

THIRD SECTOR ASSEMBLY – ACHIEVEMENTS to date!

Since its formal launch in April 2009 the Third Sector Assembly has hit the ground running. Established by a group of leading third sector organisations the Assembly was intended to enable the wider third sector in Cheshire West to make its voice heard and to facilitate better communication with partners in other sectors.

The promise of the Assembly was recognised at an early stage by the new local authority who have seconded Anne Lancaster to support the initial development of the organisation.

Since then there has been a flurry of activity.

Representation

- ✓ TSA representation on LSP, thematic groups and Area Partnership Boards agreed as a matter of principle
- ✓ Representation guidelines and protocols developed and agreed (via working group)
- ✓ Gaps in networks agreed and being addressed (via working group)
- ✓ Series of Structure papers produced to update on changes to CWC and partnerships
- ✓ Key Contacts paper for CWC and TSA produced – and will be updated

Follow up – develop training and improve networking of representatives to ensure coordinated sector views are put forward

Information

- ✓ Briefing paper on Comprehensive Area Assessment produced
- ✓ Briefing Paper on Commissioning (basic) produced
- ✓ Consultation on Sustainable Community Strategy (to final stages)
- ✓ Consultation on Community Engagement and Empowerment Strategy (ongoing)
- ✓ Consultation on Community Cohesion Strategy (early stages)
- ✓ Consultation on CWC Budget Proposals 2010 – formal response given
- ✓ Consultation on Regional Strategy 2010
- ✓ Web site in development - final stages (via working group)

Follow up – explore easily accessed ways to use the website for exchanging information and developing consultation

Collaboration

- ✓ Joint event with CWAC held in November 2009 “Developing a Thriving Third Sector”(with 103 third sector attendees) and conference report produced.
- ✓ Wider Partnership Event held December 2009 to raise issues and help direct work of TSA
- ✓ Successful NAVCA bid for regional Personalisation Agenda event –held March 26th 2010 – one of only six such events in the country
- ✓ Number of network events attended – presentations and updates given on a regular basis.
- ✓ Number of “external” events attended to raise awareness of TSA and give its views
- ✓ Regular TSA updates in LSP Partnerships Bulletin
- ✓ Regular reports (6) to TSA Management Group

The Future

In April 2010 the Management Group devoted its meeting to an assessment of achievements to date and to agree priorities for the coming year. These will include

- ✓ Marketing/promotion of TSA – ensuring that our reach is as broad as possible and that we encourage as much participation as we can from as wide a range of third sector organisations as possible. Get a ONE YEAR ON message out as soon as possible and Members Briefing
- ✓ Liaise with the Third Sector Congress in Cheshire East to exchange experiences and practice
- ✓ Have a fully operational website which will provide useful, relevant information and enable members to take part in the Assembly’s work
- ✓ Use existing working groups – commissioning, PR/Comms to develop programmes for the Assembly and to support the wider sector
- ✓ Get regular slots on LSP, thematic groups, APBs etc – representatives on these bodies to take forward
- ✓ Look at setting up Training for Commissioners too – it was recognised that many in the statutory sector would need to better understand the needs and the language of the third sector if they were to be expected to create a level playing field for commissioning.

Further Information

Anne Lancaster

Third Sector Assembly Co-ordinator

Cheshire West and Chester Council

Tel: 07801 015261 or 01244 323527

Email: anne.lancaster@chesterva.org.uk or anne.lancaster@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Or:-

Arthur Neil, Chair of the Assembly
Voluntary Action Vale Royal
Tel 01606 723182 or
Email aneil@vavaleroval.org.uk

Or:-

Elaine Dunn, Secretary to Assembly
0151 356 7358
Email elaine@epnavco.org.uk