

# IOM Conference 2012

IOM and the  
Voluntary and Community Sector:

Added value – or embedded value?

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**CLiNKs**

## Building VCS involvement in IOM

- Variable levels of VCS involvement from place to place
- Clinks invited to work with Home Office 2010/11 in 4 areas:
  - Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole
  - Croydon
  - Gloucestershire
  - Leeds
- Local VCS-led programmes with multi-agency steering groups:
  - Strategic partnerships and capacity building VCS engagement
  - Developing innovative services to offenders managed under IOM
  - Volunteering and mentoring opportunities with / by offenders
  - Piloting small seed-corn grants to involve small VCS organisations

# Evaluation by Hallam Centre for Community Justice, Sheffield Hallam University

- Both statutory and VCS partners identified real progress in consolidating relationships and involving a more diverse range of VCS organisations in the strategic planning and operational delivery of IOM arrangements.
- The added value of involving the VCS in IOM includes:
  - Specific skill and knowledge located within the VCS
  - Strong links to local communities and awareness of local needs
  - Addressing specific gaps in meeting offender needs
  - Flexibility and responsiveness

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# CLINKS

# Building operational involvement

Examples of effective practice include:

- Key role of Local Support & Development Organisations (LSDOs) in mapping a wider set of interested VCS stakeholders and brokering engagement with operational teams under IOM arrangements
- Co-location of VCS partners in a multi-agency IOM 'Hub' at the gate of HMP Leeds
- Sustainable VCS services / social enterprises
- Effective use of small seed-corn grants e.g. for work by BAME groups
- Enabling effective service user involvement in IOM

# Building strategic involvement

Examples of effective practice include:

- Developing VCS voice and strategic influence through a Forum.
- Local VCS elections to increase representation on key CJS Boards / Partnerships
- Developing a clear local commissioning strategy and guidelines to strengthen partner relationships

## Added value – or embedded value?

- Learning suggests VCS organisations have a key role to play in local multi-disciplinary IOM team arrangements
- Approaches involving the VCS need to become embedded in local IOM arrangements – not just an optional ‘add-on’
- “Involving the VCS MUST feature in the strategic plans of IOM Boards, Partnerships and Trusts”

## Challenges to overcome

- Mixed levels of understanding of IOM amongst the VCS
- Staff buy-in
- Risk
- Developing appropriate information-sharing agreements
- Clarity about roles, outcomes and evidence

## Clinks / Home Office Resources

New set of online resources for partners in local IOM arrangements:

1. The added value of VCS partners in IOM arrangements
2. Mapping and engaging with potential local VCS partners
3. The potential brokerage role of LSDOs
4. How VCS organisations can engage with local IOM arrangements
5. Strategic partnership working
6. Operational partnership working
7. IOM: the rural challenge

<http://www.clinks.org/publications/guides-resources/iom-resources>

The logo for CLINKS, featuring the word "CLINKS" in a bold, white, sans-serif font against a blue background. The letters are slightly stylized, with the 'L' and 'K' having unique shapes.



# New work building on this learning - PCCs

## SAFER FUTURE COMMUNITIES

Empowering local voluntary & community partnerships



- Clinks leading a new VCS partnership – Safer Future Communities
- Enabling the VCS to engage with PCCs and other commissioners
- A VCS network now in every police force area, brokered by a Local Support and Development Organisation
- Information including list of local VCS network leads at:  
<http://www.clinks.org/services/sfc>

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