

LEEDS INFRASTRUCTURE CONSORTIUM RESOURCE PACK

SECTION 4 – NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Introduction

This section on **Networks and Partnerships** is part of an 8-pack series of resource materials that has been produced by the Leeds Infrastructure Consortium. For further information, please go to www.leeds-ic.org.uk.

Value of Networks and Partnerships

We believe in the concept of “no man is an island” and would warmly encourage groups to find out about relevant networks and partnerships in your area of work – be that geographically based, or themed based (i.e. older people, young people etc).

We have produced a range of further information for you to consider.

Local Networks

A helpful guide to the local networks can be found in section 4a. This includes key alliances and organisations such as:

- Leeds Initiative
- Third Sector Leeds
- Leeds Infrastructure Consortium

and the following forums

- BME Network
- Children, Young People and Families Services Forum
- Environment Forum
- Third Sector Health and Well Being Network
- Tenfold (was Learning Disabilities Forum)
- Leeds Older People’s Forum
- Physical and Sensory Impairment Network (PSI Network)
- Volition

Benefits of collaboration

The Charity Commission Collaboration checklist can be found in section 4b or by visiting <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/library/chkcolab.pdf>.

For the Charity Commission’s report on the benefits of collaboration please visit <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/library/guidance/rs24text.pdf>

For the Charity Commission Collaboration toolkit please visit the Commission’s website at www.charity-commission.gov.uk/library/colltoolkit.pdf

There is a wealth of information about the benefits of partnerships and collaboration (and even merger) on organisations on the BASSAC website – www.bassac.org.uk. Their strapline is very clear about the potential benefits – “we believe that by working together, organisations can learn from each other and deliver their services more effectively.”

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SECTION 4a – GUIDE TO LOCAL NETWORKS

Introduction

This section on Networks and Partnerships is part of an 8-pack series of resource materials that has been produced by the Leeds Infrastructure Consortium. For further information, please go to www.leeds-ic.org.uk. This particular situation helps explain how partnerships work in Leeds.

1. KEY NETWORKS IN LEEDS

Leeds Initiative

The key “partnership” group is The Leeds Initiative, the city’s local strategic partnership. Founded in 1990, its aim is to “bring together the public, private, community, voluntary and faith sectors to work together to achieve success, encourage improvement, and tackle and overcome problems for the benefit for all citizens now and in the future.” The Leeds Initiative is also responsible for developing the “Vision for Leeds”, the long-term plan for the city.

A new structure for the partnership will come into operation from April 2011. There will be a board and five strategic delivery partnership boards:

- Children and families
- Safer and stronger communities
- Sustainable economy and culture
- Regeneration
- Health and Well Being

www.leedsinitiative.org

0113 247 8989

info@leedsinitiative.org

Leeds Initiative, Civic Hall, Leeds LS1 1UR

Third Sector Leeds (TSL)

Third Sector Leeds is an alliance of voluntary and community organisations, charities, faith groups and social enterprises working in Leeds. It aims to be the point of engagement with the third sector in Leeds, working together to: develop third sector policies; engage with and influence decision makers and co-ordinate representation of the third sector on statutory partnerships and boards.

Membership comprises a number of networks across the city including: Advice Leeds, VCFS IYSS Forum, Children & Young People’s Forum, Environment Forum, Older People’s Forum, Learning Disabilities Forum; Physical & Sensory Impairment Network, Volition, Leeds Accommodation Forum, Leeds Faith Forum/Leeds Churches together in Mission; BME Network; Leeds Infrastructure Consortium. A number of specific infra-structure groups are also members in their own right including: Leeds Community Foundation; Groundwork; Learning Partnerships; St Anne’s; re’new; Leeds Housing Concern; Voluntary Action – Leeds; and Leeds Voice.

www.val.org.uk/page/about-ts 0113 213 2592

david.smith@voice.org.uk Stringer House, 34 Lupton Street, Hunslet, LEEDS, LS10 2QW

Leeds Infrastructure Consortium (LIC)

LIC is a support network of infrastructure organisations in Leeds who together provide the structure for the third sector to grow. The members of LIC work together to support front-line voluntary and community sector organisations through development, partnerships, networking, information and representation.

www.leeds-ic.org.uk

email: richard.jackson@val.org.uk

Tel 0113 297 7920

Stringer House, 34 Lupton Street, Leeds LS10 2QW

2. KEY FORUMS / NETWORKS IN LEEDS

Support for organisations working to deliver services to, and for, specific groups of people in Leeds is available across a range of service areas, for example:

BME Network

The BME Network's mission is to develop and strengthen a network of BME voluntary and community groups in Leeds focusing on enabling and promoting BME representation at all levels in the city. It is the Network that provides BME sector representation on the Third Sector Leeds Leadership group. It provides a range of services including:

- Initial point of contact for all BME groups seeking support and development
- Health check
- Referral to appropriate organisation e.g. VA-L, Voice, WYCAS, PERS, LCF or others
- Guidance to achieve quality marks e.g. Quality First
- Events
- Co-ordination of BME networks at West Yorkshire level

Key contacts: David Odonukwe / Annette Morris 0113 213 2599

Children, Young People and Families Services Forum

This supports organisations that work with, deliver or support children, young people and their families. It provides infrastructure support, information and opportunities to all Voluntary Community and Faith Sector organisations that deliver children's services from 0-19yrs or 25years if they have additional or special needs. The Forum currently has 350 members from varying organisations across the city and meets on a six weekly basis. It also has a coordinating group of 35 key organisations consisting of the elected representatives and additional organisations who find this group of benefit. For more information email jeannette.morris-boam@leedsvoice.org.uk or ring 0113 213 2590.

Environment Forum

Brings together local community groups including those improving the environment and neighbourhoods in Leeds and local branches of national groups campaigning on global issues. It helps them to influence environmental strategy and policy in Leeds and beyond. The neighbourhood element of the co-ordinator's role involves promoting and supporting the work of groups working to improve local environments and encouraging working in partnership to improve environments at a neighbourhood level as well as supporting VCFS groups to influence locality-based environmental decision-making in each of the three 'wedges' of Leeds.

For more information contact becki.tighe@leedsvoice.org.uk

Third Sector Health and Well Being Network

A network of 300 organisations impacting on the health and wellbeing of the population of Leeds. The aim of the Health Forum is to contribute towards improving health and wellbeing in Leeds by facilitating a network that enables the VCFS to play a meaningful role in strategic decision-making and delivery of health services. For more information email razwanah.alam@leedsvoice.org.uk

Tenfold – (Leeds Voluntary Sector Learning Disability Forum)

Tenfold supports 67 member organisations from the third sector, who either provide services for, or who represent, people with learning disabilities. The main aims of Tenfold are to bring about improvements in the lives of learning disabled people by providing excellent, relevant and timely information; representing its members with a strong and strategic voice; driving positive change (research and policy work, campaigning, public relations). Main strategic groups:

- Learning Disability Executive
- Learning Disability Partnership Board
- Adult Safeguarding Group

For more information visit www.tenfold.org.uk, ring 07576 952527 or email info@tenfold.org.uk

Leeds Older People's Forum

The aim of LOPF is to ensure that all older people in Leeds achieve and enjoy a good quality of life. It has a membership of 118 voluntary sector organisations working with older people across Leeds, including the Neighbourhood Network Schemes. The Forum supports its members and ensures the voluntary sector is involved in planning, developing and managing services for older people in Leeds. For more information visit www.opforum.org.uk, email info@opforum.org.uk ring 0113 244 1697 or write to Leeds Older People's Forum, Suite 17D, Joseph's Well, Hannover Walk, Westgate, Leeds LS3 1AB

Physical and Sensory Impairment Network (PSI Network)

A network of 54 voluntary, community and faith groups of disabled people, and of groups/organisations providing services for people primarily with physical and sensory impairments. They work together to share information, improve communication, and represent the interests and concerns of disabled people. For more information contact Ann Crossland on 0113 297 7942 or email ann.crossland@val.org.uk or visit www.val.org.uk/page/psinetwork

Volition

Volition is an alliance of voluntary sector organisations that either provide mental health services for, or work with people who have mental health needs. They have over 80 members working in health, social care, advocacy, housing, the arts, community development, counselling and therapy & carers' support. Volition's aim is to: promote networking & partnership across the voluntary sector and with other sectors; provide information about and for the sector; and ensure that the mental health voluntary sector is represented and able to participate in strategic planning both in Leeds and nationally. For more information contact: www.volition.org.uk, email info@volition.org.uk, ring 0113 274 9585 or write to 26 St Michael's Road, Headingley Leeds LS6 3AW

3. KEY REGIONAL FORUMS / NETWORKS

Involve (formerly the Yorkshire & the Humber Forum)

Provides a regional voice for the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in Yorkshire and the Humber. It is a member led network of networks with over 100 members linking to more than 20,000 front line groups. Involve brings together voluntary and community sector organisations to ensure that the sector has the right support and structures to contribute to regional activity. Involve believes that by placing the voluntary and community sector at the heart of the region, we can create an inclusive and vibrant region – with a high quality of life for all. Involve, Suite D10, Joseph's Well, Hanover Walk, Leeds LS3 1AB Tel: 0113 394 2300 Email: office@involveyorkshirehumber.org.uk

WYLDA

The voluntary and community sector support and development consortium for West Yorkshire. Its mission is to ensure that sustainable and appropriate support and development is in place in West Yorkshire to meet the needs of all frontline voluntary and community groups. In order to carry out activities and work towards our mission and aims, WYLDA makes use of a district-level infrastructure consortia in the five districts of West Yorkshire (Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield), as well as a number of sub-groups, project groups, and links with other groups. Chair: Chris Hollins, Tel: 07777671687 E-mail: chrishollins99@btinternet.com