

Regional Strategy (RS2010) Part 1 consultation

VSNW response on behalf of the voluntary
and community sector in the North West

February 2010

listen  **value**  **invest** 

the third sector delivering for the north west

About VSNW

VSNW (Voluntary Sector North West) is the regional voluntary sector network for the North West. The purpose of VSNW is to ensure that the voluntary and community sector, in all its diversity, takes its full part in shaping the future of the North West.

VSNW works with over 150 members which

- either work directly, across the region, to support and deliver services for individuals, or
- are VCS infrastructure organisations (LIOs) that work with local voluntary and community groups.

VSNW members provide community services, regenerate neighbourhoods, support individuals, promote volunteering and tackle discrimination. The 40 generalist LIOs in membership of VSNW have a membership of 6,780 VCS groups and are in contact with 19,800 local voluntary and community sector groups in the North West – just under two-thirds (63%) of the region's VCS groups.

The voluntary and community sector in the North West incorporates a wide range of organisations: branches of large nationals, medium-sized regional and local organisations with paid staff and banks of volunteers, and small community groups, with no paid staff, little if any income but with a strong sense of local accountability. Our research tells us that there are over 30,000 VCS groups, 64,000 staff and 200,000 volunteers across the North West.

Key activities include

- Advocacy, information and advice
- Delivery of services, often but not always on behalf of public bodies
- Campaigning and lobbying
- Representing specific interest groups
- Building capacity and community development
- Providing infrastructure support services to local VCS groups

By drawing on the experience of its members, VSNW contributes to national and regional policy and acts as a voice for the voluntary and community sector in the North West.

Northwest Regional Strategy: Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Consultation Response Form

Introduction

As part of the development of the Regional Strategy for the North West (RS2010), the Regional Development Agency (NWDA) and the Leaders' Forum (4NW) consulted initially on the Principles & Issues paper and are now consulting on Part 1 of the Strategy. The main issues are:

- Is the vision right?
- Are the four priorities right?
- Have the spatial issues been properly identified?
- Are there any key areas missing

VSNW consulted voluntary and community sector groups on these questions and collated a response which forms the substantial part of this document.

How we consulted

During February 2010, Voluntary Sector North West (VSNW) held five sub-regional consultation events on Part 1 and supported 7 BME third sector events with our partners at the regional BME Network 1NW and the North West Environment Link event. VSNW also included discussion on Part 1 at their AGM and at the North West Infrastructure Partnership. The events involved over 250 participants from 200 voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations in the North West. Both NWEL and 1NW will submit responses relating directly to their events.

Each event began with a presentation on Part 1 of the Regional strategy as produced by 4NW and NWDA. Following a question and answer, there were a number of roundtable discussions involving between 4 and 8 people. Each group addressed at least half the consultation questions.

The full list of participating organisations is available in Appendix 1.

Key Messages

The third sector consultation events were very positive in identifying ways in which the third sector can contribute across all four strands of RS2010. There were four issues that were highlighted throughout our consultation and are worthwhile flagging up front:

- **Volunteering** is not recognised sufficiently for the way it contributes across many issues from skills to health and wellbeing. There was a strong feeling that it warranted a significant place in the strategy in its own right
- **Behaviour Change** is insignificantly addressed as a key river in reducing carbon emissions and reducing transport problems

Northwest Regional Strategy: Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Consultation Response Form

- **Housing** issues need addressing on many levels, but affordable housing, designed to support sustainable communities was a common thread and particularly pushed within the discussions in rural areas

Finally, many discussions were had in relation to the role of the third sector, as a deliverer of services, as a contribution to GVA and supporting positive health and wellbeing among others. It was felt that the third sector in its broadest sense should be seen as a key delivery partner across the piece not just social enterprise and the wording needs addressing across the document.

The sector also has a role in shaping the strategy and indeed the services that will eventually deliver the strategies objectives. NWDA and 4NW have shown a willingness to listen and value the input of the sector thus far in the process related to RS2010 and we hope this engagement continues. It is only by listening, valuing and investing in the third sector that the region will be truly able to capitalise on the contribution our thriving third sector can make.

This is clearly highlighted in the reports referenced in this document and we are collating case studies that show the stories and the value of the sector in the North West. These case studies are a powerful tool for those who cannot see the wider benefits of third sector engagement and investment and can be seen at www.listenvalueinvest.org.uk. We hope to see the spirit of *listen, value invest* maintained through to delivery of RS2010 so the third sector can truly deliver for a fairer, more equal and prosperous North West.

VSNW Response

Section A

Question 1: Do you agree that these four strands and key spatial issues should provide the basis for the Regional Strategy?

Question 2: Are there any priorities we have missed?

There was a general consensus that the priorities are appropriate.

There was a strong view that the 'People' priority (Releasing the potential of our people and tackle poverty) should be listed first in order to put people at the heart of the strategy: the strategy could only succeed if we had healthy, well skilled and engaged population.

There is also a strong feeling that the 'Environmental' priority (Capitalise on the opportunities of moving to a low carbon economy and address climate change) is not in fact environmental but an economic priority. In order to re-balance this, we would support NWELs suggestion that the priority is reworded: *'Address climate change by moving to develop a low carbon region, while capitalising on the opportunities that presents'*

There was great concern expressed in Cheshire that under the spatial issues, no areas of Cheshire were listed under the need for regeneration when there are some areas of significant deprivation that face major challenges.

Question 3: Are these the Key outstanding questions facing the region?

This area has been difficult to have a full consultation discussion on as the questions are undoubtedly fair and reflect the fact that there are many big debates yet to be had in developing the strategy. At some point partners need to have a difficult discussion not just about priorities but about what we do and what we don't do.

Several comments were made as to what constitutes 'North Cheshire' (question b)) as this is not a description of an area people understood.

There were some questions posed at all our events which may be summarised as:

- Is there really going to be enough quality jobs for the number of students moving into higher education?
- How do we improve how vocational training is perceived by both young people and employers?
- How do we recognise those that are not in employment but significantly contribute to the economy? (volunteers and carers for example)
- What assumptions are we making about the 0-16 education system over the next 20 years?:
 - The strategy assumes a certain level of 'failure'

Northwest Regional Strategy: Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Consultation Response

- The strategy is silent on quality of schools in relation to where people choose to live.

Finally it is noticeable that given how question h) is worded ‘...creating jobs for all or...’ appears to be answered within the vision.

Question 4: Do you agree with the vision?

There was great debate as to whether the vision was overly ambitious, however the majority were in favour of the high level vision with high aspirations. There were some suggested additions and amendments:

- Given the impact of crime and fear of crime on quality of life and indeed on the wider economy, that ‘safer’ may be slotted into vision
- That the third bullet point start ‘*we have sustainable communities where deprivation...*’
- That under the spatial statements Warrington is included alongside Preston as a driver of economic growth.

Question 5: Would these indicators accurately reflect the delivery of the Part 1 Outcomes? If not how would you improve the list?

In many respects the discussion about the indicators is about how we are going to use them: are we to have targets and will some be deemed more important than others? It will be here that the true priorities of RS2010 will be set.

We have previously argued for a dashboard approach to the final indicator sets or a system that is sensitive to allow appropriate changes in priorities and investments. The proposed list reflects ‘what is there’, rather than ‘what is needed’, particularly in relation to the ‘softer’ measures around community and place (outcome 6). If developing our own dashboard proves difficult we would recommend the inclusion of a more tailored and challenging set of indicators, for example as developed by the New Economics Foundation, to measure such parameters as income inequality, social mobility, and community cohesion.

We also believe that there needs to be further discussion and debate about measures, for example, there are no metrics specifically relating to green infrastructure in this section. We would endorse the recommendation by Groundwork that the Northwest Green Infrastructure Service is engaged in further stages of the development of this strategy, such that GI planning and monitoring can be properly embedded in RS2010.

We would also like to offer some additional suggestions specifically with reference to the third sector.

- Outcome 6 (and others):
A “thriving third sector” (Local Area Agreement National Indicator 7) is considered to be an indicator of a thriving community (see LAA information). The national measure for this indicator is based on registered charities only - in the NW this means the majority of third sector groups are “under the radar”. We would propose a modified proxy indicator *Number of constituted third sector groups per population*. We are able to develop and provide baseline and ongoing information on number of groups from the sub-regional infrastructure

Northwest Regional Strategy: Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Consultation Response

partnerships. Potentially a range of further information could be provided, such as number of new groups, number of people involved, volunteer hours etc.

- Outcomes 7 and 9

Consideration could also be given to Local Area Agreement National Indicator 6 “participation in regular volunteering”. A study published by VSNW in 2008 *“The Contribution of the Voluntary and Community Sector to the Economy of the NW”* showed the region employed 672,000 volunteers working an average of 10 hours pw, plus 137,000 trustees. There is a wide range of evidence for the value of volunteering to the individual and the economy. We would propose measuring *Number of people involved in formal volunteering or third sector governance*. Again baseline information is available and ongoing information could be provided.

Finally, we would reinforce our initial response that it would be positive if some communities, businesses, even individuals were tracked through the lifetime of the strategy to identify where RS2010 has an impact and if it is being delivered.

Section B

Capitalise on the opportunities of moving to a low carbon economy and address climate change

We refer back to our initial point in relation to renaming this priority: *‘Address climate change by moving to develop a low carbon region, while capitalising on the opportunities that presents’*

There is a sense that this priority requires real leadership at a time of some cynicism about the climate change agenda amongst the public. There was feedback from all our events that *behaviour change* needs to be embedded within this priority: potentially as a fourth priority in this section with activity around people, communities and lifestyle changes.

Questions 6 – 8 Do you agree with these potential areas for action? If not, what changes would you suggest and why?

The following issues came out strongly across our consultation:

- Give greater prominence to other forms of low-carbon solutions to energy supply
- some issues were raised about nuclear power production: significant reservations were recorded in terms of approach to tackling the issue of nuclear waste
- There is a great opportunity to build some local solutions to energy supply which should be investigated further with a belief there is a strong role for developing small, local Social Enterprises
- Growing own food, recycling, travel patterns and reducing consumption could all be addressed by a behavioural change priority
- Next Generation Access (NGA) needs to reach rural communities quickly as well as major conurbations to assist with the low carbon agenda and to not accentuate inequalities

Northwest Regional Strategy: Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Consultation Response

- the role of procurement and commissioning be strengthened in terms of its potential to impact on low-carbon agenda

Build on our sources of international competitive advantage and regional distinctiveness

Questions 9 -12 Do you agree with these potential areas for action? If not, what changes would you suggest and why?

The following points came out strongly from our events:

- The arts and creative sector in the region is strong and could be built upon
- Any airport expansion be carried out only in full consideration of the associated environmental impacts.
- Recognition should be given to the third sectors role in promoting local culture, and this should be placed alongside high-profile 'destination attractions' in considering its impact on the region
- Is the naming of Business Link as the provider of business support appropriate in a 20 year strategy?
- Specific comment could be made on the role of the NW music 'heritage'

Release the potential of our people and tackle poverty

Questions 13 -17 Do you agree with these potential areas for action? If not, what changes would you suggest and why?

There was unanimous support for this priority at all of our consultation events.

There was consistent feedback that the value of volunteering was not recognised within the document and that it could be included as a separate heading as volunteering in the NW:

- Contributes significantly to the economy with over 600,000 people contributing in excess of 10 hours voluntary activity per month
- raises the aspirations of volunteers and in some activities, such as mentoring, the aspirations of the beneficiary
- helps people move back towards the workplace
- builds skills, confidence and the employability of people
- contributes positively to tackling health & wellbeing of both volunteers and beneficiaries
- action could include supporting effective volunteer support and brokerage across the region: the difficulties experienced in implementing the volunteering option of the young persons guarantee across the North West has been created by insufficient investment in this area of work and an expectation that the service will just appear when needed

a) Employability, enterprise & skills

Full consideration should be given to the LSC report of September 2009: ***Understanding the Contribution of the Third Sector in Learning & Skills***

This document should be considered in the development of the final skills strategy and there are too many pertinent points to place in this response, but as a flavour, the document states:

Northwest Regional Strategy: Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Consultation Response

Analysis of ILR data shows that within the three funding streams explored (Further Education [FE], Work-Based learning [WBL] and European Social Fund [ESF]), third sector provision reaches a distinct learner demographic compared with non-third sector provision.

Within every funding stream, third sector learners are more likely to have a learning difficulty or disability, and in WBL and ESF provision, they are more ethnically diverse and also more likely to be resident in a deprived area.

Almost half (45%) of WBL third sector learners live in the bottom 20% of the most deprived areas, compared with 28% of non-third sector WBL learners.

30% of those learners on an FE course with a non-third sector provider.

As well as showing demographic differences, third sector learners engage with learning and skills from different backgrounds and less 'traditional' routes. In 2007/08, around two-thirds of WBL third sector learners (67%) were unemployed when they started their course vs. just 12% of learners in non-third sector WBL. Here the third sector has a significant role to play in delivering Entry to Employment (E2E) programmes; over 19,000 E2E programmes were provided in 2007/08, representing just over one-quarter of all the total E2E aims delivered nationally.

This statement alone shows the importance of third sector learning providers in the employability and skills agenda and we request that all the recommendations are considered in the actions on this area of the strategy

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/Understanding_the_Contribution_of_the_Third_Sector_in_LSC_-_Summary_Report.pdf

In addition to this:

- There was consistent feedback that 16-19 (bullet 2) was too late to raise aspirations and this was an area where the strategy needed to reference younger age ranges
- Increase the value placed upon vocational skills by both employers and young people: focus on a strong further education sector (including the third sector as a key deliverer)
- Encourage an asset based approach to working with people and communities
- Promote and support flexible working as a way of improving routes back to work, improving wellbeing and for tackling congestion and other environmental issues.
- Recognise the role of the third sector as an employer: in Cumbria it employs more people than in agriculture, and much of the success of Future Jobs Fund in the region has been as a result of third sector employer involvement
- Ensure that the decline in ESOL provision is tackled and that provision to increase the engagement and engagement of BME communities

b) Social Enterprise

Social enterprise is clearly a vital tool in the tackling of deprivation and inequality, however, the third sector in its widest sense has a role to play. We appreciate that the language is difficult as 'Third Sector' may not be perceived as being a sufficient term to incorporate voluntary and

Northwest Regional Strategy: Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Consultation Response

community groups, community enterprises and social enterprises – all of whom have a significant contribution to make.

The majority support from our events was for the term 'Third Sector' to be used throughout the document and for clarity to be given that this incorporates what may be termed as the VCS, Social or community enterprise.

In addition to this there was significant feedback supporting:

- A stronger statement on commissioning: *'developing a commissioning action plan that is consistent with the principles of the regional compact and promoting the use of and adherence to local compacts'*
- Reference to Business Link in this area is not appropriate given the number of other providers of support who are deemed more appropriate in the sector: replace Business Link with *'appropriate support providers'*
- The need to increase the value of volunteering in the document as stated above and remove from bullet 2

c) Regeneration & Communities

Discussion on this area focused on the perceived failure of previous strategies to significantly regenerate many areas across the NW and therefore a need to be bold, be innovative, but not to deliver more of the same.

The major areas for feedback where:

- To take an 'asset' based approach to working with communities
- Embed the principles of community empowerment and engagement into tackling local issues
- The need to build community resilience
- Build in 'poverty proofing' when developing regeneration strategies
- Crime and fear of crime are part of the barrier to regeneration and should be referenced in bullet 2

d) Social Exclusion, deprivation, ill health and inequality

Whilst this aspect of our response could have been placed elsewhere, we would like to support the report ***Fair Society, Healthy Lives: Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England Post 2010 (Marmot Review)***. The report states:

'Economic growth is not the most important measure of our country's success. The fair distribution of health, well-being and sustainability are important social goals. Tackling social inequalities in health and tackling climate change must go together.'

Marmot identifies six policy objectives and we recommend RS2010 should focus on the actions highlighted under these objective. In particular we believe that RS2010 should pick up the actions under the three objectives headed:

Northwest Regional Strategy: Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Consultation Response

- Create fair employment and good work for all
- Ensure healthy standard of living for all
- Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
- There is a clear linkage with the transport section: people need to be able to access jobs and services

A briefing is available at: <http://www.vsnw.org.uk/publications/briefings>

Whilst the Marmot Review covers most responses, but we also had strong feedback on:

- Building a commitment to tackle social mobility and how we tackle barriers to social mobility
- Recognise the challenge of tackling worklessness in rural areas
- Acknowledge the role of the third sector in working with marginalised groups often furthest away from labour market – as identified in the LSC report referenced on page 6.
- There needs to be greater significance given to the need to tackle mental health issues and the importance of promoting wellbeing especially in the workplace
- Make use of small third sector organisations that have linkages to communities larger providers often fail to serve (BME communities for example) and avoid creating procurement processes that mitigate against this

e) Demographic Change

There was general support for this section and the actions identified, however, it was noted that some areas have greater issues with ageing population than others and therefore actions need to accommodate those variations (e.g. Eden in Cumbria)

Ensuring the right housing and infrastructure

Questions 18-22 Do you agree with these potential areas for action? If not, what changes would you suggest and why?

The following issues came out strongly across our consultation:

- Whilst affordable housing is highlighted for action it was raised at all consultation events as being highly important. It was a particularly prominent issue in rural areas where it was flagged as being a problem in retaining young people.
- The appropriate diversity of housing stock was also raised in rural areas as it was perceived that there were smaller family units living in huge houses due to the lack of smaller dwellings
- A minimum standard for all new housing stock should be developed that ensures minimum impact on the environment
- Housing design should build in flexibility to allow for long term tenure – easy to be adapted throughout a persons lifecycle (some referred to as ‘life-long housing’)
- Regulations need to ensure housing is developed appropriate for all the community and in particular ensure accessibility for disable people: we should avoid unintended consequences of actions such as designing cars totally out of developments when many people rely on cars for mobility

Northwest Regional Strategy: Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Consultation Response

- The regeneration areas listed in bullet 2 only refer to housing market renewal areas which are not necessarily the only areas requiring consideration: some areas of Cheshire were highlighted
- The prioritisation of NGA was welcomed, however, there was a concern of rolling out NGA to rural areas – an assumption that the 10% not receiving NGA in the medium term would be rural areas and this could hinder opportunities in these areas
- In Cumbria it was commented on the poor coverage of many mobile phone networks and it was felt that tackling this in the immediate future would have significant benefit - this was raised as it is an aspiration which seems low level in the context of NGA discussion
- Recognition needs to be made of the skills training necessary to maximise on the opportunities of NGA: if we are to help people stay at home longer by accessing services there will be a need to support skill development: NGA could help tackle inequality and isolation for some but it could equally amplify inequalities if not rolled out appropriately
- Whilst there were many comments on transport that are fairly easily summarised:
 - Better and quicker public transport across the region – highlighted in both rural and urban discussions
 - Ensure developments in public transport is accessible to people with disabilities
 - Ensure accessible public transport for rural areas that helps link people with both jobs and other activities
 - The need to encourage behaviour change in transport usage
- In terms of green infrastructure was seen as hugely important and the opportunity to develop local solutions was highlighted
- The actions seem to suggest that we maintain and protect our natural landscapes purely for economic reasons and not for their wider role in eco system which is valid in its own right

Section C **Spatial Issues**

Questions 25-28 Have identified the key assets, opportunities and challenges, and what needs to be done in this sub region? If not, what changes would you suggest and why?

Cheshire & Warrington

Additional assets where identified:

- Agriculture
- Market Towns (some discussion over whether this should be in the challenges section)
- Chemical industry
- Industrial warehousing in Crewe

Additional challenges identified:

- An ageing population (especially in rural areas) and the social care challenges this will bring
- Role of Staffordshire and the Midlands

What needs to be done?

Northwest Regional Strategy: Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Consultation Response

- Increase links with Wales
- On bullet point 3 reference the role of volunteering as a way of developing skills and recognising impact of older community members

Cumbria

Question 24: Have we identified the key assets, opportunities and challenges, and what needs to be done, in this sub-region? If not, what changes would you suggest, and why?

There was a strong response from our Cumbrian respondents on this section with the following comments:

- It views Cumbria as a place to be used by the rest of the NW Region
- Fails to offer a clear vision or strategy for the future of Cumbria
- Fails to recognise the overwhelmingly rural nature of the County – a characteristic that affects all of its residents whether they be rural or urban dwellers.
- Gives too much emphasis to the Lake District resulting in an inappropriate focus on tourism and landscape rather than the more important social and economic characteristics and needs of rural communities.

Additional challenges identified:

- Tackling inequalities: worklessness, health inequalities and remoteness
- Creating greater opportunities for young people to retain them in the sub-region
- Providing accessible services to rural communities

What needs to be done?

- Harness the potential of SMEs and social enterprises
- Recognise, value and enhance the contribution to ecosystem services and public goods that derives from rural areas
- Develop Carlisle Airport
- Start 4th bullet point 'Improve and invest in...'
- Add the word 'learn' into the list on the final bullet point

Greater Manchester

There was a strong feeling that this section was accurate with two additional comments:

- Expansion of the Tram to new areas to be added to what strategy could deliver and
- The overall feeling it was a little Manchester centric and did not recognise the diversity of the other authority areas

Lancashire

There was a reflection that the ethnic diversity was not mentioned at all and that poverty in these communities brings challenges whilst there are also significant benefits for the area through the diversity of its population.

Additional assets where identified:

Northwest Regional Strategy: Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Consultation Response

- Engineering in East Lancs

Additional challenges identified:

- Connecting people
- Links between coastal towns

What needs to be done?

- Develop tourism – possibly through extreme sports

Liverpool City Region

Additional assets where identified:

- Strong third sector and thriving culture of social enterprise was highlighted by all
- Strong history of philanthropy

Additional challenges identified:

- Health of the population continues to be a major challenge and mental health issues where highlighted in particular
- A feeling that the super-port is not generating jobs as expected
- Developing an integrated transport system

What needs to be done?

- Increase speed of rail link to Manchester
- Housing retro-fitting offers particular opportunity and third sector could play a strong role in this
- Develop a tram system

Question 28 Are these the most significant intra and cross regional opportunities?

Feedback would suggest the links between south Cheshire and the Midlands is missing.

Section D

Option 1

Question 29 Will this option deliver the outcomes and priorities of the strategy?

Question 30 What are the key strengths and weaknesses of this option?

Option 2

Question 31 Will this option deliver the outcomes and priorities of the strategy?

Question 32 What are the key strengths and weaknesses of this option?

Option 3

Question 33 Will this option deliver the outcomes and priorities of the strategy?

Question 34 What are the key strengths and weaknesses of this option?

Option 4

Northwest Regional Strategy: Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Consultation Response

Question 35 Will this option deliver the outcomes and priorities of the strategy?

Question 36 What are the key strengths and weaknesses of this option?

Question 37: Within the context of the strategy, which option, or combination of options, do you consider best delivers the needs of the region?

We were unable to look at these options in detail with the participants in our consultation events but there are some key points we would like to make about this section overall:

- The 'status quo' is not an option: our current approaches have been designed perfectly to get us where we are today: serious health inequalities between the wealthiest and financially poorest communities in the north west; entrenched worklessness; low skill levels
- The answer has to be a combination of the options presented: no one option will provide all the answers
- It was clear from the response to us that it was desirable to have people at the centre of the strategy. Whilst this does not create the case for Option 4 as the preferred option, an approach that starts from the position of tackling deprivation and social inclusion would be the preferred so building elements of option 2 & 3 into option 4.

Section E

Question 38: How do you feel we can best tackle the outstanding questions on page 7?

One can't start to answer the questions within a relatively short response. The questions are fair and we are happy to work with partners over the coming months to identify how we can address these issues and the additional ones we have noted in response to Question 3.

Question 39 Do you have any other comments?

We believe the process of developing the strategy to date has been as inclusive as could be hoped for. There is always the potential to increase engagement and we hope we can work with both 4NW and the NWDA to ensure we can develop a strategy the region truly owns.

Northwest Regional Strategy: Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Consultation Response

Appendix 1

Awaz (Cumbria) – BME Infrastructure Support Organisation in Cumbria

Bangladeshi Youths

BRM Network

Forestry Commission

G.I.F.T,

Maryport Multicultural Support Group

Multicultural Carlisle

Nepalese Association

OutREACH Cumbria

RAPAR

RSPB

42nd Street

Action for Blind People

Action for Blind People (Carlisle)

ACTion with Communities

Advocacy in Wirral

African and Caribbean Mental Health Service

African Be Counted

African Elders Association

Age Concern (Stockport)

Age Concern Cheshire

Aintree University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Asian Development Association Bury

Association of Local Councils

Balladen Centre

Bickerton Village Hall

Big Lottery Fund: North West Regional Office

Big Tree Top

Black Health Agency

Blackburn with Darwen CVS

Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde CVS

Bolton Council of Mosques

Breakthrough UK Ltd

BRM Network

Business in the Community

BWA

Carers Link – Hyndburn & Ribble Valley

CE (North) CAB

CEMVO

BAIC in Brierfield

CHARA Trust

Cheshire Association of Local Councils

Northwest Regional Strategy: Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Consultation Response

Cheshire Community Action
Cheshire Wildlife Trust
Community Forest NW
Community Foundation for Greater Manchester
Community Foundations for Lancashire & Merseyside
Community Integrated Care
Community Revival UK
Community Voice
Contact a Family
Counselling and Family Centre
CPRE
CS Plus
Cumbria 3rd Sector Network
Cumbria CVS
Cumbria Wildlife Trust
CVS West Lancashire
CWSEP
CXL
Cyclists Touring Club
DCSF
Deafinitely Able Training & Consultancy
Deafway/Lancas County Nursing Trust
Derwent & Solway Housing
Dingle Opportunities Limited
Diocese of Liverpool
Directory of Social Change
Dovecot Multi Activity Centre
East Lancashire Community Action Project
Economy, Learning & Skills - Lancashire Consortium
ELECT
English Heritage
Environment Agency
Equity Housing Group
Europa –GM European Migrants Forum
External Funding Cheshire East
Fairbridge North Manchester
Faith Network 4 Manchester
First Asian Support Trust
Five Counties Partnership
Friends of the Earth
Frontline Trust
Fusion21 Ltd
Great Places Housing
Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation

Northwest Regional Strategy: Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Consultation Response

Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation
Greater Manchester East County Scout Council
Greater Manchester Federation of Clubs for Young People
Greater Merseyside ChangeUp
Groundwork
Groundwork Merseyside
Groundwork NW
Grow and Sow
Halton Voluntary Action
Harvest Housing
Health & Poverty Forum
Impact Housing Association
Inspired Sisters
Keep Britain Tidy
Kenya Community Liverpool
Knowsley CVS
LACVS
Lancashire Black Police Association
Lancashire BME Pact
Lancashire EBP
Lancashire Sports
Lancashire Wide Network for Minority Ethnic Minority Women
Lancashire Wildlife Trust
Land Restoration Trust
Leasowe Development Trust
Lesbian & Gay Foundation
LIDP
Liverpool Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Liverpool City Council
Local Solutions
Lodge Lane Regeneration Group
LTCW
Making Space
Making Space GM Regional Office
Manchester Active Voices Youth Empowerment
Manchester Learning, Employment and Skills Network
Manchester Refugee Support Network
MCCR
MCHMS
Mentoring and Befriending Foundation
Mersey Forest
Merseyside Disability Federation
Merseyside Expanding Horizons
Merseyside Policy Unit

Northwest Regional Strategy: Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Consultation Response

Merseyside Welfare Rights
Merseyside Youth Association
MET
Middlewich Town Council (Councillor)
Middlewich Vision
Moorlands Housing
National Trust
Natural England
Nexus Community Link
Nigerian Community
North West Environmental Link
North West Network
North West Planning Aid
North West Rural Community Councils
North West Transport/TravelWatch NW/ VSNW
NW ACTs
NW Transport Actavists Roundtable
Nxt Generation
One North West
Oxfam – Routes to Solidarity
Pelican
People First Merseyside
Peshkar / Home Start
Plus Dane Group
Prosperity 4 Life
PSL Group
Race Equality Foundation
Ramblers Association
RAPAR
Refugee Action
Regenesis Squared
Rotters Community Composting
Salford BME Network
SCOPE
SEVA
SEVA Development Partnership
Shift
Signpost MARC Ltd
Signposts
Sordan
South Sefton Development Trust
Southport YMCA
St Helens CVS
St Helens YWCA

Northwest Regional Strategy: Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Consultation Response

Strategic Partnerships Cheshire East.
Summervale
Tameside African Residents Association
Tameside Third Sector Coalition
The Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA)
The Prince's Trust
Third Sector Assembly Cheshire West
Tomorrow's People Trust Ltd
Trafford Housing Trust
TravelWatch North West
TSL Co-ordinator
Union Street Media Arts CIC
Vale Royal Environment Network
Vauxhall Neighbourhood Centre
VCAW
Vinvolved Team
Voice of BME Trafford
VOLA Merseyside
Voluntary Community Action Trafford
Voluntary Sector North West
Volunteer Centre Tameside
VSNW
Wai Yin
Wake-Up Network
Wirral Society
Women Asylum Seekers Together
Women Engage Ltd
Women's Enterprising Breakthrough
Woodland trust
Young Addaction
Young Lancashire
Young Persons Opportunities Project
Youth Action @ Hyndburn
Zimbabwe Women's Organisation.

**Northwest Regional Strategy:
Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)
Consultation Response**

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