



Press Release

16 February 2010

Capacitybuilders award £500,000 to Slough Council for Voluntary Service for major development of local resource centre

With funding of £500,000 from national agency Capacitybuilders, Slough Council for Voluntary Service is working in partnership with Slough Borough Council to build the Thames Valley Community Centre – vastly improving the provision of support and facilities available to a wide range of local voluntary groups based in the surrounding community.

The building will be pivotal in the supply of quality office space to key VCS organisations, as well as the provision of meeting spaces. It will also create a much needed '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 3,000m² of which 750m² will be assigned on a long lease to the local voluntary and community sector.

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, Coordinator, Warren Feagins said:

“This is a fantastic boost for the VCS in Slough. For several years now the voluntary sector has been trying to develop a resource centre in partnership with Slough Borough Council, and it has been a priority in our ChangeUp planning. This grant will turn the planning into a reality.”

Kat Pearce, Regional Manager for the South East 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

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

For further information about Capacitybuilders please contact:

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or visit the website: www.capacitybuilders.org.uk

Grant recipients

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 3,000M² of which 750M² 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.

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.

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Grant - £500,000

Blackburn with Darwen CVS operates from 3 different centres, with each centre carrying out different areas of work. This project involves refurbishing and upgrading one of these 3 centres with the addition of a fourth floor, thus increasing the usable space for Third Sector Organisations by 1063m². 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.

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.