

Supporting the Health Improvement Voluntary Sector

Date

July 2003 - ongoing

Location

NHS Greater Glasgow

Key Partners

GGNHSB, Glasgow City Council, SCVO, Health Scotland, Voluntary Health Scotland, Communities Scotland, Glasgow Healthy City Partnership, Gorbals Healthy Living Network, Glasgow Alliance, Greater Pollok Healthy Living Initiative

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Summary of project and achievements

Through its multi agency Steering Group, the project:

- Identified the range and scope of voluntary sector organisations delivering on health improvement in Greater Glasgow
- Established through research what gaps in support exist for the sector (the Organisational Healthcheck Research, Jan 2004)
- Established a funding package including GGNHSB funds and a successful European funding application, in order to provide a support service to meet identified needs
- The Support Service, through GCVS, began on 01 November 2004

Capacity Building to Support Delivery

The project grew from recognising the role of the voluntary sector in delivering on health improvement in Greater Glasgow. GGNHSB sought to ensure that organisations would be supported to grow and develop as robust organisations, effectively contributing to improving health at local level.

The 44 organisations supported through the Support Service were actively involved in determining the components and shape of the service, through regular workshops and update events, as well as participation in the Organisational Healthcheck Research.

It demonstrated that whilst some of the support needs were common to the voluntary sector as a whole (such as HR and IT/communications), there were some support needs particular to health improvement focussed voluntary sector organisations – such as developing effective systems for monitoring and evaluating impact of health improvement activity at local level.

The service will support both project staff and management committees to develop and grow over the next three years. It is hoped that this will enable the continued development of the health improvement voluntary sector in Greater Glasgow, set against the rapidly changing landscape for health improvement.