

# WE'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES

The Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector:  
working to reduce crime and increase community safety  
in Nottinghamshire



**SAFER FUTURE COMMUNITIES**  
Empowering local voluntary & community partnerships

**one**  
East Midlands

## The voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in Nottinghamshire

The voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE) is the collective name for community groups, voluntary organisations, charities, faith groups, social enterprises and community interest companies. Some people prefer to use the term civil society or the third sector for the VCSE, which works alongside but is separate to the public sector and private sector.

In the wake of the economic downturn and the coalition government's response to it in the form of the 'Big Society' vision, the VCSE nationwide finds itself in a new era. Communities and the organisations serving them are brought to the forefront of the Big Society strategy: to 'give communities more powers,' to 'encourage people to take an active role in their communities,' to 'transfer power from central to local government' and to 'support co-ops, mutuals, charities and social enterprises'. Alongside this increased responsibility, the VCSE also faces the ever-increasing threat of financial hardship as a consequence of public sector austerity measures, alongside growing demands from within communities, demands which either arise directly from the current economic climate (such as unemployment, housing, debt and mental health issues) or indirectly as the VCSE is called to fill the gaps in public service provision.

Locally there were grave concerns about Nottinghamshire County Council's proposals to save £150M over 4 years would see service reductions and significant cuts to grant aid to the voluntary sector amounting to 65%; this on top of a 10% cut the previous year. Initially infrastructure organisations that provide support to front-line organisations were to lose all funding although this decision was later changed and significant cuts to their funding for the next two years were later agreed.

### Nottinghamshire First – Progress Through Partnership

Nottinghamshire has a population of 843,000 people and contains over 7,000 civil society organisations (CSOs). Infrastructure support services have developed to provide a mix of local (district) generic services and specialist county-wide services. This development has led to some inconsistencies in delivery in terms of range, quality and geographical coverage. It is essential that Nottinghamshire infrastructure is transformed to provide relevant, high-quality services that meet CSO needs and expectations as cost-effectively as possible with a continuing focus on efficiency and effectiveness.

Nottinghamshire has a combination of relatively affluent suburbs surrounding the City, communities in the North West which grew with the textile and coal industries; and rural areas to the East and South with prosperous market towns and villages. Local Authority structure is complex, comprising 7 district/borough councils, 10 town councils and 151 parish councils. Districts display great disparities in deprivation, health, crime, education and employment.

Through the dynamic combination of generalist and specialist infrastructure support, the Nottinghamshire First partnership aims to ensure that all CSOs are given the support and information they need. This includes one-to-one support, group development, networking, representation, training and consultation.

## An introduction to the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in Nottinghamshire

### Support for the sector

The recession and the public cuts have resulted in many CSO's facing much reduced budgets, indeed some have closed, difficulty finding alternative sources of income as other sources are under increased pressure and a growth in demand for services as a result of cuts in public services. Furthermore they need to cope with the increased numbers of volunteers alongside their efforts to reform their own services. More than ever CSO's need high quality infrastructure support yet it is evident that many are left confused by the range of services available to them. A recent (2011) voluntary sector survey demonstrated that local organisations want clarity about who does what support; they want local access to support services; and they want to be able to have confidence in the quality and consistency of the services provided. To meet these needs and to ensure frontline civil society organisations have access to a wider range of high quality services the Nottinghamshire First project proposes:

To develop centres of excellence within each geographical hub strategically reviewing operations and offering specialist advice on funding, group development, volunteering and workforce development/training. These will reduce duplication; replacing the supplementing district-based services with area-based staff and resources.

To establish a communications, information sharing and signposting hub. It will provide a continuous and accessible stream of information on new opportunities, relevant issues, and available resources and support; ensuring that groups know where to get what they need.

The hub will project a coherent visual identity for the voluntary sector helping to market frontline services to other sectors and to develop beneficial 'external' relationships.

To explore and develop new opportunities and sustainable business models for infrastructure and the wider sector. This will include social enterprise, tendering and commissioning and the development of mutually beneficial relationships with the private sector.

### Countywide Infrastructure support

NAVO is the Lead Body recognised by BIG Fund the Nottinghamshire Transforming Local Infrastructure project. NAVO is an independent voluntary organisation with over twenty years of experience working to enhance voluntary and statutory partnerships in the County of Nottinghamshire.

Through our Communications Hub, we strengthen and bring together the voluntary, public and private sectors across Nottinghamshire by providing accurate, easily accessible and up to date information, news alerts and e- bulletins. NAVO also leads on the facilitation of forums and events that bring together the voluntary, public and private sectors across Nottinghamshire to provide opportunities for information sharing and joint working. NAVO also provides a fast efficient and cost effective DBS checking service.

For further information regarding Nottinghamshire First, the Partnership go to

<http://www.navo.org.uk/> OR <http://www.nottinghamshirefirst.org.uk/>

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An introduction to the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in Nottinghamshire

**Nottinghamshire Infrastructure support organisations**

Ashfield Voluntary Action

The Council Offices, Fox Street, Sutton-in-Ashfield, NG17 1BD

**Tel:** 01623 555551

**Website:** <http://www.ashfieldvoluntaryaction.org.uk/>

Mansfield Community and Voluntary Service

Community House, 36 Wood Street, Mansfield, NG18 1QA

**Tel:** 01623 651177

**Website:** <http://www.mansfieldcvs.org/>

Rushcliffe Community and Voluntary Service

Level 3a, Bridgford House, Pavilion Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5GJ

**Tel:** 0115 9699060

**Website:** <http://www.rushcliffecvs.org.uk/>

Newark & Sherwood Community & Voluntary Service and Volunteer Centre

67 North Gate, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 1HD

**Tel:** 01636 679539

**Website:** <http://www.nandscvs.org/>

Gedling Community & Voluntary Service

22a Main Road, Gedling, Nottingham, NG4 3HP

**Tel:** 0115 9871981

**Website:** <http://www.gedlingcvs.org.uk/>

Bassetlaw Community & Voluntary Service

The Old Abbey School, Priorswell Road, Worksop, S80 2BU

**Tel:** 01909 476118

**Website:** <http://www.bcvcs.org.uk/>

## An introduction to the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in Nottingham

The voluntary, community and social enterprise sector has an important role as an employer, a contributor to Nottingham City's economy and in helping address local need. In 2010 Nottingham Community and Voluntary Sector (NCVS) found that:

- The total income of the local VCS was at least £227million during the 2009/10 financial year
- There were 100,000 volunteers in the city
- If their volunteers were paid a salary in line with their role description, their value would be over £14million during the 2009/10 financial year.

According to the database held by NCVS there are 1,200 Nottingham based VCS groups, including 535 registered Nottingham charities and 11 percent dedicated to Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups. In addition there are a number of national charities operating locally.

Analysis of the NCVS database shows that these VCS groups are involved in a range of activities with advice and information; education, training and learning; and children and young people's services and activities top most in the services and activities VCS groups provide in the city.

Around a third of city based VCS groups have an annual turnover of £10,000 to £50,000 with four percent having a turnover in excess of £1million.

Each year NCVS works directly with around 400 city based VCS groups, providing training, group support packages and support to recruit volunteers. NCVS also provides volunteer brokerage services to over 2,000 people each year and their weekly e-bulletin, covering local news, resources, funding, training and jobs, reaches 1,800 people who work or volunteer in Nottingham.

A January 2011 survey of all NCVS contacts found:

- 66% were expecting funding cuts over the next year;
- 47% of these felt they risked closure; and
- 46% were expecting to make staff redundant.

A year later, NCVS's 'Living on the edge' report found:

- 64% have seen an increase in demand for their services
- 52% have seen a decrease in staff over the last year
- 69% are facing reduced income
- 38% have decreased the support they give volunteers
- VCS groups report that their services are becoming more generic, putting those with multiple, cultural and/or complex needs at risk
- 76% may have to close a service they provide
- 36% may have to close altogether
- 25% have no reserves
- 63% are pessimistic about their clients' future prospects.

## An introduction to the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in Nottingham

### Crime reduction and community safety

Many groups in Nottingham have community safety and/or crime reduction as a focus of their work. Below are some examples of groups in Nottingham whose work focus on these areas:

- **Unity** - providing a positive response to gang-related violence, bringing young people from key areas together to reduce tension within communities; increasing their aspirations and educational attainment; encouraging young people, particularly those in BME communities to engage in volunteering within their communities; tackling anti-social behaviour and reducing crime.
- **City of Nottingham Neighbourhood Watch Council** - promoting and supporting Neighbourhood Watch schemes across the city.
- **NACRO Services, Nottinghamshire** - working with young people to stop them becoming involved, or further involved, in crime, by giving them the opportunity to turn their lives around by getting them back into education, training or employment, working to address substance misuse problems, providing stable accommodation, challenging negative attitudes and behaviour, and providing positive role models.
- **No Gun Organisation** - an anti-guns and knives organisation providing helpful information and mentoring support to young people.
- **Jason Spencer Trust** - relieving the devastating and traumatic effects a family faces on a day-to-day basis after the murder or manslaughter of a loved one through a helpful and resourceful website; holding monthly self-help bereavement support groups and being available for referrals and private one-to-one support based appointments.

### Nottingham Community and Voluntary Service

NCVS has been at the centre of Nottingham's VCS since 1875, improving the quality of people's lives in Nottingham by strengthening the local VCS and wider third sector. They work with VCS groups to improve:

- The effectiveness of local VCS groups and organisations
- The quality of volunteering in Nottingham
- The quality of decision making by involving the third sector.

More detailed information about NCVS and their services is on their website at [www.nottinghamcvcs.co.uk](http://www.nottinghamcvcs.co.uk) and in their "Can we help you?" leaflet at [http://www.nottinghamcvcs.co.uk/files/NCVS\\_services\\_leaflet\\_March2012.pdf](http://www.nottinghamcvcs.co.uk/files/NCVS_services_leaflet_March2012.pdf)

They are a registered charity, number 107090, and a Company Limited by Guarantee, registered in England and Wales, number 3505634.

NCVS can be contacted at:

Address: Nottingham Voluntary Action Centre, 7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3FB

Telephone: 0115 934 8400

Email: [ncvs@nottinghamcvcs.co.uk](mailto:ncvs@nottinghamcvcs.co.uk)

Website: [www.nottinghamcvcs.co.uk](http://www.nottinghamcvcs.co.uk)

## Nottinghamshire Safer Future Community Members

The following voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations are members of the Safer Future Communities network for Nottinghamshire.

Please note that this is not a complete list of VCSE organisations working in the field of crime prevention and community safety in the county, but just of those organisations that have joined the network.

Most of these organisations have websites, where you can find out further information about them and their work, including how to contact them direct. One East Midlands will also be happy to pass on messages to any or all of these organisations on your behalf.

- Ann Craft Trust [www.anncrafttrust.org](http://www.anncrafttrust.org)
- Carers Federation [www.carersfederation.co.uk](http://www.carersfederation.co.uk)
- City of Nottingham Neighbourhood Watch Council [www.neighbourhoodwatchcouncil.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodwatchcouncil.co.uk)
- Double Impact [www.doubleimpact.org.uk](http://www.doubleimpact.org.uk)
- Family Lives <http://familylives.org.uk/about>
- Framework Housing Association [www.frameworkha.org](http://www.frameworkha.org)
- Funding People <http://fundingpeople.org.uk>
- Gedling CVS [www.gedlingcvs.org.uk](http://www.gedlingcvs.org.uk)
- Go Digitall [www.godigitall.org.uk](http://www.godigitall.org.uk)
- Groundwork Greater Nottingham <http://www.eastmidlands.groundwork.org.uk/greater-nottingham.aspx>
- Hetty's [www.hettys.co.uk](http://www.hettys.co.uk)
- Hope Community Services [www.hopeservices.org.uk](http://www.hopeservices.org.uk)
- Inspiring Greatness <http://inspiringgreatness.org.uk>
- Mansfield Woodhouse Community Development Group [www.mansfieldwoodhouse.info](http://www.mansfieldwoodhouse.info)
- Metropolitan [www.metropolitan.org.uk](http://www.metropolitan.org.uk)
- NCHA [www.ncha.org.uk](http://www.ncha.org.uk)
- Nottingham CVS [www.nottinghamcvs.co.uk](http://www.nottinghamcvs.co.uk)
- Nottingham Arimathea Trust <http://nottinghamarimathea.org.uk>
- Nottingham Mencap [www.nottinghammencap.org.uk](http://www.nottinghammencap.org.uk)
- Nottinghamshire Independent Domestic Abuse Service [www.nidas.org.uk](http://www.nidas.org.uk)
- One Nottingham [www.onenottingham.org.uk](http://www.onenottingham.org.uk)
- P3 [www.p3charity.org](http://www.p3charity.org)
- Pintsize Theatre Ltd [www.pintsizetheatre.co.uk](http://www.pintsizetheatre.co.uk)
- Roshni [www.roshninotts.org.uk](http://www.roshninotts.org.uk)
- S.H.E. (Survivors Helping Each Other) [www.survivors-helping-eachother.co.uk](http://www.survivors-helping-eachother.co.uk)
- The Core Centre [www.calvertoncore.org.uk](http://www.calvertoncore.org.uk)
- Victim Support Nottinghamshire [www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk)
- Wheelbase [www.wheelbase.org.uk](http://www.wheelbase.org.uk)
- Women's Aid Integrated Services [www.wais.org.uk](http://www.wais.org.uk)

## The GREAT Project

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Managed by the Nottinghamshire Domestic Violence Forum (NDVF), The GREAT Project (Good Relationships are Equal And Trusting) aims to improve awareness of domestic violence in schools.

National statistics state that one in four women are likely to experience domestic violence at some point in their lives and that three children in a class of 30 are likely to be living with domestic violence.

Prior to developing The GREAT Project in 2010, NDVF had been delivering awareness work in primary schools since 2001. However, due to the sensitive nature of the subject some head teachers were reluctant to allow it to be included.

This led to NDVF creating bespoke workshops and projects for individual schools leading to an inconsistency of individual projects, pupil learning and only basic resources. NDVF also found that the best way to raise awareness of domestic violence was to take learners on a journey, which the bespoke sessions did not provide.

The GREAT Project was developed in response to these problems, through consultation with pupils and teachers, offering 4 x 2 hour interactive project sessions with year 6 pupils that raise awareness of domestic violence, improve access to support services, change attitudes to domestic violence and empower young people to aspire towards healthy relationships.

The project encourages the domestic violence sector to increase awareness and education on the issue, motivating pupils to be excited about learning about the issue, rather than scared or daunted, through interactive and engaging activities and resources that are designed to support

children gain, retain and recall information whilst acknowledging and supporting the wide range of learning styles.

The project also considers the needs of schools and teachers by aligning itself with National Curriculum and OFSTED requirements. Through its website and staff handbook, teachers and other school staff can learn more about the benefits and learning opportunities of the project and feel positive and confidence that its specialist subject will be delivered in a safe and sensitive way.

The GREAT Project is funded by Nottingham Crime & Drugs Partnership, Nottingham City Children's Services Empowerment Contract and the Safer Nottinghamshire Board, which since 2011 has commissioned NDVF to deliver the project at schools throughout Nottinghamshire. Schools in Nottingham City are requested to contribute £450 toward the £1,200 running costs of the project.

Since 2010 the project, which is supported by Graham Allen MP, Chair of the Early Intervention Review, has been accessed by 994 pupils, with 90% of these stating that they now were able to identify abusive behaviour.

The GREAT Project has been evaluated by an independent evaluator who concluded that each project that led to a disclosure of domestic violence had a cost benefit of £5,600 per new disclosure.

As a result of the popularity of The GREAT Project, NDVF has now developed a licence package to enable other domestic violence sector organisations to deliver the project in their area.

For further information on the GREAT project visit [www.thegreatproject.org.uk](http://www.thegreatproject.org.uk).

## Smile! Stop Hate Crime

**SAFER FUTURE COMMUNITIES**  
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Smile! Stop Hate Crime aims to tackle hate crime against adults with learning disabilities in Nottinghamshire County and Nottingham City.

The project works with the general public to let them know what hate crime is and how to report it. It runs training sessions throughout the City and County and works with a wide range of agencies and people with learning disabilities to stamp out hate crime.

The hate crime training, which is open to everyone to look at, covers the scale of the problem, what hate crime is and what to look for in an individual who may be experiencing hate crime. It highlights the need to report hate crime and advises on how and when to report it.

Smile! Stop Hate Crime works with people with learning disabilities in order to assist the police, courts, carers and organisations in the public and private sectors to report and deal effectively with learning disability hate crime.

The work of the project contributes to the increasing awareness of third party reporting of hate crime to Stop Hate UK. In addition, it is raising awareness of the Nottinghamshire Police Pegasus Scheme, a scheme designed to assist with the fast and easy reporting of crime and problem incidents to the police by people with learning disabilities.

By increasing effective communication and understanding between people with learning disabilities and the wider community Smile! Stop Hate Crime is working towards a time when all hate incidents against adults with learning disabilities are no longer tolerated. If just

one of the thousands of members of the general public the project has spoken to report a hate crime and a life is saved, then those involved in the project will know it has been worthwhile.

The main lessons learnt throughout the project are that we are all responsible for stamping out hate crime in our communities and that people with learning disabilities will only take their rightful place in society when they feel safe to do so.

The Smile! Stop Hate Crime project is funded by Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottinghamshire City Health CCG. The project is managed by Nottingham Mencap.

For further information on Smile! Stop Hate Crime visit [www.nottinghammencap.org.uk/What-We-Do/smile-stop-hate-crime.html](http://www.nottinghammencap.org.uk/What-We-Do/smile-stop-hate-crime.html).

## Nottingham Rape Crisis Centre

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Run by women for women, Nottingham Rape Crisis Centre (NRCC) was established over 25 years ago to support women survivors of sexual assault.

Open to all women aged 16 and over from all backgrounds, cultures and ethnicities, NRCC provides a range of support services to reduce the impact sexual assault can have on women's lives and help them regain control, including a confidential telephone helpline, face-to-face counselling, independent sexual violence advisors and signposting to other appropriate services.

The confidential helpline, staffed by female counsellors and support workers, offers support and information to anyone concerned about the impact of sexual assault. It provides a safe place for victims, their friends and family to address concerns, explore the impact on their lives or just to request information. Users of the helpline can also request to be added on to the waiting list for face-to-face support.

Provided by trained counsellors in a safe and non-judgemental environment, NRCC's confidential counselling service explores the impact of any form of sexual assault on a woman's life over up to 48 sessions, depending on their individual need.

Employed by NRCC, but not managed or influenced by any other agencies that survivors or sexual assault might come into contact with, the independent sexual violence advisors are trained specialists whose goals are the support, safety and well-being of survivors. This includes providing information and support on a range of practical issues, including reporting the sexual assault to the police, the criminal justice process, housing and financial matters, sexually transmitted diseases and

pregnancy. They can also accompany survivors on visits to the police, courts, clinics, solicitors and other agencies.

NRCC also works in partnership with the Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Nottingham, which houses facilities that meet both the physical and emotional needs of anyone, male or female, who has been sexually assaulted within the previous 7 to 10 days. This includes the opportunity for survivors to have a forensic medical examination, report the assault to the police and access immediate short-term support.

Two of the many people NRCC has helped are Susan, referred to them by the police, who as a child was repeatedly sexually assaulted for several years by her foster father and foster father's brother; and Monica, who was referred by her solicitors to NRCC during the processing of her asylum application. Monica was trafficked into Britain, imprisoned and forced to work as a prostitute. HIV positive and with a young son, on referral she had many of the classic symptoms of post traumatic syndrome and suicidal thoughts.

For further information on Nottingham Rape Crisis Centre visit [www.nottinghamrapecrisis.org.uk](http://www.nottinghamrapecrisis.org.uk).

*"Thank you so much for everything you have done for me. Your patience and understanding has made a huge difference to the point where I can feel positive about actually having a future I can look forward to."*

Survivor

## Housing Matters Home Safety Team

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Managed by Age UK Nottingham and Nottinghamshire since September 2003, the Housing Matters Home Safety Team aims to help older people in Nottingham City stay safe and independent in their own homes by reducing their fear of crime and the risk of accidents.

The aim of the project is to visit the homes of older people to carry out a home safety check based on their home and surroundings, identifying and providing advice on hazards that could lead to them being the victim of a crime or accident, with the focus being on prevention rather than reaction.

The team, which consists of three visiting coordinators, work with the Nottingham Crime & Drugs Partnership, to supply and demonstrate the use of smart water to its clients.

Where appropriate and where funding is available, they can also fit security alarms on the client's property and provide segment timers to activate lamps or radios when they are away from home.

The team also work closely with other agencies including Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue service to carry out full fire safety risk assessments and fit smoke alarms, and Age UK Nottingham's Signposting Service to assist clients to access a range of other services.

By implementing crime prevention measures, including the smart water and security devices, and providing advice on bogus callers and how to avoid rogue

traders, the project has helped improve the quality of life and independence of over 2,000 clients in the last four years, whilst making a contribution to the reduction of crime in the Nottingham City area.

For further information on Age UK Nottingham and Nottinghamshire visit [www.ageuk.org.uk/notts](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/notts).

## Hettys

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Hettys criminal justice and mediation work aims to improve family relationships in substance using offenders, reduce the impact of their substance abuse and reduce reoffending, specifically in unreported family crime and abuse.

The voluntary organisation Hettys was originally set up in 1996 by a small group of mothers who had experienced the substance abuse of their loved ones and wanted to use their passion and determination to support others in a similar situation.

Hettys criminal justice work involves attending local prisons, including Nottingham HMP, Ranby HMP and Lowdham HMP, to deliver monthly sessions to prisoners to identify the impact substance misuse and offending behaviour has on their family members.

As part of this, they give prisoners the opportunity to accept personal responsibility for the breakdown of their family relationships and functioning and to refer their own family members to Hettys if they feel they would benefit from the support.

Hettys also runs a course in probation to offenders as an extension of the prison project, which over three weeks looks at the impact substance use and offending has on their families and, during the third session, invites a family member, providing group family mediation in the form of restorative justice.

The group also delivers mediation in prisons to all offenders 12 months prior to

their release, particularly focusing on those who are most likely to reoffend. These sessions aim to improve family functioning and relationships and deal with emotional history. Hettys work with families support networks for offenders who can offer housing and help them find employment on their release, which are both contributing factors to reoffending.

The families of offenders who have been supported by Hettys have reported improved feelings of safety in their family homes and a reduction in substance abuse, family abuse and unreported family crime.

Hettys prison and probation work costs £38,000 to deliver and has been funded for the past 10 years. Their mediation work costs £40,000 to deliver and is funded for a 12 month contract.

For further information on Hettys visit [www.hettys.org.uk](http://www.hettys.org.uk).

## Helping Hands Award

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Running annually for the last four years and recently receiving charitable status, the Helping Hands Award aims to enhance community cohesion across Nottinghamshire by tackling anti-social behaviour and crime.

The charity works with primary school children to help them identify issues in their local community, decide which to tackle, develop projects and complete and present their submissions, which are then judged in a competition.

At an annual awards ceremony prizes are presented to schools, of up to £1,000, and individual children, with all children who took part receiving a certificate of participation.

The Helping Hands Award is endorsed by many local businesses, worthy individuals (e.g. councillors and MPs) and agencies including Nottinghamshire County Council and the Nottinghamshire Freemasons.

In addition, vital key partners are Nottinghamshire Police and Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue, whose school liaison officers work with the children on projects including tackling speeding outside schools, graffiti and littering in local parks, and working with BME, homeless and older people.

Since it began, the charity has grown from working with one school to schools across the county, with its assessment criteria now amended to link in with Ofsted and the National Curriculum on Citizenship. Its work costs £5,000 per year, which is funded by local businesses and other donations.

The work of the Helping Hands Award has increased the awareness of children of community issues and increased their sense of pride, which will reduce the likelihood of them carrying out anti-social behaviour and crime as they grow up.

The charity has also achieved positive outcomes for the communities involved as a whole and helped break down barriers between cultural groups.

Nottinghamshire Police have recently undertaken a review of the work of the charity and are happy to continue to commit their officers' time and effort into supporting its work in the future.

For further information on the Helping Hands Award visit [www.helpinghandsaward.org](http://www.helpinghandsaward.org).

## Endeavour

**SAFER FUTURE COMMUNITIES**  
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For over 55 years, Endeavour has worked with disadvantaged young people across the country, including from its Nottingham office, focusing on young people not in education or training, young offenders and alternative education provision.

The charity's Big Lottery funded Inside Out Project works with young offenders in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire to reduce reoffending by working with young people who are serving a custodial sentence whilst in custody and once released back into the community.

Working in partnership with Nottingham City Youth Offending Team, Nottinghamshire Youth Offending Service, Wetherby Young Offenders Institute and Werrington Young Offenders Institute, the project aims to reduce reoffending through a combination of holistic support and an activities programme, designed to keep young people engaged whilst building on their team work and communication skills.

Commencing whilst the young person is still in custody, in order to build a relationship and assess the needs of the young person upon their release, the project also supports them with accommodation and financial issues to ensure appropriate support is in place, and helps and encourages them to engage in education, employment and training.

One example of the success of the project is James, who was referred by the Vanguard Plus project, which works with young offenders involved in gang crimes, after he had been released back into the community following a period of detention at Werrington Young Offenders Institute.

James engaged in the project's programme and over time built up a good relationship with its staff. After he was released from another custodial sentence, during which he continued to receive support from the project, his attitude changed and his motivation to stay out of trouble was high.

By working with his Case Manager, James benefited from an intensive support package, including one-to-one sessions, which supported him to set up a bank account, address his accommodation issues, provide him with independent living skills and help him apply for a college course.

The opportunities the Inside Out Project has given James, alongside a combination of other support services, has resulted in him staying out of trouble, with no new offences or breaches of his court order, no evidence of gang activity, a place on a college course and a more positive approach to life.

For further information on Endeavour visit [www.endeavour.org.uk](http://www.endeavour.org.uk).



## Chatham Court Hub

**SAFER FUTURE COMMUNITIES**  
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Managed by charity P3, Chatham Court Hub and its Link Worker Scheme aim to reduce reoffending and anti-social behaviour on the Chatham Court Estate in Newark, Nottinghamshire.

Crime scores in Newark's Castle Ward falls into the worst 20% in the country, with the vast majority of crimes committed on Chatham Court, which has a history of reoffending incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour and saw over a 100% increase in reported incidents of harassment, abuse, criminal damage, neighbourhood disputes, anti-social behaviour and possession of controlled drugs between 2009/10 and 2010/11. The estate also has 84% unemployment with over 80% of residents identified as needing varying needs of support, with the majority of these not engaging with services.

P3, in partnership with Newark & Sherwood Community Safety Partnership developed the Chatham Court Hub to reduce re-offending by combating the estate's anti-social and criminal behaviour by opening a community hub staffed by local agencies and providing advice and guidance on a one-to-one, group session and drop-in basis.

Through effective partnership working, the hub has been able to offer advice on a range of issues including housing, benefits, drugs, alcohol, probation, employment and women's aid. In addition, Nottinghamshire Police and Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue also facilitate regular team surgeries.

The project, which was initially funded for 15 months until March 2013 with £48,000 from the Newark Community Safety Partnership and the Home Office Community Action Against Crime

Innovation Fund, also employs two link workers who work intensively with tenants and visitors to the estate who are identified as having complex needs.

By adopting a non-judgemental and inclusive approach and offering tailor-made support, the link workers are able to engage with their clients, including undertaking a holistic assessment of their needs, agreeing personalised action plans and delivering one-to-one development sessions.

Since April 2012 the hub has been accessed 352 times, with 12 residents receiving intensive link worker support, 26 residents receiving short interventions from the link workers, and seven agencies working from the hub on a weekly basis.

In addition, they have negotiated free rental of the hub property via the housing provider, which they have transformed into the heart of the community, and established a steering group to monitor the project and shape its future.

The project has helped reduced crime on the estate by stabilising the chaotic lifestyles of individuals who are likely to commit criminal activity, leading to a feeling of increased safety for residents.

For further information on P3 visit [www.p3charity.com](http://www.p3charity.com).

*"The estate is a lot quieter and having people there has made things a lot easier. Our whole lives are changing thanks to the support we are getting."*  
A resident of Chatham Court

## Wheelbase

**SAFER FUTURE COMMUNITIES**  
Empowering local voluntary & community partnerships

Founded in 1991 to address the problem of high levels of vehicle crime in Radford, Nottingham, Wheelbase has since developed into a provider of alternative education, an Independent Special School and a provider of a diverse range of youth club style activities.

For over two decades, Wheelbase has used the thrill of engines and the exhilaration of riding, driving and racing machines to reach out to troubled young people, drawing them away from their problems and back into education, within a stimulating and inspiring environment.

Many of the young people referred to the school have been affected by a range of problems including criminal behaviour, turbulent home life, learning difficulties, truancy, drug and alcohol abuse, social exclusion and lack of ambition or self esteem. Wheelbase teaches them mechanics, literacy, numeracy and life skills, enabling them to restore their self-

respect, change their behaviour and go on to lead happier and more successful lives, armed with accredited qualifications.

From its conception as an idea by two police officers and a probation officer to work with hardened motor vehicle offenders and with those in danger of offending and becoming social excluded, Wheelbase is now registered as an Independent Special School with Ofsted, each year successfully enabling young people aged 14 and over to gain GCSE equivalent qualifications in Maths and English and industry standard motor vehicle qualifications.

In addition, two members of Wheelbase's board of governors are senior police officers and the school offers placements for trainee police officers and community safety officers, benefiting both the young people and the police by enabling them to interact on a social level rather than in conflict situations.

The skills developed by the school help the young people move into further training



## Wheelbase

and employment, decreasing their likelihood of offending and taking part in anti-social behaviour. Of the 16 year 11 learners at the school in 2011/12, all gained qualifications, two went into employment, one returned to Wheelbase for extra part-time literacy support and 12 went on to local colleges to complete level one and level two vocational courses.

Nationally around 20% of individuals arrested and proceeded against for notifiable offences are under 18, costing the country's police and justice systems around £4billion a year, according to Youth and Justice Board figures. This does not include youth unemployment, which is estimated at costing the country £97,000 over the lifetime of one young person not in education, employment or training. Therefore Wheelbase's early intervention work tackling truancy and exclusion is vital to the prevention of youth crime and the saving of substantial amounts of public funding.

The success of Wheelbase, which has an 81% average attendance can be seen in the results of a survey that showed only 28% of the school's students reoffended in the 12 months since leaving Wheelbase, compared with an average of 72% reoffending by similar young people not involved in the school.

The annual cost of running Wheelbase is in excess of £600,000. Alongside the charges for the day school (their main income is contracted work with education) the charity's work is also funded by a core grant from Nottingham City Council's Voluntary Sector Investment programme, recent funding from Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Futures, Big Lottery - Reaching Communities and Lloyds TSB, alongside general fund raising.

For further information on Wheelbase visit [www.wheelbase.org.uk](http://www.wheelbase.org.uk).



## The Eco Centre

**SAFER FUTURE COMMUNITIES**  
Empowering local voluntary & community partnerships

Based at Home Farm, Screveton, and managed by Farmeco Community Carefarm, the Eco Centre project aims to excite, stimulate and engage offenders on the Community Payback scheme in environmental and land based studies by providing a safe, practical, work related learning environment on a working farm and to provide 'taster' sessions to career paths in the land based sector.

Working with the Community Service team for Unpaid Work at Nottinghamshire Probation over the last two years, 10 people carrying out community service have benefited from the project, gaining from training, increased confidence and an appetite to learn and redevelop themselves. One person who was on parole was taken on for a work placement, following which he was employed by the company for 18 months until ill health sidelined him to a volunteer role.

The project filled a gap in the type of placements that the Integrated Offender Management team could refer prolific and priority offenders to. It was innovative because there was nothing similar in place that provided an environment like a commercial farm that engaged offenders whilst enabling them to develop their motivation, thinking skills and leadership. Offenders often could not see the value to the community of existing community payback activities, such as litter picking.

As well as reducing crime, the project also aimed to meet the need of supporting offenders who wanted to turn their lives around. It recognised that offenders are

often individuals who are chaotic, lack motivation, self-esteem, are intolerant and frustrated and exhibit this in an unacceptable way.

The project uses the care farming approach to help them learn about themselves, to work together, communicate, reflect, plan and organise and offer 'education by the back door'.

A recent study showed that care farming improved participants' self esteem and reduced feelings of anger, depression and tension.

Farmeco are currently planning to expand the services they offer to enable offenders to design and implement a plan to landscape and plant 15 acres of woodland that compliments the land/season and to provide mixed enterprise training for the management, production and marketing of mixed livestock, including butchery.

Sheila Wright, Deputy Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire Probation Trust said: "Farmeco offers individual work placements for suitable offenders - providing work such as hedge-laying, painting, fencing and general farming duties. Through this they learn valuable skills and disciplines to increase future employment prospects - such as team working, time keeping and a sense of pride in seeing a job completed."

For further information on Farmeco Community Carefarm visit <http://www.farmeco.co.uk/>.

## Framework Housing Association

SAFER FUTURE COMMUNITIES

Empowering local voluntary & community partnerships

Framework Housing Association is a registered charity and registered provider of social housing, which aims to change and save lives across the East Midlands by preventing homelessness, stopping rough sleeping and providing new opportunities.

One of the charity's projects, working in partnership with Last Orders, is the **Nottingham City Alcohol Diversion Scheme**, which is offered to anyone arrested in Nottingham City for being drunk and disorderly.

Individuals are offered the opportunity for their fine to be reduced if they attend a three-hour alcohol awareness course, which, using evidence based techniques proven to effect behaviour change, covers a range of areas including the relationship between alcohol and offending and the dangers of mixing alcohol and cocaine. The course is delivered by a clinical nurse specialist, who aims to deliver information that is effective in achieving long term behaviour changes in people's drinking behaviour.

Following a successful six month pilot, the scheme, which is funded by the £40 reduced fine of the attendees at no cost to the police or the council, has recently been expanded into the Nottinghamshire Police Restorative Justice Programme. To date, over 100 individuals have attended the course with none of these going on to reoffend, saving the police and the health service the cost of dealing with their arrests and alcohol related emergency treatment.

Another of Framework Housing Association's projects is its **Healthy Eating**

scheme, which aims to replace drug and alcohol related criminal behaviour with social activities, healthy eating awareness and budget planning.

The project runs one day a week sessions over an eight week period, funded by the NHS at an estimated cost of £300 for 12 individuals, who learn to engage in alternative behaviour when they have cravings; discover how to buy fresh ingredients and make nutritious food on a budget; benefit from participating in healthy and worthwhile activities in order to sustain abstinence from drugs and alcohol; find encouragement and support by participation in self-help groups; and learn how to structure their free-time away from non-productive activities.

Framework Housing Association is also the lead agency, working alongside housing providers Stonham and Adullam, in the **SAFE** project, which began on 1 October 2012 to work with young Derbyshire residents who are at risk of losing their homes or who live independently but need some support, including young offenders, young people with substance misuse issues and young people at risk.

The project, which is open ended depending on continued funding, provides a range of support including access to supported accommodation; benefit claims; developing skills for independence; budgeting and financial awareness; education, training and employment opportunities; working with housing officials and private landlords; getting involved with the local community; contact with statutory services; and access to other specialist support. Through the provision of these services, the project aims to prevent homelessness and its associated issues, including crime.

## Framework Housing Association

Covering Lincolnshire and Rutland, Framework Housing Association's **Street Outreach Team** aims to reduce the levels of rough sleeping across the two counties by coordinating and promoting best practice in working with rough sleepers. This includes planned reconnection and sourcing of appropriate accommodation and support and developing referral systems across all of the charity's accommodation systems in Lincolnshire and other housing providers.

Beginning in March 2012 at a cost of £250,000 over three years, with some additional funding in year one to help implement the project from the Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy Group, the service works with a range of agencies, including the Police, UK Borders Agency and Victim Support, to focus on specific anti-social behaviour amongst rough sleepers, including street drinking.

A final example of a project within Framework Housing Association that aims to reduce criminal behaviour is its **Colville House Complex Needs Service**. Based in the Arboretum area of Nottingham, this is a supported housing service for women over the age of 18 with varying complex needs, including known sex workers.

Located in an area associated with prostitution and anti social behaviour, the ongoing project, which does not require external funding, has developed a joint working protocol agreement with Nottinghamshire police to address and reduce street prostitution and its associated negative issues.

When service users are seen prostituting in the area by the police, they are escorted back to Colville House, where the staff are made aware of the situation

and issue the service user with an anti-social behaviour warning. Within 14 days of this warning, a midway meeting will take place between the service user, a staff member of Colville House and the police to discuss initial concerns, offer support and discuss how to avoid further action, including eviction, which is always a last resort for the charity.

Further meetings will take place every time a service user is issued with a warning. In addition, monthly meetings take place between Colville House and the police, and the Police Community Support Officer regularly drops in to Colville House to encourage a positive police presence.

Service users who receive a warning for engaging in street prostitution are also expected to sign an Acceptable Behaviour Contract, issued by the police, stating that they will not loiter or solicit within Nottingham City or act in a manner likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to members of the public. In return the police agree to provide a confidential point of contact, assist in referrals to partnership agencies and offer other support where needed.

As well as reducing prostitution and anti social behaviour in the area, directly resulting in a saving of resources for Nottinghamshire Police and Nottingham City Council, the project has made women not involved in street prostitution feel safer and more confident walking through the residential area.

For further information on Framework Housing Association visit [www.frameworkha.org](http://www.frameworkha.org).

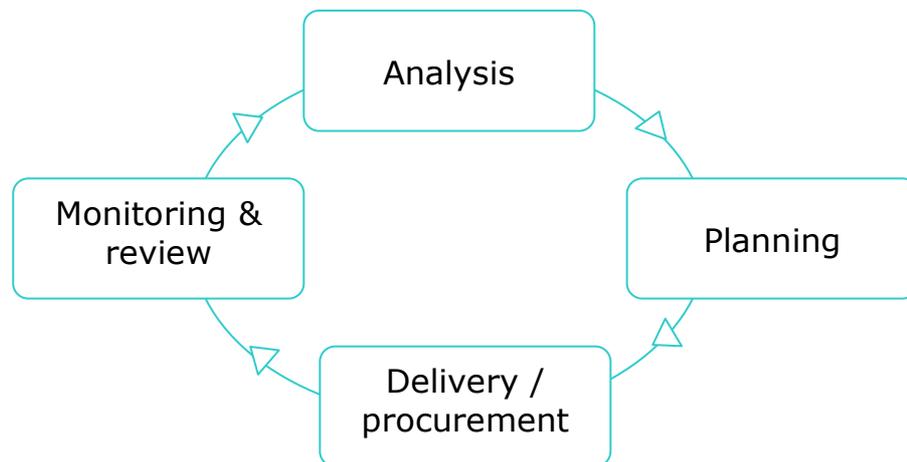
## The role of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in commissioning

### What is commissioning?

Commissioning is usually represented as a four-stage cycle with the stages involving:

- analysing local needs;
- planning services on the basis of analysis;
- implementing the plans by sourcing services from providers; and
- then reviewing the progress, and seeing the changes which result from the action.

It is a cyclical process with the Review stage leading back to the Analysis stage, and the process starting again.



The voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE), also known as the third sector, has a vital role to play in the delivery of public services and in the different stages of the commissioning process. VCSE organisations can play a number of roles in commissioning and have a range of functions, including:

- delivering services
- advocating and lobbying on behalf of local communities and individuals
- facilitating community, economic and international development
- engaging with people in local communities, and those who may have difficulty shaping or accessing local services
- developing new ways to meet the needs within their communities.

The VCSE can enable commissioners to develop a wider range of services, to develop a wider market-place of providers, and to ensure that services are delivered to “hard to reach” groups in local communities. They can also use their knowledge of specific needs and interests to develop niche services for people in communities with specific needs.

The VCSE contributes significantly to the economy and life in the county. Working within local communities, they help to bring people together, build good relationships within communities, and help people feel they have a valuable and active role to play. This is

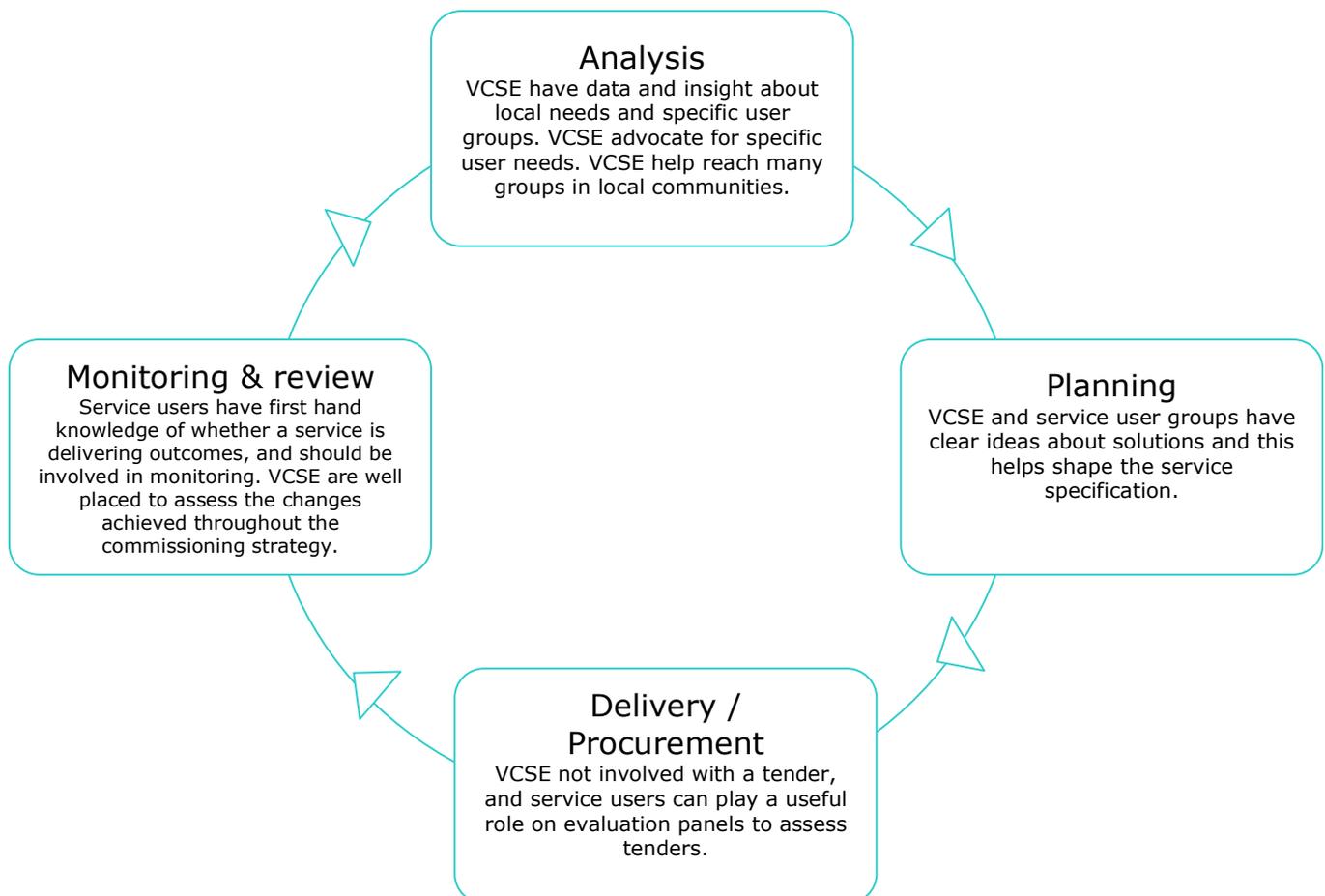
## The role of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in commissioning

sometimes called “social capital” and adds to community cohesion and local democracy.

The VCSE has considerable knowledge and expertise about their areas of work, and so can contribute to the development and delivery of services through local partnerships. They can enable a more thorough commissioning process by:

- providing information to inform local needs analysis
- engaging with people who use services and people in communities in which services are delivered, to inform the design of local services and service outcomes, as well as service evaluations
- arrange local consultation events and promote awareness of local or county wide strategic issues.

It is important to acknowledge that VCSE services may not always be the cheapest in pure cost terms, but they can deliver additional social outcomes, such as jobs for long term unemployed people, and this saves money in the long run.



Source: GAVCA Good Commissioning Guide

## The role of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in commissioning

### Successful Commissioning Guide: securing value for money through better financial relationships with third sector organisations

*Successful Commissioning* from the National Audit Office (NAO) aims to help local commissioners to get better value for money from third sector organisations (TSOs). It also aims to help third sector organisations become more informed about the commissioning process, and about what they should expect from financial relationships with the public sector. Where the third sector can help deliver value for money then commissioners should make the best possible use of it.

Successful commissioning means delivering the right outcomes at the right cost. Compare that with the NAO definition of good value for money: 'the optimal use of resources to achieve the intended outcomes'. Successful commissioning is, almost by definition, good value for money.

Rather than telling commissioners how to do commissioning, this guidance focuses on those aspects of the process that are most likely to affect financial relationships with third sector organisations. The guide looks at how commissioners can help the third sector to deliver services and outcomes that represent value for money. The guidance aims to:

- clearly set out the main issues for effective financial relationships with third sector organisations;
- make use of existing guidance in an accessible and practical way;
- dispel some of the "myths" that exist around commissioning with the third sector; and
- improve practices to achieve greater value for money.

The guidance has been written by the National Audit Office and is endorsed by the Audit Commission, the Commission for the Compact, the Department of Communities and Local Government, the Department of Health, HM Treasury, the National Council of Voluntary Organisations, and the Office of the Third Sector.

For full details about *Successful Commissioning* go to the National Audit Office website at [http://www.nao.org.uk/sectors/third\\_sector/successful\\_commissioning/toolkit\\_home/introduction.aspx](http://www.nao.org.uk/sectors/third_sector/successful_commissioning/toolkit_home/introduction.aspx)

### Principles of good commissioning from the Office for Civil Society

The Government is working to improve commissioning to get the best possible services that deliver value for money. To achieve this, the Office of the Third Sector has outlined eight principles of good commissioning. If embedded, these could yield efficiency gains and community benefits, through smarter, more effective and innovative commissioning, and optimal involvement of the third sector in public service design, improvement, delivery and holding the public sector to account. This should result in better public outcomes for individuals and communities.

## The role of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in commissioning

The eight Intelligent Commissioning Principles identified by the Office of the Third Sector are:

1. **Develop an understanding of the needs** of users and communities, by ensuring that, alongside other consultees, they engage with third sector organisations as advocates, to access their specialist knowledge.
2. **Consult potential provider organisations**, including those from the third sector and local experts, well in advance of commissioning new services, working with them to set priority outcomes for that service.
3. **Put outcomes for users at the heart** of the strategic planning process.
4. **Map the fullest practicable range of providers** with a view to understand the contribution they could make to delivering those outcomes.
5. **Consider investing in the capacity of the provider base**, particularly those working with hard-to-reach groups.
6. **Ensure procurement processes are transparent and fair**; facilitating the involvement of the broadest range of suppliers, including considering sub-contracting and consortia building where appropriate.
7. Seek to **ensure long-term contracts** and risk sharing wherever appropriate as ways of achieving efficiency and effectiveness.
8. **Seek feedback** from service users, communities and providers in order to review the effectiveness of the commissioning process in meeting local needs.

## Working with specialist services: A Guide for Commissioners

At the launch of the Equality Strategy in December 2010, the Home Secretary and Minister for Women and Equalities, Theresa May, said:

*“It is not right or fair that people are discriminated against because of who they are or what they believe. So we need to stop that discrimination and change behaviour... And it is not right or fair that the opportunities open to people are not based on their ambition, ability or hard work, but on who their parents are or where they live. So we need to break down the barriers that hold people back and give them the opportunities to succeed.”*

In order to achieve this and to tackle discrimination in our society as well as growing inequality in terms of income, health and housing (among other measures) we require both a legislative framework and local service providers that are able to deliver effectively to some of our most vulnerable communities.

Specialist services are designed and delivered by and for the users and communities they aim to serve. They may be delivered by a range of equality-led organisations including Disabled People’s Organisations, Women’s voluntary and community organisations (VCOs), LGBT VCOs and Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) VCOs.

## The role of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in commissioning

This briefing focuses on BME VCOs, which often work across multiple disadvantages, recognising the intersectionality that exists for individuals; discrimination is multi-layered and complex. For instance, poor minority women from BME backgrounds are likely to experience disadvantage due to their poverty, ethnicity and gender. In order to meet the complex needs of many individuals within our community, a holistic approach is often required. Specialist services provide a proven means through which to deliver this.

Many specialist services have developed in response to the historic failure of generic services to meet the needs of BME communities. They provide services sensitive to cultural, religious and linguistic needs that generic services often overlook and reach communities that other providers label 'hard to reach'.

Voice4ChangeEngland with NAVCA have come together to produce this report in order to show that specialist provision is an essential means of delivering both more equitable and more efficient public services. You can view the full report at [www.voice4change-england.co.uk/webfm\\_send/158](http://www.voice4change-england.co.uk/webfm_send/158).

## Additional useful source of information on commissioning

*Collaborating for Commissioning – how can civil society organisations engage in the design and delivery of public services* is aimed at civil society organisations and public sector commissioners to help both develop their understanding of the roles they need to adopt if public services are to be intelligently commissioned and as effective as possible. You can view the full report at <http://locality.org.uk/resources/collaborating-commissioning-civil-society-organisation-engage-design>.

## Grant funding and the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector

Grants are an essential part of a strong voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE). When public bodies cut grant funding or move from grants to contracts they can damage local charities and community groups. As a result the voices of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities can go unheard.

Grant funding is:

- Community-led – enabling a truly bottom-up approach to service development that is free from the constraints of predetermined contract specifications.
- Flexible and responsive – providing the flexibility to respond to changes in demand and local circumstances. This means less waste and fewer inappropriate or poorly used services.
- Create social value – stimulating community engagement and active citizenship. These are at the core of self help and grassroots activity, helping to build capable, resilient communities.
- Inward investment – putting organisations in a strong position to attract other funds, bringing new income into the local economy, offering stability and providing confidence to funders.
- Cut red tape – less bureaucracy to manage and evaluate. They are not bound by regulations that apply to competitive tenders.
- Local growth – investing in groups with local roots is more cost effective than bringing in new providers from outside the area and supports the local economy.
- Promote innovation – working well for one-off pieces of work or pilot initiatives. They enable the cost-effective management of risk for both public bodies and providers.
- Engage local people – enabling local groups to offer community voice, representation and advocacy. They support community engagement in service planning, providing local decision makers with vital intelligence.

It is a myth that grants are no longer possible because of competitive law and European regulations. Procurement should exist alongside grant funding, not instead of it. *Pathways through the maze*, produced by NAVCA and NCVO, outlines the distinction between grants and contracts. More details can be found at [www.navca.org.uk/maze](http://www.navca.org.uk/maze).

For more information on why grant aid is an essential part of the funding mix and is vital for thriving local communities, visit [www.navca.org.uk/sustaininggrants](http://www.navca.org.uk/sustaininggrants).

## Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012

The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 became law on 8 March 2012. From 31 January 2013 the Act is 'live' and commissioners and procurers must adhere to it. The Act was initiated by Chris White MP as a Private Members Bill.

### What is the Act?

The Act, for the first time, places a duty on public bodies to consider social value ahead of procurement. The Act applies to the provision of services, or the provision of services together with the purchase or hire of goods or the carrying out of works.

The wording of the Act states that the authority must consider:

- How what is proposed to be procured might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the relevant area, and;
- How, in conducting the process of procurement, it might act with a view to securing that improvement.

*"The opportunity that the Bill gives to us is to give as much credence to social value as to cost...If we do this, then we end up knowing the cost of everything and the value of nothing."* Baroness Stedman-Scott, House of Lords.

### What does social value mean under the Act?

The wording of the act states *"the authority must consider...only matters that are relevant to what is proposed to be procured and, in doing so, must consider the extent to which it is proportionate in all the circumstances to take those matters into account."*

### What does the Act mean?

- All contracted authorities will have to consider the relevance of social, economic and environmental requirements when a contract for services is commissioned.
- It opens doors for consultation and engagement with the VCSE sector.
- There is the potential to improve local services.

### Is there guidance on the Act?

The Cabinet Office has issued a Procurement Policy Note on the Act as guidance to commissioners and procurers, which is available at

[http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Public\\_Services\\_Social\\_Value\\_Act\\_2012\\_PPN.pdf](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Public_Services_Social_Value_Act_2012_PPN.pdf)

### For more information

- NAVCA presentation - What is the Social Value Act? [www.navca.org.uk/social-value-bill](http://www.navca.org.uk/social-value-bill)
- NAVCA - Social Value briefings [www.navca.org.uk/socialvaluebriefings](http://www.navca.org.uk/socialvaluebriefings)
- Legislation website - Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/3/contents/enacted](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/3/contents/enacted)

## The Compact

The Compact is the agreement between Government and the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE) in England, setting out the key principles and establishing a way of working that improves their relationship for mutual advantage. The Compact safeguards the VCSE's independence, offers improved funding and commissioning processes, and clear consultation standards. It can also help partners from different sectors come together to break down barriers and identify shared goals for the benefit of communities and individuals.

You can view the full copy of the Compact at [www.compactvoice.org.uk/sites/default/files/the\\_compact.pdf](http://www.compactvoice.org.uk/sites/default/files/the_compact.pdf).

As well as the national Compact, most areas in England also have a local Compact, which sets out locally agreed principles for how statutory agencies and the VCSE will work together. A list of all local Compacts is available at: [www.compactvoice.org.uk/compacts-map](http://www.compactvoice.org.uk/compacts-map).

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) are encouraged to sign up to and get involved in their local Compact, which will send out a strong signal that you are committed to working in partnership with the VCSE. Signing the Compact represents standing behind something that has a clearly defined purpose, and is supported across the country and by Central Government. It is a meaningful way of showing other partners that you will take a collaborative approach to working together.

For more information about the Compact contact Compact Voice at:

Website: [www.compactvoice.org.uk](http://www.compactvoice.org.uk)  
Email: [compact@compactvoice.org.uk](mailto:compact@compactvoice.org.uk)  
Twitter: @compactvoice  
Telephone: 020 7520 2451

## Compact case study: Gloucestershire – Influencing the Police and Crime Commissioner

### Summary

Gloucestershire Association for Voluntary and Community Action (GAVCA) worked proactively with the Gloucestershire Police Authority and Gloucestershire Constabulary to enable the VCSE to engage with and influence the PCC.

### Impact

Local engagement work helped to raise the profile of PCC elections amongst VCSE organisations and communities across Gloucestershire. It also ensured that the focus of the elections was on community safety, and not just policing priorities. Following on from the initial consultation, the Gloucestershire Constabulary has commissioned further consultation to look in more detail at how to improve things for marginalised communities.

## The Compact

Strong relationships and mutually beneficial partnership working has been established at an early stage between the VCSE sector and the Gloucester PCC, and the already strong relationship with Gloucestershire Constabulary has been further developed. PCCs will be responsible for commissioning community safety work and this will be informed by Compact principles and by on-going dialogue with the VCSE.

### What happened?

Gloucester Police Authority were concerned that there was likely to be limited public engagement in PCC elections, particularly from seldom heard groups in the county. They wanted to stimulate debate within these communities about what the priorities for the PCC should be and to discover wider views on policing and tackling crime.

They commissioned GAVCA to broker, rather than do, a consultation. GAVCA in turn commissioned relevant member VCSE organisations to hold a focus group with selected seldom-heard and potentially marginalised communities. 15 consultations were held, targeting both geographical communities and communities of interest. A representative from each community acted as a facilitator and led the focus group discussion based on three questions agreed with Gloucestershire Police Authority. They also wrote detailed notes, which were independently analysed and collated into a fairly challenging and hard hitting report. A follow up meeting was held with facilitators to look at the results and hear the stories behind the report. One positive outcome is that people who attended the focus groups are keen to remain engaged.

The Police Authority compiled a report based on the findings of all the focus groups which, as well as being presented to the newly elected PCC, was also shared with the Constabulary as several issues about day-to-day policing were also raised by groups.

Alongside this practical engagement, GAVCA encouraged the Police Authority to commission consultants to provide it with strategic advice about future commissioning arrangements for community safety, which it has done. Gloucestershire's Compact Commissioning Code provides helpful guidance for the PCC and a Commissioning Framework for Criminal Justice Agencies, based on Compact principles, has also been developed by GAVCA as part of the previous project.

"The Police Authority recognised that they don't have experience of commissioning the VCSE and they came to GAVCA for advice. We pointed them in the direction of our Compact Commissioning Code and Good Commissioning Guide and stressed the importance of an on-going dialogue with the VCSE. We want to work with our new PCC to ensure he gets community safety commissioning right first time by basing it on the good practice in our Compact code."

Sally Pickering, Chief Executive, GAVCA

### Contact

Hannah Gorf, Partnership Support Officer, GAVCA

Telephone: 01452 522600

Email: [hannahg@gavca.org.uk](mailto:hannahg@gavca.org.uk)

Website: [www.gavca.org.uk](http://www.gavca.org.uk) / [www.gloshub.org.uk/compact](http://www.gloshub.org.uk/compact)

## A focus on drugs and alcohol – Produced by DrugScope

DrugScope is one of the UK's leading independent centres of expertise on drug use and drug policy and the membership body for the drugs field. DrugScope is also a partner in the Safer Future Communities (SFC) initiative, which supports the voluntary and community and social enterprise sector (VCSE) to engage with Police and Crime Commissioners. Find out more at [www.drugscope.org.uk](http://www.drugscope.org.uk) or directly contact Marcus Roberts, DrugScope's Director of Policy and Membership at [Marcus@drugscope.org.uk](mailto:Marcus@drugscope.org.uk).

The purpose of this briefing is to show how investing in preventative activity will result in substantial savings.

There are a number of reasons why PCCs should be concerned about drug policy and the development of local drug services:

1. A minority of people with serious drug dependency problems commit a high proportion of acquisitive crimes
2. Investment in evidence-based drug treatment cuts crime
3. Victims of crime and abuse may have substance misuse problems – for example, women who experience domestic violence
4. PCCs will need to respond to local concerns about drug use and markets
5. The policing of drug offences involves a significant police resource.

### Drugs and crime – some key facts and figures

- A typical dependent heroin user spends around £1,400 on drugs each month, two and a half times the average mortgage
- Heroin, cocaine or crack users commit up to half of all acquisitive crimes (shoplifting, burglary, robbery, car crime, fraud and drug dealing)
- The moment they start treatment, less crime is committed
- The National Audit Office states that every £1 invested in drug treatment saves at least £2.50 in subsequent costs to taxpayers, primarily by reducing crime.
- Drug treatment prevented an estimated 4.9 million offences in 2010/11 including 100,000 burglaries and robberies, 75,000 car thefts and break ins, 1,100,000 shoplifting thefts, 350,000 acts of prostitution and 25,000 bag snatches
- It has been estimated that every £100 invested in drug treatment prevents a crime.

Source: National Treatment Agency (2012), *Treat addiction, cut crime*. This resource includes detailed breakdowns of impact on particular crimes and cost-benefits. It is available at [www.nta.nhs.uk/uploads/vfm-crimepresentationvfinal.pdf](http://www.nta.nhs.uk/uploads/vfm-crimepresentationvfinal.pdf).

### Supporting the reintegration of ex-prisoners

The Drug Intervention Programme has helped to support the re-integration of ex-prisoners. Without integrated offender management at the point of release from prison there is a risk that progress made to tackle substance misuse issues in prison will be lost on release. For example, the Patel Report on drug treatment in prison (2009) reported that in the week following release, prisoners are 37 times more likely to die of a drug overdose than other members of the public. One former prisoner commented on the need for 'someone to meet

## A focus on drugs and alcohol - Produced by DrugScope

you from either the local DIP teams or a trusted person to make sure you aren't going to slip straight back to your old habit'.

## Supporting victims

Victims may turn to drink or drugs to cope with their experiences (for example, childhood abuse or domestic violence). Often the lines between offenders and victims are not clear (for example, women involved in prostitution with substance misuse problems are often victims of exploitation, violence and abuse). Drink and drug use can put people in situations where they are more vulnerable to crime (for example, many victims of city centre violence are intoxicated).

## Policing and drugs – some key facts and figures

- Nearly 270,000 officer hours were saved in England and Wales in the year after police started issuing street warnings for cannabis. *Source: T May et al (2007), Policing Cannabis, Joseph Rowntree Foundation*
- Research suggests that enforcement alone has limited impact on the availability of drugs – for example, closing down a market in one neighbourhood may result in displacement to another neighbourhood or increased violence as new dealers fight over the vacated territory. However 'smart' policing approaches involve local communities, focus on the harm that they experience and take a more holistic approach to addressing these harms. These can be effective. *Source: UK Drug Policy Commission (2009), Moving towards real impact drug enforcement*
- A national survey of police forces found in 2011-12 that drug-related policing expenditure and activity was expected to decrease including activities such as covert surveillance, test purchasing and other intelligence work. *Source: UK Drug Police Commission (2012), Charting New Waters*

## DrugScope recommendations

- Make drug and alcohol treatment a priority
- Pro-actively engage with local authorities to support investment in evidence-based services, for example, Health and Wellbeing Boards
- Use the Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) budgets to invest in effective interventions in criminal justice services that can identify people whose offending is linked to a drug or alcohol problem and direct them toward appropriate services
- Focus police priorities on drug enforcement that is effective in tackling harms that impact on local communities, for example, 'open' markets or focusing on the most violent and dangerous drug dealers
- Consult local communities on approaches to policing people in possession of small quantities of drugs, particularly given the pressure on police resources
- Work with local partners to develop approaches that link enforcement to 'demand reduction' by challenging offenders to address drug or alcohol issues.