

Spring
2010



CAVOS

Consultation Pages

Spring coffee mornings

CAVOS is running a second lot of informal coffee mornings across our patch to allow Voluntary Sector groups and volunteers to pop in and meet our staff, access our services and share views and ideas.

Pop along to talk to us about anything at all to do with your group. From funding queries to recruiting new volunteers, we will be happy to discuss any aspect of your needs and any issues you have relating to our services.

CAVOS is running these coffee mornings in response to what YOU have told us that you want. At our last Stakeholder Event, you said that you'd like to see CAVOS offering more opportunities for support out in the community. Well we'll be out there! Come and see us!

You may just want to pop in and meet the lovely CAVOS staff! Whatever your reasons, come along and see us on the dates listed below

Tea, coffee and cake will be provided free of charge.

Tuesday 25th May 10-12 @ Fishburn Youth and Community Centre

Wednesday 26th May 10-12 @ Agnew Community Centre, Newton Aycliffe

Tuesday 1st June 10-12 @ Dean Bank Literary Institute, Ferryhill

Thursday 3rd June 10-12 @ Shildon Methodist Church

Friday 4th June 10-12 @ St Paul's Church Hall, Spennymoor

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

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Survived! Can we now thrive?

Survey to measure the impact of the recession on the North East's third sector

In previous issues of our consultation pages and newsletter we have asked that you take the time to complete a very important survey entitled 'Surviving Not Thriving'. This was the VONNE's (Voluntary Organisations Network North East) third survey into the effects of the recession on the North East's third sector.

6 months after the initial survey a follow-up survey was released: 'Still Surviving?'

VONNE have now opened their 3rd survey into the impact of the recession on the North East's voluntary and community sector and CAVOS urges you to take part. With a new government now in place and the public sector facing unprecedented budget cuts after March 2011, it has never been more important for voluntary and community sector organisations in the North East to gather the evidence and call for the support we need to be able to continue to provide the high level of service to the people we work with.

The survey aims to find out what the impact has been and also what specific support you need to make sure that your organisation or group can continue to operate. The results will be used to lobby government, regional bodies and local authorities to make sure that your needs and requirements are listened to, valued and met (where possible) when it comes to issues of budget cuts and the support that you require.

The results from the 2 previous 'Surviving not Thriving' surveys have been a powerful tool in lobbying for more support for organisations like yours.

Not only have the survey findings resulted in widespread press, TV and radio coverage, they have also been used in the following ways:

- ⇒ An organised event to inform the region's third sector of support available to their beneficiaries from mainstream public sector bodies. The event took place on 16 July 2009 and was attended by over 100 individuals.
- ⇒ Report sent to all North East MP's, selected Government ministers and department contacts.
- ⇒ The Regional select committee (North East MPs) raised questions on the results of the survey with the Regional Minister, which led to him writing to HM Treasury to lobby for continuation of the Real Help support programme beyond March 2010.
- ⇒ The Targeted Support Fund used the findings to directly target areas of most need.
- ⇒ VONNE contacted the Home Office via GONE (Government Office North East) to look at what support could be implemented at a national level to support the region's third sector
- ⇒ The results were used by BBC Local Radio to inform their series of programmes on the potential impact of public sector spending cuts in the North East, with a particular focus on third sector organisations.
- ⇒ Results were presented to the regional Skills & Employability Response Group and the regional network of Local Authority scrutiny officers and members to highlight the issues of the sector and encourage more dialogue.
- ⇒ Articles in 'Regeneration and Renewal' and NCVO's 'Engage' magazine.

Both survey results have informed the development of the North East Third Sector Action Plan.

It is now more important than ever that you complete the latest survey as the sector begins to feel the effects of cuts in public sector spending. It should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete

The survey is available to complete at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WF6PSDS>
If you don't have access to the internet, contact Michelle at CAVOS (01388 811115)
for a paper copy of this survey

Make Your Voice Heard!

County Durham Voluntary & Community Sector survey

One Voice Network is currently undertaking a survey across the voluntary and community sector in County Durham. This short survey is designed to help One Voice Network to:

1. Demonstrate the impact that the Voluntary & Community Sector has on the lives of people in County Durham.
2. Identify any unmet support needs that the VCS may have.
3. Understand the experiences of the sector of: Changes to the public sector landscape; The introduction of new initiatives around community engagement; The impact of the economic downturn on funding and the work of groups.

The survey is available to complete at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZYYMGBY

If you don't have access to the internet, contact Michelle at CAVOS (01388 811115) for a paper copy of this survey

County Durham Compact

The Co. Durham Compact stands alongside the regional and national Compacts as a statement of principles and practice intended to promote and support partnership working between the voluntary and community sector (VCS) and statutory bodies. The Co. Durham Compact was launched during Local Democracy Week in October 2001. The local Codes of Practice on funding and community groups were developed and published in the revised edition of the Compact in 2004. Because it's been a few years since the Co. Durham Compact was last revised, One Voice Network are developing a framework document that will be ready within the next few weeks to go out for a twelve-week consultation. Following this consultation, the framework document will form a revised Compact. OVN will identify potential signatories during the consultation period and intend to launch the refreshed Co Durham Compact in November 2010. For further details on this please contact Sue Graham on 01207 529621 or sue@onevoice.co.uk

Let us know what you think

At CAVOS, we're always looking to improve the services we provide to make sure that you're always getting the support that you need.

How can you have your say?

- ⇒ Our annual stakeholder event is a great opportunity to let us know what you think of every aspect of CAVOS in a more formal setting. We are continually introducing new services and changing the way we work in line with your feedback offered at our stakeholder events.
- ⇒ Our coffee mornings are a great community-based opportunity to give us your views and ideas not only on CAVOS, but on the rest of your Voluntary Sector issues too. Feel free to drop in, even if it's just for a cuppa and a chat!
- ⇒ We'll keep you updated of any formal consultation opportunities that affect you through this consultation pages newsletter and the 'consultation; section of our e-bulletins—if you aren't signed up to receive our e-bulletins, contact Michelle at CAVOS for more formation
- ⇒ Just drop us a line! You don't have to wait for any formal or scheduled consultation opportunities to have your say. Ring or email the CAVOS office and speak to one of our friendly staff. Remember, we want to know what YOU think!

Come and have your say

at the CAVOS Community Fair

Our community fair is an excellent opportunity for you to have your say on a range of topics. The large number of varied stalls will include a few that are specifically looking for YOUR views and feedback

Consultation opportunities

Speak to a representative from your local AAP about the range of ways you can get involved in your AAP including finding out what the AAP public forums are about. It's a great opportunity to get some information on how you can be more involved in local decision making and put forward your views and comments.

Speak to CAVOS representatives about issues affecting your group, services you'd like to access and specific support you'd like to receive. We'll also have opportunities available for you to submit your views and comments anonymously.

[See our latest newsletter for more information on this event](#)

This event is absolutely free.

Booking is essential if you'd like to have a stall.

Otherwise, just drop in!

Friday 11th June 10am—1pm
@ Spennymoor Leisure Centre

