

voluntary & community sector unit



Contact: Jenny Murray
Voluntary & Community Sector Unit Co-ordinator
Tel: 01905 728650
Email: jmurray@worcestershire.gov.uk

The Voluntary & Community Sector Unit will consist of representatives from each directorate under the guidance of the Unit Co-ordinator, and will operate as a 'virtual unit'. It will work in partnership with representatives of Worcestershire's voluntary and community sector.

Responsible for:

- Developing a Partnership Strategy for the County Council and Worcestershire's voluntary and community sector
- Maximising the potential of the sector to deliver public services and to support local communities
- Ensuring shared expectations of quality and performance in service delivery
- Helping to target County Council funding through the sector to make sure it reaches the areas where it is most needed, reflecting our Corporate Plan priorities
- Enabling better strategic planning by making funding arrangements within the sector more secure, sustainable and focussed
- Providing a County Council 'gateway' to improve two-way communication and information sharing
- Ensuring the County Council's adoption and implementation of the Worcestershire Compact

Key facts and figures:

- The County Council currently contributes almost £4 million to Worcestershire's voluntary and community sector
- There are around 1300 organisations in the sector
- Herefordshire and Worcestershire have an estimated 4,790 paid workers in the sector, equating to 1.7 per cent of the total workforce
- Approximately 49,800 people volunteer in the two counties at least once a year, most doing so regularly
- The economic value of volunteers' time is worth between £28.2 million and £39.7 million per year (based on average income)
- The approximate income of Worcestershire's voluntary and community sector is £34.4 million per year, generated from: Trading and fees; local grants, national grants and service agreements; lottery funding and charitable trusts; donations, and other miscellaneous funding

(Statistics source: 'Valuing the Voluntary Sector, 2000', Chris Wardle and Associates)

Looking ahead:

- The Unit Co-ordinator will establish the 'virtual unit' and a County Councillor Policy Advisory Group to oversee the new strategy
- A strategic framework will be developed, and priorities will be established, for County Council support and funding for the sector
- The performance of voluntary and community sector organisations receiving County Council funding will be assessed and evaluated. To achieve this, a range of generic and specific quality standards and performance indicators will be developed and implemented as work progresses