

ChangeUp/Defra Infrastructure Programme in the South East



Regional Consortium Newsletter

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More info online at:

[www.raise-networks.org.uk/
changeup](http://www.raise-networks.org.uk/changeup)

RAISE is the Secretariat to the
Regional Consortium



RAISE
Berkeley House, Cross Lanes
Guildford, Surrey GU1 1UN
Tel: 01483 500770 Fax: 01483 574439
Web: www.raise-networks.org.uk
Email: mail@raise-networks.org.uk

Charity No. 1080583
Company No. 03932654



Volunteering Hub Starts Dialogue with the Regions

On 10 November, the national Volunteering Hub hosted an event for regional organisations from around England to consider the future of regional volunteering infrastructure. The aim was to discuss how organisations involved with volunteering can ensure that systems are effective at a regional level and will be of benefit to local organisations and volunteers themselves. Speakers included Isabel Sutcliffe, ChangeUp Programme Manager, Home Office Active Community Unit and Sylvia Brown, Chief Executive, Action for Communities in Rural England.

The three main themes of the volunteering hub's work were also highlighted as:

1. Strategy and management of the Hub – a priority is to reach out beyond the existing membership of the Hub's core and especially to include under-represented communities.
2. Dissemination of information, good practice and management development
3. Modernising infrastructure – the aim is to create an infrastructure that is lean, robust and securely funded, locally, regionally and nationally.

To download the latest version of the Volunteering Hub's Business Plan, please go to www.volunteering.org.uk/changeup.

Regional Infrastructure Development Plan

As well as offering support to Local Infrastructure Development Plans (IDPs), another focus of the Regional Consortium's Regional Plan is to, "ensure that regional VCS infrastructure is fit for purpose, offers complementary services, rather than any which duplicate each other and reaches the widest possible constituency."

Currently, 32 VCOs have been identified that have a remit to deliver some regional infrastructure services. The Regional Consortium asked RAISE and SERCC to develop a regional infrastructure providers group, drawing together regional agencies, to begin to clarify who does what regionally to identify gaps and needs. In some ways this will mirror the county/unitary consortia and also develop strong links with them. A steering group has been established to take this work forward and a consultant engaged to research regional infrastructure provision and produce a 3-year strategic plan for the development of joint working, planning and service provision for the generic and specialist infrastructure organisations at regional level. He has presently begun the process of consultation and of communication with wider stakeholders to inform the research.

Members of the Regional Infrastructure Providers Group are also in the process of discussing with local consortia the links between local and regional work so that the final strategic plan builds on and is complimentary to the local work. For this reason the regional IDP development is running slightly behind the local IDPs.

If you have a remit to deliver regional infrastructure support and are not already a part of this work please contact Nickie at RAISE (tel: 01483 501342; email: nickie@raise-networks.org.uk).

Regional Consortium ChangeUp Website

The Regional Consortium has launched its website at

www.raise-networks.org.uk/changeup.

Take a look and comment to crispin.davies@gose.gsi.gov.uk with suggestions for additions and with your local news, examples of good practice and with the latest version of your local IDP. The purpose of the site is:

- to keep you up to date at a national and regional level
- to provide an online source of key documents - national, regional and local
- to provide an online source of contacts - national, regional and local
- to provide networking opportunities for consortia to swap Local IDPs and examples of what has worked well where YOU provide the material.

Defra Toolkit Rollout

The October Newsletter provided early details of this piece of work. The Regional Consortium is pleased to announce that the contract has been let to LinG Consulting. Lin Gillians and Melanie Nock have now been in contact with all consortia. The programme of support has commenced rollout and the initial stage will be completed by the end of February 2006 but continuing support will be available until the end of June 2006. Contact your local consortium lead body for further details on Lin Gillians direct on 0208 290 5529

Capacity Builders on its way!

In mid-November, the Home Office announced the Chairman, Board and Chief Executive of the new independent Capacity Builders organisation that will take over the running of the ChangeUp programme from April 2006. The Chairman is Chris Pond and he is supported by Caryl Agard, David Baxter, Margaret Bolton, David Harbourne and Roger Singleton as Board members. Simon Hebditch has been appointed as the Chief Executive.

The full press release that includes short biographies of those appointed can be found at www.raise-networks.org.uk/changeup - go to "Latest News", or on the Home Office website (Press Notice 177/2005)

Continuation Fund in the South East

All local consortia have received their invitations to submit short proposals to GOSE by 31 December 2005. After assessment by the Regional Consortium, a "letter of intent" will be sent by GOSE to consortia. By the end of February 2006 Capacity Builders will have taken over this responsibility from GOSE and provided formal offer letters with the first tranche of funding in April.

What is required by local consortia? Each consortium has been allocated a grant, a fixed sum plus a variable sum according to the consortium's share of regional population, and asked to allocate that funding to 3 activities in accordance with local priorities. The 3 activities to be funded are: consortium running costs for the year April 2006 to March 2007; to continue the "additional support programme" and integrate it with the "mainstream" work; and, to help fund key projects that will catalyse a step change in infrastructure services. A minimum of £4,000 must be allocated to the additional support programme work.

All local consortia have been provided with a set of detailed regional guidance notes that can be found at www.raise-networks.org.uk/changeup - go to "Latest News".

Capital Programme in the South East

The second and final round of the Capital Programme was very oversubscribed! There were 33 applications with bids totalling just over £1.91m with a grant available of only £850,000. After reading the paperwork and scoring each and every application against the published criteria, the Capital Programme Assessment Panel were able to recommend 22 of the 33 applications for approval by giving priority to applications from the smaller organisations in order to demonstrate their importance to ChangeUp in the South East. The Panel's recommendations were endorsed by the Regional Consortium in mid November. A full list of awards from both rounds 1 and 2 can be found in the regional programmes section of the new website.

Over both rounds there were a total of 43 applications of which 30 were successful. The full allocation of £1.327m was awarded with grants varying between £3,500 and £200,000. In total grant requests totalling £2,618,171 were made.

Funding and Finance Programme

Work is underway now to arrange a "Procurement Workshop" in each of the 20 Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP) areas. The workshops aim to start discussions and negotiations on procurement at a local level, helping organisations engage with key commissioners and funders. The organisation leading on the workshops has contacted each local consortium to discuss dates and details for the events which should all take place by February 2006. Information should follow from your local consortium soon, alternatively please contact your local IDP lead.

Full details on the Funding and Finance programme can be found in the August edition of the Regional Consortium newsletter.

Date	Event	Location	Contact	Telephone	Email
02/02/06	VCS Network Briefing Meeting	<i>tbc</i>	Nickie Davison	01483 501342	nickie@raise-networks.org.uk
28/03/06	VCS Network Briefing Meeting	<i>tbc</i>	Nickie Davison	01483 501342	nickie@raise-networks.org.uk