



The VOYCV Year - condensed!

2016 Welcome

If you don't know VOYCV, then you're about to have a crash course on how we impact on those that work with children, young people and families in the voluntary and community sector in Devon.

If you do know us, then you'll have seen the many ways that we have been strengthening our voice and reputation as the practical and strategic voice of young people in Devon's community sector.

A new era



The VOYC AGM took place on Wednesday 29th June.

Prior to the meeting Karen Acott (Chair of VOYC) and Kev Henman (Head of Devon County Council Youth Service on behalf of the new staff mutual being set up by existing Youth Service Staff to bid for the Youth Service contract) signed a Memorandum of Understanding that sets out how the two organisations will be developing a closer working relationship and a collaborative approach in bidding for the **Devon County Council Youth Service Tender** that has recently been launched.

Both organisations firmly believe that closer working arrangements will strengthen the profile of the sector, whilst providing better value to those organisations that support work with young people and ultimately improving opportunities for young people.

It is hoped that the collaboration will result in improvements and efficiencies for both organisations and through this, more importantly, a bettering of the services they provide to children, young people and their families in Devon.

The **VOYC Office will be relocating to the 100 Club** after many years being well looked after at the Young Farmers Centre from the 11th July.



Joint message from Chair of VOYC, Karen Acott and CEO, Mark Goodman

The landscape this year has been dominated by the decision of Devon County Council to divest their Youth Service. The decision was made in the summer of 2015 and Members of the County Council agreed that the service specification would be based largely on that for the existing Devon Youth Service. VOYC have been heavily involved with the stakeholder consultation processes and have been advocating on behalf of the sector to inform the development of a Service Specification covering targeted support, open access youth provision and support for the voluntary and community sector. We believe that the current intention is that the DCC specification for the provision of the youth service will include a separate description of the Council's requirements in relation to the infrastructure element but watch this space!

Highlights from the year included:

- Growth in membership with **19 new organisations** joining as members giving us an increase

- of 8% to 246 organisations;
- VOYC produced a **report on the needs of towns in developing youth provision**;
 - VOYC has **facilitated a small grants programme** for DCC that supports the capacity building of staff within those communities that lost their youth service provision in 2014;
 - The development of links with the **Devon Safeguarding Children's Board (DSCB)** that has included meetings with the Chair, Board Manager and Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO);
 - The design and development of a set of **standards for safeguarding for the Voluntary and Community Sector** in Devon that was endorsed by the DSCB in December 2015;
 - Providing **direct support to 72 organisations** during the year with advice on subjects such as Safeguarding and working with young volunteers;
 - Supported the design and development of a **Safer Recruitment Training package** that has been approved by the DSCB for the Voluntary and Community Sector;

The good reputation of VOYC has been built over many years but in the last twelve months there has been significant development in profile across the sector with our work facilitating the **Children Young People and Families Alliance** and through a review and changing of our e-bulletins.

Karen Acott

And

Mark Goodman

What we do

1. **Provide Practical Help** - to ensure the support necessary to develop and maintain the children and young people's sector.
2. **Provide a Voice** - to enable the children and young people's sector to have a voice and influence.
3. **Facilitate Networking** - to support, develop and promote collaboration and networking.
4. **Manage the Charity** - to have efficient and effective systems for the management of VOYC Devon.

Strategic

- Represented the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) on the **Devon Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB)**, the **Children Young People and Families Alliance Executive** and the **Early Help Operations Group**
- Leading on the development of children and young people's participation in Devon through the work on the **Children Young People and Families Connect Priority**.
- Facilitated a session for the VCS on the **role of the Local Authority designated Officer (LADO)**

Training

- Delivered a range of child protection training to the not for the profit sector.
- Trained **233 participants** from **75 different organisation** during the year on the DSCB approved Group 2 and 3 safeguarding training

Some new initiatives brought in this year

CPD

We consulted with our network and put on some enrichment workshops covering:

- Learning from Serious Case Reviews
- Ask the experts - Q and A sessions around safeguarding in conjunction with the Devon Safeguarding Children Board

Newsletters

We forged a partnership with North Devon Against Domestic Violence to bring a special feature on Domestic Violence and how it effects children, young people and families in Devon

Segmenting our membership

We sent several targeted news features and tailored alerts to:

- Designated Safeguarding Officers
- Pre-school practitioners

A few little facts to inspire

- There are 23 network members
- There are 177 local groups
- There are 43 associate members
- We have a potential reach in excess of 2500 children and young people settings across Devon
- The number of tweets that we post has risen by 175%
- We've now got 164 twitter followers

Our People

President

Robin Wakinshaw

Vice President

Saxon Spence (resigned May 2016)

Officers

Karen Acott - Independent Chair

Peter Brewer - Vice Chair (Bank Youth Project)

Nick Creasy - Treasurer (Devon Federation of YFC's)

Executive (Management Committee and Trustees)

Paul Allan - Co-option

Anne Bowser - Wings SW (resigned June 2015).

Lyn Brown - Community Action SW (resigned July 2015)

Rachel Henderson - Participation Matters (elected Sept 2014, resigned Jan 2016)

Karen Jones - Co-option

Steve Keable - Community Action South West (elected 4.6.13)

Paul Reisbach - Diocese of Exeter (elected 8.8.13)

Andie Scilly - North Devon Homes (elected 19.6.14)

Tina Tozer - Lifeworks Charity Ltd (elected 25.6.15)

Sue Wallis - North Devon Against Domestic Abuse (co-opted 26.11.15)

Staff

Mark Goodman - Chief Executive

Juliet White - Administrator

Kerrie Clifford - Comms and Marketing Co-Ordinator

Feeling the love from our Network



"Thank you that is brilliant worthwhile information" - Andrea about the Domestic Violence Feature E-News

"We have received help with policies and procedures, in house training for Volunteers and the comfort of knowing that if we have a concern or query (however small or ridiculous it may seem) we can ask VOYC for a reasoned answer" - Katie, Braunton Youth Club

"Loving the new format.... Brilliant to use, even on my mobile" - Rachel about the new look e-news

"Excellent presentation, excellent course" - Participant Barnstaple Child Protection Training course (March) just one of a number of excellent feedback we received on our training

"By being a part of VOYC membership it has ensured our charity and our services towards vulnerable children within the UK are represented well on a practical and strategic level. We have taken advantages of the training opportunities offered to us, which has also given us the chance to meet and network with local organisations and share good practice" - Chicks

Our new address:

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Search **VOYC Devon** on Facebook