

Hello and welcome

Hello and welcome to the latest Civic Partnership Kirklees Partnership (KP) 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 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*

Can you offer a reality check on how the public sector organises its 'business processes' around VCS grants and commissioning? Join our 'Clearing House' Sounding Board and get your voice heard.

Behind the Clearing House idea is the suggestion that departments in the Council and NHS Kirklees currently commission services (from the VCS and other providers) and give grants to the VCS in different ways, using different processes – resulting in an inconsistent environment in which to do 'business' with the public sector. These irregular practices are probably resulting in some duplications, inefficiencies and extra time and expenditure for all concerned - which could be avoided.

So as a first task to help understand what happens now – to try and improve the way the VCS might 'do business' with the public sector in the future – consultants are coming in to do an analysis of the business processes around VCS grants and commissioning. To help this work it's essential there's strong VCS input on a sounding board to inform and test out the consultants' findings and recommendations. If you are interested in influencing this work, have direct experience to draw on and can take part in 2 or 3 meetings, an on-line survey or can offer comments by e-mail please let me know. The work has to be finished by the end of June – so it's a very quick turn around – with some weeks already pencilled in for key meetings. Ideally you'd be involved throughout the whole process – but you can also dip in and out. What counts is that the VCS is influencing the review led by Spirals, our consultants, and the sector is playing its role in streamlining or improving future arrangements. **Please ring / e-mail Trudi now to get involved (see contact details overleaf).**

Sounding Board – Key dates with Spirals

Wednesday 13th May – 2.00 – 4.30 p.m. Closed session with VCS. Venue: The Media Centre, Northumberland Street, Huddersfield - 'Where are we now?'

Thursday 18th June – 2.00 – 4.30 p.m. – Cross sector session. Venue: The Media Centre. Final workshop - testing out findings, options and recommendations



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Pilot case studies – exciting collaboration with the New Economics Foundation on ‘user-led organisations’. Are you involved with a ULO?

There are 2 new topics to add to the 6 previously selected to act as case studies. One is around the impact of the new commissioning agenda on small and medium VCS organisations (success stories and failures). Voluntary Action Kirklees and the Icarus Collective are working with local groups on this study. The other is with the New Economics Foundation (nef) a ‘think and do tank’ with a growing reputation around supporting sustainable communities and the local economy. The nef study will ‘stretch’ what we know about commissioning and measuring outcomes and added value. They will also help us look at ‘pathways’ to well-being and the implications of personalisation and directing personal support through user-led organisations (ULO’s)

STOP PRESS: We’re planning a workshop on personalisation and ULO’s in June (date to be agreed) and want to hear from you if:

- You’re involved with a ULO or are interested in forming one
- You’re interested in providing / creating approved services that can be delivered in a personalised way
- You’re interested in locally led co-operative purchasing
- You’re interested in ensuring the voice of user-led organisations is incorporated / heard

Please ring / e-mail Trudi now to get involved (see contact details below)

The Partnership Academy

The PA is mid-way through its 15 month programme, with participants just completing the first part of 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. The participants are hoping to spend the remaining programme on project work focussing on practical solutions to real-life challenges and knotty issues in public service delivery.

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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