

Total Support Project Update

The **Total Support Project** is now 'getting underway' and planning for the project is taking place. The first two elements of the project are to (a) **map the 3rd Sector in Devon** in order to better understand it's position, it's support needs and any gaps and (b) to **develop volunteer supporting contacts** in local communities across Devon.

Mapping the Sector

The Community Council of Devon are taking the lead in this project that will look to develop a better 'picture' of the 3rd Sector in Devon. The project aims to use the Devon Consortium partners to make contact with organisations they support in order to develop a full understanding of what the sector is delivering, where it operates and how it is structured and managed. A second stage of this work will look at working in depth with organisations to better understand the training and support needs that our Sector has and the challenges that it faces so that future projects can be steered to meet these needs and challenges.

If you receive a questionnaire from the Devon Consortium, we would urge you to complete it – the more responses we have, the better our understanding will be.

Community Contacts

West Devon CVS, on behalf of DACVS, are leading on a project to engage 'community contacts' in rural parishes across Devon.

These volunteers will work within local communities to encourage voluntary activity and engagement and will work closely with local Volunteer Centres. The community contacts will be locally based and will be able to signpost the community to local support as well as opportunities. We hope to have developed this project across 30 parishes during the lifetime of the Total Support Project.

Real Help For Communities: Modernisation Fund 2009/10

This is a Government funding programme from Capacitybuilders. Bursaries were available from June to August 2009 to provide professional support for collaboration and merger within the third sector. The aim being to help viable third sector organisations be more resilient to the impact of the economic downturn.

The bursary awards are paying for professional support for organisations to help them increase their impact and become more resilient, particularly through working more closely with others.

Devon Consortium has been the Local Delivery Agent for Plymouth, Torbay and Devon. The first round has now closed and there were 26 successful applications from our area – above the national average.

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Compact Week - 2-8 November 2009

Compact Week provides opportunities to showcase the Compact & raise awareness of best practice, new developments, & debate across the sector & all levels of government. Compact Week presents valuable opportunities to make the Compact work better for you. Compact Week is an annual campaign to promote the Compact & engage Government Departments, regional bodies, local authorities & public sector partners who have Local & Regional Compacts. Further details will be appearing on the Compact website shortly— visit www.thecompact.org.uk

Of those 2 are not progressing, 16 have passed eligibility checks, with 8 more to go. 13 have already signed up with advisors. 18 of the 26 came from Devon, 7 from Plymouth and 1 from Torbay. Those who are in the programme can bid for more substantive funding in the autumn.

Phase Two

Phase Two of the programme will offer grants of up to £10,000 to bursary holders whose advisers recommend that collaboration or merger is right for them. Funding will help towards the costs of making collaboration or merger happen. The Phase Two application window will run from mid-September to the end of October 2009. Capacitybuilders aim to make awards before the end of the calendar year.

Volunteer Management Programme

Capacitybuilders have a new programme to support the management of volunteers – the Volunteer Management Programme. In the South West only Devon and Bristol were invited to bid, and the Management Board delegated planning a proposal to Volunteer Centres Devon.

Torrige CVS has developed a programme and have been agreed as the delivery body if successful. The work will run for 18 months from October 2009 and involve all the Volunteer Centres in Devon.

Dates for your Diary....

Compact Hub Meeting	20 Oct
National Compact Week	2-8 Nov
Full Consortium 9.30 — 12.30pm - Young Farmers Club, Marsh Barton, Exeter	1 Dec

Devon Consortium is funded by:



LOTTERY FUNDED



Improving support for a stronger third sector

MINDING OUR BUSINESS - The Changing Rural Economy Conference:

OCTOBER 21ST at CHRISTOW in the Teign Valley

CCD's 2009 Rural Communities Conference focuses on the economy. It will be highly interactive with the maximum opportunity for networking.

Professor Michael Winter is the Director of the Centre for Rural Policy Research at the University of Exeter. He will present on the 'Overview and Context for Devon's changing rural economy'. **Tim Jones** is Chairman of the Devon and Cornwall Business Council. Like Michael, Tim lives in a small rural community. He will present on 'Business in the rural community – prospects and challenges'. We will also be launching the '**Rural Deprivation in the South West**' report for Devon by Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

This conference is particularly aimed at: social and micro-enterprises, those responding to deprivation, those planning for their communities, interested in greener solutions, or developing rural services. We will use good practice and creative thinking to identify new and transferable solutions to the economic challenges facing our towns and villages.

BOOKING: Before the end of August, there will be more information and a booking form on our website www.devonrcc.org.uk or phone CCD admin on 01392 383443.

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