

## 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)

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## Capacity Builders and Transition Update

### People

Capacity Builders will become operational on 1 April 2006 and will replace the Government Office and the Regional Consortium in delivering the ChangeUp initiative for the South East. The new Board, Chairman and Chief Executive were appointed before Christmas 2005. The Chief Executive, Simon Hebditch, took up post on 30 January 2006. Appointments are expected shortly for the other 3 members of the senior management team – the Resources and Planning Manager, the Programmes Director and the Communications Manager. Capacity Builders will be based in Birmingham.

### Co-ordinators

There are 5 full time and 4 part time Capacity Builders Regional Co-ordinators posts. These are the key staff for local consortia after March 2006 as they will be the main contact between Capacity Builders and local consortia. There will be one full time and one part time co-ordinator covering both the South East and South West regions. Currently, the South East has one full time and 3 part time area co-ordinators with two additional part time co-ordinators to assist the "Additional Support Programme". Local consortia will need to adjust to a lower level of support but, nevertheless, will need to build a key new relationship.

### Influencing Capacity Builders

Capacity Builders Chairman, Chris Pond, and Board members have commenced a series of meetings, organised by Government Offices, with representatives of those involved in both delivering and implementing ChangeUp in each region. The South East meeting is in mid-March 2006 and will include representatives from local consortia. All local consortia have been involved in the independent regional evaluation programme and those evaluation messages will form the basis of the meeting.

### Transition Programme

The Active Communities Unit at the Home Office has been very involved in preparing, with Government Offices, a detailed transition programme to ensure as smooth a handover as possible on 31 March 2006 to Capacity Builders. Part of this transition programme is a national evaluation of all Infrastructure Development Plans (IDPs). Government Office South East (GOSE) will provide all IDPs to the national evaluators on 1 April 2006.

All local consortia are reminded to have submitted their IDP to GOSE to arrive by 31 March 2006 – 4 hard copies and an electronic version. In April 2006, GOSE will assess all IDPs and the Regional Consortium will agree comments on each one at its meeting in mid-May 2006. By the end of May 2006, each local consortium will have received a formal response to its Plan to be shared within the local consortium and more widely in its locality.

### Continuation Fund

Government Office South East (GOSE) and the Regional Consortium would like to thank all local consortia for their proposals for "continuation funding". All proposals have been assessed and more information or clarity sought from some. Letters of intent have been sent to nearly all local consortia bar one by GOSE to confirm acceptance of proposals and, as part of the transition programme, will be passed to Capacity Builders to enable formal and binding offers to be made and grant to flow.

### Other Grants from Capacity Builders

It is planned that Capacity Builders will announce its programme of grants in April 2006. National guidelines indicate that Capacity Builders has £15.75m of grant for local and regional spend.

### Who to Contact After March 2006

After 31 March 2006, contact Capacity Builders for activities funded by it – the continuation fund activities and other funding are yet to be announced. Liaise with existing contacts for activities funded in 2005/06 by GOSE even though the expenditure is continuing for a few months into the next financial year – capital grants, pilot projects, etc.

## Links

Capacity Builders - go to [www.capacitybuilders.net](http://www.capacitybuilders.net). This site is in early stages of development.

National ChangeUp Portal – go to [www.changeup.org.uk](http://www.changeup.org.uk). This site is the best for national information, including information on Capacity Builders, and provides links to all other regions. This site includes the contact details for the Capacity Builders Chairman and Chief Executive in the Capacity Builders section of the Overview.

Regional Website – go to [www.raise-networks.org.uk/changeup](http://www.raise-networks.org.uk/changeup). This is the best site for regional information and for local consortia. The site is being updated frequently with draft Infrastructure Development Plans and examples of good practice.

## Examples of Good Practice

On the regional website - [www.raise-networks.org.uk/changeup/](http://www.raise-networks.org.uk/changeup/) there are an increasing number of examples of good practice to be assessed for relevance in your locality. These can be found both within the text of the draft Infrastructure Development Plans (IDPs) under Local Documents on the Your Area page or on the Good Practice page. Examples include the potential of sustainable funding through a “roof tax” on new housing developments as illustrated in the Milton Keynes draft IDP (pages 8 and 9) and a model of integrated CVS and volunteering provision funded by a tripartite arrangement between county and district councils and the local Primary Care TRUST (PCT) in Surrey (page 31).

CVS Medway has developed a voluntary/community sector (VCS) Database as part of its ChangeUp initiative and would welcome enquiries about the format, fields and the potential to link with other databases in the sector. This initiative is particularly important to those currently planning database construction. Contact: [loraine@cvsmedway.org.uk](mailto:loraine@cvsmedway.org.uk) for further details.

## Regional Consortium Changes

Some membership changes have taken place recently on the Regional Consortium:

- Jude Tyrie has replaced Ivan Clarke as the Unitary Council representative from Brighton and Hove;
- David Wrighton has replaced Peter Southcombe as the representative of the South East England Faith Forum;
- Sonia Howe has replaced Philipa Saray from the Big Lottery Fund;
- Jon Thompson from the Learning & Skills Council (LSC) has replaced Colin Downing (LSC);
- Anne Morrison has joined from Government Office South East (GOSE) Public Health Unit to represent the statutory health sector.

The Regional Consortium has begun to consider its role from April 2006 onwards as its main role, that of partnering and advising GOSE in the delivery of the ChangeUp initiative in the South East, will transfer to Capacity Builders which will have a direct funding relationship with individual local consortia.

## Regional Events

A regional event is scheduled for Tuesday 13 June 2006 to launch the evaluation report based on the experiences of and messages from local consortia in the region. Only this region and the South West have undertaken local evaluation. The event will also allow Government Office South East (GOSE) and the Regional Consortium to recognise all the hard work, the anxiety and pain, and the successes of local activity and to formally thank local consortia for capitalising on the opportunities that ChangeUp has provided. More details will follow to local consortia.

## Funding and Finance Programme – Local Procurement Events

During the emerging ChangeUp programme in the South East the voluntary/community sector (VCS) identified various issues in relation to funding and finance. The ChangeUp Regional Consortium responded to this by commissioning a regional programme of activity to address some of the issues and challenges that have been highlighted. Details of the full programme can be found at [www.raise-networks.org.uk/changeup/](http://www.raise-networks.org.uk/changeup/). Key participants include statutory, voluntary, community, charity and social enterprise representatives.

This programme includes a series of local events, which are running between January and March 2006, and are linked to the Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP) areas. They offer opportunities to discuss public service delivery at a local level looking at local procurement practices and how these relate to the VCS, explore full cost recovery and where appropriate look at how the implementation of the local IDP may be funded going forward.

The programme of events can be found at <http://digbig.com/4ggxd> or by contacting Abdul Razaq by email: [abdul@raise-networks.org.uk](mailto:abdul@raise-networks.org.uk) or telephone on 01483 500772.

Publicity material and booking forms are being sent out through local VCS networks. If you have not seen the publicity and want to know more about the events please contact Simone Pickrell by telephone on 0118 932 0532, or email: [simone.pickrell@headway-rdi.co.uk](mailto:simone.pickrell@headway-rdi.co.uk).

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