

CHANGE UP AND RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH EAST

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TO HELP BLACK AND MINORITY ETHNIC, FAITH, REFUGEE/ASYLUM SEEKERS AND TRAVELLER COMMUNITY GROUPS TO BECOME ENGAGED IN THE CHANGE UP PROGRAMME

The engagement of a wide range of BME groups as well as faith, refugee, asylum seeker and traveller community organisations is key to getting right the infrastructure to support the voluntary and community sector. This paper describes an additional programme of support from the Change Up programme available for the year April 2005 to March 31st 2006

1. Government is working with the voluntary and community sector and other stakeholders to find ways of improving the infrastructure support which is offered to frontline voluntary and community organisations. Frontline organisations help to deliver public services in unique ways and also provide the bedrock of community engagement. The best possible infrastructure services are needed to help make sure these organisations are able to do the best they can. Government hopes to see all stakeholders taking an active part in this programme. Working across urban and rural communities those groups closest to the most socially excluded must also be involved. Based on a ten year vision the current programme lasts until the end of March 2006.
2. In the South East, the Government Office for the South East (GOSE) and a **Regional Consortium** of stakeholders from the statutory and voluntary and community sectors have developed a regional plan based on an early mapping programme. A basic element of this plan is the development and implantation of **local infrastructure development plans** by County and Unitary based local stakeholder **consortia** led by the voluntary and community sector. These consortia have been resourced to determine what services are needed for frontline organisations and what changes need to happen to modernise the existing infrastructure. A wide range of stakeholders are expected to be involved including frontline organisations and the statutory sector.
3. The Regional Consortium is committed to ensuring that Black and Minority Ethnic Voluntary and Community Organisations (BME VCO's) and other small frontline organisations are able to benefit from this programme. Work carried out in the early part of this programme (Mapping project - Early Spend www.raise-networks.org.uk/inform/dspcatlist.cfm?iCatID=243) demonstrated the continuing lack of consistent and widespread support for the BME VCO sector in the South East. Accordingly the local consortium in each county and unitary area **must already** demonstrate how they are engaging with the BME sector and how the BME VCO's are taking part in the consortia and the decision making.

4. Infrastructure development plans will also have to address the needs of BME, and other small front line organisations such as faith, refugee/asylum seeker and traveller frontline organisations to enable them to access effective infrastructure support.

5. This paper describes **additional financial and other types of support** to help this happen. **This additional support is available for the year April 2005 to March 31st 2006**

Who can receive this additional support?

6. Local consortia being developed under the Change Up programme have been invited to nominate a **lead organisation** for this work. There are three options:

- i A locally based BME VCO which should also be a member of the consortium.
- ii The consortium but with evidence of close stakeholder involvement from the relevant communities. This will have to be evidenced by named organisations or individuals being actively involved in this work-possibly through a steering group. These individuals or organisations must be willing to be identified and attend relevant meetings on request
- iii Recognition that there is no local organisation or group known to the consortium that is able to take part / responsibility on the consortium's behalf or in partnership with it. In this case consortia are asked to request advice and guidance on how to take this work forward.

What additional financial support is available?

7. The SE regional consortium has agreed that about £800k can be allocated to this work across the region. The local allocation is based on allocating £12K to every consortium area and then an allocation according to the percentage of the BME population in the South East. We have used the proportion of BME individuals as a proxy for the groups needing to be contacted. We have modelled various allocations and all achieve the same range of distribution. This allocation ensures a baseline even in the areas with very few of the targeted groups. **We would also expect work to link across areas where this will lead ultimately to a better service for the targeted groups**

Consortium	% SE BME population	Total Allocation (£,000)
Milton Keynes	4.9	40
Buckinghamshire	9.6	67
Oxfordshire	7.5	55
Slough	11.04	75.1
Reading	4.81	39.5
West Berks	0.97	17.6
Wokingham	2.34	25.4
Bracknell Forest	1.38	19.9
RBWM	2.58	26.8
Hampshire**	7	52
Isle Of Wight	0.45	14.6
Southampton	4.23	36.2
Portsmouth	2.51	26.3
Kent	10.6	72.7
Medway	3.43	31.6
Surrey	13.5	89.3
East Sussex	2.9	28.8
West Sussex	6.53	49.4
Brighton & Hove	3.63	32.8
Totals		800

- *Berkshire (as a County) has not been given additional resources. We would expect this consortium to engage with the work of the unitaries. We would also suggest that where joint work across boundaries produces added value and more effective outcomes then this should be pursued.
- **Hampshire is already receiving resources for BME development work and we are prepared to accept a programme which adds some value to this but allocates some of these resources to wider consortium development

What is this additional support intended to help to achieve?

8. It is expected that this additional support will contribute towards the achievement of the following:

1. An effective partnership between local consortia and black and minority ethnic, faith, refugee, asylum seeker and traveller groups.
2. A local infrastructure development plan which refers clearly to these parts of the VCS and demonstrates relevance to the targeted groups. Cross boundary as well neighbourhood focussed work might feature
3. A strong perspective from the relevant groups appropriate to the area which demonstrates ownership of the outcomes
4. Clear evidence of the sorts of infrastructure services the groups identified believe they need.*
5. Evidence of achievement against outcomes over the year April 2005 to end March 2006.

*Where plans have been agreed with GOSE, these and other resources allocated to the consortia can be used to implement the plans.

Proposals

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9. Initial proposals as to how the work will be carried out should be sent to Nikki Smart **by April 22nd**. These proposals must include the following

- Evidence of stakeholder involvement and management,
- Evidence of links to consortia and their existing plans to engage with the BME community
- Evidence of how groups and communities will be contacted /become involved.
- An outline programme for the year

[In some places where the financing is small and the knowledge base is low mapping of the groups and communities may be acceptable. However many studies have already been carried out nationally and locally and checking past work with groups may be a more effective way of moving forward. We would not wish to see this support programme criticised as yet another research programme. Engagement and action will be key.]

Consideration of the proposals

10. All proposals will be considered by a special subgroup of the regional consortium which oversees the whole Change Up programme. Feedback from this group will be shared with the relevant consortium and lead agency.

Funding of Proposals

11. On receipt and acceptance of your initial proposals, we will send out a grant offer letter and all monitoring forms, which will not need to be completed at this stage. Once the letter has been signed and returned an initial payment of at least 25% of the total, as laid out in the table above, will be made to the accountable body which will either be the nominated lead organisation or the Consortium.

A **detailed** work programme should then be submitted by **June 1st**, together with a completed baseline monitoring form and a quarterly claim form(to be supplied) We would expect this detailed work programme to be very clear about the outcomes to be achieved and to demonstrate the methods by which the targeted groups will be engaged. A second payment will be made at this point.

Where appropriate further payments will be made quarterly on receipt of a completed quarterly claim form. (to be supplied)

In all cases, payments will only be made where evidence is produced identifying the achieved milestones of the detailed work programme

Support for the work

12. Support to consortia is already offered by secondees from the Voluntary and Community Sector. To help further this work some additional support can be offered:

David Simmons will be available to help support this work in Kent, Surrey, Sussex and Brighton and Hove. Hampshire and IOW, Portsmouth and Southampton (partds@yahoo.co.uk. Tel no.07782215601) We are currently considering how to offer targeted additional support in the Thames Valley. Early indications are that some consortia and/or the lead organisations for this work may wish extra support or training in relation to this work. We will be developing ideas on this shortly.

Linkages between the different work/projects

13. We hope to develop a programme of linkages between the lead agencies/groups for this additional support work and other groups over the next year. Further details will follow.

For further information on any part of this programme please contact Nikki Smart- nsmart.gose@go-regions.gov.uk tel no 01483 884801 or Janet Novak - jnovak.gose@go-regions.gov.uk tel no 01483 882322

Please send your proposals to Nikki Smart by April 22nd to nsmart.gose@go-regions.gov.uk.

Hard copies can be sent to the address below by April 22nd.

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