

Capacitybuilders Press Release

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Capacitybuilders announce experts to scope evaluation of ChangeUp.

Capacitybuilders is very pleased to announce that a highly regarded team of evaluation experts are to scope out the evaluation of ChangeUp. The appointment of the team - which brings together the Sheffield based COGS consultancy, the Centre for Regional Economic & Social Research at Sheffield Hallam University and the Cities Research Centre at the University of the West of England - followed a competitive tender exercise.

The selected team brings together wide ranging knowledge of the sector, along with experience of the designing and managing evaluation processes for a number of major national initiatives.

The initial scoping phase of the evaluation will consist of four main work-strands:

1. mapping and analysing existing information about changes in infrastructure support and the impact on front line organisations
2. developing and testing the methodology for the evaluation of ChangeUp
3. setting up systems to communicate ChangeUp achievements and share information and learning
4. planning the main evaluation.

From January 2008, Capacitybuilders will operate an ongoing main evaluation process of ChangeUp designed to answer the question: *“In what ways and to what extent has the ChangeUp programme created a more effective third sector in delivering services, whether publicly funded or not, in campaigning and voicing community concerns, and in enabling community/citizen engagement?”*

The focus of the evaluation will be on the impact that investment in capacity building infrastructure – or support organisations and networks - has had on front line organisations. The aim is for the evaluation to generate learning about what works at local, regional and national levels, as well as demonstrate to government whether money has been well spent and that funded organisations have performed effectively.

But how will the evaluation work, and how will it measure success?

The newly appointed team led by Mandy Wilson, the Director of COGS, will start work on answering those questions during June and will report back to Capacitybuilders at the end of October. They will be talking to a range of people in and around the sector about their views on assessing the impact of ChangeUp and as part of that process, will meet with front line organisations, agencies that fund support for the front line, as well as support providers at all levels. In line with Capacitybuilders' brief, they want to engage with as many ChangeUp stakeholders as possible to secure their interest and participation.

Mandy Wilson commented : *“The evaluation needs to generate the information Capacitybuilders needs but it must also provide all organisations involved in the data collection with information that meets their needs too. The challenge is to design an evaluation framework which is useful to all without being too big a burden.”*

If you would like to participate in the process of setting up the ChangeUp evaluation, please contact Mandy Wilson on: mail@cogs.solis.co.uk. The team will be making appointments to meet people from July through to September.

ENDS.

EDITORS NOTES:

Capacitybuilders was established in April 2006 to undertake the management and administration of the ChangeUp programme and to work with other funders to influence policy on building the capacity of the third sector. The ChangeUp Framework (2004) highlights the need to achieve a “step-change” in how infrastructure is funded and delivered by 2014.

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