



DAVENTRY
FORUM
VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY SECTOR VOICE

Development Plan 2007-2010

1 Executive Summary

The Forum was set up in June 2002 with funding from the Lottery, as part of an infrastructure development project for DVC. It is hosted by DVC and open to all voluntary and community groups operating in the Daventry District. The Forum is run on a very informal basis on a quarterly basis from 12 – 1.30pm in The Abbey Community Building, Daventry.

DVC send out invitations and an agenda to inform members of topics covered and speakers attending. Minutes are not taken due to the informality of the group. Members are invited to suggest the agenda for the next meeting at the end of every meeting, and to make suggestions as to how the Forum should be run in the future.

2 Forum Aims and Objectives (Over view)

Our aim is to build a strong voice for the VCS in the Daventry District empowered through networking and information sharing, with elected representatives reflecting the views of the local sector on key partnership boards and other influential platforms.

We hope that local VCS groups will own the Forum and begin to make attendance a priority, as it becomes a true reflection of their views and a recognised voice for Daventry District VCS across the county.

3 Overarching Aims (Mission)

Our mission is to be at the forefront in developing a voice for local VCS organisations together with a structure to secure an open and transparent method for electing VCS representation in the county. the county in support of vulnerable people and communities who experience disadvantage.

4 Objectives

- Secure funding for the Forum to include administration costs and backfill to enable local VCS organisations and speakers to attend.
- Publicity/promotion of the Daventry VCS Forum to increase organisation attendance
- Consultation with VCS groups to agree the Structure of the Forum
- Set up formal structure for Forum with membership rules, terms of reference, representative election process etc. as agreed by membership.

5 Values and Principles

Values and principals to be decided by membership, but will include:

- Inclusivity: focus on equal opps. and diversity
- Open and transparent processes
- Maintaining and Developing the Independent Voice of the VCS
- Empowering the VCS

6 Forum Services

(DVC are currently undertaking a survey of Forum members- results not available yet)

- Platform for election of VCS representatives
- Information exchange
- Networking arena
- Training opportunities
- Campaigning voice

7 Communication

- 4 DVC Newsletter
- 5 DVC Website
- 6 Mailouts

8 Current Performance Indicators

The Daventry VCS Forum is still in an embryonic form and has not reached the stage of setting performance indicators.

9 Performance monitoring

N/A at present

10 Finances/budget

Budget attached

11 Stakeholder feedback

- Forum user satisfaction survey

From previously carried out questionnaires, most organisations have indicated that they fully support the idea of Daventry VCS Forum but lack of resources (mainly time) prevents them from attending the meetings. They do, however, read the DVC Newsletter and know how to input to the Forum if they choose to.

12 VCS Forum 'Market' information

Currently undertaking survey. Findings not available yet.

13 Benefits to Partner Agencies

- Information dissemination
- Means to elect local VCS representation
- Collective voice from Daventry District VCS
- Identification of funding gaps
- Identification of gaps in service provision
- *Opportunity to develop partnership*

14 Competitor' Analysis

None similar

15 Action Plan

Action Plan attached