

CHANGEUP AND RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAMME IN THE SOUTH EAST (November 2005)

REGIONAL PLAN

This note describes the latest version of the ChangeUp plan for the SE region. It has been agreed by the Regional Consortium. As the plan develops, further updated versions will be made available.

1. The Government has set out a plan to improve the infrastructure support available to frontline voluntary and community organisations. This is a ten year vision, that by 2014, frontline organisations will have support, which will be nationwide, efficiently structured, reflects and promotes diversity, and crucially is sustainably funded. Following an Early spend programme, Government Office for the South East is now in partnership with a Regional Consortium of stakeholders to implement the ChangeUp and Rural Infrastructure programme in the South East.

2. ChangeUp and the Rural Infrastructure Investment Programme in the South East focuses on catalysing a change in support available to frontline voluntary and community organisations, developing strategic plans, ensuring focus on social exclusion and building capacity in many different ways. It will be about the general support offered to front line organisations delivering public services.

3. From January to June 2004, RAISE (Regional Action and Involvement in the South East) carried out a project to identify issues which the programme in the South East needed to take into account. Based on widespread consultations, the report ¹ has enabled attention to be focussed on the following priorities:

- Financing and resourcing of infrastructure functions and organisation.
- Strengths and weaknesses in the way infrastructure organisations are engaged with front line VCS organisations, statutory partners and each other.
- Support to front line Black and Minority ethnic voluntary and community organisations.
- Social enterprise support and development for the voluntary and community sector.
- Effective ICT support and development.

4. **Regional stakeholders** are working together to develop all these areas. Other work linked to the overall programme will be identified and drawn into the regional picture if at all possible. Where feasible, regional stakeholders will work together to add value. The Voluntary and Community Sector is playing a key role in taking this programme forward at a local, subregional and regional level. Where possible it leads initiatives.

¹ The report is available on RAISE's website: www.raise-networks.org.uk.

5. The Regional Plan :

- Ensures that rural and urban programmes are integrated to add value to all activities. It also enables distinctive urban or rural work to develop as local circumstances warrant.
- Supports the development of local infrastructure through the mechanism of Local Infrastructure Development Plans. These are being worked on by 19 consortia at Unitary and County level.
- Will 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.
- Supports the development and implementation of a distinctive strategy to ensure that front line BME, faith and other small community organisations have the best possible support at a local, subregional and regional level.
- Will support programmes which encourage greater equity and understanding of the financing of the VCS infrastructure
- Supports programmes which develop VCS social enterprise.
- Recognises the value of volunteering, and supports an effectively marketed, commonly branded and quality accredited volunteering infrastructure that reaches, recruits and places a greater number and diversity of individuals, together with improved volunteer management across the region.
- Will support the development of an effective and sustainable infrastructure for ICT in the region linked to the work of the national hub.
- Ensures that the region learns from the work of national hubs and gains maximum benefit
- Facilitates the involvement and leadership of the voluntary and community sector at all levels of the programme

6. A **Regional Consortium** oversees the programme. Membership of the consortium has grown to include a BME perspective, frontline VCS organisations and faith interests.. The local statutory sector is represented by four Local Authority representatives. It is chaired by Jacinta Thorley, of the South East Rural Community Council, RAISE provides the secretariat support to it. Members currently include GOSE, SEEDA, the Big Lottery Fund, RAISE, SERCC, SEVSFF, LSC and the Local Authorities²

² GOSE-Government Office for the South East, SEEDA-South East Economic Development Agency, RAISE-Regional Action and Involvement in the South East, SERCC-South East Rural Community Councils, SEVSFF-South East Voluntary Sector Funders Forum, LSC-Learning and Skills Council.

7. The most appropriate **fund manager** for each programme will be identified. GOSE may itself run aspects of the programme but efforts will be made to identify fund managers from the VCS. Other statutory agencies and SEEDA are not eligible to be fund managers. At a local and subregional level fund holders will be from the VCS. In addition the programme is supported by people from the voluntary and community sector who are seconded to the Government Office for the South East.

8. Where possible work will be **commissioned**. This means that wherever possible VCS organisations in the region will not have to bid competitively against each other. Commissioned work will need to be described in order for the finance to be drawn down. Dissemination, sharing of good practice and learning will play a key role too in the programme. Plans currently include events to bring local consortia together and in future to bring those together working on BME, faith and some other issues.

9. The South East has been allocated £5,831,735 for 04/05 and 05/06 for the ChangeUp and Rural Infrastructure Investment Programme. This includes £81,235 underspend from the 03/04 Early Spend programme.

The Regional Funding Plan is outlined below.

AREA OF ALLOCATION	AMOUNT (£)	FUND MANAGER(S)
Local Infrastructure Development Programme Capital	1,327,000	GOSE
Local Infrastructure Development Programme Revenue	2,246,778	GOSE
Programme Revenue Additional support for BME, Traveller, Asylum Seeker, Refugee & Minority Faith VCS	805,500	GOSE
ICT Development	456,698	SCIP Portsmouth Housing Association Southampton Voluntary Services RAISE
Social Enterprise Development	101,900	RAISE
Funding & Finance Programme	207,108	RAISE GOSE
Dissemination	129,230	GOSE
Administration		
RAISE – Secretariat	103,159	RAISE
GOSE – ChangeUp Co-ordinators	228,593	GOSE
Support Costs	54,521	GOSE

Special Projects		
Regional Infrastructure Development Plan	47,000	Currently regional consortium
Support of Early Spend Projects	123,641	
TOTAL	5,831,128	

10. The **next steps** are

- To clarify the detail of the various elements of the programme with fund managers and with the VCS more widely
- To improve communication and develop opportunities for sharing learning.