

Hello and welcome

Hello and welcome to the latest Civic Partnership news alert. If you don't know about the Civic Partnership it's an ambitious cross-sector proposal running until March 2010 to genuinely transform the ways in which the public and voluntary sectors work together to meet the needs of local people – our service users. The funds secured by the Kirklees Partnership from the Treasury will be used to undertake action research through 3 key projects explained later on. Work is well under way now with all of the major projects and this newsletter offers some brief updates to keep you informed of progress and to get your views. I hope you find it useful and will give us your comments and feedback

*Trudi Wright,
Civic Partnership Project Manager*

'Making it Personal' – An exciting free training courses – sponsored by the Civic Partnership – 13 January to 24 February 2010?

January and February 2010 will see a unique training programme offered in Kirklees – free of charge - by The Civic Partnership. The programme aims to help voluntary and community sector organisations (VCO's) build their understanding, skills and confidence in a range of key areas. The sessions on offer will help VCO's become more resilient and sustainable in a fast-changing environment. The programme is very practical and the idea is that participants will leave confident and motivated to turn theory and practice into real action.

Hopefully the programme offers something for everyone – no matter how large or small your operation, or how new or experienced you are in delivering your services. The programme covers; how to evidence the impact and outcomes of your services, an introduction to personalisation and the implications for VCO's, developing strong financial management, business planning and organisational change and new models of working including social enterprise. Trainers and speakers come from national and local organisations. The programme offers a menu of options for you to select from. Ideally you will chose one or more sessions that are the priority issues for your organisation or that will help you continue to improve services for the individuals, families or communities you work with. Finally, there are also some half-day mentoring support sessions available, offering professional advice on a 1:1 basis with your organisation. These are offered by Fit4Funding or West Yorkshire Community Accounting Services. Book on sessions with the programme as soon as you can to avoid disappointment.

The programme has been developed in consultation with Voluntary Action Kirklees, Kirklees Council and NHS Kirklees. Voluntary Action Kirklees are managing the booking arrangements and evaluation of the courses.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND BOOKING DETAILS

They full brochure and booking form can be downloaded from VAK's website: www.voluntaryactionkirklees.co.uk or from the Civic Partnership website: www.kirkleespartnership.org/civicpartnership. For further information on the programme please contact Trudi Wright or Michelle Richardson at VAK on 01484 518457 / Michelle.richardson@voluntaryactionkirklees.co.uk



The Clearing House: Outcome of the review of business processes

The aim of the Clearing House is to develop options for streamlining the wide range of existing grants / commissioning systems and processes that exist across public sector agencies in Kirklees. The idea is to remove duplication, release potential savings for re-investment and to make the whole experience for the VCS of 'doing business' with the public sector more efficient and user friendly. Consultants called Spirals were brought in earlier in the year to carry out a review of the business processes around grants and commissioning – particularly in the Council – but also in a small area of NHS Kirklees (for comparison). This review involved a series of workshops with the VCS and the Council / NHS and a final report came up with a series of recommendations. These included a proposal to centralise commissioning arrangements around one or two service 'hubs', centralising grants functions within the Council and a number of other good practice recommendations. These are now the subject of a final workshop with senior commissioning managers in the Council and NHS Kirklees - to explore the most appropriate way forward. For more details on the Spirals work, please contact Trudi Wright

The Partnership Academy

The PA is nearing the conclusion of its 15 month programme. Back in the Spring the Academy undertook a 4 day commissioning and service re-design course. This was especially developed for Kirklees by The Institute of Public Care – and customised for joint learning across the public and voluntary sectors. What came out of the course was that the 14 participants most enjoyed working together on practical solutions to real-life challenges for us in Kirklees. This way of working, i.e. as a 'think and do tank' has driven the remaining sessions of the PA programme. Since September the Academy has looked at the following issues: How Adult Services can improve a new way of purchasing services for people with learning disabilities. How to make the new Children & Young People's Plan more meaningful for the VCS and that it reflects issues picked up by VCS providers working with children and young people. Most recently it looked at issues facing small and medium sized VCS organisations in the light of the recession and how the public sector can support and sustain the VCS in Kirklees the short and medium term. There are 2 more sessions planned with the Academy as it draws to a close in January 2010. At that point it will be evaluated and consideration given to what elements of it (if any) can be continued in the future.

Our three main projects

- **The Partnership Academy** – a programme of structured learning for pairs of public and VCS managers to enable officers to work more collaboratively and effectively. To build partnership capacity to devise new services, undertake more effective development work and service planning.
- **Pilot Case Study Programmes** - to test new approaches to commissioning and service delivery. The Pilot Case Studies will focus on what works and what doesn't when the public sector commissions services and the voluntary and community service delivers them.
- **Creation of a Clearing House** between the public sector and VCS to provide consistent support and challenge to the sectors in the commissioning and delivery of services. The Clearing House will act as a single point of entry for third sector organisations seeking and delivering public sector commissions

For further information or to comment on any of the above.... or for a summary of the initial evaluation of the Civic Partnership carried out by Icarus in October 2008, please call me on **01484 518457 / 07980 911 654**, or write to me at: **The Civic Partnership, c/o Voluntary Action Kirklees, 15 Lord Street, Huddersfield HD1 1QB** or e-mail: trudi.wright@kirklees.gov.uk You can also find out more information on the Kirklees Partnership website at www.kirkleespartnership.org/civicpartnership



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