Putting the Voluntary Sector at the heart of new cross sector partnerships

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VAL

Voluntary Action LeicesterShire (VAL)

- “Helping people change their lives for the better through volunteering and community action”
- Aims to help people to volunteer, to run voluntary and community groups and to influence public policy

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Talk about:
Mission statement

Why work with the VCS?

- Providing intelligence on user views and unmet need
- Designing innovative services that can produce better and lasting outcomes
- Trusted by their communities and able to deliver and focus services in hard to reach areas

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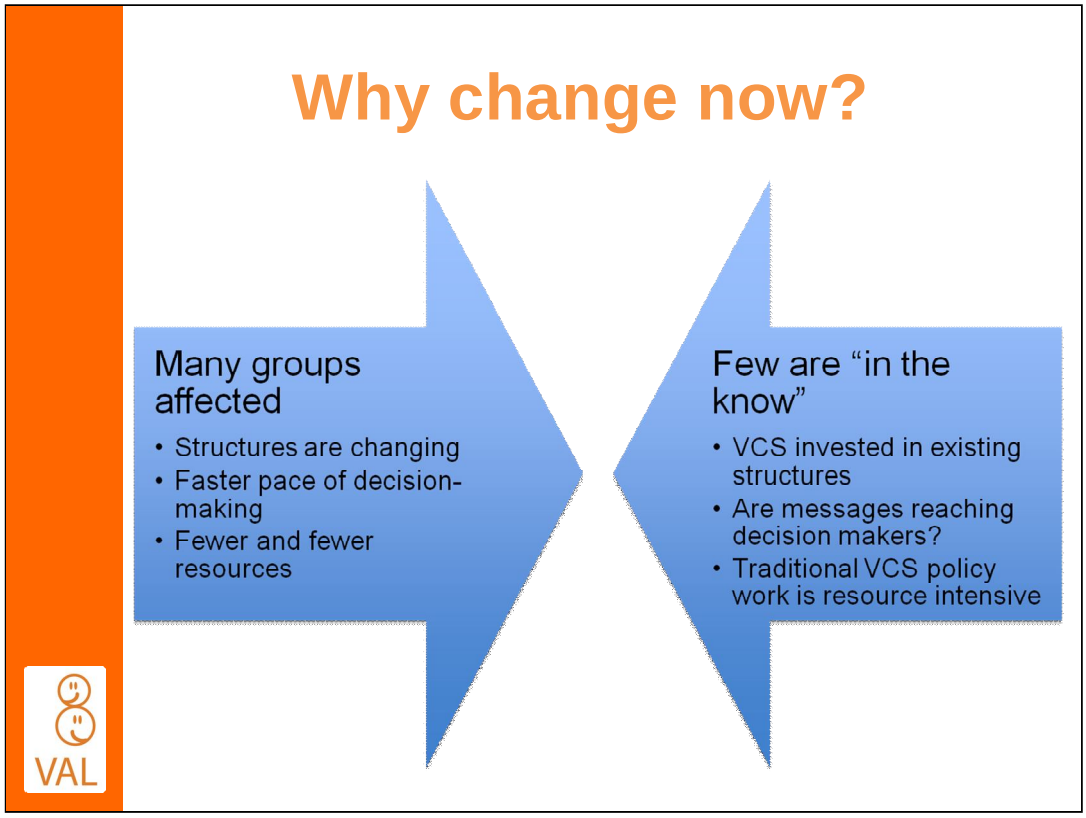
Talk about:
•Collective voice / knowledge
•Understanding of need
•Simplicity of engaging with the VCS through their own structures at a time when cross sector partnerships are still being developed.
•Do not need to lose momentum



Nb what mean by traditional is for instance, multiagency working to embed good practice, or intensive research projects – resource intensive, good practice does not tend to spread from one committee to another, not suited to where there is not overall agreement on aims.

Reaching the VCS – towards flexible engagement

Old

- **Networks**
- High-maintenance: TORs, minutes, agendas, memberships.
- Small number of groups participate.
- Requires regular attendance for benefit.
- Suited for governance, representation, accountability.

New

- **Summits/events and task groups**
- Multichannel communications
- Low-maintenance & fluid
- Reaches higher numbers of groups
- Groups can participate to different degrees
- Focuses more intensive support on supporting joint action

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Power in numbers – reach many, limit greater investment to a few who make a difference

Reaching decision-makers

Old

- Focus on attendance at multiagency meetings
- Main interaction is at officer level
- Main influence is best practice and assisting in implementation
- Resource intensive – relied on face to face
- Low visibility to stakeholders and other decision-makers

New

- Multiple channels – some multiagency meetings
- One-to-one plus written resources
- Emphasis on visibility and bringing more groups in contact with you
- Emphasis on decision-maker, not processes and machinery

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We help the decision-makers, but don't become part of their machinery

Focus on meeting the influential members of a partnership, not on the partnership

Officers, but also councillors and MPs, private sector leaders, community leaders

Events and conferences

VCS Engagement for Health and Social Care

- VAL launched the VCS Adult Health & Social Care Forum in late 2010 - quarterly summits and task groups
- Opportunities for VCS providers and statutory commissioners to work together to understand and respond to need across the area
- Statutory partners use the Forum as the key process for engaging with the Sector rather than setting up separate structures
- Leicester Health & Well Being Board will use the Forum to inform their decisions

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Talk about:
Time of massive change – Health & Social Care Bill, changes to Commissioning of Public Health Services, changes in eligibility criteria for receipt of social care services.
Progress of VCS AHSC Form and how it is helping to inform and influencing during evolutionary times

VCS Engagement for Health and Social Care

Commissioning Task Group

- Members of the Forum decided to form a working party to look at the new commissioning structures being put in place
- VCS & Clinical Commissioning Consortia are looking at how to ensure that the healthcare needs of the most vulnerable are met

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Task and finish groups

Large scale Stat sector engagement

Route to work with the VCS whilst national guidance is still at the proposal stage

Another area we are focusing on at present is . . .

The VCS and Community Budgets

- Leicestershire has been chosen as one of the 16 pilot sites
- All pilot sites are focusing on improving ways of working with families with complex needs
- VAL is ensuring that the VCS is able to influence the design of care pathways for families with complex needs

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Pilot commenced in April 2011
Re branding of Total Place
Approximately 800 families in Leicestershire with complex needs and 10,0000 families at risk of developing complex needs
Highest amount of spend on these families – needs to reduce

The VCS and Community Budgets

Multi Agency Service Practitioner Workshops

- VAL has sourced a wide range of VCS providers to contribute to the design of new care pathways for Families with Complex Needs
- 120 multi agency service practitioners attended the first workshop, 30 of whom were from the VCS
- This workshop demonstrated the effectiveness of involving the VCS in the design of new services and interventions

VAL has facilitated VCS engagement with the Multi Agency Service Practictioner Workshops to start looking at new ways of working with troubled families. 120 providers, great mix of over 30 VCS providers contributing

Some pilot areas have excluded the VCS from the CB pilot – big mistake, need to reach the most disengaged to be successful.

What You Can Do

- Use the VCS's knowledge and understanding, particularly with traditionally hard to reach groups
- Talk to your local VCS groups from the start of any process and work with them collaboratively
- It's not about "cross sector working", it is about working together for the service user
- Say no to separate structures for each initiative – you and the VCS will save resources

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Encourage use of existing VCS Structures

Can benefit from the VCS 's knowledge and understanding

Do this from the earliest opportunity to help shape cross sector partnerships for the benefit of service users.