

Regional Consortium Newsletter

Newsletter 2
April 2005

Related documents

- Early Spend Report
- ChangeUp
- Regional Plan
- Consortium membership list
- Consortium Terms of Reference
- RAISE newsletters
- Sub-region contacts
- National Hub, Funding and Finance Business Plan

Links to these documents are at
www.raise-networks.org.uk/quicklinks/

RAISE is the Secretariat to the
Regional Consortium



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Home Office announces next steps for ChangeUp

On 22 March 2005, in the plush surroundings of the Café Royal in London, the Home Secretary Charles Clarke announced plans for the ChangeUp programme, post March 2006. Mr Clarke praised the massive contribution the voluntary/community sector (VCS) makes to society and pledged the Government's commitment to the ChangeUp programme to improve the capacity and infrastructure of the sector. The initiatives announced are:

Capacity Builders, a new sector-led agency, is to be set up to manage the ChangeUp programme. The details are still under discussion but the agency will be in place by April 2006 at the latest.

There will be an **investment of a further £70 million** by the Government in the ChangeUp programme over the years 2006/2007 and 2007/2008.

A further £90 million over 2 years from April 2006 will be invested in the Futurebuilders fund which the Government hopes will enable further development in the capacity of voluntary/community organisations to deliver public services.

There will also be a **£4 million investment in the Capital Programme** which will be targeted at embryonic community-based organisations and enterprises.

"**Developing Capacity:Next Steps for ChangeUp**" is available to download at www.activecommunities.homeoffice.gov.uk.

National News

The Active Communities Unit has published the first edition of a quarterly ChangeUp newsletter. As well as an update on activities, the newsletter contains a comprehensive list of contacts for the ChangeUp National Hubs and the Public Sector Priority Programmes.

The 5 National Hubs submitted their business plans to the Active Communities Unit at the Home Office at the end of February 2005 and were due to be approved by the end of March. A 'Hubbers Group' has been formed to share developing plans and practice, and to build coherence and avoid duplication.

The ACU held a Joining Up ChangeUp planning event on 10 February 2005 which aimed to look at building linkages between national and regional stakeholders. A number of suggestions regarding future actions were put forward:

- A contact from each hub and Regional Consortium will be listed in the ChangeUp newsletter from the ACU.
- There should be better communication between regional Government Offices to share plans and ideas on ChangeUp.
- National showcasing events were suggested as a way of sharing good practice and providing an opportunity to network and build partnerships.

Another planning event will be facilitated by the ACU in June 2005 and it will focus on the joining up of actions and plans at national and regional level.

The Active Communities Unit ChangeUp newsletter can be downloaded from their web site www.activecommunities.homeoffice.gov.uk.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Programme

The Regional Consortium are developing an ICT programme as part of ChangeUp activity in the region. This is taking slightly longer than originally anticipated as it is important that the sector is involved in the development of the programme and, if possible, lead the delivery. Work has been undertaken and the Regional Consortium will be considering options at the April and May meetings. More information to follow.

Membership of the Regional Consortium

Some new members from the voluntary/community sector (VCS) have joined the Regional Consortium. Below are their names, the organisation they work for and the perspective they bring to the Regional Consortium.

Name	Organisation	Perspective
Alison Baxter	Oxfordshire Council for Voluntary Action	Council for Voluntary Service
Barbara Poole	Peoples Voices	Frontline, Thames Valley
Barry Clout	Kent Council for Voluntary Youth Services	Frontline, Kent
Dev Sharma	North West Kent Racial Equality Council	BME
Jacqui Bremner	White Lodge Centre	Frontline, Surrey/Sussex
Ila Mazumdar	Sompri	BME
Ligia Kasanin	Volunteering England	Volunteering
Peter Southcombe	South East England Faith Forum	Faith

The new members attended their first meeting in March and their willingness to contribute to the Regional Consortium is greatly appreciated.

Network Briefing gets the thumbs up

The first network briefing meeting organised by RAISE was held on 8 February 2005 in Winchester and feedback was very positive. The aims of the briefings are to inform the voluntary/community sector (VCS) on developments in the programme including the activities of the Regional Consortium and to give the VCS a chance to ask questions and put their views forward.

On the feedback forms all respondents said that they would recommend attending a briefing to a colleague in the VCS. Many people commented on how useful they found Catherine Johnstone's presentation on ChangeUp and it seems that this briefing helped people to really understand what the programme means for them and their

organisation. The opportunity to network with other organisations was also very popular.

RAISE was also keen to gain feedback from the audience on how the briefing sessions could be even better and several useful suggestions were made such as more statutory sector representation and some 'grass roots level' case studies. We will try to build these suggestions into future briefings.

After the briefing in Guildford on 27th April, the next network briefing dates are 29th June in Kent and 9th September in Thames Valley. Further details on venues will follow shortly.

Social Enterprise

The Regional Consortium has been developing a programme of activity relating to social enterprise. There have been 2 key sources of information to support the development of the programme: the Findings from the Early Spend Review and the Regional Social Enterprise Strategy/Framework "Business but not as We Know It".

It was established that whilst social enterprise is not new to the voluntary/community sector (VCS), the idea of infrastructure organisations becoming actively engaged in offering business support services to developing social enterprises is. This was not just a finding of the South East but one that was reflected nationally.

The current regional social enterprise strategy has been developed, cross sector over a period of nearly 2 years. The South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) led the process but the VCS have been very involved both regionally and locally and the strategy is supported by a cross sector steering group. The strategy is to be launched in late May/early June 2005 following a final local consultation that has just come to an end. The strategy

does have significant resources allocated to its implementation and the strategy does have equal focus on the private, public and voluntary/community sectors.

The programme of activity that has been agreed by the Regional Consortium is aimed to build upon the existing work of the regional strategy and ensure that the VCS can play a full and active role. The programme is divided into 3 main areas as follows:

1. VCS and Business Link Engagement
2. Embedding social enterprise into the 20 Infrastructure Development Plans
3. VCS regional social enterprise network

If you are interested in any aspect of the Social Enterprise programme, you can find out more by downloading details from www.raise-networks.org.uk/quicklinks under the ChangeUp/Defra section. Alternatively, contact Kathryn Shephard, Policy Officer at RAISE by email at kshephard@raise-networks.org.uk or telephone 01483 470174.

When	Event	Location	Contact	Telephone	Email
27/04/05	VCS Network Briefing Meeting	Surrey/Sussex	Kathryn	01483 470174	kshephard@raise-networks.org.uk
29/06/05	VCS Network Briefing Meeting	Kent	Kathryn	01483 470174	kshephard@raise-networks.org.uk
09/09/05	VCS Network Briefing Meeting	Thames Valley	Kathryn	01483 470174	kshephard@raise-networks.org.uk
02/11/05	VCS Network Briefing Meeting	<i>tbc</i>	Kathryn	01483 470174	kshephard@raise-networks.org.uk