



# SUFFOLK VOLUNTEERING FEDERATION

## Feedback Report

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>England Volunteering Development Council - Eastern Region</b> 10.30am - 1pm, Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2009 at Go-East
<b>Attendees:</b>	VC Dacorum, VC Chelmsford, Motor Neurone Association, Volunteering England, Suffolk Volunteering Federation, SAVO, Go-East, EEDA
<b>Agenda points from the meeting</b>	<p><b>National update</b></p> <p>In December the Policy and Information Team at VE responded to the following consultations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Department for Communities &amp; Local Government; Standing for Office: Time-Off Entitlements;</b> VE supported the proposed list of voluntary roles which would enable the volunteer to access time-off work entitlements and VE also provided key findings from research on the barriers to encouraging more people to volunteer for governance roles in the third sector</li> <li>• <b>Department for Work &amp; Pensions; The Social Fund: A New Approach;</b> the consultation advised that the Social Fund could be distributed by credit unions and other third sector providers, so VE wanted to highlight the role of volunteers in these organisations</li> <li>• <b>Department for Work &amp; Pensions</b> published the Welfare Reform White Paper Raising Expectations and Increasing Support, following their consultation on the previous Green Paper. VE had submitted a comprehensive response to this and some comments and suggestions had been included. VE are quoted on p. 160; 'We believe that the Department for Work and Pensions and Jobcentre Plus should do more to communicate the breadth of volunteering opportunities to claimants and Jobcentre Plus advisers'.</li> </ul> <p>In January VE will be looking at four recently published papers that relate to volunteering;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>HM Government; New Opportunities: Fair Chances for the Future,</b> a paper on social mobility which also includes the value of volunteering</li> <li>• <b>HM Government; Fair Rules for Strong Communities</b> which frequently refers to the importance of volunteering</li> <li>• <b>Council on Social Action; Side by Side</b> which highlights the importance on mentoring and befriending</li> <li>• <b>David Blunkett MP; Mutual Action, Common Purpose: Empowering the Third Sector</b> which has a section on volunteering</li> </ul> <p><b>National Support Services Modernising Volunteering programme.</b> The NSS Manager will be making arrangements to attend EVDC East as well as other meetings, to report on the programme's progress. There will be opportunities at these meetings to discuss the consultation response report, the overall modernising volunteering programme and its plans for Year Two. The NSS experience so far in the programme has been that there is a good deal of interest in all four programme strands (for example, there has been over 500 responses to the Red survey on new forms of volunteer involvement and management)</p> <p><b>Economic downturn:</b> In relation to volunteering there seems to be two polarised views - either there will be a volunteering crisis or new volunteers will be 'coming out of the woodwork'. The question posed was which of these would be more likely in the East of England? The lively discussion that followed was facilitated by Jonathan Moore of SAVO</p>
<b>Comments</b>	As expected, organisational restructuring as reported at the September 2008 meeting appeared have an effect on attendance at the meeting.
<b>Contact</b>	For more detail on any item, please contact <b>Gill on 01638 602711 or <a href="mailto:gill@volunteeringsuffolk.org.uk">gill@volunteeringsuffolk.org.uk</a></b>