

# How Hyndburn Works

## Hyndburn Voluntary Sector Forum Quick Guide 4d

### BACKGROUND

The Hyndburn Voluntary Sector Forum is the leadership body that works on issues of local concern such as the provision of services, self help and advocacy, campaigning, borough co-ordination and support.

The Voluntary Sector Forum was initiated to connect up the voluntary sector and feed their ideas and knowledge in to the strategic decision-making process of the Local Strategic Partnership. The Voluntary Sector Forum is all about partners working together for the common good in relation to services to other voluntary organisations, quality of life issues such as support for the family and every child matters, regeneration of deprived areas, consultation with local people, social inclusion, community safety (safer stronger communities), the needs of the elderly, health, childcare, neighbourhood renewal, local democracy, asylum seekers and emerging communities, economy and employment etc.

Its membership reflects the diversity, knowledge, experience and common interests of voluntary organisations working across Hyndburn.

### AIM

Hyndburn Voluntary Sector Forum aims to enable members of different voluntary organisations to learn about each other's area of expertise, practices and work to form partnerships and eliminate duplication by promoting knowledge and appreciation of each other and our areas of work.

Hyndburn Voluntary Sector Forum is a local group, affiliated to the Lancashire VCFS Consortium and East Lancs VCFS Hub. The Forum seeks to implement the values of the voluntary sector and translate them into practical action in the diverse area of Hyndburn.

### PURPOSE

- a) Hyndburn Voluntary Sector Forum will be a recognised forum in which people representing the diversity of the voluntary sector of Hyndburn can have their views represented and ultimately recognised as a valid contribution to the political, economical, social and moral welfare of the borough.
- b) The Forum will be a friendly local group seeking to overcome prejudice and promote social cohesion by getting to know each other through meetings, visits, exhibitions, social events and healthy discussion.
- c) The Forum aims to be a vibrant network to develop better relationships between the voluntary sector organisations through discussions and dialogue.
- d) The Forum will hold events in Hyndburn where members can experience each other's work, enter into dialogue with one another and celebrate our common commitment to voluntary sector values.
- e) The Forum will show the wider public the importance of volunteering and the voluntary sector aspects of life and the contribution volunteers and the voluntary sector make to the community.
- f) Knowledge of communities will be enhanced and the voluntary sector groups given a voice.
- g) Whilst different voluntary sector organisations are represented there will be a sense of shared values and the opportunity for the voluntary sector to become involved in the community cohesion debate from the voluntary sector perspective.
- h) The Forum will provide a "hub" for voluntary sector access and engagement and undertake the role as the 'identified voluntary sector' body for Hyndburn which will speak for the voluntary sector by way of the Forum and its membership and their nominated members.

- i) The Forum will create opportunities for voluntary sector encounter and education.
- j) The Forum will provide a central voice of the voluntary sector for the benefit of the media and promote the image of the voluntary sector for the betterment of the voluntary sector and communities they serve.
- k) The Forum will demonstrate the ability and desire to discuss matters pertaining to the voluntary sector and become a unified group through shared concerns.
- l) The Forum will work towards equality in all areas of life.
- m) The Forum will raise levels of awareness in Hyndburn about the positive effects volunteers and the voluntary sector communities have in our daily lives.
- n) The Forum will acting as a consultative forum on local issues for local government to influence decision-making, provide advice to public bodies and form links with statutory and voluntary bodies.
- o) The Forum will undertake funding activities for the benefit of the voluntary organisations and communities of Hyndburn they serve.
- p) The Forum will encourage joined up working avoiding duplication of activities and the better use of resources.

## **Governance**

The Voluntary Sector Forum has a Terms of Reference as its governing document The Hyndburn Voluntary Sector Forum is an independent network of all the voluntary sector groups based in Hyndburn or serving the Hyndburn district. The Forum is serviced by Hyndburn Community Network and will be managed by an elected steering group of members.

## **Progress Report**

### ***Meetings***

During the current financial year the Forum will hold up to six business meetings.

Future provisional meetings dates for 2008 - Tuesdays 20 May, 22 July, 16 Sept, 25 Nov with 2pm — 4pm provisional times.

### ***Agenda items have included:***

The Local Strategic Partnership Assembly Board (LSP) and representation, the Local Area Agreement, the Lancashire Partnership Board structure, LSP sub groups: Children and Young People, Community Safety Partnership, Economic Development & Enterprise, Health & Wellbeing and the fifth LSP sub group, the Lancashire VCFS Consortium, CapacityBuilders and ChangeUp, commissioning and procurement, plus joint funding bids from Hyndburn,

### ***Representation***

The Voluntary Sector Forum is represented on may other organisations in Hyndburn, East Lancashire, Lancashire and the North West through its member organisations.

### ***Publicity***

Posters have been circulated throughout Hyndburn to promote the forum.

### ***Consultations***

The Voluntary Sector Forum member organisations have taken part in the following consultations:

- HBC – Community Cohesion Strategy
- HBC – Equality Strategy
- HBC – Sustainable Community Strategy
- LCC – Changes to social care for adults
- LCC – Strategy for an Ageing Population
- LP – Ambition Lancashire

### ***In Progress***

A vast range of government initiatives has considerable relevance for the voluntary sector and its relationship with local government including:

- quality of life issues such as support for the family
- regeneration of deprived areas

- consultation with local people
- social inclusion
- community safety
- the needs of the elderly
- health
- childcare
- neighbourhood renewal
- local democracy
- asylum seekers
- employment

Additionally the Government has shown its support for the voluntary sector by encouraging local councils to develop **compacts** with their voluntary and community sector.

### ***Compact***

Compact is the agreement between government and the voluntary and community sector to improve their relationship for mutual advantage and community gain. Most relationships between government, public and voluntary sectors happen at the local level working with all stakeholders to ensure that the Compact remains at the heart of these relationships which boosts partnership working and creates better outcomes for local areas and communities.

Local Compacts are agreements between local government, local public bodies and voluntary and community sectors. 99% of local authority areas are now covered by a Local Compact.

### ***Definition of the Voluntary Sector***

The voluntary sector is recognised as meaning not for profit organisations run by paid staff and management committees who are drawn from the community and users of services acting for community benefit and who are involved in any and/or a combination of:

- The provision of services
- Self help and advocacy
- Campaigning
- Borough co-ordination and support
- Services to other voluntary organisations

One feature all voluntary organisations have in common is a reliance on volunteer boards of directors to govern their activities. The term "voluntary sector" comes from this common feature.

The sector covers the whole spectrum of local authority responsibilities to its local citizens and embraces all organisations that cannot be described as public or private. Voluntary organisations are a part of the democratic process and range from small volunteer/single worker organisations to large national agencies.

Hyndburn has a thriving and diverse voluntary sector that helps to improve and enrich the quality of life for its residents. The sector has a role in enhancing the local economy and has the ability to attract significant non-statutory funding.

### ***For more information:***

Hyndburn's Voluntary Sector Forum is facilitated by Hyndburn Community Network.  
Telephone 01254 232426 or email [info@hyndburncommunitynetwork.org.uk](mailto:info@hyndburncommunitynetwork.org.uk)