

Useful resources and websites

A full list of VCF Sector Members can be found on OFFER's website at <http://www.offer.org.uk/content.php?c=44>

The 'OFFER Triple Bottom' Line - designed for use by VCF sector members on the SF Partnership to double check issues coming to the various Boards have a VCF 'take' on them. Hard copy available on request from OFFER or download a copy from:

<http://www.offer.org.uk/resources/documents/EXLDUP22.pdf>

The OFFER / Sheffield First Partnership Protocol - which governs the relationship between the two, and explains how VCF sector members are selected and supported. Hard copy available on request from OFFER or download a copy from: <http://www.offer.org.uk/resources/documents/Sheffield%20First%20Partnership%20e-bulletin%20May%202009.pdf>

OFFER's website - www.offer.org.uk which has a specific 'Sheffield First Partnership' section along with a host of other useful information for the VCF sector

Sheffield City Council's Sheffield First website www.sheffieldfirst.net which includes meeting dates, agendas, minutes and reports.



Offer exists to support VCF organisations and networks to work in partnership and strategically influence the creation of successful, inclusive communities in Sheffield.

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FAQ's - Sheffield First Partnership VCF Sector Representatives



This short guide is designed to answer a number of questions OFFER often get asked about Voluntary, Community & Faith sector representation [VCF] on the Sheffield First Partnership [the Local Strategic Partnership for Sheffield].

The Sheffield First Partnership Board consists of the main board and a number of thematic Partnership Boards. Each of these includes a number of VCF rep places; with VCF reps on each Board supported by a specific liaison officer from either OFFER or VAS. See overleaf for full details along with frequently asked questions [FAQ's].

Sheffield First Partnership VCF Representation - Frequently Asked Questions [FAQ's]

Q. How can the VCF sector reps on the SF Partnership Board/s claim to be 'representative' of the whole VCF sector in Sheffield?

A. Well the short answer is they can't. Given the number and diversity of VCF organisations there is no perfect system to ensure all views are represented.

Q. So given there's no perfect system - what practical steps are taken to make sure the system is as good as it can be?

A. SF Partnership manage a process of recruitment and selection to ensure prospective VCF sector reps have the skills for the role, along with a broad understanding of the VCF sector [not just their own organisation]. In addition, VCF reps on each of the Boards are supported by a liaison officer from either OFFER or VAS.

This support includes VCF sector reps and the liaison officer getting together at Board pre-meetings directly before the main meeting to talk through the agenda and share thoughts on the VCF 'take' on particular issues on that agenda. There are also twice-yearly cross partnership events where all the VCF SF sector reps / liaison officers / Council officers and partners come together to network and discuss cross cutting issues.

Q. So what if our organisation has a view we'd like to put forward?

A. Well - if it's clear which Thematic Board your issue fits with either, contact the VCF sector reps for that Board, or get in touch with the Board's Liaison Officer. If you're not sure which Board your issue fits with feel free to contact the OFFER team. A VCF sector reps list can be found in the 'Sheffield First Partnership' section of OFFER's website www.offer.org.uk

Q. Are there any opportunities to attend pre-meetings and Board meetings?

A. YES! - just contact the relevant liaison officer for that Board to arrange. You can also attend the main Board meetings in an 'observer' capacity.

Q. How do I find out what SF VCF sector reps have influenced?

A. A good way is by signing up to the monthly OFFER Sheffield First e-bulletin. To subscribe E: suef@offer.org.uk and add the words 'SF e-bulletin' in the title bar.

Q. Who should I contact if I was interested in being a VCF sector rep?

A. The relevant Liaison Officer [depending on your area of interest] who can talk you through how / when recruitment takes place and what's involved. The skills and abilities needed are outlined in the OFFER /SF Protocol [see back page for details]

| SF PARTNERSHIP BOARD AND THEMATIC BOARD VCF SECTOR MEMBERS | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--|---|
| Board | No of VCF Places | Liaison Officer Details | Notes: [Position as of July 2009] |
| Sheffield First Partnership Board | 7 | Dave Jackson [OFFER] E: davej@offer.org.uk T: 0114 253 6730 | 1 place reserved for Voluntary Action Sheffield in line with the private sector place reserved for the Chamber of Commerce] |
| Sheffield First Environment P'ship Board | 5 | Natalie Hunt [OFFER] E: natalie@offer.org.uk T: 0114 253 6730 | |
| Sheffield First Health and Well-being P'ship Board | 5 | Jasmine Warwick [VAS] E: j.warwick@vas.org.uk T: 0114 253 6647 | |
| Sheffield First Children and Young People 0 - 19+ P'ship Board | 4 | VAS Planning & P'ship Team T: 0114 253 6614 | |
| Sheffield First Safer and Sustainable P'ship Board | 6 [see notes] | Dave Parsons [OFFER] E: davep@offer.org.uk T: 0114 253 6730 | There are 6 reps in total from which 3 attend any one meeting |
| Sheffield First Strong Economy Board | 2 | Mike Hodson [OFFER] E: mikeh@offer.org.uk T: 0114 253 6730 | |