

VANEL

Annual Report 2009 - 2010



VOLUNTARY ACTION NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE



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Advancing Local Voluntary Action

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

Thanks to the positive feedback we received from members and partners about the content and format of last year's annual report our Trustees have invited us to prepare this year's report in a similar way. So all staff have again prepared their respective contributions to demonstrate how they helped to deliver our services and how they participated in various ways in representing our sector.

During the 2009/10 financial year we have responded to feedback in our annual survey of members namely working with groups and organisations that were not engaging with us and demonstrating the value of our wide range of services. This culminated in the Trustees' decision not to charge a fee to our affiliated members for the 2010/11 financial year as a gesture of good will in the economic downturn.

We were also asked to share more information online and have responded by re-developing our own website, installing a display screen in our reception area to complement the information presented on the Third Sector Hub website.

All three requests emerging from our Trustees survey were also met in that staff were invited to Board meetings on a rota basis, a programme of staff training was introduced and that we remained responsive and flexible to new agendas. The latter being demonstrated by our delivery of the flu friends scheme, identifying volunteers for the fire service and hosting the new Victim's Champion role.

If you would like to find out more about our work or be more involved with us we look forward to hearing from you...

Paula Grant, Chief Officer, VANEL



Chair's annual report

During the 2009/10 financial year Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire (VANEL), via the Chief Officer and her team, was asked to maintain its focus on the organisation's core activities of volunteering; community group development and fundraising as per our organisation's mission statement. The three main aims we negotiated as part of our Business Plan for 2009/10 are:

- To contribute to the creation of a first class, quality assured and accountable voluntary and community sector within North East Lincolnshire
- To create a strong and vibrant third sector comprising of valued volunteers, development workers and a sustainable Third Sector Hub
- To foster effective local partnerships across all sectors and to raise the identity and merits of the voluntary and community sector.

During this year the team achieved our national association's quality standard and are one of only 50 out of a total of 350 groups to receive this award. The Third Sector Hub generated sufficient income to ensure its sustainability beyond the Yorkshire Forward funding period, the only community project to achieve this.

The position of Voluntary Action with strategic partners was enhanced with the election of our Chief Officer as Chair of the North East Lincolnshire Strategic Partnership (NELSP). This partnership commitment is actively demonstrated by our sector's representation on the NELSP and all its theme boards. In addition, our sector was also actively represented on all relevant local partnerships such as community engagement, the Compact, procurement and commissioning, neighbourhood management, safeguarding children, safeguarding adults, health improvement and children's workforce development, amongst others.

With regards progress with our core services I am pleased to report that the payroll service and Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checking service have both increased their client numbers. The quarterly newsletter was more widely distributed, demand for small training and learning equipment hire increased, short training courses increased, community development worker support standards were launched and fundraising sessions were in high demand.

Of course, the delivery of our services for the benefit of our members and the wider third sector requires funding to be negotiated and secured from a variety of sources to support both our sustainability and that of our members. This year staff found that we needed to be focused on outcomes as opposed to outputs and quality ahead of quantity, although some of our targets remained quite challenging.

There were a number of milestones that we were particularly proud of this year. These include Volunteers Week 25 year jubilee awards event, the networking event at last year's AGM at which we promoted our services to new members and partners and a highly commended national Compact award for working with North and North East Lincolnshire Councils on a joint commissioning code.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I would like to thank all those members who served on our Executive Committee during the 2009/10 financial year. VANEL has clearly benefitted by sharing their skills, knowledge and experience with our staff, volunteers, members and partner organisations.

Finally, I would also like to record my personal thanks to the team of staff and volunteers for their ongoing hard work, dedication and commitment to VANEL during this challenging year.



Volunteer Centre



Brokerage

The past year has been a very busy one for the Volunteer Centre because there has been a large increase in recruitment of volunteers and the number of organisations offering opportunities in North East Lincolnshire.

We have also been operating a contract with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to find volunteer pathways to help six month plus Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) clients back into work which has added to the increase in registrations of volunteers.

The above has also meant that we over achieved on our Local Area Agreement (LAA) stretch targets and are in line for the reward grant attached to that success.

Organisation Support

We have been able to be far more proactive this year in getting out to organisations to help with volunteer issues, policies and procedures. We have also been instrumental in helping new organisations such as Street Angels to start their volunteer recruitment process in order to commence providing a service.

We have also been able to act in an advisory capacity to local public sector organisations in the development of

volunteering opportunities including a new opportunity at Humberside Fire and Rescue where volunteers are helping with fire safety and community issues.

Raising the Profile of Volunteering

We held a volunteer awards evening for those people with more than 25 years of volunteering experience, which led to a well received and publicised event which was enjoyed immensely by all who attended.

We held our annual photography competition and exhibited the entries at the Grimsby Central Library which was much appreciated by all who attended.

Our Volunteers Week event in Grimsby, where many organisations had stalls, was a big success with many being successful in recruiting volunteers on the day.

As a result of the above we are now working with The *Grimsby Telegraph* to put on a multi-category awards evening in the coming months.

Finally, in terms of volunteer numbers, this has been a bumper year for the Volunteer Centre and we are expecting that we will continue to improve on the service offered over the coming year.



Volunteer Centre

North East Lincolnshire



vinvolved

After a successful first year we have built on our contacts and experience to further improve the work we undertake and diversify into wider fields of experience and opportunity for young people.

The main successes have been when working with groups of young people who are self motivated and have an older member who can keep motivating, supporting and encouraging them forward. Examples are the LGBT and the Why Waltham group in year one. New groups we connected and began working with included GYPO, Sidedoor Youth and RAALI. The young people know what they want and are willing to give their time to it, but don't necessarily wish to get involved in working with other groups who have different interests or promote what they get out of doing volunteering and fundraising.

The backgrounds of the young people we have reached in Year 2 show a rate of 40% work with NEETS and 40% with those in education or training with low numbers for those in employment. This has been through working closely with Connexions, Job Centre Plus, A4E and youth services. The types of opportunities developed and recorded have varied around times and days in which they can be undertaken venues for participation, some are based from home, such as fundraising web site design and marketing. The variety allows us to attract and engage young people in the activities that interest them and at the times and venues they feel comfortable in.

The Do-It website is becoming more used by young people than ever in the past, this it is hoped has been through the promotion of the site as a place to research ideas for



volunteering within schools, colleges and youth centres.

Early on in the year we completed and achieved our REACH quality accreditation - a contractual obligation. We have also achieved community sports and arts leaders centre registration and also been accepted as a pilot centre to participate in the development of a new award around social enterprise.

We had a successful entry in last year's Cleethorpes Carnival parade being named as the overall winning float as well as second in best organisation category, in a joint entry with VOXX magazine. The float itself was designed and built by young people using all their own ideas and supported by myself and Tina Bramhill, thus providing a great developmental experience for the young people involved.

We were able to access funds from v to provide funding for the locality to become involved in the National Big Lunch. This allowed six local groups of young people to organise and run events in their local areas to promote themselves, their work and gain, in some cases, improved community understanding of their work roles and begin to alter perceptions of their activities in a positive way.

vinvolvedteam

Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire Annual Review 2009 - 2010

... keeping young people motivated, supported and encouraged ...



Payroll and accounts

Year ending 31/03/10

PAYROLL

We provided 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 provide the regular monthly payslips and detailed analyses of deductions.

Staff at Voluntary Action increased to 23, with gross wages of just over £430,000 completed on the payroll system. There were 157 employees with other groups covered by our service, with a gross wage bill of just under £1,000,000.

VANEL is set up as an official agent with H M Revenue and Customs, so year end returns were submitted on-line as usual, this being the first year when manual returns were no longer accepted. Updated software from Sage enabled successful submissions before the Inland Revenue year-end deadline.

ACCOUNTS

Unrestricted Fund

There was a reduction by £14'000 from the previous year with a surplus at this year end of just over £25'000. However, this was £16'000 more than the original budget prediction of £9'000 surplus at the beginning of the financial year. Income was just under £4'000 more than predicted, while savings were made in most areas to reduce expenditure to £12'500 below budget.

Restricted Funds

During the financial year twenty three projects were managed, bringing in grant funding of around £1,250,000. A few projects, including Fair Share East and West Marsh, and Engaging Older People finished at the end of March. Extra funding generated will sustain the Third Sector Hub for the next twelve months, as Yorkshire Forward funding ceased at the end of the financial year. The Volunteer Centre Local Area Agreement also ended, but with targets reached, to ensure the guarantee of substantial funding, which will maintain the services provided.

Half a dozen new projects were established, including Fundraising Plus, a Service Level Agreement for Children's Services, Targeted Support Fund, and towards the end of the year, Victim's Champion, Inspiring Communities and Community Learning Champions.



Small grants and equipment

Grassroots Grants

Grassroots Grants is a programme which will run until March 2011, providing grants of between £250 and £5,000 to organisations with under £30,000 income per annum. With approximately £80,000 per annum to be distributed the programme has proved incredibly popular, with each quarterly application round being greatly over subscribed.

From its start in August 2008 to March 2010 we have provided 64 organisations with funding totalling £154,684.92. Whether it is for equipment, running costs, transport or building repairs, these are all activities that provide community cohesion and in most cases would not have been funded otherwise. In the current financial climate we therefore expect this programme to continue to be popular in providing a vital resource to many of the smaller third sector organisations.

Targeted Support Fund

Real Help for Communities was an action plan launched by The Office of the Third Sector (OTS), outlining support for the third sector in the current difficult economic climate. The Targeted Support Fund was one element of this plan that VANEL were asked to manage for the North East Lincolnshire area.

Recession hit third sector service providers with income under £250,000 could apply for grants of between £10,000 and £40,000. Organisations could apply for funding to support various areas of their work. This was a one off pot of funding between September 2009 to

March 2010. North East Lincolnshire was allocated £155,009 that was distributed to nine successful organisations.

Fair Share Youth Grants

A fund available to young people living in either the East or West Marsh to enable them to access activities they would not normally be able to, due to cost or location. There had been 29 applications worth £12,869.61 funded up to April 2010.

The grants have made a considerable impact not just for those taking part but for their wider families as evidenced in the outcomes report. Those leading the projects have been inspired to continue to work for their communities, with several applying for additional funding to run further projects.

Common Treasury

The initial project was completed by July 2008, with an extension to the project completed by July 2009. A further extension was completed by July 2010. The first two phases provided £35,000 of capital equipment in to North East Lincolnshire's Common Treasury programme. The latest extension added a further £2,500 of equipment in to the programme in 2010. There was also a learning element to the project that provided training on the equipment to members of the host organisations. In total the project provided equipment (that can be borrowed) to 26 organisations, with 226 people receiving training. In addition to the host organisations, a further 249 organisations accessed equipment in the year to July 2010.



Criminal Records Bureau Service

The Criminal Records Bureau Service has been established for seven 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 136 organisations registered for the CRB service and the majority of these groups are voluntary and community sector organisations.

To date we have processed over 2'285 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 had some staffing changes in the last year and there are now four authorised signatories working on this service. An appointment system has been developed in order to simplify the workload and CRB checks are

now available on a Monday afternoon and all day Thursday 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 and also on the LSCB's training sub group by one of our authorised signatories. We offer Safeguarding Children Training and promote safe working with children, young people and vulnerable adults with all of our members

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.



Compact

... a compact way of working ...

North East Lincolnshire's Compact continued to make good progress during 2009/10 thanks to ongoing financial support from North East Lincolnshire Council and to commitment from all partners to the Steering Group's work programme. Furthermore, partners' commitment to Compact ways of working in cross-sector partnerships was reaffirmed via the setting up of a network of Compact Champions one each from the public and voluntary sectors linked to the codes of practice.

Compact presentations were delivered by Nick Triplow to North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus Managers as part of the ongoing briefing sessions for public sector partners. Other partners agreed to take part in briefings during 2010/11.

Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire's (VANEL) quarterly Compact e-mail briefings cover progress updates at the local level and national developments giving 100 Compact member organisations regular information. VANEL also set up local Compact web pages which hold details of all Compact work locally.

The new national Compact was developed following extensive debate and consultation. It highlighted the shared principles which Compact partners should follow when engaging in partnership working, and records all the Compact commitments which cover three key areas: involvement in policy development; allocating resources and advancing equality. Therefore, North East Lincolnshire's Compact Steering Group agreed to consultation on its local Compact resulting in the production and agreement of a single refreshed document for North East Lincolnshire

Compact Champions

The Compact Champion network was set up and an initial briefing session held. With quarterly attendance at the Compact Steering Group the Compact Champions promote the value of the North East Lincolnshire Compact and champion one code each on behalf of the group. The role of Compact Champions is to disseminate good Compact practice to organisations and partnerships they work for and with.

Funding and Procurement Code of Good Practice

During 2009/10 the completion of a single Compact code of practice for Funding and Procurement across North and North East Lincolnshire included consultation across North and North East Lincolnshire Compact members. This culminated in a launch event and networking session with Compact members and partners from across the northern Lincolnshire area. The North East Lincolnshire Supporting People Team also facilitated a market dialogue session to show how the code worked in practice. In November 2009 the code received a highly commended award at the national Compact awards event held at the Dali Universe Building in London.

Compact
working together better together



Flu friends

This has been a varied and challenging year during which Pete Hewson has carried on fulfilling his normal duties and tasks and also participated in a novel project which arose from concerns both nationally and internationally over a rather frightening pandemic.

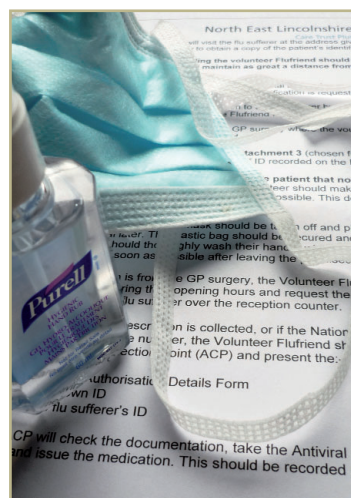
Negotiations with the local Health Authorities began in the Spring of 2009 as part of contingency plans to deal with the potential risks and results of the Swine Flu pandemic. From these discussions emerged the need to establish and coordinate a team of trained volunteers who would deliver the antiviral medication Tamiflu to patients who, having been advised not to venture out, had no other person to collect it.

In conjunction with the Volunteer Centre, 20 volunteers were recruited from a wide range of organisations including the City Church, Independent Forum, the Health Trainers, Mencap, the Molson Centre and importantly, certain individuals who gave up a great deal of their time in this beneficial enterprise. Later, members of Voluntary Action staff would join. The work comprised the patient being advised by the Health Care team to contact Pete by telephone and he would, having verified contact and delivery details, notify the most appropriate and available volunteer to visit the patient, attain the paperwork and authorisation, collect the Tamiflu from the nearest chosen pharmacy and deliver this to the patient again.

Training of the volunteers: this was provided by staff from the Care Trust Plus Pandemic Flu Team. This learning consisted of the process of referral of patients, the required paperwork and the need for identification of the volunteer, most importantly how to protect oneself from infection with the safe disposal of gloves, and of course how to stay safe. It was decided early on that the service would be provided only from 9am to 5pm to maintain the safety of the volunteers who must never be put at risk themselves. It was a Monday to Friday service initially, but over the Christmas period, and to coincide with the opening times of pharmacies, some form of delivery was available each and every day including the bank holidays (though it would seem the local populace was too busy enjoying the holiday to become sick as no-one called the helpline).

The project commenced in September 2009 and ended in April 2010 and was funded by the Care Trust Plus; the calls thankfully numbered only 15 with other queries dealt with. Though few in number, all were dealt with promptly and professionally by the Flu Friends who demonstrated empathy, excellent communication skills, initiative and, above all, that spirit to help others which adequately demonstrates what volunteering is all about.

On the whole the project illustrated the team work and complementary attitudes that exist between the third sector and other statutory organisations when rising to the challenges which can and do emerge in modern life. Thus demonstrating that we can cope with situations life throws up. It bodes well for the future



Third Sector Hub

...continuing to build on the hub's early success ...

2009/10 marked the final year of the Third Sector Hub (TSH) project, with funding formally ending March 2010. The TSH overachieved its contractual outputs and was formally signed off by the funders with a favourable project review and report.

Far more importantly, the project delivered initiatives and interventions that have helped move many voluntary and community groups forward towards greater sustainability. By way of practising what we preach, the three VANEL staff funded through the project, remain in place post April 2010 as a result of the Hub drawing sufficient reserves and contract work to maintain them for at least the year ahead.

A mainstay of the project during 09/10 was a comprehensive training programme, concentrating on gaps not provided by other local providers.

A Trustee Network was established to support charities and the trustees themselves, promote trusteeship and provide group support for boards of trustees and networks. Supported by a website, the group met bi-monthly and was complemented through the year with additional relevant training such as our popular 'roles and responsibilities of trustees' workshop. This Network is growing and hopes to cover its own costs for 10/11 with the aim to become an example of good practice nationwide.

A Leadership Network was also established to promote and support leadership development within our local voluntary and community groups. This network too will continue into 10/11.

The Hub training programme continued to focus delivery on a number of identified key themes throughout the year. These of course included trusteeship and leadership, but also communication skills,

public law training, funding related workshops and IT training. Beyond the end of the project this IT training is evolving into a new network (IT Supporters Network) to continue to address this area of concern for groups.

The Hub also continued to build resources during the year which remain after the project as a legacy for groups to use. The Melbourne House training room was well used by external groups (generating income) and the IT suite was rebuilt as a state-of-the-art 'virtual' training suite and well used for our IT course programme. In addition the Hub expanded the range of IT equipment available for groups to borrow and continued to manage the Common Treasury portfolio of equipment. Five 'community computers' were also developed ready to be embedded into the community during 2010.

A wide range of support continues to be offered online by the Hub through a variety of websites, including a new VANEL website which was rebuilt during the year by the team and through websites dedicated to each different network and delivery function.

For sustainability of the Hub funding beyond April 2010 was required. Extension options through Yorkshire Forward were unsuccessful, but the Hub team were successful in managing a number of grants and contracts from a variety of sources which brought in income that will maintain those staff posts into 2010/11.

Crucially though, although the funding for the project was short term, the Third Sector Hub continues beyond 09/10 with staff still in place, networks established, resources available and work continuing to deliver developmental change to local voluntary and community organisations.



The LINK



Local Involvement Networks have been established since April 2008. They provide local people, groups and organisations the opportunity to have their say about local health and social care services. How they are set up, run and improved.

The LINK works well in partnership with other organisations including providers and commissioners of health and social care services including The Care Trust Plus (CTP), Northern Lincolnshire & Goole NHS Trust, East Midlands Ambulance Service, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC). Membership of the LINK grows annually and we work hard to continue to raise our profile.

The LINK has been involved in numerous work streams since it began, including members writing reports on local issues such as hospital discharge, dentistry and transport. We work hard with all local groups to highlight service areas that are lacking. Work streams are brought to us by local people in the community and then the LINK's governing body meeting on a monthly basis, will discuss whether there are enough grounds to complete a piece of work. At present Ray Waters is our LINK Chair, and we have four leads on primary care (doctors, dentists services), secondary care (hospital services), mental health and social care. For those people signed up as LINK members, you can access training, participate in making real changes to local services, by participating in workshops and meetings. We train local people to become Enter & View Representatives so they can audit local services. Our current representatives made a successful visit to the Diana Princess of Wales Hospital which you can view online at the LINK website.

We have just done a very successful piece of work with local young people aged 13-24 years. We asked them to help us make a DVD which would highlight to other young people how they can have a say about local services. We have now completed this piece of work and are looking at getting young people to watch the DVD through local young people's services, youth centres, schools and colleges. We are hoping to put all our findings together into a report about young people's views about local services and how they can be improved.

In light of the new government's plans to turn your local LINK into Local Health Watch we are pleased to hear this news and we are looking forward to implementing any necessary changes. We hope that this will not interfere with getting the real job done of talking to our local community and identifying the real issues that affect people, including you. If you have something to say about your local service, any problems, any positive comments, or any changes you would like to see made, then contact us directly and we will work on your behalf to push for these real changes. Call us and speak to one of our staff members - Penny Burton LINK Manager or Karry Stones Assistant LINK Coordinator.

To find out how you can have your say, come along to one of our monthly meetings, where everyone is welcome. Look at our website at: www.nellink.org.uk. Call us on 01472 315437. Email us direct at: link@vanel.org.uk. Write to us direct at Freepost RRZL-SBYU-SZRE, 14 Town Hall Street, Grimsby, DN31 1HN.

Healthier Communities

... new development worker helping local people ...

Eng-Age is now a stand alone organisation with a bank account. The group was supported by a VANEL officer for approximately two and a half years. Its main themes are transport, environmental issues, possibly mental health in conjunction with the Mental Health Services Independent Forum, CTP and VANEL, and the production of the newsletter on a quarterly basis. The group still meets monthly and has a monthly transport group. It has close ties with the LINK (Local involvement Network) and the Falls Collaborative. The group continues to be consulted on the Older People's Strategy, especially Aim 2 and the development of an advocacy service. Some members continue to be involved with the Podiatry Review and Foot Care Services. All of the above is carried out independently from VANEL. The group's membership is constant and the group takes part in networking events around the area. The group aims to have a team building day, setting goals and refreshing its aims which VANEL and CERT are supporting the group with in coordinating.

The Healthier Communities Development Worker has developed and delivered the Mind Works project in partnership with Open Minds, Assertive Outreach team, Hospital Social Workers, Tukes and Mind. Main bodies that referred clients to the scheme were Volunteer Centre, Open Minds, Health Trainers, Working Links and Key Workers (NELC). A drop-in was piloted at St James but moved to Tukes. The drop-in enabled current clients to pop in and chat to the Development Worker to discuss any issues, developments or successes. A report is to be written in December highlighting the outcome of the

scheme and whether it was a success. This will be evaluated in partnership with the agencies that played the greatest role in signposting clients to VANEL. Funding to continue the scheme was sought but has not been identified currently however the Healthier Communities Development Worker is working closely with the Volunteer Centre to extend the project by engaging another hard to reach group and offering support. The details have yet to be finalised.

The original Mind Works project offered support to 14 clients ranging from intensive support and dealing with the Stroke Rehabilitation Unit to supporting clients in their interview with Volunteer Centre staff, being available at the Tukes drop-in and signposting clients to more appropriate agencies such as Change Programme Key Workers (NELC).

Community Development Standards have been developed in conjunction with an informal network of Development Workers. This network is to be developed and been leant credibility by being incorporated into the Neighbourhood Management Structure. Closer working links have been made with Area Coordinators and support has been offered in the Heneage Ward by the Healthier Communities' Development Worker to the Fiveways Area Coordinator to develop the Heneage Forum.

Other project work includes supporting the CTP's User Lead Organisation, NELC's Client Involvement Group, Third Sector Healthier Communities Older People Group, Grimsby and District Live at Home, Older People's Partnership Board and Older People's Strategy.

Fundraising Plus

The role of dedicated Funding Advice Development Worker within VANEL came into being in July 2009 as the result of a successful partnership application to the Big Lottery Fund BASIS 2 (Building and Sustaining Infrastructure Services). The Fundraising Plus project is a partnership between Humber All Nations Alliance (HANA) as the lead partner; and Hull CVS, ERVAS, VANEL and VANL as the delivery partners across the Humber sub-region. The project works closely with other BASIS 2 funded projects run by CERT (Moneymatters Plus) and Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council (Rural Partnerships Plus).

The aim of the three year project is to support small voluntary and community organisations, typically with a turnover of less than £100,000 per annum, to become more sustainable. This will be done through the process of an organisational health check and an action plan for support. The health check will cover key areas such as governance, financial management, human resources, delivery of activity, marketing and networking. Identified actions could include direct support from the worker, signposting to funding resources, training and other organisational support.

The worker hit the ground running in July and was highly delighted when their first client was successful, some 9 months later, in obtaining over £340,000 in funding from Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund. The award has secured the

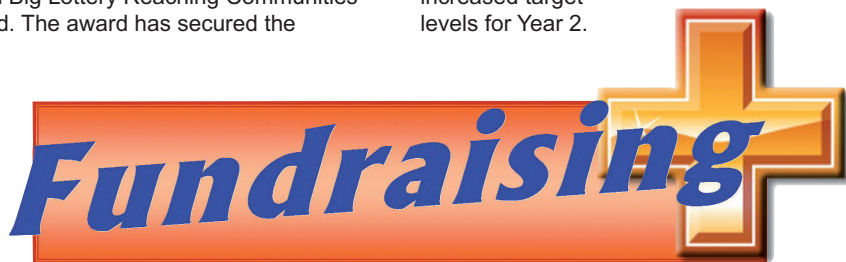
organisation's future for the next 5 years and led to other, smaller funding opportunities. Other clients have been successful in receiving funding from Wren, LEADER, Grassroots Grants and a variety of Trusts and Foundations.

The worker has built up a variety of funding resources since the project started and now has access to funding databases, directories of Trusts and Foundations, and an ever-growing mountain of paper-based information on a variety of funds.

The delivery of training is also a key element of the project and a course entitled Making Effective Grant Applications has proved successful with two courses having been delivered and others planned for the future.

Fundraising Plus and Rural Partnership Plus held a joint Rural Funding Fair in Waltham in June 2010, which proved popular and attracted a number of small, local voluntary groups that had not previously accessed VANEL's services. The format is scheduled to be repeated for another locality in the coming months.

The Fundraising Plus project as a whole has developed the health check, training resources and shares knowledge and resources available within the team. The Project as a whole has exceeded the targets set for the first year, which will help towards achieving increased target levels for Year 2.



Rural Partnerships Plus

... funding assistance for those that need it ...

Rural Partnerships Plus is a new project, which began in September 2009 and it is a partnership between Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council, VANEL in North East Lincolnshire and VANL in North Lincs. Rural Partnerships Plus employs three staff: Carole Johnson in the East Riding; and Celia Wangler and Shirley Roberts in Northern Lincolnshire. Celia and Carole support and network community groups in their areas and Shirley supports them with administration. Celia and Shirley are based in Barton at the Wilderspin National School, with Celia also working from VANEL in Grimsby two days a week.

It is funded by the Big Lottery BASIS (Building and Sustaining Infrastructure Services). The project aims to support rural community and voluntary organisations to grow, be sustainable, and get their voices heard and to ensure that those organisations which are available to help and support the voluntary and community sector generally are aware of and meeting the needs of rural organisations. It works on the ground with groups in rural communities to identify the issues and needs of their community and voluntary groups and then supports them to address those issues and needs, particularly those in the most isolated communities.

So how do we actually achieve all this? Firstly by going out to groups wherever they are and not expecting them to come into us, then by using the health check form which goes through all the issues that a group may need support with and identifies their areas of need and then

either offering information and support ourselves or by referring the group on to specialist workers such as Helen Howard with Fundraising or the Money Matters project based with CERT at Immingham.

Secondly by working with the Regional Rural Network (also new in September 2009 and funded by the Big Lottery) which aims to bring together all voluntary and community organisations (VCOs) that have an interest in rural issues in the region in order to raise awareness, inform and influence regional organisations, policies and structures to ensure that the voice of the rural VCS is listened to and to ensure there is an effective response to emerging policy papers affecting rural communities. So far the network has distributed a postcard to local groups to establish the top rural issues and undertaken an internet based survey on the needs of rural community and voluntary groups.

Between September 2009 and July 2010, Rural Partnerships have made contact with 94 rural organisations in Northern Lincolnshire, with 44 directly benefitting from support.

On top of all this Celia has also undertaken a research project commissioned by the Northern Lincolnshire Rural Partnership (Rurality Issues in North and North East Lincolnshire, otherwise known as the Gap Analysis) to identify the issues and priorities for the rural areas of Northern Lincolnshire, this has been used as the basis of the partnership's work plan for the next two years.

Third Sector Partnerships

Third Sector Forum

In the previous year the Third Sector Forum meetings had changed, with each focusing on one particular third sector work programme theme. The sessions were developmental, interactive and delivered in a style as appropriate to the theme, rather than the traditional round table board room style meeting. This approach continued in 2009/10 with Third Sector Forum events happening approximately bi-monthly. Communication, funding and investment, developing stronger communities, strategic awareness and organisational development were the key themes covered.

Effective communication is essential for all third sector organisations – to promote ourselves to members, prospective members and local communities. It is also increasingly important to be able to communicate at a more strategic level individually and collectively as a sector. The ability to effectively promote our organisations, what we do well and what we want to do in the future is also crucial when seeking and applying for funding. Therefore we continued to offer regular funding support events as part of the programme.

Having been instrumental in developing the North East Lincolnshire Stronger Communities Plan in 2009 we also held a Forum event around the new Neighbourhood Management agenda. Looking towards better working arrangements with the public sector. A

Compact event was also held to showcase the work on the revision and further development of the

Compact. This event was the North and North East Lincolnshire Compact Funding and Procurement code launch and was followed by a successful practical procurement workshop led by NELC's Supporting People team and the Procurement Alliance for North and North East Lincolnshire.

Third Sector Partnership Working Groups

All four third sector working groups (Safer and Stronger Communities, Regeneration, Healthier Communities and Older People and Children and Young People Services) continued with their established meeting structure with annually reviewed prioritised work programmes. The focus of the groups is to deliver against these programmes. Each working group is chaired voluntarily by a member of a relevant third sector organisation, with support and administration being provided by a VANEL member of staff acting as the vice chair and minute secretary.

All groups continue to have representation on the North East Lincolnshire Strategic Partnership theme boards ensuring a two way flow of information, advice and guidance to better support the third sector working groups' member organisations. They all meet monthly to ensure their respective members are kept up to date with what is happening on each theme in the sector and on the theme boards. They all provide opportunities for their members to influence the development of priorities that are important to them such as opportunities to be commissioned to deliver services.

Safer and stronger communities

The annual work programme developed by the group was updated to reflect the sector's current priorities on this agenda and progress was reported to the North East Lincolnshire Safer and Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) at its monthly meetings. The group members contributed to the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment and also took part in the annual consultation process and launch event.

VANEL lead on the development and implementation of the Stronger Communities Action Plan in a voluntary capacity developed it on behalf of the SSCB. Key achievements were:

- The over-delivery of the volunteering stretch target for both hard-to-reach and non-hard-to-reach volunteers
- The development of organised dialogue sessions and visits in partnership with the Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Coordinator on the local criminal justice system.

Work with ex-offenders was highlighted by members of this group as an activity they wanted to get involved with so they worked on the Integrated Offender Management programme with Humberside Probation Service, Humberside Police and other partners to identify volunteering opportunities and community payback projects that would help benefit our local communities in the context of stronger communities.

On the stronger communities agenda, the group receives monthly feedback on the area's Neighbourhood Working and many of its members have taken a proactive role in this flagship programme. Neighbourhood Forums are represented on the working group and member's ideas, such as community directories, are generated and followed up.

Another key priority agreed by this group was the need to focus on support for victims of crime. This subject was debated at the SSCB at the request of this group. When an opportunity was offered by the Home Office to host a Victims' Champion for anti-social behaviour in our area, VANEL was invited to lead on this working with Victim Support and other voluntary groups specialising in this work.

One of the guest speakers from the SSCB was Quentin Dowse who manages the Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT). Members could relate very clearly to the issues in our communities linked to alcohol misuse in particular, and were keen to take positive action to help address such issues. During the year three opportunities were identified for voluntary and community groups to get involved:

- Firstly, the Street Angels project, lead by City Church to work in partnership with PCSOs and neighbourhood police on weekend evenings to offer support to people who have consumed excess alcohol and may be at risk of injury or being part of a crime
- Secondly, our members were invited to be part of a national support team visit to share our examples of good practice in tackling alcohol misuse in the sector
- Thirdly health inequalities, in particular alcohol misuse, was selected as the focus for North East Lincolnshire's work on Total Place.

Overall, a very busy and proactive year for this working group, which has clearly influenced and contributed to both the local strategic and operational agendas.

Children and Young People

Children and Young People's Services Forum

Whilst there was a change of staff, undertaking the Children and Young People's Services Forum (CYPSF) Advisor role during the year remains the same:

- Invitations, minutes and all information sent out via email to all forum members, as well as keeping organisations abreast of current developments
- Feedback to/from the NELSP Children's Trust Board is also included as a standing agenda item for all meetings. A prioritised work programme has been developed in consultation with all members and this is also used to inform our contributions to the NELSP Children's Trust Board
- The database which is now a working directory of local voluntary and community organisations with an interest in children and young people is constantly being updated.

Members have the opportunity to suggest specific updates, key speakers and workshops for the forum. Other organisations and Children's Trust members now regularly ask to attend in order to inform and consult with the forum. As a direct result of this feedback the forum members have been able to inform and support the Children's Trust needs assessment and service mapping in readiness for commissioning work when this happens.

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. The pack designed in the previous year continues to be updated and information added/removed as children's workforce developments progress
- 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. This package is particularly aimed at hard to reach groups, especially volunteers in order to enable them to develop basic safeguarding awareness skills at times and places which suit them. We also offer access for small groups of people to the computer suite at Voluntary Action to undertake this training with additional support if required
- Promotion of and support with achieving a quality mark such as PQASSO was offered to a number of community and voluntary groups to enable them to meet required professional quality standards.

Whilst this programme finished in March 2010, we are now working with North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) Children's Workforce Development Manager, to hopefully, access a further years funding from CWD Council.

Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB)

At the request of the LSCB, a VANEL representative attends 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.

Directors and members

... affiliated members... associated members... trustees...

Affiliated Members

19th (Grimsby) St Hugh's Scout Group
 3rd Cleethorpes Scout Group
 Age Concern (Cleethorpes)
 Age Concern (Grimsby)
 Arthritis Care
 Artlandish Ltd
 Carelink
 Christian Action and Resource Enterprise
 Churches Together in North East Lincolnshire -
 (Paula Parish-West - trustee)
 Citizens Advice Bureau (George Baker - trustee)
 City Church
 Cleethorpes & Grimsby Riding for the Disabled
 Cleethorpes Memorial Hall (Margaret Cracknell
 – trustee and treasurer)
 Cleethorpes Senior Citizens Club
 Communities Together
 Community Chest
 Community Economic Regeneration Team -
 CERT (Neil King - trustee)
 CPO Media (Stephen Ryder - trustee)
 Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme
 Crown Court Witness Service
 Cruse Bereavement Care
 Dial-A-Ride
 Family Links Around Grimsby
 East Marsh Involve
 Foresight (Paul Silvester - Chair of the trustees)
 Friendship At Home
 Grimsby and Cleethorpes YMCA
 Grimsby and District Live at Home Scheme
 Grimsby Central Hall Trust
 Grimsby Neighbourhood Church
 Grimsby Town Cricket Club Community
 Coaching
 Grimsby and Cleethorpes Sunday Football
 League
 HANWAG
 Harbour Place Day Centre (Allen Young – Vice
 Chair of trustees)
 Havelock Academy
 Homestart
 Immingham Cyber Café
 Immingham Forward
 Islamic Association of South Humberside
 Parents Support Service
 Kingsway Lincs Trust
 Lincoln and Lindsey Blind Society
 Lisle Marsden Childcare Centre
 Macaulay Area Action Group
 MIND
 North East Lincolnshire Credit Union
 North East Lincolnshire Mental Health Service
 Users Forum (Lesley Brown - trustee)

North East Lincolnshire Motor Project
 North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus
 North East Lincolnshire Arts Forum
 Rape Crisis
 Second Avenue Resource Centre
 Shoreline Housing Partnership Ltd
 St Aidan's Church and Community Centre
 The Goodwill Motorists
 The Samaritans
 The Stroke Association
 Victim Support
 West Marsh Development Trust
 West Marsh Forward
 Womens Aid
 Yarborough Forward
 Freshney Forward
 Springboard Learning Centre
 Waltham Windmill Management Trust

Associated Members

All To Go Clearances
 Beacon Hill Community Association
 Best 2 Learning
 Catholic Community of North East Lincolnshire
 Cleethorpes Events Ltd
 Cleethorpes South Forward
 Contract Lincs
 EngAge
 Friends of the Freshney
 Genesis Training Consultancy
 Green Futures Greater Grimsby Ltd
 Hainton, Heneage and Park Forum
 Humberside Fire and Rescue
 Independent Trainer
 Jobs 4 All
 Medulla (UK) Ltd
 Nunthorpe and Bradley Park Tenants and
 Residents Association
 Nunthorpe Together
 Open Door
 Phoenix Community Group
 RAALI
 Working Links

Co-opted Trustees from partner organisations

Elected Member (annually elected in May) -
 Councillor Steve Beasant
 North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus -
 Chris Bromley/Julie Warren
 North East Lincolnshire Council -
 Colin Bulger/Marc Cole
 Shoreline Housing Partnership Ltd -
 Phil Thames

Services and contacts

We provide a range of support and advice services including:

Chief Officer: Paula Grant - 01472 231123 email paula@vanel.org.uk

Paula provides strategic support and participatory representation for the sector at all levels

Affiliation & Association

Membership of Voluntary Action is open to all local charities and community organisations. For those organisations who do not meet our affiliation criteria we are pleased to welcome them as associate members. Contact Peter Hewson on 01472 231123 or e-mail peter@vanel.org.uk

Volunteer Centre

The Volunteer Centre is an information point for volunteers and a recruitment agency for local voluntary organisations. It also has information on a wide range of volunteering opportunities. Contact John Mooney, Emma Mathias or Kelly Hannan on 01472 231123, e-mail volunteer@vanel.org.uk or view vacancies online at www.do-it.org.uk

Voluntary Action News Bulletin

The news bulletin containing local and national information of relevance to the voluntary and community sector. Contact us with details of events or projects you want to publicise. Alternatively hard copies can be made available on request (depending on circumstance). Contact Emma Mathias on 01472 231123 or e-mail emma@vanel.org.uk

Criminal Records Bureau

Organisations can check important criminal and other information about potential employees and volunteers for recruitment purposes. Contact Angela Barker on 01472 231123 or e-mail angela@vanel.org.uk

Funding Advice Development Worker

The Fundraising Plus project is aimed at charities, and voluntary and community groups with an income of less than £100,000. The aim is to increase sustainability through an organisational health check, development support, training and signposting to funding opportunities. Contact Helen Howard on 01472 231123 or helen@vanel.org.uk

NEL Local Involvement Network (LINK)

A local 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. Contact Penny Burton or Karry Stones on 01472 315437, e-mail link@vanel.org.uk or visit www.nelink.org.uk

Training and Learning

Regular training and learning events relevant to the voluntary sector are promoted throughout the year. Voluntary Action can also structure events for individual organisations. Contact Peter Hewson on 01472 231123 or e-mail peter@vanel.org.uk

Payroll

The payroll service takes the hassle of PAYE and pensions away from small charities. The service can cater for a single or multiple employees. Contact Eddie Weeks on 01472 231123 or e-mail finance@vanel.org.uk

Third Sector Partnership

For any information or issues regarding the Third Sector Hub and its development or the third sector working groups please contact Karl Elliott on karl@vanel.org.uk or Richard Wendel-Jones on richard@vanel.org.uk or call 01472 231123

Inspiring Communities Outreach Worker

This project targets 11 - 14 year olds and their parents in the West Marsh and Willows area. Contact Kerry Gilman on 01472 231123, 07758161552 or e-mail kerry@vanel.org.uk

Healthier Communities Development Worker

This role is developing a range of health projects. For more information please contact Alison Hobbs on 01472 231123 or e-mail alison@vanel.org.uk

v involved youth volunteering programme

The v project is aimed at recruiting, training and supporting 16-25 year olds in volunteer placements. Working alongside the Volunteer Centre there is a wide range of opportunities available. Contact Jenny Hodson on 01472 231123 or e-mail vteam@vanel.org.uk or visit www.vinspired.com

Children and Young People

For any issues regarding children and young people and also the Children and Young People's Services Forum contact Sheila Baldock on 01472 231123 or e-mail sheila@vanel.org.uk

Rural Partnerships plus

Working with community and voluntary groups in rural areas to represent their needs and priorities, as well as developing their skills and capacity to develop. Contact Celia Wangler on 01472 231123, 01652 633297 or email celia@vanel.org.uk

