

WOLLATON AND LENTON ABBEY AREA COMMITTEE
7TH JANUARY 2009

Wards affected: All

Director: Lianne Taylor

Contact Officer: Tim Coulson and Melanie Jeffs (Nottingham NCVS)

Corporate Plan Themes:

World Class Nottingham	
Work in Nottingham	X
Safer Nottingham	X
Neighbourhood Nottingham	X
Family Nottingham	X
Healthy Nottingham	X
Serving Nottingham Better	

SUPPORTING VOLUNTARY SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN WOLLATON AND LENTON ABBEY

What is this about?

Nottingham Council for Voluntary Service (NCVS) is the umbrella body for Nottingham's voluntary (third) sector. It supports all not-for-profit groups in the city to become more effective at what they do. It also enables the third sector to take part in city decisions and support the growth of volunteering across all communities and areas of work. There are a number of areas of current NCVS work that will be of interest to members and local community groups.

What is it being done and why?

Voluntary sector involvement in local decision making

NCVS is funded by One Nottingham (ON) to help the voluntary sector become more informed, more involved and more influential in the city. ON is a Local Strategic Partnership that brings together the different parts of the public sector as well as the private, business and voluntary sectors so that different initiatives and services support each other and work together.

It is part of our remit to agree places for voluntary sector representatives within the ON Board and theme partnerships so that voluntary groups can have a direct feed into decisions that are made. We are supporting the recruitment of these representatives and will help them to communicate with other groups and organisations across the city. To do this, we are creating and supporting networks of voluntary sector groups and reaching out to groups that aren't currently engaged with us or with ON. Initially we are focusing on building networks that relate to each of the ON theme partnerships and each of the six equalities strands, including:

- Women's groups
- Disabled people's groups
- Faith groups (with the Inter Faith Council)

- Anti poverty groups
- Health and well being (with LINKs)
- Children and young people

We also want to support local groups to have the confidence and the skills to be involved in decision making structures. We will deliver training to groups on 'how the city works' and how to influence local decision making. We also offer training to public sector partners on Nottingham's voluntary sector and the value of including the sector in decision making.

Citizenship

NCVS recently appointed a Volunteering Officer for Citizenship whose job is to seek out new and long-term volunteering opportunities across Nottingham which will allow people to become more active in their communities and contribute more to their local societies.

We also operate a volunteer centre that matches volunteering opportunities with potential volunteers.

Group Development

NCVS has a Group Development team who provide free support to voluntary sector groups based in, or working across, the city of Nottingham. They can help groups in a wide variety of ways such as:

- Funding advice
- Revised or new policy and procedures
- Registering as a company or charity
- Management roles and responsibilities
- Developing a business plan
- Help and advice with finances
- Volunteer management
- Training
- CRB checks (plus ongoing support)

What are the issues or implications?

We currently don't have a lot of contact with voluntary groups in the Wollaton and Lenton Abbey area and would like to work with the Neighbourhood Management Team to identify any groups that might want to get involved in our networks or draw on the other support that we can offer at NCVS, such as training and support for groups, and help with finding volunteers.

Want to find out more?

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Phone: 0115 934 8416

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Write: NCVS, 7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3FB