

Dear Colleague

As a CEO of a Wirral Wide organisation which delivers services to the community and is in receipt of some public sector funding, I am writing to invite you to become part of the Chief Officers' Group (COG).

Although the group was set up some years ago with a very specific remit, the existing members would like to extend the membership, with the original members becoming the 'working group' in order for preparation and work to be carried out between quarterly meetings. The general criteria for the extended membership is that you:

- are a CEO or General Manager
- have a Wirral Wide remit
- have strategic responsibility
- are a service provider

The COG will meet quarterly and the terms of reference include:

- To provide a vehicle for Chief Officers and, therefore, key strategic partners, of the third sector providers to come together to share information, support and influence future policy and strategy
- To speak with one informed voice
- To provide an effective link between the third sector providers and the private and public sectors
- To act as a consultative body, receive and input into future appropriate strategies of public sector partners
- To participate in planning draft strategies, for example commissioning and tendering, comprehensive engagement etc
- To support the public sector in the work around health and social care, advise if appropriate on issues including mental health, housing and other big topics
- To help to identify development needs within the third sector

The government budget cuts and the effect of them on the local public sector and therefore on our sectors, is of course, a concern to us all. Therefore, the working group of the Chief Officers' Group (COG) would like to invite you to attend a Consultation Event surrounding the public sector budget cuts which will have an impact on the third sector.

This event will take place on Wednesday 22 September 2010 at 3.00 pm (venue to be confirmed) and will be an opportunity to discuss the cuts with other CEOs and explore possible ways of working collaboratively, as

well as forming a 'one voice' approach. The aim would be to try to influence the decision-makers before the final decisions are made.

We have put together a framework which the consultation event will be based around. The framework and information from the consultation event will form the basis of a report which will be presented to the CEOs of the public sector.

Please complete the attached questionnaire and send it back to Charlotte Bevan so that the information can be collated and a report prepared before the Consultation Event. The deadline for the questionnaires to be sent back is Friday 13 August. The questionnaire is not long and should only take 10 or 15 minutes for you to complete.

Please indicate to Charlotte Bevan whether or not you wish to be included in the membership of the COG. If you wish to be kept updated of events and included in information sharing, but do not wish to be an 'active' member, then please let Charlotte know on 0151 513 8259 or email at charlotte.bevan@vcawirral.org.uk.

With best regards

Annette

Annette Roberts
Chief Executive
Voluntary & Community Action Wirral