

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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Introducing Vernon Samuels

Vernon is the new Capacitybuilders Regional Co-ordinator for the South East and South West based at Government Office South West (GOSW) in Bristol. Capacitybuilders is the new agency with responsibility to manage initially the £70m ChangeUp programme for the financial years 2006/07 and 2007/08 and to secure sustained funding to 2014. Capacitybuilders will work with the voluntary/community sector (VCS) to help it become even more effective and efficient. In short, Capacitybuilders is responsible for:

- ChangeUp implementation and management;
- Making and managing grants;
- Ensuring that activities take account of diversity;
- Evaluating programmes and delivery.

The strategy and action programme for Capacitybuilders can be found on its website at www.capacitybuilders.org.uk. This holds further information on the work of Capacitybuilders and will be updated with information on new funding programmes when they are launched over the coming months.

Vernon has amassed 17 years of experience working in or with the VCS. In his new role as Regional Co-ordinator he looks forward to working with key Changeup stakeholders in the South East. Vernon may be contacted as follows: Vernon Samuels, Regional Co-ordinator (South East / South West), Capacitybuilders, 77 Paradise Circus, Birmingham B1 2DT. Telephone (Switchboard): 0121 237 5100. Fax: 0121 237 5131. Mobile: 07920 726509. GOSW contact: 0117 900 1827. Email: vernon.samuels@capacitybuilders.org.uk.

Capacitybuilders Grant Scheme - Consortia Projects Programme

The regional website - www.raise-networks.org.uk/changeup - has been substantially updated over the last few weeks with all the March 2006 Infrastructure Development Plans, examples of good practice and a new FAQ page. It is anticipated that more examples of good practice will be included during April.

Regional Allocation: The 2006/07 regional allocation for the South East is £918,900. The regional allocation for 2007/08 is likely to be in the order of £739,000. This makes a combined regional allocation of around £1,657,900 for the period from October 2006 to the end of March 2008 for the Consortia Projects Programme in the South East. There is no ring fenced funding for each consortium or thematic project wishing to apply. Funding will be awarded on the strength of project proposals submitted to Capacitybuilders by the application deadline of 31 July 2006.

Fund Management: Until 31 March 2007 Capacitybuilders will continue existing fund management arrangements for this programme. This means that funding for this Programme in the South East will be administered through existing accountable body organisations where practical.

Infrastructure Development (Investment) Plans: Priority will be given to projects identified and evidenced as the highest priority for support. This means that applicants should demonstrate how the proposed project fit into their current or developing IDP successor documents. In the case of Regional and Sub Regional Consortia, applicants will need to clearly demonstrate how the project(s) links with, supports and adds value to the work of the local area(s) or sub-regions. Of course, all proposals must demonstrate how they contribute to securing a high quality, sustainably funded infrastructure for frontline organisations. They must also demonstrate how they address issues of diversity and equality.

Number of Projects: Please note that projects that are larger in scale, spanning both financial years, are particularly welcome.

Decision Making: Capacitybuilders is looking for each applicant to put forward its recommended project(s) for funding by 31 July 2006. For consortia applications, Capacitybuilders is asking for projects to be submitted in priority order. The Capacitybuilders' Grants Committee will take final funding decisions.

Support from Capacitybuilders Regional Co-ordinator: Vernon is happy to talk through priority proposals or any other queries related to the Programme between now and 31 July 2006. Please contact him for a discussion.

Celebrating the ChangeUp programme in the South East

Some 80 people were present at a celebratory event in mid June to mark the end of the "planning phase" of ChangeUp and the beginning of the "implementation phase". The end of the beginning was marked by the launch of the regional evaluation of the process to date in the South East and the identification of key messages from local consortia and stakeholders both to those driving the process in the past and in the future - Capacitybuilders. Simon Hebditch, Chief Executive of Capacitybuilders reassured delegates that there would be a smooth transition, that Capacitybuilders would learn from and build on what has happened in the past. He then launched the first of four funding programmes from Capacitybuilders - the Consortia Projects Programme [see article overleaf for an outline]. He outlined three additional programmes to be launched over the summer and autumn 2006 - help for marginalised groups and communities to bring them within the ChangeUp programme; bringing into the ChangeUp programme additional deliverers of support services currently outside local consortia; and a small programme concentrating upon sharing of learning, innovation and good practice from the ChangeUp programme. Detailed workshops were held on the Consortia Projects Programme, on the Big Lottery Fund's BASIS programme and on funding available from Futurebuilders.

Report on Early Evaluation of the ChangeUp process in the South East

The "ChangeUp in the South East - an evaluation" report was launched at the regional event in mid June in Guildford. Delegates took away with them a copy of the report. Each local consortia has been sent 5 copies of the report. If you have not seen a copy visit the regional ChangeUp website and download a copy from <http://www.raise-networks.org.uk/changeup/regional.html#Evaluation>.

Regional ChangeUp Programmes

As part of the ChangeUp in the South East, five regional programmes were commissioned by the Regional Consortium as follows:

1. Information Communication Technology (ICT)

This programme is due to report in September 2006. It is seeking, through a range of four demonstration projects, to look at the voluntary/community sectors (VCS) ICT needs from a hardware, software, technical support and training perspective. The four projects are testing their ICT services across a range of indicators to include: geographical reach; rural and urban; outreach; size of voluntary/community organisation (VCO); charging for services; training type and cost; sustainability and model set up costs.

The full programme can be downloaded on the ChangeUp South East web site at <http://digbig.com/4mafq>. The full report will be available in hard copy in late October/November 2006.

2. Social Enterprise

This programme seeks to support the training of 20 VCS social enterprise advisors in the region and enable the VCS to get engaged with their local social enterprise network. Training has commenced and further updates will be available soon. For details of your local social enterprise network and information on the programme log onto <http://digbig.com/4maft>.

3. Funding and Finance

This is an extensive programme that has run from June 2006 to current. This programme has looked at and identified key barriers to the VCS engaging effectively in the procurement and contracting agenda and undertaken to fund 2 VCS secondees into the Government Office to support VCS engagement with the Local Area Agreements in round 2. The final report is in draft and will be available to download in August 2006. The CD-ROM that supports the Local Area Agreements (LAA) work is available and is called 'See the Potential'.

For more information on this CD-ROM contact Kathryn Shephard at RAISE on kshephard@raise-networks.org.uk.

4. Additional Support Programme (ASP)

This has run in parallel to the creation of the Local Infrastructure Development Plans (LIDPs) and looks at the support needs of the BME communities and groups at a local level. 19 individual Additional Support Programme (ASP) reports are available and further work is planned to integrate these into the LIDPs.

For more information contact Dave Simmons or George Mathews on 01483 500770 or mail@raise-networks.org.uk.

5. South East Regional Infrastructure Plan

This plan has now been developed to look at how the organisations from the VCS with a remit to offer both generic and specialist infrastructure support to the local VCS is undertaken and can be improved. The plan is being circulated for consultation and will be available on the RAISE website or by e-mailing Nickie Davison at RAISE on nickie@raise-networks.org.uk.