

LEICESTERSHIRE STRATEGIC SENIOR OFFICERS' GROUP
1 AUGUST 2007

REVIEW OF VCS INFRASTRUCTURE IN LEICESTER SHIRE

FORMATION OF NEW WORKING GROUP

Background

1. On February 14th 2007 SSOG considered a report of a VCS Infrastructure Working Group which reported on progress in reviewing VCS Infrastructure in Leicestershire. The views of SSOG members were sought on an assessment of future infrastructure options produced by the Working Group.
2. Three broad models of VCS infrastructure provision in Leicestershire were assessed against a number of criteria in the report, with each assuming continued existence of a separate generalist infrastructure organisation in Leicester (currently Voluntary Action Leicester).
3. SSOG agreed in light of the assessment to ask SSOG members (and their constituent organisations) to consider their responses, which were then reported to SSOG on 9th May. Neil Lambert was tasked to prepare a proposal by the end of June for a new infrastructure model, which sought to accommodate most views expressed.
4. However, Andy Robinson then convened a new Working Party, aided by financial planners from County Hall, and Deloitte, which has met twice already, and is aiming to report by end September. It is considering Infrastructure functions, and how best to achieve an effective and efficient balance between central support and local delivery.
5. The Leicester Shire VCS Infrastructure Consortium has now been awarded funding by Capacity Builders (under the Home Office Change Up programme) and has engaged a Project Manager to also develop sustainable plans for Support Services to Front-line Community Groups, both at local level and with central support.

Recommendation

6. It is RECOMMENDED that the progress report be noted.

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