

Title:	Taking Account 3 – an economic and social audit of the community and voluntary sector
Author(s):	Laura Williams, Project Manager, Community and Voluntary Sector Forum (CVSF)
Purpose/Key Messages:	Update the Partnership on the purpose of the Taking Account 3 research being led by CVSF.
Significance to BHSP and Delivering SCS outcomes:	The data and intelligence from Taking Account 3 will be used to inform city plans and strategies. It will also provide evidence of the economic and social value and impact of the community and voluntary sector on city outcomes.
What is BHSP being asked to do?	To act as champions for promotion of Taking Account 3 and consider how to get best value from the data and intelligence.
Next steps and report back mechanism:	The BHSP board will receive the final report in early 2014.

1. Background and methodology

Taking Account: an economic and social audit of the sector was completed in 2008. Much has changed since then and CVSF and BHCC (as the main funder) recognised that there is a need to update the study in order that we can accurately assess the contribution and health of the community and voluntary sector in Brighton and Hove.

In addition to updating the core data set held on the sector through an online survey, the 2013 Taking Account 3 study aims to collate further evidence of the social and economic impact of community and voluntary organisations through:

- harvesting impact case studies
- collating grant and contract information from local public agencies
- assembling information on inward investment from the EU, Sussex Community Foundation, the Big Lottery Fund and other large funders

Underpinning desk research will seek to identify and collate risks, challenges and opportunities facing the community and voluntary sector and paint a picture of where the sector might find itself in five years.

A set of robust recommendations will also support community and voluntary sector infrastructure organisations, the public sector, other funders and partners think through how they can respond.

2. Project definition

The Taking Account 3 project steering group is:

- CVSF CEO Sally Polanski
- Dave Wolff Community University Partnership Programme (CUPP)
- Academics:
 - Professor Andrew Church, University of Brighton, academic supervisor in 2008
 - Jennifer Colwell, University of Brighton, Project Worker in 2008
 - Tom Smith, OCSI
- BHCC:
 - Emma McDermott, Interim Head of Communities and Equalities
 - Michelle Pooley, Community Engagement Co-ordinator
 - David Golding, Research / Policy, Performance and Analysis
- Health: Martin Campbell (Partnerships & Development Manager at Clinical Commissioning Group)

The steering group is responsible for:

- Providing advice and guidance to the project team.
- Maintaining strategic oversight and provide guidance on project implementation.
- Ensuring that the quality of the research is robust, that the project has academic rigour, that the data is effectively analysed and that ethical considerations are adhered to.
- Agreeing milestones, confirming project outputs and advising on approach.
- Supporting dissemination arrangements.

The work is co-coordinated by CVSF staff member Laura Williams with support from other CVSF staff. Research expertise and advice is provided by the University of Brighton, OCSI and BHCC.

3. Purpose

Taking Account 3 aims to:

- Create an up to date portrait of the sector's **health and capacity** in light of on-going budget saving activity.
- Identify **risks, challenges and opportunities** for the sector
- Accurately assess the **economic and social impact** the sector makes to the city.
- **Map grants and contracts** held by the sector, indicating public sector resourcing.
- Provide a **baseline** for the BHCC Community and Voluntary Sector Strategy/ Clinical Commissioning Group and other public sector agencies around policy approach and funding.
- Guide the **strategy and approach** of the new infrastructure organisation being developed under the Transforming Local Infrastructure Project.
- Generate evidence for **continuing financial support** to the sector and link this to the Social Value Act.
- Establish an accepted plan for **periodic repetition** of the audit.
- Highlight any **investment the sector brings** into the city.
- Generate a set of recommendations that look to the **future sustainability** of community and voluntary sector activity.

4. Key messages

- The Partnership to consider how it can spread the word that the work is underway and champion it on behalf of the project steering group.
- The Partnership to consider what this work means for their own organisations and how to achieve best value from the data and intelligence that is gathered.

Any further comments or questions are welcome.

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