

Voluntary Sector Update

Charity Pulse 2017 consultation: How is Brexit affecting you and your charity?

The Voluntary Sector's annual staff satisfaction survey is now open, run by Birdsong Charity Consulting with *Third Sector* magazine. They are interested to find out what impact Brexit is having on charities. They have asked: Do you still have confidence in your leaders? Has Brexit increased your workload? Or affected your morale and motivation?

This is the 11th year of Charity Pulse, providing the sector with long-term trend information. The key findings will be published by *Third Sector* in the summer and made available to everyone free of charge. The survey is open until 7 April 2017.

We have made the consultation available through our website and e-bulletin to encourage Nottingham charities to have their say. We will also submit a response from NCVS.

Voluntary Sector Policy Forum on Food Poverty

A few years ago we compiled information on Free and Low Cost meals which we make available through our website. The information has proved useful for groups and organisations needing to signpost vulnerable families and individuals towards these services. We have recently engaged a team of Service Learning students from NTU to help us refresh this information and to conduct some research into how the services are currently being used. Our early findings from a public opinion poll have brought forth some interesting accounts from people with experience of using these services.

Considering the high level of interest in Food Poverty and the city's ambition to be a city of social eating we felt it the right time and topic to bring the sector together to look at how organisations and their service users continue to cope with austerity and to decide collectively what issues need to be moved more quickly to the top of agendas.

We will also use the latter part of the forum to have a dialogue about the best way to facilitate and manage future discussions and inform NCVS if we are adopting the right approach. Meeting will take place on Wednesday 3 May from 10.00 until 1 at 7 Mansfield Road.

One Nottingham Voluntary and Community Sector Strategic Reference Group

One Nottingham is setting up a new Strategic VCS Reference Group, to support the VCS One Nottingham Board members. It is an opportunity to identify strategic issues affecting the city and collaborate with a range of partners to formulate responses to these.

A call for Expressions of Interest is going out this week and is open until 4th April.

We have been involved in the work and our continued involvement means that even the smallest of organisations can have a say. One Nottingham is also aware of our policy forums and we are committed to working together to join things up. We firmly believe there is no single 'right way' to manifest and represent the voice of the sector.

D2N2 SIEAG refresh of Social Inclusion Strategy and other LEP information

The Voluntary sector led Social Inclusion and Equalities Advisory group for the D2N2 LEP is overseeing the refresh of the Social Inclusion Strategy. At the same time the LEP's Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) is being updated. We have concluded that the two documents are not mutually exclusive and that there is a case to be made for Inclusive Growth to be embedded within all parts of the SEP. A piece of work linking the two strategies together will be commissioned shortly and a SIAEG sub-group will assist in the development of the specification.

We see this as a real opportunity to look at systematic change within economic development. The LEP is not only a powerful economic driver but that it is an enabler of even those most distant from the labour market to participate in opportunities.

We are also fortunate that the D2N2 LEP was an early adopter of Social Inclusion which can bring delivery opportunities for parts of the Community and Voluntary sector. In fact two of the Building Better Opportunities Programmes (Towards Work and Money Sorted) will be launched in early May. Both programmes are VCS led and have over 40 organisations in the delivery supply chain.

Community Programme for D2N2 tender launch date imminent

This is an additional social inclusion programme intended to be complimentary to Building Better Opportunities and other employment programmes and is aimed at those hardest to reach in the labour market and may be seen as a pre-pre-employment programme. This phase will feature a 'grant with support' model and will be accessible to even small voluntary organisations, especially those that aren't included in BBO delivery. Once DWP has given final sign-off the tender could be expected as early as April.

Looking After Each Other (LAEO)

We continue to work with NCC to develop the reach of LAEO and are currently developing a Volunteer / Helping Strategy for the city as part of this work. While LAEO highlights the more informal aspects of volunteering through doing good deeds or being a good neighbour for instance, there is recognition that individuals need to be supported appropriately to do this safely and effectively.

Upcoming report on the past year of Support for the Voluntary Sector

At the April Sub-committee meeting we will report back on our involvement delivering some elements of Support for the Voluntary Sector through the Area Based Grant and COI arrangements. One of our Group Development Workers will attend to give feedback on the process and to report on challenges and opportunities groups have encountered when looking for support.

CYPPN and VAPN Networks

There are 160 organisation members of the Children and Young People's Provider Network CYPPN
There are 179 organisation members of the Vulnerable Adult Provider Network (VAPN)

The networks continue to contribute to the health and wellbeing across the city and are in attendance at over 40 strategic and partnership boards. A full report on the Networks will be made available with the minutes from this meeting.