



A Voice for the People

Business Continuity

Voluntary, community and faith groups have an important role in our community. But how would your group cope in an emergency?

Could you still function if you couldn't use your normal premises or meeting room? What would you do if your records or contact lists were destroyed? If your organisation ceased its activities, what would the impact be on the community that it serves? What steps can you take to avoid or mitigate these problems in advance?

Business Continuity Management (BCM) is planning to ensure that your organisation has a relatively quick and painless return to "business as usual" in the event of a major disruption, regardless of the cause of the underlying incident (be it man-made or natural, accidental or deliberate). The principle of BCM applies just as much to voluntary, community and faith groups as it does to business itself.



To put it in simple terms, BCM is about:

- Reducing the risk to your organisation in advance
- Responding effectively in an emergency
- Restoring normality as easily and inexpensively as possible

Having an effective and rehearsed BCM plan will allow you to achieve all of these objectives.

Greenwich Council has an Emergency Planning and

Resilience Unit that can provide general guidance to help you with your BCM planning. One way of accessing this information is to log on to the Council website (www.greenwich.gov.uk) and type "Business Continuity" in the "Search" box. This will provide you with a brief guide to BCM, and give you some ideas of items to keep away from your normal premises to help you in an emergency. There is also a blank template that you can download to complete your own BCM plan.

Emergency Planning and Resilience Unit

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Change happens



The Government's agenda for reforming local public services and creating sustainable communities places strong emphasis on the role of the voluntary and community sector, both as potential service providers and as a source of information and knowledge about local people's needs and aspirations.

A central idea is that local citizens and communities should play a stronger role in shaping the places in which they live.

This is the background to the Change Happens conference held at the Forum@Greenwich on 24th July 2007. Facilitated through the Greenwich Community Network, the conference sought to get to grips with the challenges presented by the White Paper and the related Local Government Bill.

Florence Davies, from the Government Office for London, outlined some of the key changes proposed by the White Paper and Bill.

These include:

- A stronger role for local strategic partnerships, new duties on local authorities to involve local people.
- A statutory framework for local area agreements.
- Flexible funding regime for local public services.
- More opportunities for services to be delivered through the voluntary and community sector.

Andy Smith, LEAD Co-ordinator, set the scene for the conference workshops. He argued that the sector should embrace the opportunity for a more dynamic relationship with local government. It would need to develop a stronger sense of its unique contribution in supporting the delivery of a shared set of ambitions for an area.

Councillor Peter Brooks then offered a brief overview of progress in respect of Greenwich's Local Area Agreement and confirmed the council's commitment to working with partnerships to ensure better outcomes for

local people. Although it was still early days for the LAA, improvements had already been seen in the areas of public health (particularly in relation to key target groups such as pregnant women and people living in disadvantaged communities), extending the reach of childcare and early education provision through Children's Centres, and reducing worklessness amongst disadvantaged groups.

The borough faced significant challenges in some important areas, including in relation to violent crime (wounding) and robbery, and the number of 16-18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment.

The conference workshop discussions addressed the question of how the "third" sector would need to adapt to the changes brought about by the White Paper. It was clear that the sector would need to develop its understanding of the specific opportunities for expanding its role. This includes things such as community assets transfer, as well as the commissioning of services through the new area-based grant.

Voluntary and community sector groups will be challenged to improve the evidence base for the services they provide. At the same time, they are a potentially important source of information about local people's needs and aspirations and, as such, should be seeking an active involvement in service planning and design. Capacity within the sector will continue to be an issue.

New forms of partnership engagement may be required that facilitate better information sharing and joint service delivery.



“ You can make a difference ”

Interview with Wendy Dibdin MBE

Wendy Dibdin MBE has worked tirelessly for the voluntary sector for over 30 years.

Wendy worked in teaching as Head of Science and these days keeps her hand in education when she visits local schools to talk about disability issues. She also lectures at the University of Greenwich on Health & Social Care. Her recreational interests centre around machine embroidery, singing in a choir, being a church warden and a keyboard player. Wendy has been the Greenwich Community Network representative for disabled people since the networks started.

Q: How did you first get involved in the voluntary sector?

A: I first got involved in the voluntary sector when I became a founder member of Greenwich Association of Disabled People (GAD). I realised there was a lack of support and people did not know where to go for what they needed.

Q: How have services improved over the years?

A: Services have improved slightly but there is still more to do.

Q: How has being a representative helped others?

A: It has got more people together with more interaction. GAD stands in its own entirety but I network with other groups which are not just disabled groups. A disabled person can be any kind of person, black, white, lesbian etc

Q: What sort of skills do you think you bring to the role?

A: I am good at talking and I am a good listener. Although I think it is more important to listen.

Q: What about your extensive knowledge of Disability issues including legislation?

A: Yes there is that too, but I only keep up with the law around care packages. As a disabled person I have been assessed with a care plan. This plan entitles me to have direct payments so that I can employ my own support staff. I do not call my employee a carer as I care for myself, but a personal assistant.

Q: What do you consider your achievements to be?

A: Achievements are about getting people to talk not just working for a purpose. GAD has lost a lot of executive members lately, but some of the former members come to see me. I encourage them to share ideas and impart that if they leave change is not effected. People need to be encouraged to continue to track where services are going. Leaving is not an option. I really think that is important.

“ You can make a difference ”

by Hyacinth Cooke

Q:What was it like receiving your MBE?

A: It was a real honour. I received a letter from Tony Blair advising me that I had been recommended for the MBE. This was clear recognition for all the work I had done within the voluntary sector. I was very proud to receive the MBE. But I consider it to be a team effort. You don't receive it just for yourself as it says something about what the voluntary sector is doing.

I was also honoured at the time of the Millennium to join the Queen on a riverboat to the Dome.

Q:What do you think the future holds in terms of developments for the disabled?

A: I would like to see the right use of terminology. The term "the disabled" is one that is used but the correct term is disabled people because then you are dealing with feelings, brains and personality. Society needs to see disabled people as having something worth offering. I don't think it is anyone's fault; it is just the way people have grown up. I think this is the last civil rights movement.



Wendy Dibdin MBE

Discrimination still exists.

Fear is the problem, because people don't understand the issues. When they do then they will be prepared to change. Disabled people cannot bring about changes all on their own.

“ You can make a difference ”

Sports physical activity and health group update

Co-ordinating projects aimed at increasing participation in physical activity and sports in Greenwich.

This article aims to provide an update on the progress of the Sports, Physical Activity and Health (SPAH) group, and its plans for a range of interventions; it will be of particular interest if you are currently involved in sports/physical activity/active recreation within the Greenwich community.

SPAH is a partnership group, convened by Greenwich Council, which has representation from the Primary Care Trust, Greenwich Leisure Limited and Charlton Athletic Race Equality and meets every 6 weeks.

Greenwich Council and its partners support the national target of increasing participation in regular physical activity by 1% annually, and are working with sub-regional Sport England partner, Pro-Active East, to achieve this. We also recognise that being one of the 5 host boroughs for the Olympics offers an exciting and unique opportunity to engage with the local community on issues regarding health, increasing activity levels and engendering civic pride.

The SPAH Group is one of several established Community Sports and Physical Activity Networks (CSPANs), recognised as key components in the Sport England delivery system to meet the 1% year-on-year increase in participation.

SPAH is beginning the work of preparing project proposals and subsequent funding applications which will facilitate a more physically active borough of Greenwich, with the following priorities:

- Increase the regular participation rate to 20% of the adult population in the first year of the action plan. This would equate to nearly 1,900 more adults participating regularly in sport and physical activity.

- Reduce the number of sedentary adults (those undertaking no sport and physical activity) by 1% by engaging at least 1,000 new participants in sport and physical activity on a more regular basis.

Sport England has recently announced that £9.6m is available across all 33 London boroughs – and is accepting funding applications from now until March 2009. A co-ordinated borough-wide approach is being taken to accessing this resource across the following four priority areas:

- Develop improved walking and cycling initiatives, especially for travel to and from work
- Develop more active workplaces within Greenwich, starting with the council
- Continue to develop and extend community health promotion
- Develop and improve the existing sports infrastructure



If you are involved in a local group which is delivering sports and physical activity sessions for the community, we would like to hear from you so that we can invite you to join our wider SPAH group. We can then promote the work that you do and ensure coordination with other activities which are working towards similar aims.

For further information, please contact Gail Tulk on 020 8921 2059 or email gail.tulk@greenwich.gov.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.



Funding the Voluntary and Community Sector

At its meeting on 17th July 2007, the Council's Cabinet agreed the interim allocation of grants to voluntary organisations as part of the new framework for commissioning services from the Voluntary Sector. The basis for interim funding arrangements relates to the need for further assessments to be undertaken in ten individual funding areas, as the commissioning process had failed to achieve the desired outcomes in meeting the Council's priorities.

The ten areas for strategic review are:

- Arts & Cultural Programme
- Greener Greenwich
- Community Resource, Woolwich
- Supplementary Schools
- Comprehensive Youth Offer & Quality Play Provision
- Community Centres
- Support for Communities of Interest
- Strategic Legal & Advice Services
- Family Support Services
- Domestic Violence Support Services

A Project Board will support each of the reviews and will be charged with the responsibility for developing the outcomes for the review.

Regular updates on the process, together with details of how to be involved, will be circulated to stakeholders. Progress reports will be made available via a range of local websites, including Greenwich Council, Greenwich Community Networks and ChangeUpGreenwich.

The Council is also in the process of finalising a review framework to facilitate the evaluation of its Commissioning Framework. The aim of this review will be to identify areas of improvement regarding the commissioning process, and will be undertaken in consultation with the voluntary, community and faith sector. The review will involve a questionnaire and two voluntary and community sector events. Copies of the questionnaire and details of the events will be circulated before the end of September 2007.

This document contains important information. If you would like a translation of the document in your own language, please tick the box on the right and return this whole page to the address shown below.

English

ਇਸ ਚਿੱਠੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਖਾਸ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਚਿੱਠੇ ਦੀ ਆਪਣੀ ਬੋਲੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਸੱਜੇ ਪਾਸੇ ਜੋ ਬੋਕਸ ਹੈ ਵਿੱਚ ਟਿੱਕ ਕਰੋ ਅਤੇ ਇਹ ਸਾਰਾ ਵਰਕਾ ਸਾਂਝੇ ਖੱਲੇ ਲਿਖੇ ਐਡਰੈਸ ਤੇ ਵਾਪਸ ਭੇਜੋ।

Punjabi

Qoraalkan waxaa ku kooban macluumaad muhim ah. Haddii aad dooneysid in luqaddaada laguugu tarjumo, fadlan xariiq koobaabinta midigta, booggan oo dhanna u soo dir cinwaanka hoos ku yaalla.

Somali

Bu belge önemli bilgiler içermektedir. Belgenin kendi dilinizde çevirisini istiyorsanız, lütfen sağdaki kutuyu işaretleyip bu sayfayı aşağıdaki adrese gönderiniz.

Turkish

此文件包含重要的信息内容。如果你需要一份關於你自己的語言的翻譯文本，請在右側的方格內划鉤，並將此頁交到下列地址處。

Chinese

Tài liệu này có chứa những tin tức quan trọng. Nếu bạn muốn bản tài liệu này được dịch ra ngôn ngữ của bạn, xin hãy gạch vào ô ở tay phải và gửi lại cả trang đó đến địa chỉ sau đây.

Vietnamese

এই দলিলটিতে মূল্যবান তথ্য রয়েছে। যদি আপনি আপনার নিজের ভাষায় এটির অনুবাদ পেতে চান, তাহলে ডান পাশের বাক্সটিতে টিক দিয়ে পুরো পৃষ্ঠাটি নিচের ঠিকানায়ে ফেরত পাঠিয়ে দিন।

Bengali

આ દસ્તાવેજમાં મહત્વની માહિતી સમાવેલી છે. જો તમને તમારી ભાષામાં આ દસ્તાવેજનું ભાષાંતર જોઈતું હોય તો, મહેરબાની કરી જમણા હાથના ખાનામાં ટીક (નિશાની) કરો અને આખું પાનું નીચે આપેલ સરનામે પાછું મોકલો.

Gujarati

يحتوى هذا المستند على معلومات هامة. إن أردتها مترجمة إلى لغتك فالرجاء وضع علامة في الخانة التي في اليمين وإرجاع الصفحة بكاملها إلى العنوان المذكور في الأسفل.

Arabic

اس دستاویز میں ضروری معلومات فراہم کی گئی ہیں۔ اگر آپ کو اپنی زبان میں اسکا ترجمہ درکار ہو تو برائے مہربانی دائیں طرف سے باکس میں نشان لگا کر یہ پورا صفحہ درج ذیل پتے پر روانہ کیجئے۔

Urdu

Iwe yi kun fun awon àkíyèsí pàtàkì. Ti ẹ ba ẹ ki a túmò ẹ fun yin, ki ẹ fi àmìn si inu àpótí kekere ti o wa ni apa ọ̀tun akiyesi yi, ki ẹ si fi iwe yi ranṣẹ si wa ni àdírẹ̀sì ti n bẹ̀ ni`isàlẹ̀ yi.

Yoruba

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