Environment Centre. The workshops leading up to the Christmas period have been developed to help you make stunning, high quality jewellery, gifts, cards, boxes and decorations from your old jewellery and recycled materials.

Making your own recycled gifts offers you an alternative to the usual Christmas Consumerism as well as saving you money, reducing waste, helping to develop your creativity and meet like-minded people!

Cost: £7.50 per session

Venue: Brighton Peace and Environment Centre, Brighton Eco-Centre, 39-41 Surrey Street (Opp Station), Brighton BN1 3PB

Dates and times: November 8, 15, 22 & 29. 6:30-8pm

Booking necessary. For more information or to book contact Jasmine on 07877 880 244 / jasminefish@hotmail.com.

Website: www.bpec.org

The Winning with Women Project

The Winning with Women project offers free career training for the Sports & Leisure Industry .

The scheme is a fantastic opportunity for women to overcome barriers they may have had looking to return to work, and is particularly keen to encourage and support women from black & ethnic minority backgrounds, socially excluded communities, and women with disabilities to enter the sports industry.

Any individual or organisation interested in further details please contact Mike Jolly, Project co-ordinator on 01323 637162 or e-mail mike.jolly@sussexdowns.ac.uk

Epilepsy Action Regional Conference

Epilepsy Action provides information and support to people with epilepsy and families, to general public, schools, nurses etc. With other epilepsy organisations, presses for better medical care from NHS and government.

Their regional conference takes place Saturday 21 April 2007 10.00am-4.00pm
Holiday Inn 137 Kings Road Brighton.

Please ring 01273 508620 for further information.



The Manor Road Gym, soon to be relaunched as simply 'The Manor', is a council owned sports hall in a deprived area of east Brighton. For years it was a rather grim, neglected, underused building in danger of closure. But in 2005 a group of local resident volunteers took over the running of the hall-and now its not so grim. Nor is its future.

We first set up as a not-for-profit limited company then registered as a charity. The council granted a 5 year lease and a licence to rent out the pitch. We took over the bookings, income and bills and have 5 years to prove the hall is not only needed by the people of Manor Farm, Bristol Estate and Whitehawk, but is financially viable.

So far, we are very proud of our achievements. The hall is proving to be a well used community asset. Among our regular users are youth football clubs AFC Ashmore and Race Hill FC, the Crew Club, Youth Inclusion Project and Reflexions Dance Academy. Walk past The Manor on a weekday evening and you will hear Filipino, Lithuanian, Portuguese as well as English.

Children can learn to play basketball, tennis, gymnastics, tag rugby and cricket. For adults we have set up aerobics, badminton and a men's activity group. We are planning arts and pottery sessions in the new year. We rent out the hall for children's parties, community events and sports leaders courses. We hold lots of events ourselves; fun days, penalty shootouts, Brighton and Hove Albion training sessions, even a dog show.

The sports hall building, which dates back to the 1950's, is a mess at the

moment as the builders are in, thanks to an eb4u grant. By Xmas we will have new showers and toilets and disabled access and facilities. We have bought new sports equipment thanks to funders and are now turning our attentions to safeguarding and improving the lovely green space that surrounds The Manor.

We do have a large but ropey hard-court area that could be a fantastic multi-games surface –with funding. The Manor is in a densely populated area bordered by the Bristol Estate, and the children who live around it, many in flats, need a safe place to play, as well as affordable facilities. We are working hard on improving our links with local schools and other projects in the area. Lately we have helped local people train as sports coaches who then help us run sessions.

We are a very small dedicated group who are part of a much bigger picture. Did you know, the sports sector is the single biggest contributor to volunteering in England, and that sports volunteers contribute one billion hours each

year to sport? The government is keen to tackle issues such as childhood obesity and to increase everyday levels of physical activity among adults. But it seems this is largely left to volunteers, with the government actually taking far more money out of sport than it invests-billions more.

All money raised by Manor Road Gym Sports Club (charity number 1113245) will go towards the stated aim of ensuring continued and increased use of the Manor Road Gym for a healthier and more active community. The administrative company, MRG Ltd, is a non-profit-making company whose shareholders, like the charity's trustees, are volunteers from the local community.

If you would like to know more about The Manor and its activities or can help us in any way at all, please contact Marlene Oliver on 07835 849724 or email marleneoliver@btinternet.com



BRIGHTON LESBIAN AND GAY SWITCHBOARD



Switchboard's Andrew Thompson and Natalie Woods

Brighton Lesbian and Gay Switchboard – a 30 year old local registered charity- exists to relieve emotional difficulties for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) community. The organisation achieves this in a variety of ways, and provides a range of services to meet the varying needs of the community. Switchboard's longest standing service – its help-line- provides information and support to callers and is operated by a team of volunteers providing the service from 5pm every day. The types of calls the volunteers respond to vary hugely, and could be anything from a simple request for information about local LGBT services or venues, to a call from a distressed person experiencing depression and feeling suicidal.

With developments in internet technology changing the communication needs of the community, Switchboard launched its e-mail enquiry service a couple of years ago, and this service enables people to request information or support via e-mail.

Whilst switchboard's help-line and e-mail enquiry service offers enormous

support to many people, some LGBT people require a more structured ongoing therapeutic intervention, and so 9 years ago Switchboard launched its Counselling service. The Counselling service is provided by a team of professionally qualified volunteer counsellors, and offers two placements a year to counsellors in training. The service offers a maximum of 12 sessions, the cost of which is operated on a sliding scale so that the client's income determines how much they pay.

Switchboard also operates a Room-finder service, which basically does what it says on the tin! LGBT/LGBT friendly accommodation providers can submit the details of their accommodation with Switchboard for a period of 3 months for a fee of £15. LGBT people seeking accommodation can then contact Switchboard's help-line and be given details of those houses/flats/rooms.

Switchboard has plans to develop more services in the future, and is particularly keen to provide groups that contribute to better mental health and less social isolation for LGBT people. Switchboard is keen to receive feedback from any members of the community regarding the types of groups that people feel they need.

In addition to the services that Switchboard provides, it also offers excellent volunteering opportunities for LGBT people to give something back to their community, meet new people, and develop their skills in supporting people. Switchboard is always looking for volunteers to operate the help-line, or to help the organisation in other ways such as admin work, fundraising, and marketing, or by becoming a switchboard trustee.

Switchboard is currently working hard to take the organisation into the next stage of its development as a medium sized local charity. Internal re-structuring has led to the role of Counselling Project Manager being developed to become the role of Services and Development Manager. Natalie Woods, the post holder, is now responsible for the management and development of Switchboard along with Switchboard's trustees, and supported by an admin worker who is yet to be recruited in the near future. Switchboard has also developed clearly defined roles for their trustee positions to support the work of the organisation. The position of lead trustee is occupied by Andrew Thompson who has been a trustee of Switchboard for many years. To discuss any of Switchboard's services or volunteering opportunities Natalie Woods can be contacted on 01273 205070.

SWITCHBOARD'S CONTACT DETAILS

- Help-line: 01273 204050 (from 5pm daily)
- E-mail enquiry service: enquiries.brighton@switchboard.org.uk
- Room-finder service: Contact the help-line or e-mail enquiry service
- Counselling service: Contact the help-line, e-mail enquiry service or contact the Services and Development Manager directly.
- Services and Development Manager: For volunteering opportunities, counselling and all other enquiries or feedback call Natalie Woods on 01273 207050

BIKE FOR LIFE



What a remarkable place Brighton & Hove is: a rich diverse community and voluntary sector, one of the most environmentally aware populations in the UK and now a grass roots community led cycling revolution. This year has seen the first mass naked bike ride here, a bicycle ballet, loads more people cycling and many more thinking about joining them.

We at Bike for Life, a city based charity, aim to offer something for people of all ages and abilities, from lessons for complete beginners and those wishing to ride safely and confidently on the roads, to bike maintenance training, Dr Bike sessions, bike recycling projects for young people, mountain biking on the South Downs and community cycling projects.

The core service that Bike for Life offers is National Standard cycle training: "cycle proficiency" for the 21st century. Many of you may remember taking your cycle proficiency test at school, those distant memories (or maybe not so distant for some) of cycling around cones in the school playground, well thankfully at last things are changing. This new cycle training will be launched nationally in the spring of 2007 as Bikeability (see

bikeability.org.uk for more information). Bikeability is designed to give children the skills and confidence to cycle safely in and around today's modern roads and environment. But it's not just about teaching kids to ride a bike.

Bikeability has been introduced to help make cycling an everyday activity, an alternative mode of transport, a way to keep healthy and above all lots of fun!

Many adults are unable to ride, those whom we have taught are usually amazed at how quickly they have got going. Clara had decided to learn before she reached her 40th birthday. She has now sold her car and is cycling regularly, she comments "I feel fitter and healthier and appreciate not rushing around in the car. Being able to cycle has given me a sense of achievement and really improved my confidence; I would encourage anybody to give it a try", and many people are.

Our vision is for Brighton & Hove to become a cycle friendly city where the bicycle becomes the transport option of choice for getting around and into the city. A city where many children are cycling to school, where families cycle together, workers cycle to their place of employment and young people grow up loving their

bikes and the joy and freedom that they can bring. This is not some utopian goal, it is an achievable vision and realising that vision will transform our city and the lives of the people who live here.

Cycling is fun, its healthy, its socially inclusive, cheap, fast and reliable. Alongside that its environmentally sustainable and almost anyone can do it. It's the transport of the future.

If you would like to find out more about what we do or discuss the possibility of a joint project we would love to hear from you.

Ian Davey
Bike for Life
www.bikeforlife.org.uk
01273 729979



The Community & Voluntary Sector Forum supports several networks for our member organisations which share particular interests. The networks exchange information & good practice, develop collective points of view and support our representatives on the relevant city partnerships.

If you are interested in joining any of these networks, or finding out more, contact Duncan Blinkhorn on (01273) 234000 or email duncan@cvsectorforum.org.uk.

Children & Young People Network

This network brings together staff & volunteers from organisations & projects working with children & young people. It supports our representatives on the Children & YP Trust Partnership and the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Next meeting, 1st February 2007, 9.30am – Noon at Community Base South Wing Conference Room (5th floor), Queens Road, Brighton.

The Brighton & Hove Children & Young People's Trust (or CYPT) formally kicked off on 1st October. This marked the moment when South Downs NHS & B&H City Council's services for children & young people came together under the new CYPT roof.

Forum members have been involved, many through our Children & YP Network, in the numerous reviews and consultation events during the past two years which have fed into the new structures and its strategic priorities which are laid out in the recently published Children & YP Plan

To give those working with children & young people the opportunity to understand the new structures and the new culture of multi-agency working, staff from all sectors, including community & voluntary organisations, have been invited to attend induction sessions held across the City's three CYPT Areas (East, West & Central) during October, November & December.

Each Session has included:

- * A presentation by a CYPT Assistant Director or senior manager
- * Activities to find out who's who and who does what from a wide range of different services
- * A 'showcase' presentation by a community/voluntary organization

Remaining dates of Induction Sessions are as follows:

West Area

- * Wednesday 22nd November 2006 - Loxdale Ctr, Portslade
- * Thursday 30th November 2006 - Loxdale Ctr, Portslade
- * Tuesday 12th December 2006 - Loxdale Ctr, Portslade

Central Area

- * Thursday 16th November - Friends Meeting House, Ship St, Brighton
- * Tuesday 28th November - Old Market, Upper Market St, Brighton
- * Friday 8th December - Dorset Gardens Methodist Church

East Area

- * Friday 24th November 2006 - Dorset Gardens Methodist Church
- * Thursday 7th December 2006 - Princes Marine Hotel, Hove
- * Wednesday 13th December 2006 - Dorset Gardens Methodist Church

Timings:

Morning sessions: Sign-in from 9am.

Start: 9:30am Finish: 1:30pm
(Except West Area sessions - Sign-in from 9.45am, Start: 10:00am Finish: 1:30pm)

Lunch - all participants attend networking lunch 12:30 to 1:30pm

Afternoon session: Sign-in from 12 noon. Start: 1:30pm Finish: 4:30pm

Mental Health Network

Has recently produced a baseline report on the views of members toward developing a community & voluntary sector mental health strategy for Brighton & Hove. This will be further developed during the next few months.

Next meeting, Wednesday 6th December, 11.30am – 1pm at the Forum's quarterly conference, Brighthelm Centre (Brunswick Room), North Road, Brighton.

Community Learning Network

This Network has recently been wound up as its functions are now provided through regular meetings organised through the Learning Partnership and members can also meet at occasional Quarterly Conference workshops with a learning theme. For details contact the Forum's representative to the Learning Partnership, Michelle Pooley on (01273) 234773 or e-mail michelle@workingtogetherproject.org.uk.

Environment Network

This new Network aims to bring together those Forum member organisations which have a particular interest in working on the sustainable development of Brighton & Hove. The network has emerged partly out of a series of meetings about the city's Climate Change Action Plan. For more information about this network, contact Duncan Blinkhorn on (01273) 234000.

STORYTELLING: GIVING COMMUNITIES A VOICE

Richard Cupidi

Most community groups have to struggle continuously with a lack of resources. However, there is one substantial resource that often goes unidentified or undervalued within communities: the power of their own stories – the individual and collective experiences of their members. Stories have the power to emphasise, humanise, and mobilise communities; they are readily available, virtually cost-free, and just waiting to be drawn out.

We are all storytellers

Don't confuse story with text. Storytelling is *not* creative writing in disguise. As an adult education teacher, I know how reluctant many individuals are to express themselves in formal writing. But I also know that over tea and biscuits most people will talk about anything! So we begin with the voice, and recording the voice. Technically, the process is straightforward, using compact and inexpensive digital recording equipment. However, collecting and presenting the stories will need the assistance of a facilitator or an editor. Don't regard this requirement as a hindrance but as an opportunity to increase capacity and sustainability – facilitation skills can also be rolled out to other members.

As catalysts for telling their stories, some people might use drawings, or combinations of voice and drawings, while others might employ timelines, maps or photographs. Digital video will add another dimension to the recording process, but requires a great deal of technical knowledge and equipment. Ask young people to help – they'll reach for their mobiles and videocams instinctively.

The forms these stories come in can be as varied as their sources. For example, young people might record and exchange stories on mobile phones, or as video blogs, or as music samples. Other people, refugees perhaps, might storyboard the theme of “*One In Day In My Life ...*” as if recorded on surveillance cameras. Medical support groups might simulate medical reports for dramatic impact. In other words, whether on audio, video or paper, the creative distribution of stories grows out of their content. Our primary aim is to get people telling their lives, talking about what matters to them and their futures.

Some applications

If storymaking itself is straightforward, then applications require imagination, sensitivity and some technical knowledge. What follows are a few suggestions for harnessing storytelling as a fundamental practice in your group:

- embed stories into funding bids
- use stories in the layout and design of publications
- embody storytelling in your celebrations and public activities
- use stories (and storytellers) in outreach to schools
- use stories (and storytellers) in venues with a learning brief – from Woodcraft to Brighton Festival
- attach story soundbites to displays of photographs, activities boards, maps
- profile your stories on social networking sites such as MySpace and YouTube (there are many others); regard these sites as free presentation spaces with untapped potential for placing stories

- put story soundbites into all your presentations, annual reports (CDs save on costs, trees, and increase availability) and websites
- use story soundbites as responses to Frequently Asked Questions

A universal form of communication, storytelling offers accessibility on a human scale, a way of experiencing difference from the inside out, and a democratic process which regards people as experts in our own lives. In this short article I can only introduce the concept of storytelling as a community resource. You have to make your own voices heard: and remember, we are all storytellers.

Richard Cupidi ~ storyteller, teacher & trainer

Some local resources

CUPP: communityuniversity partnership enabling access to university expertise, equipment and student volunteers.

SCIP: social enterprise @ Community Base offering reasonable rates for digital applications and training.

BBC South: impressive teaching & learning resources from programmes such as *RaW & Tell Us Your Story*.

Agora for storytelling workshops and training – contact Richard Cupidi at cupidi@onetel.com.

SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

Important consultation on the City Council's new Planning framework

Brighton & Hove City Council will shortly be seeking people's views on its draft strategic plan for the future of the city over the next 20 years.

Brighton and Hove must respond to and provide for the needs of a growing population and a growing local economy and must do this within the constraints of the sea, the South Downs and a scarcity of developable land.

This plan will set future policy on important city-wide matters such as how and where to accommodate the new homes and jobs required in the city in a sustainable way, as well as policies on shopping, culture and tourism, community safety, countryside and open space, urban design, conservation and regeneration etc. It will also look at how these link with the council's strategies on issues such as transport, health and education.

This document is known as the 'Core Strategy Preferred Options' and forms part of the Local Development Framework (LDF), which will replace the current Local Plan.

This consultation follows on from the early community involvement which took place between October 2005 and May 2006 and which included workshop events at the CVSF quarterly conferences in November 2005 and March 2006. The views expressed during community involvement have helped to shape the consultation document.

The Core Strategy Preferred Options document will be available at the council's City Direct offices and local libraries from Thursday 9th November onwards. From that date you can also access it on the LDF section of the council's website.

There is a formal six week period of public consultation which begins on 9th November and ends on Thursday 21st December.

All comments on this Preferred Options document must be made in writing to the council during this period. A response form is available to help you comment and a User's Guide to the document is also available, which steers you to the key sections and gives advice on commenting.

For further information or to obtain a response form please contact the Local Development Team, Planning Strategy & Projects, Brighton & Hove City Council, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove BN3 3BQ; e-mail ldf@brighton-hove.gov.uk; visit our LDF website at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk; or phone us on 292505.

Remember to let us have your views by **Thursday 21st December**.

At the same time, the council is launching the early community

involvement phase on the next LDF document, which will set out the Site Allocations for the various types of future development.

This document will take forward the overall approach of the Core Strategy into identified site allocations for uses such as housing, employment, shopping, leisure, community facilities and education etc.

This early community involvement period runs until the end of January 2007 and a document setting out the key issues and the options for addressing them, together with a questionnaire, is available from the same locations and addresses as set out above.

News from Brighton and Hove's Stronger Communities Programme.

The Stronger Communities Programme aims to ensure community and voluntary organisations are involved in the 2020 Community Partnership (the Local Strategic Partnership), the Community Strategy and activities in the neighbourhood renewal areas in Brighton and Hove. It has funded the activities of the Forum's Neighbourhood and Communities of Interest Networks.

The Programme's steering group met on 28th September and made a number of decisions, including reviewing its own terms of reference so that its role was clearer.

It also agreed to increase the diversity of its membership so that it better represents Forum members on the steering group and in the activities of the Programme. Having made this decision, the group decided the name "Partnership Group" would be a better description of who it was.

An important piece of work, which the Partnership Group has committed itself to, is a 'stakeholders event' for everyone who has been involved with the Neighbourhood or Communities of Interest Networks at one level or another. Essentially a planning event, those people attending will discuss and agree what activities, which meet the Stronger Community Programme aims, could and should be delivered over the course of the next six months.

The Partnership Group has agreed that there are funds available to pay for such activities, as long as they fit within the Programme's Action Plan

and the Networks' Action Plans.

The stakeholder's events will also be important in bringing the together the two Networks to focus on the neighbourhood renewal agenda of narrowing the gap between the most disadvantaged and less disadvantaged communities and neighbourhoods across the city. This would see the Stronger Communities Programme looking to develop a stronger 'neighbourhood' approach to its work, with the delivery of equalities issues included in this work. The event will also provide an opportunity for participants to discuss the future membership of the Partnership Group.

In another development, Keith Beadle, who is currently managing the Programme, has been working with both Networks to see how well they are currently working and look at the options for them working together more effectively as one, Stronger Communities Programme group. The Communities of Interest Network have explored and discussed this approach and are supportive of it. They will no longer meet separately as part of this programme, but expect that activities and events agreed at the stakeholder's event will have a clear focus on equalities as part of the work. They have agreed that Global Grants money available to them should be used to ensure that residents from the different communities of interest, have opportunities to engage with the Programme's strengthened neighbourhood approach.

An Events Officer is to be recruited

to ensure that these opportunities are made available and supported within the programme. Future SCP meetings could then focus on the progress of activities and the wider engagement of residents in the work.

The Stakeholders Event takes place on Tuesday 14th November 2006 from 9.30am to 2.30pm at The Quality Hotel (Walnut Room), West Street, Brighton.

It will address the following themes

- Representation
- Communication
- Equalities
- Neighbourhood Approach
- Partnership Themes

There are 40 places available and neighbourhood and communities of interest groups are invited to send up to two representatives per group to attend the event. Places will be offered on first come first served basis.

For a booking form and/or more details, visit www.cvsectorforum.org.uk or email keith@cvsectorforum.org.uk

(Event packs will be sent as confirmation of a place)

ChangeUp

ChangeUp is a government funding programme, developed with the community and voluntary sector to build its capacity and infrastructure.

It aims to transform frontline organisations so that local communities will be able to experience a real difference in the quality of services they receive. It will do this by improving the capacity and capability of organisations that offer services to the front line.

A plan for improvements to services in Brighton and Hove has been developed over the last two years, and the implementation of this plan is steered by a partnership group of frontline and infrastructure organisations, with representation from the City Council and the Primary Care Trust. The Forum is the accountable body for this piece of work.

The first two projects to draw from the plan have been grouped together and called 'The Better Information Project'; they are about co-ordinating and improving good practice and other information available to community groups and voluntary organisations in the city.

The first project is the specification of a common database while the other is research into better good practice information. Both are designed to benefit frontline organisations.

SCIP are currently specifying the requirements for a Common Database. The main things they need to know at the moment are:

- What should a Common

Database do for the community and voluntary sector?

- What benefits will it bring to local groups?
- How will infrastructure organisations be able to make use of the information?

As well as talking to groups who hold and manage this type of information, SCIP are interested in setting up a working group to get a broad range of views on what should be developed.

The working group would be looking at issues such as:

- Reviewing the technical solutions available
- Setting budgets
- Identifying who will coordinate and run the database
- What happens if groups don't join in
- Any extra work it will cause
- Guidelines or standards for the information
- How it will work alongside existing resources

This project aims to develop recommendations for implementation of a common for Brighton and Hove, providing a central point of access for information about community and voluntary organisations in the city.

It is expected that a common database will:

- enable front line organisations to update their own contact details in one place, reducing current duplication of effort;
- support infrastructure

- organisations in managing information about their members and communication contacts lists;
- support and improve communications within the VCS, and between the sector and other sectors;
- provide information to maintain economic and social audit statistics about the sector, including local performance indicators.

The other element of the Better Information Project is a piece of research which looks at what good practice information is available to frontline organisations and what the gaps might be in the kind of information which is currently available.

Brighton and Hove's Local Infrastructure Development Plan says that 'frontline organisations should have increased awareness of, and access to good practice information, including information around specific issues identified in the Plan'; it also suggests that 'infrastructure organisations should develop shared information systems'.

The Working Together Project were commissioned to carry out this research, and have drawn up a set of recommendations outlining how frontline organisations could have better access to relevant, accurate and up to date information.

A draft report describing the research is available from Michelle Pooley at the Working Together Project, (01273) 234773, or email michelle@workingtogetherproject.org.uk. A final report should be completed by 30th November 2006.

New ideas wanted to make Christmas drinking safer

A new scheme tackling alcohol related troubles in Brighton & Hove over Christmas is looking for locals to get involved. People living or working often have brainwaves about how to solve problems that affect them, but are rarely asked what these are. This scheme encourages them to come forward with suggestions and can also give out money to put ideas into practice.

Launched on October 26th and called Message in a Bottle, the campaign has three main concerns:

- * anti-social behaviour and nuisance in the area from West Street to St James Street,
- * drinkers getting injured or attacked .. and harming others when drunk,
- * young people and drinking.

Linda Beanlands, Community Safety Manager of Brighton & Hove says "Tackling alcohol misuse is a priority

and we are working hard to make a safer, cleaner City. We now want to tap into the experience and energy of people working in, and of residents affected by the alcohol business to come up with new solutions. We'll then try out some of them, just over the holiday period. The best innovations are usually inexpensive, quick and relatively easy to put into action. So, if you want to do something about the nuisance and harm that too much drinking causes, please let us know."

She hopes that the scheme will catch the imagination of residents, shop keepers, employers, taxi drivers, bar workers, colleges, voluntary organisations, police and health staff, youth workers and young people themselves.

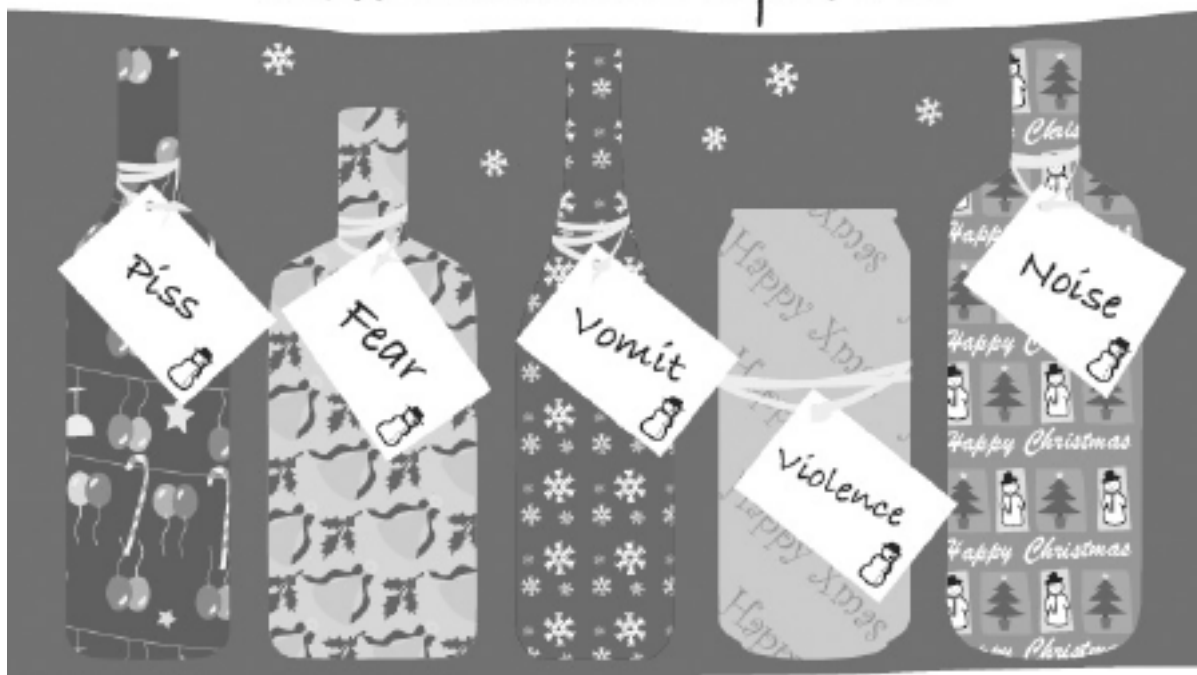
Lisa Perretta of the Business Crime Reduction Partnership, says "This is great news. A new innovative way of working gives both members of the public and the local business

community an opportunity to create solutions to problems they regularly face. They can now have a direct impact on issues affecting them and can voice their opinions, implement projects and see it through to the end. Seeing the success and achievements will encourage the local community to be more actively involved in the future to really make a difference to our City".

Organised by the Safe in the City Partnership with the Centre for Public Innovation, the Message in a Bottle scheme will fund a series of projects run by people living and working in Brighton. Projects will start on 1st December, so watch this space for updates on their progress.

If you want to get involved, or would like to find out more contact Dan Farag on 020 8675 5777 or at daniel.farag@publicinnovation.org.uk

Christmas spirit?



Fed up with the nuisance and unhappiness that drink causes? You can do something about it.

LEGAL HELP AT HAND

Free legal advice for community groups from Law Works for Community Groups

Quality legal advice is a luxury many in the voluntary sector can not afford. LawWorks for Community Groups was launched by LawWorks (the operating name of national charity the Solicitors Pro Bono Group) to fill this gap. Thanks to a national network of volunteer lawyers, free business law advice can be provided to community groups, small charities and social enterprises who do not have sufficient funds to pay for legal fees.

LawWorks for Community Groups can help with many legal matters, including:

Company law: (such as advice on contracts; how to incorporate the organisation as a company / Community Investment Company; updating and amending the organisation's Articles of Association and other constitutional documents);
Employment law: drafting, reviewing and updating employment contracts and staff handbooks.

Intellectual property law: advice on registering a trademark and data protection issues.

Property law: advice on lease terms; assistance with negotiating tenancy agreements.

Other areas advice is available on include: charity law matters; tax/VAT matters; insolvency and help in drafting contingency plans; insurance law matters; health and safety law

matters; general commercial matters etc.

To apply, please visit the LawWorks website (www.lawworks.org.uk) and complete the online application form under the "Not for Profits" section.

When an application is received it is reviewed by the Community Groups team. Project staff help community groups understand the scope of advice that they require. They will then select the right volunteer lawyer for the case and put you in contact with them. All of the volunteer lawyers treat these cases just as they would treat ones for which they have been paid. It really is that simple!

Any questions? Please call 020 7090 7359 or email lwg@lawworks.org.uk.

The Solicitors Pro Bono Group (SPBG) is an independent charity with a mission to support, promote and encourage a commitment to pro bono across the solicitors' profession.

LawWorks is the operating name of SPBG.

LawWorks aims to increase the delivery of free legal advice to individuals and communities in need. Please note that we do not give legal advice ourselves nor issue a list of individual solicitors or firms undertaking pro bono work.

Solicitors across England and Wales have always provided free or re-

duced cost legal advice and assistance to those ineligible for legal aid from the Legal Services Commission but unable to afford legal fees (pro bono services).

Pro bono work has, historically, been undertaken on a piecemeal and unstructured basis. The Solicitors Pro Bono Group was formed by members of the solicitors' profession to provide a structure. It is independent of other groups including the Law Society, the solicitors' professional body.

LawWorks is a membership-based organisation whose members are law firms, in house legal departments and other organisations interested in contributing to the provision of legal pro bono work in England and Wales. LawWorks provides practical support, advice and information to them through a range of projects.

QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

**Feedback from our
Quarterly
Conference held on
13th September at
Brighthelm**

PLENARY SESSION

**Developing an
Effective 21st Century
Adult Learning
Strategy**



This session provided an opportunity for members of the Forum to discuss and input into the draft adult learning plan for the city. This is an edited version of the feedback of the session; a full copy is available either from the Forum, email katy@cvsectorforum.org.uk or from Michelle Pooley at the Working Together Project at michelle@workingtogether-project.org.uk

The curriculum offer should include learning in (accredited or non- accredited as appropriate):
Personal development - learning for fun and enjoyment, and personal skills:

1. Learning activities based on identified need that are developing people's expertise to build their confidence and self esteem
2. B&H Council should make as many premises as possible available, and as cheaply as possible for learning organisations
3. Internet and e-technology access

Health and well being, including fitness, sport and cooking

1. More practical skills based training at affordable prices/cost
2. Building skills and confidence to deal with homophobia and transphobia
3. Participatory learning for older people
4. Meditation and yoga
5. Learning in the workplace
6. Coping with long term illness
7. Healthy eating,
 1. Nutrition on a limited income
 2. Recovery/self management for people/mental health problems
 3. Coping with stress, Effective strategies for coping with stress
 1. Raising environmental awareness and how it can save money
 2. Keep and maintain fitness
 3. Yoga, keep fit, ESOL, IT, literacy, numeracy, food hygiene, first aid, book keeping

Community involvement and citizenship, including sustainable development

1. Social Justice Courses
2. How to get involved in community activity
3. Tackling power structures,

- challenging authority
4. Public law
5. Structure for social services system, welfare state and NHS
6. Training on how to set up a registered charity
7. Courses on how to run a voluntary organisation or charity
8. Understanding the VCS
9. Fundraising for larger funding and widening funding base
10. Child protection
11. Public peaking/giving a presentation
12. Equalities issues
13. Action learning
14. Campaigning skills,
15. First aid
16. Courses for adult who develop disabilities: - money, resources, services, generally what help is available and how to access it

Skills for life - literacy, numeracy and ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and family learning

1. Vocational course
2. Parenting skills
3. Confidence building
4. Assertiveness skills

5. Management training for the Voluntary Sector
6. Manual handling
7. First Aid
8. Foreign languages
9. IT skills
10. Cooking on a low budget
11. How to access services, where to look

2. The curriculum offer should be coherent, involve collaboration between providers and offer suitable progression routes for learners

1. Be cohesive with regard to funding but please do not forget to be cohesive with regard to accreditation and the linkages
2. There should be supported progression
3. Inclusive and accessible learning directory
4. Have a PR strategy to raise the profile publicly especially round enrolment time in August and September
5. Develop a common database of provider but also invest in training for staff to give appropriate support and guidance
6. Supported progression
7. Get together with retail and the tourist industry to develop links with lower skilled workers from school and within the VCS

3. Support is given to ensure the delivery of high quality provision across the city

1. Provide respite care to enable carers to attend
2. Childcare
3. Good varied marketing and publicity
4. Delivery must be geographic and thematic
5. Working Together, CCE, Friends Centre, PCT, Care Co-ops, Family Learning all provide community development and personal learning. Sometimes these organisations have not spoken to one another about

the various courses, especially when delivering in some community centres

6. Include the VCS workforce skills strategy as a distinct strand.

4. To help the most disadvantaged to participate in adult learning through the provision of Information Advice and Guidance and Additional Learner Support (ALS) in a variety of accessible community based settings

1. Childcare and travel is vital
2. Support community centres to provide courses that are local, but avoid duplication, develop a citywide approach but respond to local needs
3. Recognise volunteer learning as a valuable learning experience, which develops, fit for purpose workers able to work in the VCS and Statutory sectors
4. Courses are often not the best way for disadvantaged people to be engaged. Quite often need to address their issues to start with and this might need to be done before they move to the correct choice of course
5. Disadvantage must be defined both geographically as well as thematically
6. One point of referral to whom VCOs can signpost service users/clients where they will receive support
7. Citizenship should be part of the curriculum even at adult level
8. Learner support should result in

improved retention

9. Better links from the FE Sector to VCS working with hard to reach groups

10. Work with VCS to look at a project which develops people's ability to write job applications rather than the continual obsession with people writing CVs.

5. Funding for adult learning and support is maximised through the development of joint applications and strategies

1. Lobby collectively to change the governments' priorities regarding "economy" as this disregards the VCS which in Brighton and Hove is equitable to the tourist industry
2. Make sure that there is input about VCO learning organisations fed into the adult learning strategy from the Economic and Social Audit (currently being conducted), which can inform some of the work of the various learning partnership working groups
3. Access funding for good person centred, free careers advice including information on VCS careers
4. Obsession with quality assurance bureaucracy is narrowing the diversity of provision
5. More work and support via strategies on the workforce development strategy for the Voluntary Sector in Brighton and Hove
6. A discussion on who is responsible: learner, government, provider, support organisation, etc.





WORKSHOP 1

Future Plans for Forum Representatives

Overview

The 2020 Community Partnership (LSP)* is reconfiguring to link more directly with the other strategic partnerships across the City (Family of Partnerships). The aim is that there is a more co-ordinated approach to the delivery of the Community Strategy. There has been a longstanding debate within the Forum to establish a mechanism by which Representatives can best link together thus providing support and sharing of knowledge and information on the strategic themes and issues.

*2020 Community Partnership (2020 CP) - also called the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)

Context

Most of the Partnerships that you all sit on will have a direct relationship to the 2020CP i.e. the chairs/vice-chairs of your Partnership will now sit on the 2020 CP and report on progress.

It is really important that the Sector has a co-ordinated approach to our partnership working/ relationships as the CVSF elects 8 members directly

on to the 2020 CP through the Stronger Communities Programme (SCP).

Issue

The link between the Reps who have seats on the individual partnerships and the Reps elected directly to the 2020 CP need to strengthen their links and communication in order that Sector can have the greatest impact.

A CVSF Autumn Conference 2004 workshop called “Reps Connecting” tried to address this.

Previous “linking-up”

Mechanisms

Reps Briefing meetings

Shortfalls

- Poorly attended
- Officer/Facilitator led
- No link to “family” of partnership representatives and the wider forum.

Meeting during the Forum Quarterly Conferences

Shortfalls

- Representatives by default, missing workshops pertinent to them and their organisations
- 2020 CP not working in line with the “themed” partner ships

Discussion Points

- There is a planned agenda, annual review and targets for the 2020
- What remains unclear is whether the 2020 makes decisions or does the work of reps have more influence at the family of partnerships level
- The Forum has a Vice Chairs seat and the Chairs/Vice Chairs meet to set the agenda
- Reps on the family of partnerships are very busy, a connection to the 2020 reps though might hold the family of partnerships to account
- New Forum quarterly conference structure, in the form of general meetings, allows members to formally agree policy on themed areas for example health, community safety.
- Connections between partnerships, learning Partnerships work against each other



- There are issues not represented on or by partnerships, for example the environment
- Is the way through, still the back door, face-to-face individual conversations?
- We know the difficulties/realities of representing the sector
- We should have more opportunities for informal communications
- Opening out the representatives contact with others
- We are currently missing opportunities to make links between our work
- Representatives can take Neighbourhood Renewal work back to their themed partnerships
- Being a representative can be quite isolating
- Links between representatives and networks can be improved
- Other representatives could attend network meetings
- A new shadowing system has started this year
- We need to clarify our policies regarding voluntary sector organisations sitting on partnerships for example the Crime Disorder Reduction Partnership and the Strategic Housing Partnership
- We need to ensure that reps are “properly elected”
- Reps should meet on a quarterly basis with a “theme” Workforce Development for example.
- We need to share our intelligence and use people within the Sector as experts

Making the connection

- We need to use a variety of ways
- We now have the Views of the Sector document
- There are two types of representative, general and specialist
- How do we understand the complexity of the information?
- Access to and co-ordination of briefings
- Publications and policy role
- Reps to collate any briefings they have and send them to Keith for wider circulation
- Is a briefing able to come via email – isn’t this the weekly bulletin
- Leadership
- Registered what’s coming up 2020 Stronger Communities Programme worker having a policy role
- Join in the 2020 briefings
- Representative’s feedback to wider membership
- 2020 Performance
- Feedback to Forum Members - Feedback to Forum Reps

AGREEMENT

It was agreed by all present that as a starting point for strengthening communication, all Reps would:

- Feedback 3 Key Points/Issues that their Partnership discussed to all

other Reps by completing a Communication Sheet to be circulated to a CVSF Reps email distribution list.

Action - Keith to circulate a recording sheet for reps to complete, showing the top three issues and provide email list* to all CVSF Reps.

- That all Reps meet at the start of each quarterly conference to eat and network (during the eat, mingle and network bit of the Conference) to discuss/share any pertinent Partnership business.

Action – Reps to commit to attending this part of the conference.

- Review – Reps to review this mechanism at Forum Spring Conference.

Unfortunately the speaker from the City Council’s Extended Schools team was unable to attend. In place of the planned meeting, the participants and facilitator shared what knowledge and experience they had around this issue.

WORKSHOP 2

Placing Schools at the Heart of the Community

The basic thinking behind the Extended Schools policy was set out. Placing schools at the heart of local communities - both for providing additional services to children & families and opening up facilities to local communities with the central aim of improving outcomes for children & young people. There are





also spin-off benefits for the wider community.

The so-called 'core offer' sets out what all schools are expected to provide by 2010:

- 'Wrap-around' childcare - before and after school and during school holidays
- Varied menu of activities - after-school sports, arts and crafts activities, extra language classes & ICT classes parenting support - information sessions for parents & the chance for parents & carers to learn with their children;
- Access to a wide range of specialist support services e.g. speech therapy, child and adolescent mental health services, behaviour support, and health services
- Community access to school facilities such as ICT equipment, playing fields, intergenerational activities, adult learning courses and acting as a base for police officers, Citizens' Advice Bureaux, Credit Unions.

Increasing community access, it was noted, is supported by evidence that:

- Links with the community help schools to raise pupils'

motivation, expectations and achievement, leading to improved standards and behaviour.

- Support from parents and local community organisations can be a crucial factor in improving pupils' attainment and combating social exclusion.
- Schools are often the only place that can provide the local community with sports and other facilities. Using the local school as a centre for adult learning, childcare facilities and for meetings helps regenerate and strengthen communities. Schools can also support community learning and improving health.
- More use of school premises can improve security and reduce vandalism.
- Links with the community reinforce the fact that all education relates to the wider community.

In Brighton & Hove schools will be organised in geographical clusters within the West, Central & East areas of the City (3 clusters per area).

Many extended school services may take place outside of schools premises themselves- e.g. Whitehawk After-School Club (run by Impact Initiatives).

Schools such as Moulescoomb Primary & Carlton Hill were already demonstrating the benefits to pupils, parents & the wider community of this approach e.g. parents feeling more involved by attending activities in the school or community groups like Moulescoomb Forest Garden Project involving kids with hands on growing of healthy foods.

Some local schools (& schools clusters) have designated development workers to link with the local communities e.g. Carlton Hill School in the Turner area & the Deans schools cluster (Woodingdean, Rottingdean, Saltdean...).

Some reported experience of schools being reluctant to develop these links and seeming pressured by this initiative on top of many others.

Although extended schools may provide opportunities to work more closely or in partnership with schools or access facilities at affordable rates, there is little or no specific funding involved.

For more information contact the Extended Schools team - Giles Hipisley & Anita Rawsley - 293992, part of this initiative.





WORKSHOP 3

A masterclass in Charity Maths

OVERVIEW OF SORP 2005

All charities have to prepare annual accounts and many have to, and most should, prepare trustees' annual reports. Proper accounting by charities is a key requirement of the Charity Commission. Charities must now prepare their accounts under the guidance set out in SORP 2005.

John Thacker, partner in Clarke Brownscombe Chartered Accountants, led this workshop that went through the key questions. Below is an extract from the guidance they have produced; a full version is available from katy@cvsectorforum.org, or call (01273 234003)

WHAT IS IT?

SORP 2005 is the Statement of Recommended Practice for the preparation of charity accounts in

the UK. It replaces SORP 2000.

It only applies to accounts prepared under the accruals basis. The accruals basis must be followed by all charitable companies and by charitable trusts with income of £100,000 or more.

WHEN DOES IT START?

Accounting periods beginning on or after 1 April 2005. In most cases, therefore, for 31 March 2006 year-ends.

WHY HAVE THEY PRODUCED IT?

To:

1. Clarify the purpose and scope of the SORP
2. Incorporate new financial reporting standards
3. Explain, in more detail, how to present information

WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHANGES?

Seven Specific Areas:

1. Trustees' Report - This is now more structured and focused on the purpose of the charity.
2. Income Recognition - Guidance is provided on when grant or contract

income should be deferred.

3. Activity - The SOFA is now structured around the activities of the charity.

4. Heritage Assets - A new asset category is created.

5. Presentation - A number of changes.

6. Smaller charities - Exemptions from information disclosure are listed.

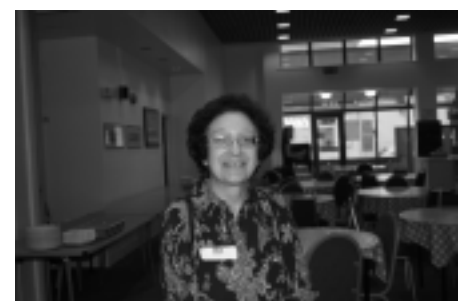
7. New situations - Advice is given on how to deal with a number of "new situations".

SORP 2005

CHARITY COMMISSION GUIDANCE

From the home page, (www.charity-commission.gov.uk) click on "Charities Accounts and Reports", then SORP 2005. A long list of documents, the most useful of which are:

- * The Charities SORP 2005.
- * The changes between SORP 2000 and SORP 2005 - only 8 pages long, a good summary.
- * Tracked copy of SORP 2005 - good idea, but hard to read.
- * Example Accounts SORP 2005 - six examples. More examples are being prepared, including small charities below the audit threshold.



And last (but by no means least), we would like to thank Nita Farmer, who volunteered with us during September and helped with the Quarterly Conference. We would like to wish her well in her future studies.

Local Safeguarding Children Board (and Staying Safe Sub-Group)

The new pan-Sussex Child Protection procedures will be officially launched, week beginning 4th December. These replace the green Area Child Protection Committee procedures. The new procedures will be published in 2 separate volumes, and there will be a wire-bound version of volume 1 for front-line managers and practitioners. Both volumes will also be available electronically as a PDF file. A credit-card sized information card is currently being costed. The launch and procedures will be promoted in the magazine 'Children First' (which is free to all children's services - call Sue Bowes 291071 to get on mailing list). Arrangements are being made to distribute and to inform and brief staff. The procedures will be inducted in the multi-agency induction programme for the Children and Young People's Trust, and briefings are being arranged for other health, education and social care staff. The community and voluntary sector have been invited to all the induction sessions. If there are any key issues/gaps they will be addressed through the Joint Agency Training Group and/or the Staying Safe Group.

There is a multi-agency LSCB Child Protection trainer who will deliver training to voluntary sector organisations on a sliding fee scale (negotiable). There is some question around the need to develop policy and practice in English language schools in the City (and indeed on the national legislature) so if anyone has any contact with these schools, this would be a good time to raise awareness - contact Mike McCoy 295970.

An audit of referrals and re-referrals

to social services Duty and Assessment Team is currently underway.

Issues that could be of interest to CVS organisations are:

- Child Protection referrals are on the increase, with more children going on the CPR, staying on longer and being re-registered
- most CP referrals come from the North and West of the City
- there is a discrepancy between police statistics around sexual abuse (higher) and the number that end up on the Child Protection Register (CPR) referrals (lower)
- Increase in Domestic Violence as an underlying factor in referrals (perhaps due to raised awareness of the issue within a context of limited service provision)

Children and Young People's Trust Partnership Board

On 21 September two new CVSF reps were elected (via a process delegated to the C&YP Network) to the Children & Young People's Trust Co-ordination Group. Three candidates stood: Bill Young from the Young Peoples Centre (Impact Initiatives), Naima Nouidjem from MOSAIC Black & Asian & Mixed Parentage Family Group and Carrie Britton from CHOICES for Families of Children with Arthritis. Bill Young was elected as the sixth rep.

It was agreed that runner-up - Naima Nouidjem - should stand in for rep Jess Wood who will be away for 4 months. It's been agreed that Naima & Jess will share this position for the remainder of the term.

The CYPT reps also have agreed that CYPT Reps David Standing (Hove

YMCA) & Roz Ward (Scarman Trust) should attend the CYPT Partnership Board as observers on behalf of the CVSF.

@ctive Student Vicky Ornellas & Beth Thomas **60+ Action Group** Geraldine Des Moulins **Allsorts Youth Project** Jess Wood **aMAZE** Kim Aumann **Brighton & Hove Community Initiatives** Steve Lawless **Brighton & Hove Learning Partnership** Dan Shelley **Brighton & Hove Parents' Forum** Tasha Barefield **Black Women's Group** Judy Richards **BMECP (Black & Minority Ethnic Community Partnership)** Doris Ndbele **Brighton Peace & Environment Centre** Michael Creedy **Brighton Unemployed Workers Centre** Tony Greenstein **Business Community Partnership** Oliver Maxwell **Carers Centre** Lisa Reeve **CHOICES for Children with Arthritis** Carrie Britton **Epilepsy Action** Madeline Peasgood **Friends of the Earth (B& H and Mid-Sussex)** Chris Todd **Hove YMCA** David Standing & John Shepherd **Metamorphosis Art Group** David Brawn **Metamorphosis Art Group & Moulescomb Community Forum** Jannet Cook & Mary Funnell **Pathways to Health** Valerie Mainstone **Phoenix Community Centre** Becky Purnell **Private Sector Housing Forum** Richard Scott **Relate** Trish Owen **Scarman Trust** Sue Barnes **SCIP** Mark Walker **Sompriti** Ila Mazumdar **South Downs Learning Centre** Gillian Trott **Turner World Festival / Turner Safety Forum** Ellen Wooley **Trust for Developing Communities** John Routledge **Vallance Community Centre** Richard Mangas **WEA (Workers Education Association)** Richard Cupidi **Whitehawk After School Project (Impact Initiatives)** Nic Halfhead **Workability (Impact-Initiatives)** Lynne Thomas **Working Together Project** Michelle Pooley & Paul Bramwell **GUESTS Learning & Skills Council** Val Koffman & Claire Witz **Brighton & Hove City Council Voluntary Sector Unit** Angie Greany **Clarke-Brownscombe Accountants** John Thacker

The Forum is funded by



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