

Cornwall VSF 2013



vsvf | voice of the
cornwall | voluntary
sector



INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Like last year, 2013 has been a very difficult year for the sector. We have had an increasing demand for our services yet have been experiencing reduced funding.

It is hugely important that we concentrate our efforts on the delivery of our objectives whilst remaining solvent, we must not allow the lack of funds to divert us from our aims.

Looking forward to the year ahead, I believe the sector needs to be more efficient and I hope to see more collaborations and mergers so we can deliver more to the sector for less.

Cornwall Voluntary Sector Forum has a vital role in supporting the sector so it can continue to be influential to the lives of people in Cornwall.



**Jonathan Adlington, Chairman,
Cornwall Voluntary Sector Forum**





About Us

Cornwall Voluntary Sector Forum (Cornwall VSF) started life over 20 years ago in 1992, when a small group of people came together to discuss issues for the sector in Cornwall.

Since then, our membership has steadily grown and we now have over 400 members from the voluntary and community sector (VCS) that provide a vast range of services across Cornwall.

The past few years have been an eventful time with many changes to the organisation and the sector. However, we have developed many successful projects, partnerships and consortia and continue to act as the voice of the voluntary sector in Cornwall.

Cornwall VSF is an umbrella organisation for voluntary and community organisations. Our aim is to work with others to create a thriving voluntary sector that effectively services Cornwall and its people.

CONTENTS

- 2. Introduction**
- 3. About us**
- 4. 2013:
Highlights of
VSF activity**
- 8. Training and
Events**
- 10. Our year in
numbers**

2013

HIGHLIGHTS OF VSF ACTIVITY

Employment and Skills Strategy

Funded by the ESF Convergence programme, we developed a strategy to help the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector to identify employment and skills challenges and opportunities. Our aim through this work was to enable the sector to increase its contribution to sustainable social, economic and environmental development in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

Transition to Adulthood, with Clinks

We worked on the Going for Gold project which offered a step-by-step guide to help areas develop their services for young adults in the criminal justice process. We used workshops to focus on identifying needs, assessing confidence and developing skills to move away from crime and into work.

Research project to map sector workforce needs

Working with Cornwall Council (who provided funding) we teamed up with Transform Research to carry out a piece of work which mapped the sector and looked at its workforce needs. This then linked directly to our Employment and Skills strategy which was produced later in the year.

Cornwall Compact

We continued to provide support through the Cornwall Compact, a document which sets out ways of joint working between the local public and voluntary sectors. This year we handled a mediation process between a voluntary sector organisation and Cornwall and Devon Police which involved a contract dispute. This was resolved in favour of the voluntary sector organisation.

Big Lottery Advice Services

Transition Fund

Working closely with ECCABI on the 'Blast' project, we have created and evaluated partnerships and created a baseline to record the delivery of information and advice by organisations in the sector, and the current demand for advice sector services across Cornwall.

Healthwatch Cornwall

Healthwatch Cornwall is the people's champion of health and social care in the county. It listens to the experiences people have of local, publicly funded care, whether good or bad, and uses this evidence to help inform and influence the commissioners and providers of services. We have continued to support the development of Healthwatch Cornwall and during 2013 Mark Richardson became a Director of the organisation. Within this role he has helped them put in place budgets for 2014/2015 and finalised partnership working arrangements with other parts of the sector.



Promoting Change – Lankelly Chase

The Lankelly Chase Foundation is focused on bringing about change that will transform the quality of life of people who face severe and multiple disadvantages ('smd'), in particular Women with Complex Needs and Young People in Transition from Youth to Adult Services. As lead partner we are responsible for the overall co-ordination and management of the project.

Safer Stronger Cornwall Consortium

We have been involved in the Safer Stronger Cornwall Consortium which aims to bring together existing organisations to create one flexible and multi-faceted organisation with the aim of improving community safety and reducing reoffending. As members of the steering group and consortium, we have provided expertise, information and governance support to the consortium as well as the administration of the partnership.

Nick Hurd visit to establish Cornwall as the first rural social enterprise zone

We worked with Enterprising Leaders to get the Local Enterprise Partnership, Cornwall Council and the Cabinet Office to endorse the designation of Cornwall as a Rural Social Enterprise Zone. Chief Executive Mark Richardson met with Civil Society Minister Nick Hurd at the Eden Project

on 10th December 2013 as he declared Cornwall to be the first rural social enterprise zone, with the Minister explaining that the launch of the new zone was about 'businesses who wanted to profit using social good.'

New VSF Membership Services

Following on from the successful launch of our membership services in 2012, we built on this by creating new services such as 'Every Voice Matters', the 'Ideas Factory', 'The Beacon' and 'Community Assist'.

Talent Match

A Big Lottery funded scheme, designed by young people for young people, which aims to help those aged 18 – 24 who are struggling to find career opportunities. Partnership Officer, Hilary Hooper supported the co-design of this project and ran focus groups to inform the business plan.

VCS Commissioning Board

We have continued to support the VCS Commissioning Board to enable it to work effectively between the VCS and Cornwall Council. 2013 saw the board conduct a review of its work.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cornwall and Devon

Following on from the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner, we hosted an event giving representatives of the VCS the opportunity to meet with PCC Tony Hogg to discuss the draft Police and Crime Plan. We also continued to work closely with the Police and Crime Commissioner office to advertise, encourage and offer advice and support for those applying for the Police and Crime Commissioner Small Grants Scheme.



Cornwall Social Value Pilot Project

Acting as lead on this pilot project with ECCABI, Pentreath Ltd, RE:SOURCE and WILD Young Parents Project, we aimed to raise awareness of measuring social value amongst VCS providers and commissioners. We successfully did this through workshops, mapping exercises and one-to-one sessions.

Signpost magazine

Working with Penwith Community Development Trust we have continued to produce three Signpost magazine per year with a distribution of over 2000. The magazine is aimed at voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in Cornwall.

Communications Services

We worked with the Liskerrett Centre in Liskeard to improve their communications with their members. This involved a review of their overall communications, investigating and inputting an email system and client management system, the transferring of existing contacts, training on the new system and a review of the Data Protection Policy and its implementation.

Knowledge Bank

One of the member benefits we offer, the Voluntary and Community Sector Knowledge Bank provides an up to date information directory of services available. Throughout the year we have kept The Knowledge Bank regularly updated, and compiled via many local sources to help our members with all aspects of operating a charity, social enterprise or community group in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.





TRAINING & EVENTS 2013

31st Jan - Inspire Me 2 Masterclass

An interactive workshop which was designed specifically to help voluntary and community organisations who understand the need to be inspirational.

7th Feb - New to Marketing your Charity Masterclass

Run by a direct and digital marketing expert, the masterclass taught organisations how to construct a simple but effective marketing campaign.

19th Feb - Fundraising Strategy and Planning Masterclass

A practical masterclass which offered a range of tools to help organisations build a strategic fundraising plan.

27th March - Social Enterprise Focus - Winning Contracts

Organisations interested in the Adult Care Commissioning tenders came together to discuss the tenders and the potential opportunities for their organisation and learnt about the support available to them.

“ An excellent showcase for the sector ”

VSF Awards 2013: Celebrating the VCS in Cornwall, 28th November 2013

25th April - Growing Successful Social Enterprise: Lessons and Opportunities

Over 40 organisations came together to explore the opportunities for social enterprise in Cornwall and take part in the introduction of a new collaborative venture, The Engine Room, which aims to support the growing and innovative sector.

30th April - Police and Crime Commissioner consults the Voluntary Sector in Cornwall

Together with Victim Support, Cornwall VSF provided this opportunity for voluntary sector representatives to meet Tony Hogg, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cornwall and Devon. The consultation focused on the strengths and priorities as well as any gaps in the draft Police and Crime Plan.

7th May - Workshop: Transitions in Cornwall - Young adults with mental health issues or learning disabilities

Following on from research that one third of those involved in the criminal justice system are 18 to 24 year olds, this event was held to understand the statutory and voluntary sector mental health provision, the services for young adults with learning disabilities and to look at the 'transitions' implications for those with distinctive needs.

“ Very informative, relevant to my ideas and great to network with others ”

Growing Successful Social Enterprise: Lessons and Opportunities, 25th April 2013

30th May – Restorative Justice in Cornwall and Devon

A joint event with Devon Reform and the Local Criminal Justice Board which mapped current activity, provided opportunities for joint working and discussed signing up to common standards across the two counties.

20th June – Best practice with young women offenders in Cornwall

We worked with Clinks to host an event to disseminate best practice when working with girls and women at each ‘Transitions to Adulthood’ stage of the criminal justice system.

2nd July – Capturing learning and next steps – Transitions to adulthood

Part of the Transitions to Adulthood project, this event gave us the opportunity to review and discuss strategic changes needed to improve provision for young adults in contact with the criminal justice system.

5th September – Ensuring the Social Value Act benefits Cornwall

This popular event saw organisations from across the sector come together as Kevin Curley (former CEO NAVCA) facilitated a workshop to explore the Social Value Act (2012), as well sharing the commissioner and voluntary sector provider’s perspective on the Act and a discussion on what indicators of social value voluntary sector provider’s can measure.

6th September – Going for Gold in Cornwall: Developing effective services for young adults throughout the criminal justice process

Following on from the previous ‘Transitions to Adulthood’ events, Going for Gold saw key providers of criminal justice services meet to discuss how to improve the outcomes for young adult, and to discuss the current opportunities to improve the transition to adulthood for 16 – 25 year olds in the criminal justice system.

22nd October – VCSE Employment and Skills Strategy: Moving Forward

A workshop which provided an update on the content of the ESF Convergence VCSE Employment and Skills Strategy, as well as discussing the next stage of the strategy development.

28th November – VSF Awards 2013: Celebrating the VCS in Cornwall, plus Community Fair

Over 100 members of the sector came together in the first ever Cornwall VSF Awards: Celebrating the VCS in Cornwall. Voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations from across the county were recognised and celebrated with The Giving Shop (Best Business Partnership), Cornwall People First (Best Community Involvement in the Design and Delivery of Services), Community Energy Plus (Best Partnership) and Active Plus (Best Innovative Use of Volunteers) being announced as the chosen winners.

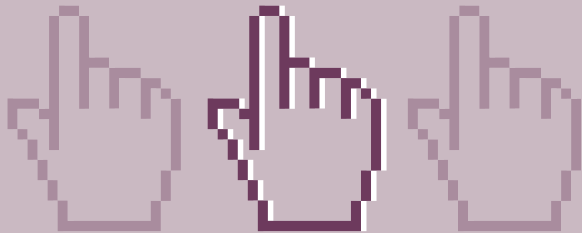
OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS.

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IN 2013 WE...



525 PUBLISHED
NEWS STORIES

**HAD 57,884 HITS ON
OUR WEBSITE, THAT'S
AN AVERAGE OF 222
EACH WEEKDAY!**



**REACHED
1046
FOLLOWERS
ON TWITTER**



HAD 198



ON FACEBOOK



**HAD 105
NEW MEMBERS
JOIN THE VSF**

**HAD MORE THAN
400 PEOPLE
ATTEND
OUR EVENTS**





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Cornwall Voluntary Sector Forum
 13a Kenwyn Street, Truro, Cornwall TR1 3DJ

Web www.cornwallvsf.org
 Tel 01872 241584
 Twitter @cornwallvsf
 Email admin@cornwallvsf.org

Reg. Charity No. 1111169. Company No. 05371203



photo by David Ortiz www.nocoprints.co.uk
 design by www.ortizdesignservices.co.uk