

Spring 2004

VOLG ACTION NEWS

What's inside this edition

- ❖ 'Thinking Together/Working Together' Voluntary Sector Forum 4th March - Report
- ❖ Update on Patient and Public Involvement Forums
- ❖ Funding Fact sheet – all you wanted to know about Futurebuilders and Infrastructure Funds
- ❖ Public Service Agreement Targets – how are we doing?
- ❖ VOLG website/Enet update
- ❖ VOLG news and Projects update
- ❖ Events for your diary including
the next **VOLG Members Meeting** on 27th May and the
next **Voluntary Sector Forum** on 5th October 2004

West Sussex Voluntary Organisations' Liaison Group

Ground Floor, Parbrook House, Natts Lane,
Billingshurst, West Sussex RH14 9EY

☎ 01403 787940 ☎ 01403 787941

admin@volg.org.uk www.volg.org.uk

.....and please note our
new contact details.....

Successful Voluntary Sector Forum held at Lodge Hill

The West Sussex Voluntary Sector Forum, jointly developed & sponsored by VOLG, Health and Social and Caring Services, was held at Lodge Hill on 4th March. The theme was 'Thinking Together/Working Together' and 84 people from the voluntary and statutory sectors attended the event, which was introduced by Rob Jones, Chief Executive of VOLG.

The purpose of the Forum was to look at the ways that the voluntary/community and statutory sectors think together and work together for the benefit of local communities.

Kate Moore, Chief Executive of Chichester CVS began the session by outlining the importance of joint working between local agencies and citing the Compact as key to this aim. (The Compact is a document agreed by statutory and voluntary sector agencies in an area which gives a framework for working together).

Nigel Turner from Social and Caring Services spoke about the move from grants to contracts. Sarah Hawke, Crawley PCT, and David Richardson, Adur Social and Caring Services, each followed with examples of how the joint working agenda is really moving ahead in Crawley and the Adur areas.

Later in the morning people moved into groups based around the five Primary Care Trust areas to discuss how effective joint working could be further developed in their area. Ideas included:

- The planning of local Compact documents
- Further workshops/training on Compacts
- Review of the current countywide Compact (dating from 2001)
- Seeking best practice in joint working from other parts of the country
- Involvement of Local Strategic Partnerships
- Requirement for more effective communication (updates on partnership working in voluntary/community sector newsletters, etc.)

A post Forum pack can be viewed and downloaded from the VOLG website which is currently under development (www.volg.org.uk) and you can also contact Julie Kilner for more information on the Forum by emailing julie.kilner@volg.org.uk or on 01403 787945.

There seemed to be general enthusiasm for moving Compacts forward locally and making joint working more effective. In the meantime the countywide Compact, which was published in 2002, will be reviewed and it has been suggested that VOLG lead on this work with West Sussex County Council and others from the voluntary/community and statutory sectors. If anyone is interested in getting involved in this process, please contact Julie at VOLG.



Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Forums Underway

Forum Development Officer (FDO), Annette Weatherald, began work with the West Sussex Health and Social Care NHS Trust Forum on 23rd February and our final appointee, Louise Hartman joined us on 15th March (Crawley Primary Care Trust and Queen Victoria NHS Trust Forums) and completes the PPI Team!

Forum News

The **Royal West Sussex NHS Trust** and **Western Sussex Primary Care Trust (PCT)** forums have had their first public meetings and met the chairs of their respective Trusts. They are now engaging in programmes to meet the other board members. **Crawley PCT** forum has had its first public meeting where members unleashed a new PowerPoint presentation that they created to outline their work for the forum meetings.

Mid Sussex PCT forum, after achieving excellent publicity through an item in the Mid Sussex Times newspaper, held its first public meeting which was attended by 28 members of the public, a great result. FDO, Tracy Whittle, followed this up with a turn out of 21 members of the public to the first meeting of the **Horsham and Chanctonbury PCT** forum. At both meetings the forums were well received with Chief Executives, Patient Advice and Liaison Officers (PALS) and PPI leads attending. The Horsham PCT Chief Executive complemented the forum and its support team for being so together and well organised in such a short space of time. Both PCTs are very keen to work with us and the forums are setting up meetings with the Independent Complaints Advisory Service (ICAS), PALS and the Chief Executives to talk about how we can work together.

The **Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Trust** forum held their first public meeting on March 17th when around 17 members of the public attended. There was considerable interest from the members of the public present on the organisation and role of the forum and Louise Hartman reported that she was looking forward to working with forum members on this exciting agenda.

Gavin Maddison reports that Adur, **Arun and Worthing PCT** and **Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust** forums have had initial meetings and are working on links with their respective Trusts, putting policies and procedures in place and creating their draft work plans to cover the first few months of forum activity. The first public meeting of the Worthing and Southlands NHS Trust Forum is planned for 19th April, with Adur, Arun and Worthing PCT on 29th April (see details of these meetings on page 6). A meeting with representatives from voluntary and community organisations is being planned to help bring in wider views and concerns about healthcare. Although the initial forum membership numbers were low, recruitment is continuing and potential new members are coming forward. Contact gavin.maddison@volg.org.uk or 01403 787940 if you would like more information about becoming a member.

The forum for **West Sussex Health and Social Care NHS Trust** has taken a little longer to get off the ground due to difficulties recruiting a Forum Development Officer. However with the appointment of Annette Weatherald, the forum should develop apace. In order to fulfil its remit of involving people with interest in mental health issues, learning disabilities and substance misuse, it is making links with the Trust and planning a few

more informal meetings, such as the recent one on March 10th held in Shoreham. The first public meeting is being planned for April.

You've told us in the past that information about funding streams is always of interest and this fact sheet (produced by Kate Moore, CVS Chichester) gives detail of key funds imminently available to the voluntary sector in West Sussex:

FUTUREBUILDERS (£125m for 3 years, 2003-6)

This fund is designed to help redress the lack of capital investment and development funding in the voluntary sector. Particularly, it will support organisations, or groups of organisations, that can contribute to the delivery of public services. It is directed at those working in the fields of:

Health & Social Care
Community Cohesion

Crime
Education and Learning

Support for Children and Young People

It aims to modernise organisations, increase their scale and scope and overcome obstacles to efficient service delivery. A mix of financing methods will be used including grants and a range of loan schemes.

This fund will be managed outside government by a consortium of organisations selected for their knowledge of the voluntary and community sector.

The majority of funding will be for capital expenditure only, with the expectation that applicants will be financially secure. Key to bidding success will be fresh looks at service delivery methods in collaboration with local partners (voluntary and statutory), creative ideas and real improvement for users.

This fund is not yet operational but further information is posted on this website as it becomes available:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/comrace/active/funding/futurebuilders.html>

INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS (£93m for 3 years, 2003-6)

Voluntary groups providing support to those delivering services directly to the public are known as 'second tier' or 'infrastructure' organisations. Examples of these in West Sussex are Councils for Voluntary Service (CVS), Volunteer Bureaux (VBx), VOLG, ICIS, Age Concern West Sussex, West Sussex Association for the Disabled, 4Sight and Action in Rural Sussex.

These groups are required to work together and, in preference, develop strategies for collaborative working that will increase their capacity to support frontline organisations. Again, the emphasis is on investment, modernisation and improved working practice, and it is likely that short-term posts, for example, will not be supported.

In West Sussex, an Infrastructure Partnership has formed, comprising those groups above, and development funds acquired through NACVS to employ a consultant for help in producing a local strategy and development plan. This should provide the basis for an application for funds in the early part of 2004/05.

Fund Managers for the Infrastructure Funds in the South East are Regional Action and Involvement South East (RAISE). A consortium of charities has recently been selected to administer and distribute futurebuilders including: Charity Bank, NCVO and Unity Trust Bank.



VOLG AND PROJECTS - UPDATES

VOLGnet - We have just implemented the first phase of VOLGnet, the replacement for VOLGbase, which is our central data repository of VOLG members' contact details and their interests. The system is internet-based and allows us to better maintain our members' information, as well as making greater utilisation of email communication where possible, to cut down on the amount of paper used. Later phases of the application will allow members to update their own contact details and interests through a secure web interface via the VOLG web site, and manage the existing E-net emailing groups.

The implementation of the **new website** has inevitably been held up by the move to our new offices in Billingshurst. However, work on the site is progressing, and we hope to launch in early May. If you would like to be notified when the new site launches, please visit www.volg.org.uk, where there is a facility to leave your email address - we'll be sending out a notification email as soon as the first phase of the new site is implemented.

Please note that from this point onward, all emails sent to VOLG staff members should be addressed using our new domain **volg.org.uk**, rather than the old volg.co.uk. The email address format is the same for all old email addresses – eg. robert.jones@volg.org.uk.

If you are interested in **accredited training in Advocacy** or **Mentoring** for staff or volunteers or want to develop an advocacy service please contact abbey.rice@volg.org.uk or 01403 787940 to discuss your needs and what it would cost.



CHYP (Children and Youth Project) - The team are currently working very hard to secure funding to continue the project post June when the Community Fund grant ends. We have just secured £10,000 towards continuing the accredited Young People as Trainers programme and are continuing to pursue other possibilities - we are hopeful that we can continue to work with many more young people in the future.

The interactive Forum Theatre project is going from strength to strength with quite a few local & national bookings including a performance for the Early Years Network at their national conference in May and invited to a national Foster Care conference (the local authority as corporate parent) in July. We have also been booked to deliver a number of workshops at various events which will be led by the young people involved with CHYP.

The young volunteers who have participated in our Young People as Trainers programme have almost completed their required tasks in order to receive their accreditation. The CHYP staff team provide continued support to the young people.

We have young facilitators who are experienced in providing training and support to both young people and service providers in many innovative ways, such as Forum Theatre productions/workshops and Snakes & Ladders (an issue based giant board game for service providers or young people). We have also planned and delivered conferences about young people's issues and, in fact, our dynamic team would be delighted to talk with anyone who has an idea who needs help to put it into practice. If you want to know more about our work, would like a copy of our CHYP newsletter or would like to discuss an event where you think we could help, please contact **Carol Fullick, Development Officer Children & Youth Project** on 01403 787946 or email chyp@volg.org.uk

Other Voluntary and Community Sector News

Events for your diary – we've promised to keep facilitating events and Forums which you've told us you find valuable. True to our word, we're asking you to note the following dates for events:

The first is a **VOLG MEMBERS MEETING** (welcome back after a long break) to be held at Billingshurst Village Hall on the morning of **Thursday 27th May 2004**. More details will follow to VOLG members by the end of the month.

▲▲▲

Following the success of the recent **VOLUNTARY SECTOR FORUM**, we've already fixed the date for the next Forum which will take place on the morning of **Tuesday, 5th October 2004** (followed by **VOLG's AGM**) at a venue to be announced. Such was the interest in the Forum earlier this month that we had to turn people away, so please note this in your diary and look out for more details in the June edition of VOLG's Action News.

▲▲▲

Another group many were pleased to see return in February this year was the **VOLG TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP**. The first meeting for a year was held at Billingshurst and it was agreed that the group, which would be aimed at transport providers, would meet 3 or 4 times a year to discuss matters of mutual interest. If anyone didn't receive an invitation to the last meeting and would like to come in future, please let Julie Kilner, Development Officer at VOLG know (julie.kilner@volg.org.uk or 01403 787945). The next meeting will be held in Billingshurst on 15th July 2004 and the meeting will be looking at the procurement and disposal of vehicles.

▲▲▲

Do you care about hospital and family health services in the Adur, Arun and Worthing areas? If so the

Patient and Public Involvement Forums (PPI Forums) below are holding their first public meetings during April and you are welcome to come along to find out more about the Forums' role and what they are proposing to do in the next few months. Details of the meetings are as follows:
Worthing & Southlands NHS Trust PPI Forum – Monday 19th April 10.30am to 11.45am in the Shaftesbury Room at Worthing Leisure Centre.

Adur, Arun and Worthing Primary Care Trust PPI Forum – Thursday 29th April 7.15pm to 8.30pm in the Gordon Room at the Town Hall, Chapel Road, Worthing.

Interested in becoming a member of one of these Forums? More info available from gavin.maddison@volg.org.uk or call him on 01403 787940

▲▲▲

The first edition of '**Target**' has been published which tracks the progress of the **West Sussex Public Service Agreement (PSA)**. The PSA aims to improve the quality of life for West Sussex people by driving up performance. If you didn't receive a copy and would like one, please contact Julie at VOLG.

▲▲▲

Delivery of a quality service is important to all of us which is why we're revisiting the **Qnet (quality assurance peer support network)** to take forward the quality agenda. Julie will soon be on the road visiting those of you who were previously involved and would be pleased to hear from anyone who'd like to get involved now (julie.kilner@volg.org.uk)

▲▲▲

.....and lastly, **you may have noticed that VOLG has moved office again!** Our new contact details (address, telephone, fax & email) are shown on the front of this newsletter.