

May 2010

Dear Colleague

Alliance incorporation

Thank you once again for your positive and detailed response to the incorporation proposals.

I am now in a position to address the points which you raise.

Consultation timescale

I appreciate that the timescale to return comments about the detail of the incorporation proposals may be viewed as relatively short.

I think it is important to mention that incorporation has been discussed by The Alliance Steering Group since the beginning of 2009.

Broad information about the intention to seek incorporation was outlined on The Alliance website, and in its ebulletin, as early as December 2009, and repeated in March 2010. Overall I think there has been ample opportunity for organisations and individuals to seek to shape the incorporation proposals.

Membership

I can report that one category of membership has been amended in the light of consultation feedback received. The text of the 'Representative & umbrella organisations' category now reads "*Organisations **whose purpose includes providing representation and/or support at a strategic level for other organisations working with children and young people***".

I can confirm that there is no intention to 'target' membership and the reference to registered and excepted charities does not restrict membership. I can also confirm that Hampshire County Council will have no role in deciding who will be eligible for membership of an incorporated Alliance. The reference to **the highest management level** applies only in the narrow and specific context of local branches of national and regional organisations and is designed to ensure a balance between the influence of these organisations and the local voluntary sector in Hampshire.

The Alliance Steering group believes that with the above amendment the membership categories are fully inclusive of voluntary sector children and young people's organisations (including Hampshire branches of national and regional children and young people's voluntary organisations) and relevant representative and umbrella organisations.

Membership Fees

In view of the comments made on this issue, the steering group has decided that membership of The Alliance will initially be free. The Articles of Association provide for The Alliance Board to re-visit the issue of fees which will, of course, involve full consultation and input from members.

Contracts

Judging from the feedback received I think that the reference to this in the consultation documents has been taken largely out of context. It was mainly meant to illustrate the difference between an incorporated Alliance, and its current status as a network with no legal identity and no entitlement to hold funds or enter into contracts, including contracts of employment.

That is not to say that The Alliance will not in future look at bidding for contracts which are appropriate to and consistent with its objectives. However, the members of an incorporated Alliance will be able to influence any decisions in this context through their representatives on the Board.

Governance

You raise some interesting points about effective governance and I think The Alliance Steering Group will wish to consider these further.

Roles

You raise the role of The Alliance in relation to Hampshire Council for Voluntary Youth Service, Youth Clubs Hampshire & Isle of Wight, Community Action Hampshire and the Councils for Voluntary Service. Naturally I can only express an opinion on behalf of The Alliance.

I do not believe there is any conflict between the role of The Alliance and that of the organisations mentioned above, and that an agreed working protocol is the way of addressing any danger of duplication.

You are right to point to the scope for The Alliance and the Councils for Voluntary Service (CVS) to work collaboratively to support locality based partnership working and the role of the third sector in this. The Alliance will be in contact with the new CVS representative on the Alliance Steering Group to open a dialogue around this.

Local Children's Partnerships

Some consultation respondents have raised the quite separate issue of representation on the new Local Children's Partnerships (LCPs) and I want to clarify The Alliance position in this respect.

Incorporation has been discussed by The Alliance Steering Group since early 2009 and its apparent convergence with the development of representation of the children and young people's voluntary sector on LCPs is purely coincidental.

In co-ordinating the process of partner organisation representation on the LCPs, Hampshire Children's Trust Board determined at its meeting in March 2010 that representation of the children and young people's voluntary sector should be managed by The Alliance. This is reflective of the remit and standing of The Alliance in representing the children and young people's voluntary sector at a strategic level in Hampshire, and is endorsed by the Director of Children's Services.

I hope I have adequately addressed the points which you raised. If you require further clarification on any point please do contact me.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

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