

WELCOME!

Welcome to the quarterly edition of the East London CVS Network [ELN E-News]

Special Interest Article

- Five Years of ChangeUp – A New Report
- It's all Change
- ELN Toolkit – 'Plan for Success'
- ICT Support Providers Factsheet

Individual Highlights:

- Borough/Partners News
- ChangeUp/Capacity Builders
- Partnership commitment
- Funding
- Updates

FIVE YEARS OF CHANGEUP – A NEW REPORT

The East London ChangeUp partnership is pleased to announce its latest publication 'Five Years of ChangeUp'. This report provides an overview of what has been achieved by **local ChangeUp consortia** and also information on sub regional initiatives in east London during the period 2004-2009.

What is ChangeUp?

ChangeUp is a Government funded programme, developed with Voluntary and Community Organisations [VCOs] to build capacity and infrastructure in their sector. It aims to transform front-line VCOs so that local communities will be able to experience a real difference in the quality of their services. It will do this by improving the capacity and capability of organisations that offer services to the front line. (*Fit for Growth: Building sustainable voluntary and community organisations. Capacitybuilders' strategy 2006*)

The benefits of ChangeUp

This report highlights the added value created as a result of the ChangeUp programme. It is not intended to provide a comprehensive picture of what has been achieved at a local level using ChangeUp funds in relation to the programme's aims and objectives.

Moreover, this report has been collated in order to evidence the real impact of the ChangeUp programme in relation to the overall sustainability of each local CVS.

In order to demonstrate the added value of the programme, ChangeUp

Coordinators were asked to report back on initiatives, developments and projects that arose as a direct result of ChangeUp in their local borough.

In order to demonstrate the added value that the ChangeUp programme has brought to each borough, the report concentrates on three specific work areas:

New Projects: Especially those that have strengthened local infrastructure and support for front line groups.

Partnership & Collaboration: Examples of good practice and actively engaged partnership work.

Finance: Additional funding that has been successfully awarded for projects or activities in the local borough. This report has been put together in order to provide an overview of the added value that the ChangeUp programme has brought to each local borough and also demonstrate the synergy between **local Consortia** and sub regional projects and what they are trying to achieve.

Key examples from each local borough demonstrate the positive impact of the Change up programme in their borough and the new programmes that have been initiated as a direct result.

We hope that this report will provide an insight into the positive impact of the ChangeUp programme and how CVS's respond to local needs of frontline organisations.

Cont'd page 2

The additional finance that CVS's have been able to generate has secured their

sustainability and enabled each CVS to further develop their activities and services.

We hope that you will contact the respective ChangeUp consortia and other organisations for more information on their programmes, projects and services.

To date, feedback from our wider stakeholders has been very positive and we hope that you will enjoy reading this report

and learning about ChangeUp in east London.

For a copy of the report, please click the following link:

<http://www.elcvnetwork.org.uk/change/documents/FiveyearsofChangeUp.pdf>.

For further information, or to share your comments and feedback, please contact Maneesha at maneesha.sharma@elcvnetwork.org.uk, or alternatively please call 0208 519 9500 and press option 2 for the ELN team and Maneesha.

As well as being a time of change in the East London CVS Network, it is also a time of exciting developments.

Goodbye

Alice Wallace, co-ordinator has officially left ELN to take up a permanent position at the London Borough of Tower Hamlets as the boroughs Third Sector Development Manager. Maneesha Sharma will continue working with the team and is developing some exciting initiatives around engaging with the LGBT sector, and continuing the successful work in partnership with Skills for Care North East London on the Transforming Social Care agenda.

Partnership working with the Host Boroughs Unit

Andrea Chott has started a short term secondment to the Host Boroughs Unit leading on third sector engagement. Demonstrating its commitment to partnership working with the sector, the Host Boroughs Unit has part funded the 2.5 day a

IT'S ALL CHANGE

week secondment until the end of September 2010. To find out more about Andrea's work at the Host Borough Unit click

http://www.elcvnetwork.org.uk/areas_of_work/host-boroughs-unit/

Premises & ICT

Covering Andrea's 2.5 days is Josephine Mason, who has been Team Administrator since ELN was formed in 2004. Josephine is now Project Officer working 2.5 days a week and will work with borough CVS's to increase ICT support to the sector and develop an online library of good practice resources relating to premises and sharing back office functions.

Welcome

Finally, we welcome Uju to the team. Uju has been working temporarily with the team since June 2009. Uju will cover Josephine, taking over the vital role of ensuring our admin systems are in tip top shape and fit for purpose.

ELN TOOLKIT – ‘PLAN FOR SUCCESS’

In April 2009 voluntary sector organisations based in the boroughs Barking & Dagenham, Barnet, Enfield, Lewisham, Greenwich, Haringey, Redbridge, Newham, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest, and the City of London all received the CD-ROM ‘Plan for Success’, providing useful tools and information to help VCO’s during the economic downturn. This was funded by the Capacitybuilders Resilience grant –along with additional financial contributions from local

changeup consortia from across the east and north London sub-regions. Contributors to the toolkit include organisations such as Tool Factory, Charities Evaluation Service, Voluntary Arts Network and Media Trust. Hailed as an exemplar of sustainable support – the CD ROM has been used as a case study by Capacitybuilders. The ELN Team is pleased to announce that the CD ROM will be available on the ELN website from the end of April 2010.

ICT SUPPORT PROVIDERS FACTSHEET

The East London CVS Network commissioned the production of a factsheet outlining local ICT providers in Bexley, Greenwich and Lewisham. It has been produced to improve the support to frontline voluntary and community groups in those boroughs.

The factsheet has information about suppliers and highlights a variety of ICT support services each ICT supplier is able to offer which include, consulting, databases, disaster recovery, backup services, technical support, installations, networking, health checks, security, computer recycling, refurbished IT, telecommunications, training and web design.

For further information about the factsheet visit the following websites:

Bexley Voluntary Service Council: <http://www.bvsc.co.uk/>

Greenwich Action for Voluntary Service: <http://www.greenwich-cvs.org.uk/>

Voluntary Action Lewisham: <http://www.valewisham.org.uk/>

LET'S TALK CARE - SKILL FOR CARE LONDON

London's regional newsletter for Spring 2010 is now available to view online at [the Skills for Care London website](#).

This edition focuses on **recruitment and retention in the adult social care** sector, looking at how to recruit and develop skills and services within your organisation, and what tools and resources are working well in the London sub-regions. **Let's Talk Care - Spring 2010**

Hard copies are available by request to sfc.london@skillsforcare.org.uk

Training Strategy Implementation (TSI) Funding 2010/11

In order to support social care employers and providers (including those who employ their own staff) to drive up the quality of the social care workforce, the TSI Fund will be distributed in 2010/11 by Skills for Care through employer-led partnerships. This will fund NVQs, Common Induction Standards and other qualifications relevant to the social care sector.

Information guidance and application

packs and a definitive list of units supported by TSI is available on the [funding webpage](#) or on request by calling Edith Ifekwuna on 020 7471 6773.

Updating Common Induction Standards (CIS)

Skills for Care are refreshing the Common Induction Standards (CIS) to ensure they reflect current policy and practice. We would like to hear your views on whether you think the Common Induction Standards cover the key areas for new workers to assure they are safe and appropriate to practice.

Launched in 2005 for the adult social care workforce, the standards are for people entering social care, and those changing roles or employers within social care. They are designed to be met within a 12-week period, and were developed to reflect NVQ requirements and the General Social Care Council Codes of Practice.

For further information, and to access the online survey please [click here](#).

PERSONALISATION CONFERENCE 18TH MARCH 2010

This event is being funded by NAVCA and is open to voluntary organisations and local infrastructure organisations within the **East London Network**. The aim is to increase understanding of the personalisation agenda, to understand the challenges it presents to the voluntary sector and to inform the future support that LIOs need to be thinking about in the future.

For more information about this event and to book a place, please click the following link http://www.elcvnetwork.org.uk/news/archives/training_events/.

CAPACITYBUILDERS' SECOND RECESSION SURVEY SHOWS SUPPORT PROVIDERS FACE FALLING INCOME AND RISING DEMAND

Capacitybuilders recently conducted a second survey looking at the impact of the economic downturn on third sector infrastructure organisations.

The report findings provide valuable information on the challenges faced by local third sector support providers, and indeed, the resilience being shown during what continue to be difficult economic circumstances.

Key findings include:

- High levels of demand for support services from frontline groups is continuing, with 79% of local support providers reporting an increase in demand over the last twelve months.
- 42% of support providers reported a reduction in their overall income during the same time period - a clear demonstration of the pressures on the sector during this uncertain economic climate.
- Support providers are increasingly

thinking about partnership, collaboration and merger as a way of ensuring the needs of frontline groups and the communities they serve continue to be met.

The final report is now available at http://www.improving-support.org.uk/resources_by_topic/building_resilience/uploaded_resources/news/2nd_recession_survey.aspx

The survey has generated coverage in the sector press. The sort of information it brings together will be increasingly important in the run up to the next spending settlement, and at a time when the support available to our communities is of increasing importance.

Capacitybuilders will build on this evidence base through further surveys tracking the impact of changing economic circumstances on those providing support and advice to third sector organisations.

CHANGEUP ONLINE DIRECTORY

We are pleased to announce that we have now refreshed and revamped the ChangeUp Directory section on our website. Thematic work areas have now been colour coded for ease of reference and links made to each of our boroughs and the various resources that they have produced and are willing to share.

We hope you will enjoy visiting our new online directory and we will be working as a team to populate this section with helpful resources over the coming months. If you have a resource or information document that you would like to share with our network and wider stakeholders, please contact Josephine Mason who will be happy to discuss uploading your documents with you.

To view the new resources section, please visit:
<http://www.elcvsnetwork.org.uk/resources/changeUp/>

THE HOST BOROUGH UNIT

The Host Borough Unit is made up of predominately seconded staff from both central and local government and has recently published the **Strategic Regeneration Framework** [SRF]. The SRF sets out how the five East London host boroughs intend to tackle the challenges of entrenched disadvantage and deprivation across East London by working together.

Keen to ensure both the private and third sector contribute to the development of the next phase of the SRF, the Host Boroughs Unit has part funded the short term secondment of East London CVS Network's Co-ordinator Andrea Chott, who is leading on third sector engagement across the five host boroughs.

Harnessing the sectors expertise can often be a challenge to our statutory partners, who for the most part, don't quite understand the complex nature of the sector, leaving them baffled about who to talk to first, who does what and how to engage with the sector sub regionally.

Diversity of the third sector

With an estimated 6,500 voluntary and community sector organisations and approximately 1500 social enterprises operating across the five host boroughs, the task of engaging with this many third sector organisations will prove a mammoth task.

Existing Structures

However, securing a voice for the sector is paramount and to enable this, Andrea will work through existing structures and Networks such as Changeup Consortia and other borough based networks such as the Economic Development Network run by Hackney Council for Voluntary Services.

To download a copy of the **Strategic Regeneration Framework**, please click the following link:
http://www.elcvsnetwork.org.uk/areas_of_work/host-boroughs-unit/documents/SRF1Final14-10-09.pdf

ADDED VALUE OF THIRD SECTOR IN REGENERATION

In response to the publication of the **Strategic Regeneration Framework** [SRF] published in November 2009 by the Host Boroughs Unit, 'Adding Value – Embedding Convergence through Partnership' - is the latest of three publications published by the **East London CVS Network** [ELN]. Written in partnership with The Big Opportunity Steering Group, 'Adding Value' sets out a short but compelling case illustrating how the collective expertise and knowledge of ELN and The Big Opportunity Steering Group can add value to the delivery of the social, physical and economic regeneration of East London.

Download a copy of **Adding Value – Embedding Convergence through Partnership** by clicking the following link.

http://www.elcvsnetwork.org.uk/areas_of_work/host-boroughs-unit/documents/AddingValue-HBOfferDoc.pdf

THE BIG LOTTERY FUND

The Big Lottery Fund (BIG) recently commissioned the Policy Studies Institute to complete a large-scale study which explored the purpose, benefit and potential of small grants from the perspective of both funders and projects.

Small grants provide a lifeline for many organisations. Funders provide small grants to grass roots projects that deliver widespread benefits for people across the UK. You may find the content of the evaluation summary useful and a link to it is here:

http://www2.biglotteryfund.org.uk/small-grants_eval.pdf

Key findings from the evaluation:

- A wide range of features in small grants programmes are important for applicants. These include the size of grant, the detail required for the application form, the focus of a programme and the speed of funding decisions.
- Small grants funding was perceived by some grant holders as a stepping-stone to develop the skills and experience necessary to apply for further grants. 58 per cent of BIG projects surveyed through the evaluation were first-time applicants
- Applying for small grants was particularly challenging for organisations that did not have any previous experience of funding.
- 70 per cent of survey respondents found the monitoring process useful as it led to improvements within their projects and helped them to develop better management systems.
- 71 per cent of the grant holders surveyed agreed that their project had been very successful in their

local community, 60 per cent felt that individual lives had improved, 62 per cent offered more activities and 51 per cent had reached new beneficiaries.

- Despite the relatively small sums involved, small grants were cited as leading to a range of benefits: improvements in local facilities, an increase in community interaction and improvements in community cohesion, health and well-being.
- Small grants have helped organisations to improve the skills of staff and volunteers, increase their chances of sustainability, raise their profile in the local community, develop new partnerships and provided them with the opportunity to deliver more innovative solutions to local problems.

Suggestions for improving small grants programmes include simplifying the application process, providing more support for organisations inexperienced at applying and managing grants, making quicker decisions about funding, providing better feedback about unsuccessful applications, awarding longer term funding and funding staff costs.

The full evaluation report can be accessed under the Research and Learning pages of the website at: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

DUTY TO INVOLVE GUIDE PUBLISHED

The Community Development Foundation (CDF) has published a new guide to help local authorities and their partners get to grips with the new Duty including case studies and factors for success. '*Duty to Involve: Making It Work*' explains the legal obligations, challenges and practical advice to strengthen community engagement. [Read the Duty to Involve Guide.](#)

LAUNCH OF THE REFRESHED COMPACT

On 16 December 2009, the refreshed national Compact document was launched. Developed following months of consultation, the new Compact is leaner, more focused and reflects the changing operating environment for the partnership between government and the voluntary sector

The full document can be downloaded from the Compact Voice website http://www.compactvoice.org.uk/information/101803/102028/compact_refresh/

You can also order a printed copy.



THE WAVE OF FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEER EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

The Wave of Friendship is a volunteer exchange programme which has been launched to promote and support the exchange of volunteers between Scotland and London by the provision of grants of up to £500 to cover travel, accommodation and other expenses. The programme will provide grants to 200 volunteers over the four-year period of the scheme, with each successful applicant receiving up to £500 to cover their costs.

More information about the programme can be found on the Wave of Friendship website: www.peoplemakingwaves.org.uk/thewaveoffriendship

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