

REGIONAL BULLETIN: SOUTH EAST

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 South East of England region 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

Vernon Samuels is Regional Coordinator for the South East of England. Over the past 17 years, Vernon has worked in a variety of roles within, or connected to the voluntary and community sector. Before joining Capacitybuilders, he was involved in the planning and implementation of ChangeUp in the South West between 2004 and 2006. Prior to this, Vernon held the post of Chief Officer for an inner city community association.

The Regional Coordinator 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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SLOUGH CHANGEUP PROCESS

(Extract from Infrastructure Development Plan)

The Slough Infrastructure Consortium is accountable to GOSE for the ChangeUp initiative. Membership of the Consortium is drawn from major Stakeholder groups (SBC and Slough PCT), the VCS, Business Community and Faith Groups. Slough Council for Voluntary Service is the main infrastructure delivery organisation to the VCS in Slough, and has been accountable to the Consortium Advisory Group, as the executive arm concentrating on process in delivering ChangeUp strategic planning and initiatives. SCVS reports back to the Consortium Advisory Group at regular intervals.

The scope of work on this project has been wide ranging, falling into four main categories of activity:

Stakeholder Consultation - There has been wide ranging consultation with stakeholders with particular emphasis on the key Directorates of Slough Borough Council, Slough Primary Care Trust, Police, Fire & Rescue Services and with a wide range of voluntary groups and frontline VCOs in Slough. By identifying common ground with statutory partners it is envisaged investment in infrastructure services will be forthcoming.

Collaboration with Partner Organisations - SCVS has also worked in close collaboration with Slough Race Equality Council, Volunteer Centre Slough, Slough Compact Management Group and Slough Business Community Partnership.

Research - Research projects undertaken have concentrated on detailed feedback from VCO Managers' evaluation of the six defined ChangeUp issues, and a comprehensive community study managed by SREC which has involved the recruitment and training of 8 Community Researchers using Participatory Learning & Action (PLA) methods.

Initiatives - Work strands have identified a number of gaps in provision and initiatives to strengthen infrastructure in Slough. These initiatives include an advisory Board to assist Slough Volunteer Centre in research and planning exercise and collaboration with CCB on ICT issues.