

The past year's ✓ successes → challenges

## Voice:

Having your say and influencing policy

- ✓ Strategy Groups' membership increase, as does their effectiveness in influencing planning and delivery of services (e.g. the Children and Young People's plan)
- ✓ Assembly successfully lobbied for significant change (e.g. the Environment Partnership becomes the 5th block in the LAA)
- Developing an accessible Assembly structure and ensuring its work is relevant to all VCOs



## Partnership building:

Working with each other and the public sector

- ✓ Assembly active partner in Gloucestershire Conference at all levels
- ✓ Assembly develops and strengthens strategic relationships with public sector partners
- Ensuring VCS representation is effective and resourced

## Information:

What you need to know to be effective

- ✓ Increasing numbers of groups and individuals in VCS and public sectors use GlosHub Bulletin as key source of information
- ✓ Everybody Counts mapping reveals important information on and about the sector
- Ensuring information is accessible and useful to all groups



## Key achievements in 2007 -08:

Spring 07

- The Fifth Annual Event of the Gloucestershire Assembly is attended by almost 100 people from voluntary and community organisations. The theme for the day was “Owning the Vision”, and looked at how the VCS can work with public sector partners to help deliver Local Area Agreement targets for the county.
- Distribution of the GlosHub Bulletin tops 700 - up from 100 in Spring 2006 - and the GlosHub website is redesigned to give a clear focus to the work of the Assembly.
- The Environment Partnership, the Fifth Local Area Agreement (LAA) block is established.

Summer 07

- Membership of the VCS Children and Young People’s Strategy Group now reaches over 400 groups, up from 97 at the same time last year. It is restructured to more accurately reflect the needs of the very broad Children and Young People’s sector. Groups now have the chance to sign up to a number of focus groups looking at particular sectors within the vast area of Children and Young People’s work.
- Compact implementation workshops were well attended by both VCS and public sector partners. This shows the strength of commitment to the Compact, but also the need for support in carrying out what we have agreed to do.
- A user survey of the GlosHub Bulletin indicates that the people who receive it overwhelmingly find it a useful and relevant source of information, and many pass it on to colleagues and others.

Autumn 07

- GAVCA’s extensive ‘Everybody Counts’ mapping of the VCS in the county is completed, and the results published. This anonymised data becomes a vital source of information on and about the sector, and contains some surprising statistics - for example, the total economic value of volunteering tops £5 million per annum.
- Michael Heap, Chair of the VCS Assembly, is appointed as chair of the Accountable Bodies Group, strengthening the relationship of the Assembly to the Gloucestershire Conference
- A new county-wide volunteering marketing officer is recruited for the VCS: she contributes a crucial resource to the sector, raising the profile of volunteering and contributing to the delivery and success of the LAA volunteering stretch target.
- The Environment Partnership is formally launched, with a strong lead from the VCS.

Winter 07/08

- Successful Compact shadowing exercises whereby public and VCS partners learn about each others work, increasing understanding of and between the sectors.
- The Procurement Director of Gloucestershire County Council, Claire Smart, comes to Assembly Board meeting to establish links with the sector: the first of a bi-annual arrangement.
- The Assembly Board works with its networks and starts a dialogue with the county’s funders group working on future plans to fund infrastructure and advice work.
- The Assembly Board agrees that the Partnership and Participation Team should be renamed the Gloucestershire Assembly Team, in order to clarify the relationship between the Assembly and its support workers. The Assembly Board also agrees to restructure in order to better reflect the needs of the sector.
- The GlosHub Bulletin now has 748 subscribers.
- First meeting held between Gloucestershire County Council’s strategic directors and members and representatives of the Assembly Board. Start of regular cycle of meetings with public sector decision makers reviewing and strengthening the relationship between the sectors.