



www.volunteerdacorum.org

Chairman's Report - Tony Amies

It gives me great pleasure to report on yet another year of progress for Volunteer Centre Dacorum. This year we achieved a long held aim in our business planning with a move into more appropriate premises. Our proposal to take on the former Information Centre was supported by Dacorum Borough Council, who allocated a project manager to assist us. Partnership working was an important element of our proposal and I would like emphasise our desire to share the Roundhouse for the good of the voluntary and community sector as a whole.

Trustees recognised that this move developed new challenges and they resolved to strengthen and extend the skills of the Board through the recruitment of new trustees. This process of renewal is important at the moment because I have decided to stand down as Chairman of the Board after some 12 years service. This was not due to any one reason, but rather the coming together of several. The most significant of which are: the Centre's current opportunity to consolidate; and the desire on my part to do more front-line volunteering and less committee work. I have agreed to continue as a trustee, and as Deputy Chair for a transition period while my successor is elected and takes up the reigns.

Finally, I would like to thank our Manager, Heather Allen, and her team of staff and volunteers without whom the Centre would not be the success it undoubtedly is. Also, I must again acknowledge the very great support given by Dacorum Borough Council for their consistent funding which supports our core activities and enables us to offer quality services in the Borough.

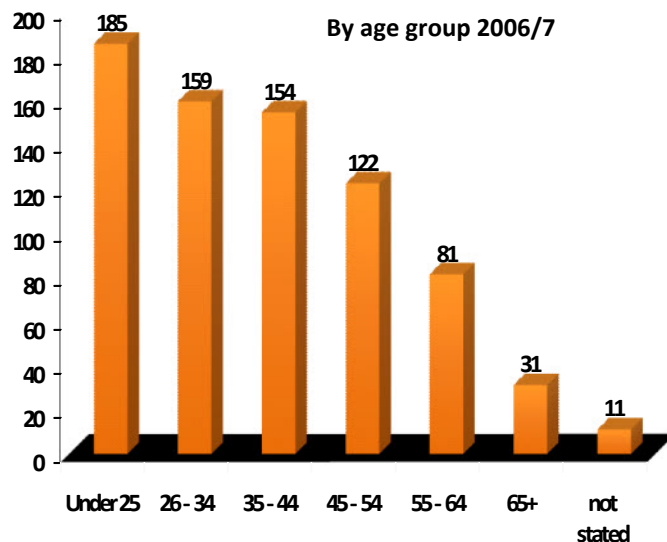
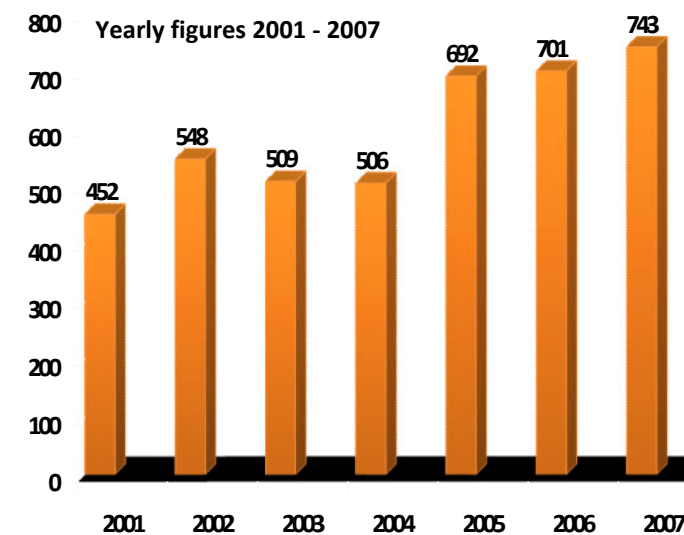
Manager's Report - Heather Allen

The move to the Roundhouse has been the highlight of the year. Amazingly, we maintained our services through the move, thanks to the dedication of a wonderful team of trustees, staff and volunteers. We continue to work with a variety of partners to improve local volunteering infrastructure and increase community involvement. A countywide partnership with other Herts Volunteer Centres through the Herts Infrastructure Consortium has brought local benefit and kept us in touch with countywide, regional and national initiatives. This Snapshot gives a flavour of our activities in 2006/7. The report is based on the 6 core functions of a Volunteer Centre:- Brokerage, Marketing, Developing Voluntary Opportunities, Promoting Good Practice, Policy Response and Strategic Development of Volunteering.

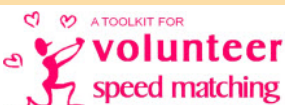


The Roundhouse in the Marlowes

Volunteer recruitment (Brokerage)



Marketing



A Volunteer Speed Matching event in Berkhamsted in October 2006 resulted in the recruitment of 20 volunteers for local groups. This event was run in partnership with Berkhamsted Lions.



Volunteer Information Points were launched by MP Mike Penning at:-

- Berkhamsted Sports Centre
 - Highfield Community Centre
 - Gadebridge Community Centre
- These points are free to use and give access to Citizens Adviceguide, Running Sports, NHS Direct and the national volunteering database on do-it.org

Over 40 displays and presentations

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Website hits rose from 270 in 2005/6 to 476 a month in 2006/7

Employer Supported Volunteering (ESV)

As part of Championing CSR in Herts, Volunteer Centres in Dacorum, St Albans, Watford, Three Rivers and Broxbourne increased their capacity to work with ESV. Personal visits to organisations in each district identified opportunities for company involvement and we began establishing a Herts-wide charging structure for work with companies. In Dacorum, team challenges were facilitated for Ford Finance, CBS Repairs and Wickes. Championing CSR in Herts is a partnership project co-ordinated by Community Action Dacorum and funded by Investing in Communities.

Supported volunteering

71 volunteers with extra support needs were provided with 1:1 support to enable them to make successful volunteering placements. This continues to be a vital part of our work and we work with other Centres in Herts to develop and share experiences.

Promoting Good Practice



The 2006 Lees Award for Excellence in Volunteer Management was won by the Riding and Driving for Disabled Group at Gaddesden Place.

Working with 300+ local groups to improve standards of volunteer management is a key part of our core services. 28 groups sought our advice in 2006/7 and we provided training in volunteer recruitment, support and supervision outside Dacorum to generate funds for local services. Our basic guide to volunteer management was revised and made available electronically from the web site. www.volunteerdacorum.org.



We were really fortunate to have as our speaker at the 2006 AGM, Susan Ellis, President of Energize Inc in Philadelphia. As a world expert on volunteer management, it was especially appropriate for her to present the Lees Award. Susan speech

focused on making volunteering fun! Energize is the company marketing our Volunteer Speed Matching toolkit on its web site.



Policy response and strategic development of volunteering



The **Local Area Agreement** for Hertfordshire has volunteering as one of its stretch targets. *Valuing Volunteers in Hertfordshire* is the strap line. Volunteer Centres in Herts have been working with an LAA Volunteering Development Officer, Herts County Council and District Councils to help achieve the 3% increase in volunteering target. See www.volunteeringherts.org **Community Involvement Forum**. The Centre Manager chairs this Forum and sits on the Officers Advisory Group for the Local Strategic Partnership. She is also a member of the **Volunteering Hub Scrutiny Committee** (Volunteering England).

Quality services and resources



Following Quality Accreditation from Volunteering England in 2005/6, we successfully renewed the Investor in People Award in March 2007. The Assessor recommended that we apply for IIP Champion status, which we may consider at a later date. Activities around our move to the Roundhouse have taken priority in this report year.

Investing in Volunteers is the UK quality standard for volunteer-involving organisations. The Standard enables organisations to comprehensively review their volunteer management. It was good to work with Dacorum Mencap who were also going for this accreditation. We were assessed and recommended for accreditation in June. Confirmation is expected end of October 07.

Trustees

- Betty Lees MBE (President)
- Tony Amies (Chairman)
- Ian Passey (Treasurer)
- Hilary Bushill
- Clare Brine
- Tony Montes
- Ann Robertson
- Andy Smart
- Rhozina Ahmad

Staff

- Heather Allen
- Jan Court
- Sara Woodley
- Max Partridge

Volunteers

- Brenda Timms
- Barbara Reynolds-Sale
- Rowena Eardley
- Helen Mitchell
- Julie Darraugh
- Jeff Japtha
- David Byng
- Melissa Wadsworth
- Norman Allen
- Keith Barton

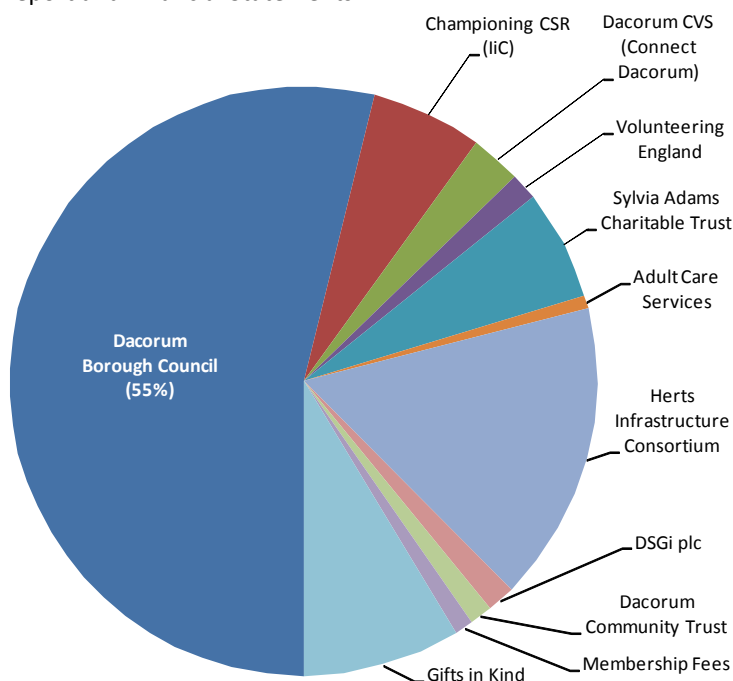
Funding

A Partnership Agreement with Dacorum Borough Council provides a sustainable base on which to build other funding relationships. In 2006/7 this funding amounted to £58,500 (55% of our total income). Full details in the 2007 Trustees Report and Financial Statements.

Sincere thanks go to all our all our volunteers, partners, funders and supporters.

For the Roundhouse we are particularly indebted to Dacorum Borough Council, Herts Community Foundation, Dacorum Community Trust DSGi plc, Adex Office Interiors, Annodata, Age Concern Dacorum and the Paradise Furniture Project.

Thanks also to HeraldExpress newspapers for their ongoing help with the weekly column.



Volunteer Drivers (Tring)

- Peggy Lee
- Jane Banyard
- Celestria Bell
- Allen Jones
- Cliff Keen
- Gerald Slade
- Roy Smith
- Ken & Shirley Thomas
- Clive Verney