



Overcoming barriers for effective VCS engagement at the strategic level

Dhara Vyas

Policy Officer

dhara.vyas@ncvo-vol.org.uk

Local government is high on the agenda.....



- 2005 – Local:Vision
- 2006 – Consultation on the future of LSPs
- 2006 - Local Government White Paper, Creating Strong and Prosperous Communities
- 2007 – Local Government and Public in Health Act

.....as is the VCS

- 1998 – The Compact
- 2002 – Treasury Cross Cutting review
- 2006 – Office of the Third Sector
- 2006-07 – Third Sector Review
- 2007 – Breakthrough Britain – third sector

Some facts and figures local to you



- 19,900 charities in London with a total income of £10,956m (2004/05)
- 95,000 people employed by Voluntary sector organisations in London.

Why are partnerships so important?

ncvo



- Local authorities need to engage effectively with all stakeholders including residents, communities and non-statutory partners such as the sector.
- It is important that local authorities engage effectively with all stakeholders including residents and communities and non-statutory partners such as the VCS: non statutory partners can bring a different perspective, expertise and knowledge to discussions and must not be excluded from the decision making process.

How do partnerships make a difference?



- LSP – bring public, VCS and private sector interests in a locality together to agree the...
- ...Sustainable Community Strategy – set the ‘vision for an area’ and...
- ..LAA (now statutory) – establish priorities and agree targets.

The new performance framework



- Single set of 198 National indicators will be the only indicators monitored by central government
- Each LAA (up to 35 national priority targets)
- Best Value Duty – to inform, consult and involve.
- Comprehensive Area Assessment (outcome focused and risk based)

How you can help to shape the future...



DCLG consultations:

- Draft statutory guidance: *Creating strong, safe and prosperous communities*
- Principles of representation

Joint inspectorates consultation:

- Comprehensive Area Assessment

What's been said in parliament



“We cannot deliver our agenda in local communities without the voluntary sector. We cannot involve people, or consult them, or reconnect people with policy, let alone politics, without the voluntary sector. We cannot get the innovation, the focus, the flexibility or, crucially, the trust of the public without the voluntary sector facilitating the relationship”

Phil Woolas, Minister for Local Government (February 2007)