

Journey of a Group:

Developing Your Idea

Overview

Voluntary and community organisations exist to help a particular group of people or a specific cause. With the right planning and support, you can go a long way to making a difference in your local This factsheet lists the main choices, decisions, and actions you will need to address.

What you need to ask, find out or decide

Voluntary and community organisations exist to help a particular group of people or What do you want to do? What needs/problems/issues are you going to address?

- You need to have a specific idea about exactly what the group you are setting up is going to do and why.
- How do you know about these issues? Whom have you spoken to? What evidence have you collected and how did you find it?
- Are you overlapping with existing groups? What other organisations are already providing the same/similar services to the ones you aim to deliver? How do you know about them? Have you contacted them?

Duplicating what other groups are doing won't help you when it comes to trying to get support, funding or volunteers so it is a good idea to ensure that what you want to do is needed and is either new or unique in some way, or that there is a need for additional services because of high demand. a specific cause. With the right planning and support, you can go a long way to making a difference in your local This factsheet lists the main choices, decisions, and actions you will need to address. community.

Will you be working in partnership with any similar organisations and how will you do this?

- Can you make your idea an addition to their already successful organisation?
- Can you work together to develop a new approach?
- If you are in a similar geographical area, then you could perhaps share premises and work together for the benefit of both groups?

What skills/expertise/capacity do you have to address these needs? Why are you /is your organisation the best placed to help?

- Do you have at least 2 other unrelated people with the skills and time to help you manage the organisation and the decision making?
- Who will deliver the activities and services? Will you be employing staff? Do you want/need to be paid for what you do?
- Will you be taking on contracts, leases or owning property either now or in the near future? If yes to any of these, then you will need to consider a legal structure for your organisation

Who are the individuals or groups of people you will support?

Groups, projects and services are usually set up to provide a solution to a problem, a need or an issue and to bring about positive change for people. The individuals or groups of people your organisation will support are called beneficiaries.

- Are they people affected by a specific issue or living in a defined geographical area?
- Are you going to work with all the residents of that area or with a particular community of interest?
- Think about the resources you will need to have in place to be able to help your community / beneficiaries.

The Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 applies if you are planning to work with a specific group defined by a 'protected characteristic' (disability, age, race, ethnic origin, nationality, nation, origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital or civil partnership status, pregnancy or maternity, gender reassignment, or religion or other belief). An example would be a domestic violence charity which works solely with women. You should take advice to ensure it is legal to limit your activities or services in this way.

Next Steps

We encourage you to look at our factsheet library and our Bolton CVS Training Programme where you can find more information and relevant training sessions, designed to support groups throughout their journey.

This factsheet is for guidance only. For any further information, guidance and support, please contact Bolton CVS on: 01204 546010 or e-mail: info@boltoncvs.org.uk