

## **VCS Engage Good Practice Template**

### **LA Area**

Blackburn

### **Theme of the engagement**

Blackburn CVS has been involved with Blackburn with Darwin Borough Council in helping to set up representation structures in Blackburn that are clear and transparent. This has been supported and resourced by the Borough Council. Engagement of VCS in Children's Trusts, the focus can differ: so is it a representational structure, a consortia partnership, commissioning process etc

### **Partnership Arrangements**

Blackburn VCS have good partnership arrangements with the Borough Council, this includes an agreed protocol on consultation and agreement to work towards a local compact. Partnership arrangements are also being set up to develop a commissioning strategy.

### **Key outcomes**

Funding for a VCS Strategic Lead  
The creation of a VCS Forum  
The creation of an effective voluntary sector representatives structure  
Regular conferences between VCS and Borough Council

### **Sustainability**

Blackburn with Darwin Borough Council have outlined through the Director of Childrens Services are hoping to move to 3 year funding agreements for VCS funding which would include the funding for this work

### **Challenges**

If appropriate, what have been the challenges and how have they been overcome?

### **Visual Diagrams**

If available

## **Quotes**

We here at Blackburn have a strong working relationship with statutory providers in the Borough. We were in fact visited by 3 colleagues from VCS Engage as a result of a phone interview which highlighted the Borough as an example of good practice in partnership working