



# Press Release

16 February 2010

## **Capacitybuilders award £500,000 to Blackburn with Darwen CVS for major resource centre upgrade**

With funding of £500,000 from national agency Capacitybuilders, Blackburn with Darwen Community and Voluntary Service is about to undertake this significant project to benefit a wide range of local voluntary groups and the surrounding community.

The project will bring back into use the former Star & Garter Public House to provide a valuable resource to the local community. The amount of useable space available to local third sector organisations will be over 1000m<sup>2</sup>. As well as creating room for co-located services for children and young people - including a day centre and night shelter – the upgrade will create managed office space and new conference and training facilities. Blackburn with Darwen CVS also plan to use the grant to develop and house their existing resource and equipment library.

The grant is one of four being awarded under the final strand of Capacitybuilders' £7m Capital Investment Programme, funded through the Office of the Third Sector.

Speaking about their grant award, Chief Executive, Garth Hodgkinson said: "This is fantastic news for Blackburn with Darwen – it will create a facility for the benefit of the whole community that will help to transform people's lives."

“We are really pleased with this award which will make the £2.3million project possible. We must thank everyone who has supported us, including many local charities, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, the Children & Young People’s Trust and the Local Strategic Partnership.”

Mark Reading, Regional Manager for the North West at Capacitybuilders said: *“The Capital Investment Programme was launched by Capacitybuilders in 2008 to support the improvement and development of local third sector resources centres. Under the first two strands of the programme, 166 local resource centres across England have been awarded grants to make smaller scale improvements to their premises, helping to ensure that a wide range of frontline organisations have better access to better shared facilities and services within their local area.”*

**END.**

**Editors notes**

**About Capacitybuilders**

Capacitybuilders is the government agency responsible for improving the advice and support available to frontline third sector organisations. Since 2006, it has invested some £100m in improving the support available to frontline third sector organisations. Capacitybuilders and its programmes are primarily funded by the Office of the Third Sector. You can find out more at [www.capacitybuilders.org.uk](http://www.capacitybuilders.org.uk)

**About the Capital Investment Programme**

The Capital Investment Programme was launched in 2008 to support improvements and development of local third sector resources centres.

Capacitybuilders is defining third sector local resource centres as a building or an area within a building which is used as a base for providing development and support services to frontline third sector organisations within a local area, and specifically:

- offer accommodation or shared services and facilities to frontline third sector organisations with a local area
- offer services accessible to all frontline third sector organisations within a local area.

[www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/capital](http://www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/capital)

**For further information about Capacitybuilders please contact:**Jane Batchelor, Head of Communications, 0121 237 5100 or 07920 726522  
or visit the website: [www.capacitybuilders.org.uk](http://www.capacitybuilders.org.uk)

## **Grant recipients**

### **Blackburn with Darwen Community and Voluntary Service**

**Grant - £500,000**

Blackburn with Darwen CVS currently operates from 3 different locations, with each centre carrying out different areas of work. This project involves bringing the former Star & Garter Public House back into use and creating 1063m<sup>2</sup> of usable space to support local voluntary and community groups. The centre will have space for co-located services for children and young people (this includes a day centre and night shelter), hot desk, meeting and interview space, managed office space and conference and training facilities. The CVS's resource and equipment library will be housed in the centre.

#### **For further information about Blackburn with Darwen CVS please contact:**

Garth Hodgkinson, Chief Executive on 01254 583957 or [garth.hodgkinson@bwdcvs.org.uk](mailto:garth.hodgkinson@bwdcvs.org.uk) or visit the website: [www.bwdcvs.org.uk](http://www.bwdcvs.org.uk)

### **Coast and Moors Voluntary Action**

**Grant - £500,000**

The proposed project includes the purchase of land and the construction of a new, flexible, propose built community resource hub. The centre will offer high quality work space, supported by shared spaces (meeting rooms, hot desks virtual office solutions). It will enable Coast and Moors Voluntary Action to increase the infrastructure services that they offers, whilst being environmentally sustainable with excellent access provisions.

### **Slough Council for Voluntary Service**

**Grant award - £500,000**

Slough CVS promotes any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community, in particular the advancement of education, health, relief of poverty, distress and sickness and to promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of their purpose. They also help people who want to start a voluntary group or who want to see their existing group develop its work, get funds or undertake new services. The organisation is the accountable body for the local ChangeUp consortium.

This project is a ChangeUp initiative, and a partnership between the Slough CVS and Slough Borough Council. The project operates within the remit of a planned new build, the Thames Valley Community Centre. The building will be pivotal in the supply of quality office space to key VCS organisations, but also in the provision of meeting spaces and as a 'gathering point' for smaller organisations seeking advice, support or simply the means to plan their work more effectively.

The building overall will provide space in excess of 3,000M<sup>2</sup> of which 750M<sup>2</sup> will be assigned on a long lease to the VCS. The building will be designed and constructed, with 'iconic' qualities which will attract the attention and confidence of the surrounding community. More important will be what is happening inside the building, to a very high standard in terms of strategic intent, community engagement and community anchors programme delivery.

### **Gateshead Citizens Advice Bureau**

**Grant - £490,000**

Gateshead Citizens Advice Bureau aims to ensure that individuals do not suffer through lack of knowledge or their rights and responsibilities or of the services available to them, of through an inability to express their need effectively and equally. They offer free, confidential and impartial advice.

The project involves the development of a new purpose built premises. Funding for the first two floors of the building has already been secured; this space will house Gateshead CAB. Capacitybuilders' grant will go towards the development of 'The Elevator', third and fourth floors of the building. The third floor will house the Resource Centre, where third sector groups will be able to access services and support, and provide workspace. The fourth floor will house incubation space, a conference centre and further workspace.