

Sutton Centre for the Voluntary Sector (SCVS) Background Information

Sutton Centre for the Voluntary Sector (SCVS) is a well-respected local infrastructure organisation which has been supporting the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in the London Borough of Sutton for over 50 years. SCVS has good working relationships with its 300 member organisations who operate across all areas of community life, but predominantly in health and social care. The VCS in Sutton is mainly made up of well-established local organisations or branches of national charities. There are a number of effective partnerships between voluntary organisations (some of which include SCVS), and a voluntary sector consortium (Sutton Together) which was established in 2014 now delivers five significant public sector contracts.

SCVS has enjoyed a good relationship with the London Borough of Sutton (LBS) since it was established, and has always received some financial support from the local authority. The strength of the partnership is demonstrated by the fact that the Sutton Compact won national awards in 2013 and 2014 and was shortlisted again in 2015. The relationship with the NHS is less well developed.

The organisation also works as part of a wider partnership, the South London CVS Partnership (SLCVSP), with the five other South London CVSs (Bromley, Croydon, Merton, Kingston and Richmond).

The current SCVS Strategic Plan (2014/17) has five strategic aims.

1. Ensuring the voluntary sector in Sutton is robust, resilient and sustainable.
2. Improving the skills and capacity of the voluntary sector in Sutton to evidence and respond effectively to local need.
3. Promoting and supporting joint working to achieve efficiencies and better service outcomes.
4. To enable the voluntary sector to effectively influence and shape local decision making.
5. To develop SCVS as a highly effective, sustainable infrastructure organisation.

The strategic aims are achieved through the delivery of a range of services which include providing information and advice, facilitating networks, delivering training, offering organisational development support, building partnerships, enabling voluntary and community organisations to influence local decision-making, and promoting and

championing the voluntary sector. Full details of all the services provided are set out in the attached membership leaflet.

SCVS also runs a payroll service (CPS Ltd) for the voluntary sector and small businesses in Sutton and beyond, this was established as a trading arm of the main charity in 2010. In addition SCVS currently provides the support service for Sutton Healthwatch (and has done so since 2013).

The services are delivered by twelve experienced staff (9.8 w.t.e.) many of whom have been working for the organisation for a number of years.

SCVS holds the PQASSO Quality Award (Level 2) and the NAVCA (National Association of Voluntary and Community Action) Quality Award, demonstrating high standards in service delivery and internal systems and processes.

The organisation is in the second year of a four year contract with the local authority to provide infrastructure support and capacity building services to the VCS in Sutton, a joint contract with the Volunteer Centre Sutton and four other local organisations. This contract provides core funding for the organisation and there is some additional income from grants. SCVS has also successfully built up income from trading (principally through CPS Ltd and community accountancy services) and this now makes up just over 30% of the funding coming into the organisation, with significant potential to grow this further.

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