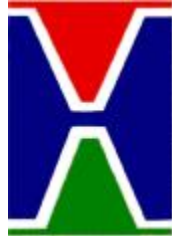


Consultation document April 2007

Herefordshire Voluntary Action (HVA)



Our plans to support the local voluntary and community sector in 2007 – 2010

HVA is a registered charity no. 1096451 and company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales no. 4625595. Registered office: Berrows Business Centre, Bath Street, Hereford, HR1 2HE

1. About HVA...

HVA is a Council for Voluntary Service providing a range of support to individuals, groups and organisations in the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS). We work across the whole of Herefordshire (except Ledbury and surrounding district in most cases). HVA delivers:-

- Support to the VCS - training, outreach, volunteering, information, community development, start up support and resources.
- Access to local services in the community e.g. community transport.
- A strategic function for the VCS – liaison, networking, development.

HVA aims to meet the needs of local communities and our growing number of member organisations. Our offices are based in Hereford and Leominster and all services are provided on an outreach basis. The organisation is a charitable company employing 19 staff and involving 100 volunteers across various projects. HVA is a member of National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA) and is also an accredited Volunteering England Volunteer Centre.

2. Purpose of this consultation...

Like all organisations, HVA needs to develop its services to meet the changing needs of current and futures users. This consultation will help us co-ordinate how and what we deliver over the next three years. The views of diverse groups are a critical part of this, so we are hoping you will contribute. This consultation aims to: -

- Inform you about our initial ideas and priorities for the future
- Find out what other needs HVA should be meeting
- Make sure that HVA is using its resources wisely
- Develop a three year plan that reflects the needs of Herefordshire

3. Progress to date...

During the last year staff and volunteers have considered the organisations future direction and needs. A framework for the strategic plan has been drafted. These proposals take into account evidence collected from project staff, volunteers, strategic work and research commissioned in 2006.

Some needs you told us about:

Small organisations, which make up a high proportion of sector, find it harder to access the support they need. Community/project development is in high demand and requires sustainable support

- All organisations need help with volunteering and funding services
- Large organisations require more specialist support e.g. ICT

4. Our role...

HVA has a clear role to play in providing local 'infrastructure' or support to the local VCS. We will build on this role over the next three years by focusing on:-

1. Start up and development support for local groups (including training)
2. Information, advice and assistance
3. Advocacy and representation
4. Partnership building
5. Policy research

Comment: We feel these are core to our work and will ensure we continue to:

- *Contribute to the independence and diversity of the VCS*
- *Ensure voluntary and community groups receive support they need*

5. Our statement...

"Herefordshire Voluntary Action works with people, groups and communities to make a positive difference to quality of life in the county"

Comment: We feel this reflects both the range of support offered to different groups/ service users and our key objective which, as a charity is to improve quality of life for local communities in Herefordshire.

6. Our values...

- The valuable contribution volunteers and the voluntary and community sector makes to quality of life in Herefordshire
- Promoting diversity and challenging oppression at all time
- Giving priority to working with communities and groups whose full participation is limited by disadvantage and discrimination
- Supporting and enabling people to develop and achieve personally and play an active part in their community
- Working for a just and participatory society
- Working in partnership to improve access to local services and networks for people and groups

7. Our strategic priorities...

Until the end of 2010, the following strategic priorities have been identified: -

HVA aim	What we are trying to achieve	Example activities
7.1. Provide effective services to voluntary and community groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local groups are better equipped to deliver quality services Effective networking, information, collaboration and support All Infrastructure services are integrated and complementary 	Training programme "HVA News" Information Exchanges Local Network Fund Networking events such as Funding Breakfasts
7.2. Deliver volunteering services to individuals and to groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers are supported and managed effectively Make volunteering accessible, inclusive, enjoyable and a positive experience Recognise social/economic value of volunteering 	Good practice guide/ forums Herefordshire Volunteer Centre Volunteer of the Year Awards Charities Markets
7.3. Provide focussed community development support to those most in need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet diverse needs in the community VCS has increased capacity and activities are sustainable VCS has increased knowledge of HVA and other services 	Seasonal worker project Training programme Marketing strategy and new logo
7.4. Deliver direct services to people in the community where appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued role in running direct frontline services where this is appropriate and we are best placed to do so 	Community transport scheme Wheels2work Extended Schools
7.5. Support the voluntary and community sector to take part in decision making processes and make effective representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VCS develops its own views about key issues and make these views known to partners VCS benefits from working agreement with outside bodies 	VSA HVA Members forums/events
7.6. Work locally, regionally and nationally to contribute to policy formulation, development and implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced role for VCS in policy and planning 	Herefordshire 'Compact' VSA Members events
7.7 Continue to develop internal management and financial independence of the organisation to meet ongoing needs and demands for our services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased financial independence and ability to provide VCS support in the longer term Services that are fit for purpose 	Social enterprise project Achieve NAVCA Quality Mark

8. When will the plan start?

We have started working on numerous areas already. For example, a 2007/8 volunteering plan is now in place. Following consultation, the implementation of the new strategic plan will begin in September 2007 and run until the end of 2010.

9. Making the plan work...

- The Chief Executive will oversee the delivery of the plan
- Annual work plans will set out the detail of activities and services to achieve our outcomes. Our year 1 plan will be circulated in September 2007
- The framework will be used to shape all services and projects
- Trustees will: -
 - Review the strategic plan every year
 - Review annual work plan progress every six months
- We will provide an annual update to HVA members on progress

10. Comments and views...

We are committed to being a listening organisation and would welcome your views. Thinking about your group or organisation:-

1. Are we clear about what we are intending to achieve?
2. Do you think we have got the priorities right?
3. If not, what would you like us to achieve?
4. Do you have other needs which should be met by HVA?

If you would like to comment, you can: -

Email your comments to outreach@herefordshireva.org

Complete the Word feedback form on our website – www.herefordshireva.org

Write to Clare O'Grady at HVA, Berrows Business Centre, Bath Street, Hereford, HR1 2HE

Will Lindesay, Chief Executive is available to talk to you or your group/organisation about any of these proposals by calling 01432 343932

The consultation will run until 20th July 2007. Consultees include HVA members, statutory partners, local groups and other infrastructure organisations. We look forward to your comments.