

Autumn 2007

# Dialogue

The quarterly magazine of the  
Community and  
Voluntary Sector Forum

The last issue

Local Area Agreements



Issues that matter

What are the concerns of our local politicians when  
it comes to the community and voluntary sector?

Reviewing our  
representation policy

## Taking Account

the second economic and social  
audit of the community and  
voluntary sector

Participation matters

A BIGGER CHOICE

Welcome to a monumental edition of Dialogue – the last!

Fear not, this is a good sign that the Forum continues to move with the times. In the context of the ChangeUp programme, we have been reviewing our communications strategy based on members' feedback and the tools we have for sharing news with members, the wider sector and other partners in Brighton and Hove. More about all this on page 15.

We have also been looking at our events programme. It's been wonderful to meet and work with so many of you at recent networking evenings, conferences and other meetings – over 250 people in the past two months. We are grateful for the time you have committed to developing the sector's position statements, deliberating policy-making and influencing service delivery. We've learned a lot this year about what works, doesn't and how we need to focus always on providing space for groups to network. We have been thinking creatively about all this and will be providing more information on our events plans for next year at the December conference, or look out for details on the website.

Our reps continue to grow, both in number and prowess. We've recently gained seats on the

Community Safety Forum and Responsible Authorities Partnership/Drug and Alcohol Action Team. The Children and Young People reps, following the conclusion of the review around their participation in the Children and Young People Trust, have taken up new seats in 10 strategic groups of the Trust. Most importantly, reps are welcoming improved support, training and communication with members – but are always keen to hear from more groups, particularly those from communities of interest or neighbourhood groups wishing to raise issues at a citywide level.

And a final word on our collective strategic future. The Local Area Agreement (LAA) is dominating conversations within the 2020 Community Partnership (the Local Strategic Partnership) and will pave the strategic way ahead for public service delivery in the city. Find out more about this process and what it means on page 10. The Stronger Communities Programme Partnership is working hard on your behalf to make the case for developing a robust and thriving community and voluntary sector through the LAA. We hope to have more news on this before the end of the year.

Best regards from staff at the Forum

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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.

# TAKING ACCOUNT

*Did you know there are over 1,400 community and voluntary organisations in Brighton and Hove?*

Did you know there are over 1,400 community and voluntary organisations in Brighton and Hove, and over 8,000 people volunteer in these groups, providing an equivalent in kind wage value of just under £18 million per year? Did you know organisations bring over £20 million additional funding into the city and one in five organisations use a member's home as their base?

Well, we think this is the case ... but these figures date from 2003. Would you like to know how things have changed since then? So would we!

The lack of up-to-date information about the social and economic impact of community and voluntary sector activity is problematic. It makes it difficult to accurately assess the contribution we make toward service delivery and crucially to present a strong case for continued financial support from the statutory sector.

The 2003 survey was cutting edge at the time, but we need to update the study and apply newly developed methodologies, to provide us with the latest information for use in obtaining further funding, promoting the sector and identifying any areas where the development of services may be useful.

We have everything in place to help achieve this. With funding from Brighton and Sussex Community

Knowledge Exchange (BSCKE), Brighton and Hove City Council and Brighton and Hove City Primary Care Trust, we are working with expert academics from Brighton University to develop Taking Account. The project is overseen by Dialogue 5050 Group, which is responsible for building positive working relations between the community & voluntary and other sectors.

The survey will be in the form of an online questionnaire and will:

- Count the number of community and voluntary sector organisations within the city, including details of their characteristics, such as size; main area of activity; turnover and sources of funding;
- Count the hours spent on volunteering in the city and the characteristics of volunteers, management committee members and paid employees, including gender, age, sexual orientation and ethnicity profile, qualification levels and patterns of participation amongst marginalised groups within the city;
- Collect the main characteristics of service users.

Taking Account will result in a permanent shared database, which will be available online, and used by organisations providing support to groups and organisations in the city (linked to the ChangeUp programme). This database will therefore help community and voluntary groups to access the

support they need more easily. It means you will not have to update information in multiple places or provide content for the Forum Directory – it will save you time in long-run and ensure everything held about your organisation is 100% up to date. Once you have completed this survey, the information this time will be stored, so that you won't be required to fill in this survey again from scratch and better still, you can update it directly yourselves on a regular basis online. But don't worry about your confidential information being accessed when you don't want it to – there are clear guidelines and instructions in the survey which allow you to indicate what information you are or aren't willing to share.

A selection of case studies will be developed from the survey, which will be analysed to provide statistical evidence of the sector's impact, in pounds and pence, and the difference we make, including;

- the unique elements of services provided to individual service users, the preventative nature of these services and the cost savings they provide to statutory agencies;
- the economic and social value of community buildings;
- issues surrounding current staff salary levels including exploring comparable pay in other parts of the country for a range of recognised roles and positions; and
- recommendations with respect to

guidance and standards at local, regional or national level that could be adopted in Brighton and Hove; economic and social value of the sector's participation in consultation exercises carried out by statutory agencies as advocates, service delivery agencies and partners.

Forget not, we will all benefit from this. Statistics have been well used in the past to indicate the economic value of the sector – those from public and private sectors sit up and take notice when they hear how much money the sector contributes to the city, how much additional money it brings in and how few services could actually be provided by money available locally. Your organisation will be able to use the data in your own funding bids. The new information could be used to influence policy-makers, deciding how best to allocate resources in the city and which services should take priority – providing baseline information for the sector's role in the new Local Area Agreement (see page 10 for more details on this project).

The survey findings will raise awareness and build understanding of public and private bodies beyond the sector's economic contribution. We can use the information to campaign for better support to your organisation, by having an accurate picture of the sector and its strengths and weaknesses.

With our heads down, working hard in our separate organisations, we can sometimes lose sight of where we fit in the grand scheme of things. Taking Account will help remind us of our collective efforts, strengths, resources and potential. It will acknowledge the role the sector plays in significantly improving lives of people in the city.

# TAKING ACCOUNT

## A Social and Economic Audit of the Community & Voluntary Sector

### Why bother?

Just half an hour of your time now will help you in the long run:

- To argue your case when talking to funders and policy makers
- To get better support for the community and voluntary sector
- To understand better where we fit in the big picture



### What's different this time?

- a permanent shared database, regularly updated and linked to groups accessing better support in the city means you'll never have to do this again!
- establishing the economic value of the preventative work of the sector with case studies to show the difference we make
- owned by the Forum, funded by Community University Partnership Programme, developed by expert academics and overseen by Dialogue 5050 Group

For a hard copy of the questionnaire or to access a pc and fill in online, contact The Forum on (01273) 234000 or email [info@cvsectorforum.org.uk](mailto:info@cvsectorforum.org.uk)

[www.cvsectorforum.org.uk/takingaccount](http://www.cvsectorforum.org.uk/takingaccount)

Gordon Brown in a recent speech said he places the community and voluntary sector at the heart of society over the next 10 years. And we know that locally, the new political administration is supportive of the sector's achievements. But whatever policies materialise locally or nationally, we need facts, figures and feature stories if we are to successfully position ourselves as key partners.

And if you're not yet convinced, perhaps you'll be tempted by the multiple prizes on offer to three winning organisations, including top quality consultancy support for your organisation in fund-raising, organisational development or an ICT health check.

The survey is focused only on the details we want to know and need to use. We have lost some of the peripheral questions from last time and worked hard at making it succinct and user-friendly. We estimate the survey will take less than 30 minutes to complete, for smaller groups, perhaps longer for bigger organisations. Once you've logged on, you can save what you've completed and log-out to come back to the survey another time, or ask

your colleagues to fill in certain sections.

For those without PC access, hard copies of Taking Account will be provided on request, or access to IT facilities arranged, with support as necessary.

If you're thinking, I've no time or do my group's details really matter – we urge you to please think again! If we're to successfully take account, we need your support.

The survey will be live from the middle of November, so, log-on and be taken into account! Visit [www.cvsectorforum.org.uk/takingaccount](http://www.cvsectorforum.org.uk/takingaccount) for more information.

# SPEAKING THE SAME LANGUAGE



Sussex Interpreting Services (SIS) is an organisation committed to enabling full access, for people with language needs, to publicly funded services in order to improve health, education and overall quality of life.

SIS works in Brighton & Hove (and across Sussex) as an independent social enterprise and charitable company helping to individuals from black & minority ethnic communities (BME) by providing accredited trained Community Interpreters and Translators in 60 languages, as well as providing confidential advice, assistance and information to clients and consultation services for organisations wishing to improve access to their services,

SIS receives funding through a Contract for Services which is jointly commissioned by Brighton & Hove NHS Trusts and the City Council to provide free Community Interpreting for voluntary organisations and community groups in Brighton & Hove.

This commitment guarantees your service users with language needs can enjoy an equality of service which is professional, confidential and impartial. SIS Community Interpreters can facilitate during face to face individual consultations, case-work, assessment and interviews including home visits.

“Thank you for arranging for an

interpreter for one of our clients. The client had come into the office to get help with filling in a form for Attendance Allowance and the interpreter was extremely helpful.”  
Bea Gahagan @ Age Concern

SIS Community Interpreters are also trained to help bridge cultural as well as linguistic differences – assisting understanding of differences in customs, family relationships and religious beliefs, thereby enabling services to steer away from action that may be culturally inappropriate or insensitive.

“Using SIS interpreters enables me to achieve a good level of rapport with clients where we can exchange information and feelings as freely as if we both spoke the same languages.”  
Steve Silverwood @ Money Advice & Community Support

To book a free SIS Community Interpreter you will need to complete a booking form. Booking forms are available by calling 01273 702005 or on our website at [www.sussexinterpreting.org.uk](http://www.sussexinterpreting.org.uk). Please try give a minimum of three working days notice whenever possible. This increases the chances of getting a community interpreter, allows preparation for the interview.

In our experience your service has been excellent. It is quick and easy to book interpreters in any language and their level of professionalism has been impressive.”

Manager @ Brighton YMCA

Many of the clients whom SIS helps to support are newly arrived in the UK and feel extremely vulnerable and isolated. Others have lived here for many years and, whilst their level of English has improved, there is still a need for language support in formal or stressful situations.

“I thought I could get by with my nominal understanding of English. I was always courteously looked after by services but now I realise there were misunderstandings until SIS came along”.

Farsi speaking client

[www.sussexinterpreting.org.uk](http://www.sussexinterpreting.org.uk) contains further information about SIS services and working with Community Interpreters plus copies of our Newsletters, Annual Review and inspiring client testimonials. If you would like to know more about how SIS can help your organisation please call Vikki Gimson – Core Service Manager on 01273 234831 or e mail [vikki@sussexinterpreting.org.uk](mailto:vikki@sussexinterpreting.org.uk)



# Moulsecoomb Community Forum

ISSUE 8  
MARCH &  
APRIL 2007

**Moulsecoomb Community**  
**FORUM**  
Newsletter

CIRCULATION  
2007

NEXT FORUM  
MEETING:  
TUESDAY 24TH  
APRIL 2007 AT  
6.30 - 8 PM.  
MOULSECOOMB  
LEISURE CENTRE  
BAR AREA



EVERYBODY  
WELCOME

NO CIGARETTE  
FACILITIES BUT  
OTHER CHILDREN  
MAY SIT QUIETLY  
AND HEAR TELT  
TIPS AND PAPER  
PROVIDED

FORUM FREE

CONTACT DETAILS  
via The Secretary  
121 Ringmer Rd.  
N. Moulsecoomb  
Brighton BN1 9JA  
East Sussex  
Tel: 07852 491753  
(voicemail facility)

The Moulsecoomb Community Forum was established about twenty years ago by Councillor Frances Tonks, who brought together residents and service providers with a view to improving Moulsecoomb for everybody.

Today, Moulsecoomb Community Forum is now an independent

resident, volunteer run forum with a resident led steering committee who run the fora meetings, write the newsletters and access the funding, with former Councillor, Frances



**Jannet Cook and Mary Funnell, steering committee working group members taking a well earned rest from delivering the Moulsecoomb Community Forum newsletter in Hodshrove Lane Pocket Park.**

Tonks as a non voting, honorary member. From time to time, we have non voting service providers who sit on the committee.

The fora open meetings are influenced by the residents who live within Moulsecoomb and Higher Bevendean surrounding environs, who raise issues during meetings which are then brought forward as topics for future fora. At each open meeting we invite a speaker on identified topics such as environment, followed by a question and answer session, updates and news from previous fora.

Feedback and updates are included within the following editions of the newsletter and a report from the previous meeting is summarised therein. Three thousand copies are circulated to Moulsecoomb and Higher Bevendean and service providers on neighbouring estates. They are delivered by resident volunteers.

Relevant points and queries raised during meetings are passed onto various service provision officers, such as refuse, health, policing, pollution, traffic control, environmental issues, and questions are put to them and problems raised.

Two years ago the Forum was funded by a £2,500/£5000 Scarman Trust 'Can Do' grant and since then we have been funded solely through advertising revenue.

Over the past two years, the Forum has covered topics including Falmer School being turned into an academy

or not, environmental issues with Wild Park, Stanmer Park and Hodshrove Woods, the environmental impact and traffic changes posed by Kingspan waste depot, policing issues including formation of the Local Action Team (LAT), the latest Government Health Report, Falmer Stadium impacting upon Moulsecoomb, youth facilities (or lack of), Hodshrove Lane Pocket Park, traffic calming issues and the Local Area Agreement.

## Aims and Objectives

To bring together the communities of Moulsecoomb and surrounding areas:

- To provide a representative collective voice
- To identify common issues
- Influence changes and take focussed action
- Aim to improve the quality of life in the area.



**Carmel Stevenson**

## The Chinese Educational Development Project



The Chinese Educational Development Project (CEDP) is a registered charity (No. 1118550), founded in October 2000, and now run by a group of enthusiastic professionals.

All staff and volunteers have a rich experience of both the Chinese and British education systems. The Project aims to help the Chinese community in accessing existing educational, training, culture and employment opportunities. It is funded by the Community Fund, Brighton & Hove City Council and a number of charitable trusts.

Our project addresses the disadvantages faced by individuals of Chinese origin in accessing existing educational, training and employment opportunities or participating in community activities, due to barriers posed by cultural differences and/or active discrimination. In so doing the project improves the quality of life of members of the Chinese community and, in particular, that of key sub groups of this community, such as young people and women.

### Our services are as follows:

- To provide free educational hot lines and 1-2-1 support for the Chinese Community in the UK
- To organize cultural awareness training, events and activities for both the Chinese community and other services providers
- To publish a bilingual newsletter and an information website for educational purposes
- To enhance culture exchange between China and the UK.

Contact us at:

CEDP  
Chinese Centre  
Community Base  
113 Queens Road  
Brighton  
East Sussex  
BN1 3XB

Tel (01273) 234800  
Fax (01273) 234801

Email [contact@cedp.org.uk](mailto:contact@cedp.org.uk) or  
[info@cedp.org.uk](mailto:info@cedp.org.uk)



**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.**

### **Children & Young People Network**

This network brings together staff & volunteers from members working with children & young people. Meetings usually include a presentation from a particular project as well as up-dates from members about their work. Regular information is circulated by email. The Network has strong links with the Children & Young People's Trust Partnership and supports our representatives on various CYPT groups including the CYPT Board, Youth & Connexions Service Board; Local Safeguarding Children Board; Workforce Development Partnership; Healthy & Extended Schools Strategy Group, Communications and Consultation Group; Preventative Strategy Group; Children and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee; Parent Support Advisory Group.

In the coming months the Network will also examine the role of the Forum in representation to the nine Healthy & Extended Schools cluster groups that provide a neighbourhood based community perspective to the development of services for children & young people. The next meeting is on Wed 5th December, 11.30 - 1.00pm (as part of CVSF Quarterly Conference) will be a joint meeting with the Mental Health Network about child & adolescent mental health services. For more information, contact Duncan Blinkhorn on (01273) 234011 or

email [duncan@cvsectorforum.org.uk](mailto:duncan@cvsectorforum.org.uk)

### **Community Festivals Network**

This network brings together people involved in putting on community festivals, street parties or other inclusive celebratory events across the city. Participants share ideas and information to support each other in planning future events and are compiling a list of dates and other details about events planned for next year. The Network seeks to champion the role of such events in building stronger communities. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 7 - 9pm at the Cornerstone Community Centre, Church Road, Hove. Contact Nicola on (01273) 234041 or email [nicola@cvsectorforum.org.uk](mailto:nicola@cvsectorforum.org.uk)

### **Community Learning Network**

This network has been integrated into the Learning Partnership and the various working groups of that partnership. However, the Community Learning email list will still be run through the Forum, who will be setting up a new 'virtual' network over the coming weeks. For details contact the Forum's representative to the Learning Partnership, Michelle Pooley on (01273) 234773 or email [michelle@workingtogetherproject.org.uk](mailto:michelle@workingtogetherproject.org.uk).

### **Community Newsletter Network**

Brings together people who produce community newsletters and magazines, to share skills and learn more about newsletter production. Contact Katy on (01273) 234003 or email [katy@cvsectorforum.org.uk](mailto:katy@cvsectorforum.org.uk) for more information.

### **Environment Network**

This 'virtual' network brings together Forum member organisations that have a particular interest in working on the sustainable development of

Brighton and Hove. The network emerged partly out of a series of meetings about the city's Climate Change Action Plan; it will mainly work through emails. To be added to the virtual network, email [katy@cvsectorforum.org.uk](mailto:katy@cvsectorforum.org.uk)

### **Mental Health Network**

This network brings together staff from CVSF member organisations involved in delivering mental health services. Members share information and link with the Forum's elected reps (Jenny Pickup and Sarah Danilly) to the local implementation team of the NHS National Service Framework. This Network has been looking at future PCT commissioning arrangements for mental health services delivered in Brighton & Hove by the community & voluntary sector. A working group has been set up to develop proposals which respond to a streamlined commissioning process while ensuring that the diversity and choice for clients associated with the VCS is not undermined. The next meeting is on Wed 5th December, 11.30 - 1.00pm (as part of CVSF Quarterly Conference), then on 12 February, 09.30 - 11.30. Contact Sally at the Forum on (01273) 234044 or email [sally@cvsectorforum.org.uk](mailto:sally@cvsectorforum.org.uk) for more information.

The Forum wishes it could support more networks; we know health/social care and arts networks would be welcomed by our members. Our current capacity doesn't stretch to this, but if members are able to assist us in this area we would welcome further discussions. It is also intended that Forum events next year will provide for more networking of networks.

Watch this space!



The Forum's Stronger Communities Programme aims to bring together organisations and communities so they have a meaningful voice on the 2020 Community Partnership (the city's Local Strategic Partnership). By bringing together people who have experience and knowledge of different issues and areas, the community and voluntary sector has a much stronger voice to help improve the city for the benefit of local people.

The Programme is built around four themes: **representation** - being a central source for the views of voluntary and community groups to be collected, discussed and reflected; **communication** - helping Forum members (and more generally, residents) understand what the Stronger Communities Programme and 2020 Community Partnership are about; **equalities** - working together with different agencies so people and areas which are disadvantaged because they face discrimination, are less discriminated against and therefore become less disadvantaged, and including a **neighbourhood approach** - engaging with neighbourhood forums and structures, sharing information on neighbourhood issues which can be fed to the strategic partnerships.

A range of activities is well underway bringing people together to define the most important issues for them and which at the same time, help and support community and voluntary sector reps raise these issues across the range of strategic partnerships in the city. All the Forum's quarterly conferences begin with a reps briefing session, which is proving to be a valuable opportunity for all 35 of them to share information and ideas and look at relevant papers and information together.

Monthly email updates continue to

provide briefings, summaries of meetings and other SCP news, and our rep's resource pack has been updated over the summer.

A programme of training sessions has been designed to give reps a range of skills and learning and help build confidence in their abilities in a complicated role, for example, the Coaching Skills session (organised with The Scarman Trust) gave reps the skills to support other people to effect change, using clear and effective communication, coaching methods, interpersonal skills including emotional intelligence, 'solution focused' problem solving.

The Strategic Leadership training looked at how to understand agendas, build alliances, understand the political structures and decision making procedures we work within, the barriers to equality, communication and diplomacy and how leadership works in a representative role. The Complex Negotiation Skills session will help reps negotiate on behalf of the sector, including resolving ambiguities, understanding different negotiating styles, the importance of listening, building supportive relationships, avoiding misunderstandings and recognising concession tactics.

As well as supporting partnership reps, the SCP enables people from neighbourhood groups, communities of interest and people involved in the community in other ways to share their views, experiences and expertise on the themes contained in the 2020 Community Strategy. To that end, an ambitious series of SCP events has widened peoples' opportunities to take part in the programme, and has taken our elected reps, Forum members and other interested people through the autumn with lots of chances to make their voices heard.

Events have been planned around the 2020 Sustainable Community Strategy themes, so that by the end of them, a list has been agreed of the most important issues on a particular topic. These priorities are further refined afterwards; online discussion and voting narrows them down to a manageable number of campaign issues, which all the elected reps can be confident are the views of the wider sector, and which are easy to report on at the strategic partnership meetings.

Events so far have included: Climate Change - can we think global and act local? Safety Nets – community perception of crime and safety and local solutions; Hidden Treasures – what does the sector bring to employment, skills and the local economy? Gimme Shelter! – What can be done about the housing problems facing the city? All Well and Good? – working together to reduce health inequalities in the city; Power to the People! - "From house to street to community to city; how should the community and voluntary sector contribute to creating responsive services and empowered communities?

And Round Our Way, a Brighton and Hove Stronger Neighbourhoods, Stronger Communities Conference took place in September at The Old Market and looked at influencing service providers; inclusive neighbourhoods; involving young people in neighbourhood work; being a neighbourhood representative; being a neighbourhood representative at a citywide level (more about that on page xx)

By using community buildings across neighbourhoods and community caterers supplying food from different ethnicities, events have been planned to reflect the many identities of the city.

## Local Area Agreements

With the race well underway for local authorities all over the country to meet the Government's date for sign off of the new Local Area Agreements in June next year, Brighton and Hove's experience of the piloting the scheme should put the city in pole position.

Having established good working relationships and an understanding of the principles underpinning Local Area Agreements over the initial pilot phase, the 2020 Community Partnership (Brighton and Hove's Local Strategic Partnership) is well placed for an active role in the negotiations which will determine how a £10 million budget will be spent (it sounds a lot but it is in fact, only 0.5% of the total public sector budget).

According to the Government's Guidance (*Negotiating New Local Area Agreements*

Department for Communities and Local Government), issued in September, "the first step is to develop 'the story of the place' – the distinctive vision and ambition of the area and the evidence base which makes clear why issues are priorities for the locality. A good 'story' is one which is credible, gets wide buy-in from stakeholders – including central government departments – and is a strong basis around which to subsequently negotiate targets for inclusion in the LAA".

It is in developing 'the story of the place' that the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum is now very much involved. The Government has set a raft of indicators, including 17 mandatory ones around education and skills, but a further 35 from 198 will be based on local needs. The Forum's Quarterly Conference, which took place on 12 September

marked the beginning of an intensive piece of work to engage members in putting together a clear case for which priorities it thinks are most important.

The Stronger Communities Programme Partnership is developing three 'business cases', which will argue for priorities around community engagement; the role of the sector in delivering services to reduce inequalities around mental health, NEETS (young people who are not in education, employment or training) and employability; developing support for the community and voluntary sector. The second of these has come about as a direct result of the work of Forum member's input on position statements and in involvement in the Reducing Inequalities Review, both of which have identified the need to focus on these specific areas of disadvantage. Following these discussions, a reference group has been established so that further Forum members can take part in these discussions.

Whilst this is a very big piece of work for the Forum, there are also business cases being written by the other partners of the 2020 Community Partnership. The Forum has 35 representatives elected to these partnerships, and this enables the sector to contribute its knowledge, experience and evidence across the board. Forum members should ensure that any areas of work, which they know to be crucial, are fed to the relevant elected representatives. Other priorities discussed by Forum members during recent networking evenings range from community safety and crime, to housing and climate change which are being fed into the various partnerships discussing the LAA.

The Community and Voluntary Sector Forum has played an important role in developing the partnership work which is a fundamental element of Local Area Agreements and allows a greater devolution of spending power to best meet the needs of local communities. The community and voluntary sector has a wide reaching and unique perspective of life in Brighton and Hove, providing an enormous range of services and support, particularly to people, families and areas which have experienced deprivation and inequality. These are the organisations with the real stories of the place, bad and good, and that is why it is crucial they have a route into the negotiations which will result in the Local Area Agreement.

Summary reports from the Forum's Quarterly Conference can be seen on page... with full reports on the Forum's website at ....

For more information about the work underway, contact Keith Beadle on (01273) 234000 or email [keith@cvsectorforum.org.uk](mailto:keith@cvsectorforum.org.uk).

One further meeting of the LAA Reference Group is scheduled to take place on Friday 9 November from 9.30 - 11.30am.

**What is a Local Area Agreement?**

Government gives all councils money to provide services for their residents. From 2008, councils and other public bodies, (e.g. Police and Primary Care Trust) and the community and voluntary sector, have to work with each other to choose how they spend some of this money, based on their particular local needs. Brighton and Hove City Council will negotiate with the government about the **35** most important things that it wishes to spend the money on.

**How will we decide what those 35 most important things are?**

The **2020 Community Partnership** is made up of the other **city-wide partnerships**. Each of these partnerships will make a 'business case' for the funds that their partnership needs to deliver its services. The Community & Voluntary Sector Forum, on behalf of the Stronger Communities Partnership, will be making a business case for the funding of community engagement (including community engagement activities and the sector's work around reducing inequalities). The 2020 Community Partnership will make the decision on how it thinks the funds should be spent.

**What services will come through the LAA?**

*Examples include:*

- Improving school attendance
- The health and well being of older people
- Improving the local environment
- Reducing anti-social behaviour
- Influencing decision making

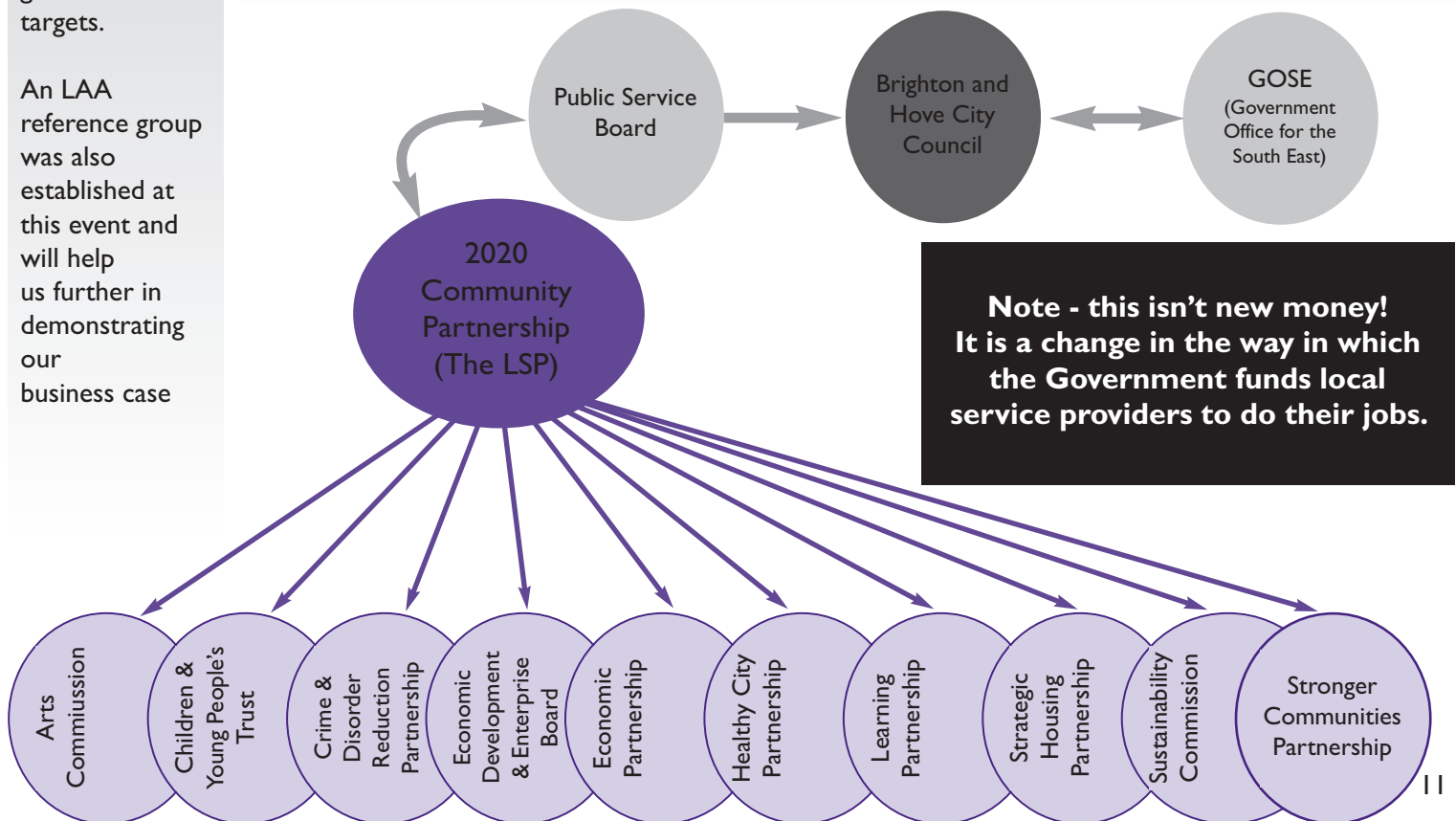
The Forum's Conference in September 2007 focused on the LAA and enabled us to gather some information about how our member's work relates to the government's targets.

An LAA reference group was also established at this event and will help us further in demonstrating our business case

CVSF representatives sit on most of the partnership boards (shown in the circles) and should be involved in choosing their LAA priorities during this autumn. Priorities will be revisited each year to make sure they haven't changed.

There are 200 possible 'priority targets' which the government sets, from which the 35 local priorities will be taken. This means local councils have more flexibility to spend their money on things they know are most needed in their area.

The 2020 Community Partnership decides how the funding should be spent and the Public Service Board supports this process. Brighton and Hove City Council then negotiates with GOSE on the outcomes (the things the partnerships want to do) and the money which will be attached to this agreement.



**Note - this isn't new money! It is a change in the way in which the Government funds local service providers to do their jobs.**

## ROUND OUR WAY

**Seventy-five participants from community and voluntary organisations in the city came together in September for our conference, *Round Our Way, Stronger Neighbourhoods, Stronger Communities.***

Sharing information and ideas and discussing how their views and priorities could be better represented at a citywide level, representatives from groups across the city's neighbourhoods worked long and hard, supporting each other to learn from their shared experience.

Brighton and Hove City Council's Policy Officer, Richard Butcher-Tuset, opened the day at the Old Market in Hove, by setting the scene on current local government neighbourhood initiatives. Sally Hiscock described The Forum's Stronger Communities Programme, explaining the opportunities for neighbourhood groups to network and contribute to the development of community and voluntary sector position statements. The statements are used by CVSF representatives to influence the city's strategic partnerships, where decisions are made about public service delivery.

Interactive workshops provided the main focus of the day, where participants exchanged their knowledge and skills around influencing service providers, involving young people and developing inclusive neighbourhoods.

Whatever they might be called, the many community safety partnerships, local action teams or neighbourhood forums across the city, are felt in many parts to be working successfully with statutory service providers. Participants were able to share success stories of positive change brought about through local resident engagement in decision-making processes and reported relationships were improving. Others meanwhile felt there was a way to go, that some service providers continued to pass the buck or aren't engaged with local community structures. Groups also commented they needed to ensure meetings were action focused, constructive, jargon free and well attended by local residents.

Those in the workshop on involving young people agreed a top tip – make activities flexible and focus on what young people can get out of their involvement. Barriers which deter young people from engaging were discussed, such as inflexible structures and attitudes, a lack of



outreach workers and a mis-match between expectations between adults and young people. Crucially, it was recommended groups never promise anything they cannot deliver!

Groups discussed how to make their work in neighbourhoods more inclusive of diverse communities, recognising the importance of this if we are to strengthen local ownership, cohesion and democracy, to challenge discrimination, reduce disadvantage and make any project at a local level more meaningful. They agreed that it was vital to recognise





that being involved in neighbourhood action has a life span, because it is of value to someone at a particular point in time. Accessible venues for meetings which are well timed, friendly and fun, where people have a voice and can affect change are key. It was agreed that too often, meetings are repetitive, boring, bureaucratic or hijacked and local residents cannot often see the relevance to them.

Participants also heard from former CVSF elected representatives Sam Warren and Becky Purnell, who shared their knowledge of being a rep, the opportunities and challenges involved and their experience of influencing policy-making, such as the allocation of significant neighbourhood renewal funds in areas of the city.

The final round of workshops explored the channels and mechanisms for ensuring neighbourhood experience and views are influencing decision-makers citywide.

It was agreed the links between CVSF elected reps and neighbourhood areas need to be stronger, to provide a meaningful link to the strategic partnerships. Strategies also need to empower people to understand existing structures and how they work, who does what, where and how things fit

together. Future networking was prioritised, to ensure groups continue to learn and work together in these issues.

To download a full report of the conference, visit



[www.cvsectorforum/roundourway](http://www.cvsectorforum/roundourway)  
To discuss the event and follow-up work, please contact Sally at the Forum, [sally@cvsectorforum.org.uk](mailto:sally@cvsectorforum.org.uk)

*“Good policy intro because I’ve been out of touch”*

*“Very informative and contextualized”*

*“Interesting – lots of different positive perspectives”*

*“Interesting – but would hate this to be just another ‘talking shop’ without action”*



## I'M A VOLUNTARY SECTOR REP – GET ME IN THERE!

Since February this year, our elected reps to the local Children's Trust (CYPT) have been rethinking their role and position. Driven by a belief that their time and experience as advocates for voluntary sector services and clients could be more effectively applied, they conducted a detailed review of representation encapsulated in their report 'Beyond Tokenism: Moving to a sustainable and meaningful partnership with the CYPT' (which can be downloaded from CVSF website). This mapped the sector's participation in various CYPT groups and revealed the scale of the sector's provision for children and families in the city however, it found it to be 'wide' but lacking depth, co-ordination and consistency ("... a mile wide but only an inch deep" as one member put it).

The report called for "a shift from tokenism to meaningful partnership between the CYPT & local community and voluntary sector by achieving focused application of CVSF resources into actual decision-making groups". It listed a series of recommendations for the CYPT and the Forum which would strengthen communication, participation, representation and partnership working. The main recommendations were:

Children & Young People's Trust to:

- Resource support for community and voluntary sector engagement
- Routinely consult the CVSF on strategic developments before decisions are made
- Support consistent engagement with service users recognising the

role of voluntary sector and community organisations in facilitating this

- Commit to develop skills of managers in partnership working
- Full CVSF representation on the CYPT Board and review representation on other groups
- Improve how meetings are conducted including full membership for community and voluntary sector reps, joint planning of agenda, leadership of group/chair, membership, terms of reference, duration, recompense for time/expertise given
- Jointly plan and resource protocols for consultations

Community and Voluntary Sector Forum to:

- Develop a stronger infrastructure to support CYPT engagement, including improving two-way communication and administrative support for elected reps
- Develop a transparent and more effective representation strategy including clarity on the role of reps and identification of other expertise in membership that can be called on as 'expert witnesses'.

The report formed the basis of subsequent negotiations with the CYPT which have resulted in the repositioning of elected reps to a range of key groups across the Trust and more resources for the Forum to support them and improve communications and engagement by members. We now have thirteen reps on eleven different CYPT groups. The Forum's Development Officer, Duncan Blinkhorn, is now

funded through the CYPT and the Children's Workforce Development Council to support this work.

### Community & voluntary sector projects serving children, young people & families in Brighton & Hove

- 450\* CVS organisations/projects, a third of CVS, provide services aimed at children, young people & families. 200 of these are Forum members.
- 1,500\* paid staff (average 3 per organisation): 60% of them part-time
- 6,000\* volunteers working 5 hours or more per week (average 13 per org)
- Drawing additional funding into the city – for every £1 invested from City Council & PCT an estimated further £3.60 is generated from other sources (Economic & Social Audit of B&HCVS, 2003).
- Delivering a wide range of services and activities - including play, sports, music, arts, education & training, advice, information, advocacy, parent support, safeguarding, healthy eating.
- Emphasis on preventative services, promoting health, well-being and community safety & cohesion.
- Benefiting most (if not all) of the 52,000 children, young people in the city & their families.
- Responsive to needs of clients and communities.

*\*estimates based on research including Economic & Social Audit, local voluntary sector databases, audit of CVS training needs and information from the Charity Commission register*

**CYPT Groups with CVSF Reps** CYPT Board David Standing (Hove YMCA) & Naima Nouidjem (Mosaic), Youth & Connexions Service Board David Standing (Hove YMCA) & Rita Brophy (Fun in Action for Children) - replacing Ann Taylor (Oct07) Youth & Connexions Service Commissioning Sub-group Stuart Johnson (Hove YMCA) & Jess Wood (Allsorts Youth Project) Learning Partnership Michelle Pooley (Working Together Project) & Frances Duncan (Whitehawk Inn) Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) & Staying Safe Sub-group Terri Fletcher (SafetyNet) Workforce Development Partnership Allen Etheridge (SafetyNet), Communications and Consultation Group Caspar Murphy (Impact Initiatives) Parenting Support Strategy Advisory Group Sheena Cameron (Daybreak Family Grp Confs) Naima Nouidjem (Mosaic) Healthy and Extended Schools Strategy Group Carrie Britton (CHOICES for Families of Children with Arthritis) & David Standing (Hove YMCA) Preventative Strategy Group David Standing (Hove YMCA) Sheena Cameron (Daybreak) CYP Overview and Scrutiny Committee Kim Aumann (Amaze)

## ALL CHANGE

A number of changes are happening to make the ChangeUp Consortium more accountable and simpler to understand! The three local 'hubs' have merged to form a 'ChangeUp Consortium' which consist mainly of groups providing support services ('infrastructure') and also includes frontline group representatives. There will still be an annual meeting to involve and feed back to the sector, but members of CVSF are not automatically described as 'Consortium members', as previously, unless they choose to come to Consortium meetings.

The Consortium has been improving joint working, and in particular at how the organisations involved can combine their resources to work more efficiently. The Business Management Group has also started

work on a Business Plan and a 10 year Strategic Plan. As well as being a funder requirement, it is a chance to update the 'Local Infrastructure Development Plan' and check its priorities for support services are still what local groups need. If you would like to help or have any comments please contact us.

Support for Groups is a website to be launched this year. It will bring together information from the City's infrastructure organisations so that groups can find the help, support and information they need.

A Common Database will provide up to date information and contact details for groups and be a powerful tool for the sector, from early 2008. A joint support newsletter will replace a range of existing

newsletters – from the Forum's Dialogue magazine to the Council's Fundamental. The first issue should be available early next year. Specialist Groups funding allows two key infrastructure organisations – BMECP and The Federation of Disabled People – to be involved in the ChangeUp Consortium & projects (from 207-2008). The Brighton & Hove Local Infrastructure Development Plan provides a blueprint for improving the support services for groups; ChangeUp funding was given specifically to develop this (2004-2006).

For more information see [www.cvsectorforum.org.uk/infrastructure](http://www.cvsectorforum.org.uk/infrastructure) or contact Emily O'Brien, ChangeUp Project Manager, CVSF on (01273) 234016 or email [emily@cvsectorforum.org.uk](mailto:emily@cvsectorforum.org.uk)

## MAINTAINING A DIALOGUE

As many readers will already know, this is the very last issue of Dialogue, the Forum's quarterly magazine. And whilst the team will be sorry to see it go, we are very excited about the changes that it precipitates.

Forum members will be able to keep up to date with all our news by signing up to our new member's mailing. We will take the best of Dialogue, including member features, new Forum members, network, reps and conference feedback, local and national charity news, and produce it every month, and send it to you directly by email (although we will print hard copies on request). If you are a Forum member, this is one mailing list you and your colleagues very definitely need to be on!

Moving from a quarterly to monthly newsletter means other changes, most notably the end of the weekly Lovely Lilac Spam Sandwich. Again, while we will miss it arriving in time for lunch every week, there will be a new Support For Groups website and magazine, both of which will provide ample opportunities for the sharing of news from within the sector, both here and further a field, regionally and nationally, and from our colleagues in the public sector. The website and magazine will both have a wider audience than Forum members and will be able to provide more space for contributions, including on funding, training, and other support. Both will be an important place for broadcasting news, with the website in particular geared up to taking your stories.

And finally, we will be relaunching the Forum's email discussion list as simply that – a discussion list. With more focused channels for sharing the information we receive, we hope you will start to take over the list for discussions on issues of importance to the sector.

These are exciting times, particularly in the world of 'communications'; there will inevitably be challenges, but over the coming months we will be doing our level best to provide you with interesting and useful information to best suit your needs.

Contact the Forum's Communications Officer, Katy McGrory, for further details, on (01273) 234003 or email [katy@cvsectorforum.org.uk](mailto:katy@cvsectorforum.org.uk)

# QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

**Feedback from our  
Quarterly  
Conference, All The  
Fun of the Fair, held  
on 12 September  
2007 at Brighthelm**



**Anthony Zacharzewski, Head of Policy, Brighton and Hove City Council on Brighton and Hove's Local Area Agreement 2008-11**

The LAA began 3 years ago to locate the various small pots of funding and group them in specific areas of need. BHCC was one of the first authorities to adopt this method in the country. The current LAA is due to run out on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 and the new one begins on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008.

Anthony emphasised the LAA is extremely important for the sector with £10 million available (0.5% of the total public sector spend). The benefits of a particular area being covered by the LAA are more than this; it can be used to lever mainstream spending. In addition the LAA, through the LSP, allows some of the most influential people for the sector to meet and discuss priorities. Each partnership is developing business cases to evidence why certain outcomes should be funded. The business cases will be assessed by the LSP to balance the different social and economic needs that the city's service providers are trying to address.

It is important to note that the government will not be setting targets for work that is currently being done well. The business cases will be collated by November.

**Elin Gudnadottir, Deputy Chief Executive, Urban Forum Community & voluntary sector influence & outcomes in Local Area Agreements**

Elin highlighted some of the recent policy and legislation, which underlines the importance of the sector in current political thinking, including the Local Government White Paper Strong and Prosperous Communities.

A result of the ending of direct funding is that the sector will need to negotiate for money through the LAA. This raises two questions; how does the CVSF prepare itself for representation on the LAA and how are partnerships represented on the LSP?

**John Routledge, External Funding & Voluntary Sector Unit Manager BHCC Community & voluntary sector in the Brighton & Hove Local Area Agreement**

John has recently taken up this position, after working in the sector nationally and involvement in the local sector as a volunteer. Based on his experience John commented that BHCC is committed to the sector, and he looks forward to furthering that support in his new capacity. It was noted that the LAA encompasses the whole of the city and as a result not every group can

be directly involved in shaping it. Therefore a collective response from the sector is needed.

There is a lack of evidence / statistics which demonstrate the sector's role in these areas; the last economic and social audit of the sector was undertaken in 2003.

The Audit is now being updated and CVSF is launching 'Taking Account' in October. Taking Account will give a true reflection of the sector's achievements, quantify some of the preventative work done by the sector that is difficult to value and help us all in making informed decisions on where to concentrate work. This type of data on the sector will strengthen the role of the sector in strategic delivery and negotiations like the LAA.

**Jen Colwell, Brighton University Researcher – Taking Account; the new social and economic audit of the community and voluntary sector**

The purpose of the audit is to update the current information which is held on the sector that measures its impact. As a result of this the sector will benefit from an instructive database of information, a series of case studies illustrating what the sector does and tools to evidence what the sector's economic and social value is.



The audit hopes to achieve 500 responses in total, at least half from CVSF members and 50% of responses from smaller groups. The questionnaire will be an on-line document. Users will be able to log on and off.

## Workshop One: Hook a Duck. LAA Priorities & community and voluntary sector services for children and young people

**Update on representation:** the C&YP Network has been in dialogue with the Children's Trust (CT) to agree the movement of CVSF representatives onto partnerships they were not elected to.

C&YP are an important part of the LAA. The C&YP theme within the LAA refers directly to the Children and Young People's Plan (C&YPP). Outcomes 6-10 are about C&YP and link to the C&YPP. The new LAA may not follow this structure, though the C&YP Network will have opportunities to influence the revised C&YPP. Some aspects of the LAA outside of the C&YP theme will also be significant for C&YP, e.g. the Safe City theme though they are not directly related to the C&YPP.

### Identifying & prioritising key LAA outcomes for community & voluntary sector organisations working with children & families

Identifying key outcomes for the next LAA

1) The following issues were identified:

- School attendance remains a

- priority
- Policy and funding could increase inequalities in certain areas due to decision-making being made further from the centre. The Children's Trust has 9 cluster areas and each area will decide what they will do with their funding.
- A non-geographical approach was considered the best approach to reducing inequalities.
- The PCT doesn't seem to have a sophisticated data collection system
- The CYPP doesn't talk proactively about improving child welfare e.g. access to benefits as well as getting back to work
- Targets need to be specific otherwise they can be skewed
- There is a need to address C&YP issues in terms of positive opportunities as well as a method of measuring positive changes such as opportunities for young people to self-manage projects

2) The following priorities should be included in the new LAA:

- Encourage school attendance, maximise opportunities at school and enable all children to take up these opportunities at school
- Tackle inequality amongst communities of interest groups
- Reduce financial inequalities between families
- Tackle childhood poverty by maximising family income, including awareness of entitlements to support e.g. benefits



- Provide sustained and consistent adult support to enable young people to be active and independent to manage their own activities/clubs/spaces/facilities e.g. park-keepers
- Develop partnerships with parents
- Get young people active/volunteering

## Workshop Two: The Hall of Mirrors Maze. Finding your way through changing funding streams in the community & voluntary sector; looking ahead and getting strategic

### Some fundraising basics:

- Know how much you want!
- Be aware of the diversity of sector – e.g. the range of sizes of organisations
- Be aware of a huge number of organisations competing for funds.

### Traditional Funding Picture

- Government – e.g. ESF, National Neighbourhood Renewal/eb4u, local City Council
- Lottery – e.g. Awards for All (small) and large awards but with agendas
- Trusts and Foundations – 7-8,000 - open, less onerous monitoring
- Individuals – regular giving, legacies, jumble sales, fairs etc
- Earned Income – shop, café, selling services e.g. bike training
- Companies – sponsorship etc

### Sustainability

- Organisations should target a range of different funders & not put eggs in one basket

- BUT diversifying funding itself takes time and investment
- Should organisations deliver less services so as to have capacity for fundraising??!

### **Driving forces for future funding pictures**

- Trading – charging for services, public service contracts delivery
- BUT trading is not for everyone...
- Agendas are changing e.g. LAA
- BUT we need a collective voice for lobbying on these

### **Being strategic**

- Involve the trustees (not just workers/volunteers!)
- Use resources to help plan – e.g. Performance Hub mini- booklet – which asks questions to prompt reflection and planning, [www.performancehub.org.uk](http://www.performancehub.org.uk)
- Training by Graham Allen in fundraising for small groups and Working Together Project in Sustainable funding see [www.workingtogetherproject.org.uk](http://www.workingtogetherproject.org.uk)

### **Lessons for the sector and funders**

- Exit strategies; funding bodies need these as well as organisations. Good funding programmes are those which think about what happens when that pot of funding runs out
- Open transparent processes are needed
- Training is important; in fundraising skills and for strengthening trustee boards, to build the capacity of the organisation in the long-term.

## **Workshop Three: The Community and Voluntary Sector's Role in the Local Area Agreement**

The three themes around which CVSF is developing its business cases on behalf of the Stronger Communities Programme Partnership were introduced and broadly supported by the group.

- Language used needs to better reflect 'capturing the sector's expertise' in reducing inequalities and that we need to be involved not just in delivery but also design
- The role of the sector in increasing community engagement [in local decision-making – this should be removed to widen involvement]
- Developing a robust sector by improving support for groups.

### **What themes does the sector need to emphasise around reducing inequality:**

- The priorities which emerge from the Reducing Inequalities Review
- Community safety / crime
- Equalities
- Housing
- Health
- Education / vocational training for all and young people
- Climate change – recycling/ cycling/water use/composting etc
- Sustainability of ongoing projects

### **What does the local community deliver locally that BHCC cannot?**

- Facilitates communication between communities and statutory service providers
- Accesses local knowledge
- Adds value
- Provides innovation
- Fills gaps in service delivery in a diverse way
- Advocates and is a critical friend

### **What should local community engagement activities include?**

- Community to manage its own resources, with adequate support

- Volunteer / citizen involvement, see Can Do Communities / Scarsman Trust
- Support for people in communities to get involved in democratic processes
- Training for trustees – to help people take part
- Better measurement of what we do to demonstrate impact
- Independence, uniqueness, flexibility of community engagement is important
- Developing of professional local knowledge based on reflection and learning – which is a community asset
- Small grants/access to funding eg. Sussex Community Foundation

### **How can we better evidence what the sector is doing here?**

- Tenant groups newsletters (engage tenant participation officers)
- Press cuttings
- CUPP research projects
- Grants funding reports
- Guinness Trust reports on small estates projects
- Neighbourhood Action Plans
- Working Together Project Evaluation
- Take up of courses
- Whitehawk Inn and Bridge project evaluations
- Learning and Skills Council information
- The impact of losing a voluntary organisation, e.g. Threshold / Rape Crisis

### **What support does the sector need to maximise its role in community engagement and service delivery?**

- Responsive and flexible support for diverse groups
- Articulation of differences between groups to show why some groups which may look the same aren't

### How should CVSF involve members in the LAA development process?

- Set up a reference group
- Elected reps to be ambassadors for promoting sector supported LAA outcomes through strategic partnerships
- Information to be summarised and headlines cascaded
- CVSF to be bold in its approach and champion the sector during the process

## Workshop Four - Printing Merry-Go-Round (A Community Newsletter Network meeting)

### Is full colour printing still much more expensive than black and white or black and white and one colour? And when printers talk about 2 colours, what does that actually mean?

Printers use just four colours, CMYK, cyan, magenta, yellow and black, (called 'key' – K), from which all colours are mixed to make millions of colours. The printing industry tends to use a standard colour matching scheme called Pantone.

Each of the colours in a print job needs a 'plate' (the thing that has the picture of what's going to be printed on it), so, a four colour job will need four plates, a two colour job two plates etc. Two colour printing means using black (or K) plus one other colour (for example, Dialogue magazine is printed in 2 colours, black plus the Forum's Pantone colour)

As a rough estimate, a plate costs about £50 to make and another £50 to set up and it is this rather than the cost of the ink or paper which is the biggest cost in a print job. So for

a big print run, full colour doesn't cost that much more than one colour. On a separate, colour related matter, don't use RGB (red, green, black) when setting up documents – printers hate it!

### Quark vs Microsoft Publisher?!

Microsoft Publisher is a desk-top publishing package which allows us to publish in a professional way. The industry standard packages which all printers will use tend to be much more complicated, difficult to use and expensive e.g. Quark/InDesign Publisher will save files as RGB even if Pantone colours are selected. So when a printer gets your job they will have to change the Publisher files, including any pdfs that you have sent, into CMYK. And obviously this makes more work for the printer and will add charges to your job.

**If I want to get something printed in an odd size (i.e. not A4 or A5), and I set it up in Quark as, for example, 30 x 90cm, how will this affect the cost and what do I need to tell the printer?** And when I'm thinking about sizes, will it be more cost effective for me if I work out what could be cut from A4?

Standard printing presses print on paper size A2 (see diagram) known as SRA2. Which will give you 4 x A4 or 8 x A5 pieces of printed paper. Going back to the plates, this means you can have 4 images on one piece of SRA2. So if you want 100,000 copies of A4 printing, this will be 25,000 sheets of paper. If your image is a bit bigger than A4, you will only get 3 on one sheet of SRA2 so you will need 33,000 sheets (more sheets), which again, will make for a longer print run and therefore put the costs up.

Keep in mind that with a bit of good planning, space can be used more effectively. For example you could

have 3 images to print which are A4+ but use the left over space for a different A5 job on the same sheet.

### What is a run on and why do they cost less?

A run on is extra copies of a print job being asked for before the job has come off the press. It is the cost of the extra paper and ink only (because the set up has all be done). It is helpful for printers to know a day or two before so that they can make sure they have sufficient paper for the job.

### What kind of paper should I use?

A helpful printer will advise you on the best paper for the job. Generally, choices will be based on how much money the paper costs and how much money you can afford to spend, how thick it is (being careful that it isn't so thin that the ink will show through to the other side).

### Should I use digital printing?

A digital printer is a glorified photocopier, so for short runs, it is possible to have your printing done instantly. They don't need plates setting up in the same way because the printing goes from a PC directly to the printer/copier. It's great advantage is that printing digitally can be very quick. Sizes up to A3 can be printed digitally. 500 – 1000 copies can be done from a disc very quickly (Gemini, for example, could have them done for the next day). Its disadvantage is that it doesn't do solid colours very well, so if you have a big piece of solid colour, it's unlikely to look very sharp.

### A very helpful cost example:

1000 4 page A4 booklet in full colour: Litho would be £765; Digital would be £693. 2000 4 page A4 booklet in full colour: Litho would be £920; Digital would be £1250. 250 A5 flyers; Digital would be £35; Litho would be £250.

## **Healthy City**

### **Partnership**

**Simon Lewis,**

**CityCoast Trust, 4**

**September 2007**

- The Public Health funding criteria and procedure were presented and agreed. They have been sent to CVSF and will be circulated.
- Reduction in teenage pregnancy continues to be a high priority but bids for work in this area will need to be convincing as current strategies are not really dealing with the issue. Access for healthcare by groups not being effectively reached, e.g. disabled people, was also discussed.
- A proposal to appoint a vice-chair for the HCP was accepted. The person needs to come from the community, voluntary or business sectors so this is a good opportunity for our sector to increase its influence. Role description and advert will appear shortly.
- Presentation on an outcomes commissioning framework for older people's health and well-being promotion.
- It is increasingly important to measure outcomes, as well as outputs, and the HCP is keen to receive outcomes from projects being delivered by CVSF groups working with older people.
- This will help to raise the profile of CVSF delivering older people's projects.

## **Youth and**

### **Connexions Service**

**Board**

**Ann Taylor, Youth**

**Focus 29 August**

**2007**

- Paper on Participation Strategy for B&H proposing that "...it should reflect the principles and standards set out in 'Hear by Rights'". The goal is for all relevant parts of the Council to adopt & comply with 'Hear by Rights' standards in all work with children & young people.
- A need was identified for more communication with non-Connexions agencies, particularly in the West Area to establish where the voluntary youth groups are. In particular church-based youth groups as they provide lots of different activities & groups for young people
- NEET percentages in B&H have reduced from 10.27% (June06) to 9.8% (June07). The target is 8.1%. The reduction in the year 06-07 was seen to be the best figures in Brighton & Hove for several years.

## **Youth and**

### **Connexions Service**

#### **Board Commissioning sub-group**

**Jess Wood, Allsorts**

**12 September 2007**

- There are plans for a Youth Housing PA
- Procurement decisions have been made. VCS contracts will be

maintained until 2009. Other contracts are being considered for tender.

- Youth Opportunities Fund (YOF) funding is available until 2011. The next round is upon us and is open for bids!

## **Economic Partnership**

**John Shepherd, Hove**

**YMCA, 2 October**

**2007**

Workskills force in Brighton and Hove.

A general report and presentation on the scale of the city's workforce problems and what is required to ensure the city can compete in a 21st century marketplace.

Main findings:

- The working population has become younger in the city (against a national trend of an aging population)
- Because of this increase, a further 12,000 jobs will need to be found/created to hit a target rate of 80% employment within the city.
- The city has a higher than average proportion of academically qualified workers. This has resulted in qualified workers taking lower level jobs due to demand.
- Despite heavy investment in social welfare programmes to support employment and skills, there are only 1405 fewer working age benefit claimants than there were in 2000.
- The city needs to find the right balance between approaches that are designed to strengthen the city's economic base, increase

supply of jobs, improve business performance and increase prosperity, and social welfare interventions that are designed to tackle worklessness, inequality and disadvantage

#### Youth (14-19) Unemployment in Brighton and Hove

- There are currently 663 NEET young people in the city; the target is to reduce this by half within ten years.
- The Youth Employment Strategy may tie-in to the CYPP Plan, particularly:
- To develop strategies and improve support to enable more young people to engage in further education, training or employment.
- To enhance provision to ensure more young people are ready for employment.

### **2020 Community Partnership** **Sally Hiscock** **(observer, supporting 8 CVSF reps), 13 September 2007**

- Agreed CVSF should be involved in the team which takes forward LAA negotiations. It was felt that there is typically little feedback to partners once the LAA disappears into the negotiation stage and greater involvement would help build a sense of shared ownership and understanding.
- The Advice Services Strategy Group has produced an excellent action plan, which reflects real partnership working around how

services could be improved/delivered in the future. There is lots of useful learning in the Plan for all partners – around the impact of services being commissioned and consortia being developed on the community and voluntary sector.

- A review of the Inclusive Council Policy is imminent and will provide an opportunity to look at what has been achieved around equalities across the partnerships. CVSF has called for a more co-ordinated approach of equalities work, which links the Equalities Forum with the Stronger Communities Programme and forthcoming Equalities Conference. We have stressed the importance of harnessing the potential of community groups to help shape partners' work, without placing unrealistic demands on their limited capacity. We have also suggested that there needs to be clarity around the role of the Equalities Forum in this area, i.e. is it a representative partnership, a council committee or reference group, and what responsibilities does it have for delivery of any equalities outputs across the city? CVSF / Federation of Disabled People will meet with Council colleagues on this.

- The themed discussion focused on employability and employer engagement: there are 4,000 potential apprentices in the city, but only 400 apprenticeship placements available, which shortfall contributes to the high level of NEETs (Young people Not in Employment, Education or Training). There is some confusion around the NEET figures, as the high figure currently includes those in transition, which also includes e.g. young people on gap years / moving from or to

EET. The data will be clarified

- Agreed the LAA should prioritise initiatives providing transitional support to NEETs and parents. It was noted that the sector could pilot some innovative projects, focusing on holistic services which prepare people for work.

### **Public Service Board** **Sally Hiscock, 26 September 2007**

- Noted that the 6 month review of the 2007-8 Local Area Agreement is lite-touch as all efforts are focusing on developing and negotiating the new LAA
- The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been discussing the accountabilities of key partners and role of scrutiny committees in over viewing the LSP. There will be ongoing monitoring of arrangements for ensuring effective governance within key partnerships – which CVSF said it welcomed, to ensure partnerships were focused on delivery and that CVS representation was effective.
- A review of the Inclusive Council Policy is imminent and will provide an opportunity to look at what has been achieved around equalities across the partnerships. CVSF has called for a more co-ordinated approach of equalities work, which links the Equalities Forum with the Stronger Communities Programme and forthcoming Equalities Conference. We have stressed the importance of harnessing the potential of community groups to help shape partners' work, without placing unrealistic demands on their limited capacity. We have also suggested that

there needs to be clarity around the role of the Equalities Forum in this area, i.e. is it a representative partnership, a council committee or reference group, and what responsibilities does it have for delivery of any equalities outputs across the city? CVSF / Federation of Disabled People will meet with Council colleagues on this.

- Development of the 2008-11 LAA is progressing, albeit within a context of uncertainty around future funding and national indicators. Phase One of the Reducing Inequalities Review has reported and the findings will influence what is prioritised in the forthcoming LAA, e.g. it is likely that priority outcomes may focus on improved provision of mental health services, supported employment programmes and initiatives to reduce NEETs (young people not in education, employment or training). Phase two involved roundtable discussions with key stakeholders from neighbourhoods and communities and development of future strategies.

The stock-take at the meeting focused on employment among disadvantaged groups and the strategic lessons from the Equal Programme:

- Individualised, flexible services, locally delivered were most successful
- Service users were often faced with multiple barriers, not all directly related to lack of skills or employment opportunity, and did not fit neatly into target groups
- Local CVS providers were well placed to reach the hard to reach, but lacked capacity/strategic vision, so that delivery varied
- CVS are major employer, but don't tend to think like one, in

terms of providing good quality work placements, training and job opportunities

The PSB tasked the Partnership Managers Group with looking at

- Raising the economy's 'productive middle', including thoughts on how to increase business space and drawing on Reducing Inequality Review and City, Employment and Skills Plan to examine the nature of the problem and to make available reliable and easily accessible data / intelligence
- Co-ordinating services for social employment intervention, working with CVSF
- Equalities in procurement, measuring outcomes and cost recovery in advance of the LAA
- The possibility of a public sector employers' network, to include the university sector.

### **Partnership Managers Group** **Sally Hiscock,** **21 September 2007**

A presentation on the Reducing Inequality Review noted the following priority areas:

- Worklessness, entry level employment and (interpersonal) skills
- Mental health issues (where B&H is near top of national league)
- Barriers preventing access for disabled groups
- Violence and hate crime
- Affordable housing
- Children and young people at risk

The Review maps inequalities across the city at a more in-depth level than previous analyses, and notes that inequalities exist across the city, not just in neighbourhood renewal areas

– which questions whether area based initiatives are the right approach.

- Dan Shelley of the Learning Partnership outlined the ESF bidding round, which requires regional co-ordination of proposals. Any groups involved in learning/skills/employment support services should contact Dan for more info.

### **Responsible Authorities Partnership & Drug and Alcohol Action Team (RAP/DAAT);** **Sally Hiscock 5 Oct 2007**

### **Community Safety Forum, 8 October 2007**

- The RAP/DAAT has a complex and full agenda which included updates from various bodies/agencies/projects, such as the Domestic Violence Court, Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Youth Justice Steering Group, Drug Treatment Programme, Young People Substance Misuse, New Community Alcohol Team, New National Drug Strategy Consultation, Drug Court and Employers' Guide to Managing Substance Misuse. Papers /comments are available on request from the Forum.
- The CDRP is preparing its business cases for the Local Area Agreement negotiations and is seeking £3.1million to continue with its current work plan (an increased from £2.5m in 2007). There are particularly shortfalls in resources to support initiatives around anti-social behaviour,

young people substance misuse, communities against drugs, reducing drug supply, misuse of alcohol, domestic violence, homophobic/biphobic/transphobic crime, racist/religious motivated crime and prolific crime.

- There is little in the strategic assessment which makes the case for sustaining community engagement work, which intervention can often present significant cost savings in community safety.
- It was noted that the LAA negotiations process is challenging, given the context of reduced resources and competition. The business cases going into the LAA must clearly explain why growth is proposed, what priorities are and what

options exist for mainstreaming.

- The Community Safety Forum agenda principally focused on strategies to reduce alcohol misuse, with presentations from statutory partners on their key programmes.
- There was also a discussion around membership of the Forum, which is being widened, e.g. representatives of Local Action Teams from across the city are being invited to join, which will ensure that neighbourhood safety issues are fed into and analysed at the Forum.
- An interesting report from the Sussex Policy Authority records work underway to improve their community engagement and consultation strategies. The paper talks about the potential for joint

working on multi-agency consultation and the set-up of community and consultation groups of the CDRP.

- The Authority is mapping consultation across Sussex and is discussing benefits of developing a web-based database of the diverse range of communities in Sussex, existing research and existing mechanisms for consultation and communication.

## Brighton and Hove Compact Review

The Forum is helping to co-ordinate a review of the Brighton & Hove Compact, including the disputes mechanism ie having a clear procedure to follow when something goes wrong.

Which is why we are interested to know what problem (or positive) areas there are in your relationship with the statutory sector. There are other Compact areas including procurement that need adding revising.

If you can give us any information about things which are or aren't going well, or if you can help revise any areas of the Compact or Codes of Practice, please contact Emily O'Brien, (01273) 234016 or email [emily@cvsectorforum.org.uk](mailto:emily@cvsectorforum.org.uk)

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This new, monthly newsletter will replace Dialogue magazine and the Lovely Lilac Spam Sandwich as part of our communications overhaul and work on a joint 'Support for Groups' newsletter.

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