

Representatives sought for the Central Bedfordshire Stronger Communities Thematic Partnership

We are seeking expressions of interest from those active (in a paid or voluntary role) within the voluntary and community sector who would like to make an effective contribution to the new Central Bedfordshire Stronger Communities Thematic Partnership on behalf of the sector. There are currently two places available.

Role

Third Sector Assembly Representative (Stronger Communities Thematic Partnership)

Role Purpose

Acting individually and collectively with other members of the Partnership, to contribute a voluntary and community perspective to discussions concerning the strategic direction of the Partnership and the effective delivery of local services.

The objectives of the Central Bedfordshire Stronger Communities Thematic Partnership are to:

- To co-ordinate the efforts of statutory organisations, with partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors to ensure we build strong, cohesive and sustainable communities which are vibrant and where people feel a sense of identity and belonging, are actively involved in place shaping and where public services are responsive and accessible to all.
- To ensure the strategic direction, commitment and joint working to:
 - achieve improvements in civic participation, regular volunteering, participation in sport and engagement in the arts;
 - reduce the proportion of children living in poverty;
 - develop an environment for a thriving third sector; and
 - build a locality in which cultural activities will flourish.

Main Responsibilities

- Preparing for, attending and contributing to Partnership meetings and other meetings the representative is invited to attend.
- Representing and advocating the views, interest and priorities of the voluntary and community sector at Partnership meetings and any other public meetings, conferences and forums attended as an Assembly representative.
- Contributing to the overall direction and development of the Partnership through clear strategic planning, in accordance with the Partnership's Terms of Reference.
- Using the Third Sector Assembly and own contacts to promote and publicise the Partnership, develop links with individuals and organisations, and encourage support for the work of the Partnership.

- Preparing written articles on the work of the Partnership for publication in local voluntary and community sector newsletters as a mechanism for reporting back to, and gathering views from, the sector.
- Attending meetings of the Third Sector Assembly and through this to gather, represent and feedback views to those they represent.
- Informing own effectiveness as a representative through reading, networking, training and an understanding of the issues affecting the work of the Partnership.

Person Specification

The initial term of office will be until May 2010. Thereafter, renewable in accordance with arrangements put in place for the election of representatives as part of the emerging Third Sector Assembly.

The person fulfilling this role is expected to:

- regularly attend Partnership meetings, usually held every two or three months during the day;
- have a commitment to partnership working and an understanding of community involvement processes;
- be involved in strategic issues and developments in, be able to contribute to decisions on behalf of, the voluntary and community sector in Central Bedfordshire;
- be able to analyse complex issues, identify priorities and communicate information clearly;
- have experience of representing the voluntary and community sector and/or local communities in public meetings and partnership settings;
- have experience of contributing to discussions and debates on, and knowledge of, a range of community engagement and cultural issues relevant to local communities and the voluntary and community sector;
- be involved in a local 'frontline' voluntary, community or other third sector organisation delivering services in Central Bedfordshire and have a proven involvement with the wider third sector;
- be committed to the vision and priorities included in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Applying for the Role

If you would like to be considered for one of these important roles please set out your skills, knowledge and experience in meeting each of the above expectations (maximum one side of A4) and send this to partnerships@action-centralbeds.org.uk

Informal interviews will be held for short listed applicants and the chosen representatives will be expected to undertake an induction programme before attending the next meeting of the Partnership.

If you would like to discuss the role with someone informally, please do not hesitate to contact either John Gelder (Director of Voluntary and Community Action) on 01525 850559 or Martin Trinder (Chief Officer of CVS) on 01234 354366.