



## **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE CHANGEUP CONSORTIUM**

Chairperson: Barbara Poole, People's Voices  
Co-ordinator: Diane Rutter, Voluntary Action, Chiltern & S Bucks

### **Agenda Item for Local Strategic Partnerships**

Submitted by: Diane Rutter on behalf of the ChangeUp Consortium

Date: September 2009

**Subject: The Recession and the Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS)**

**Question posed: What will each LSP partner commit to do to help voluntary and community groups to survive the recession?**

In June 2009 representatives from 25 different charities and voluntary organisations identified the following common experiences of the effect of the recession on their services.

- An increase in demand for their services
- An increase in volunteers coming forward
- A reduction in funding and donations
- An increased pressure on overstretched resources

This information arose from a *Surviving the Recession* workshop held on 18th June.

Participants shared their experiences of the impact of the recession on their service delivery. Opportunities and resources to support voluntary organisations were also explored, in particular the benefits of collaborative working and mergers.

The participants asked the Changeup Consortium present a paper to local strategic partnerships on their behalf.

Specifically they are asking LSP partners to consider what they can do to help local voluntary and community groups to survive the recession. The ChangeUp Consortium would like to receive feedback from each LSP as to what partners will commit to do to help.

The full workshop report can be downloaded from

<http://www.voluntaryaction.org/media/VCSrecessionworkshopreportJune2009.pdf>