

RESPONSIBILITY GAP PROJECT 2006

*A True partnership
between the Voluntary and Statutory sectors.
Sarah Aston SCC*

This project continues to grow and fulfil its objectives of improving awareness and the provision of services in Taunton Deane for older adults, adults with disabilities and adults with mental health problems, as well as developing stronger relationships between the voluntary and community sector and statutory sectors. A snapshot of some of the successes have been links established to Community Transport so that partially sighted people can access services, clients of Mind developing new contacts with adult Learning and Leisure, Farm Crisis referring to Welfare Rights and the establishment of Contact the Elderly in the area with increased referrals to the organisation.

Forty-three delegates from the statutory organisations attended the Responsibility Gap Day held at Taunton Vale Sports Club in May, and a further 42 from the voluntary and community organisations. The morning concentrated on developing trust between the voluntary and statutory sector and informing them about new developments. The speakers included representatives from the Government Office for the South West, Somerset County Council, the Community Council and the CVS. Topics covered were developing partnerships, establishing trust, The Compact, Somerset Gateway and the Active Age project - to name but a few!

The afternoon networking Fair with 45 stands was attended by 47 visitors who work in the community as Community Policemen, District Nurses, Deane Help-line Workers, Social Workers, Somerset Partnerships and Community Workers. The day was funded by Adult Primary Care and a smaller amount from Care Direct. We have already been successful in obtaining funds from "Awards for All" to host a much larger event next year which will be open to the public and workers to fulfil the "self help" agenda by raising awareness of preventative provision in the community.

Following the day, 72 evaluations were received, all of them positive.

Comments included:

"The morning presentation was extremely useful and supplied excellent information on services available to the public"

"A great insight into the variety of services available to the community"

"Good to see the range and diversity of services and organisations that are available in Taunton Deane"

"A very worthwhile afternoon, valid networking and information.....very good"

"Good day, very informative, allowed us to raise the profile of our club and gain information on facilities available".