



User Led Organisation Bulletin, July 2010

We now have a database of 70 User Led Organisations (ULOs) in the Bristol area. We are still working in South Glos to identify ULOs we may be able to support. If you think you are a ULO and would like to benefit from the project, please do contact us.

We have recently issued an assessment survey to all Bristol ULOs and have had feedback from over 20 organisations. We are now rolling out the survey to South Glos so please let us know if you would like to complete a copy. If you are a ULO in Bristol and would still like to complete the survey, please just let us know. We would love to know more about you and how we can support you.

Following the completion of the assessment survey in Bristol, we now have a much better understanding of what services are currently provided and what people would like to provide. A brief summary of our findings and what we are doing to address them is attached.

What did we learn?

The main areas where organisations felt they were currently weak but would really like to develop were as follows:

How to be financially sustainable and independent of central government funding

Having paid employees who are service users

Working with commissioners to improve commissioning and procurement

Consumer Audits of local services

The key requests for further training and support were in the following areas:

Funding & Fundraising

Support with Marketing

Support with Information and Communication Technology



User Led Organisation Bulletin, July 2010

Practical training and support was also requested for:
Board Development
Business Planning and Strategy Building
Social Enterprise development

What are we doing, what is on offer?

The resources below have been created by WECIL and are available to use as templates. Please just contact us if you would like any of the documents sent through to you:

- Volunteer Policy, Application Form, Volunteer Agreement and Volunteer Funding Summary
- Organisation Risk Assessment Template
- Equality & Diversity Policy, Action Plan and Equality and Diversity Statement of Intent
- Recruitment of Trustees
- Role of Trustees, Skills Audit & Trustee Code of Conduct
- Job Descriptions for Trustee, Treasurer, Company Secretary and Director of the Board
- Trustee Induction Summary

We are currently negotiating the set up of free training in the areas of funding/fundraising, social enterprise development, marketing skills and business planning. As soon as we have dates set, we will contact you with an invitation. We are also looking into the creation of a simple template and the provision of training in the use of Equality Impact Assessments for ULOs.

We have looked into providing training regarding Information and Communication Technology but would welcome more specific details about exactly what training would be useful. Please do contact me if there is a particular area which would be useful to your organisation.

For information, VOSCUR are running training on **£**Commissioning for Beginners on 29th September alongside a range of other training opportunities relating to commissioning, volunteering and being a



User Led Organisation Bulletin, July 2010

trustee. Please go to <http://www.voscur.org/training> for more information.

A Forum has been created with representation from 7 of the more established ULOs in the area. They are tasked with representing the views of service users and carers to the local authority and ensuring that ULOs are prioritized within the personalization agenda and commissioning policies. More information will be available in our next bulletin.

We are looking at setting up an online consultative body made up of local service users. This has been used by Disability Cornwall to great effect (the DC100). If anyone would like to become a member of such a group or knows of people who might be interested, please do contact me. You would need to have access to a computer and we would use a simple format to gather your opinion on a wide range of issues which might have an impact on your life. There would be a maximum of one brief consultation a month and feedback would be given following any changes made as a result of the findings.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. As soon as we have training dates arranged I will contact you with an invitation. Please don't forget to contact me with any ICT training requests and any interest in membership of the online consultancy body.

Very best wishes,

Anna

Anna Wheeler, ULO Project

Tel: 0117 903 8929, Email: ulo@wecil.co.uk, www.wecil.co.uk

Registered Office: WECIL Ltd, The Vassall Centre, Gill Ave,
Fishponds, Bristol, BS16 2QQ