

VANEL

ANNUAL REPORT

2012 -13

Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire



Advancing Local Voluntary Action

**14 Town Hall Street
Grimsby
North East Lincolnshire
DN31 1HN**

01472 231123

www.vanel.org.uk

this report also available online at
www.vanel.org.uk/report

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“VANEL promotes, encourages and supports individuals, groups and organisations within the voluntary, community and wider third sector to enable them to meet the needs and aspirations of communities within North East Lincolnshire. ”

Welcome

Welcome to the VANEL Annual Report for 2012 / 13

As with any financial year, the year from 2012 to 2013 saw many significant changes at VANEL alongside plenty of “business as usual”. Our core services to our Members and Friends continued, through account management, payroll and CRB services, supported by other services such as IT support and equipment hire. At the same time the Volunteer Centre continued to broker nearly a thousand local volunteers into local opportunities.

But new services also developed. The Volunteer Centre retained its “Investing in Volunteers” national quality accreditation and later went on to achieve the new Volunteering England Volunteer Centre Quality Assurance accreditation.

Transforming Local Infrastructure (TLI) was a major, Office of Civil Society funded programme (managed via Big Lottery) this year, covering a number of strands of work, and from this a further, local volunteering quality award was created – the Supporting Volunteers Award (SVA) which we introduced, developed and rolled out across our membership during the year.

TLI also introduced new ways of profiling volunteers, developed and supported the Transform leadership programme, grew our portfolio of community websites forming a knowledgebase of the area and worked on other areas such as supporting the development of assets within our sector.

Alongside TLI we delivered a wide and diverse range of projects and programmes during the year, including research and survey work, training programmes and other support projects. November saw the UK's first Police and Crime Commissioner elections which we helped promote and support locally through our Safer and Stronger Communities partnership, and as a part of this work VANEL physically relocated offices at the start of the year to the Elms, which was in itself an exercise in co-location with most of the Safer Community partner organisations. (We still retain 14 Town Hall Street as our registered office of course).

This year saw the conclusion of the Fundraising Plus and Rural Plus projects and was the final year of the North East Lincolnshire Local Involvement Network (LINK) before it became HealthWatch outside of VANEL. So as projects ended, new ones began and others continued. Our staff team changed over the course of the year and we continued to work closely as a team, proudly achieving our Bronze Healthy Workplace award during the year.

This year again we have prepared our Annual Report electronically to save on costs, and I hope you find it informative to understand the work that VANEL has been involved in on behalf of both our member organisations and our local communities.

Paula Grant

Chief Officer

Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire (VANEL)



Chair's Annual Report

During the 2012/13 financial year Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire's priorities focussed on transformational change to explore how its services could adapt to meet the different needs of voluntary and community groups. The team developed and delivered a Supporting Volunteers Quality Award both for its own projects and services as well as groups and partners.

The Trustees requested that the team continued to work on the following priorities for action: widening volunteering opportunities; offering more organisational development support to our groups; increasing the range fund raising activities for our groups; networking and influencing partnership agendas for the benefit of the voluntary and community sector all with a view to achieving the 3 main aims we agreed in our 2012/13 Action Plan namely:

- 1) To contribute to the development and maintenance of a quality assured and accountable voluntary and community sector within North East Lincolnshire.
- 2) To support a strong and vibrant voluntary and community sector comprising valued volunteers development workers and suitably qualified paid staff.
- 3) To positively contribute to effective local partnerships alongside public and private sector partners and raise awareness of the value of the sector.

Key services such as our volunteer brokerage, payroll, Disclosure and Barring checks, the monthly 'e' newsletter, small training and learning equipment hire, community development worker support, funding advice, partnership representation, organisational health checks, IT technical and web support and safeguarding training were delivered for the benefit of our members.

To enable us to deliver our core services for the benefit of our members, friends and the wider sector the team had to negotiate and secure funding from an ever widening range of different sources to support our sustainability, for example: North East Lincolnshire Council, North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus, the Ministry of Justice, the Home Office, Humberside Probation Trust, the Big Lottery, the Department of Work and Pensions, Children in Need, Fair Share, NAVCA and the Department of Health.

With regards our joint working this year we were especially proud of the jointly hosted Outstanding Safer and Stronger Communities Awards event held at Cleethorpes Memorial Hall; the Local Involvement Network celebration event held in Corpus Christi Church Hall and the Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner campaign launch and question time events at various locations including Grimsby Institute, Barton Ropewalk and Scunthorpe Baths Hall.

On behalf of all our Trustees I would like to thank all members who served on our Executive Committee during the 2012/13 year. VANEL has clearly benefitted from their collective skills, knowledge and experience via our staff, members, volunteers, other voluntary organisations and partner agencies.

Finally, on behalf of all our Trustees I would also like to record my thanks to the team of staff and volunteers for their sustained hard work, dedication and commitment to VANEL throughout continuously difficult times.

Allen Young (Harbour Place), on behalf of the VANEL Board of Trustees



Volunteer Centre

The North East Lincolnshire Volunteer Centre's Core Services are as follows:

1. Brokerage. To introduce volunteers to the volunteer host organisation and to act as mediator (when necessary) throughout their relationship.
2. Marketing. To ensure that volunteering has a high and positive profile locally.
3. Good Practice Development. To develop training and development tools and opportunities to ensure the good practice of organisations and volunteers.
4. Developing Volunteer Opportunities. To increase the number and variety of opportunities available to volunteers and to overcome barriers to diversity.
5. Campaigning and influencing policy. To ensure that issues affecting volunteers are highlighted and responded to appropriately.
6. Strategic Development of Volunteering. To influence partners to include volunteering in local strategies affecting our communities and their development.

Successes and Achievements

The Supporting Volunteers Award developed by the Volunteer Centre as a quality award for volunteer host organisations has been achieved by 182 groups to reassure volunteers and enable host organisations to give the optimum volunteer experience. The SVA is our main method of ensuring that host organisations are aware of best practice issues and solutions which arise from our local experience and is linked to new national guidance and legislation.

The Volunteer Centre maintained the National Council for Voluntary Organisations and Volunteering England's "Investing in Volunteers" quality accreditation which enables us to inform and sustain a more accessible local quality assurance system for our own volunteers.

The centre hosted and completed the Mind Works pilot, funded by an Awards for All grant, led by Alison Hobbs. A more substantial bid was made through the Reaching Communities programme resulting in a three year project being funded from November 2012.

During the 2012/13 year, we place 949 volunteers into volunteering opportunities. The highest numbers were recorded in July, October and February with the lowest numbers in January, November and April. Of these, the majority (212) were aged between 19 to 25 years showing the continued interest in volunteering by younger people. The largest groups of volunteers are unemployed people and students. The centre also recorded 31 new groups providing volunteer opportunities to be recorded on the DO-IT website giving a wider variety of choice to the clients who come to the centre to volunteer.

Issues & Challenges

The Volunteering England Volunteer Centre Quality Assurance accreditation was achieved in November 2012 and maintained throughout the remainder of the financial year. The issue is to promote this achievement with partners and gain their recognition of its value. Funding is needed to enable us to offer volunteering training and development sessions for volunteers and volunteer coordinators and also to promote volunteering more effectively using promotional materials, volunteer fairs and other relevant local volunteering events.

Further Information

Contact the North East Lincolnshire Volunteer Centre via 01472 231123 or Kelly Bryant via kelly@vanel.org.uk.

Information about volunteering and the Volunteer Centre is on the main VANEL website at www.vanel.org.uk/va/volunteering



Financial Report 2012-13

Unrestricted Fund

A profit of just under £14,000 is recorded; A loss of just over £61,000 was anticipated in the original budget, so some significant savings were achieved. The reserves built from previous years covered have been enhanced therefore, leaving £146,712 as a significant basis to be carried forward into the new year.

Designated Funds

The three funds, Development Hub, the Volunteer Centre and Healthier Communities, continued to provide services. The Volunteer Centre lost £32,000, against an original budget loss of £57,000; the Hub lost £29,000, against an original budget loss of £53,000; while the Healthier Communities made a profit of £18,500 against a budgeted loss of £30,500. A total loss of £42,500 against a much larger expected total budgeted loss of £140,500. The Development Hub and Healthier Communities are to be amalgamated for 2013/14 as a designated fund called Organisational Development. Both this fund and the Volunteer Centre have workable balances to continue into the new year, but will need to generate further income to fulfil their aims.

Restricted Funds

Twelve funds, as detailed in the Report of the Trustees, were operated during the year. Two of those being new funds, Big Local and Restorative Practice. Five of the funds ceased during or at the end of March 2013, these being LINK, Fairshare West Marsh, Victim's Champion, Fundraising Plus and Flexible Support Fund.

Further Information

Please contact Richard Wendel-Jones via richard@vanel.org.uk for more information



Membership Services

During 2012-13 we continued to provide a range of core support services to our Members and Friends. Details of these are in other parts of this report.

VANEL continued to provide allocated account managers from the staff team to be a key point of contact for each Member or Friend.

More information about Membership Services

The VANEL newsletter
The VANEL website
Criminal Records Bureau Services
Payroll Services
Equipment rental and Common Treasury
Room hire
Safeguarding Training
Grantfinding support

Further information

To discuss membership matters, please contact Peter Hewson on 01472 231123 or email peter@vanel.org.uk



Payroll Services

We continued to provide our monthly payroll service for local charities and small not-for-profit groups. This year we catered for 16 organisations, and continued to use Sage software to produce the regular monthly payslips and detailed analyses of deductions.

In July 2012, we implemented a weekly payroll service to accommodate a client with multiple employees.

Staff at Voluntary Action increased to 30, with gross wages of just over £562,000 completed on the payroll system. Of the other groups covered by our service, there were 99 full and part time employees; the gross wage bill for all these groups was just over £866,000

This year there was a large increase in the number of Direct Payments clients, with approximately 65 opting to use our payroll service.

As reported in the previous year, we started calculating payroll for Direct Payment clients. The Direct Payments scheme was implemented for individuals to become employers, allowing them to select and employ their own personal care assistants, to cater for a range of disabilities affecting themselves or other family members.

VANEL is set up as an official agent with HM Revenue and Customs, so year end returns were submitted online as usual. Updated software from Sage enabled successful submissions before the Revenue year-end deadline.

Our payroll officer attended training sessions for the HM Revenue and Customs Real Time Information system, which will report figures to HM Revenue & Customs on a monthly basis – this scheme replaces the annual reporting currently in use. Real Time Information is a compulsory reporting system which will commence in April 2013.

Contact

Angela Barker

angela@vanel.org.uk



Criminal Record Bureau Service

The Criminal Records Bureau has been established for nine years at Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire and it continues to be a valuable service to the voluntary and community sector and for some private sector organisations.

We currently have 208 organisations registered for the CRB service and the majority of these groups are voluntary and community sector organisations.

To date we have processed over 3504 CRB checks, we have seen the number of registered organisations increase greatly over time and anticipate that this will continue as we see the expansion of the criteria which deems the enhanced CRB check necessary.

The CRB project within VANEL has four authorised signatories working on this project. An appointment system has been developed in order to simplify the workload and CRB checks are now available on a Monday afternoon, Tuesday morning and all day on Thursdays by prior appointment only, it is also possible to visit organisations premises if they require a large number of CRB checks to be completed.

We are represented on the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) by our Chief Officer. We offer Safeguarding Children Training and promote safe working with children, young people and vulnerable adults with all of our members.

During the past year we have undertaken many CRB checks for contractors working within schools and residential homes, as it was identified that checks were necessary for them to continue working in those environments.

If you would like to make checks on staff who are working with children, young people or with vulnerable adults, the CRB Service can help you with this. The service is open to any organisation within North East Lincolnshire whether they are voluntary, community, wider third sector or private sector and also whether recruiting volunteers or paid staff.

Contact

Angela Barker

angela@vanel.org.uk



The VANEL newsletter

The VANEL newsletter continued to be produced monthly, with a total of eleven issues coming out over this financial year.

We moved away from printed copies during 2012 to save on costs, with the newsletter being distributed electronically via email to a growing mailing list.

Articles continued to feature both news from VANEL and from our Members and Friends, and feedback continued to be positive.

From January 2013, when a new VANEL website was launched, the newsletter was available to download in a variety of formats or to read online.

Our editors over this period included Kirstie, Joe and Karl.

More information

All issues of the newsletter from this period can be [downloaded from the current website here](#).

The Editor (Karl Elliott) can be contacted at editor@vanel.org.uk



The VANEL website

Up to the end of 2012, the VANEL website had not been upgraded or redeveloped for probably 18 months.

So at the start of 2013 the website was relaunched – whilst continuing to be available at www.vanel.org.uk.

The website was entirely rebuilt in-house and development continues. The website has been built using technology which should mean flexibility in redevelopment and redesign for at least another 18 months.

Some new features that the website incorporates are a more effective calendar/diary system for events, and incorporation with a new email system to make it more efficient in delivering newsletters and bulletins to members.

News from the website can continue to be read by visitors (who know what they are doing) as an RSS feed.

With the expanded website we now include each and every newsletter with multiple ways to read them, and slowly we are trying to ensure that every part of the organisation has information included somewhere on the website.

VANEL is also continuing to encourage Member and Friend organisations to contribute news articles, information about events and profiles of their organisations.

Further information

The website is www.vanel.org.uk

We always appreciate feedback on the website, so please let us know if you find problems or have suggestions.

We also would like content from Members and Friends.

In all instances please contact Karl Elliott to discuss the site or send in information. There is a dedicated email address: editor@vanel.org.uk.

The website was built by Karl at VANEL, so contact Karl if you would like help with your own website.



Equipment Hire & Common Treasury

VANEL maintains an inventory of equipment (largely IT related) which it loans or rents to member or friend organisations at very low rates.

Although this seldom generates much in the way of income for VANEL, it does provide a services to our members via their use of laptops, netbooks, projectors, display boards, cameras and so on.

In the past VANEL has administered the Common Treasury programme, wherein funding has been provided to purchase equipment to host within local community organisations, and then VANEL trains and supports the hosts of that equipment. Over this financial year there has been no continuation of Common Treasury funding, so there have been no new purchases nor training programmes.

VANEL continues to maintain a list of where past Common Treasury equipment is hosted out in the community, and can direct those who might require such equipment to liase with the hosts.

We also of course continue to host our own equipment for loan.

Rehoming Services

During the past year a number of publicly funded projects closed, and VANEL acted in the role of Common Treasury manager to take back into the community a wide range of equipment from those projects and to find new homes for it. This year that has meant rehoming a range of office furniture and a dozen or more old PC's.

We reservice the PC's using our in-house technician and then find host organisations who have need of these old PC's. All of the equipment that has been "handed back" to the community via Common Treasury and VANEL has then been subsequently rehomed supporting other projects.

Festival Boxes

Early in 2013, VANEL agreed to host 3 Festival Boxes which can be borrowed by rural groups seeking to run events. Further information about this part of our equipment rental service [can be found here](#).

Further Information

If you need to borrow equipment for your organisation or project, then it may be worth discussing this with Karl Elliott, karl@vanel.org.uk

There is a [page on the main VANEL website here](#) which we will keep up to date with information about our equipment hire service.



Room Hire

With the move to the Elms early in 2012, VANEL had access to meeting and training room facilities once again (not possible in the previous financial year).

A range of meeting rooms at the Elms were generally available for internal VANEL events and for those of the partners sharing the building as part of our co-location.

Renting rooms out externally for a charge was a minimal activity during this year, but we managed to host a number of training courses including some significant Police courses which required our Boardroom to become an 10-seat IT suite for weeks on end.

So room hire for training and workshops did provide a very small income to VANEL during this year.

Further information

VANEL can continue to offer room hire at the Elms at a reasonable cost. Information about the rooms can be found [on the main website here](#).

Any questions about room hire, please contact Karl Elliott via karl@vanel.org.uk



Safeguarding Training

Throughout the period in question the need for **Safeguarding Children Level 1** training has remained constant and events have been organised in succession as soon as a sufficient number of interested candidates has been confirmed. Indeed from April 2012 to March 2013 a total of 60 learners attended and attained the Level 1 qualification for this certificated course. They comprised both salaried workers and volunteers from a wide range of 15 groups and organisations; those identified on the register, included Face 2 Face, Lindsey Blind, Youthoria, YMCA, Lisle Marsden, the Intelligence Project, Humbercare, Homestart, Addaction, St Andrew's Hospice, Harbour Place, Women's Aid, Longhurst and Havelok and the Grimsby Judo Club. In addition a single course was created for FLAG and finally 2 individuals attended without any attachment to any particular group.

These courses were tutored by Martin George and Kerry Gilman whose expertise in the subject matter received much praise, and mention must be made of the Human Resources Learning and Development Team and the LSCB, who gave great support in providing information packs, certification and accreditation services. Those groups who provided the venues are to be commended for their excellent assistance.

Interest in Safeguarding continues to be required by the Voluntary Sector and courses will continue to be planned and arranged in response to need. The cost has remained the same for a number of years and it is to be hoped that if it is necessary to make any increases then this will still represent excellent value for money for a much needed service.

Further information

For further details about Safeguarding Training please contact Peter Hewson – peter@vanel.org.uk or on 01472 231123.

Keep an eye on the news and calendar on the main VANEL website for details of possible upcoming training – www.vanel.org.uk



Transforming Local Infrastructure

The Transforming Local Infrastructure (TLI) project has been funded by the Big Fund over this financial year, with a completion date at the end of September 2013.

Officially the project was known as the **Frontline "Make-Over" project**.

In simplest terms its aims were:

- to improve the quality of volunteering brokerage by widening the range and type of volunteering opportunities;
- to support stronger leadership via better connected community involvement in local partnerships;
- to enable more coordinated use of community assets so more services can be provided via more efficient frontline structures.

Read more about some of the specific parts of the TLI initiative:

- [the Supporting Volunteers Award](#)
- [INandAROUND Community Websites](#)
- [Transform programme](#)

What did the TLI Project set out to achieve?

This was defined for the project in terms of 4 outcomes, each of which had a number of indicators of progress and success. There were also 8 key areas of activity which the project undertook (which overlap with the outcomes and indicators to some degree). Information about all of these is outlined here to demonstrate the scope and extent of the project.

All of this activity was taking place during the financial year 2012-13, although the final part of the project work to bring it to completion took place up to September 2013 and will be the subject for the 2013-14 VANEL Annual Report or information for which can be found on the current VANEL website.

(keywords and links below each indicator relate to the areas of VANEL activity with which you may be more familiar and for which there is more information relating as to progress).

Project outcome 1:

By redesigning volunteering brokerage services we will improve the quality of volunteering opportunities provided by frontline organisations for volunteers resulting in more people being involved by reaching out to greater numbers in our community.

Indicator: Design volunteer profiles in consultation with volunteers and frontline volunteer host organisations so volunteers can promote the kind of volunteering they want to offer. 400 volunteer profiles completed. These new volunteers will offer their skills, knowledge and experience as volunteers which will be taken up by frontline volunteer host organisations

[Volunteer profiles](#)

Indicator: Supporting Volunteers Award adapted for corporate use, introduced and signed up to by all statutory and business organisations offering volunteering opportunities. Corporate

Supporting Volunteers Award achieved by 10 statutory volunteer host organisations and 10 business volunteer host organisations

[Supporting Volunteers Award](#)

Indicator: Supporting Volunteers Award developed, introduced to and signed up by all existing frontline volunteer host organisations registered with the Volunteer Centre. Supporting Volunteers Award level 1 will be achieved by 150 frontline volunteer host organisations and level 2 achieved by 50 frontline volunteer host organisations

[Supporting Volunteers Award](#)

Project outcome 2:

By strengthening connections between all community involvement workers we will reduce dependency on government funding and improve self-sustainability through reducing duplication of service provision and providing more integrated services.

Indicator: We will sustain the good practice in community involvement work that we have started in partnership with local statutory organisations and invite business representatives to join in with this work. 20 people from frontline organisations, 10 people from statutory agencies and 10 people from local businesses are actively delivering community involvement work

[Community development](#), [development workers network](#)

Indicator: Develop a common leadership development programme for frontline services that all local partners can participate in and benefit from especially targeting young people. 30 people from frontline organisations, 10 young people, 10 community members, 20 statutory agency staff and 10 business people are participating in the programme.

[Transform programme](#)

Indicator: Having established commitment from network members, move on to identify sources of non-government funding, income generation and volunteers to sustain the work. Minimum of 5 community involvement workers to be supported by statutory agencies 5 by businesses, 5 volunteers, and 5 by non-government funding.

Funding stream development

Project outcome 3:

By enabling more efficient use of community assets via sharing frontline services in fewer buildings we will reduce these organisations' operating costs therefore delivering more frontline services in the community by the community for its benefits.

Indicator: We will map community assets across North East Lincolnshire and work with frontline organisations to identify where and how and where services are currently being offered. 1 interactive community asset map resource on CD-ROM which shows the location and use of each community facility in North East Lincolnshire

[Assets](#), [community knowledgebase](#)



Indicator: We will create a knowledge base of community assets across North East Lincolnshire and work with frontline organisations to explore how service delivery locations can be shared to reduce costs. 1 interactive community knowledge base which stores all community assets and can be interrogated by type of use, geography, service etc.

[Assets, community websites, INandAROUND](#)

Indicator: We will prepare case studies of different examples across North East Lincolnshire where frontline organisations co-locate with each other or statutory agencies or private businesses. 6 different case studies of different co-location options that frontline organisations have adopted to reduce costs and operate more effectively

[Asset case studies](#)

Project outcome 4:
By improving links with local businesses and statutory partner organisations we will demonstrate the added value of delivering frontline services via structures such as social enterprises providing more employment options for local communities.

Indicator: We will work with businesses to assist them to create opportunities to buy services from frontline organisations and/or provide services at more competitive rates and add value via social returns. 6 business briefing sessions with 24 businesses and 24 frontline organisations/social enterprises resulting in 6 business investments in frontline organisations

[CERT business support](#)

Indicator: We will work with statutory partner organisations to identify new opportunities for them to commission services from frontline organisations and social enterprises who will add value via social impact. 6 market dialogue sessions with 24 commissioning officers and 24 frontline organisations/social enterprises resulting in 6 contracts for frontline groups

[CERT business support](#)

Indicator: We will work with statutory organisations and businesses to create opportunities for frontline organisations and social enterprises to be part of the local supply chain and demonstrate social impact. 12 development sessions with commissioners to identify the role of frontline organisations and social enterprises in inward investment and business zone developments.

[CERT business support](#)

There were eight key areas of activity within the TLI project:

Activity: We will set up a quality assurance system for all frontline organisations that offer volunteering opportunities to ensure they are the best volunteer hosts they can be

[Supporting Volunteers Award](#)

Activity: We will support volunteers to complete volunteer profiles promoting skills they want to offer to volunteer host organisations to increase volunteer hours and motivation

[Volunteer Profiles](#)

Activity: We will map community assets and their use across our area and identify options to share assets and joint deliver services both between frontline organisations and wider partners

[Community assets knowledgebase](#)

Activity: We will focus on community assets and the promotion of working together with willing volunteer and community workers on activities of value to local community people

[Community assets development](#)

Activity: We will bring together business people and statutory sector commissioning officers to identify the role for frontline organisations and social enterprises in the local supply chain

[CERT business support](#)

Activity: We will develop an on-line directory of services that frontline organisations and social enterprises can offer to statutory organisations and businesses as part of our knowledge base

[Community websites and knowledgebase](#)

Activity: We will secure the statutory agencies and businesses commitment to use the volunteer centre and ensure the Supporting Volunteer Quality award is a contractual need

[CERT business support](#)

Activity: We will ensure that frontline organisations are always included as part of external funding proposals as part of the North East Lincolnshire Strategic Partnership's agreement

[CERT business support](#)

Further information

The TLI project continued to run beyond the end of this reporting period – final project end was September 2013.

So a brief summary of where the TLI project is currently at, having been completed and all the reports submitted to the Big Lottery...

Our Supporting Volunteers Quality Award is being rolled out in North Lincolnshire via VANL which is great news for VCS groups across Northern Lincolnshire.

The TRANSFORM local leadership forum is already being sustained by the participants and we have established a rolling programme beyond the contract period.

The volunteer profiles service is proving very popular and we have linked it with our new apprentice community worker programme for young people to benefit and to give it at least 2 more years' sustainability to provide pathways into work for young people by young people via volunteering in new and creative ways.

Our community asset development process has been accepted by the council and we are working with a number of council teams and community groups to maximise the use of



community assets for community benefit that are managed by community groups and linked to community led planning.

Our community development worker network members have all been trained in Planning for Real techniques and been presented with certificates of achievement...they held their first event linked to our BIG LOCAL programme in North Cleethorpes which was the largest map P4r had ever been involved with and the community group managed to attract 1,200 people to attend a community event on Sidney Sussex Recreation Ground (potential asset transfer) who all commented on the map and fully engaged with the P4r process as well as participating in the wide range of events being offered on the day.

The INandAROUND community websites continue to evolve and establish themselves within the communities of North East Lincolnshire.

In summary, each element of our programme has been integrated into current partnership priorities and new investment programmes to ensure continuity.

For information about TLI, see the current main VANEL website www.vanel.org.uk/tli where reports will be placed in due course or contact the various staff members mentioned in the report sub-sections.



Supporting Volunteers Award

Outcome 2 of TLI was approached via the Supporting Volunteer Award and Volunteer Profiles.

A summary of the project outcomes against Outcome 1:

Following discussions with staff members, volunteers, Trustees representing frontline groups involved with the development and delivery of this outcome we are more than satisfied from a project management perspective that we have achieved this outcome in full, i.e. we redesigned our volunteering brokerage services to improve the quality of volunteering opportunities provided by frontline organisations for volunteers resulting in more people being involved by reaching out to greater numbers in our community. The higher level impact of this work in terms of numbers of volunteers has resulted in an overall increase of 93 volunteers using the volunteer centre brokerage service from 2011/12 to 2012/13 and a forecast additional 75 volunteers from 2012/13 to 2103/14. In terms of the quality of service provided this is reflected in the Volunteer Centre quality award achievements listed in Indicator 2 below and the numbers of frontline groups hosting volunteers achieving our Supporting Volunteers Quality Award also listed in Indicator 2 below.

Indicator 1: We created volunteer profiles in consultation with volunteers and volunteer host organisations for all volunteers registering with the North East Lincolnshire Volunteer Centre. By 30th November 2012 all registered volunteers had agreed to share these for the benefit of volunteer host organisations. We worked with volunteer host organisations to share and promote the benefits of volunteers moving between volunteer host organisations both for the benefit of the volunteers' skills, knowledge and experience and for the wider benefit of volunteer host organisations to enable them to access volunteers with different skills and experience. We have achieved a total of 200 different volunteering examples where individual volunteers have offered and promoted their personal and professional volunteer profile to volunteer host organisations as opposed to simply responding to a volunteering opportunity that we advertise. We are very pleased with the progress and success of this activity. We achieved our target number of 400 volunteers registered and willing to offer their skills, knowledge and experience to volunteer host groups. We are now planning to promote these volunteer profiles on the knowledge base of community assets we have created for North East Lincolnshire on a ward by ward basis to link to our work on promoting people assets. For the frontline groups taking part it has enabled them to think differently about the volunteering opportunities they offer and promote. For the volunteers who have registered on the

profiles list it gives them different options to choose from when offering to volunteer.

Indicator 2: We developed our Supporting Volunteers Award (SVA) levels 1 and 2 and introduced and promoted them to frontline volunteer host organisations registered with the North East Lincolnshire Volunteer Centre. Our Volunteer Centre was re-recognised by Volunteering England (VE) in December 2012 and achieved the VE VCQA standard. We promoted the SVA via our Volunteer Centre, on our websites, in newsletters and press releases which we prepared for our presentation events to the groups which achieved their level 1 and 2 awards. The reports with photographs were sent to the local newspapers, namely Grimsby Telegraph and the Cleethorpes Chronicle. The SVA has also been marketed on display boards at various community events that frontline groups attend and workshops that VANEL staff members organise and/or participate in with other frontline groups and partners. Some groups quickly welcomed the idea of the award and worked hard to achieve it addressing such issues as out of date policies, 'lost' paperwork that they required and a realisation of the need to be more vigilant with their volunteer induction process. The SVA process was slow to start due to the need to ensure ALL staff members at VANEL were aware of the SVA and not just the project staff. We rolled the SVA out on the basis of specific organisations being targeted knowing they had immediate issues to address. We also completed the award ourselves to check our own processes although we have already achieved the national Investors in Volunteers award. All staff members involved achieved a better understanding of the type of support they would need to provide to the different sectors, quality of paperwork and support provided to volunteers and to the different size and type of organisations we are supporting. We had 135 Level 1 achievers and 47 at Level 2 on 31st August 2013. Although it was a slow start the time taken was needed to finalise and develop the award and train members of staff to understand what it is about and how to deliver and support groups undertaking it along with developing the final accreditation assessment process being undertaken by two different staff to ensure standards are kept constant. Once some organisations had achieved the award and could see the benefits of the process they went through they will helped to promote it to other groups in and around our locality and so the number of groups undertaking the award accelerated. We wanted to ensure that as many volunteers as possible were supported effectively across as many volunteer host organisations as possible so we focused on further development and improvements to level 1 which required more frontline group support. We will continue to offer the award for as long as we can secure funding to employ the staff members involved.



As reported at mid-term our Technical IT Developer invested some extra time to design, develop and build a specific website for the SVA which contains valuable resources for frontline volunteer host organisations which is an additional output we have achieved not anticipated and not in the original bid but a valuable investment as it can be shared for the benefit of other groups outside North East Lincolnshire. We have used this platform to develop the SVA for other areas such as our neighbours in North Lincolnshire who are not part of the TLI programme. We launched the SVA with VANL in July 2013 and frontline groups in North Lincolnshire are now starting to work towards achieving the award. An early prototype website shared information about SVA, and this was been replaced in July 2012 with a more complete and future-proof website. A general information website: www.supportingvolunteers.org.uk shares information about the overall SVA initiative and is used to share information and resources with other potential SVA host organisations when we are in a position to roll out to other areas, i.e. we have secured the funding or generated income to cover staff time costs. The site: <http://vanel.supportingvolunteers.org.uk> is the online presence for the SVA within North East Lincolnshire managed via the North East Lincolnshire Volunteer Centre at VANL. The website shares information about SVA with volunteer hosting organisations, volunteers and partners and others interested in the scheme. The website includes a news blog; information about each organisation signed up to SVA and also allows each SVA organisation to register as users of the site and to add their own promotional information and news from their own organisations. Briefing/training sessions are offered to SVA organisations to show them how to use the website and promote themselves, and some of the more IT literate organisations have begun to do so. Organisations gaining SVA accreditation are marked as such (using the SVA logo) and highlighted on the VANL managed InandAround community websites. Each SVA organisation can be easily identified from the websites so that other organisations and volunteering individuals can see which organisations have gained SVA. Links to the online information about the SVA scheme are in place from other related VANL websites (and are included in the new VANL website launched at the end of 2012). SVA gets coverage in the VANL monthly e-newsletter which is widely distributed. Coverage includes both promotion of the scheme and articles related to organisations gaining the award or working with volunteers under the good principles of SVA. Articles are repeated on the VANL website news blog. All VANL staff members involved with client management and development work are aware of and trained in the SVA scheme. All staff members promote SVA as a good practice approach for all groups/organisations they work with and support groups as they go through assessment. SVA underpins the work VANL does with local frontline organisations and partners to

support how they treat and use volunteering. The SVA logo is protected by being registered as a UK Trademark.

Indicator 3: We produced and introduced a corporate version of the SVA with our statutory and business partners in year one and by 31st August 2013 the 10 statutory volunteer host organisations, namely: North East Lincolnshire Council: Adult & Community Learning; Health Trainers; Sports Development; Youth Offending Service; Integrated Youth Support Service; Children's Centres; Humberside Police; Humberside Fire & Rescue Service; Humberside Probation Trust; and North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus achieved the SVA. 10 business volunteer host organisations, namely Shoreline Housing; Grimsby Institute; Care Plus Group; Franklin College; Lake Marketing; Ormiston South Parade Academy; Tukes Cafe; Tukes Gardening Service; Yes Chef and The Cycle Hub also achieved the SVA as forecast.

In addition we undertook some work with VANL to look at the use of our corporate SVA. VANL assessed TATA steel in Scunthorpe against a set of criteria based on our SVA to look at TATA's corporate volunteering. TATA passed this assessment even though at the time it was not a formal SVA accreditation, as it was out of our area, it was an very useful pilot for large scale corporate SVA. We are now exploring SVA rollout with VANL so may pick this large corporate development work up again subject to being able to secure additional funding cover staff development time costs.

Further development of our corporate SVA was explored during late 2012 with a company in North Lincolnshire interested in an application based approach to volunteer logging, which overlapped with both our volunteer profiles approach as well as our SVA development work. We also explored potential options to fund this from innovation funding sources. Due to the emerging complex contractual approaches from the company's perspective around risk management, insurance and lack of financial resources we did not progress this any further, but it was useful to review other SVA related options use them to inform our local approach.



INandAROUND Community Websites

Outcome 3 of the TLI programme related directly to asset work and the INandAROUND community websites.

Outcome 3: Conversations with council officers and elected members revealed that the map we produced was of some value but it was too big and inflexible to be of great value although it had provided a good starting point and lessons had been learned in putting it together. The knowledge base namely, InandAround was received much better as it was interactive, capable of interrogation and easier to look at community assets on a ward by ward basis to identify where they could be potentially be shared to reduce service delivery costs and to help with duplication and overlap of similar services funded from the same sources, which the council was keen to address. Whilst community members really valued the resource we experienced some difficulty in encouraging local people to take over the editing and updating of their respective area. Once we recruited the young apprentices we started to overcome this using their time and also identifying young volunteers to assist. So in conclusion this outcome was mostly achieved as we enabled more efficient use of community assets by creating a resource through which to share frontline services in fewer buildings and provided different types of cases studies that enabled these organisations to reduce their operating costs therefore delivering more frontline services in the community by the community for its benefit. However, we need to continue encouraging and supporting more frontline groups and partner organisations to do this.

Indicator 1: By 30th June 2012 we had mapped community resources across North East Lincolnshire by the 15 Wards and worked with frontline organisations to set out how and where their services were currently being offered. We produced a CD-rom to show where these assets were located geographically and by type of partnership theme they were mostly used for, i.e. healthier communities; safer and stronger communities; children & young people's activities; regeneration work. In producing this initial map we learned a lot of lessons about presentation format and the fact that very few frontline organisations promoted their services using websites and were not aware of the opportunities they were potentially missing by not doing so. We also identified a need for groups to take ownership of their own promotional activities. Whilst we quickly achieved the indicator we recognised that a lot more work would be required as the majority of frontline groups were not used to marketing and promoting their assets and services to make them attractive to prospective investors nor were many of them prepared to share at that stage due to concerns about different ways of working. This also emphasised the need for case study work which we completed under indicator 3 to show the benefits and how to overcome the challenges of co-location. However, the initial mapping work resulted in VANEL being invited to assist frontline groups with their requests for potential community asset transfers and negotiating 25 year+ lease arrangements. Therefore, we have been working with the council's asset management team to enable community groups to identify and potentially secure community buildings and other assets. This has led to a more comprehensive understanding of the community assets currently owned by the council which could contribute to the reducing operating costs by working in partnership to sustain the services provided to the community via these assets.

Indicator 2: We achieved this indicator ahead of schedule by allocating more of our technical IT developer's time (within the

10% tolerance allowed from the unspent staff time on the Rural Advisor and Community Asset Coordinator posts that started one month later than scheduled). As we were able to start this development work ahead of schedule and base it on the immediate experience of preparing the CD-rom we completed the initial framework for the knowledge base by 30th September 2012. The challenge identified at mid-term was to keep the information current, by working with frontline groups and community based volunteers to take responsibility for promoting their assets and services; we also worked with statutory partners to encourage them to use it in their work, for example neighbourhood policing teams, fire service community workers, probation trust officers, local authority staff, health workers, to bridge the knowledge gaps between community involvement workers and provide information for external funding bids and create potential commissioning opportunities for our groups. This has been slow whilst all partner expressed interest and value the resource few have committed to keeping it updated. Therefore we have addressed this by deploying our team of young apprentice workers to find young volunteers in the different areas to support them to keep the community websites updated

Since the INandAROUND community directory knowledgebase was launched last year it has grown considerably in content and scope and we have continued to develop it in terms of connections into the community via community involvement workers. The project work is complete, the community websites now have their own identity and are slowly developing in a sustainable way as a long term resource for the community of North East Lincolnshire.

The knowledgebase comprises a portfolio of websites – essentially one for each ward in North East Lincolnshire – which contain an extensive directory of all community assets, frontline voluntary and community sector organisations and other community resources across the area. Community assets in the knowledgebase include capturing everything from the early mapping (Indicator 1) and adding more. Land assets are now included (not just community buildings) and work is progressing well now on mapping people assets (an Asset Based Community Development approach) such as local community involvement workers, PCSOs, Parish Councillors. Elected Members, MPs, other individuals. There are 15 wards in the borough and at least a community website for each ward. In addition there is a website for the whole of North East Lincolnshire aggregating data and information from all the other sites. During 2013, in response to feedback on the sites, a Grimsby website and a Cleethorpes website have been added which aggregate knowledge from eight and three ward sites respectively. This simple but significant change is indicative of the way the INandAROUND knowledgebase can now continue to evolve beyond the end of the project. We have also created sub-ward sites as requested by community groups.

All the sites are connected so that information can be exchanged between sites and so all maintenance and support can be coordinated by VANEL. But the sites can also be administered and developed or evolved independently of each other, so that each ward (or other sub geographical area) can determine the best direction and design for their area's website. Although VANEL has developed the project and the websites, they are not branded as VANEL sites, but are aimed for the benefit of each community and to be directed and owned by communities themselves to assist with future sustainability.



In 2012 VANEL also added a separate development blog website so that community involvement workers and other people involved in populating, designing, supporting or managing the websites could keep up to date with development work and communicate and collaborate together on this development. This is also used as part of the webclub support.

The sites are now much more than a simple directory and map-base of community assets. They are also local community websites encompassing hyperlocal news and events, a forum for information sharing on local issues, as well as local discussions and collaborations. For example, coastal areas in Cleethorpes now have Big Local Trust funding and six wards across North East Lincolnshire receive Community First funding. In all these cases the local panels and groups administering these funds are using INandAROUND as their websites for these projects – the place where they can share information directly with the communities.

Indicator 3: We completed all 6 case studies on 30th June 2013. Each one sets out a different type of co-location arrangement and different types of joint service delivery options. These are being used to support our community asset development work and are included on the knowledge base for other groups and partners to share lessons learned and examples of practice. They are used for groups who are bidding for external funding and exploring being commissioned to deliver public services. The first is West Marsh Community Centre (http://westmarsh.inandaround.org.uk/nel_places/west-marsh-community-centre/) and a co-location pilot with part of the Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire team to share overhead costs and generate additional income from training and development activities; the second is Waltham Windmill (<http://waltham.inandaround.org.uk/waltham/>) which involves the windmill preservation trust, a museum, a model railway, a restaurant, a café and a sweet shop and involves public, private and voluntary and community groups and organisations to explore potential for more joint working and promotion of activities on the site and to attract external funding; the third is a multi-agency and multi-sector partnership co-location and joint service delivery pilot at The Elms in Grimsby (<http://park.inandaround.org.uk/>) involving the Safer & Stronger Communities partners and Public Health to position the partners for working with the incoming police and crime commissioner and emerging Health & Wellbeing Board as well as improve and increase daily collaboration between all partners on site. The police and crime commissioner was convinced by the model and very supportive of it and is encouraging others to work in this way. Health partners have also been co-locating their 'spin-off' enterprises in a similar way. The fourth case study looks at co-location in Immingham Town Centre including a boxing club; community forum; town council and secondary academy looking to make the asset sustainable by joint working (<http://immingham.inandaround.org.uk>); The fifth case study is in the rural hamlet of East Ravendale, on the Wolds with a community youth group for disadvantaged young people Get Hooked on Positive Activities and a farmer (<http://wolds.inandaround.org.uk>); the sixth involves a village hall in Ashby-cum Fenby the parish council and the church (<http://waltham.inandaround.org.uk/waltham/>). We have also worked with Humberston and New Waltham Children's Centre which offers a range of community services and hosts volunteers (<http://humberston.inandaround.org.uk>).



Transform Programme

The Transform leadership programme was a part of Outcome 2.

Indicator 2: We have developed and delivered common leadership development programme called Transform in partnership with North East Lincolnshire strategic partners. It was launched by Lord Haskins as Chair of the Humber Local Enterprise Partnership in March 2012. We have now delivered 7 programme days on: Doing Business; Learning; Image & Media; Community; Police & Crime; Healthier Communities; and Arts and Culture with 3 more planned namely: Housing; Jobs & the Economy and the Environment. We have 30 participants on the current programme with 10 from frontline organisations; 10 from statutory organisations and 10 from businesses these numbers also include people from the local community and young people. The Transform programme is developing a network of future leaders in the North East Lincolnshire area through a programme of joint activity and learning. Participants from different sectors come together every 2 months to participate in a series of themed days to hear from current leaders, undertake visits, hear about the shared priorities for the area and debate topical issues. The group takes on a challenge to support progress on one of our local shared priorities identified on the theme days. This included coming up with an action plan or to examining a new initiative or offering a new and innovative way of looking at an existing problem. The actual costs of the programme are 'absorbed' by the partner organisations and the participants themselves in terms of venues, transport and food. This is crucial to the long term sustainability of the programme. The outcomes expected are a better connected group of up and coming leaders across all the sectors, personal learning for the participants outside of their normal professional arenas, improved understanding of the pressures and drivers of different sectors and peer level individuals and a more coherent approach to tackling the shared priorities for action across North East Lincolnshire. Frontline organisations are fully involved in the development and delivery of this programme. Transform has been supported with feedback from each participant on each programme day via online surveys generated and supported by the VANEL team. VANEL staff also contributed to all programme days to ensure all emerging community leaders are aware of the potential community development and engagement that our community directories offer as well as other products and services that this project has developed. The local authority provides administration support and hosts all the programme information and feedback on their website. Specific benefits of Transform include help with the development of a joined-up thinking process when it comes to future strategy as it feeds into the local area forum. The apprentice development workers are now being invited to

the Transform working days to give the main group a real insight into the aspirations of local young people particularly around the development of new opportunities which will provide positive activities for them. The learning from the Transform programme has also influenced the progress of the Releasing Community Capacity Board as the clarity for its members around community initiatives contributing to the outcomes they are seeking has deepened their understanding of the potential for community involvement. The VANEL Chief Officer is the co-founder of the programme and a proactive member of the Steering Group. This indicator was met on 18th December 2012 on completion of 4th programme day. Work continued into year two to ensure sustainability at no further cost to the project as stated in the mid-term report. The programme will continue to operate next year as participants have agreed to sustain it. All Transform partners are also involved with community networking to ensure the integration of services and maintain the strong connections as per the outcome.



Other TLI initiatives

VANEL secured funding from Awards for All for the Mind Works project of nearly £9000 for the year. During this period, the Development Worker achieved more than the target of 25 individuals in placements and or meaningful activities. In total, Mind Works engaged with over 30 clients placing them in volunteer placements or signposting them to appropriate training providers. The project was able to test the water as to whether community based courses were needed. One successful “Feel the Fear” course was delivered with 8 participants at a church in the Heneage Ward. A second course was delivered at a local school on communication skills and assertiveness that was specifically requested. In line with this, some clients have found Mindfulness courses very helpful and have gone onto train as Reiki practitioners on a voluntary basis.

The investment in time and effort with individuals has seen real benefits for many who have taken part in such courses, as they now feel that they have a map and a pathway to follow. Following up the progress of these individuals, the Development Worker has found that parents engaged at the local school have started going to the gym on a regular basis, feel able to volunteer and deliver community activities within the school for local children, supported by Community Organisers and Learning Mentors.

In addition to the development of the clients, the steering group has developed further. It now has a volunteer attending that has been through the Mind Works process. The steering group and VANEL have worked hard to use the lessons learned about the needs expressed by local people with low level mental health needs. Evidence was gathered and an outline bid put together at the beginning of the year. The final bid was submitted in June. The outcome of this work has been the successful bid from the Big Lottery to take the project forward over the next 3 years.

Heneage Forum

Heneage Forum has seen more development over the past year. Alongside the Executive Committee, a Development Work sub-group was set up at the beginning of the year to tackle the physical regeneration of the Heneage ward. The sub-group seemed to gather momentum and made a point to feed back to the wider forum about its work and aims. As expressed for many years, the Development Work Sub-group hoped to secure a building which would act as either a community hub or a community centre. East Marsh Community Trust in the shape of Mark Abernethie offered their expertise and support. It was agreed that members of the forum and / or Ward Councillors would be elected on to EMCC to represent Heneage Ward at their AGM.

It was felt by VANEL that as the appropriate structures were in place and the development Worker had either been working on a voluntary or paid basis with the forum for a total of 5 years, that it was time to refresh the role of the Development Worker. Heneage Forum continues to operate and meet. The Development Worker continues to signpost relevant agencies to the forum as and when necessary.

Development Workers Network

The Development Workers Network is coordinated by both Alison Hobbs and the Development Work Coordinator. The Network has been pruned down to a smaller group of committed individuals and seems to be gathering momentum. The group is currently meeting once a month with a high proportion of people invited attending rather than quarterly with a poor attendance. The terms of reference have recently been refreshed and the community development standards have been thoroughly discussed so that every member understands how that they are relevant on a day to day basis. The group is also gradually developing a mentoring scheme that will provide the glue and enhance the network in the long term. Members are taking time to get to know each other, understand their skills, approaches and make best use of their assets in future projects. The Network are keen to ensure that meaningful consultation takes place so that community members are involved from the beginning of decision making processes that will impact upon their quality of life.

Contact

Alison Hobbs, Development Worker

alison@vanel.org.uk



The LINK

The North East Lincolnshire LINK was an independent service set up to involve local people, groups and organisations to enable them to have the opportunity to have their say about how health and social care services are planned, run and improved. From March 2013 LINK ceased to exist and was replaced by Healthwatch North East Lincolnshire.

During the past year we have gained our Supporting Volunteers Award levels 1 and 2, released our Older People's DVD, continued out Enter and View work, released a report on Dementia services and worked as Healthwatch Pathfinder. Information about this work can be found in the bi-annual reports that were created as part of our final year.

The many successes of the LINK can be found in their Annual Reports.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff who have been part of the LINK since its establishment.

Notes

Since the LINK project has now closed, the original website (www.nellink.org.uk) is no longer active.

Further information about the LINK is [on the VANEL website here](#). This page includes all previous LINK Annual Reports.

The replacement project – North East Lincolnshire HealthWatch – is not managed by VANEL and has it's own website at:
<http://www.healthwatchnortheastlincolnshire.co.uk>

If you do want to discuss the LINK project, please contact Vicky Campbell via vicky@vanel.org.uk



Winter Planning Campaign

The Winter Planning Campaign came into existence following the extreme winter of 2010. A partnership of private, statutory and voluntary services the aim of the campaign is to promote preparation for extreme weather conditions and to stay indoors. This message is being promoted to elderly and vulnerable residents of North East Lincolnshire, along with the contact number for Adult Social Care, as a number that they can contact should help be needed.

March 2013 marked the end of the second winter of the campaign. Funding had been secured from the Department of Health with the Warm Homes Healthy People fund. Volunteers numbers remained steady at the figure that had been in place for the first year. Ward Councillors very generously supported the campaign with funding from their money.

The biggest challenge that the campaign has faced has come from the changing definition of regulated activity. During the first year shopping as an activity only became regulated if it took place at least twice during a two week period. Changes introduced by the Government and the introduction of the Disclosure and Barring Service meant that shopping became regulated and only needed to happen once for a check to be needed. The challenge became to raise funds to cover the cost of the DBS checks.

The next challenge is to ensure that volunteers are happy to undergo a DBS check and that they are checked ready for any extreme weather. Another challenge is to ensure that the partnership remains strong and that new members are invited to help strengthen the partnership.

As with many others the challenge for the future includes the need to find funding to support the campaign and help it to run in the coming years.

Further information

The main contact is Vicky Campbell at VANEL

Vicky@vanel.org.uk
01472 235311

There is a dedicated website at: www.winterplanning.org.uk



Restorative Practices

Children and Young People's Services Forum

In May 2011, Steve Ryder stepped down as the Forum Chair – and Malcolm Smith (YMCA) was appointed as the new Chair. Richard Wendel-Jones continued as Vice Chair.

The past year has seen a great deal of changes for the forum members, many groups have either folded or had staffing levels greatly reduced. As a consequence of this member's attending the monthly meetings has greatly declined. The forum continues to provide its members with:

- Monthly meetings with Invitations, minutes and all information sent out via email to all forum members, as well as keeping organisations abreast of current developments regarding children, young people's services. All information also provided on the forum website <http://vanel.org.uk/cyps> *
- Feedback to and from the NEL Children's Trust board continued during the year. Consultation with our members informed our contributions to the board, however with national changes no longer requiring that there be a Children's Trusts, the North East Lincolnshire Children's Trust board ceased to exist in early 2012.
- A database which is a working directory of local voluntary and community organisations with an interest in children and young people is constantly being updated.

Recent monthly meetings have concentrated on the future of forum and how the members view its development and what they want from the forum in the year 2012/13.

The forum was approached to nominate two lay persons to sit on the LSCB. As no one put themselves forward, Sheila Baldock and Kerry Gilman both VANEL staff put their names forward. However the LSCB process moved very slowly and by the time interviews were being carried out neither Sheila nor Kerry were in a position to carry on with their applications. Two lay people were recently recruited (summer 2012).

Children's Workforce Development (CWD) Programme

This programme continued to support and improve the development of people working with children and young people in the voluntary and community sector by:

- Raising the level of professional standards within the children's workforce at a local level

- Providing information and updates to organisations to ensure they are accessing the opportunities and training on offer.
- Providing events and briefings to raise awareness in the voluntary and community sector of the Children's Workforce Strategy and how to build capacity within the sector in readiness for the commissioning agenda
- The e-learning package on safeguarding introduced last year continued to be rolled out to more people.

Whilst the initial funded programme finished in March 2010, VANEL via North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) Children's Workforce Development Manager accessed a further years funding from CWD Council to continue this work from January to December 2011.

Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB)

At the request of the LSCB, a VANEL representative attended the LSCB meetings to provide information and advice regarding voluntary and community sector organisations relating to their staff/volunteer numbers, policies, training, qualifications, CRB checks and other related matters. Safeguarding is a standing agenda item for the forum with the LSCB manager attending to update the forum.

The Children & Young Peoples Services Forum is one of the four thematic groups supported by VANEL.

For any issues regarding children, young people and family services contact us as below or visit the website: www.vanel.org.uk/cyps *

* The /cyps website will be archived before the end of 2012 and incorporated into the main VANEL website at www.vanel.org.uk

Contact

Richard Wendel-Jones
richard@vanel.org.uk

or

Sheila Baldock
sheila@vanel.org.uk



Neighbourhood Watch Support

Introduction

Neighbourhood Watch is perhaps the most effective Community Safety and Crime Reduction initiative ever. Locally Funded through the Safer and Stronger general fund, but with ties of effective localised partnership working between group chairs and dedicated PCSOs.

The structure of North East Lincolnshire Neighbourhood Watch Area Network is an un-constituted cooperative of experienced NHW Coordinators who support the NHW initiative and mentor new groups as they appear.

Successes

Standing at 63 groups in 2011, through 2012 2013 Neighbourhood Watch has continued to advance and at April 2013 the number of NHW groups was 79. During this period new groups were realised across several different wards.

The principle asset of these NHW groups is that they are developed alongside their local forums and not in isolation.

Two NHW groups stick out as prominent achievements:
1/ Peaks Lane NHW which became the first community group to include corporate partners such as St Hughes Hospital, St Andrews Hospice, YMCA, The Hainton, Harrison House and the Fire Station.
2/ St Augustine's NHW is the largest active group comprising 500 dwellings (covering Legsby Ave and Farebrother St between Weelsby Rd, Welholme Ave and St Augustine's.

Another success has been using restorative approaches at the NHW Quarterly Coordinators meetings. Rebalancing power by putting everyone in a circle rather than a top down audience has re-inspired confidence.

Challenges

The main challenge with NHW groups is cultivating residents and community activists capable of standing up in their communities. No matter what work we do in an area, without someone to stand up and be a contact person for a group, someone who is prepared to lead it is very difficult to create a foothold on which to establish a group.

The second challenge is inactive groups from HANWaG days. At rough calculation there are 60 known groups which are inactive. Due to loss of interest, coordinators passing away or relocating without encouraging succession planning.

Next steps

In 2012-2013 the NELNHWAN decided to decommission inactive groups and this work has started.

In 2013/2014 we are building a succession planning tool for group coordinators to use so they can plan and open up NHW even further.

Contact

Marcus Czarnecki is the Restorative Practices Champion.

Contact Marcus via Marcus.Czarnecki@nelincs.gov.uk or marcus@vanel.org.uk



Organised Dialogues

Introduction

Trust is vital to social and civic life. Indeed the lack or decline of trust and how it can be enhanced in fostering community relations and networks has been prominent in political debates in the past decade. But trying to specify precisely what trust means is a complicated matter. Deeply akin to fairness and justice – the transformative organised dialogues have examined this topic from all angles and through all lenses for four years.

In 2012/2013 these unique Organised Dialogues on Justice were kindly hosted by the Grimsby Institute Group and had an accrued attendance of 280 people over 11 dialogues on topics that covered Mental Unwellness, Women in Justice, the effect of Child Abuse on community trust, Police and Crime Commissioners etc.

Successes

The influence of the dialogues has been far reaching and evidence of how many board and community groups engage in patient dialogue rather than a free for all (or the strongest voice wins) has been evident for some time.

Challenges

The main challenge of the dialogues has been their size. A great community dialogue can take up to about 35 to 40 people – thereafter its effectiveness becomes counter-productive.

Next steps

In 2013/2014 the focus of the dialogues will shift to community and identity and will be bi-monthly rather than monthly.

Further information

Marcus Czarnecki is the Restorative Practices Champion.

Contact Marcus via Marcus.Czarnecki@nelincs.gov.uk or marcus@vanel.org.uk



Healthier Communities Working Group

The Healthier Communities Working group meets monthly and is made up from members of non-statutory organisations mainly from the Voluntary and Community sector within North East Lincolnshire. They meet to discuss local issues and raise any concerns identified relating to health and older people. The meetings offer an opportunity for networking and signposting and are open for anyone to join. Work streams are identified and prioritised by the group for work to be actioned and monitored.

Successes and Achievements

The Chair of the group is now an established member of the Health and Well-being board which means that group members have a direct influence over the policy and strategy decisions made by the board. We have increased our membership over the year and the new Health Watch organisation feeds in regularly to our meetings.

Challenges and Issues

The main challenge to the work of the group is to gain clarity about the direction of primary health delivery and how the members and other groups fit in to the CCG's planning process. It is clear to members that there is a need for a cooperative approach to service delivery as there are many overlaps between the activities of members and other groups. This will mean heading towards a more joined up approach as we progress.

Further information

John Mooney is the VANEL representative on the Working Group. Contact him via john@vanel.org.uk.



Safer and Stronger Communities Work Programme

Key Successes

The priorities for action on this work programme were agreed with members as being: working with victims of ASB and hate crime; understanding the criminal justice system via the monthly organised dialogue programme and visits; monthly briefing sessions on members and partners work; understanding and influencing the issues being addressed in partnership plan and police and crime plan; improving volunteers contributions to Neighbourhood Watch and work of police volunteers.

One of the many achievements during this year was securing continuation funding to enable us to further develop the work of our Restorative Practice Champion hosted by VANEL for the benefit of the whole area. This role provide tailor-made training and mentoring support for all safer and stronger communities' partner organisations so we can work towards our goal of a restorative area.

Our links with the Humberside Probation Trust were maintained by offering volunteering opportunities to offenders on probation and jointly delivering Chance 2 Change and Women's Group training with Probation Officers. This has helped our groups with their work on the community pay-back scheme and enhanced the overall sector's role in helping to reduce re-offending.

Our monthly work programme included member group and partner organisation guest speakers, and facilitating briefing sessions for example on PREVENT and the police and crime commissioner. Finally, thanks to Alan Burley for chairing this group for the 2012/13 year.

Key Challenges

The work to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and hate crime via our ASB Champion and apprentice role needed to continue as an integral part of the ASB team and this was achieved despite funding reductions which we accommodated by reducing the hours of the ASB Champion.

The Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment priorities for action agreed by the Safer and Stronger Communities Board this year included a clear focus on the ongoing challenge of working together to integrate voluntary and community group contributions to safer communities' priorities thereby identifying the stronger communities element as a direct result of our working group's influence.

We continued to work with the group members although there is no project funding to pay for staff time, room hire and other associated costs so we managed to 'absorb' them. However, the challenge remains each year to identify funding to continue with the group's work programme.

VANEL took the lead on a Humberside area wide partnership to help us all position ourselves and prepare for working with the new Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). However, this proved a big logistical challenge as the need was for sub regional working beyond our local area.

Yet another extremely busy year for this working group which has again influenced and contributed to both the safer and

stronger communities' partnership work plan and its various tactical operational agendas, reducing re-offending, youth offending service, PREVENT and the new OPCC.

Further information

Contact Paula Grant, Chief Officer at VANEL for information via paula@vanel.org.uk

A case study about the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership was prepared during early 2013. Visit our website for the Humberside Safer Future Communities Network to [read the case study here](#).



Offender Volunteering Project

Key Successes

By working together over the last 3 years VANEL and Humberside Probation Trust (HPT) identified new opportunities to continue their joined up working and further expand it for the benefit of more voluntary and community groups across North East Lincolnshire. By sharing lessons learned from working together and to maximise the benefits for both organisations the VANEL Chief Officer and HPT Director for North and North East Lincolnshire agreed to develop a new delivery model for 2013/14. This included the delivery of a re-worked Chance 2 Change programme in Grimsby and the introduction of restorative practice in all sessions as appropriate. It also included delivering training to groups of women on probation and regular attendance at the women's group based at Women's Aid, encouraging and supporting them to identify volunteering opportunities as a way of building confidence levels and re-building their lives along a non-criminal pathway including new experiences.

VANEL is proactive member of the North East Lincolnshire Reducing Re-offending Board and therefore committed to its overarching vision of working better together and contributed to a celebration event in Grimsby Minister. Voluntary and Community Groups including EMPOWER and West Marsh Community Centre are also actively involved in reducing re-offending work with our local community and helping offenders find pathways back into positive community and working life. We have worked in partnership with both these organisations to support their work on this agenda and embed it with HPT.

Key Challenges

The offender development work runs alongside the services being offered via EMPOWER and the two organisations make direct referrals to voluntary and community groups. Referrals to us are also made by the Grimsby Job Centre. A probation risk assessment must be undertaken by the Probation Officer, prior to any volunteer opportunities being taken up. Relevant support needs to be agreed with both the offender and volunteer mentor. All low risk probationers were interviewed by the Volunteer Centre to identify suitable volunteering opportunities. Some medium risk probationers were interviewed with their Probation Officer and placed if appropriate. Mentor support was provided by the volunteer host. Offender progress was measured by achievement of a range of outcomes according to individually identified and agreed needs as part of the risk assessment process. For example, less chaotic lifestyle/basic routines established; voluntary activity completed; attendance at community meetings; regular volunteering commitment. Specific outcomes for HPT included: raising awareness of probation service with voluntary groups; raising profile of value of re-integration of ex-offenders into local community and reducing reoffending. Specific programme outcomes for VANEL included: creating appropriate volunteering opportunities; identifying suitable offenders (brokerage) to undertake voluntary activity; skills development, knowledge acquisition and practical experience; and raising the profile of the voluntary sector as a potential future employer of ex-offenders.

Further Information

Marcus Czarnecki (marcus@vanel.org.uk)



MindWorks Project

Following on from a successful Awards for All pilot, The Mind Works project is now funded for three years by the Big Lottery Reaching Communities programme and commenced in December 2012.

The Mind Works Project works specifically with people who are experiencing or who have experienced mild to moderate mental health conditions. The project is supported by volunteers and aims to support people with mental health concerns back to work using volunteering as a pathway.

Successes & Achievements

In the first four months of the project (from December 20 12 to March 2013) we received a total of 43 referrals. During this time we achieved a number of our project outcomes for the first year.

Of the 43 clients we have engaged with 20 have already established volunteer placements either supporting the core service of the Mind Works project or with other local community organisations.

Challenges & Issues

We were hoping to have had a firm commitment from a number of Work Programme providers such as I-2-I and In Training, although on-going discussions continue with In Training to provide an additional stream of income by delivering workshops to their more vulnerable clients.

Next Steps

During the next eight months we will continue building on the current success of the project to date and ensure we fulfil our outcomes for the first year of the project. Having already exceeded a number of our expectations, clearly identifying the need for such a service provision, we will also start to look at ways of securing sustainable income for the future to ensure the project continues long after the funding has expired.

Further information

Ian Disley is the manager of MindWorks. Contact him at VANEL on 01472 231123 or email ian@vanel.org.uk.



Humberside Safer Future Communities Network

Achievements & Successes

The National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA) was invited to work in partnership with Clinks (national body supporting offenders and their families) to develop strong, inclusive VCSE networks in each Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) region in order to influence the local Police and Crime Plans which were put in place in March 2013. This work was part of the national Safer Future Communities project, managed by Clinks and funded by the Home Office.

Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire (VANEL) was commissioned to lead on this work in partnership with the 4 Community Safety Partnerships in the Humber sub region and the 3 other CVS organisations in North Lincolnshire, the East Riding of Yorkshire and Hull.

We agreed and delivered 3 priority areas of activity: 1) VCS group involvement with the emerging PCC agenda; 2) identifying and delivering VCS training needs to improve understanding and increase involvement with the PCC agenda; 3) organising and participating in a local launch event in Barton.

We worked with frontline VCS groups and their respective members who were involved with and/or interested in keeping up to date with the safer and stronger communities agenda as part of their routine activities. We kept VCS groups briefed about the emerging role of Police and Crime Commissioners and enabled them to contribute to the development work alongside the Humberside Police Authority which became the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner and the 4 community safety partnerships. In North East Lincolnshire VANEL we also linked the network to the Safer and Stronger Communities Working Group.

Challenges and issues

Identifying and delivering training and development needs of VCS groups and partners in order to enable them to take a proactive role in the development of local PCC related structures was difficult to attract participants on to due to the geographical spread of the groups across the Humber area.

We addressed this challenge by organising our Humberside network launch event on 30th July 2012 in Barton, North Lincolnshire, a question time event at the Grimsby Institute and co-hosted a second question time event with Communities Together in Grimsby. We also participated in the North Lincolnshire Neighbourhood Watch annual event in Scunthorpe, which included a panel question time session with the prospective PCC candidates and we organised visits for the prospective candidates with VCS groups in all 4 localities via our VCS partners including a question time sessions.

Finally, we were invited to represent the VCSE on the Humberside Police Authority transition working group and its subsequent working group which operated as part of the emerging Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner exploring joint working options for the future. This proved quite challenging due to the very different ways in which both the VCSE groups operate on this agenda and the different types of community safety partnership structure and membership.

We overcame the challenge by developing tailor made web pages for the network so everyone could access the same information and by preparing an offer for the incoming police and crime commissioner so he could see what the VCSE sector could do to assist delivery of the Police and Crime Plan.

Further information

There is a dedicated website at www.vanel.org.uk/sfc

For follow up information on this project please contact Paula Grant via paula@vanel.org.uk.



Victims Champion Work

Successes and Achievements

Five sustainable victim forums were established with on-going volunteer support provided by former victims and trained volunteer mentors across the area. These forums success is quantitatively measured by the number of victims supported – minimum 50 (10 per forum) and number of mentors trained – minimum 10 (2 per forum). They are qualitatively measured by volunteers meeting minimum volunteer quality standard requirements by North East Lincolnshire Volunteer Centre and victims evidencing improvements in their service levels.

The six volunteers, trained through the North East Lincolnshire Volunteers Centre's Supporting Volunteers Award, are now working well in the community helping and supporting victims of Anti-Social Behaviour(ASB)/Hate Crime, and have become valuable members of the victims champions team. Following the success and contribution of these six volunteers, there are now two further volunteers in the process of being trained.

The Victims' Forums have established links to the relevant strategic partnership structures to ensure on-going support from relevant partner agencies. This is quantitatively measured by number of partnership groups' victim's issues addressed at e.g. Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). It is qualitatively measured by improvements to services provided to support victims by the Victim's Champion and the services he work with.

The service assisted a total of 252 victims of ASB/hate crime during 2012/13.

Challenges and Issues

We continue to improve upon our specialist support service for vulnerable victims of ASB and Hate Crime from across the whole of North East Lincolnshire, and in order to improve our service in a customer focused manner, feedback from our service users is continually sought and positively acted upon wherever possible. However, demand for the service remains high and a constant system of prioritisation of those in most need is always necessary informed by the data analyst and ASB partnership team leader. The issue going forward is the uncertainty around the sustainability of this role and ASB team support.

Furthermore, consideration is always being given to the medium to long term funding needs of the service being provided with the on-going reductions in statutory partners' funding resources and the level and quality of service that can be provided in meeting the increasing demands placed on this service with little funding available at present. The Victim's Champion's hours were reduced in order to enable us to support a young apprentice role to undertake the admin support work and the volunteer coordinator role. We have submitted an extension bid up to 30th September 2014 but will not know the outcome until January 2014.

We are always reviewing and evaluating the service we provide and ensuring it is focused on the needs of the ASB/hate crime victims. With this in mind we have been working increasingly closely with other VANEL service areas such as the Restorative Practice Champion, Family Group Conference Coordinator and Mind Works Development Worker to ensure we are maximising all the service areas available to support victims' needs. We have worked with voluntary & community groups including Communities Together, Neighbourhood Watch, Neighbourhood Forums and the Independent Forum for Mental Health.

Further information

Martin George is the Victims Champion. Contact him via martin@vanel.org.uk.

During early 2013, a case study was made about the Victims Panel work that Martin has been undertaking. The case study, including a video, can be [found here](#) on our website for the Humberside Safer Future Communities Network.



Homework Club

In August 2012, VANEL started up a computer focused Homework Club funded for one year by Children in Need.

We had seen that many children in primary education or early in secondary were at a disadvantage if they didn't have access to computers, and particularly the internet at home/out of school. Much homework and independent study assumes use of IT and the internet, and in areas such as West Marsh we knew that many families were still not online nor had computers at home.

The project was to establish a 'club' using the IT suite at West Marsh Community Centre to which children (and parents/carers) could come to use the computers and the internet to do their homework or study. The club and support would be run throughout the 2012-13 academic year and would target the local schools and year 5,6,7 and possibly 8.

Successes and achievements

The project engaged with parents and families around the West Marsh area, but not in the ways we first envisaged. Children ultimately did not attend the club as we expected, but rather we needed to engage directly into the schools and reach out to the parents as well as the children. A wide range of technology related activities were put on, the IT suite was made available after school throughout the year, a number of informative newsletters were produced and circulated, a number of in-school drop-ins were held, surveys were conducted, and a website of resources was produced for use in the IT suite by visiting children.

Challenges and issues

Staffing changed frequently at the beginning of the project, meaning slippage on getting started. Very few children ever attended the actual open sessions, workshops or IT suite club sessions, which was not what we expected and was disappointing. It highlighted a key difficulty faced by families – that those not engaging with technology/internet continued to stay disengaged with technology and would not make the effort to go out of their way to tackle something they didn't understand.

Much better success in engagement happened when we supplied newsletters and surveys out to all year 5 & 6 children directly in the schools. We also engaged better through in-school workshops. Our problems with engaging children also highlighted a positive – that in the time between us proposing the project, getting it funded and doing the delivery, many of the offline children had got online. In fact, although there were low skill levels (with parents), and many families had old computers, every single child we engaged with had internet access out of school.

Further information

The project continued after the 2012-13 financial year, running to successful completion in August 2013.

Contact Karl Elliott for further information via karl@vanel.org.uk



Community Development Network

The whole idea of creating and maintaining community networks in the first place was to forge links between workers who had within their role the support of community groups and individuals who were adding value to the statutory and funded work in the authority area. The attempt was to embed Community Development as a way of working so that there would be a network of mutual support to allow individuals to support one another and the community members they were working with.

It has been a year of change and upheaval in Community Development. There have been changes to the way partners have viewed the necessity of having dedicated workers and the people with responsibility for assisting communities have seen their numbers reduced markedly.

This has meant that we have had to review our development process and we are now focussing on what we can do with reduced human resource in this area.

We are looking, therefore, to support existing and new groups to lend breadth and depth to local strategies and plans and continue to work to promote community development within partnership meetings such as the Releasing Community Capacity and Health and Well being boards as the long term solution to many community problems.

Over the long term we need to work hard to ensure that, once the short term issues are resolved, Asset Based Community Development is part of the working culture of all of the partners in North East Lincolnshire and that VANEL continues to help partners to understand and implement ways of working which bring that about.

Further information

Contact John Mooney via john@vanel.org.uk



IT Support Services & WebClub

Year-on-year, technology continues to be a very significant external driver influencing the Voluntary and Community Sector. Most of our local groups are in some way or another underutilising technology – be it hardware, software, websites or other online technology. And all this as we move further into a digital by default economy.

Since 2010 VANEL has run an IT Supporters Network with a WebClub initiative that started in 2011. Our IT initiatives aim to support groups and organisations by directly supporting those individuals working with IT in those organisations – either as paid staff or volunteers. As we support groups, they in turn are better able to support their beneficiaries and communities.

During 2012-13 our technology support initiatives included: WebClub – bi-weekly meetings and web development support for groups.

Contracted web development and IT support work for a number of clients.

A PC re-homing service, whereby we take donated computers, refurbish them and distribute them to other groups.

IT training courses – a small number were run during the year.

We also provide expert guidance as required to a number of groups – especially continuing to champion the national CTX programme which provides charities with discounted software.

In addition, our staff continued to maintain and develop a number of new project related websites during the year, and continued to evolve VANEL's own internal IT systems to best support our own organisational capabilities.

Successes and Achievements

The WebClub programme continued with bi-weekly meetings throughout the year. Membership increased (fee paying) and attending members continued to develop their web projects with our support. WebClub continues to run without any external funding, but has been a great success in supporting those individuals willing to tackle web development for their groups.

We ran a number of "Cooking up a website" training sessions during the year covering the basic fundamentals of web development as a pre-cursor to joining WebClub. We also ran a number of topic specific web training sessions including "Cookies and the law" and "Effective online funding applications".

We took in over a dozen PC's during the year, refurbished them and re-homed them in various local charities and non-profit groups.

We also did small amounts of IT support work with a number of member groups – developing initial websites, setting up laptops, networks, email systems and so on.

Internally, we redeveloped the VANEL website plus developed new websites for a couple of projects arising during the year. A website for the OSSCAS 2013 was built. A website was built for the Humberside Safer Future Communities Network in advance of the November 2012 PCC elections. The LINK website was redeveloped and sites were built for the Homework club and for our borough wide health survey work at the end of 2012. Websites were established for the new Supporting Volunteers Award scheme and a considerable amount of web development work went into the portfolio of websites comprising the INandAROUND community website project.

We continued to advise a number of groups on their technology issues – especially endorsing the CTX programme of near-free software for charities.

Challenges and Issues

Everything that was delivered relating to technology can be considered a success. However, with no direct funding for this work, the amount of initiatives, programmes and training we can provide is somewhat limited.

It is also a continual challenge to reach non-IT literate groups. Those who show willingness to learn and use technology end up receiving useful support from VANEL. Those less willing to engage – but who generally have a great need – are more difficult to reach. This remains our marketing challenge.

We expect to keep delivering IT support services such as WebClub and training on an ongoing basis depending upon the type of support funding we are able to access.

Further Information

For any questions about IT support, please contact Karl Elliott, Development Manager and IT Supporters Network Manager karl@vanel.org.uk

Technical IT questions (hardware etc) can be directed to Andy Mason, IT Administrator – andy@vanel.org.uk.

Further information about IT support and WebClub is on the main VANEL website www.vanel.org.uk.

The IT Network tweets at irregular intervals via [@vaneldigital](https://twitter.com/vaneldigital)



Parliamentary Outreach Session

Daniel Wood of the Houses of Parliament Outreach Service delivered a workshop supported by VANEL to voluntary and community group members at West Marsh Community Centre in April 2012.

The free workshop looked at how individuals and groups can engage with Parliament's work and processes for the benefit of their communities. The workshop covered the work of MPs and members of the House of Lords, legislation, select committees, questions and debates and how to access useful information. The session was informative, well attended, enhanced by the attendance of Austin Mitchell MP, and feedback from everyone was very positive.

This was a opportunity for VANEL to play host to a national agenda within our area for the benefit of our Members and Friends.

Further information

Further information on this can be obtained from the Parliamentary Outreach service:

parliamentaryoutreach@parliament.uk



OSSCAs 2103

In 2012 it was decided that the **Outstanding Safer and Stronger Community Awards** would be run again in 2013. (The previous awards had taken place back in 2010.)

This was a Safer and Stronger Communities partnership project and VANEL became actively involved in the planning process for the awards.

The Awards themselves were scheduled to open for nominations during early 2013 with an high profile awards evening event to take place in May 2013.

VANEL supported the project through provision of technical skills – including the building of a website to hold information about the nomination categories and to share news in the build up to the event.

During the year 2012-13 VANEL was supporting this project as part of a Steering Group and through provision of the IT and website services.

Further information

The Awards evening took place in May 2013 (after this reporting financial year), were a great success and will be reported on fully in the next year's annual report.

The website built by VANEL for the OSSCAS 2013 is still live hosted by VANEL at <http://osscas.vaneldigital.org.uk>.

Any information about VANEL's involvement with the OSSCAS, please contact Karl Elliott via karl@vanel.org.uk.

General information about the OSSCAS, please contact the Safer and Stronger Communities team via safer.communities@nelincs.gov.uk



Smoking Cessation Work

During 2012-13, our Youth Worker, Jez O'Kane undertook a project to help young people to understand the impact and effects of smoking and alcohol.

Funded via North East Lincolnshire Council as part of a campaign for healthy living, we ran a number of workshops in conjunction with Youth Clubs and young carers in Stallingborough, Laceby and around Immingham.

A number of art workshops ultimately led to an art exhibition at the Artlandish Discovery Centre in Cleethorpes. Amongst other things, models of lungs and other internal organs affected by smoking were made, along with a range of other artwork.

A play was also produced and presented working with young people from Laceby on the same theme.

Further smoking cessation related art work was also undertaken in conjunction with Shalom and Immingham school, and road safety training courses were put on working with Humberside Fire and Rescue at Oasis Academy in Immingham.

Further information

This project was completed during 2012-13.



Fundraising Plus Project

The Fundraising Plus project came to an end in June 2012. The project report which was included in the VANEL Annual Report for 2011-12 was a complete, end of project report, so has been reproduced here in full.

The information below therefore relates to the complete project to bring it up to date.

Overview

The Fundraising Plus project had contact with 174 community groups or larger organisations during the 3 years of the project, with 157 actively engaging in the project. Whilst the project can't claim to be the architect of every group's success, the following monies totalling £1,482,330.66 have been granted to groups or organisation worked with through the programme. The figures are just for grant applications clearly known about and may or may not be fully representative.

17 Grassroots Grants totalling £40,410.86
2 Wren totalling £49,403.00
7 Trusts and Foundations totalling £180,500.00
12 John Ross MBE fund (local fund) totalling £7488.00
11 Other local funds including LEADER totalling £50,587.00

Big Lottery Funds
3 Reaching Communities totalling £1,041,787.00
12 Awards for All totalling £111,185.00
2 Fair Share totalling £969.80

Statistical summary of successes and achievements

- 70% (111) of organisations worked with have achieved 3 project outcomes or more
- 11% (17) of those being successful in obtaining funds have drawn down more than 1 grant or other funds
- 6% (10) of organisations have received new income other than grants e.g. donations, sponsorship, SLA's, trading
- Volunteers or staff from 31% (48) of organisations accessed training opportunities with 19% (9) of those attending more than 1 course
- 7% (11) of organisations have committed to achieving the Supporting Volunteers Award designed by VANEL, as an initial quality standard
- 2 neighbourhood forums have transformed themselves into Community First panels

Further project achievements

The following summarises the Fundraising Plus outcomes – which have all been overachieved – and how they related to the organisations supported.

Outcome 1 – 144 health checks over lifetime of project
Used the health check to identify support needed for organisations. Health check has now been adopted for use with all existing and new VANEL members as part of a client management service.

Outcome 2 – 102 organisations received Direct Support over the lifetime of the project, either directly from the Fundraising Plus Development Worker or from specialist staff within VANEL. This support included Critical Friend for funding applications; developing or reviewing constitutions; developing or reviewing policies; developing business plans; working

towards or attainment of the Quality Standard – Supporting Volunteers Award

Outcome 3 – 133 signpostings over lifetime of project
Developed signposting leaflet which was given out to all clients on completion of the Health Check and at training sessions. Highlighted key organisations of interest according to findings of health check.

Outcome 4 – 90 organisations increased skills and knowledge by securing funding and attending training as detailed above. The range of training courses included

- First Steps to Sustainability (Fit 4 Funding)
- Effective Grant Applications
- Fundraising Basics
- Asset-Based Community Development
- Web Club

Conclusions

A fuller report and a number of simple cases studies are also available to conclude this project. The project delivered successfully over the 3 years. The project continued into 2012 and further information about 2012 activity is outside the scope of this annual report.

Contacts

Helen Howard was Fundraising Plus Manager for the duration of the project, but left VANEL during 2012.

For further information following up on the project, please contact Karl Elliott, Development Manager instead
karl@vanel.org.uk



VANEL is a Healthy Workplace

The workplace has a powerful effect on the health of employees. How healthy a person feels affects his or her productivity and how satisfied they are with their job affects their own physical and psychological health. Evidence shows that when organisations proactively improve their working environments by organising work in ways that promote health, absence and injuries decrease, mental health and wellbeing and staff engagement and moral increase.

VANEL therefore signed up to the North East Lincolnshire Healthy Workplace Programme at the beginning of 2012. The areas where employers and employees can take steps to create a workplace that is supportive of and conducive to good health for those who work there are:

- Musculoskeletal disorders
- Tobacco smoke and smoking cessation
- Alcohol and other substance misuse
- Physical activity
- Healthy eating
- Recruitment, retention and rehabilitation
- Creating a safe and healthy workplace
- Mental wellbeing and minimising stress

The Healthy Workplace Programme is part of the NE Lincolnshire Specialist Health Promotion Services portfolio of projects, they offer free advice and support to local employers; ranging from free training for staff to a comprehensive programme of work leading to recognition by the Healthy Workplace Awards Scheme.

The scheme has three levels. VANEL worked towards the bronze award during the first six months of 2012, focusing specifically on two of the listed areas, those being healthy eating and creating a safe and healthy workplace. After submitting a portfolio of evidence outlining the health and well being advice and support given to staff, the health promotions and staff training undertaken VANEL were successful in achieving the BRONZE award in July 2012.

We continued to build on the foundation of the bronze award, developing a healthy work place team of champions to embed the healthy workplace ethos in to the way the organisation works. Whilst continuing the themes started during the bronze award, we started work on a further three themes as we worked towards the SILVER award. These themes being Physical Activity, Mental Wellbeing and Musculoskeletal disorders. As the year to March 2013 drew to a close VANEL were preparing to submit their portfolio to evidence their work towards achieving the SILVER award and expected to be notified if successful in the early summer of 2013.

Further information

Keep an eye on the VANEL website news pages for updates on our progress!

Note that VANEL has now achieved our Silver Award in 2013!

If you would like to find out more about VANEL's Healthy Workplace approach please contact either Richard or Vicky.



VANEL AGM 2012

The VANEL AGM in 2012 was hosted by West Marsh Development Trust at West Marsh Community Centre.

As well as the usual business of the AGM, there was an opportunity throughout the day for Members and Friends to meet up with VANEL staff and volunteers and understand the support and services available.

The day fell during National Trustees Week 2012, so a workshop was held during the day covering the principles of Good Governance which was well attended by the groups.

The day also had a focus on assets. Workshops covered “Localism in Practice” and looked at the (then) new Right to Buy part of the localism act. VANEL also used the day to share feedback from the recent Accommodation Survey across members and to share a number of case studies on how the practical management of an asset (building) worked – using our hosts for the day, West Marsh Development Trust as a case in point.

For the first year, the VANEL Annual Report was an entirely electronic issue to save on costs.



VANEL Trustees

Thank you to our volunteer Trustees who served in that role during the period 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013:

Allen Young – Harbour Place
Lesley Brown – Independent Forum
Margaret Cracknell – Cleethorpes Memorial Hall
Marc Cole – NELC
Jeremy Baskett – NEL CTP
Tony Gaskins – CAB
Phillip Thames – Shoreline Housing Partnership
Peggy Elliott – NELC
Martin Skelton – MIND
Mandy Johnson – Lincoln and Lindsey Blind
Vic Goose – East Marsh Community Trust
Paul Cornell – YMCA
Andrew Dodd – Churches Together
Annie Darby – NEL Care Trust Plus
Hazel Chase – NELC
Himanshu Ghadiali – Communities Together
Malcolm Smith – YMCA

Details of the current board of Trustees can be found on the main VANEL website www.vanel.org.uk



VANEL Staff Changes

Over the course of the year the staffing team at VANEL altered considerably as new staff joined and some left us.

During 2012-13 our team was joined by:

Liz Dugard
Joe Mager
Mick Bailey
Lisa Gibson
Ian Disley
Gemma Goodwin
Marcus Czarnecki

And during the same period the following staff members left us:

Eddie Weeks
Helen Howard
Ceila Wrangler
Kirtie Logan
Karry Stones
Tayo Davenport
Kerry Gilman
Peter Holroyd

Details of the current VANEL staffing team can be found on the current website www.vanel.org.uk

VOLUNTARY ACTION NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE

Web: www.vanel.org.uk | Phone: 01472 231123 | Fax: 01472 231122 | Email: office@vanel.org.uk
14 Town Hall Street, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire, DN31 1HN
Opening Hours: Monday- Thursday 9am-5pm and Friday 9am-4.30pm