

Update of Voluntary and Community Sector Review

Jointly commissioned by Wiltshire County Council & Wiltshire Primary Care Trust
Consultant: Julian Wakefield

During the autumn of 2007, the consultant attended various voluntary sector workshops to meet with VCS and to gain input into the Review.

A draft Report was prepared with 12 recommendations. A consultation period was started with the VCS and ran from April to June 2008. A questionnaire with a pre-paid envelope for replies was sent out.

Running alongside the Questionnaire two workshop events were planned to encourage further participation in the consultation. One event was held in Melksham on 16th April and one in Salisbury on 19th May. Both events were run by WCC and the PCT in conjunction with the CVSs and Community First. Both events were well attended and Sue Redmond Director of Department of Community Services and Jeff James, Chief Executive of the PCT gave presentations.

Feedback from the two workshops and replies to the Questionnaire were analysed and a draft of the Consultation Results was prepared. The Wiltshire Infrastructure Consortium (WIC) and the Compact Board members were invited to a meeting by WCC and PCT on 13th August to look at the findings from the consultation. Both Reports are on the Wiltshire Infrastructure Consortium website www.wsic.org.uk

Members of WIC and the Compact Board were able to look at the Report and suggest alterations for clarification and endorsed the findings. The Report is being re-drafted for easier reading and will go before WCC Cabinet on 15th October for ratification.

Recommendation 1 – Mapping the Sector – received a very positive response and once signed off by the Cabinet will be one of the first tasks to be put into practice.

Recommendation 3 - A Wiltshire VCS Assembly - The Wiltshire Infrastructure Consortium have been working towards developing the Consortium and establishing a Voluntary Sector Assembly to enable a strong 'voice' for the VCS and a mechanism for VCS involvement in the LAA and other strategic planning.

The other recommendations are being finalised and will be presented in the easy read version in October.

'Shaping the Future' event on 17th July was arranged by WIC to launch the plans for a Voluntary Sector Assembly to mirror the structure of the 'Family of Partnerships' currently being developed for the One Council for Wiltshire. Over 1,400 invitations to the VCS were sent out for this event and attendance was good. Around 77 people were able to attend on the day and from the feedback forms completed 85% were in favour of taking the Voluntary Sector Assembly idea to fruition.

Following the WCC Cabinet meeting on 15th October WIC will launch the VCS Assembly and share the final report with the sector. In the meantime plans are underway to strengthen and expand the current membership of the Wiltshire Infrastructure Consortium.