

## Voluntary Sector Studies Network: First Annual General Meeting

Held at Open University Business School, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2004 at 12.30pm

**Present:** 21 members and other persons interested. Peter Halfpenny in the chair.

1. **Apologies:** Received from Helen Cameron (Oxford Brookes); Julie Charlesworth (Open); Chris Cornforth (Open); Kevin Curley (NACVS); Patricia Green (Wolverhampton); Jenny Harrow (City); Alison Penn (Consultant); Duncan Scott (Manchester); Greg Smith (UEL); Catherine Walker (CAF); Meta Zimmeck (Home Office).
2. **Minutes:** of inaugural meeting held on 21 May 2003 were formally approved
3. **Matters arising:**
  - a) **Amendment to constitution:** in response to objections to the wording in clause H2 it was agreed to amend this by deleting the words 'mental disorder'.
  - b) Peter Halfpenny stated that he had followed up his promise to e-mail the discussion list about the ESRC programme.
4. **To receive Annual Report:** Gareth Morgan outlined the contents of this.
5. **Chair's Remarks:** Peter Halfpenny reported on the achievements of the steering committee since the inaugural meeting. The organisation now had 90 signed up members and over 60 entries in the directory of members' work. The bi-annual one-day meetings continue successfully with events in Birmingham in Nov 2003 and Manchester 2004. We collaborated with NCVO for the first time to jointly run the Research Conference and Jeremy Kendall and Gareth Morgan were thanked for their work on this. We are now working with NCVO on the next conference in summer 2005. A key issue is how to build the successful New Researchers Conference as part of this. A logo and brand image has been developed, thanks to a volunteer designer. The VSSN website was launched at the conference. Thanks to Nick Plant for his work developing this. The Steering Group has met three times over the period of the report and a key issue is how to develop the organisation particularly with the limited resource of just eight Steering Group Members.

Margaret Harris asked to hear more about the Steering Committee's decision to become involved in the NCVO Research Conference. The Chair replied that we wanted to take a pragmatic approach. If the NCVO conference had not existed then we would obviously be talking about setting one up. It made sense therefore to seek to work with what already existed. Nothing changes our commitment to drive up the quality of research and support for researchers.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Gareth Morgan reported that there was £221.65 in hand at 31 July 2004 and we had received donations of £193.50 from members. The meeting approved the accounts.
7. **Election of Steering Committee:** Seven nominations had been received for eight elected places:
  - o Helen Cameron, Oxford Brookes University
  - o Peter Halfpenny University of Manchester
  - o Jeremy Kendall, London School of Economics
  - o Gareth Morgan Sheffield Hallam University
  - o Jill Mordaunt, Open University
  - o Nick Plant University of West of England
  - o Duncan Scott, University of Manchester

These nominations were approved unanimously. The Chair explained that we would like to expand the Steering Group to 10 using co-options and he was given authority to explore how to achieve this.
8. **AOB:** Peter Alcock asked for the disappointment of the meeting with the outcome of the ESRC NonGovernmental Public Action Programme final call to be minuted. It was extremely disappointing that the UK voluntary sector had effectively been excluded from full participation in this. The meeting concurred.