

1. Name of SOA case study
Development of the Scottish Borders Third Sector “A Framework for Development and Action”, aligning to the Borders SOA
2. What was the local need addressed by this SOA case study?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Lack of awareness and understanding of the wide breadth and scope of work undertaken by the many hundreds of organisations in the Voluntary and Community Sector and the collective impact they make to the communities, economy and environment in the Scottish Borders.○ The Framework will unite the many organisations within the Borders Third (Voluntary and Community) Sector and articulate who they are, what they do and the contribution they make to the area’s strategic development priorities as detailed in the Single Outcome Agreement and act as a vital springboard and foundation to greater co-operation and partnership activity between the Third, Public and Private sectors as well as acting as a useful guide and directory for customers and the general public.
3. What was done – and by which partners?
<p>Through the Voluntary Sector Liaison Group (VSLG), a forum of voluntary sector forums, extensive work has been undertaken to produce the framework that aligns with the Borders SOA 2009/10.</p> <p>The work was co-ordinated by officers from the local CVS (The Bridge) and Volunteer Centre (Volunteer Centre Borders) and overseen by a Working Group comprising members from the local Social Enterprise Chamber, Voluntary Community Care Forum and the Specialist Voluntary Youth Provider Network.</p> <p>A series of drafts was produced for consultation and discussion by the VSLG members and Community Planning partners with the final draft agreed in September 2009. Printing of the Framework is now taking place (September 2009).</p>

4. What is the evidence of the benefits for communities – or if the benefits are still to be delivered, what is the timeline for that?

The document and the process used to deliver it has further united the many diverse organisations within the Borders Third Sector as well as articulating the role the various members play, both now and in the future. This enables communities to see what is being offered by the Third Sector and also to identify gaps in provision. The Framework is being heralded by officials in the public sector, elected representatives, MSP's and many others as an extremely valuable initiative encapsulating quality principles of collaboration and partnership working and giving clarity about the Third Sector's contribution to the Scottish Borders communities.

The Framework is providing a basis for productive ongoing relationships within the Third Sector and with Community Planning partners. The improved understanding created will lead to more focussed outcomes which reflect the needs and issues of the Third Sector and Scottish Borders communities. The articulation of these improved outcomes within the SOA will provide a measure of the success and the benefits to communities.

5. What added value has the SOA process brought to the delivery of these benefits?

The SOA process has focussed the wider voluntary sector on the contribution it makes to outcomes for people in the Scottish Borders. By mapping current voluntary sector activity across the various outcomes in the Borders SOA, the VSLG has been able to see not only the breadth of its activity but where gaps exist and where there is potential for new projects, initiatives, partnership working etc.

By using the SOA as the basis for the framework, the VSLG has also begun to focus on outcome indicators which will ensure that the contribution of the voluntary sector is measurable and easily demonstrated. The Voluntary Sector believes that the ability to demonstrate this value is essential as public sector budgets tighten and statutory service providers look to the sector to explore alternative, best value ways to deliver services within communities.

6. What next steps are you taking to meet this local need?

The priority actions in the Framework will be carried out by members of the VSLG and Infrastructure support organisations. This includes the formation of a strong 'Interface' which will take forward the Third Sector issues as identified in the Framework through Community Planning partnership groups. The Framework will lead to improved understanding of the Third Sector and its contribution which will lead to more focussed outcomes which reflect the needs and issues of the Third Sector and Scottish Borders communities. The articulation of these improved outcomes within the SOA will provide a measure of success.

The Contribution of the Third Sector to the SOA will be updated annually and the wider Framework after 3 years.	
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