

February 2007

### BME VCS Regional Panel Launch Success

The Yorkshire and Humber Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Panel was successfully launched at Leeds Town Hall on 19<sup>th</sup> January, to an audience of over 120 people. The event included the launch of the Panel's Business Plan (2007- 2010), introductions to the Panel members, and keynote speakers Carl Aygard of the Social Business Company and Zlaka Ahmed of Apna Haq, who provided an insight into the issues facing BME third sector organisations. This launch event was the accumulation of over a year's hard work and dedication from Panel members.

The Panel aims to ensure policies and initiatives recognise the perspective and importance of the role of the BME VCS as well as reducing the economic and social exclusion faced by BME communities in the region.

For further information about the BME Panel contact Gopal Lama on 0113 394 2300 or <mailto:gopal.lama@regionalforum.org.uk> You can download a copy of the business plan from our website using the following link:  
<http://www.regionalforum.org.uk/bme/index.php>



### Regional Compact Consultation

The Forum has been involved in the development of the draft Regional Compact, which is out for consultation until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007. The Compact aims to improve partnership working and relationships between regional voluntary and community sector (VCS) umbrella organisations and regional public sector bodies in Yorkshire and the Humber.

We would like as much feedback as possible from our members during the consultation period. The draft can be downloaded from our website using the following link: <http://www.regionalforum.org.uk/news.php?id=398> .

Please send your comments to Peter Richardson, <mailto:peter.richardson@regionalforum.org.uk> or call Peter on 0113 394 2300.



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#### The Forum welcomes Brian Lawrence

The Regional Forum is delighted to welcome our new Business Development Manager Brian Lawrence who joined us in December 2006. The position of Business Development Manager is a new part-time role aimed at identifying and securing income streams that will ensure the Forum remains sustainable and independent. Brian has spent his whole career working in the region - initially in training and enterprise support. More recently he was Head of Commercial for The Prince's Trust in Yorkshire & the Humber.



## Pilot Peer Performance Project

The Regional Forum and the Policy Research Unit at Leeds Metropolitan University have teamed up to pilot a Peer Performance Review model for the national voluntary and community sector Performance Hub. The project will train Chief Executives and senior staff in a process of peer review and carry out two peer reviews hosted by volunteers from the project. The aim is to develop the skills of senior staff to improve the performance of their organisations. Participants going through the peer review process will brief the reviewers regarding their organisational context and key issues they would like to explore. They will then be provided with written and verbal feedback from the reviewers, which they will be able to apply to improve their organisational practice. For more information about the peer review process contact John Harris via email <mailto:john.harris@regionalforum.org.uk> or call him on 0113 394 2300.

## Engage with Offender Management Services

The Forum is working with the Regional Offender Management Service (ROMS), which is trying to engage with the wider voluntary and community sector (VCS). ROMS would like to open up opportunities for VCS organisations to work with clients in the criminal justice system. However initial anecdotal evidence from the VCS suggests that expectations have been raised but not fulfilled. We would be interested in hearing about the experiences of organisations trying to obtain contracts with either the prison or probation services for the first time as well as those who have an established relationship with those funders. Please contact Mark Crowe <mailto:mark.crowe@regionalforum.org.uk> or call on 0113 394 2300.

## The Price of Exclusion

The Third Sector European Network published the report 'Price of Exclusion' in December 2006. This sets out the economic case for taking a different approach to working with people who are currently excluded and those facing multiple barriers. This approach requires three things:

- A Priority for Inclusion section, with measurable and enforceable targets to be included in the English Operational Programme.
- The formation of a dedicated Third Sector co-financing organisation to ensure European Social Fund allocations are applied to the domestic inclusion agenda efficiently.
- Up to £26.5 million of European match funding for Government or voluntary and community sector projects which provide support for excluded individuals.

Download the full report using the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/2e9c83>

## Regional Inclusion Framework

The Regional Forum is represented on the Regional Inclusion Framework (RIF) Task and Finish Group. RIF aims to measure the effects of economic progress in the region in terms of social well-being and has the potential to influence a range of funding programmes.

We would like input from our members about voluntary sector experiences of large programmes reducing social exclusion in neighbourhoods and communities across the region, to ensure that the RIF is effective as possible. Please contact Mark Crowe at <mailto:mark.crowe@regionalforum.org.uk> or Peter Richardson at <mailto:peter.richardson@regionalforum.org.uk> or call on 0113 394 2300 with your feedback.



## New Disability network

The Regional Forum is currently exploring the possible role and remit of a regional voluntary and community sector network for disability organisations in Yorkshire and the Humber. We are keen to speak to people who would be interested in being involved in the proposed network. If you would like to discuss this further or be involved please get in touch with Ruth Sykes on 0113 394 2300 or email

<mailto:ruth.sykes@regionalforum.org.uk>

## Destination 2014: Have your say

Capacitybuilders have put 'Destination 2014', their draft strategic framework proposing a new way forward after the ChangeUp programme, out to consultation. They want to hear the views of the Third Sector about both the strategy and priorities they should adopt to meet their vision for 2014. You can get involved and make your views heard by attending the 'Destination 2014' Yorkshire and Humber Consultation event on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February at the National Centre for Early Music in York or by posting a comment on the 'Destination 2014' dedicated internet blog. To download a copy of the consultation document or post your blog visit: <http://www.destination2014.org.uk> For further information please contact Ruth Sykes at [ruth.sykes@regionalforum.org.uk](mailto:ruth.sykes@regionalforum.org.uk) or on 0113 394 2300.

## Forthcoming Events

- **27<sup>th</sup> February 2007**  
Employability, JobCentre Plus and the Third Sector
- **18<sup>th</sup> April 2007**  
Regional Forum Information Session
- **30<sup>th</sup> April 2007**  
WYLDA (West Yorkshire Local Development Agencies) conference and AGM

## Get ready for Footsey 2007

Last year's Footsey social enterprise trade fair was the most successful to date with over 600 people and 90 exhibitors. Delegates commented that "the exhibits were fantastic" and it was "great to see so many social enterprises exhibiting."

No sooner is one Footsey over then planning starts for next year. The Regional Forum and Development Trusts Association are already working on the 7th Footsey event which will be on Thursday 18th October. Put the date in your diary and start thinking about your exhibit.

## WYLDA Working Together Event

On Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January at the Colour Museum in Bradford, the annual standing conference of members and partners of West Yorkshire Local Development Agencies (WYLDA) took place.

The theme of the event was to look at the opportunities for effective partnership working to strengthen the delivery and impact of infrastructure services to the sector in West Yorkshire. Highlights of the event included examples of partnership working from BASSAC's Sharing without Merging programme and a review of current consortium projects.

For more information about the WYLDA partnership, please contact Rachael Loftus at the Regional Forum on 0113 394 2300 or <mailto:rachael.loftus@regionalforum.org.uk>

## WYLDA Website coming soon

The WYLDA website will be launched shortly at [www.WYLDA.org.uk](http://www.WYLDA.org.uk) It is hoped it will be a useful resource for the voluntary and community sector in West Yorkshire and other partners of WYLDA.



## Partnership in Public Services: an Action Plan for Third Sector Involvement

This report from the Office of the Third Sector aims to remove barriers to third sector organisations getting more involved in the delivery of public services. Key themes in the report include:

- Developing commissioning frameworks across all government departments, which are third sector friendly.
- Supporting the third sector to promote its wider impacts and to develop benchmarking systems.
- Supporting the creation of an Innovation Exchange to stimulate and support innovation in the third sector.
- Establishing the £30 million Community Assets fund.

The Forum was pleased to see that the commissioning areas identified as most suitable for the third sector are largely the same as those we are working on in our Procurement Project – NOMS (National Offender Management Service), employability, health & social care, and children's services.

Download or order your copy of the report using the following link:  
[http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third\\_sector/public\\_service\\_delivery/](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/public_service_delivery/)

Lesley Wood at the Regional Forum has also produced a policy briefing on voluntary and community sector public service delivery and this can be downloaded from:  
[http://www.regionalforum.org.uk/publications\\_resources/knowledgebase/500/540/225.pdf](http://www.regionalforum.org.uk/publications_resources/knowledgebase/500/540/225.pdf) > Any queries, contact Lesley on 0113 394 2300 or email:  
<mailto:lesley.wood@regionalforum.org.uk>

## Procurement Project Update

Thanks to everyone who has signed up to our new e-mail group to be part of the Regional Forum's project on commissioning, procurement and the voluntary and community sector (VCS). We are working on four commissioning areas, which we aim to influence at regional level:

- NOMS (National Offender Management Service)
- Employability
- Health
- Children's services

Project activities will include:

- Engaging regional stakeholders in discussion and problem-solving
- Organising and supporting events to promote dialogue and learning:
  - 27th Feb regional conference: "Employability, JobCentre Plus and the Third Sector"
  - 14th Mar conference: "Commissioning Services from Social Enterprises as part of the NHS System in Yorkshire and the Humber"
  - 16th May regional conference on Commissioning Children's Services
- Sharing information - new website content under construction
- Supporting the sector to market itself - new VCS 'prospectus' on thematic service areas, also underway

To find out more please contact Lesley Wood at the Forum on 0113 394 2300 or email  
<mailto:lesley.wood@regionalforum.org.uk>