



Impact Report 2008–09



Chair's Report

I would like to thank the staff and volunteers for their hard work and enthusiasm throughout 2008-9 and my colleagues on the Board for their support and commitment.

The need to provide support to voluntary, community and faith organisations and to help the development of a strong sector remains vital. The country's financial crisis has put pressure on the local voluntary and community sector with increased demand for services at a time when resources are more difficult to access. During the year we have sought to help groups through the recession, making it the keynote topic at our last Annual Meeting.

There has been continuing good work and great achieve-

ments in all areas of MVSC's activities, despite the national economic situation, as this report demonstrates.

Partnership with public bodies has been a theme of this year's work. MVSC has contributed to the Council's Third Sector Review which will lead to changes in policy and practice in relationships with the voluntary and community sector, building on the success of the award-winning Local Compact.

One area of development has been procedures for commissioning services, where we have been working with the Children's Trust to ensure the voluntary sector is fully involved at all stages. We continue to work in a variety of other ways to encourage interaction between the community and

the public sector. The Local Involvement Network, hosted by MVSC, has been successfully established this year and the Community Engagement Network continues to have active representation on local partnership bodies.

Partnership work and representation are key functions of a CVS, along with practical support, networking and development work and I hope you will read this report to learn more about the range of work done in 2008-09.



**Lola Barrett,
Chair of Trustees**

Practical support to groups

MVSC provides voluntary, community and faith groups with a wide range of support and practical services.

These include:

- information and advice;
- Merton Connected, our community website and online database;
- weekly ebulletins and mailings;
- directory of community organisations;
- full training programme on issues of importance to the sector such as management, fundraising, and service delivery;
- practical support such as equipment loan, information resources, access to computers, printers, copiers and the internet.

Highlights of the year included:

- redeveloping a new and improved version of our community website, Merton Connected, making it even easier for local groups to access information, keep up to date with news and opportunities, and take advantage of free web-space;
- delivering programmes of training on financial management, tendering and commissioning, working with children and young people, governance, and operational management;
- introducing a service providing small groups with low cost independent examination of accounts.



Joint working and community engagement

MVSC brings the voluntary, community and faith sector together to enable its voice to be heard by the public and private sectors, to exchange information and to facilitate joint working. MVSC continues to support community engagement by facilitating a number of networks such as INVOLVE (our community engagement network), the Merton Community Policing Partnership and the Merton Youth Partnership Forum and providing other opportunities for involvement.

Highlights of the year included:

- winning the contract to host Merton's Local Involvement Network, a new initiative which gives the community a voice in the development of local health and social care services. A manager

was appointed and a steering group established to take the work forward;

- undertaking a major research project, mapping the contribution of the sector to the achievement of the Local Area Agreement targets – results were published in 2009;
- supporting the new Merton Community Policing Partnership which enables the local community to be informed and consulted on a wide range of policing and community safety issues;
- holding the initial meeting of the Children's Forum;
- appointing a Communications Officer for the first time to support this important area of our work.

Development

MVSC identifies unmet needs and initiates action to meet these needs. It helps build the capacity of new and existing groups and supports them in developing new services. MVSC has a large Development Team, reflecting the priority given to this aspect of our work, including a generic Development Worker and specialists for Youth Groups, Play Development and a Community Accountant.

Highlights of the year included:

- the ChangeUp Consortium, involving MVSC, Volunteer Centre Merton and Merton Unity Network, delivered a joint training programme with over 15 courses to local groups;
- MVSC, in partnership with Adult Education and

the Learning and Skills Council, administered the Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities Grants Programme for groups to access small grants towards equipment and refurbishment of premises for learning opportunities;

- over 100 organisations were given in-depth developmental support and over 500 received regular information about training, funding opportunities and other matters to aid their overall development;
- MVSC was commissioned to publicise and manage the application process for Grassroots Grants.

Strategic partnerships

MVSC takes a lead role in partnerships with the public and private sector in Merton and externally, representing the voluntary, community and faith sector's interests. MVSC also promotes, facilitates and supports representation from the voluntary and community sector on partnership bodies, including the Merton Partnership Board, the key strategic planning group for the borough. Our Chair represents MVSC on this Board and MVSC continues to be part of the Merton Compact Steering Group, which oversees the implementation of the local agreement on relationships between the VCS and the public sector.

Highlights of the year included:

- participating in the LBM Third Sector Review, representing the views of the sector on how improvements could be made in Council policies and procedures in relation to voluntary and community organisations;
- working with the Children's Trust to introduce innovative procedures for jointly commissioning services for children, young people and families;
- continuing to work with neighbouring Councils for Voluntary Service through the South London CVS Partnership, which this year was incorporated as a registered charity and company limited by guarantee.

Setting standards

Underlying all MVSC's work is a commitment to setting and raising standards in the voluntary and community sector. We seek to be an example of best practice in management and delivery of services and to support others to achieve recognised quality standards.

Highlights of the year included:

- designing a monitoring tool for Merton Council to use with funded voluntary and community groups, which was piloted during the year and will be rolled out across all departments for the grants round on 2010-11;
- providing Outcomes training to members of the Federation of Community Associations, to enable them to monitor and dem-

onstrate the quality of their services;

- mentoring the other CVS in the South London CVS Partnership during the process of achieving the Quality Award from NAVCA, our national body. (MVSC was one of the first six to win this award in 2006.)

Summarised accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009

Statement of Directors

These summarised accounts are an extract from the statutory annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009. The accounts were approved by the directors of Merton Voluntary Service Council Limited on 23 October 2009. The auditors have given a full and unqualified report on the accounts; their report was dated 3 November 2009. Copies of the accounts and the annual report will be submitted to the Charity Commission and Companies House. These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to gain a complete understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. Full accounts are obtainable from Merton Voluntary Service Council Limited, The Vestry Hall, London Road, Mitcham CR4 3UD.



Lola Barrett
Director

3 November 2009

Independent Auditors' Statement to the Directors of Merton Voluntary Service Council (a company limited by guarantee)

We have examined the summarised financial statements set out opposite.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

You are responsible as directors for the preparation of the summary financial statements. We have agreed to report to you our opinion of the summarised statements' consistency with the full financial statements, on which we reported to you on 3 November 2009.

Basis of opinion

We have carried out the procedures we consider necessary to ascertain whether the summarised financial statements

are consistent with the full financial statements from which they have been prepared.

Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2009.



Hartley Fowler LLP
Statutory Auditors
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor, Tuition House
27/37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
SW19 4EU

3 November 2009

Summarised accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009

	Unrestricted Funds 2009 (£)	Restricted Funds 2009 (£)	Total Funds 2009 (£)	Total Funds 2008 (£)
Incoming Resources				
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds				
Voluntary Income	102,996	-	102,996	102,046
Investment Income	14,121	-	14,121	16,631
Total Generated Funds	117,117	-	117,117	118,677
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities				
Grants	126,593	638,439	765,032	750,379
Photocopying and other Trading Income	6,317	-	6,317	7,445
Other	10,610	14,473	25,083	16,598
Total Charitable Activities	143,520	652,912	796,432	774,422
Total Incoming Resources	260,637	652,912	913,549	893,099
Resources Expended				
Charitable Expenditure	234,389	665,145	899,534	885,083
Governance Costs	29,599	-	29,599	28,750
Total Resources Expended	263,988	665,145	929,133	913,833
Net Incoming Resources for the Period	(3,351)	(12,233)	(15,584)	(20,734)
Transfer and Repayment of Funds	-	-	-	-
Net Movement in Funds	(3,351)	(12,233)	(15,584)	(20,734)
Fund Balances c/f at 1 April 2008	212,032	27,678	239,710	260,444
Fund Balances carried forward at 31 March 2009	208,681	15,445	224,126	239,710
Balance Sheet				
Tangible Fixed Assets			-	953
Bank Deposits and Debtors			389,377	521,421
Creditors and Deferred Income			(165,251)	(282,664)
Net Assets			224,126	239,710
MVSC General Funds			128,681	132,032
MVSC Designated Funds			80,000	80,000
Funds Restricted to Projects			15,445	27,678
Total Funds			224,126	239,710

Staff team

Chris Frost, *Director*
Morag Plank, *Deputy Director*
Kacie Ashford (until Oct 08), *Office Junior*
Beverley Burton, *Development Worker*
Shirley Chittock (until Oct 08), *Web Manager*
Shirleen Clarke (until Sept 08), *Bookkeeper*
Marilyn Davis, *Office Manager*
Justin Denny (from Nov 08), *Office Assistant*
Faiza Fakhrudin (from Nov 08), *Admin /Bookkeeper*
David Hobday, *Head of Community Engagement and Partnerships*
Tesfai Meresse, *Community Accountant*
Rob Mobile, *Youth Groups Development Worker*
Marcus Otite, *ICT Development Worker*
Marian Radford (from Aug 08), *LiNK Network Manager*
Stephen Troussé (from Jan 09), *Communications Officer*
Kate White, *ICT Support Manager*
Bekir Yusuf, *Play Development Worker*

President

Shirley Higgins

Board of Trustees

Lola Barrett, *Chair*
Alec Botten, *Vice Chair*
Russell Humphreys, *Treasurer*
Helen Binnie, Slim Flegg, Ray Hautot, Muriel Martin, Fosuah Poku, Tom Walsh

MVSC would like to express thanks to the following for their support during the year:

Capacitybuilders
Children's Workforce Development Council
City Bridge Trust
London Borough of Merton
London Councils
Merton Children's Trust
Merton Partnership
Metropolitan Police Authority
South London Connexions Partnership
South London CVS Partnership
Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust
Thames Community Foundation



Merton Voluntary Service Council

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Email: info@mvsc.co.uk Website: www.mertonconnected.com

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