

REGIONAL BULLETIN: NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND REGION

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 North West 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

Corrina McHale and **Mary-Jane Peach** are the Regional Coordinators for the North West of England. Corrina has joined Capacitybuilders from BBC's Children in Need where she worked as a Regional Coordinator and Mary-Jane previously worked for ruralnet, as part of the net:gain team responsible for delivering an ICT project funded under ChangeUp.

Regional Coordinators act 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 programmes on a regional, sub-regional and local level.

‘VIRTUAL TEAMS’ IN GREATER MANCHESTER

The Greater Manchester ChangeUp consortium is composed of over 50 infrastructure organisations delivering support services in the area. Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO), the lead body for the sub-region, built on its existing relationships with both the CVS network and other key infrastructure organisations to assemble a large, diverse and inclusive consortium and obtained early agreement on a strategic action plan.



One of the consortium's biggest achievements in the last 15 months has been the development of several 'virtual teams' of infrastructure staff based around specialist interests and common areas of work. CVS Chief Officers, Funding Advisors, Researchers, Officers from Specialist agencies and most recently Development Workers have met and/or exchanged information, ideas and knowledge electronically and they will continue to do so on an ongoing basis. A web-based shared work space for these 'teams' has been developed, that will provide the opportunity for staff to share information and best practice and to receive peer support, allowing them to work collaboratively to deliver services more efficiently and effectively.

The consortium has also started to develop processes for case management between infrastructure organisations and for measuring its performance and impact. *For further information about the work of the Greater Manchester ChangeUp consortium, please visit www.gmchangeup.net*

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