

Insight

The One East Midlands Magazine

Spring 2009

Issue 2

INSIDE:

Third Sector Surviving & Thriving
'Weathering Storms'
Perspectives on the Recession
Report back on the Compact

Welcome

Surviving and Thriving

With the recession biting hard across the UK it will be no surprise that the theme for the second edition of Insight is the economy and the impact of the economic downturn.

We will be taking a rounded view, not only of the impact the recession is having on the third sector, communities and individuals but the positive impact the sector can have in contributing to economic growth and resilience.

At the One East Midlands 'Weathering Storms' event in March we took a detailed look at what it means to be a 'thriving third sector' in the current climate and how the third sector might use its skills, knowledge and networks to ensure better economic outcomes for communities from future regional planning activity.

The turbulent economic waters pose a number of challenges but for the third sector they also offer opportunities. A collective voice from the sector at this time will go a long way to ensuring that we keep a seat at the top table and secure better outcomes for those communities on whose behalf we all campaign.



Rachel Quinn,
Chief Executive

Members' Services

In line with our focus on partnership working One EM has undertaken a big overhaul of our membership services. I am really pleased that we have retained all our former members and, following a membership drive, I welcome our new members. Read about a new member on page 11.

The 'Weathering Storms' conference was a great way for One EM to have a meaningful dialogue with our members and ensure that we are in touch with what needs to happen at a regional level. Members and other delegates gave very positive feedback on the speakers, workshops and members' networking event. Read about what happened on the day on pages 4 to 6.

All members have received details of how to access the member's only area of the One EM website. I hope that you go on-line and get involved in the on-line policy forums. Contact us if you need any help updating your Member Profile and don't forget that you can message other members.

We now have a dedicated membership officer - Lindsay Boyle began her full time role as the Information, Engagement & Membership Officer at the beginning of this year. Lindsay is hoping to come and meet as many new members as possible over the next few months. Please contact Lindsay on 0115 9348468, if you would like to set up a meeting.

Hannah Luck,
Communications & Marketing Manager

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ThirdSector
Charities | Voluntary Organisations | Social Enterprise

VOLUNTARY SECTOR WEAK ON REGIONAL POLICY, SAYS THINK TANK.

Our response

A recent article in *Third Sector* (26th February 2009) highlighted some weaknesses in the level of policy influence that is achieved at regional level across the UK.

The article summarises interim findings by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR). The report from IPPR suggested that charity leaders do not think that the sector has sufficient influence over policy at a regional level despite most charity leaders believing that regional policy influence was important to the sector.

The report identifies that structures and mechanisms for achieving regional policy influence need to become better established in order for this to be achieved and that this is particularly crucial in the current climate of economic challenge.

On first glance this might appear to be a criticism of regional activity but on reflection is in fact an opportunity and a positive recognition of the importance of regional working and for the need to develop mature regional approaches to policy influence.

In the East Midlands this process has already begun. One East Midlands had already acknowledged weaknesses in the sector's ability to influence policy in the region. The key to improving policy influence is far greater coordination between key organisations in the region and the creation of more opportunities to debate the key issues BEFORE consultation stage.

One East Midlands launched this approach at the 'Weathering Storms' event in March 2009. The event signalled a new commitment to work collaboratively as a sector with our statutory partners to ensure a more advanced dialogue over policy issues. In the future this dialogue will be underpinned by better coordinated policy debate within the third sector to ensure that a legitimate, evidenced and coherent voice is being heard.

Effective change takes some time but over the coming months One East Midlands will be creating the opportunities to achieve this influence. Engagement through our network will provide you with growing opportunities to get involved and have your say.

Most recently opportunities to influence change are being created through the following routes:

- Development of a Local Area Agreement policy forum to identify regional responses, tools and approaches to local issues.
- The election of new East Midlands Regional Assembly representatives – to work with the assembly to ensure third sector representation and input in future regional planning processes.
- Launch of a new regional volunteering network.
- Development of a new health inequality network in the region.

If you would like further information on these or other opportunities to influence change in the East Midlands then contact One East Midlands or visit our website www.oneeastmidlands.co.uk and be part of change for the better.

‘Weathering Storms’ Launching the regional partnership approach



One East Midlands’ members, colleagues and partners attended Weathering Storms – Partnership Launch Event on 30th March. Delegates came together to focus on how the third and statutory sectors can work to maximise effectiveness in the current economic downturn.

The day’s debate was framed by speeches from Anne Halliday, GOEM; Angela Sarkis, Capacitybuilders; Evan Rees, Regeneration East Midlands and Elizabeth Balgobin, Skills – Third Sector. The conference focused on how to make use of the opportunities of the economic downturn and how working in partnership can make the third sector more resilient. You can find out more by viewing all of the conference materials at www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk.

Key events included two reports on research carried out in the East Midlands. The first looked at VCS responses to the recession and identified how National Indicator 7 (NI7) on the ‘thriving third sector’ has been interpreted in each Local Area Agreement. The second looked at the impact of the recession on the third sector in the region. The results of the research were used to inform the partnership workshop. The research is briefly summarised on page 10.

In another workshop, participants looked at how the third sector could better engage in the economic development of their local areas and ultimately contribute to regional planning processes. A further workshop focussed on identifying skills needed in the sector to make us better able to cope with the recession. Key outcomes of the workshop discussions feature on pages 5 and 6.



Angela Sarkis, Capacitybuilders



Views from the Conference



Partnership Working

Third sector and statutory sector colleagues came together to debate the challenges and opportunities of working together to create a thriving third sector. Key findings were presented from two pieces of research: see page 10 for research findings.

After reviewing current engagement, delegates identified how a Local Area Agreement (LAA) forum could support engagement across the region, as set out here:

A 'helicopter view'

An LAA forum could provide a 'helicopter view' of the sector and its context. The sector now includes everything from Building Societies to the 600,000 'below the radar' informal voluntary organisations.

Local Area Agreements

The forum could find a way to capture the informal work of 'under the radar' VCS groups which contribute to LAA targets and issues. Develop protocol for the involvement of the third sector in Local Area Agreements and Local Strategic Partnerships.

Working in partnership

It could draw up a common commissioning code of practice which could be promoted in each Local Authority area.

Policy

One EM would link with the forum to provide communications across the region and sectors and influence policy at central government.

Further research

Robust data needs to be gathered across the region to show third sector representation and how the third sector and LAA rate themselves in their delivery.



"We need a language and vocabulary to describe the [third] sector and its diverse interests. We need to define ourselves in a way that is useful to us", workshop delegate.

Influencing Economic Development

The Sub National Review (SNR) of Economic Development and Regeneration began 18 months ago and was framed in the pre-recession context. The purpose of SNR is to draw together spatial planning with strategies for economic development in a single process.

SNR is a move towards a combined regional strategy which is shared at both regional and local level between the board of *emda* and the emerging Local Authority Leaders Board. To find out more about SNR read our policy briefing on the website.

The region will begin to work on integrated regional planning by April 2010, at a local level this will start with the development of Local Economic Assessments (LEAs).

The challenges for the third sector are:

- The new structures do not include automatic places for the third sector so new ways to engage need to be identified.
- The third sector is a valuable source of information for LEAs but how do we ensure we are ready to support the process?
- The regional strategy could provide major opportunities for disadvantaged communities – how can we ensure priority issues and areas are fed in?
- How can the third sector work with our partners to ensure that the resulting strategy is sustainable?



Outcomes of the workshop

Overall, attendees felt that the third sector needs a place to contribute and support the development of a successful regional strategy. It was also important for the sector to engage and understand the process.

The third sector would like to scrutinise the evidence base and feed evidence in to inform the development of the strategy. Where evidence gaps exist the sector would like to be considered for the delivery of commissioned research.

To help support the process One East Midlands will:

- Provide regular briefings to the sector on SNR developments.
- Support third sector members of the Regional Assembly.
- Create opportunities for communities and third sector organisations to participate.

What are Local Economic Assessments?

Local authorities now have the duty to undertake Local Economic Assessments; to encourage and build economic development, identify challenges on the ground and address them in a systematic way.

There are a number of broad principles that should be applied to Local Economic Assessments.

These include:

- Identify the economic linkages within the area and between it and the wider economy.
- Identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing the local economy.
- Review the key ways in which local authorities and their partners influence local economic development.
- Review the regeneration challenges.
- Analyse causes of worklessness.
- Consider the impact of local economic development on the environment.

Skills - Third Sector

'Skills – Third Sector' is the new national body that will look at the skills needs that the third sector has. Elizabeth Balgobin introduced the new body and its aims at our conference on the 30th of March. 'Skills – Third Sector' aims to provide the voice to influence skills development strategy and policy, underpinned by strong research. It will be a focal point for exchanging knowledge and good practice in skills and workforce development and work to increase investment in workforce development in third sector organisations.

The workshops allowed organisations from the East Midlands to have input into how the new body would work. The key areas of work identified by the workshop were: communication, information provision, consultation, best practice, face to face meetings, using existing infrastructure to cascade information and lobbying government.

To keep up to date with developments of 'Skills – Third Sector' visit www.ukworkforcehub.org.uk or email info@skills-thirdsector.org.uk.

Another national body has also been created called the Third Sector National Learning Alliance. Read more about it below.

National Learning Alliance

The Third Sector National Learning Alliance (TSNLA) is a new national alliance of third sector organisations involved in learning and skills. It aims to provide a national 'voice' from and for third sector learning and skills providers to government and other important bodies.

The third sector is uniquely placed to meet the diverse and changing learning needs of our present day society. To fulfill its potential, it needs a strong national voice. The TSNLA will work constructively with government and key stakeholders to influence policy; circulate information relevant to learning and skills in the third sector and enable learning and skills providers to communicate with each other. To get involved visit: www.tsnla.org.uk

Perspectives on the Recession

Community Lincs

By Fiona White,
Chief Executive, Community Lincs

Community Lincs is the Rural Community Council for Lincolnshire, which essentially is a rural community development and infrastructure body. As part of a national network we are lucky to have support both from regional and national colleagues. This network provides us with the opportunity to share knowledge and work together to campaign for recognition of the challenges facing rural communities and the role that we can play in helping to address these challenges. Like many other third sector organisations we are facing uncertain times due to changes in the funding climate but we are determined not to let these potential problems become a hard reality for us or the communities that we serve.

To achieve this we have made a few strategic decisions:

1. We will continue to deliver high quality services and to monitor the outcomes of our activities so that we can prove our worth.
2. We will continue to focus on partnership working because we believe in the old adage that we can be greater than the sum of our parts.

3. We will work with Involving Lincs, our local infrastructure consortium, and One East Midlands, the regional voice for the sector, because one voice is hard to ignore, but many voices can have a real impact.

It is often difficult to find the time to attend meetings, discuss strategy, respond to yet another Government initiative, but when we do we gain other benefits such as new ideas, different perspectives and sometimes a shoulder to cry on. All of these help us to survive and if we want to do more than just survive then we have to find the energy to see through all the dead ends and identify the opportunities that working in partnership can bring.

Nottinghamshire County Council

By Wendy Young,
Nottinghamshire County Council

Whilst local government grants are often a small proportion of much larger total incomes, for some groups they can provide stability of funding or a crucial contribution to 'core' funding. So far, in the County Council, impact on grant aid budgets has been small. This is because budgets for the current financial year were set in December 2008 and the County Council was committed to maintaining grants and the capacity of the voluntary and community sector to respond to potential increasing need. This means that through to March 2010 most groups have received the same level of grant as the previous year although there was little scope to support new projects.

However, I suspect that the Chancellor's pending budget presentation given the recent 'direction of travel' for local government will produce an emphasis on efficiency savings and a much more difficult set of budget decisions for 2010/11. This will be particularly the case as the recession begins to have even greater impact on our vulnerable service users; as reductions in other grant aid programmes feed into the sector; as pressure to maintain low council tax settlements and achieve efficiencies all conspire to make next year's budget decisions complex and more difficult.

I believe that my own authority understands and values the contribution that the sector makes and that this has



Capacitybuilders

been strengthened by our close working through the LAA partnership process; the development of Compact Plus and our joint work on NI7. It is important, although difficult at times, that we all continue to work on such initiatives since these are what build our common cause and, more importantly, enable us to deliver vital services and support to our communities. In Nottinghamshire we are also trying to develop the way in which we manage our grant aid programmes so that we reduce administration for groups and ourselves; produce better information about who and what services we are funding; are clearer about our investment in capacity building and can through 'working smarter' make efficiency savings and demonstrate that our funding is making a difference. It is important that the partnership between the sector and ourselves is strong so that we can achieve these improvements together and thereby contribute positively to the task that authorities will have in making difficult budget decisions for next year.

On the face of it, third sector organisations have sound reasons for being anxious about the economic downturn. Accountancy firm PricewaterhouseCoopers reported in December that the third sector could face a funding shortfall of £2.3 billion this year.

Hard times can also harden social attitudes. Equalities organisations anticipate increased challenges caused by rising hate crimes and the consequent greater need for anti-discrimination services and support.

Opportunities

However, some senior voices in the sector point to the opportunities a recession could provide. Lower property prices can offer opportunities to acquire better premises – or to negotiate reduced charges for new building work. Many highly skilled people are leaving jobs in the corporate world and could be recruited to the sector. Volunteering too may receive a boost. *"Increased unemployment is likely to affect significant numbers of people with valuable skills and expertise"*, says Capacitybuilders' Chief Executive Matt Leach.

Key approaches

Finding partners within the sector – or beyond it – to help share skills and provide mutual encouragement could be a timely step. Collaboration can be a

survival solution for some, especially during a period of increased demand for services, but is also a way for others to pool costly resources and provide stronger bids for scarcer funds.

Another key approach is to invest in skills so that organisations can make a strong recovery when the economy improves. *"Performance management is even more important in economically challenging times, as organisations must demonstrate that they make a difference and that they use resources efficiently,"* says Tim Wilson from Capacitybuilders' Performance Management workstream, led by Charities Evaluation Services.

Matt Leach says: *"Risk assessment and contingency planning are vital, as is a strong forward strategy which may include collaboration or merger where this helps to deliver efficiencies and increased business resilience."*

Capacitybuilders will be working with all grant holders to consider how the economic situation is affecting their plans, and to ensure the third sector is getting the right support to interpret needs and deliver in a changing environment.

For help and advice for organisations planning how to deal with economic uncertainty, visit Third Sector Foresight's website, www.3s4.org.uk/drivers/economic-downturn managed by the Responding to Social Change workstream funded by Capacitybuilders.

Regeneration in a Recession

What is regeneration?

Evan Rees: Put very simply, regeneration is about making better places. It's about buildings, the environment and transportation. It's also about the people. It's about whether people feel engaged with each other, do they have a good sense of community, are they able to get their emotional and support needs met, are they able to link with family and friends. It's about the way that communities come together to meet common needs. For me regeneration is what turns somebody that is not happy with the way their environment is, into somebody who is happy with where they are.

I think a lot of the talk around regeneration is around the physical environment, it's about buildings and roads but what it is all about is how you improve the lives of the people who are going to be working in the buildings or living in the houses or travelling on the roads.

One example we've got in the East Midlands at the moment is something called City Flight: higher earning professionals and managerial staff leaving city centres. When you look at the reasons why they are leaving, it is because there isn't appropriate infrastructure. They can't send their kids to a school they are happy with, there isn't any green space, and there isn't a sense of community that they are looking for. The impact that has on inner cities is to strip out a whole layer of people who would be spending in local shops, who would be investing in the community. It also increases turnover of households in the city areas which adds to a sense of fragmentation amongst communities, has impacts on community cohesion and potentially

impacts crime rates, street crime and educational attainment levels.

What do Regeneration East Midlands do?

ER: If regeneration is all about building better places, Regeneration East Midlands is about helping people to build better places. So we work with a range of community groups and agencies to help them look at what works in regeneration, how to do it better and where it has been done before so you can learn from it. If we are talking to developers, how do they link the design of the houses with what the people who live in them are going to need? How do they link with the local authority that needs to make sure that there is school provision or health centre provision? So it's about helping people to think about these issues. It's about creating the partnerships to make things work.

Has the current economic situation affected regeneration work in the East Midlands? If so, how?

ER: It is certainly having a major effect at the moment. An immediate area of concern is that there is very little private sector home building occurring. This means that the lack of affordable housing for people in the East Midlands is going to continue to be unaddressed. We are also seeing that the local authority is also under a lot of pressure because planning applications are down. That means that some jobs in local authorities are perhaps at threat, the capacity at local authorities to deal with regeneration and planning issues is decreasing at the moment and that is of great concern to us.

I think that another consequence is that some money that would have

addressed regeneration needs isn't there any more. One funding mechanism is something that is called the Section 106 agreement whereby a developer will allow a certain amount of money for the local authority to invest in better infrastructure, whether that be roads or schools or community infrastructure.

Because there isn't any building development going on, that Section 106 money isn't coming through. Added to that of course is higher unemployment and the increase we've seen in worklessness and the impact that has on communities generally.

How has Regeneration East Midlands been affected?

ER: It is affecting us. It means that we are looking at refocusing our work much more at how we support people throughout the recession. We are working with local authorities to help them work smarter, things like joint planning units and sharing services with each other. We are working with developers to look at how we can encourage them to keep a focus on good design which joins a whole range of regeneration needs together and not just building cheap which we know will have a long term negative impact. But also helping people to think about what we will do in the upturn again and how we will cope with a sudden need to start building again.

What do you see as the way forward?

ER: I think the recession has really reinforced the point that we need to look at regeneration and growth in the round. Just building lots of brick boxes creates problems for the future. The only way forward is to develop sustainable housing, looking at communities holistically.



Interview with Evan Rees,
Chief Executive, Regeneration East Midlands



Impact of the Economic Downturn on the VCS in the East Midlands

This research began to identify the effects of the recession, what groups are doing in response and what support needs they have as a result.

Anticipated effects of recession

Respondents reported: increased applicants for posts; more cautious use of reserves; volunteer levels both up and down; uncertainty on future contracts; inability to meet service demand.

Response to recession

Responses included: reducing financial spend; attempts to influence policy and strategy; identifying new ways to make money. Impacts noted were job freezes, greater collaboration, using reserves and reduced funding from trusts.

Additional support needs identified

In relation to volunteering: some organisations are seeing a rise in volunteers; and others a drop. Capacity to deal with and support volunteers is likely to be stretched.

Crisis funds may be necessary and front line support may need to change. Influencing policy and active lobbying is likely to be needed.

The full report is available at www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk

Regional Responses to a Thriving Third Sector

The aim of this research was to provide an overview of the third sector in negotiating Local Area Agreements and working with partners to address National Indicator 7, a 'thriving third sector'.

Issues identified included:

- NI7 may be seen as a narrow 'third sector issue';
- 'Buy in' from public sector is crucial to ensure implementation;
- Challenges to achieve change without extra investment;
- The economic downturn may make it more difficult to increase current levels of satisfaction;
- Most people had misgivings about how NI7 was measured through the National Survey.

What is needed at regional level?

- Recognise the limitations of a regional approach
- Facilitate discussion and information sharing
- A thorough policy response
- Leadership to develop a shared approach
- Further research may be needed

The full report is available at www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk

SPOTLIGHT

Member: Children's Links



Karen Parsons
Director of Workforce & Sector Support



1. Briefly describe your organisation

'Children's Links' is a national children's charity committed to improving the quality of children's, young people's and families' life experiences. We deliver a range of support services across the UK for the benefit of varying groups and individuals. Our work involves the delivery of training and business support, play & community development, parenting training and support play services in prisons, delivering early years and out of school childcare and preventative work, including Junior Youth Inclusion.

2. What is your role?

I am the Director of Workforce & Sector Support. I lead: training & workforce development, VCS sector support, childcare delivery and business support to voluntary, private and independent childcare providers.

As part of my role I work regionally to support local VCS children & young people's networks to engage with their local Children's Trusts. I provide regional training and events on issues such as understanding and preparing for commissioning and in understanding Local Area Agreements

3. What work are you involved with at a regional level?

VCS Engage is a national project and I am the Regional Development Manager for the East Midlands. This work involves working with the VCS networks, Children's Trust representatives, LSCB, LA workforce leads, GOEM and key partner agencies who support children's services with the implementation of 'Every Child Matters'.

I also lead a regional partnership group which aims to implement better outcomes for children and young people across the East Midlands through the development of a thriving VCS CYP sector within the region.

4. What benefits of membership to One EM do you see?

It is informative. It helps to keep me in touch with networks, events and policy development in the East Midlands and provides a platform and somewhere to go or call upon at times of need.

5. How has the economic downturn affected you?

With local authority budget reviews happening throughout the region, decommissioning threatens the future sustainability of many organisations. Therefore, part of our work is about supporting networks & organisations in strengthening working together in collaboration with other partners. In doing so we are making the necessary preparations to enable commissioning and to survive the changes that are occurring.

6. Is there anything else that you would like to add?

With the combining of Government agendas about a 'Thriving Third Sector' & 'Children & Young People', my sector has never had such a great opportunity to deliver first class services, working with local people, to meet local needs.

Working in partnership is essential and those who embrace the changes will be amongst the survivors. Use the opportunity to influence local policy and implementation through partnership with local Children's Trusts.

SPOTLIGHT

Trustee: Helen Voce

Chief Executive,
Nottingham CVS



1. How did you get involved in One East Midlands?

I was frustrated that we didn't have a strong general infrastructure organisation supporting us at a regional level so I put myself forward for the board so that I could help to make it happen.

2. What do you bring to the Board?

I have worked in the sector for over 15 years so feel able to bring some knowledge of the issues we face and the contribution we can make to regional agendas. I work for a local infrastructure organisation and sit on the board of a national infrastructure organisation so can identify what is best addressed at a regional level. I manage an organisation so can help with the policies and procedures, quality standards and risk management structures you need to run effectively.

3. What do you see are the benefits of One EM and how can it support the VCS in the region?

Having an organisation that raises the profile of the VCS at a regional level is crucial. We are contributing so much to the success of the region economically and socially and we need to be shouting about it. I realise its not always going to be with a united voice but we should be able to agree some key messages and One EM can help us develop these. One EM can also help regional players like *emda* recognise the valuable role that the VCS can play in delivering a successful East Midlands.

There is also a huge role for networks across the region. We need to discuss policy and lobby at a regional level, we need to feed into national consultations, we need to be able to help each other as we tackle similar issues in our localities, we need to

come together to deliver contracts in consortia and we need to know what is happening. One East Midlands can facilitate this and the new website is helping to do some of this already.

4. How would you like to see One EM grow / change in the future?

What I want is a one stop shop on all things regional and a way to link to colleagues who are working on the same issues as me. It will save me time, help me in my work and get better results for the people of Nottingham. I think I've got it in One EM and it's up to all of us to use it to make it work for us and the communities we work with.

Report ba

National response to Compact Week consultation

In 2008, the government launched a debate on the future of the Compact. Compact Voice worked with hundreds of voluntary and community organisations to learn their view on Compact. They found:

1. The Commissioner for the Compact should have powers to investigate Compact breaches;
2. More support is needed for organisations;
3. The Compact should be updated and made easier to read;
4. Core commitments should run through national and local Compacts;
5. Awareness raising and implementation are absolutely vital.

In response to the consultation, Sir Bert Massie, the Commissioner for the Compact, made a range of recommendations.

Sir Bert's key recommendations are:

- That the Compact remains a voluntary agreement and that no further consideration be given to converting it into statutory form.
- That the Compact and Codes be rewritten into a single document, with particular consideration given to the implications for local Compacts of a revised national Compact. The redrafting should take account of, and refer to, the new local performance framework, Local Strategic Partnerships, Local Area Agreements and the Comprehensive Area Assessment.
- That the Commission be mandated to begin the work of revising and rewriting the Compact forthwith, according to a consultative process to be agreed between the Compact parties.
- That the Commission for the Compact be established as a statutory corporation as described in 4.3 of the report on the debate about the future of the Compact (November 2008). The statute establishing the Commission should also provide that, in the exercise of its functions, the Commission should act independently, having first agreed its business plan with the Secretary of State.

To download a copy of the report containing Sir Bert's recommendations and the results of the debate about the future of the Compact and the role of the Commission, visit the Compact website: www.thecompact.org.uk

Compact in the Economic Downturn

Compact Voice, the body representing the voluntary and community sector on Compact issues, has created a useful resource on how the Compact can support voluntary sector organisations in the economic downturn.

In the article it pointed out some of the key ways Compact can support, including:

Public bodies should be working closely with the sector and give at least 12 weeks for written consultations.

Don't wait for consultations to come out, ask what is happening and offer solutions and ways you can help.

Community groups can be seen as soft targets in a recession. The Compact recognises their importance, the value they bring and the preventative work they do.

Make sure you demonstrate your importance, showing outcomes and examples.

If public bodies are changing their programmes in response to the downturn they should involve the sector.

Speak to them about changes and ask for assurance there will be a meaningful opportunity to contribute.

In a downturn public bodies may be tempted to shift risks to the voluntary and community sector.

Get out the Compact and explain that there should be a conversation about the issues.

Public bodies should give sufficient notice at the end of grants to enable the programme to end smoothly.

If this doesn't happen act quickly and be firm. Explain clearly the impact on beneficiaries and staff.

For more information and to download the full report visit www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk

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on the Compact



Regional

The Compact has been identified as a key policy priority for One East Midlands. Following the Compact event held by One EM in November '08, a policy champion, Shamsher Chohan, was appointed and a regional working group was created. The working group held its inaugural meeting on 28th February. A range of colleagues from various sectors met to discuss how regional Compacts worked in other regions and what could best be done in the East Midlands at a regional level to support local Compacts and regional organisations.

The group discussed a range of options including allowing the meeting to be a space for local Compact workers to come together and share best practice and their experiences of implementing the Compact in their area. It was also suggested that it could be enforced by having a virtual network where people could discuss the Compact. A forum is available on One EM's website at www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/policy_list.php to share your views on the Compact. Other suggestions included working to embed Compact principals into appropriate posts within the voluntary and community sector and the statutory sector.

One East Midlands will take this work forward by working in partnership with key statutory partners, creating a Compact resource on One EM's website and by drafting an options paper of the possibilities for Compact work at regional level which will then be consulted on with the wider sector.



Getting Involved

There are a number of ways that you can still get involved in the Compact. You can get involved by joining the regional Compact working group, you will be able to directly influence what support is offered at regional level and whether there should be a regional Compact. Please email policy@one-em.org.uk for more information on how to get involved.

There is also a discussion forum on the Compact on our website. You can submit questions or comment on other questions already there. You can access it through our Compact policy page:

www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/policy_list.php

More information regarding the national Compact can be found at:

www.compact.org.uk

www.compactvoice.org.uk



One East Midlands is a registered charity, working with the voluntary and community and wider third sector.

One East Midlands brings together organisations that support voluntary and community groups across the region to influence and shape policy, improve services and provide a single point of contact at a regional level for all stakeholders.

One East Midlands is accountable to its members: voluntary and community organisations, frontline groups, public and private sector agencies. Through its membership, the sector is able to influence One East Midlands' work and ensure that the organisation does what it sets out to do.

For more information on our membership scheme visit the website: www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk

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