

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SHAPING PUBLIC POLICY?

The Policy Forum will meet on a quarterly basis and is open to anyone within the third sector with an interest in policy development. It is envisaged that the Policy Forum will be the focus for a 'festival of ideas' and give the sector an opportunity to have lively and informative discussions, which will in turn inform and shape the partnership's agenda.

To register your interest in the Forum or for more information about the Partnership please contact Natalie Maidment, Partnership Development Officer:

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in Policy Development
in the North East



**Policy&Representation
Partnership**



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Project Aims: The Policy and Representation Partnership aims to increase the third sector's contribution to policy development in the North East. This three year long project will encourage and enable organisations to influence and shape public policy. The partnership brings together third sector organisations from across the North East to consider how public policy affects them, share ideas and, in turn, influence policy-makers through stronger representation.



HOW WE WILL DO IT

- A **Policy Forum** is being established which will bring together those with an interest in policy development in the sector.
- Each year six policy topics which are affecting the sector will be examined through research, gathering the sector's views and producing a policy paper which will be shared with statutory policy-makers.
- Consultations will be held with the sector to disseminate information and gather views and opinions on policy issues.
- Streamlined methods of communication will be developed to cascade information to the sector widely and allow a two-way flow to enable effective representation.

WHO WE ARE

Voluntary Organisations' Network North East (VONNE) is the accountable body and lead organisation for the Policy and Representation Partnership, which has received three years funding from the Big Lottery Fund. Current partners include; British Association of Settlements and Social Action Centres, Black Minority Ethnic Community Organisations Network, Community Alliance North East, Community Development North East, Community Work Assessment Consortium North East England, Development Trusts Association, Equalities North East, Equalities Coalition, Funding Information North East, Mental Health North East, North East Volunteering Infrastructure and Regeneration Exchange. Others will join as the partnership grows and develops.