

Yorkshire & Humber Regional Forum
Updating you on our work

The Regional Forum is the strategic organisation for the voluntary and community sector in Yorkshire and the Humber. We are a member led organisation with over 150 members. We bring together voluntary and community sector organisations to ensure that there is a coherent voice at a regional level and that the sector has the right support and structures to contribute to regional activity.

FOOTSEY 2008 - Thursday 16th October, York Racecourse

Book at: <http://footsey.org.uk>



*Pitstop 2000 Ltd -
2007 Dragons' Den
Competition Winners*

Footsey 2008 is only a couple of weeks away, and looks set to be as exciting and action packed as ever. Already two thirds of the exhibition spaces have been firmly booked, so if you intend to exhibit you need to confirm your interest soon (full details at <http://www.footsey.org.uk> or call Chloe Gray on 0114 221 0428). Numbers of delegates are also much higher this year promising a lively and engaging event.

Footsey is first and foremost a trade fair for the social enterprise sector. With the increasing income challenges for the third sector and the opportunities provided by the commissioning and procurement agenda, this is a must attend event for anyone involved in social enterprise, the social economy and the benefits they provide.

So what's new this year?

- ☐ The event will be formally opened by the Lord Mayor of York.
- ☐ There will be an increased focus on attracting more commissioners and procurers from PCTs, Local Authorities and other public bodies - this will include a promotional initiative we are calling "footsey4buyers", read more about this on page 2 and a speed procurement initiative throughout the day of the event.
- ☐ There will be an exciting programme of workshops throughout the day, carefully timed to ensure that delegates can spend maximum time viewing stands and talking to exhibitors. There will be some new workshops this year including: Changes in the health sector, Sales and Marketing for Social Enterprises, and Grow change or Die! As well as tried and tested favourites including Dragons' Den, Legal structures and Finance (in a challenging environment).

Footnote: Footsey is a joint Regional Forum and Development Trusts Association event and is project managed on the partners' behalf by New Start Publishing. The headline sponsor this year is Charity Bank. The event is also sponsored Business Link Yorkshire, Key Fund Yorkshire, Unity Trust Bank and Yorkshire Forward.

New for 2008!! Footsey4Buyers

This year we have created a special micro-site designed to help buyers and procurement people, and anyone else for that matter, to find out more about what it is like to work with social enterprises, and get even more out of Footsey!

Visitors to <http://www.footsey4buyers.org.uk> will be able to:

- Discover why social enterprise is the business model for the 21st century.
- See the benefits of sourcing services through social enterprise.
- Make contact with successful social enterprises in their area.
- Book an informal meeting at Footsey 2008 with our handy match-maker service.

Visit <http://www.footsey4buyers.org.uk> to find out more!

WORKLESSNESS COMMISSION

The Forum and regional partners such as Job Centre Plus, Government Office Yorkshire and the Humber, Yorkshire Forward and the BME VCS Regional Panel have begun work on a Commission looking at the nature of worklessness in the region.

The Commission wants to particularly hear voices that are not heard: from people who are workless and helper agencies on the ground in all sectors. The Regional Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber, Rosie Winterton MP has officially supported the Commission.

If you are interested please contact Judy Robinson –
e-mail: judy.robinson@regionalforum.org.uk or
call 0113 394 2300

What is needed for young people who are Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET)

The 14-19 landscape for learning and skills is changing enormously - with responsibility for it moving from the Learning and Skills Council to local authorities from 2010 if not before, and the new 'September Guarantee' coming in September 2008, where all 16-17 year olds will be offered at least two years of further education, including vocational training, when they leave compulsory education.

But young people themselves don't change much as far as their hopes and aspirations go, and this small piece of research by Geoff Farimond of Sheffield Connexions brings together the thoughts of Personal Advisers about what young people want.

Firstly, they want more employment opportunities, including lower level entry. Many NEET young people are only interested in employment and earning a realistic wage, rather than a training allowance.

They want more and better progression routes from Entry to Employment schemes - preferably into jobs.

They want more provision to engage specific groupings within the NEET cohort, ie. Care Leavers, Learning Difficulties or Disabilities, Teenage Mothers, Young Offenders and Probationers.

They want employers to be better informed and prepared to employ NEET young people aged 16-18, and to recognise it is about relationship building and is likely to be resource intensive.

Some young people want flexible and innovative provision that gives them unconventional routes into becoming Employed, Educated, or Trained (EET).

Voluntary sector organisations are often well placed to respond to these needs - as employers, as training providers, and as the basis for innovative, young person centred projects.



Third Sector Learning Providers go to the Top of the Class!

For those who have been banging the drum about the quality of third sector learning provision, new data for 2006/2007 from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) confirms the case. Analysis of national data for both third sector and “Other” providers in relation to very short, short and long courses confirms that third sector providers are usually outperforming all “Other” providers.

What are the figures?

For long courses the third sector achievement rate is 73% - a full 10% higher than “Other” providers at 63%!

For short courses the sector achievement rate is 85% - again a full 10% higher than “Other” providers.

And for very short courses the third sector achievement rate is up to 90% - just 2% short of the achievement rate for “Other” providers.

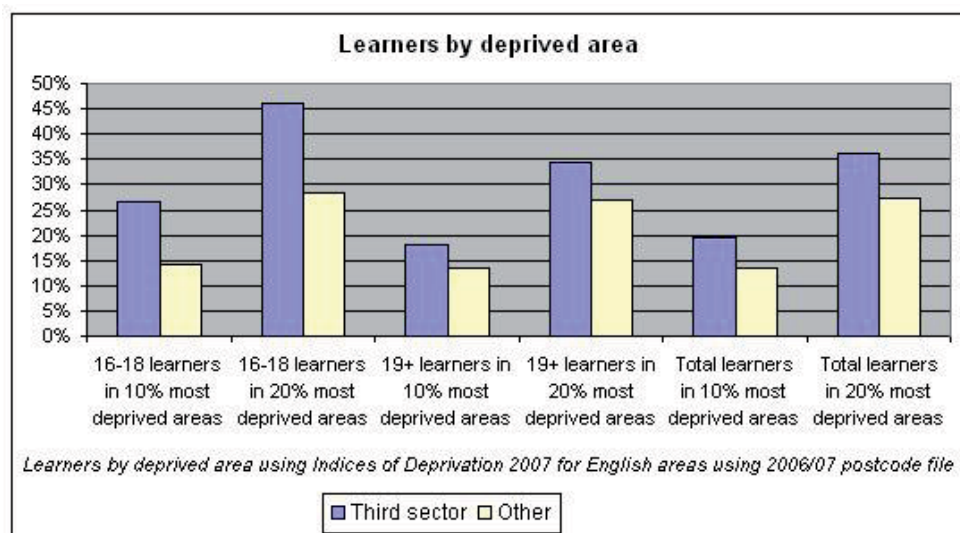
This is not all

Advocates of third sector learning provision have also made the point that the sector works more with those ‘hardest to reach’ where the engagement means dedicating greater resources in order to support those experiencing most disadvantage.

This LSC data shows clearly that a greater proportion of learners with third sector providers come from the 10% and 20% most deprived areas of the country. Of the learners with third sector providers 19% are from the 10% most deprived areas and 36% if you take the 20% most deprived areas. This compares to 14% and 27% for “Other” providers.

This excellent news comes courtesy of the LSC and the work of the LSC VCS National Advisory Group. One of the first actions recommended by the Advisory Group was that better data collection in relation to the third sector was essential if the learning contribution of the sector was to be properly assessed and evaluated.

There will be more information and analysis to follow. For more information contact John Harris, Development Manager (Workforce Development and Skills) on 0113 394 2300 or e-mail john.harris@regionalforum.org.uk



Do you support frontline organisations?

NCVO wants to help you do this so they are offering free bulk copies of their Future Focus guides to send on to the frontline organisations you support.

Each guide breaks down a complex issue like social attitudes into practical implications and readable chunks of information. They also suggest tips and ways of using this information in your planning.

Reader comment:

“Congratulations on your excellent publication ‘Future Focus 1’, which communicated a potentially complex subject with impressive clarity”

Sign up for this offer by emailing:
futurefocus@ncvo-vol.org.uk

Get them now while stocks last!

Update: A Sportier VCS?

In the last edition of eNews, we told you about the work NAVCA and Sport England are carrying out to create stronger links between sports clubs and local infrastructure organisations (LIOs).

Two LIOs in Yorkshire and Humber have now been selected to take part in a national pilot project. Funded by Sport England, and led by NAVCA, the pilot will explore the relationships between sport and the wider third sector in particular focusing on Local Area Agreements and demonstrating the links between National Indicators 6, 7 and 8 (increase in volunteering, thriving third sector and increasing adult participation in sport).

East Riding Voluntary Action Service (ERVAS) and York CVS will receive grants of £2,000 to participate. Working with key partners and overseen by a regional advisory group, including the Regional Forum, the pilot commenced in September 2008 and will run for 6 months.

The East Riding pilot will work specifically with Pocklington Club Forum. ERVAS will undertake health checks and provide CVS functions to a maximum of 10 clubs from the village. Sports clubs/organisations who take part in the pilot will receive £100 on completion of the pilot.

The York pilot will be exploring opportunities for an up-to-date database for sports clubs across York. York CVS will also undertake a series of health checks with four clubs from across the city, as well as providing both CVS and Volunteer Centre functions to participating clubs. By targeting clubs at various stages of development, they hope to demonstrate differing needs of various clubs.

If you would like more information on the pilots, please contact Carrie McKenzie, Sport Partnership Strategic Adviser at NAVCA - tel 0114 289 3979 or email carrie.mckenzie@navca.org.uk

Staff Updates

Lynne Murray has joined the Regional Forum as the new Administration Manager.

Lynne started her working life as a humble civil servant in a variety of roles and departments but with a common thread - each one had something to do with the disadvantaged in some way. Beginning at the ODA (Third World branch of the Foreign Office) she progressed through the DHSS (Department of Health and Social Security) to the Department of Health.

She has had a variety of other roles but the two she enjoyed the most were with the Children's Heart Surgery Fund at the Leeds General Infirmary and Macmillan Cancer Support.

On a personal level she has interests in football, cross stitch, genealogy as well as criminology and forensics, of which she says her husband always seems to worry that she prefers material on murderers or poisoners as bedside reading - we can't think why!!

Kala Sangam

The Regional Forum was delighted to welcome Gheeta Upadhyaya, Artistic Director of Bradford based Kala Sangam to give a presentation to all staff about the work of the group.

Kala Sangam is working to establish a beacon centre of excellence for arts, culture and heritage based on its strong Asian roots and working with all members of the community.

Based now at St Peter's House in the city centre, it focuses on arts in education, health and disability, and youth along with creating community events and nationally touring shows. St Peter's House itself is now a conference and event centre that has meeting rooms for hire.

Our staff were particularly interested in the unique ways that Kala Sangam uses its experience in facilitating group sessions at conferences and we will be exploring joint events in the future.

If you would like to know more about the work of Kala Sangam or for information about its facilities contact:

e-mail: info@kalasangam.org or tel 01274 303340

More definitions you won't find in the dictionary:

Accident -- a condition in which presence of mind is good but absence of body is better

Babysitter -- a teenager who must behave like an adult so that the adults who are out can behave like teenagers

Bore -- a person who talks when you want them to listen

Discretion -- putting two and two together and keeping your mouth shut

Editor -- a person employed by a newspaper to separate the wheat from the chaff and to see that the chaff is printed

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Events

28th November 2008

"Engaged and Independent"

The Regional Forum Annual Conference
St Mary's Conference Centre, Sheffield

This conference will explore how and why voluntary and community organisations engage with government.

Keynote speakers:

Rt Hon David Blunkett MP

Barry Knight, CENTRIS

Stuart Etherington, NCVO

Stuart Hoggan, Communities and Local Government

Visit our website for more information and contact details: <http://www.regionalforum.org.uk>



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