

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ChangeUp is a national government initiative to ensure the Voluntary and Community Sector is strong enough to deliver high quality, effective and valued services. This sector is now central to the delivery of a range of essential services and the Government is keen to see organisations are well supported and equipped, by good infrastructure services, so they can deliver services most effectively. ChangeUp was launched to ensure that all voluntary and community sector organisations had a say in what support they need.

If you're involved in any way in the Voluntary and Community Sector then what happens as a result of ChangeUp will affect you. It is intended that existing infrastructure services will continue and develop, to provide good and efficient support which best meets the needs of frontline voluntary and community organisations. This might mean changes to the services that are currently delivered and how they are delivered. This could mean if you feel your group isn't currently getting the support it needs to prosper it will be possible to change this.

East Sussex has received funding to ensure that it develops a well-researched and considered strategic Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP) for the next eight years, where the diverse needs of Voluntary and Community Organisations across the County are properly taken into account.

A full draft IDP is available to provide opportunity for comments to be submitted between 3 April and 28 June 2006. It is available on the East Sussex website (<http://www.change-up.info/eastsussex>) and from infrastructure organisations such as CVS and AirS.

A final version of the IDP will be produced by the end of July. This will include a more developed implementation plan, as well as information on how the IDP will be monitored and evaluated, and will take account of comment from the Voluntary and Community Sector.

A draft action plan is given overleaf, showing the aims and objectives proposed in the IDP. ChangeUp is a national government initiative to ensure the Voluntary and Community Sector is strong enough to deliver high quality, effective and valued services. This sector is now central to the delivery of a range of essential services and the Government is keen to see organisations are well supported and equipped so they can deliver services most effectively. ChangeUp was launched to ensure that all voluntary and community sector organisations had a say in what support they need.

DRAFT ACTION PLAN

Strategic Aim	Objectives/actions
<p>To achieve a sustainable base level of infrastructure support to VCOs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To agree an appropriate base level of support, including at which geographic level this should be provided and by which organisation ▪ To identify opportunities for greater partnership working, including the possibility of a CVS partnership approach ▪ To develop links with e.g. national ‘hubs’ <p>Technical advice and training (inc ICT) and development to support emerging needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To increase the capacity (including skills) to provide 1:1 support, including specific support for small groups ▪ To increase the capacity (including skills) to provide support for BME groups, particularly on organisational development, book-keeping, ICT ▪ To develop ICT support to FLOs, in line with demonstration project being undertaken by SCIP ▪ To strengthen support for LIO’s themselves, particular in relation to ICT and information systems. <p>Funding advice and support and development to support emerging needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To strengthen funding support ▪ To develop expertise related to social enterprise, both related to setting up a social enterprise and adopting a social enterprise approach ▪ To develop a collaborative approach for BME VCOs (BME led) <p>Development to support emerging needs Support for the development of new services for the BME community, e.g. for elders, children/young people (BME led).</p> <p>Sign posting and general information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting/addressing racism <p>Recruiting and developing volunteers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To seek ways of improving and strengthening the local volunteering infrastructure. E.g. countywide resource with local volunteering champions.

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	<p>Physical facilities and resources To continue to support the development of physical infrastructure, including community buildings and community transport</p> <p>Access to appropriate physical space for activities, office for BME communities</p> <p>Further exploration of BME community development needs, including a possible audit of existing support and developing a resource plan</p> <p>Explore the feasibility of the establishment of a Gypsy and Traveller-led voluntary organisation – providing services and ‘voice’</p> <p>Further explore the specific support needs of refugee and asylum seekers</p>
<p>To communicate services and activities clearly, seek feedback and respond to changing needs.</p>	<p>Sign posting and general information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To develop a shared ICT space for LIOs, to support partnerships working and the sharing of good practice ▪ To ensure that communication of the support available takes into account the different needs of small groups and medium or large organisations. ▪ To provide tailor made access to information about public services and support to access them served in partnership with the BME/ faith based VCOs ▪ To develop systems to enable front line organisations to easily convey their needs (CVS member profiling/surveys, VDA statistics etc.) <p>Funding advice and support and development to support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To improve links and communication between commissioners and contractors of public services, lobby for clear policies on procurement.
<p>To raise quality standards and good management practice amongst VCOs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To adopt a more strategic approach to workforce development, particularly in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ developing effective human resources and management skills in VCOs. ➤ developing skills relating to contracting – tendering and contract negotiation, leadership and management skills for trustees

Strategic Aim	Objectives/actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To strengthen support for LIO's themselves, particular in relation to quality systems. ▪ To promote and support the adoption of quality standards, e.g. through developing a 'quality standards network' ▪ To strengthen governance support for BME VCOs
To raise the profile of VCO's contribution to the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To develop a communication and marketing strategy, informing external possible partners about the sector and its potential contribution ▪ Increase understanding of role of BME/faith based VCOs to ensure an appropriate response to community need, including training to raise knowledge of their value, contribution and issues.
To provide a 'voice' for VCOs and opportunities for wider community engagement	<p>A voice and representation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To develop a BME/ faith based VCO led network/consortia to engage with and help shape services (linked with the 'mainstream' VCO sector.) ▪ Advocacy work with public bodies to ensure that funding for the support of faith bodies is used to build internal capacity ▪ Advocacy work to address current funding criteria and barriers to accessing funding for faith groups ▪ To further explore the feasibility of a Traveller & Gypsy led organisation. ▪ To ensure that local VCS is represented at a local, county and sub-regional level in an effective and accountable way by building on work taking place at a local level to support community networks and engagement processes, including further development of 'VOICES'.