

## Science City Community Engagement Special

### In This Issue

- Newcastle Science City intro  
- Page 1
- Sustainable Community  
Strategy and Local Area  
Agreement - Page 2
- Area based regeneration  
- Page 4
- Future Jobs Fund - Page 5
- Science City Pullout Feature  
- page 7
- Ward Charter update  
- Page 15
- Contracts Matter - Page 16
- A Community Map for  
Newcastle - Page 18
- NCVS is changing - Page 20

**Newcastle Science City (NSC) has launched its first Community Engagement Project (CEP) which seeks to engage directly with the residents of Newcastle. As part of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VSC) you all serve a diverse range of communities that can all benefit from the opportunities NSC will offer now and in the future.**

The NSC overall vision is to bring prosperity to the region and its residents through 'science'. Newcastle is recognised as a centre of excellence globally, in a number of areas of science and technology and NSC will work to ensure Newcastle stays globally renowned for the pioneering research that is carried out across the city. Yet NSC recognises that science is not simply a subject or a topic for

*(Continued on page 2)*

If you have any difficulty reading this newsletter, please let us know and we will try to make arrangements to help you.

Tel: 0191 232 7445 Fax: 0191 230 5640  
or email [information@cvsnewcastle.org.uk](mailto:information@cvsnewcastle.org.uk)

## Science City Community Engagement cont

high end researchers and scientists to engage with, science influences policy, and in its broadest terms, can bring a number of economic and social benefits to individuals, groups and communities. From the heat that we use to cook our food, the antibiotics we take to cure our ailments, the sunscreen layered on to protect us from harmful rays to the waste that is collected and dumped in landfills, science underpins it all, whether we realise it or not.

The CEP aims to keep you fully informed of the breakthroughs and innovative research being carried out here in Newcastle and make you aware of the opportunities science offers the residents of Newcastle. It will also break down common barriers to science so it is more accessible to the everybody, raise aspirations and involve people in exciting activities that promote or use science to enthuse, inspire and encourage.

The CEP also hopes to support and facilitate the VSC in adopting a science perspective, so that perhaps science may help shape and influence the way in which services and projects are delivered. Science can help meet your member's needs and with some enthusiasm, creative thinking and active participation we can make sure the CEP works for us and the people that we serve.

To find out more about Newcastle Science City, the Community Engagement Project and how you can get involved please turn to the pull out section starting on page 7.

## Sustainable Community Strategy & Joint Local Development Framework

### Joint LDF Core Strategy

In April this year Newcastle and Gateshead council's agreed to produce a joint local development framework core strategy. The local development framework is a group of planning documents setting out how land will be used in the local authority area. The Core Strategy provides the overall vision and direction for land planning, which is then developed further in a set of more detailed supplementary planning documents.

The joint core strategy will provide a vision for land use covering both cities and is being viewed as an important addition to other joint work already taking place such as the housing pathfinder Bridging Newcastle Gateshead and the joint economic

master plan for Newcastle and Gateshead.

Crucially the local development framework should provide the physical (often called the 'spatial') element to the priorities and ambitions contained in the Sustainable Community Strategy, the key strategic document for the local authority area. Indeed there was a clear message given in the 2006 white paper, Strong and Prosperous Communities, that how land is used is key to developing sustainable communities and providing good access to services.

Therefore although the decision to produce the joint core strategy was taken by the two councils the role of the Newcastle Partnership and its equivalent Gateshead Strategic

Partnership is crucial to ensuring the success of the initiative and to involving partners across the public, private and voluntary and community sectors. The production of the joint strategy is very closely aligned to the review of the sustainable community strategy, which is due to be complete by March 2010.

### **Local development and community and voluntary groups**

One of the changes introduced by the new local development framework system was the inclusion of a statement of community involvement, design to ensure early and meaningful engagement with communities about development in their areas. The jury is out on how effective the SCI has been on bringing developers, planning officers and communities together but it remains an required component of the LDF and support and advice about planning and how to get involved is available to voluntary and community groups from Planning Aid. For more information about Planning Aid and the support it can offer contact Planning Aid North on 0870 850 9803 or visit [www.planningaid.rtpi.org.uk](http://www.planningaid.rtpi.org.uk)

### **Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement**

In 2008 the Newcastle partnership signed off its first Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement. The SCS replaced the previous Newcastle plan as the key strategic document for the areas setting out the Newcastle partnerships strategic vision for the city. The Local Area Agreement is a three year delivery plan for the SCS, with is agreed with central government and contains up to 35 targets drawn from a new national indicator set of 198. The LAA is subject to an annual refresh (again agreed with the local government office) and the first LAA

refresh saw some changes made to the targets set last year; most significantly those concerning the economy and employment, which have been most directly affected by the recession. A review has also begun on the Sustainable Community Strategy, prompted by the decision of Newcastle and Gateshead councils' to produce a joint planning document for the two areas.

The sustainable community strategy review is not seeking to make radical changes to a document only produced and adopted last year, however as with the LAA refresh it offers an opportunity to take account of the impact the recession has had on the city. It also seeks to make more explicit the relationship between the six priority themes of the SCS and local regeneration schemes, such as Scotswood Benwell and North Central.

NCVS and council officers leading the review have agreed that the voluntary and community sector should feature more meaningfully in the revised SCS. And so through our Newcastle Partnership reference groups, special meetings and in particular the NCVS stakeholder event we have been working with voluntary and community groups to identify priorities for the city. These should be priorities which the sector believes are important and which along with other LSP partners voluntary and community groups can lead on developing during the lifetime of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

For more information about the SCS refresh and the development of the third sector priorities or for a copy of the draft SCS contact Martin. For information about the Newcastle Partnership visit [www.newcastlepartnership.org.uk](http://www.newcastlepartnership.org.uk)

## Area Base Regeneration update

Earlier this year, the city council began a review of governance arrangements for its five area based regeneration (ABR) schemes; Scotswood Benwell, Walker Riverside, Byker Ouseburn, North Central, and Elswick Discovery.

A report in March from Phil Joyce, Director of Area Based Regeneration, to the council's Executive Committee set out a new governance structure which would enable clear and transparent decision making, a separation of strategic from operational governance, and a strong focus on the council's purpose and needs of the community. The report obliquely acknowledged 'issues' with current governance arrangements (a separate report to the same meeting about Walker Riverside stated more explicitly that governance was 'not working well'). There was specific reference to strong community involvement and participation being central to the new governance arrangements.

Unfortunately a diagram of the new arrangements suggested otherwise. It appeared that the community and voluntary sector was being removed from ABR Steering Groups, where they had exercised real decision making power and were being offered instead Advisory Forums. As would be pointed out during consultation, the council cannot be bound by the decisions of others; it is only councillors and delegated officers who can take decisions on how council resources are used. The decision making powers of the community and voluntary sector was it seems illusory.

As the new ABR arrangements were released for consultation, NCVS along with voluntary and community sector partners organised a series of meetings aimed at enabling those who had been most involved in ABR to respond to the new arrangements. A number of key

messages about the community and voluntary sectors role in regeneration were formulated by the group. Amongst these; that the community and voluntary sector has several options for becoming involved in regeneration, which needn't include participating in formal arrangements set up by the council; that ABR governance seemed at odds with the Newcastle Partnership's Community Empowerment Framework and also national policy aimed at empowering local communities and groups; that social regeneration is as important as physical regeneration; and that there was simply not enough detail about the new ABR arrangements to have confidence in them.

During the summer the council's Quality Places Overview & Scrutiny Panel conducted its own critical review into ABR arrangements and perhaps it was the confluence of similar views flowing into the council's Regeneration Directorate that resulted in senior officers giving some very clear statements about the importance of community and voluntary sector participation in ABR. On November 11<sup>th</sup> the council's Executive Committee approved a report which included the assertion that it is key that local Steering Groups (the renamed Advisory Forums) will shape rather than respond to policy.

A Governance Guide has been produced to show how the new arrangements will work but clearly it will only be when they take effect that it will be possible to assess whether or not the community and voluntary sector are in a position to shape rather than respond. For this reason NCVS will continue to work with our partners to support the sectors participation and promote a strong, coherent voice.

For more information contact Martin Gollan (see back page)

# Future Jobs Fund

The programme is a national initiative aimed at making jobs available for people predominantly who are locked out of the labour market through the job squeeze in the current economic climate.

The City Region has been successful in securing a contract to deliver over 1600 jobs, and Newcastle will create a quarter of these. Newcastle's programme focuses on creating jobs for young people, so are targeting the 18-24 year old group, though a small number may be made available for older residents in disadvantaged areas.

Vacancies are being created with a range of partner organisations. The jobs must have community or green benefit, and in Newcastle this is defined as any activities that help us deliver our Local Area Agreement. Organisations can be from the private, voluntary or public sectors, and we are still looking for partners interested in helping to create opportunities.

The jobs created are paid at minimum wage, for 30 hours per week and lasting six months (and funding will be supplied to cover this cost). Applicants will develop a work and learning plan including vocational qualifications which will be attained over the six months.

Because of the emphasis on learning and skills development, the project will be located within the City Learning Unit, based at Westgate School. As this is a significant project for the City Council, the Steering Group comprises staff from economic development, environment & regeneration, the City Learning Unit and external partners from Job Centre Plus and Newcastle Futures.

The project forms a significant part of the employability programme in Newcastle and is developed with Newcastle Futures - the council's

strategic partner. At city region level, Job Centre Plus and the Learning & Skills Council are key partners in the development and delivery of the programme.

## Operational Delivery

To be eligible for a future jobs fund opportunity, applicants must be unemployed for 39 weeks and referrals must come from Job Centre Plus.

To ensure the success of the programme, the City Council have recruited a support team who can offer a range of services. These include:

- help in producing the job description
- placing the vacancy with the Job Centre
- co-ordinating the responses to vacancies
- sifting or shortlisting candidates
- supporting the interview process by co-ordinating appointments, contacting candidates, getting references
- producing HR/SAP paperwork
- supporting managers with problems that might arise
- supporting employees in their placement

Day-to-day work allocation and activities will be agreed with the placement employer at the outset, as the jobs must be entry level. After that, the worker will report directly to the placement employer, gaining real work experience, and appropriate vocational qualifications.

At month 4 of the placement, a succession worker will help the employee to secure follow-on employment. Ideally this will be with the host organisation, though it is recognised that this will not always be possible. Other employment

## Future Jobs Fund cont

opportunities will be identified and the individual will be supported in applying for these.

Jobs are starting to be advertised with Job Centre Plus now, and the recruitment process has started, with the first appointments expected by end November. DWP has agreed the first stage of delivery, which means there will be 185 vacancies filled by March 2010. Approval to deliver the remaining 215 vacancies is expected from DWP early in the new year.

**Creating Employment Opportunities**  
Currently we are working with over 40

employers to create vacancies, and are still interested in additional partners. To ensure there is sufficient interesting jobs available to eligible participants, we have provisionally negotiated 200 jobs. As well as engaging external organisations, we are keen to hear from internal divisions of the council interested in generating job opportunities.

If you would like more information either on the programme development and delivery, or to develop some job opportunities, contact [Karen.a.brown@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.a.brown@newcastle.gov.uk), or telephone 2778916.

## Prevent Strategy

As part of its defence against terrorism and violent extremism the Government introduced in 2006 Contest, updated earlier this year to Contest 2. Contest is made up of four different strands Protect, Pursue, Prevent and Prepare, the four P's. Each of the four P's aims at addressing a different aspect of extremist activity and different elements of the strategy call on different agencies and sectors. Prevent is the part of Contest most likely to have any impact on what voluntary and community groups do.

Prevent is about preventing people becoming involved with extremist activities. Last year the Government required local authorities to produce a local Prevent strategy and NCVS was invited to join the multi-sector group set up to produce the local strategy. The Safe Newcastle Partnership approved the local Prevent plan in January and has become the lead partnership for this work.

Amongst the actions in the local plan is a survey of voluntary and community sector groups to assess the extent to which it can support vulnerable communities and individuals. Contest has been criticised for focusing too much on Muslim communities, however it has been made clear locally, that political extremism is as much a priority as religious extremism.

Look out shortly in e-inform, the weekly email bulletin from NCVS, for an on-line survey asking what contribution your organisation could make to Prevent locally. Northumbria Police have a presentation about Contest 2, which they can give to any group interested in finding out more about the strategy, for more details contact Peter Thompson on 0191 221 8778. For more information about Contest visit the Home Office <http://tiny.cc/nYTzn>. Contact Martin at NCVS about the voluntary and community sector role in the local Prevent strategy.



# Newcastle Science City

## TRANSFORMING TOMORROW

### **Newcastle Science City**

Newcastle is regarded as a centre of excellence in science (and technology) and in 2005 was designated a 'Science City' by the then Chancellor, Gordon Brown. A Science City is tasked with developing deeper links between business and the science base and to ensure that science, as well as technology and innovation, succeed in becoming the 'engine of economic growth' in the UK.

### **The Vision**

Newcastle Science City (NSC) aims to enhance the prosperity of Newcastle, its residents, and the wider region through science. It is a partnership between Newcastle City Council, ONE North East and Newcastle University. The Science City team is based at Time Central and will offer a range of programmes that will create a number of economic and social benefits, such as the creation of jobs, for the residents of Newcastle. NSC will engage with local communities at a fundamental level to ensure they are aware of the wealth of opportunities available through science and new technologies.

The work that is to be carried out by NSC is shaped by four key themes that have been identified as areas of research within which Newcastle excels. These are:

- Energy and the environment;
- Aging and health;
- Regenerative medicine (Including stem cell research)
- Molecular engineering (including nanotechnology research)

### **The Four Key Themes**

#### **E**nergy and the **E**nvironment:

Energy and the environment are amongst the hottest topics for debate in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and not just within the science arena. It is now well understood that global warming caused by the overproduction of carbon will lead to serious problems for us and the environment we live in. We can choose not to use carbon; we can produce it more ecologically through more energy efficiency; and we can conserve resources that help to offset the carbon we produce. These issues can be addressed by managing the way we use fossil fuels, creating renewable forms of energy supply, managing our waste disposal or creating more efficient systems. The science community in Newcastle are looking to these alternatives and are searching for ways to solve our energy and environmental problems. Scientists at Northumbria University, for example, are searching for ways to replace or reduce the material needed in photovoltaic cells/panels, to bring down their cost. Photovoltaic cells can be used, on buildings for example, to convert sunlight directly into electricity. This is a cheaper and cleaner method of producing energy.

#### **A**ging and **H**ealth

Age related disability causes a number of social and personal needs, a number of which can be classified under 'isolation' caused by social, mental or financial issues. Within Newcastle our science community is working to address these

needs. They include understanding the biology of ageing, new nutrient interventions and improved diet, diagnostics and aids for daily living. Over the past 20 years, for example, the North East Longitudinal research study at Northumbria University has involved over 2000 volunteers over the age of 50. It has provided useful information to healthcare professionals so they can better understand the needs of people as they get older. Information has included how the speed of the mind is affected as well as how memory and reaction times slow down.

## **R**egenerative **M**edicine

Regenerative medicine is an area of science that covers Stem Cell work and within this area there are five fields of research: Cancer, Cardiovascular, Neurological, Musculoskeletal and Infectious Disease. Scientists are exploring new pharmaceutical, tissue engineering, biomaterial and non-invasive therapies to treat diseases in these tissue types across the city. At Newcastle University scientists have been studying the impacts of Respiratory Syncytial Virus that causes bronchiolitis in children aged 3 to 4 months. It is more common than flu and a massive drain on the NHS.

## **M**olecular **E**ngineering

Molecular engineering, which is sometimes referred to as nanotechnology, is an area of research that is used to create things that work better and faster by making them smaller. A professor at Newcastle University has been working on tiny machines with components smaller than the width of a human hair. These devices measure sensitive forces and can be installed in devices such as blood pressure monitors that could then be implanted into the human body.

These four themes will have the greatest commercial potential and global significance now and in the future, and as such will influence the focus of the five key work strands to be undertaken by NSC.

# **The Five Work Strands**

## **E**ducation and **C**ommunity:

NSC will encourage young students to realise the potential of studying science as well as technology, engineering and maths. Through a Community Engagement Project NSC will engage with local communities so they not only realise the benefits NSC and science, but have a platform to suggest ways in achieving participation and regeneration through science.

## **N**ewcastle **I**nnovation **M**achine (NIM):

Through observations and research into society's unmet needs, innovation managers will create a portfolio of ideas which, following work with scientific researchers and businesses, will be translated into technical solutions to real life problems. Through NIM, NSC aims to create 500 science and technology based companies by 2025.

## **B**uilding **P**artnerships:

NSC realises that success will come by building a fully inclusive partnership of key stakeholders from businesses, universities, colleges and communities.

## **S**cience **E**nterprise:

Universities and colleges in Newcastle have in the past, and are still today, making important scientific breakthroughs that affect all of our lives. By building on and adding to this body of work, NSC will create new science-based businesses, bringing in investors from across the world.

## **S**cience **I**nfrastructure:

Plans are underway for 'Science Central' an interactive and innovative space that will house a number of scientists and businesses. The 19 acre site will also feature dining and café areas, residential housing and office spaces to be utilised by the general public.

# Community Engagement Project (2009-2012)

## What?

In Newcastle there is a wealth of expertise and well-established networks of community development work linked to the Local Strategic Partnership and a range of area-based regeneration partnerships. There is also a well-recognised science knowledge base in the city driven by Universities and other research institutions such as the Centre for Life.

However, through consultation, a gap in joined up work between people who work in the community and science practitioners has been identified and there is currently very limited activity building the capacity of Newcastle community groups and empowering local residents using science and new technologies as a tool, particularly from the four key NSC themes.

The Community Engagement Project (CEP) has been formed to address this gap.

This is an innovative project, that requires a truly bottom up approach to succeed. The needs of individuals, groups and communities will shape and direct the work that is to be carried out over the next few years. Essentially local communities will be in the drivers seat.

Ultimately the aims of the project are: to ensure that residents, groups and communities of Newcastle, including the hardest to reach, disengaged and most vulnerable, benefit from the range of opportunities that will come out of Newcastle being a Science City and out of engagement with science in general; to raise aspirations of individuals by raising awareness of science, showcasing the exciting science related activities and cutting edge research currently being carried out in Newcastle; and to increase understanding of how science can lead to a better quality of life.

## Why?

You may have seen and even participated in the NSC baseline survey. The survey was conducted in Newcastle to find out the level of interest and knowledge in science and NSC, and to find out what factors influence the level of engagement in science related activities. It was targeted at hard to reach groups and sectors of society who are traditionally disengaged.

The survey attracted 592 responses in total and found that nearly all respondents felt it important to know about science in everyday life, but less than half of the respondents considered themselves to have a good or an above average understanding of what is termed 'science'.

Interestingly, approximately half of the respondents had heard of NSC but only a quarter of these knew correctly what it was.

Furthermore the main reasons given for not getting involved in science outreach activities were: cost, accessibility, methods of engagement and methods of communication.

The CEP hopes to improve the level of awareness, understanding and engagement of and with science and NSC over the next three years, within communities of Newcastle and especially within the most hardest to reach, vulnerable and disengaged groups.

Further analysis of the results revealed that it is difficult and would be unwise to deliver any community engagement intervention based on an assumptions and generalisations of any one sector of the Newcastle community.

The range of responses contained within different communities of interest, geography and identity for example, highlights their diverse range of

perceptions, levels of understanding, interest & engagement potentials.

The results generated by the baseline study therefore illustrate the diverse, complex and sometimes contradictory environment within which the CEP will be operating.

The CEP delivery partners recognise that the results of the baseline survey provide an indication of the complexity of work that needs to be conducted across Newcastle. Therefore the needs of communities and the obstacles to their engagement with science will help guide this project, so that its approach is fully inclusive and truly bottom up.

The baseline survey will be repeated annually to measure and monitor any progress made by the CEP.

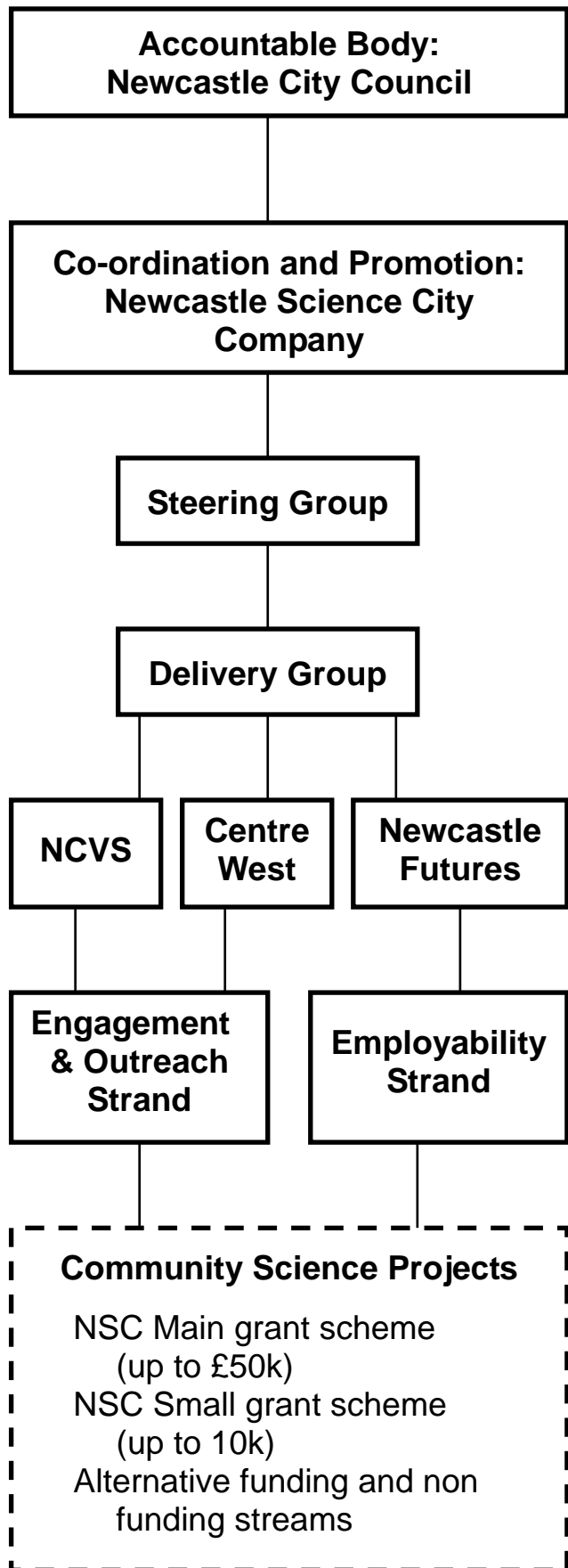
## Who?

The CEP is focused on a city-wide structured programme of information, engagement and outreach activities delivered by Newcastle Council for Voluntary Service (NCVS) and Centre West (formerly New Deal for Communities). These make up the first 2 strands, a third 'employability' strand, led by Newcastle Futures, will complement and support this core community engagement element. Together these strands make up the community engagement partnership.

A city-wide steering group will oversee the delivery of the project, which will hopefully lead to a number of successful grant funded activities and projects.

Many people may not understand the implications and connections between science and their everyday lives, but together these three strands will hope to raise aspirations and empower individuals, groups & communities through a range of science related activities, projects and interventions.

## CEP Co-ordination and Delivery Structure



## **How?**

### **Centre West:**

They will work with Newcastle residents directly to get them excited about science through science based activities, events and workshops. They will also help these residents develop science related project ideas that could then be funded through the NSC grants programme.

To help them do this they will employ and train three Newcastle residents to take up the position of a community science development worker. An important focus will be engaging with sections of the community that may not historically identify closely with science.

### **Newcastle Futures:**

They will develop a better understanding of the training, learning and employment opportunities that currently exist in the science sector, within the Tyne and Wear 'Travel to Work' area. They aim to build relationships with potential employers and show unemployed people what options are available and which route to take to get a job in the 'science' sector.

## **The Role of NCVS**

As one of the three partners in the CEP, the main role of the team at NCVS is to raise awareness, interests and aspirations of individuals through science and new technologies, especially for people from disadvantaged, deprived, disengaged and hard to reach communities.

We will foster a truly bottom-up approach to engagement by involving and collaborating with the VCS in every stage of the project, as their experience, skills and knowledge is crucial to the success of the project.

The work needed to achieve this can be split into 4 categories:

### **Information:**

We will collect, organise, interpret, translate and then disseminate 'science' and 'community engagement' related information that is relevant to the VCS, including current science activities in and around the city, articles, policies, government and strategic papers, funding streams for projects and non funded opportunities.

### **Brokerage:**

We will help the science community and the VCS to work closer together and share knowledge and resources; map the needs of communities and groups and develop a pool of resources which we can use to help address these needs; signpost the VCS to infrastructure support; and develop sustainable partnerships (with a science focus) within and between the VCS and other sectors.

### **Development of Projects:**

We will help the VCS to develop science-related projects that can access funding including NSC grants, if they are eligible. We will also promote and celebrate science-related projects and work that do not need additional funding or support.

## **CEP Launch Event**

In October NCVS saw the launch of the CEP and a big thank you goes out to those who made it. The intention of the Launch event was to introduce the VCS to the project in the hope of fostering an ongoing relationship that would benefit their members. The event itself yielded some interesting discussions and the feedback provided has been extremely useful in influencing their approach to future activities and events.

The event was recorded and footage will be made available soon. If you did not attend do not worry, there is still an opportunity for you to **get involved!**

## ***The next steps for NCVS...***

In order for us, here at NCVS, to move forward from the Launch and take the next step, we have put together a plan for the next few months. Currently we have two main priorities.

### **O**ne-to-**O**ne **M**eetings:

The first is to set up 'one-to-one' sessions with VCS organisations which will help us gather and exchange information, explore needs and ideas, and identify common themes for potential collaborative working.

This is where some of the project ideas will develop and where NCVS will start brokering links to the science community. Themed focus groups will develop out of these meetings, with the aim of bringing organisations of similar interests together to discuss and debate how science can help them address their member's needs.

Please contact **Punam Khaira** to set up a one to one session

### **W**orkshops:

A Series of workshops will be used as a forum for organisations to discuss and debate how science and technology can lead to positive social outcomes, and be used as a tool to directly engage with members. NCVS and Centre West Community Science Development workers will facilitate these workshops and where necessary bring in relevant agencies with the expertise and skills in 'science' to guide meetings.

NCVS will also introduce various ideas and areas of activities that may benefit the sector as a whole and assist organisations in the development of their own ideas and projects they wish to pursue.

### **F**ocus **G**roups

It is our aim to develop a series of focus groups that will help your organisation to develop project ideas you wish to pursue on your own or in collaboration with other

organisations. Task and Finish groups will be created to oversee the delivery of projects.

### **R**esource **B**ank:

Another area of work of equal importance is the creation of a **resource bank** to be developed by us and used by all to help you develop science-related projects and activities. The resource bank will include

- partnerships with agencies, institutions and organisations that can offer skills, expertise and a means of expanding ideas and turning them into reality
- information about and help to apply to alternative funding streams so that organisations are not solely limited to the NSC grants programme
- interactive website and database to help share information

This, however, is not an exhaustive list as the resources required for this process to be effective will not be fully evident until the demands and needs of organisations are made clear.

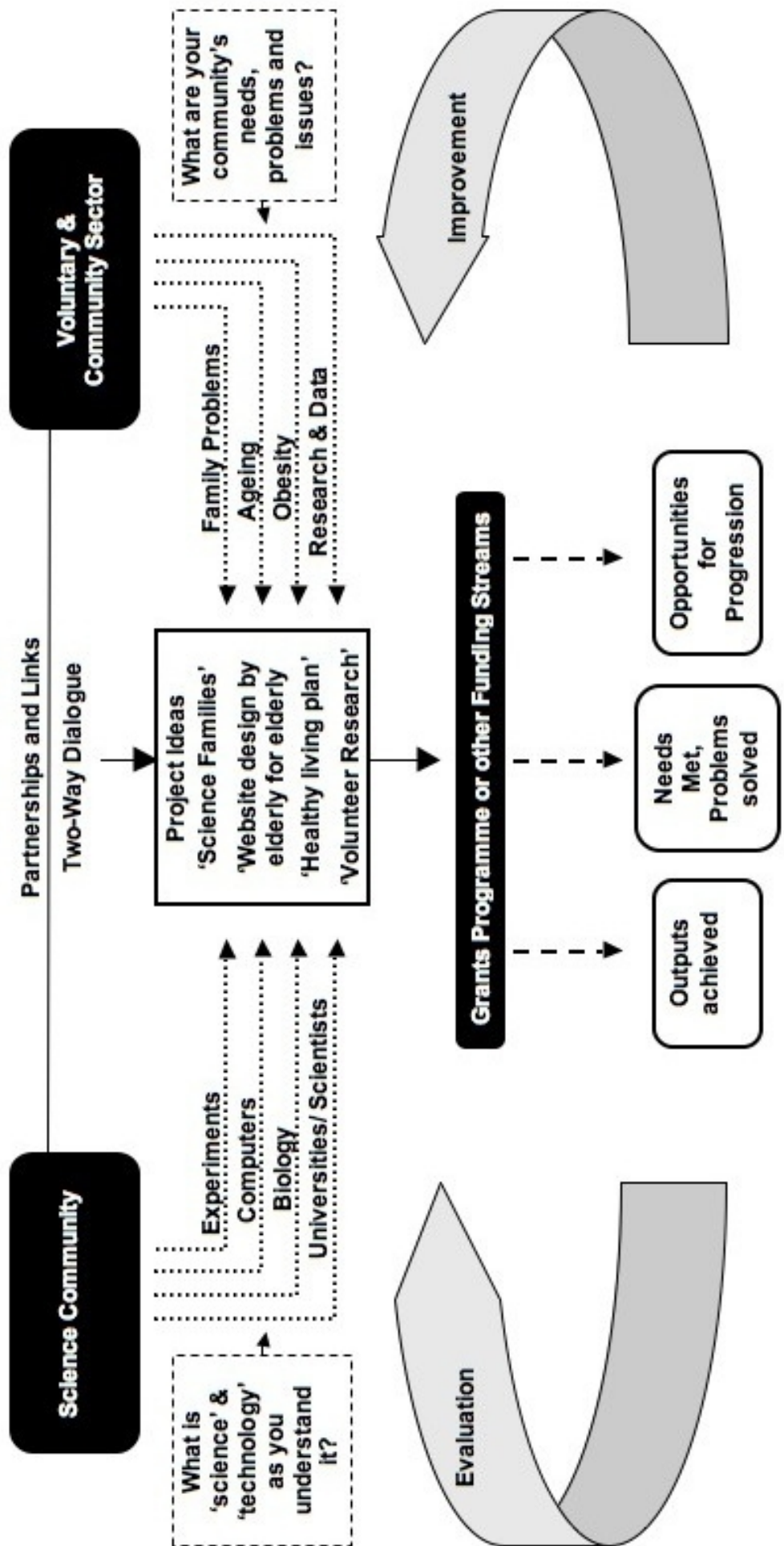
It is believed that one-to-one sessions, subsequent workshops and parallel activities that NCVS will promote, will provide the groundwork needed for organisations to develop activities and projects that will be eligible for the Grants Programme in April 2010 and other identified funding and non funding streams.

## ***NSC Grants Programme***

The NSC Community Engagement Grants Programme will be launched in **April 2010**. The main stipulation is that projects submitted must link into one of the 4 key science themes identified by NSC; ageing and health, and energy and environment being the two most likely. Guidelines will be available from the launch and a briefing session on the grants programme led by NCVS will take place at MEA house on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010 16:00 – 18:00

# NCVS Visioning Model

INFORMATION & TRANSLATION • BROKERAGE • RAISING AWARENESS & ASPIRATIONS • PROJECT IDEAS



## Contact Information

### Community Engagement Project (Science City)

**Contact:** Nick Powell  
**Position:** Project Co-ordinator  
**Tel:** 0191 231 2200  
**Email:** nick.powell@newcastlesciencecity.com

### Information and VSC Engagement strand (NCVS)

**Contact:** Punam Khaira  
**Position:** Policy and Development Officer  
**Tel:** 0191 232 7445  
**Email:** punam.khaira@cvsnewcastle.org.uk

### Community Engagement and Outreach strand (Centre West)

**Contact:** Rhianne Dixon  
**Position:** Community Science Development Team Manager  
**Tel:** 0191 277 8083  
**Email:** rhianne.dixon@centre-west.com

### Employability strand (Newcastle Futures)

**Contact:** Alison Washbourne  
**Position:** Employability Manager  
**Tel:** 0800 587 0478  
**Email:** alison.washbourne@newcastlefutures.co.uk

To book a place on the **Grants programme briefing session**  
please contact NCVS on 0191 232 7445

#### Useful Websites

<b>Newcastle Science City:</b>	<a href="http://www.newcastlesciencecity.com/">http://www.newcastlesciencecity.com/</a>
<b>Centre for Life:</b>	<a href="http://www.life.org.uk/">http://www.life.org.uk/</a>
<b>British Science Association:</b>	<a href="http://www.britishsociety.org/web/">http://www.britishsociety.org/web/</a>
<b>Newcastle University:</b>	<a href="http://www.ncl.ac.uk/sciencecity/">http://www.ncl.ac.uk/sciencecity/</a>
<b>Newcastle Science Festival:</b>	<a href="http://www.newcastlesciencefest.com">http://www.newcastlesciencefest.com</a>



## Ward Charter update

The city council is pushing full steam ahead with its new ward committee arrangements, including new style ward meetings, a web resource for each of the city's 26 wards and a charter for each of the city's 26 wards.

Ward charters are at the centre of the council's new approach. Consultation in wards about what the contents of individual charters for the city's 26 wards should be is either underway or has been completed. Each charter will have a list of priorities for the ward, to be addressed by the council and its partners. The ward charters are expected to providing a new focus for ward committees, helping them to set agendas, conduct business and accounting for performance.

To identify local issues the council has undertaken a mixture of methods to engage with communities. Advised and led by the ward councillors, who are better placed to understand their local community infrastructure, amongst the engagement methods used have been newsletters, questionnaires and surveys, informal meetings and attendance at community events, and drop in sessions.

Following the completion of consultation each charter will be ratified at its ward committee, with list of local priorities clearly identified. Once ratified the charters will be shared with council directorates to agree what action should be taken to address local priorities and these actions will be monitored by the ward committee.

A pilot charter for the Fawdon ward launched earlier this year has provided useful learning and informed the final structure for ward charters. The format of the Charters, which are planned to launched in March 2010 are expected to include

- An analysis of local conditions and issues identified
- A list of key contacts, ward based services and community assests
- An overview of governance and engagement methods
- A priority action plan listing issues requiring a response, with details of what will be done to address the issues, how action will be funded, who will be responsible and when the change will be delivered by
- Details of a performance management framework
- And finally identification of responsibilities with which communities might share in the active management of

The council's leaders clearly see the ward charters as a way of meeting the current policy drive to promote community empowerment, improve democratic accountability and participation, and pass to local communities the opportunity to influence and if wished, manage public services. Real Communities Real Power, published by the Government last year sets out a number of ideas ministers want to carried out to involve communities more in civic life.

The Newcastle Partnership recently approved a Community Empowerment Framework for the city that includes 40 pledges from the Partnership such as developing a consultation database for all partners, and ensuring faster and better reporting back to communities that have been consulted. The Framework explicitly states that for empowerment to happen 'someone has to take power from someone else'

**Continued on page 18**

# Contracts Matter

## Background

In January 2008, over 80 individuals from across the sector in the North East got together to discuss how as a sector we could deliver on employability contracts. The two key drivers for this were the shift of the Learning Skills Council more firmly into the Skills for Employability agenda, and the increase in the scale of contracts, many of which cover entire regions. Then a task and finish group was set up to explore options for a collective approach to VCS contracting with skills and employability funders in the North East. This group proposed an independently managed supply chain model to co-ordinate a collective VCS approach. The overall aim of the contracting model would be to enable VCS organisations of all types and sizes to access a greater volume and value of contracts for the delivery of skills and employability services. Through collaborative working, it would enhance the ability of VCS organisations to compete effectively for contracts, helping to increase the share of total funding and delivery accounted for by the sector.

## Current contracting arrangements

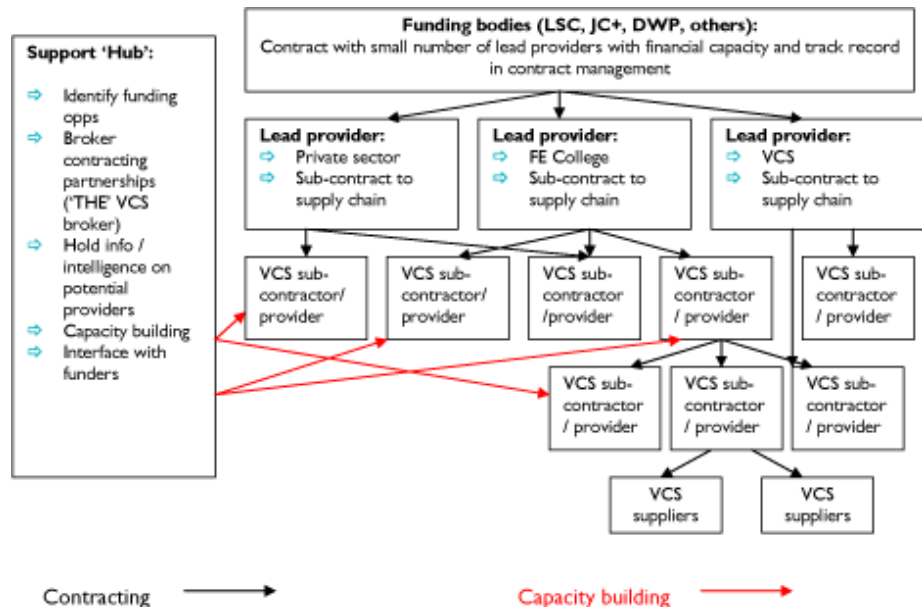
- The LSC has contracted with the VCS to support **4,953 learners (4.4%)**
- In 07/08 the LSC budget was over **£150m** (excluding Further Education)
- The value of LSC contracts with VCS organisations is **£11.9m (8%)**
- Of which the value of contracts with sub-regional consortia is **£2.1m (1.5%)**

This is a very small proportion of the overall LSC budget for this work, and Contract Matter is designed to rectify

## Outline of the Contracts Matter model

Funding bodies, such as the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) - including Jobcentre Plus - and others, would issue invitations to tender in the normal way.

A support 'Hub' would hold a central database of all VCS learning providers who are members of the contracting model, recording the service specialisms of each. It would work with VCS organisations of various types and sizes to 'broker' appropriate partnerships, bringing together the best possible combination of VCS providers to deliver on and win each contract. The 'Hub' would also act as a co-ordinating body for private and public bidders seeking to develop partnerships with VCS organisations.



A lead provider would be identified for each bid, and the partnerships would effectively form a 'supply chain', with the lead provider at the head of the chain. Bids would be written by the lead provider in consultation with supply chain partners.

There will be three categories of VCS organisation involved in the model:

- **Lead VCS provider** - These would tend to be large VCS organisations with the financial capacity and track record needed to lead bids and manage large contracts. They may also act as direct sub-contractors to large private or public providers seeking to deliver in partnership with the VCS.
- **VCS sub-contractor** - These would tend to be medium-sized and smaller VCS organisations that can deliver some elements of a contract but which lack the capacity to win and manage large contracts on their own. In some cases, they would be sub-contractors to lead VCS providers, in other cases they would be sub-contractors to large private or public sector providers.
- **VCS suppliers** - These organisations would not deliver learning or employability services directly but they would have an important role to play in the successful delivery of contracts. They may undertake the initial recruitment of learners or employability services clients, refer them on to other providers, provide community-based venues for learning, and offer other specialist services to learning providers (e.g. interpretation services, disability support etc).

Depending on the requirements of each contract, some aspects of delivery would be undertaken by the lead provider, and other elements would be sub-contracted to VCS supply chain organisations to deliver.

The model would be sufficiently flexible to facilitate delivery partnerships of all shapes and sizes and to support sub-contracting through various levels, depending on the requirements of funders. It could support VCS organisations to:

- Bring together delivery partnerships to respond to the full range of LSC contracting opportunities at regional, sub-regional and local level.
- Act as sub-contractors to the 'prime contractors' currently being appointed by DWP to lead very large regional and pan-regional contracts for Jobcentre Plus, New Deal and other provision.
- Respond collectively to opportunities from other funders, including local authorities.

#### **Benefits to members:**

- Increased opportunities to access potential funding
- Central co-ordination and impartial support
- Facilitation of partnership working
- Greater awareness of how to develop the 'right' partnerships and gain access to members providing specialist/innovative services
- Increased exposure to delivery and funding organisations within the North East
- Access through the HUB to a directory of members provision/services/information

#### **How do you become a member?**

To become a member or for further information email; [info@contractsmatter.co.uk](mailto:info@contractsmatter.co.uk) or telephone Pat Anderson on 0191 5878019

## A Community Map for Newcastle!

Newcastle's riverside has been chosen as one of two places in England to develop a new 'green map' of action by local communities to tackle climate change. The map will be an 'on-line' internet resource that will help anyone interested find out what is going on in their area and how they can get involved. The other map is for North Dorset.

A workshop meeting, where local people and voluntary and community groups are invited to help shape the map, takes place at Central Square, Forth Street, Newcastle on the 11th December beginning with lunch at 1.30pm.

The map is being developed by Newcastle Council for Voluntary Service in association with two national organisations, the Green Alliance (which advises governments) and Mapping for Change, a social enterprise developed to help local communities map their neighbourhoods.

The map will also help show national organisations just how much is going on at the local level in areas such as Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and the aim is that this will help make more funding and support available. It will go live in January and will be a permanent resource for the community.

Louise Francis, of Mapping for Change, who will help run the workshop said today: "We know that there is a lot of good work being done in this area. It's often hard, especially in urban areas, to find out just what is happening. This kind of on-line map is easier to use than a formal printed directory, and any group or project can get themselves added to the map to publicise what they are doing. We're very happy to be doing this in Newcastle's riverside."

## Ward Charters cont

### **Continued from page 15**

Plans in adult social care for individuals to hold their own personal care budget is identified as part of the local empowerment agenda. Meanwhile the city council has began exploring the idea of community hubs to provide not only a site for co-locating public services but also a space that can be used and managed by local community and voluntary groups.

A key element to the success of this agenda will be the new Community Engagement and Empowerment Team within the council; a result of council's corporate transformation programme and which is intended to bring together all community facing services.

# Voluntary Sector Representation to the Newcastle Partnership

The Voluntary and Community Sector is represented on the Newcastle Partnership through the Regen Forum. Representatives to the different tiers of the Newcastle Partnership are all Regen Forum members and are each supported in their role by the Regen Policy Officers. If you would like any information about the Newcastle Partnership or if there is an issue you think comes within Newcastle Partnership's

Strategic Board		Delivery Group	Innovation Group
<b>Janet Hunter</b> Northern Learning Trust		<b>Sue Pearson</b> Age Concern	<b>Ruth Abrahams</b> Disability North
<b>Chris Knights</b> St Margaret's Church & Parish Centre		<b>Maurice Condie</b> Byker Bridge Housing	<b>Sead Masic</b> North of England Refugee Service
Theme Groups			
Children and Young People*	Aileen Gilbert		Action for Children
	Jeff Hurst		Fairbridge
Wellbeing and Health - Health Improvement Board	Ruth Abrahams		Disability North
	Chris Drinkwater		West End Health Resource Centre
Wellbeing and Health Executive	Barbara Douglas		Quality of Life P'ship
	Ann McNulty		Newcastle Healthy City Project
Economy, Work, Skills and Learning	Janet Hunter		Northern Learning Trust
Housing & Environment	Peter Stafford		Norcare
Safe Newcastle	Rob Bailey		Byker Bridge Housing
	Ollie Batchelor		Tyneside Cyrenians
Advisory Groups			
Area Based Grant Working Group	Ruth Abrahams		Disability North
	Sue Pearson		Age Concern
Older People's Strategy Group	Rani Svanberg		Dementia Care Partnership

remit that needs raised in the first instance contact the Regen Team.

\*Voluntary sector representation to the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board is split between the Regen Forum and the Newcastle Voluntary Youth Sector Forum

## All change for the Regen team!

2009 has seen lots of change happening in the city and the Regen team has not been immune. The arrival of NCVS's first new Chief Executive for over 20 years prompted a review of what the Regen team does and how we do it.

All NCVS policy officers have been brought together under the title of the Partnerships, Policy and Projects team, with a new set of aims and objectives, that aim to improve the effectiveness of voluntary and community sector representation in the Newcastle Partnership, better involve the whole range of voluntary and community groups both large and small, and enable better collaborative working amongst third and public sector partners.

This means we are now reviewing how we involve NCVS members through our forums and networks and how we work with our voluntary and community sector partners to share information and capacity. What this means is that some of the groups we have run to inform and engage the sector will disappear or merge with other groups to provide a clearer and simpler picture of how to get involved. We will of course keep you informed about our ideas and proposals and your feedback will be vital to ensuring that we have can offer your organisation the best way of getting Involved.

Newcastle Council for Voluntary Service (NCVS) provides a range of services to the voluntary and community sector. If you would like to know more, or for details on membership, contact:

**The Information Section** at the address given below, ring **0191 232 7445**, or email **information@cvsnewcastle.org.uk**

or visit our web site: **www.cvsnewcastle.org.uk**

### Published by Newcastle Council for Voluntary Service

*re:gen* is funded by the  
Area Based Grant

Partnership, Policy and Projects Officers  
Roger Mould, Martin Gollan

MEA House, Ellison Place, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8XS

Tel: 0191 232 7445

Fax: 0191 230 5640

e-mails:

regen@cvsnewcastle.org.uk

roger.mould@cvsnewcastle.org.uk

martin.gollan@cvsnewcastle.org.uk

Every care is taken to produce accurate information. NCVS accepts no responsibility for any error or omission in, or complaint arising from, items in this publication.

Registered Charity No. 226263