

ChangeUp Quarterly Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the ChangeUp quarterly newsletter – your update on progress, events and best practice. We feel that it is important for the Active Community Unit (ACU) to bring all of our stakeholders at National and Regional level related news and updates on a quarterly basis.

In this issue we report on a mutually beneficial 'Joining up ChangeUp' event that we facilitated which focused on joining up and co-ordinating activity at all levels. We also report on progress at both National and Regional level, and provide useful contact details for the National Hubs, Public Service Priority Programme and the Government Offices for your information.

As this is the first ChangeUp newsletter we would welcome feedback on content and structure. We are also keen to hear from anyone who would like to publicise their work or progress. Send your comments/articles to deborah.boswell@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Joining up ChangeUp Event



Bill Brandon from the ACU is facilitating feedback from morning table discussions

The ACU facilitated a Joining up ChangeUp Event on the 10th February for representatives from the National Hubs and Regions. The purpose of the day was as follows:

- Discuss key collaboration issues and actions required – with a view to putting in place joined up working and shared functions.
- Identifying what is required to meet the needs of the Sector in joining up ChangeUp.

The morning session focused on discussing collaboration issues between the hubs and putting in place shared functions such as a helpdesk and a central portal linking hub websites. Discussions took account of Government Offices (GOs) and Regional Consortia views. The ACU will assess hub business plans for website and helpdesk proposals including costings and will share this information with GOs and Regions.

The afternoon session focused on communication and co-ordination between the following stakeholder groups:

- National Hubs
- Other National ChangeUp Initiatives and Programmes
- Regional Advisory/Scrutiny Partnerships & Government Offices
- Local & Sub-Regional Consortia

Discussion covered areas such as exactly what the different groups need to know about the others priorities and structures and what they should be letting the other know about their work.

This newsletter was viewed as a good communication tool for all in providing a progress update for all on ChangeUp. Attendees also requested the circulation of key stakeholder contact details (which you will find below).

Once hub business plans are finalised it was agreed their activity plans would be communicated to stakeholder groups via their own website or the ACU Website. Regions also agreed to update their websites with their plans and priorities. This will enable all groups to be aware of priorities and structure of other stakeholder groups.

ACU proposes to facilitate a similar event in June 05 focusing on the joining up of actions and plans at national and regional level. If you would like more detailed information on issues and views raised on the day, or a copy of the action plan regarding the next steps for joining up and co-ordinating ChangeUp please e-mail: deborah.boswell@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

ChangeUp Progress

Good progress is being made on the delivery of the ChangeUp investment plan.

Regions

- All Government Offices have established mechanisms for regional oversight with cross-sector involvement.
- It is envisaged that every area of the country will be covered by an infrastructure development plan by March 2006.
- The Sector is taking an active role in all regions; particularly in supporting good practice, communications and oversight of the programme

National

- Five out of six of the hubs (with the sixth due very shortly) have submitted their business plans. The plans are currently being analysed against the criteria laid out in the ChangeUp framework. If agreed the plans will be signed off at the end of March.
- 'Hubbers Group' has been formed to share developing plans and practice, and to also build coherence and avoid duplication.

National initiatives

- The national initiatives are currently in their early stages of development. We will be working closely with these programmes to ensure delivery.

National Exemplar Funded Projects

- Of the 22 National Exemplar Funded Projects, 17 have now been completed, and the remainder will be

complete by the end of July 2005.

- Key learning from the projects will be collated to inform ChangeUp.

BME & Faith Think Tanks

- ACU are in the process of setting up think tanks focused on BME and faith issues. The think tanks will be made up of diverse representation from all stakeholders and interested parties, and will advise on the best ways of ensuring access to VCS infrastructure support for minority groups.

A quarterly progress report was sent to Fiona Mactaggart in February to provide her with an update on ChangeUp progress.

Next Steps

An event will be held on the 22nd March 05 to launch the new funding code and consultation on the future direction of Change Up and Compact. abiggs@actionplanning.co.uk (Tel: 020 8642 4122) are co-ordinating the event.

Contact details for the Active Community Unit; Healthy Sector Activity Team:

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Please find useful contact details below for your information for:

- National Hubs
- Public Service Priority Programme
- Government Offices

Contact Details for ChangeUp National hubs:

Workforce Development

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Performance Improvement

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Volunteering

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Contact Details for ChangeUp Public Sector Priority Programme:

Correctional Services

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Ethnic Minority Employment

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Davina.Gray@dpw.gsi.gov.uk

Homelessness & Hostel Provision

Jane Everton
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Parenting support

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Older People's Health and Social Care

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Communities Group Policy Contacts In Government Offices:

The Government Office contacts on Communities Group policy including voluntary and community sector policy in the nine regions are as follows:

East of England

Claire Witcombe
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East Midlands

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South West

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South East

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West Midlands

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ACU Website

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