

Third Sector Services Prospectus & Information



research
development
evaluation
policy
for the third sector
and social economy

INTRODUCTION

The rapidly changing environment in which voluntary and community organisations and the wider not-for-profit sector operates continues to have far-reaching implications.

Increasingly, VCOs and social enterprises are seeking to develop services and activities that respond to and reflect national or local policy but do so in a practical and deliverable way. They are under pressure to respond to an emerging 'civic society' agenda which puts them at the heart of the coalition government's plans for strengthening communities, while at the same time having to develop new business models to safeguard their sustainability and future operation. These circumstances put practical and informed research, development, analysis and support services at a premium. Third Sector Services has developed a strong reputation amongst clients for providing services which meet these needs.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Alun has over twenty years' experience in the social enterprise and voluntary sectors and has been trading as an independent freelance consultant since 1997 – first as The Phoenix Partnership and since 2000 as Third Sector Services.

He has worked in social enterprise and co-operative development organisations and also has almost twenty years' experience in the retail sector.

His work reflects a detailed understanding of the political and policy expectations which increasingly have an impact on the third sector, but is also grounded in a practical understanding of the opportunities and constraints the sector faces.

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SPECIFIC AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Alun works primarily with third sector organisations, including charities, VCOs, social enterprises, business support organisations, intermediaries, and strategic bodies. A particular area of interest and expertise is social enterprise and especially the wider implications of social enterprise business models for the voluntary and community sector. Alun’s services include:

- **Policy** – developing appropriate responses to national, regional and local policy
- **Projects** – feasibility and market research, options appraisals, project design and development, business planning and strategic planning
- **Evaluation** – a wide range of evaluation services, including project and programme evaluation, and assessment of grant applications
- **Research** – feasibility research, market analysis, options appraisals, social policy research and reporting
- **Reporting** – all forms of reporting, including writing and editorial support on a wide range of projects, publications and briefing materials

EXAMPLES OF CLIENTS & COMMISSIONS

Client	Commission
LEARN:WM (an initiative of G:up – Growing Up in the West Midlands)	Evaluation of the partnership development and partner engagement processes of this Natinal Council for Voluntary Youth Szervices-funded project (via the Catalyst Training Partnerships).
Growing Stronger Grassroots Voluntary & Community Organisations (Birmingham)	End of programme evaluation of this £800K+ BIG Lottery (Basis) funded project – commissioned by Castle Vale TRA, the lead body for the project.
G:XL (G:up – Growing Up in the West Midlands)	Review of the G:XL tendering and commissioning processes, including extensive partner interviewing.
VCS Matters	360 degree evaluation of the VCS Matters programme, commissioned jointly by BVSC (the programme accountable body) and VCS Matters’ Officers

BVSC / Birmingham ChangeUP Consortium	Research, development and drafting of The Third Flourishing Third Sector Delivery Plan to sit as one of the approved LAA Delivery Plans
BVSC / Birmingham ChangeUP Consortium	Joint work with BVSC/Birmingham ChangeUP Consortium and a writing group to develop overall design for Be Birmingham's <i>Social Capital Development Programme</i> , a £6m spend programme approved by Be Birmingham Executive Board 25/06/09
Centre for Community Research	Commissioning and the third sector: a review of policy development, practice and impact. A literature review and analysis as part of a research team assembled by CfCR
Third Sector Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First evaluation of the development and progress of Birmingham's emerging Third Sector Assembly • Second review and assessment of development options for the Assembly (July 2010)
BVSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refresh of the Birmingham Volunteering Strategy (July 2010) • Development of a new Sport Volunteering Strategy for Birmingham, commissioned jointly by BVSC and the Birmingham Sport & Physical Activity Partnership
RNIB West Midlands	Feasibility research and options appraisal for a new service-user centre for blind and partially sighted people
BVSC & Birmingham Health & Wellbeing Partnership	Development of £1.6m Birmingham component (bWell Birmingham) in regional 'portfolio' bid to Big Lottery Fund Wellbeing Programme (Living Well in the West Midlands).
iSE	Evaluation of the Be Birmingham-funded 'Market Makers' project, a programme of specialist business support for social enterprises seeking to enter new markets.
Think Venue	Evaluation of the <i>Think Venue, Think Third Sector</i> co-operative venture for marketing third sector venues (development funded by the Environment Agency and theBe Birmingham Social Enterprise Growth & Innovation Fund).
brap (formerly Birmingham Race Action Partnership)	Numerous reports, briefing and issues papers on a range of race equality and related policy issues; associate role in national research programmes including for the Finance Hub, the Performance Hub, Macmillan Cancer Care, Equality & Human Rights Commission, BIG Lottery/Basis and many more.

Birmingham & Solihull Social Economy Consortium	Continuing contract to provide this consortium of 23 agencies with support, strategic development and a secretariat service (ongoing for 10 years).
BVSC / Birmingham TLI Partnership	Research, support and writing (with the BVSC chief executive) of Birmingham's successful £600K bid to the government's <i>Transforming Local Infrastructure</i> fund.

Further examples of specific commissions and client references available on request.

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