

REGIONAL BULLETIN: EAST MIDLANDS & EAST OF ENGLAND

WELCOME

Welcome to the first edition of the Capacitybuilders' newsletter. This regional bulletin is intended to provide more information on what is happening across the East Midlands and East of England regions with Capacitybuilders' and the ChangeUp programme. The Newsletter will be produced around 3 times per year and will be supplemented with regional bulletins, the next edition will be out in November/December. We welcome suggestions for articles and content, in particular on areas of sharing best practice, so please do get in touch if you would like to contribute.

THE ROLE OF A REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Kally Barot and **Mike Wilkins** are the Regional Coordinators covering East Midlands and East of England. Mike joined Capacitybuilders having previously worked as Director of the joint distributor small grants lottery programme, Awards for All and Deputy Director of Operations for the Big Lottery Fund. Kally has previously worked for a local authority in Community Development, has managed frontline services for a Black, Minority Ethnic Community Project and most recently worked for a regional VCS network.

Their role acts as the link between Capacitybuilders and ChangeUp initiatives, and they have been described by Simon Hebditch as ambassadors of Capacitybuilders and advocates of the voluntary and community sector. Broadly, this translates into two key functions :

- Providing a communication link between Capacitybuilders, Consortia and other ChangeUp stakeholders
- Working with stakeholders to maximise the impact of the ChangeUp programme and Capacitybuilders' grants programme on a regional, sub-regional and local level.

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EXAMPLES OF CHANGEUP PROJECTS FUNDED IN OUR REGIONS

DERBYSHIRE – CONTRACTS ADVICE NETWORK

ChangeUp has funded the establishment of a **Contracts Advice Network** – a partnership of infrastructure bodies, voluntary sector providers and commissioners, whose aim is to break down the barriers which stop the voluntary and community sector (VCS) understanding the world of contracts. The network ensures that VCS have the right systems and policies in place if they decide to tender and helps to make commissioners aware of the VCS can offer. Several training sessions for VCS have already been organised and the project produces a monthly email newsletter. *If you would like to find out more about this project please email linkscvs@btconnect.com to add your details to the mailing list.*

LINCOLNSHIRE – COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Foundation believes Lincolnshire is the first County to truly recognise the plight of its migrant worker population, creating Specialist Infrastructure to bring together all sectors and improve access and conditions for a vital part of the horticultural workforce. On the back of BME services, bona fide Social Enterprise is being established: a co-operative of multi-national linguists, developing high level skills, and providing value-for-money to people like the Prisons & Police who are desperate for interpreters. With the help of ChangeUp funding, the establishment of the Community Foundation is helping Lincolnshire to lead the transformation of the voluntary sector and, increasingly pull in co-funding from government, Trusts and the Lottery.

For further information about the Lincolnshire Community Foundation, please visit www.lincolnshirecf.co.uk

HERTFORDSHIRE – MANAGEMENT SERVICE ORGANISATION

In 2004, ChangeUp provided funding in partnership with Dacorum Borough Council to establish a project to undertake feasibility and exploratory work relating to the formation of the Dacorum Management Service Organisation (MSO). The MSO will be owned by partner organisations from within the sector and will develop a range of ‘back office’ services and support for voluntary and community groups and social enterprises.

Initial discussions about the project have taken place with eight local charities and when the MSO is eventually established it will have a board of representatives from each of these partner organisations, plus three seats to ensure that people with the expertise needed to develop the MSO can be invited to join the group. A steering group has been established to monitor the project and its achievements, and partners engage with a variety of frontline organisations and key stakeholders sharing best practice on how organisations can work together in the Borough and across the county. *For further information about the Dacorum MSO, please contact Mark Mitchell at Dacorum CVS on mark.dcv@classmail.co.uk*