

VOLUNTEERING LANCASHIRE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Reports to: Lancashire VCFS Consortium

Aims:

To meet the high level ChangeUp outcome by 2014 in Lancashire:

"There is a leaner, effectively marketed and high quality volunteering infrastructure reaching, recruiting and placing a greater number and diversity of individuals coupled with improved volunteer management."

Meetings: The group shall meet no less that four times a year

Membership:

The group membership will be drawn from the recognised volunteering infrastructure service providers representing Lancashire wide interest. [I.E. Volunteer Centre Burnley Pendle and Rossendale; Volunteer Centre West Lancashire; Volunteer Centre Chorley and South Ribble; Lancaster District Volunteer Information Centre; Volunteer Centres Hyndburn & Ribble Valley; Blackpool Volunteering Centre; & Blackburn Volunteering Centre]

Membership will be sought from specialist infrastructure service providers such as: Groundwork Lancashire West; Community Futures and Lancashire Youth Association.

Representation will also be sought from the National Volunteering Hub (Volunteering England)

The group will continually review membership to ensure diversity, and inclusivity of representation in order to maintain a balance of interests and reflect the needs of Lancashire VCFS.

Remit:

The remit is to produce and deliver an action plan, which will address the high level ChangeUp outcome in Lancashire 2014 (as stated above) on behalf of Lancashire VCFS Consortium.

The group will work to ensure the ongoing strategic development of volunteering infrastructure across Lancashire.

Specifically, the group will:

1. The group will produce and deliver the action plan as described above.
2. The group will seek to broaden membership in line with criteria to ensure wider representation of the sector.
3. The group will ensure that work highlighted is implemented and delivered by June 2006.
4. The group will complete a mapping of volunteer needs across Lancashire.
5. Identify and prioritise suitable public and private sector partners whose ideas and objectives are in line with the ChangeUp's overall vision.
6. Establish a body that performs a representative function in relation to the introduction of the England Volunteer and Development Council North West.
7. Act as a Lancashire Hub of volunteering infrastructure expertise, which will:
 - Improve communication
 - Share best practice
 - Seek funding
 - Investigate partnership working
 - Minimise duplication
 - Be the voice of the sector through lobbying
 - Co-ordinate research
 - Promote and seek ways of maintaining its own sustainability

Definition of a VCS Infrastructure Organisation [VCSIO]:

This type of infrastructure organisation is defined as a voluntary organisation whose primary purpose is the provision of infrastructure functions (support and development, co-ordination, representation and promotion) to front line voluntary and community organisations.

Infrastructure both strengthens and supports the capacity building efforts of the individual voluntary and community organisations, provides a voice that can influence other stakeholders to create a more conducive environment for voluntary and community sector activity and helps to build the knowledge, skills and the resources required for both of these things to happen.