

VCS Engage regional development

Region: North East

Date: September 2008

Aim: To improve the engagement of the Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) VCS in the design and delivery of the Every Child Matters agenda in the North East

Objectives:

- To develop effective regional and local networks and partnerships for the CYPF VCS
- To support the effective representation of the CYPF VCS in regional and local strategic planning forums
- To lobby and influence local and regional government around the engagement of the CYPF VCS in service planning and delivery
- To support the engagement of the CYPF VCS in workforce reform and integrated working processes
- To facilitate the involvement of the CYPF VCS in a range of capacity building and workforce development opportunities
- To promote collaboration and partnership working locally and regionally, and within and between sectors

	Activities	Partnership	Outcomes	Outputs	Due date
1. Regional networks					
	Progress work on the concept of a regional platform for the Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) VCS	Local VCS/WSPP leads CWDC RDM NCVCCO RYWU	A more coordinated regional infrastructure to support CYPF VCS organisations	Production of initial report Development of Task and Finish Group Regional dissemination event Identification of core and project funding Ongoing development work	Report due end July 2008 November 2008 January 2009 January 2009 - ongoing March 2009 - March 2011
	Continue the development of the regional group for local VCS network and WSPP leads	CWDC RDM Local VCS/WSPP	Improved communication between regional and local agencies, and across local authority boundaries	Develop schedule of quarterly meetings Agree priority areas for action	July 2008 ongoing December 2008

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		leads		Establish Terms of Reference	December 2008
	Build links and establish positive working relationships with individuals and agencies responsible for supporting the development and delivery of the Every Child Matters agenda within the region	GO-NE Field forces TDA CWDC RDM Others as appropriate	Enhanced links and understanding between the CYPF VCS and statutory partners at local and regional level	Attendance and meaningful contributions to Regional Children and Young People's Forum Increased use of VCS Engage Self Evaluation Toolkit VCS Engagement in developing agendas, eg CWDC Integrated Working self assessment tool and Workforce Reform framework	July 2008 onwards September 2008 onwards September 2008 onwards
	Establish a communication strategy to feed information to local and regional partners	RYWU NCVCCO Local VCS/WSPP leads	All partners are kept informed of regional developments within the CYPF VCS	Communication strategy shared and agreed with partners	September 2008
	Map VCS reps on strategic bodies, e.g. Children's Trust Boards, Local Safeguarding Children's Boards, link through a regional database and create opportunities for peer support	Local VCS/WSPP leads	Increased support for VCS reps on strategic bodies	Annual update of contact details 2 regional seminars per year	July 2008, then repeat annually October 2008, March 2009, then ongoing until March 2011
	Ensure the CYPF VCS has effective representation on	RYWU	An effective and meaningful voice for the CYPF VCS around	CYPF VCS representatives attending and making contribution	September 2008 - March 2009

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	regional VCS strategic groups, including the Regional Infrastructure Consortium, the Regional Third Sector Health and Social Care Forum and other relevant initiatives	NCVCCO VONNE	strategic regional agendas	at all relevant meetings	
2. Work with GO-NE					
	Work with the Children and Learners Team to support implementation of the strategy for engagement with the children's third sector	GO-NE Children and Learners Team	Improved relationships and understanding between the CYPF VCS and GO-NE	Updated version of strategy produced	July 2008 – March 2009
	Identify opportunities for VCS contribution to the JISP process at local and regional level, including potential for use of VCS Engage Self Evaluation Toolkit	GO-NE Children and Learners, esp. CSA's LA's	Greater clarity about the CYPF VCS offer towards delivery of local authority priorities	Meaningful contribution of CYPF VCS to annual planning cycle	July 2008 – March 2010
	Identify and establish positive working relationships with key contacts in all other GO departments whose work impacts on CYPF (including Public Health, Transport, People and Sustainable Communities, Culture and	GO-NE - all relevant departments	Increased understanding of role of CYPF VCS across all relevant GO departments	Contacts established and communication mechanisms in place	September 2008 – March 2009

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	Leisure, Education and Skills)				
	Establish positive working relationships and appropriate representation mechanisms with all necessary and relevant stakeholders and groupings in the regional strategic environment	ONE ANEC NEA RIEP	Effective representation and contribution from the CYPF VCS into strategic discussions and policy development in the region	Meetings held, and representative and communication processes in place	September 2008 - March 2009
3. Workforce development					
	Continue to meet regularly with CWDC RDM to share information, provide mutual support and identify opportunities for collaborative working	CWDC RDM	Enhanced links and understanding between VCS infrastructure and workforce reform agendas	Regular meetings established	Ongoing
	Continue to support the regional WSPP network through joint meetings with local VCS development officers	Local WSPP leads Local VCS network leads CWDC	Enhanced links between VCS infrastructure and workforce development agendas	Quarterly meetings established Agree priority areas for action Establish Terms of Reference	July 2008 ongoing December 2008 December 2008
	Establish links to regional group for local authority workforce reform and integrated working leads to promote the involvement of	LA workforce reform/ integrated working leads	Increased integration of CYPF VCS into local and regional workforce development initiatives	Attendance at regular meetings to provide an update on VCS workforce reform issues Joint activity developed between	July 2008 ongoing September 2008 ongoing

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	VCS organisations in local strategies			VCS and LA workforce leads	
	Contribute to the ongoing development of the North East VCS Leadership Strategy, promoting the needs and issues of the CYPF workforce	VONNE	Recognition of specific leadership issues for CYPF VCS within generic VCS initiative	Active contribution to ongoing programme of meetings and activities	July 2008 - March 2009
	Establish links with wider workforce development initiatives within the region, e.g. the North East VCS Skills Forum and the Regional Skills Partnership	VONNE ONE	Greater understanding of existing skills base and future training needs of CYPF VCS across the region	Access by CYPF VCS to wider workforce development activity	September 2008 - March 2009
4. Small organisations and equalities					
	Continue to support development of local networks for small and medium VCS organisations working with CYPF, particularly in areas where such networks are weak or non-existent	Local VCS network leads CVS's	A stronger, more sustainable and coordinated network of local CYPF VCS forums, with effective links to statutory partners both locally and regionally	Local networks established in all local authority areas	Ongoing until March 2011
	Establish links to programme of work being delivered by NCVCCO with smaller organisations, and resources and support provided by other regional and national providers	NCVCCO	Increased range of training opportunities and information available to smaller organisations	Training/development opportunities successfully held within the region Circulation of factsheets and briefings within the region	September 2008 – March 2009

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	Enhance existing links with organisations using primarily volunteer staff, for example uniformed organisations and faith groups		Improved links and support provided to organisations which have significant numbers of volunteers involved in delivering services	Ongoing communication and information sharing processes established	December 2008 – July 2009
	Explore opportunities for working as a strategic broker with generic VCS support organisations and specialist volunteer support organisations to provide support to volunteers involved in governance arrangements, e.g. management committees, trustees	Volunteering England NCVO	Improved links and support provided to organisations which have significant volunteer involvement in governance arrangement	Ongoing communication and information sharing processes established	September 2008 - March 2010
	Establish links with organisations supporting work with young volunteers, including regional and local V Teams	Local V teams	Improved links to organisations which have significant involvement with young volunteers	Ongoing communication and information sharing processes established	December 2008 – July 2010
	Establish reference group, in collaboration with BECON (regional BME network) and NERS (North of England Refugee Service), to explore opportunities to develop a support network for organisations and	BECON NERS NE VCS Equalities Coalition	Greater involvement of BMER organisations on design and delivery of services at local and regional levels	Establishment of a regional support network for organisations and individuals working with BMER children and young people	July 2008 - March 2009

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	individuals working with BME children and people, and young refugees and asylum seekers				
	Continue work with the VCS Equalities Coalition to explore issues for CYPF in all diversity strands - BME, disability, gender, faith, sexuality	NE VCS Equalities Coalition	Improved links between organisations working with children, young people and families from marginalised communities, and mainstream service providers	Mechanisms established to enable dialogue between diversity strands and mainstream provider	Ongoing until March 2009
	Develop links between the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the Regional Active Participation (RAP) network to ensure human rights issues affecting children and young people are taken into account	EHRC RAP network	A higher profile for human rights issues affecting children and young people	Communication structures in place and regular sharing of information	July 2008 and ongoing until March 2009
5. Local and regional - generic					
	Work with Voluntary Organisations Network North East (VONNE - regional VCS infrastructure organisation) to ensure CYPF issues are included in policy development and strategy around generic VCS issues	VONNE	Higher profile given to the specific needs and issues of the CYPF VCS within wider regional policy development and strategy		September 2008 - March 2009
	Identify and develop	FINE	Improved links established	Contact established and	July 2008 - March 2009

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	relationships with key regional umbrella infrastructure bodies in addition to VONNE to inform planning and draw support for the CYPF VCS	NESEP BECON	between generic VCS support agencies and those working supporting the CYPF VCS, at local and regional level	communication processes in place	
	Identify key contacts in all local generic infrastructure organisations, and ensure they are included in communication strategy	CVS's	Improved links established between generic VCS support agencies and those working supporting the CYPF VCS, at local and regional level	Contact established and communication processes in place	September 2008, then review annually
6. National Coordination					
	Attendance at national meetings of VCS Engage Regional Development Managers	NCVCCO Other RDM's	Location of regional programme within a national context, providing opportunities to share good practice, collaborate across regional boundaries, and contribute to national policy development	Attendance at meetings	Quarterly from September 2008
	Completion of quarterly activity report and annual detailed report	NCVCCO DCSF	Accountability to both national and regional partners	Quarterly and annual reports	Quarterly until March 2009