

Autumn
2010



CAVOS

Consultation Pages

CAVOS Stakeholder event

Tuesday 2nd November 2010
@ St Paul's Centre, Spennymoor

The event will be running from 9.30am to 2pm with lunch and refreshments provided.

This event is an excellent opportunity to find out more about CAVOS and what we will be doing to support and develop the Voluntary and Community Sector in your area in 2011. You will also be offered the opportunity to give us your views and opinions about CAVOS, the services we provide and what you think we should be doing in 2011.

We will also feed back on last year's Stakeholder event, changes to CAVOS in light of this event and recap all of the major changes to the sector in 2010

The event will include workshops discussing key topics that are currently affecting the sector, such as Government changes and funding issues so this is a fantastic opportunity to give your input and let us know how your group is being affected and what CAVOS can do to help!

This event is one of our most important of the year as it shapes how we provide our services and support for the following year. Don't miss out on a chance to have your say!

.....and as usual, everyone will be well fed!

Please let us know if you would like to attend by contacting CAVOS

Booking is essential This is a FREE event

If you have any queries relating to this newsletter, or would like an article published in the next issue please contact us:

Tel: 01388 811115 Fax: 01388 817772

Email: enquiries@cavos.org.uk www.cavos.org.uk

What's your story? Are you affected by the new government changes?

CAVOS knows only too well the difficulties the Voluntary and Community Sector face on a regular basis. Not enough funding, not enough volunteers....the list goes on.

Have you now found that the latest challenge facing you is the changes and cuts that the new government are planning? Has it already made things more difficult?

Tell us about your story and how you are affected. Maybe you've had to make cuts too or your organisation is wondering whether you can even continue running because of the changes.

Your experiences can demonstrate the impact on the Voluntary and Community Sector in the North East.

CAVOS frequently feeds your views and issues to VONNE (Voluntary Organisations Network North East) who provide Voluntary Sector support to the whole of the region. VONNE frequently assess the impact of common issues and lobby key issues at a regional level and beyond. See the back page for information on VONNE's latest Voluntary Sector recession survey.

To offer your experiences email enquiries@cavos.org.uk or write to us at the CAVOS Office, 20 High Street, Spennymoor, Co. Durham. DL16 6DB. Or even better, why not book a place at our stakeholder event where you can share your experiences with us.

National Compact renewal

In previous issues of our Consultation Pages we have informed you of the County Durham Compact and your opportunities to consult on the new draft version of this important document. The County Durham Compact is a statement of principles and practice intended to promote and support partnership working between the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and statutory bodies.

As well as the local County Durham Compact, there is a national version of the Compact which is also being renewed. The draft version of this is currently available for consultation. This is a much shorter consultation than the local version and will close on 29th October.

The draft has been produced by Compact Voice, which represents the Voluntary Sector on the Compact, to reflect the approach of the new coalition government and in advance of October's Comprehensive Spending Review. The new version has 37 key principles compared with 95 previously. This consultation is currently only available online and can be accessed by visiting:

www.compactvoice.org.uk/renewal

Charity Commission

'online only' services consultation

The Charity Commission is consulting on plans to make a range of its services accessible online or by email only. Many charities are already choosing to access the Commission's services online, ensuring they receive a quicker service.

The Commission hope that their online strategy will help ensure it remains able to provide a wide range of services to charities. The Commission would like to know what you think of these proposals and ways in which it can improve its online provision of services.

For more information visit www.charitycommission.gov.uk/About_us/About_the_Commission/ols_consultation_intro.aspx or ring the Commission on 0845 300 0218

What can your MP do for you?

Skillshare are running locally based sessions giving local people the chance to discuss issues that can be dealt with by their MP and find out more about Parliament and Government. The session being held in the 'Sedgefield Borough' area will be on Friday 3rd December 12.30– 2.30 at

Trimdon Station Community Centre.

There will also be a session held at The Gala Theatre, Durham during November 2010.

To book or for further information contact Skillshare on 01429 868353 enquiries@skillsharene.co.uk

The Census—2011

In less than six months time you will receive a white envelope through your door, with a giant purple origami C emblazoned upon it. It'll contain a questionnaire because, yes, it's the once a decade census. The census counts people and households in England and Wales, it's carried out by the Office for National Statistics.

The Census - March 2011

The census is vitally important for communities. Numbers of school places, development of traffic systems and funding for local authorities are all heavily influenced by the census. It's all about planning ahead. The census, affects all of us in one way or another, as decisions about the communities we live in take place all the time.

A census counts everybody, describes society and benefits communities

The population's characteristics are always changing. A census collects and shares facts about society's make-up. You need to take part so that the services and facilities your community / family need can be identified. These services include schools, hospitals and emergency services.

A census is a fantastic source of historical information and identity

Everyone should be proud of playing their part in the census; the statistics are available for you. ONS's census is respected worldwide. You will know that you have played your part in helping tomorrow take shape in your community.

Your census answers are confidential and secure

Personal census information is never shared with any other government department, nationally, regionally, or locally. The information collected is kept confidential by ONS and protected by law. Your personal information is protected by lots of layers of security.

Returning your census questionnaire is required by law

Completing the census is a legal requirement: the few people who don't complete their census questionnaire may be prosecuted for breaking the law, could face a criminal record and may be fined up to £1,000.

The next census is on Sunday 27 March

The answers you give on your census questionnaire should be about Sunday 27 March, so that ONS can take an accurate picture of the population on the same day.

It's straightforward and can be completed online (www.census.gov.uk)

Completing the census is straightforward. Most questions can be answered by simply clicking, or ticking, in a box.

Everyone is important

Every person not counted can mean £500 less for local authorities to spend on schools, hospitals or roads. Every 1,000 people uncounted can mean up to £500,000 less.

Percentages Matter

Durham had a 98% census response rate in 2001. If 2% of the population is unknown and uncounted this may be a potential loss of revenue for the local authority of almost £5,000,000.

Help and support will be available to complete your census questionnaire

The census is straightforward. Help and support is available from online help at www.census.gov.uk

There will also be a range job opportunities available as part of the census, for more formation visit www.censusjobs.gov.uk

For more information on the 2011 census visit www.census.gov.uk or ring 01329 444 972

Surviving NOT Thriving

Who will Survive or Thrive in 2011?

In past issues of the Consultation Pages, CAVOS has informed you of VONNE's (Voluntary Organisation's Network North East) Surviving Not Thriving sector surveys, which work to monitor the impact of the recession on the North East's Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) During spring 2010, VONNE undertook the third survey in the Surviving Not Thriving series. During the course of the survey the political landscape changed dramatically, and as the survey results show, the public sector budget cuts have the potential for significant impact on the sector in the region.

109 organisations completed the survey. Respondents represented a broad cross section of the VCS in the region, from small neighbourhood based groups to large national charities. Respondents operate right across the region, with every local authority area covered in the responses. Between them they supported nearly half a million individuals in the North East, and nearly 9000 organisations. They employ over 2000 people and rally nearly 4000 volunteers. The survey findings showed that it is evident that the VCS are responding to the challenges amplified by the recession despite increased pressures on their own organisations. Whilst the majority of the sector is coping (*just*) it is questionable as to how much longer will they be able to cope.

The announcements of between 25% and 40% budget cuts for the public sector and the changes in policy direction will place greater pressures and challenges on the region in the coming months and years ahead.

VONNE accepts that cuts will have to be made in public sector budgets and some of this pain will have to be borne by VCS organisations. However at a time when more and more people are turning to the region's VCS for help and support, and where our services will become essential to some of the most vulnerable in society VONNE makes the following recommendation:

We call upon public sector bodies, particularly local authorities, to engage voluntary and community sector organisations at an early stage in the decision making process when considering cuts to funding and public sector budgets. Any cuts should be kept to a minimum and not be made disproportionate upon the sector, in an effort to maximise efficiency savings targets.

Please let CAVOS know how your organisation is being affected by the recession and budgets cuts. Contact us at the CAVOS office or book a place at our stakeholder event where we will be gathering your views on this and other issues.

Source (VONNE)

