



OFFER Sheffield First e-bulletin

Keeping you up to date with news and issues from the Sheffield First Partnership, with an emphasis on how the VCF [Voluntary, Community & Faith] sector reps have contributed to, and influenced the discussion.

February 2010 edition

Contact Us:

Tel: 0114 253 6730

www.offer.org.uk

E:suef@offer.org.uk

Sheffield First Partnership Board: Met 10 Feb

VCF sector reps influenced for:-

- Ensuring SFP Board will hear how Safer & Sustainable Communities Partnership plan to tackle the sustainable communities element of their work, following their Away Day
- Confirmation that VCF sector organisations will be included in the 'Total Place' work, particularly the strand looking at how support is given to the 30 of so families/households in Sheffield that have most contact with the Police and City Council to see if there are better ways of working with them
- Gaining support from other Board members that the next City Strategy must stay focused on the sort of issues/language that local people used in the consultation and not be overly translated in public sector speech
- Gaining agreement that at the March meeting we should look at how much of the current City Strategy has been achieved in order to inform how we approach the next one
- That work will continue on trying to make sure the Environment Board does actually use the expertise of all its partners around the table to achieve some real outcomes
- That the decision by the City Council to take on the ownership of Your Sheffield magazine without discussing this first with the Sheffield First Partnership was a mistake and they have committed to learning from this.

Date of next meeting: 10 March 2010

Liaison Person: Dave Jackson (OFFER) T. 2536730 E. davej@offer.org.uk

SF Safer & Sustainable Communities Partnership Board: Met 4 Feb

The meeting of the Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership Board on the 4th of February 2010 took the form of an 'away day' event rather than the usual business meeting. The event focused on the various themes the Boards is responsible for, and how best members can work together to address them. The event also included discussion on how to place greater emphasis on the 'sustainability' agenda. The findings of the event will be presented at the next meeting on the 1st of April.

Date of next meeting: 1 April 2010

Liaison Person: Dave Parsons (OFFER) T. 2536730 E. dave@offer.org.uk

SF Health and Well-Being P'ship Board: Met 9 Feb

- Sheffield Carers Strategy: This strategy is out to consultation until 19 April 2010. VCF reps highlighted:
 - The need to identify 'hidden' carers in BME Communities.
 - The importance of investing resources into training to effect cultural changes in organisations
 - That the contribution of the VCF sector in this should not be understated
- Local Participation in Cultural Activities people presented statistics on the take up of Council services such as libraries & leisure centres. It was acknowledged it was difficult to evaluate the health benefits of these activities. VCF reps emphasised the importance of involving the Culture Board and pointed out that most people's cultural experience is of a localised grass roots nature.
- Update on Performance Targets: Progress is still slow on mental health problems & employment and learning disabilities and employment. With regard to the reduction of inequalities in all age-all cause mortality, VCF rep asked about the profile of BME groups within this? The Director of Public Health said that there was more work to do on this, ethnicity is not recorded on death certificates

Date of next meeting: 22 June 2010

Liaison Person: Jasmine Warwick [VAS] T. 2536647 E. j.warwick@vas.org.uk

SF Environment Partnership: no mtg. in Feb

Date of next meeting: 10 March

Liaison Person: Natalie Hunt [OFFER] T. 2536730 E. natalie@offer.org.uk

SF Strong Economy Board: Met 8 Feb

Key points and what VCF reps influenced:

- Creative Sheffield returned with an update on the Marketing strategy [previously criticised for a lack of a strategic approach & for being overly-focussed on external advertising of major events]. The purpose was restated to be 'the need for Sheffield to improve its image and external appeal'. VCF reps made the following points:
 - The strategy still lacked clarity on the target audiences, and that internal marketing to Sheffield people was still being ignored [despite this having been highlighted at the last mtg]. It wasn't just about local people attending/enjoying events but about inclusiveness and how local people could act as ambassadors for the city.
 - There was a physical aspect to this also, in improving roads, public transport & the visual gateways of Sheffield with public art etc.
- Sheffield Economic Assessment - this is a new duty on Local Authorities, to be completed later in the year. The aim is to assess economic progress against the agreed Vision set by the Board. The Board was presented with a wide variety of statistics on current performance. VCF reps made the following points:

- That a lack of skills is a key barrier to improving performance city-wide, with low-skilled and unskilled people suffering disproportionately. The addition of 'skills' as a major item at the June meeting was welcomed.
- Economic inactivity was pushing people into debt, with a consequent loss to the local economy in buying power.
- There was an introduction to the 'Digital Region' [a major discussion item in April], a government initiative currently being rolled out in S Yorks to improve the broadband infrastructure in the regions. It should attract new businesses, and allow more flexible working. VCF reps made the following points:
 - This was a cross-cutting issue and other Boards should be asked to discuss the issue and contribute ideas.
 - How could this opportunity be used to reduce the 'digital divide'?

Date of next meeting: 12 April

Liaison Person: Mike Hodson [OFFER] T: 0114 253 6730 **E. mikeh@offer.org.uk**

SF Children & Young People 0-19+ Partnership Board: has not met this time

Date of next meeting: 22 April 2010

Liaison Person: VAS Planning and Partnership Team T: 2536746

Other news & information:

The **Sheffield Community Economic Network [SCEN]** meets on a monthly basis. Contact **Mike Hodson at OFFER** T: 0114 253 6730 **E: mikeh@offer.org.uk**

The Sheffield Disability Network [*hosted by Inclusive Living Sheffield – soon to be renamed Sheffield Centre for Independent Living*] event on Thursday 18 Feb was really well attended by over 80 people. The event included the election of the Executive Committee, and people working in small groups to discuss the issues the Network should prioritise over the coming year. An event report will soon be available on our website. For more information contact OFFER **T: 0114 253 6730**
E: info@offer.org.uk

Community Assembly feedback event – 3pm to 5pm [& repeated 6pm – 8pm] Thursday 18 March at Sheffield Town Hall. This OFFER event provides a key opportunity for VCF reps and individuals who have been involved with their Community Assembly to feedback their experiences so far, and share ideas about ways of working that Community Assemblies might try in the future. Download the event flyer from the events page at www.offer.org.uk for full details and how to book your place.

Finally, the deadline for recruitment of VCF reps to various Partnership Boards is fast approaching – applications need to be submitted by 5 March. Application packs are available from:
<http://www.sheffieldfirst.org.uk> or T: 0114 273 6318.

Anyone interested in applying to become a SF rep is invited to attend an information session on 1 March, 6 - 7.30pm at The Circle, 33 Rockingham Lane, Sheffield S1

4FW.

Both this and previous editions of the Sheffield First e-bulletin are available for download from our website www.offer.org.uk

Full Partnership Board agendas, minutes and reports are available from the SF website www.sheffieldfirst.org.uk

If you have any suggestions for this e-bulletin, or any other items you would like included in the March 2010 edition please email them to suef@offer.org.uk by Thursday 25 March.

--

Sue Faxon

Information & Publicity Officer

OFFER

4th Floor, The Circle, 33 Rockingham Lane, Sheffield, S1 4FW

Tel: 0114 253 6730

Fax: 0114 253 6731

[E:suef@offer.org.uk](mailto:suef@offer.org.uk)

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

OFFER [Open Forum For Economic Regeneration] is a charity registered No. 1100677 and a company limited by guarantee registered in England No. 3740934