

annual report



08/09



Geraldine Des Moulins, Chair



I am constantly surprised at how the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum, driven by its members, has the ability to refresh and reinvent itself. And this year has been no exception.

With the new Your Space events starting in April, a fresh approach to communications, a strong focus on developing the

children and young people's workforce, the development of the Stronger Communities Partnership and hosting a new health and social care network, The LINK, the members and staff team have worked hard throughout the year, working together to influence local policies and plans for the benefit of local people.

Our membership survey speaks for itself, and the staff team and members are to be congratulated on their achievements. The coming year brings more challenges: developing the member's collective vision for the city; providing a range of ways in which members can be involved; campaigning for better third sector commissioning, action planning around the recession, and moving to a new office.

I am proud, not only as Chair of the Trustee Board, but also as a member, to be part of a Community and Voluntary Sector Forum which will rise to these challenges.

Emily O'Brien, Interim Chief Executive



This year has been a very exciting, and needless to say, challenging one for the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum.

Our direct work with members has developed, moving away from quarterly conferences to Your Space events, designed to appeal to smaller groups; Lunch'n'Meet, where members can meet the staff team, talk through ideas and feedback to us; and events specifically for new members. We have also been active in developing a number of partnership projects including the new Equalities Coalition.

At the same time, we have strengthened our relationship with our statutory sector partners enabling us to have greater influence. Our work on the Local Area Agreement, which sets out a range of priorities which involve the work of community and voluntary organisations, is held under the 'Strengthening Communities and Involving People' element, led by the Stronger Communities Partnership.

We have also strengthened our membership, carrying out a full review of the criteria, producing a new Involvement Handbook and an updated directory.

Our involvement in Taking Account, the second economic and social audit of the third sector in Brighton and Hove, has been particularly satisfying, and the results of the audit demonstrate what an important role the sector plays in the city; a piece of work we are proud to be part of.

78% of CVSF members that feel they are able to work effectively together

75% members feel well informed about local, regional, national policy and strategy affecting the voluntary and community sector

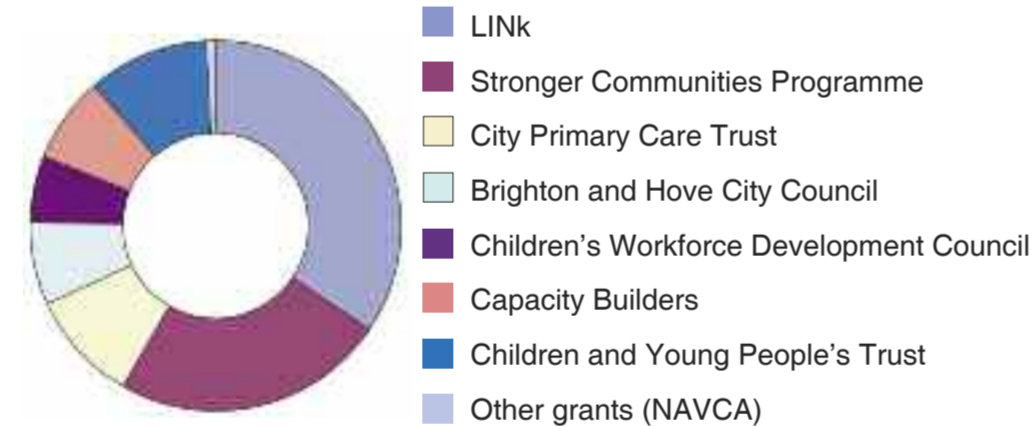
Summary Statement of Financial Activities for Year Ended 31st March 2009

	2008/9	2007/8
Total incoming resources	£406,797	£365,371
Total resources expended	£354,059	£362,144
Net incoming resources	£52,738	£3,227
Fund balances 1 Apr 08	£75,709	
Fund balances 31 Mar 09	£131,674	

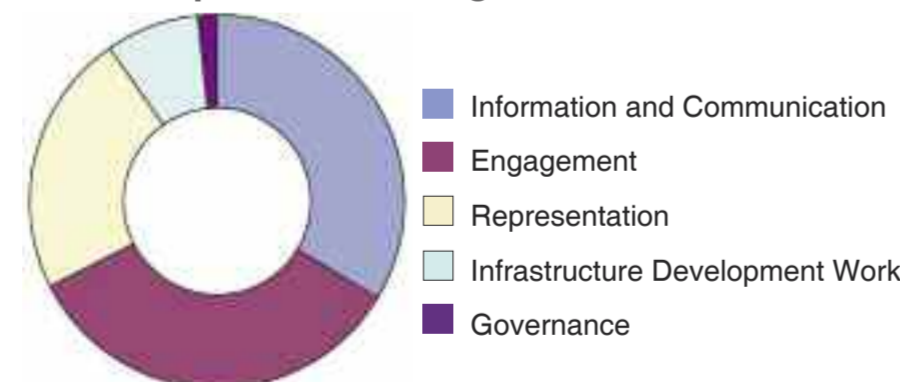
The financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2009 have been given an unqualified audit report by our auditors, Clark Brownscombe.

A copy of the full financial statement is available on request from The Company Secretary, Brighton and Hove Community and Voluntary Sector Forum.

How we were funded



How we spent our funding



With thanks to our funders:



Thank you Elected Representatives, 2008/20

CVSF is the main route through which representatives of the community and voluntary sector are elected onto citywide strategic partnerships. They have a very important role in taking the views of the membership to these partnerships and ensuring they are considered when decisions are being made.

During 2008/2009, the CVSF supported 72 representative positions on 32 of the city's partnership groups. They deserve a big 'thank you' for their enthusiasm, commitment and hard work.

Allen Etheridge, Barry Hulyer, Ben Glazebrook, Bill Gandey, Caroline Gorton, Caroline Price, Caroline Ridley, Chris Lau, Chris Todd, Clair Barnard, Darren Snow, David Standing, Dawn Rennie, Doris Ndebele, Francis Tonks, Fred Jordan, Gail Gray, Geraldine DesMoulins, Ian Cunningham, Ian Metherell, Iseult Hull-Flower, Jacqui Cuff, Jackie Grigg, Jannet Cook, Jenny Pickup, Jess Wood, Jim Baker, Jonathan Stearn, Kim Crewe, Kim Moore Lee Hewitson, Linda Newman, Lindsay Jacobs, Lorette Mackie, Lyn Strong, Marion Silsby, Michael Creedy, Michelle Pooley, Mike Holdgate, Naima Nouidjem, Neil Holmes, Nicola Halfhead, Nicole Vann, Niki Eldridge, Nora Mzaoui, Pam Nicholls, Paul Bramwell, Rachel Brett, Robert Brown, Sarah Danily, Simon Lewis, Shirley Connor, Steve Lawless, Stuart Johnson, Sue Stepney, Tamsin Knight, Terri Fletcher.

Board of Trustees, 2008/2009

Debbie Charman - resigned April 2009
 Emma Gaskin - Appointee
 Geraldine DesMoulins - Brighton and Hove Federation of Disabled People (Chair)
 Jon Cooper - Brighton Fringe Festival - resigned December 2008
 Karen Cass - Earshot and Radio Reverb
 Michael Creedy - Brighton Peace and Environment Centre
 Naima Nouidjem - resigned July 2009
 Rik Child - Furniture Now!
 Simon Lewis - City Coast Church
 Tim Smith - Grace Eyre Foundation
 Vivienne Barton - Appointee

And not forgetting...

CVSF members, associates and friends, for continued support, hard work and good humour; the volunteers who helped us in the office and at events: Suzie Kelly and Nick Teasdale; Simon Bottrell at 7 Creative for his wonderful design work & Gemini Press, for their patience and generous support.

design: Katy McGrory
 print: Gemini Press (using vegetable inks and to Environmental Standard ISO14001)



Staff Team, 2008/2009

Clair Farenden (from November 2008)
 Claire Stevens (from July 2009)
 Dan Salisbury
 Duncan Blinkhorn
 Edda Ivan-Smith (from June 2009)
 Emily O'Brien
 Janice Hoiles
 Jim Simpson (until July 2009)
 Katy McGrory
 Lynne Charmers (until September 2008)
 Mary Saunders
 Nicola Chanamoto (until October 2008)
 Sally Hiscock

Brighton and Hove
 Community & Voluntary Sector Forum
 Community Base
 113 Queens Road
 Brighton
 BN1 3XG

Telephone 01273 234000
 email info@cvsectorforum.org.uk
 www.cvsectorforum.org.uk

We are moving at the end of 2009. Check the website for our contact details.

65% of members feel that service providers and statutory agencies are good at involving voluntary and community organisations in decision making processes and take notice of CVSF views.

Registered charity number 108741
 A company limited by guarantee number 3895635

Your CVSF

Strength in our members: over 500 members as well as associates and friends

Informing
Networking
Representing

87% of members reported CVSF's services are accessible;

82% of external stakeholders reported that CVSF's services are accessible.

91% of external stakeholders were satisfied with quality of services;

72% satisfied with effectiveness of programmes delivered by CVSF.

I have found it very helpful to check in with CVSF staff to get the latest on relevant strategic developments.



- Members Directory
- Dialogue (monthly email bulletin)
- Website & online
- Research & information
- Briefings & reports

78% of members feel there is good communication between voluntary and community organisations

Membership Review

Each year, the CVSF checks that all the information on its database is up to date.

As part of the membership review, organisations not eligible to join as a member could be involved as an associate or friend.

A new Involvement Handbook includes all the details.

Taking Account

The second **economic and social audit** of the third sector in Brighton and Hove, commissioned by the Dialogue 50/50 Group and carried out during 2008, showed there are approximately **1,600 third sector organisations** in Brighton and Hove, who **contribute £96 million** to the Brighton and Hove economy each year. That the sector is a **significant employer** in the city, employing about **8,000 people**. That **only 43% of its income comes from grants**, of which the majority, **62% comes from outside** the city.

ChangeUp

CVSF has supported the **ChangeUp Consortium** to develop and improve services and opportunities for community and voluntary organisations in the city:

Improved **print** facilities for groups (the Resource Centre)

Spoke magazine (CVSF)

Support for Groups website www.supportforgroups.org.uk (SCIP)

Training and development for groups and social enterprises (the Working Together Project) one-to-one support (Impetus) volunteering development (Volunteer Centre) and support from business and developing social enterprise (Business Community Partnership)

Better Procurement How the community and voluntary sector can be in a stronger position to influence public services commissioning and provision as well as tender to provide more services.



Trustees

Staff

Four Your Space events provided a meeting place for networks and groups across the city. **Lunch'n' Meet** saw members talk to us about our plans for the year ahead.



Events

Information sharing

Collecting the views of members

Developing policies and action plans

Dialogue between members and elected representatives

Influencing strategic discussions and decisions

Sharing experiences and learning

Representation on citywide partnerships including

- The Local Strategic Partnership (2020 Community Partnership)
- Children and Young People's Trust
- City Employment & Skills Steering Group
- Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership
- Dialogue 50/50 Group
- Economic Partnership
- Healthy City Partnership
- Learning Partnership
- Public Service Board
- Stronger Communities Partnership

Children and Young People's Programme

The Children and Young People's Programme brings together and supports third sector organisations to influence local policies and plans which affect children and young people.

Strengthening Representation was a focus of CVSF's work during the year with more than 70 reps elected onto 30 strategic partnerships.

For the first time this included representation on the Children and Young People's Trust Extended Schools Clusters. On average 7 reps fed back to the wider sector on their representative activities each month.

Support to Representatives

Gathering the **views** and experience of the third sector **Involving** under-represented groups

Undertaking **consultation** activities and producing **position statements** & policy briefings

Induction, training, and learning to **develop** the skills, knowledge and experience of representatives to influence decision-making

Maintaining a **dialogue** between sectors around policy, strategies, plans and partnership working

Funding third sector organisations to be involved in representation.

CVSF reps have influenced a broad range of policies, plans and strategies, and funding programme, including: the **Children and Young People's Plan** and associated policies for reducing teenage pregnancies, safeguarding children and young people; **third sector commissioning**, and the **Community Engagement Framework**.

The **Stronger Communities Partnership** develops policy and practice to strengthen community involvement in local decision making.

The **Stronger Communities Programme** brings together and supports local communities to influence local policies and plans.

Networks such as

- Children & Young People
- Mental Health
- Learning
- Environment
- Community Festivals
- Community Art

The Stronger Communities Programme

Conference in July 2008 welcomed 75 people from different groups and neighbourhoods who contributed to discussions on community engagement and shared their success stories. It has also taken forward equalities work, resulting in an **Equalities Coalition**.



The **Stronger Neighbourhoods Group** engages and supports CVSF members who work in the city's neighbourhoods.

Local Involvement Network (LINK)

Since April 2008, CVSF has hosted the Local Involvement Network, (LINK) a local, powerful, independent network of people and organisations, which gives Brighton and Hove residents and groups a stronger voice on health and social care issues. You can view the LINK's own annual report at www.bhlink.org.uk.

As one member is an elected rep, it gives our group a great profile in the city.

The policies and plans important to our work

The Compact & Codes of Practice is the agreement between the third sector and the public sector about how we work together.

The Local Development Framework describes Brighton and Hove City Council's planning vision for the city. It is important because its priorities, including housing, the economy, transport, community safety, leisure, and regeneration, affect us all.

The Community Engagement Framework is the strategic vision and guiding principles for community engagement in Brighton and Hove. It contains the priority actions to improve engagement activity in the city and is the key reference document for community engagement by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and all its members.

The Local Area Agreement is between the public, private and third sectors on how to deliver better, joined up services. One element, 'Strengthening Communities and Involving People', is particularly important for CVSF. It is led by the Stronger Communities Partnership but many members will be involved in the areas it prioritises.

2020 Community Strategy is based on dialogue with local people, community groups and organisations, and represents a 20 year strategic outlook for the city. It contains actions, objectives, and targets which are overseen by the Local Strategic Partnership - the 2020 Community Partnership.