

Devon Consortium FINAL REPORT to CAPACITY BUILDERS on 2010-2011.

A2: Improved links with subsectors and specialist infrastructure, including social enterprise

Baseline: please provide baseline details if available.

Consortium self assessment of 2007 indicated work to be done especially in the areas of engaging with BME & LGBT specialist provider

Indicators: Please enter text in fields provided below

Indicator 1:

Diversity Steering Group -- will be actively promoting best diversity practice and will be reflective of all specialist areas

Indicator 2:

Human Rights & Equalities -- work with dedicated resource to deliver training programme on new equalities legislation -- to ensure compliance and promotion of best practice

Indicator 3:

COSMIC -- sustaining and developing effective links and joint working so that the VCS in Devon makes best use of ICT. All Consortium sponsored projects will have been diversity, ICT and rural proofed. This process will be overseen by appropriate specialist providers. Social enterprise agencies - will have been included in the process to ensure this is a considered structural approach.

Please summarise your progress against this outcome by selecting one of the three classifications in the drop down menu below.

Good progress

Please enter your evidence here taking into consideration what action you are taking to improve the chances of meeting this outcome (e.g. what needs to be done differently)

- The Consortium Diversity Reference Group (DRG) has continued to be developed alongside our BASIS programme. A more realistic approach has been taken which recognises the capacity issues of its members and puts more responsibilities on project leads to address diversity within delivery. 2 combined meetings of Devon Consortium projects with Devon Consortium have been held, and a [combined project and DRG meeting also](#).
- Social Enterprise -- the Consortium continues to engage with local authorities (Devon County in particular) and this work is being enhanced through our 'Total Support' BASIS project and our Stronger Communities Programme project 'Developing the Third Sector' which started in April 2010. our Devon VCS survey has some data on this sector.
- Human Rights & Equalities -- Equality Impact Assessment training provided to enable all Devon Consortium projects to fully proof on these issues. Fit for purpose approach developed which is practical for small scale short term projects.
- VCS Assembly – this year's event deferred to 2011 because of uncertainty within the consortium and the sector.

What action are you taking to improve the chances of meeting this outcome (e.g. what needs to be done differently)?

- Consortium Diversity Reference Group/ Human Rights -- ensure Devon Consortium projects are all proofed with a proportionate process. Establish sustainable and supportive relationship between DRG and consortium delivery.

- Social Enterprise -- link new Stronger Communities Programme project 'Developing the Third Sector' with BASIS project (Total Support Project) to maximise impact.

- Voluntary and Community Sector baseline survey completed in 2010 and provides comprehensive up to date information about the nature and needs of the sector in Devon.

Risk

In your Workplan you identified key risks. Are there any new risks to you achieving this outcome?

n/a

Learning

Please tell us about any learning points (e.g. any interventions you have learned work better than others, or general learning that might be useful for other grant holders).

- Liaison with the LAA and LSP processes. We are now getting good value from our work on relationships -- especially with the County Council -- so can utilise their expertise, eg on human rights and diversity, and on commissioning.

Page 4: Improvement and sustainability - outcome two

Improvement and Sustainability: Outcome Two

A3: Integration and links between consortia plans and broader local partnerships and strategies, including links with Local Area Agreements

Baseline: please provide baseline details if available.

Consortium representatives are included on some LAA and other local strategic partnerships. The processes to support these representatives and inform and involve the wider sector need to be strengthened. This outcome will operate in conjunction with the Collaboration, Partnerships and Representation programme (CPRP) funded through Capacity Builders Modernisation Programme. Current Consortium representation is funded through an agreement with Devon County Council. CDG funding will support and oversee this process -- CPRP Modernisation funding will deliver.

Indicators: Please enter text in fields provided below

Indicator 1:

A. Consortium mechanisms (either independent of, or in conjunction with, established processes of members) are operating effectively. Frontline organisations are aware of Consortium representatives and feel involved and consulted in their activities. Statutory bodies are aware of Consortium representatives and representation protocols.

There are a number of established Communities of Interest that create networks and enable information and communication to the VCS, so that the VCS can influence the development of strategy and delivery of services through the Devon Strategic Partnership (DSP) and the Local Area Agreement (LAA) Through the Capacity Builders Modernisation funded CPRP above, these will be reviewed and may be added to following consultation with the sector.

Protocols for representation will be accepted and adhered to by Consortium representatives

and by Statutory bodies involved in the Strategic partnerships

A representation directory will be maintained online.

Individual consortium members are adhering to representation protocols as far as possible at a more local level

Indicator 2:

B. Effective Devon Consortium representation and influence on strategic partnerships throughout Devon is extended.

Currently the Consortium is represented on a number of strategic partnerships relating to the LAA and the Devon Strategic Partnership. As new partnerships come on stream the Consortium will be in the position of being acknowledged as the place to go to seek appropriate informed representation on behalf of the third sector.

Please summarise your progress against this outcome by selecting one of the three classifications in the drop down menu below.

Very good progress

Please enter your evidence here taking into consideration what action you are taking to improve the chances of meeting this outcome (e.g. what needs to be done differently)

Good progress has been made towards supporting the CPR aspiration of robust and effective VCS representation in Devon. The following has been achieved using CDG funding:

- Consortium Secretariat has provided consistent support to monitor Consortium project outcomes
- CPR programme now complete but the processes to support these representatives and inform and involve the wider sector is being strengthened through a Stronger Communities Programme representation project. It commenced in April 2010.
- Regular updating of project news via Consortium e-newsletter and on website
- Secretariat support has been provided to produce course materials etc.
- Special Devon Consortium event on the Big Society attracted capacity audience at short notice. County Council and South West Forum Chief Executives spoke.
- Devon Consortium Management Board has had a further ½ day session to look at strategic issues and longer term business planning
- Devon Consortium continues beyond the end of Capacity Builders funding.
- DCC Representation Fund continues to support costs of VCS representation
- Devon Consortium Communications Strategy reviewed annually
- Continued active engagement with the South West Strategic Infrastructure Partnership and regional meetings for consortia (now discontinuing)
- Secretariat supported BASIS 2 work on commissioning on behalf of the sector.
- Successful recruitment of a new Devon Consortium chair, following open advertisement.
- The consortium provided access to 'Skilling up for stronger resources' to as a contribution to the building the capability of those elected as representatives?

- District Councils have agreed in principle that there needs to be funding for representation.

What action are you taking to improve the chances of meeting this outcome (e.g. what needs to be done differently)?

n/a

Risks

In your Workplan you identified key risks. Are there any new risks to you achieving this outcome?

n/a

Learning

Please tell us about any learning points (e.g. any interventions you have learned work better than others, or general learning that might be useful for other grant holders).

Our interventions with Devon Strategic Partnership and LAA yielded the Stronger Communities Programme with new resource dedicated to the VCS, with 5 projects managed on behalf of the Devon Consortium all progressing well.

The Voluntary and Community Sector is also now represented on the LAA delivery partnership for the first time. Our Chair has used this as a platform to fight for resources and recognition with the public sector – we are hopeful of getting a one year NHS secondment as a policy officer for Devon Consortium.

When commissioning Stronger Communities Programme projects we have benefitted from involvement from both the statutory sector and from the direct involvement in interviewing of grass roots organisations.

Page 6: Consortium health check and minimum expectations

B1 Informed: Up-to-date intelligence on third sector needs, and support services, including evaluation and progress of relevant projects.

Baseline: please provide baseline details if available.

- understand skills/knowledge of key players, but not across all groups
- no formal audit, no capacity to use some key skills

Please summarise your progress against this outcome by selecting one of the three classifications in the drop down menu below.

Performing well

Please enter your evidence here taking into consideration what action you are taking to improve the chances of meeting this outcome (e.g. what needs to be done differently)

- Consortium members hosting individual member forums and consultation events on regular basis -- feeding in key issues to Consortium
- Successful in commissioning major Devon VCS survey (BASIS2 -- Total Support funded). Published Autumn 2010 .
- Carried out further Management Board facilitated strategic planning session in preparation for a new Devon Consortium Business Plan

What action are you taking in the areas that require improvement (e.g. what needs to be done differently)?

n/a

B2 Engaged: Strategy for communication and engagement of members and stakeholders, and maintain page on Capacitybuilders' national website.

Baseline: please provide baseline details if available.

- Compact in place and monitored, reviewed etc.
- Public sector engagement more structured than frontline organisation engagement
- Representation process exists for funded forums via Devon County Council fund
- Information isn't shared effectively
- Internal engagement -- less active members than one year ago, but better relations

Please summarise your progress against this outcome by selecting one of the three classifications in the drop down menu below.

Performing well

Please enter your evidence here taking into consideration what action you are taking to improve the chances of meeting this outcome (e.g. what needs to be done differently)

- Consortium Communications Strategy reviewed annually
- Consortium website further developed in 2010, including events calendar and Devon Consortium project pages, and this has been well received.
- VCS Assembly being planned for later in 2011 - a key communication tool with grassroots organisations
- Consortium e-newsletter produced regularly and made widely available
- Recruited new chair for Devon Consortium through open advertisement
- Representation fund used to ensure VCS representatives able to develop effective channels of communication -- this fund monitored using CDG funding
- Continued active engagement in regional SWSIP and sub regional consortia network -- learning from best practice elsewhere and influencing regional policy and decision making

What action are you taking in the areas that require improvement (e.g. what needs to be done differently)?

n/a

B3 Inclusive: Evidence of embedding equalities and diversity in consortium's work.

Baseline: please provide baseline details if available.

Participation from physical disabilities and rurality strands of diversity good. Difficulties in engagement from BME & LGBT.

Please summarise your progress against this outcome by selecting one of the three classifications in the drop down menu below.

Performing adequately

Please enter your evidence here taking into consideration what action you are taking to improve the chances of meeting this outcome (e.g. what needs to be done differently)

- Diversity Reference Group (DRG) re-established and new chair. Role further clarified. 3 meetings held.
- Engagement of both Racial Equality Council and BME infrastructure.
- Liaison with Devon LAA over equality impact needs assessment

What action are you taking in the areas that require improvement (e.g. what needs to be done differently)?

- n/a.

B4 Robust: Annual 'light-touch' self assessment against 'fit-for-purpose' criteria.

Baseline: please provide baseline details if available.

- Terms of reference successful, but competing visions
- Relationships progressively building, but strong personalities can dominate at times

Please summarise your progress against this outcome by selecting one of the three classifications in the drop down menu below.

Performing well

Please enter your evidence here taking into consideration what action you are taking to improve the chances of meeting this outcome (e.g. what needs to be done differently)

- Evaluation of Consortium Roles initiated by the recruitment of a new chair and a review of performance monitoring when our development worker role was lost
- successful Devon Consortium commissioning and establishment process for the new £734k Stronger Communities Programme
- facilitated planning and review 'away day' held with good consortium attendance and engagement.

What action are you taking in the areas that require improvement (e.g. what needs to be done differently)?

n/a

B5 Learning: Monitor and review progress, and contribute to evaluation of the programme.

Baseline: please provide baseline details if available.

Need to consolidate and improve as no dedicated resource. Performance management done on semi ad-hoc basis by Consortium members and too much in response to funders requirements.

Please summarise your progress against this outcome by selecting one of the three classifications in the drop down menu below.

Performing adequately

Please enter your evidence here taking into consideration what action you are taking to improve the chances of meeting this outcome (e.g. what needs to be done differently)

- Consortium Development Worker role continued to be taken on by members of Management Board with full Devon Consortium approval
- Monitored Consortium Business Plan and Delivery Plans
- Robust reporting systems to MB and full Consortium for Capacity Builders and now a number of other programmes
- Full Devon baseline survey of VCS achieved and published.

What action are you taking in the areas that require improvement (e.g. what needs to be done differently)?

n/a

B6 Delivering: Meet grant requirements including financial returns to Capacitybuilders.

Baseline: please provide baseline details if available.

n/a

Please summarise your progress against this outcome by selecting one of the three classifications in the drop down menu below.

Performing well

Please enter your evidence here taking into consideration what action you are taking to improve the chances of meeting this outcome (e.g. what needs to be done differently)

- Returns on time – no issues communicated

Page 7: Additional learning

We would like you to contribute towards the learning of the Consortia Development Programme and would be very grateful if you could provide some additional comments below. You also have the opportunity to submit any relevant materials on the next page.

Please tell us about any practical advice you have on approaches, developments or innovations that have proven to be successful (or not) including any tools or resources you have used which may be useful to other grant holders.

The Consortium considers it important to carry out regular 'light touch' risk assessment of its work and of the challenges facing the VCS. Our 2010/11 review identified a number of risks. The following remain valid:

- capacity to respond to the needs and views of the smaller grassroots VCS organisations -- this is being helped enormously by the Total Support 'Frontline Support' project
- ability to communicate the 'added value' and importance of the infrastructure sector, especially with a change of government and public funding under pressure
- need to avoid use of jargon and to create a truly inclusive environment where unnecessary jargon is avoided (identified at VCS Assembly)
- Partnership working not always a transparent process -- difficulties of engaging as equal partners at the earliest possible stage in the agenda
- Size and dispersal of Devon as a county
- Difficulty of engaging hard to reach sections of the VCS
- Establishing clear mandates, processes and protocols for effective VCS representation - this is being helped through a 2 year Stronger Communities Programme project
- Undertaking meaningful consultation with the VCS on a regular basis

Are there services in your area to help third sector organisations become more environmentally sustainable?'

Please answer - Yes, No or Don't Know and provide additional comments if necessary.
yes - eg a VCS umbrella body - Devon CAN includes about 30 local climate action groups

Are any of your consortia activities supporting environmental sustainability?

Please answer - Yes, No or Don't Know and provide additional comments if necessary.

yes - eg Community Hubs is supporting service delivery at a more local level, eg using village and community halls