

News from the Voluntary Sector Assembly

The VSA has been successful in getting the Voluntary and Community (Third) Sector strongly featured in the new Local Area Agreement between Herefordshire Council and the Government. The VSA made suggested several amendments to the overview of Herefordshire (known as the 'Story of Place') and co-ordinated further revisions in partnership with The Alliance and Herefordshire Infrastructure Consortium (HIC). VSA Reps working alongside HIC Reps also managed to get Volunteering included on the list of local priorities.

Why does this matter? We believe that Voluntary and Community Sector involvement has strengthened outcomes for local people in Herefordshire. In the future many funding streams will be based on the Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement. If a voluntary or community group can prove that its actions are likely to help achieve the targets contained in the Local Area Agreement, then it will be more likely to get funded.

Reps update: Claire Keetch of Citizens Advice Bureau now represents the VSA on the **Rural Access Partnership (RAP)**. The RAP looks at what services are available in the rural areas and what is needed and tries to meet need and avoid duplication. It will be able to commission certain services.

Sadly John Turner, the Economic Development and Social Enterprise Rep has resigned for personal reasons. We would like to thank John for his work for the VSA. Philip Dazely has kindly agreed to cover this role until a new representative can be elected.

Consultations - Look out for the following the consultation events in the near future:

- 👉 Volunteering Compact Code
- 👉 Funding and Procurement Compact Code
- 👉 New Development Framework for Planning in Herefordshire
- 👉 Shape of Health Services
- 👉 Local Area Agreement – how we make it happen

And remember to visit the VSA Website for latest news www.thevsa.org.uk