



Growing our influence:

**A report of the Third Sector Assembly launches
10th & 11th July 2007**

Foreword

This short report provides an overview of the key issues identified during two discussion and consultation events held to launch the Third Sector Assembly Birmingham on the 10th and 11th July 2007.

The purpose of these events was not to launch a fully formed assembly, but rather to provide an opportunity for as many voluntary and community organisations as possible to come together to help shape what the assembly should be and what it should do. The events were about the sector working together to make the assembly a fully functioning reality.

I would like to thank the speakers, panellists, and facilitators, the participants from over 120 voluntary and community organisations, and the participants who kindly consented to feature in one or more of the podcast recordings we made over the two days and which are now live on the BVSC website.

The events left us with a lot to consider and emphasised just how much remains to be done to ensure that the Third Sector Assembly Birmingham thrives.

As well as reflecting the discussion during the two events, this report also summarises the key issues which will have to be taken into consideration in developing the assembly and explains the next steps we will be taking on behalf of the sector to ensure that the Third Sector Assembly Birmingham becomes a fully functioning reality.

Brian Carr
Chief Executive
BVSC

September 2007

1.0 ‘THIRD SECTOR ASSEMBLY BIRMINGHAM’ – WHAT IS IT AND WHERE DID THE IDEA COME FROM?

In 2001/02, when initial consultation was being undertaken with the sector as part of developing the Voluntary Sector Compact, there was some suggestion that the sector needed a new and more robust structure that could better represent its views to policy-makers and public sector partners. Some felt this should be an annual conference; others argued for a new, improved version of the old Voluntary & Community Sector Forum that had gradually wound-down in the late-1990s.

While there was broad agreement that *something* was needed, it was probably too early to decide exactly what that ‘something’ should be.

With hindsight, it is evident that we were wise to defer a decision because the wider environment has changed dramatically since then. We have, for example, seen ‘working with the third sector’ become firmly embedded in the policies of all the main political parties and in the service delivery plans of all the key statutory agencies. And at the local level, this unprecedented emphasis on third sector involvement has been reinforced by the introduction of Local Area Agreements (LAAs), strategic partnerships and other local ‘governance’ structures, all of which place a premium on voluntary and community sector engagement. These profound shifts in public policy require an equally robust response from the third sector. The development of some kind of unifying third sector assembly body for Birmingham has become a necessity rather than an optional extra.

In 2006 BVSC commissioned initial research¹ to examine the feasibility of developing an assembly and this identified a positive response not only amongst many in the sector but also amongst public sector partners.

The research also identified that in other areas embryonic third sector assemblies were already being established.² While these emerging assemblies have all developed in slightly different circumstances they do share some common characteristics:

- They have paid staff
- They act as ‘hubs’ of existing networks
- They combine email briefings and conventional meetings (as a minimum) to promote and facilitate information-exchange and dialogue
- They all have terms of reference that govern their operation and a code of practice or similar for participants who “represent” the sector on other partnership bodies

¹ The Feasibility of Developing a Voluntary & Community Sector Assembly for Birmingham, Jean Cooper, Assembly Development Advisor, BVSC (n/d).

² Manchester (Community Network for Manchester), Gloucestershire (Assembly for the Voluntary & Community Sector), and London (Third Sector Alliance). Since that time the list of emerging third sector assemblies has been joined by Herefordshire (Voluntary Sector Assembly).

Looking at these other examples has been extremely useful in informing our own thinking.

Two other important messages from the feasibility research played a major part in shaping the launch events reported here. First, that Birmingham's Local Area Agreement could be used to drive development of an independent assembly but that it is vital that the assembly "develop organically and meet the sector's needs". And second, that the potential for sector ownership and buy-in would be significantly increased by ensuring the widest possible involvement "in the strategic development of the assembly" as well as in the detail of its operation.

It was against this backdrop that we began the early work of drafting a vision of what a Third Sector Assembly for Birmingham might look like.

What do we mean by 'assembly'?

The term 'assembly' means different things to different people, however, so it is worth taking a moment to set out our understanding of the term.

The Third Sector Assembly for Birmingham is intended as a sustainable, long-term network of voluntary and community organisations that offers a recognised focal point not just for public sector partners wishing to engage with the sector but also for the sector itself – a forum for discussion, information exchange, mutual support, decision-making, dialogue and co-ordination.

Birmingham has the largest and most diverse voluntary and community sector outside the capital but harnessing this diversity, expertise and undoubted influence remains a challenge. But just think of the gains if we can do this. We will be able to work collectively to champion the issues that matter to us and the communities we serve. We have infinitely stronger foundations on which to build sector partnerships and collaboration. We will be able to dramatically improve communication and access to information. We will have a platform that offers the best chance for productive long-term relationships with our public sector partners.

But in order for the assembly to achieve these things it must of course be genuinely inclusive. It must also 'add value' – it must offer us something we don't already have; help us do better for the communities we serve; and enable us to play a more effective and influential part in shaping the wider development of the city.

The assembly should:

- Improve the quality of life of the people of Birmingham, including tackling disadvantage and inequalities.
- Ensure fair and effective partnership – both with public sector agencies and within the sector itself.
- Help build the diversity of Birmingham’s communities and third sector as a major strength of the city.

2.0 THE LAUNCH EVENTS: WHO CAME & WHAT THEY DID

The launches were conceived from the outset as opportunities for collaboration and dialogue, a chance to:

- Develop the assembly idea and look closely at its implications.
- Discuss the pros and cons of the assembly model and think about what it should – and shouldn't – attempt to do.
- Clarify its operational characteristics.
- Identify the priorities the assembly should focus on in the immediate future.
- And begin the process of working through the terms of reference and other operating details the assembly will need to have in place so that all of its stakeholders understand clearly what it is there for, what it can and can't do, and how and to whom it is accountable.

The first and largest event was held on the 10th July 2007 at Millennium Point; the second – an additional event that proved necessary in order to meet demand – was held at the Muath Trust on the 11th July. Both had a similar format – initial presentations by a panel of speakers followed by two sequences of break-out discussion groups addressing a series of pre-notified questions. The break-out discussions were recorded as podcasts and nineteen of these are available on the BVSC website.³ (A full list of speakers, panellists and podcast participants is included in Appendix 1.)

Who came and what they did

Over 120 organisations were represented at the events (see Appendix 2 for a full list of attendees and subsequent signatories). We asked participants to indicate their key areas of interest and activity in relation to the four 'block' themes of Birmingham's Local Area Agreement (LAA).⁴ These blocks are:

- Safer and Stronger Communities
- Children and Young People
- Healthier Communities and Older People
- Enterprise and Economic Development

³ <http://www.bvsc.org/assembly/assembly-launch-podcasts>

⁴ Birmingham Strategic Partnership and Birmingham City Council have negotiated a Local Area Agreement (LAA) with national government and Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM). Local Area Agreements are a 'deal' between local partners and national government under which the Government offers simplified funding and accountability arrangements – and the potential for new freedoms and flexibilities in how funding is used – in return for enhanced partnership and inter-agency working in delivering an agreed set of outcomes. These outcomes reflect national and local priorities. The objectives are to improve the outcomes offered by public services, to make better use of funding, and to develop innovative service delivery models. Birmingham's Local Area Agreement is intended to deliver important parts of *Taking Birmingham Forward*, the city's community strategy. The Birmingham Strategic Partnership is responsible for the Local Area Agreement.

The most popular ‘blocks’ proved to be Healthier Communities & Older People (76) and Children & Young People (71). (See Appendix 3 for a full profile of responses.)

The total number of organisations that have signed-up in support of the assembly’s principles currently stands at 116. (See Appendix 3.)

What we asked participants to do

We asked small, facilitated break-out groups to work together to address the following questions:

- a) Attitudes to the proposed Third Sector Assembly Birmingham.
- b) Assembly priorities for 2007/08.
- c) ‘Adding value’ and addressing sector needs.
- d) Key operational details:
 - A full annual Assembly meeting & effective communication
 - The kind of ‘block’ or thematic groups around which the assembly might be structured
 - Assembly ‘champions’

At each stage, feedback from the groups was recorded.

The next section summarises the key points made in the discussion groups.

3.0 WHAT PEOPLE SAID

This section provides an overview of the key points made in the break-out groups, summarised against each question heading the groups were asked to consider:

- a) Attitudes to the proposed Third Sector Assembly Birmingham.
- b) Assembly priorities for 2007/08.
- c) 'Adding value' and addressing sector needs.
- d) Key operational details:
 - A full annual Assembly meeting & effective communication
 - The kind of 'block' or thematic groups around which the assembly might be structured
 - Assembly 'champions'

A summary of the key issues that need to be considered as identified by the discussion groups is then drawn together in section 4.0.

3.1 Attitudes to the Proposed Third Sector Assembly for Birmingham

There was widespread support for the assembly concept and a broad consensus regarding its necessity.

There was also a degree of scepticism, however, and several participants spoke of approaching this in a spirit of "hope over scepticism", or "hope over cynicism". Nonetheless, the general mood suggested that most participants saw the assembly offering the best opportunity for the sector to raise its profile, increase and co-ordinate its influence in public policy, and contribute not just to the delivery of public services but also to the design and specification of those services.

Some, however, were reluctant to see the assembly shaped completely by a public sector agenda. The assembly "should help us to develop a language, an approach, that reflects the sector's values, priorities and operation," said one participant. This was a view echoed in various ways by many.

There was also a strong and consistent message that the assembly must not inadvertently marginalise or fail to support the involvement of smaller and grassroots organisations.

It was also clear that people want to see the assembly delivering something that is tangibly different and better to what has gone before. "It has to be a new way of doing things," said one participant, "not just more of the same but in nicer venues." Another said, "It would be a perverse outcome if the assembly ended up splitting the sector into 'insiders and outsiders'."

Inclusivity and ensuring appropriate levels and kinds of participation and involvement will be key to the assembly's success. There were also strong messages about:

- The need for the assembly to ensure that service-users' voices are heard.
- The need to reach out to and represent the views of local communities.
- The need to avoid over-complex structures, processes and language – accessibility is crucial.
- And the need to focus on achievable and clearly delineated priorities.

3.2 Assembly Priorities for 2007/08

A key part of the discussion concerned the priorities that the assembly should focus on during 2007/08. There was a very clear message that in order to avoid becoming swamped the assembly must make some sacrifices – it must prioritise the things that really matter and focus on those areas in which it will be best situated to make a real improvement. A view that also emerged during other parts of the discussion was the need for the assembly to have a number of strongly campaign-focused “big ideas”.

Five priority areas were identified:

- 1) **Commissioning and procurement:** There was a widespread view that commissioning and procurement should be a priority for the assembly but should not completely dominate its work. There was some difference of opinion on how this should be undertaken, however, with some seeing the assembly as the vehicle through which the reform of commissioning could be discussed with public sector partners and others seeing its main role as “supporting organisations to get involved in commissioning – especially those who are a long way back in the supply-chain”. But one or two saw the assembly taking a more active mediating role in procurement by offering some kind of “commissioning brokerage service”. This is clearly an area in which the assembly will need to be very clear about what it can and cannot do.
- 2) **Information and communication:** This emerged as one of the most intensively discussed issues. Participants emphasised that:
 - The assembly must be outward rather than inward looking.
 - The quality and relevance of the information the assembly provides for the sector will be vital in “keeping people on board” and convincing them of the value of the assembly. Will it be possible to “tailor information” to the needs of particular members or sectors?
 - An effective and inclusive communication strategy is vital to ensure that everyone who wants to be involved can be. It will also play a key role in preventing the assembly degenerating into a “self-elected elite”.

- Attention must be paid to language and accessibility, reflecting the diversity of the assembly’s audiences.
- 3) **Influencing policy:** While central to the assembly’s role, participants also emphasised that the assembly should also seek to influence service delivery, design and specification. There was a widely held view that the assembly must also deliver for service-users.
 - 4) **Developing an evidence base:** A key issue identified by many different speakers was the need for the assembly to prioritise the development of robust evidence that demonstrates the sector’s added value and service delivery achievements. Several participants identified the need for the assembly to form partnerships with appropriate academic institutions that might assist in this.
 - 5) **Terms of reference, governance, accountability:** Many participants highlighted the need for the assembly to move quickly in establishing clear terms of reference, governance and accountability. A number of different kinds of issues were picked out during discussion but the most important included:
 - Whether key positions will be decided by election or some other means (perhaps by interview).
 - Terms of reference for how the assembly operates will be necessary but so will “protocols” setting out what is expected of individuals and/or organisations that are reflecting the views of the assembly and/or the sector.
 - Some kind of steer will be necessary to spell out clearly the degree to which the assembly constitutes “the voice” of the sector.

3.3 ‘Adding Value’ & Addressing Sector Needs

Most participants emphasised the need for the assembly to add value to and reinforce the effectiveness of *what already exists* rather than seeking to replace existing structures.

There was a clear consensus that the assembly should act as a co-ordinating ‘hub’ for existing networks. This, as many participants emphasised, will require not only a comprehensive “mapping” of existing third sector networks but also some examination of their effectiveness, relationships and linkages.

In addition to cementing relationships with the public sector the assembly should also:

- Strengthen and build effective *third sector* partnerships, taking a lead role in developing the skills, capacity and trust necessary for greater collaboration and partnership within the sector.
- And also seek to strengthen links with the private sector.

The need for the assembly to also deliver benefits for, and ensure the participation of, “small”, “minority” and “grassroots” groups was repeatedly made. There were differing views, however, about how best this might be accomplished. While some saw the primary responsibility of the assembly to be that of ensuring a level playing field for the involvement of smaller grassroots groups, others saw it as having some form of capacity-building role with regard to small organisations. Some also saw it “levering in resources to assist smaller organisations”. Again, this emphasises the need for the assembly to be clear about the range of activities it can realistically accommodate.

A significant number of participants emphasised that the assembly has a vital role to play in improving not just the flow of sector information but also its quality and timeliness. There were a number of different takes on this issue, however, and these included:

- The assembly performing a “sector intelligence” role for the wider sector – i.e. developing and disseminating more specialised data and information about the sector.
- Offering a focus for identifying good sector practice both in Birmingham and elsewhere that can be documented and shared.
- Improving the flow and quality of information passing within and across the sector.
- Building an evidence base that demonstrates the sector’s added value and social/community benefits.

The point was also made that the assembly could play a key role in improving cohesion within and across the sector. One or two other speakers also emphasised that the assembly shouldn’t try to do everything: it should seek to strengthen and support *self-organising* in the sector, facilitating the connections and relationships between organisations rather than necessarily trying to undertake all of these relationships.

3.4 Key Operational Details

A full annual Assembly meeting & effective communication

While there was qualified support for an annual full assembly meeting, few felt this should be the *only* expression of the assembly’s work. Some feared that an annual meeting might ultimately prove “tokenistic”, a “PR moment” rather than an event of real consequence. Most participants also raised significant questions regarding the assembly’s:

- Decision-making
- Authority
- Accountability
- Governance
- Transparency
- Representation

A number of participants took the view that an annual full meeting would only be effective if it was sufficiently task-orientated, with clear reports-back on progress, achievements, outstanding tasks and priorities for the coming year.

Many participants talked about the need to develop not just “better quality experiences” from meetings but also to adopt new methods of meeting. Some, for example, spoke of creating useful “encounters” rather than formal meetings; others of “guerrilla” meetings that happen spontaneously or in the margins of other events or meetings. Overall, there was a strong movement in favour of approaching meetings much more creatively and flexibly.

Participants were equally concerned that the assembly should maximise the potential offered by IT, electronic communication and online networking to increase the options for participation. There were various suggestions:

- Systematic email briefings as an essential ‘baseline’ provision.
- The use of online bulletin boards, member forums and ‘email groups’.
- Exploring the potential for using the kind of social networking techniques pioneered by MySpace/FaceBook.
- An emphasis on the assembly as a “virtual network”.
- Efficient and effective use of IT to ensure that information is as “tailored” and as “timely” as possible – that people get information that matters to them, when they need it.

The kind of ‘block’ or thematic groups around which the assembly might be structured

While many saw the reasoning behind structuring the assembly along LAA ‘block’ lines, significant numbers also stressed that this should not be allowed to reinforce ‘silo thinking’ or fragmentation. There was a general feeling that broader cross-cutting themes that intersect all of the LAA ‘blocks’ could have an equal and in some cases greater relevance, particularly where these might ensure a greater voice for service-users, for example, and a greater emphasis on service quality.

While there was no clear consensus regarding the precise themes that the assembly should use to structure its work, participants were emphatic in wanting to see themes that reflect the sector’s values and priorities. This issue will need to be investigated further as part of BVSC’s continuing work plan, perhaps by examining the themes or topics adopted by other emerging assemblies.⁵

⁵ Herefordshire, for example, has representatives for the following: Access to Services, Chief Executives Group, Compact, Economic Development & Social Enterprise, Funding, Herefordshire Partnership Board, Learning, Performance & Management, and Volunteering.

Assembly ‘champions’

Opinion on the idea of assembly champions was divided. While there was qualified support for the idea, many queried their precise purpose and how they would be resourced, trained, supported and held accountable. The general feeling seemed to be that some further clarity is required regarding this role.

4.0 TAKING THE ASSEMBLY FORWARD: KEY ISSUES & NEXT STEPS

The lively and thoughtful discussion at the two launch events has been absolutely essential in helping focus on the key issues which will have to be carefully considered as the assembly is developed.

In 4.1, the key issues are drawn together under the original discussion headings.

4.2 outlines the next steps BVSC will be taking to develop the Third Sector Assembly for Birmingham.

4.1 Summary of Key Issues to Consider

What follows cannot, of course, be a completely exhaustive list of all of the issues identified, nor is it intended as such. Rather, the intention is to highlight those that have *developmental implications* that will need to be responded to.

Attitudes to the Proposed Third Sector Assembly for Birmingham

- a) The assembly should also be about empowering service-users, raising service delivery standards and improving the outcomes achieved by those services.
- b) How will the assembly reach out into local communities and neighbourhoods and represent these voices too?
- c) The assembly must also ensure that where necessary organisations can be assisted in order to maximise their involvement: this might involve training, mentoring and access to resources.
- d) The assembly must avoid stifling the creativity and enthusiasm of the sector with over-complex structures and over-formal and bureaucratic procedures.
- e) Its purpose, methods of operation, accountability and lines of authority and communication must be absolutely clear.
- f) While a necessary response to important changes in public sector policy, the assembly must balance this with representing the values of the sector “in the sector’s own terms”.
- g) The assembly should focus on a limited number of “big ideas” from a vigorous campaigning perspective – it shouldn’t just be a “talking shop”.

Assembly Priorities for 2007/08

Five priority areas should form the core of the assembly's immediate work plan:

- Commissioning and public purchasing
- Information and communication
- Influencing policy
- Developing an evidence base
- Terms of reference, governance, accountability

However, in some of these areas – commissioning, for instance – decisions will have to be made regarding how much the assembly can realistically do.

It will also be necessary for BVSC to make these development aims more widely known to the sector and also explain how they are going to be achieved.

The work plan must also include measures for strengthening sector ownership, awareness and understanding of the assembly.

'Adding Value' & Addressing Sector Needs

- a) The assembly must add value to and reinforce the effectiveness of existing networks and partnerships not seek to replace these. But this key strategic aim must also deliver benefits for and ensure the participation of small and grassroots groups.
- b) It will be necessary to develop a clear picture of existing networks – including their effectiveness and their relationship to other public and private sector partnerships. Several speakers also noted that the assembly might have to play some role in “rationalising” or “streamlining” existing networks if it becomes apparent that the city has too many small and/or fragmented networks than is useful.
- c) There is a huge information, intelligence and evidence role for the assembly. While this is one of the areas in which it could most significantly add value, further clarity is required to isolate particular aims/functions as part of planning its workloads and development milestones.
- d) Further clarity is also required regarding the assembly's role in respect of small and grassroots organisations. Can it realistically also offer capacity-building and seek to lever in additional resources to support these groups?

Key Operational Details

- a) **Meetings:** There is qualified support for an annual full assembly meeting but a very strong desire to see the assembly pioneer other kinds of meetings and decision-making methods that enable greater and more diverse participation. The aim should be to utilise methods and processes that do not require a disproportionate commitment of time. It is also important that any and all meetings should be “task-focused”, with clear actions and progress checking.
- b) **Governance:** Further clarity is required regarding the assembly’s decision-making, authority, accountability, governance, transparency and representation.
- c) **New methods of involvement/communication:** It is essential that the assembly pioneer new methods for sector involvement and communication, in particular maximising the potential offered by IT, electronic communication, bulletin boards and online networking.
- d) **Themes:** No clear consensus but a strong sense that cross-cutting themes that better capture the sector’s priorities and values are more important than simply reflecting the LAA ‘blocks’.
- e) **Champions:** Qualified support but further clarity required regarding purpose and how they would be resourced, trained, supported and held accountable.

4.2 Next Steps

The key tasks during the period September 2007 – March 2008 are as follows:

(a) Establishing the Assembly’s thematic networks

Developing the thematic networks that will underpin the Assembly’s work was a clear priority. Some networks are already up and running, while others – such as health – need focused work to grow and develop them.

- BVSC will develop a package of support to help grow the networks.

(b) Developing a communications strategy for the Assembly

Effective communication used creatively was a clear message from the launches:

- Email groups for the networks will be established as a matter of urgency.
- An Assembly website incorporating bulletin boards and policy briefings will be developed.
- The social networking website Facebook will be investigated for its possible applications. A 'how to get on Facebook' guide for the unfamiliar will be produced.

(c) Cross- cutting consultation

Consultation on critical cross-cutting issues was a clear priority:

- To commence this process there will be a wide-ranging consultation on Birmingham City Council's Day Services (community activities) at BVSC on the 23rd October 2007. This consultation process has been designed in collaboration with the Voluntary Sector Chief Executives Forum.

(d) Develop Assembly terms of reference & clarify governance

There is much to do in terms of developing the Assembly's terms of reference and governance. Two immediate tasks will be central to this:

- Is the Assembly's role 'reflection of views' or 'representation'? Arrive at a position statement on this.
- Investigate alternatives for the nomination of network members to strategic partnerships and other bodies.

The work will be directed by Candy Passmore, Policy and Communications Manager, BVSC.

APPENDIX 1

Speakers, panellists & podcasters

Speakers

Cllr Sue Anderson, Birmingham City Council
Brian Carr, BVSC
Maureen Connolly, Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid
Nick Booth, podnosh
Jackie Mould, Birmingham Strategic Partnership
Pauline Roche, Birmingham City Council
Jean Templeton, St Basil's

Panellists

John Grayland, Birmingham Health & Wellbeing Partnership
Jackie Mould, Birmingham Strategic Partnership
Elaine Russell, Ladywood Healthy living Centre
Tom Tierney, Children & Young People's Directorate, Birmingham City Council
Sophie Wilson, VCS Matters Strategy Group

Podcasters

Shameem Ahmed, West Midlands Police
Mohammed S. Al-Rahim, Freshwinds
Chris Bates, Birmingham Rathbone
Lorell Coleman, Shelter
Jean Cooper, BVSC Associate
Sarah Crawley, iSE
Mat Daniels, Sound It Out Community Music
Steve Dewar, Heartlands RSO
James Fitzpatrick, Digbeth Trust
Cheryl Garvey, BRAP
Theresa Gillard, BVSC
Jennifer Jones Rigby, Scarman Trust
Rob Legge, Birmingham Focus on Blindness
Peter Miller, Birmingham Association of Youth Clubs (BAYC)
Bridie Nugent, Irish Welfare and Information Centre
Candy Passmore, BVSC
Claire Rigby, Fairbridge West Midlands
Joy Warmington, BRAP
Hannah Worth, Birmingham Community Empowerment Network

APPENDIX 2

Full list of participating organisations

AB plus
Action for Blind People
Advocacy Matters
Afro-British Support Services "IMPACT"
Alzheimers Society
Anthony Collins Solicitors
Ashram Housing Association
Ashraya Cihhe
bayc
Bethel Health and Healing Network
BID Services with Deaf People
Big Lottery Fund
Birmingham & Solihull Social Economy Consortium
Birmingham Arthritis Resource Centre
Birmingham C.I.L
Birmingham Centre for Arts Therapies
Birmingham Chamber of Commerce
Birmingham Churches Together
Birmingham City Council
Birmingham City Council (Planning and Regeneration)
Birmingham Community Association
Birmingham Community Safety Partnership
Birmingham Disability Resource Centre
Birmingham Focus on Blindness
Birmingham Foundation
Birmingham Irish Forum/St Patrick's Festival
Birmingham Open Spaces Forum
Birmingham Rathbone
Birmingham Strategic Partnership
BITA Pathways
Bordesley Green Forum
BVSC
Castle Vale Community Housing Association
Castle Vale Community Radio
Chinnbrook Family and Community Project
Church of England Diocese of Birmingham
Common Purpose
Community Transport Birmingham
Cornerstone
Crossover
DAWN (Dignity at Work Now)
Depaul Trust
E Square Community Network
Evolve Every Vision of Life
Fairbridge West Midlands
Gilgal Birmingham
GOWM
Grendon and Billesley Nursery and Family Centre
Groundwork Birmingham and Solihull
Guru Nanak Nishkam Education Trust
Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha
Heartlands Older Peoples Forum
Heartlands RSO Ltd
Home from Hospital Care
Including Women
ISE
IWDC
Life Education Centres West Midlands
Lisieux Trust
Martha's Oasis
Mashriq Challenge Resource Centre
Metamorphosis at the Martineau Gardens
Middlemore Family Centre
Mind in Birmingham
Moseley Forum
National Offender Management Service (Gowm)
Nishkam Civic Association
North Birmingham Inter Agency
NSPCC
nVision Consulting Services
Pakistan Welfare Association
Podnosh
Pohwer
Project Manager
Rainbow Care and Support Birmingham
Rape and Sexual Violence Project
Relate
ROSPA
Samelia House (Womens Services)
Sandwell MBC
Shelter
SIFA
Sikh Forum
Sound it out Community Music
South West Birmingham Local Development Agency
Sovereign
St Georges Church Centre
St John's Ambulance
Stechford Youth Network
Stepping Stones/Spurgeons
Sutton Coldfield YMCA
SVCO
The Bridge
The Children's Society
The Princes Trust
Trident (Social Business)
TSCIC - A community interest company
VCS Matters/BVSC
Victim Support
Vitalise (Holidays for people with disabilities)
West Midlands Police
Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre
Yardley Community Development Trust
Yardley Great Trust

APPENDIX 3

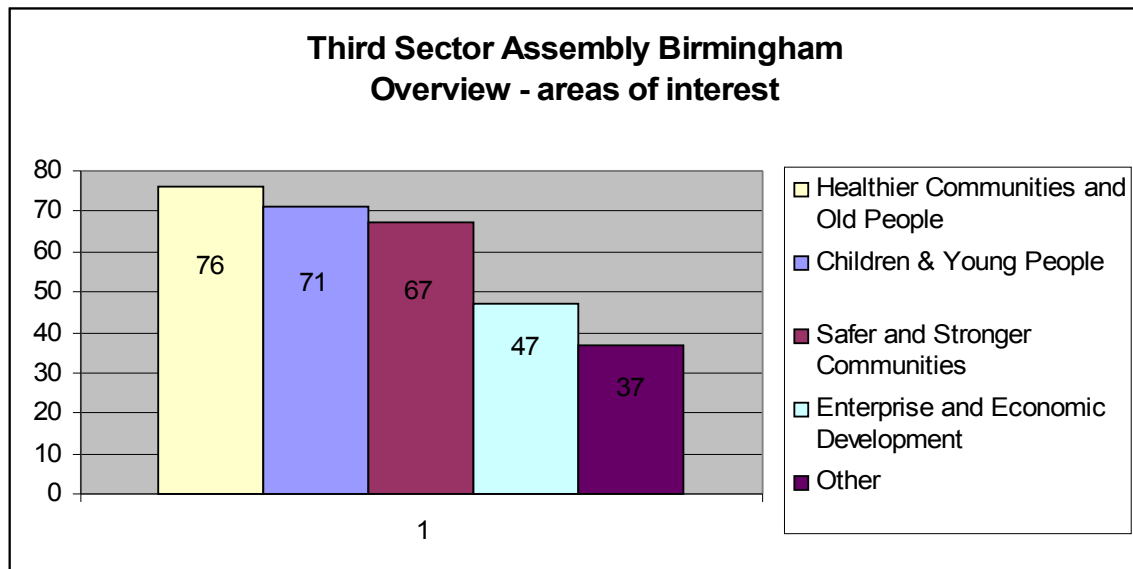
Themes identified from information supplied on sign-up forms

Note – respondents could tick more than one ‘block’.

Participants were asked to indicate which theme they would like to be involved in by stating ‘yes’ or ‘no’ in the relevant boxes on the sign up form. If stating ‘yes’ they were asked to briefly describe their specific area of interest.

116 individuals have now signed up to the Assembly networks. Many organisations indicated that they were interested in more than one category and some ticked all categories.

The data in the charts is grouped according to themes identified on the sign-up forms. Where data was not linked to any particular theme, or where there were extremely low levels of interest in an area (i.e. fewer than three organisations) these have been grouped in the ‘general’ category.



Thematic Groups

The tables below show a more detailed breakdown under each LAA ‘block’ by main area of interest or service activity.

