

# Calling all Voluntary & Community Groups in Moray

This is **IMPORTANT** information about how  
we could organise ourselves and  
communicate with each other in the future



**MVSO**  
Moray Voluntary Service Organisation



# Voluntary Sector Partnership Moray (VSPM)

# What is the Voluntary Sector Partnership Moray? (VSPM)

## Why do we need this in Moray?

The introduction in November 2007 of the Concordat between Scottish Government and local authorities has brought a new impetus to joint working between local voluntary infrastructure organisations. The Concordat and the associated development of Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs), places responsibility for decisions on local delivery clearly at the local level.

The effective contribution of the voluntary sector to the delivery and design of local services will require a local infrastructure to support connection and communication with Community Planning and Council infrastructure. By March 2011 it is expected that there will be a coherent, fit for purpose, local infrastructure that meets the needs of Local Authorities, Community Planning Partnerships (CPP) and the Voluntary Sector, which has been developed in partnership. The purpose of the infrastructure is to enable the SOA to be informed by the knowledge and experience of the voluntary sector and for the voluntary sector to demonstrate how it could deliver SOA outcomes. (For more information about Moray's SOA and CPP please go to [www.yourmoray.org.uk](http://www.yourmoray.org.uk))

Following consultation with the voluntary sector and other stakeholders between Summer 2008 & June 2009: the Boards of Moray Voluntary Service Organisation (MVSVO) and Volunteer Centre Moray (VCM), agreed on a VSPM model (illustrated on pages 6 & 7) which gained Moray CPP approval in May 2009.

**This means that the VSPM is intended to be the interface for Moray.**

In addition, there are many other advantages of establishing a VSPM in Moray. Some of these benefits are listed later.

## How we got here

Last year MVSO sent out a questionnaire about setting up a Voluntary Sector forum in Moray. Seventy seven per cent of the replies were in favour of this. A Steering Group was set up and a paper entitled "Establishing a Voluntary Sector Forum in Moray" was produced. It was also decided to change the name to the Voluntary Sector Partnership Moray (VSPM) to avoid confusion with other forums in the area. The VSPM will be an independent support network of community, social enterprise and voluntary sector organisations. The VSPM is about us working together to become stronger. We will do this by facilitating networking between members to share experience, expertise, resources and good practice in order to respond collectively to issues affecting Moray.

## Where we are now

This booklet is to bring you up-to-date as the VSPM concept has evolved significantly over the last few months. **Your participation is extremely important** as one of the main aims of the VSPM is to ensure that the voluntary and community sector perspective is included alongside the public and private sectors when decisions are made which affect the people of Moray. There is a lot more work to do until the VSPM can be fully launched and at the moment there is no extra funding available. However, feedback from the July 2009 version of this booklet sent to voluntary and community groups in Moray was that 83% of the respondents agreed that MVSO should develop and become the support for the VSPM even if this may mean that the services MVSO currently delivers have to change.

Further details about how your group can participate in this process will be available at a later date but in the meantime please contact MVSO if you have any questions. It is proposed that the VSPM launch will be on 14 April 2010 and April 2010 — March 2011 will be a development year.

## What are the benefits of the VSPM?

The VSPM's aim is to benefit organisations by:

- Giving us a collective and stronger voice
- Addressing issues around changes to the way we will be funded in the future
- Telling others how valuable we are as a sector in delivering local services
- Sharing resources thereby increasing sustainability
- Working in better partnership with external agencies
- Working effectively together
- Reducing isolation as individual organisations
- Demonstrating the value of the work of voluntary organisations to the local economy
- Contributing more effectively to Community Planning

## Where do I fit in?

The proposed structure of the VSPM has been designed to **mirror the existing Community Planning Partnership (CPP) structure.**

The diagram on pages 6 & 7 illustrates the VSPM's proposed overall structure. Organisations will be able to join the themed network group they feel is most relevant for them. A list of the thematic groups can be found on page 5. Each thematic group will be led by a Facilitator who will sit on the VSPM Board and, it is proposed, on their corresponding mirror CPP thematic group.

Additional information on the roles and remits of the themed groups as well as guidelines for engagement and decision making will also be available at a later date. **It is really important for all voluntary and community groups to be equal partners in making decisions about how and what services are delivered in Moray.**

# VSPM thematic groups

## Safer & Stronger

Items on the agenda include housing, homelessness, social inclusion, equality, road safety, antisocial behaviour, fire and home safety, and violence reduction.

## Greener

Items on the agenda include waste reduction, recycling, climate change, carbon management and promoting good practice.

## Smarter

Items on the agenda include citizenship, support for vulnerable children and young people, child protection, parenting, lifelong learning, education, training, children, young people and families.

## Wealthier & Fairer

Items on the agenda include social enterprise, money advice, community development, tourism, community transport, and equal opportunities.

## Healthier

Items on the agenda include health improvement, community care, health inequalities, intervention, caring, and activity.

## Community Engagement

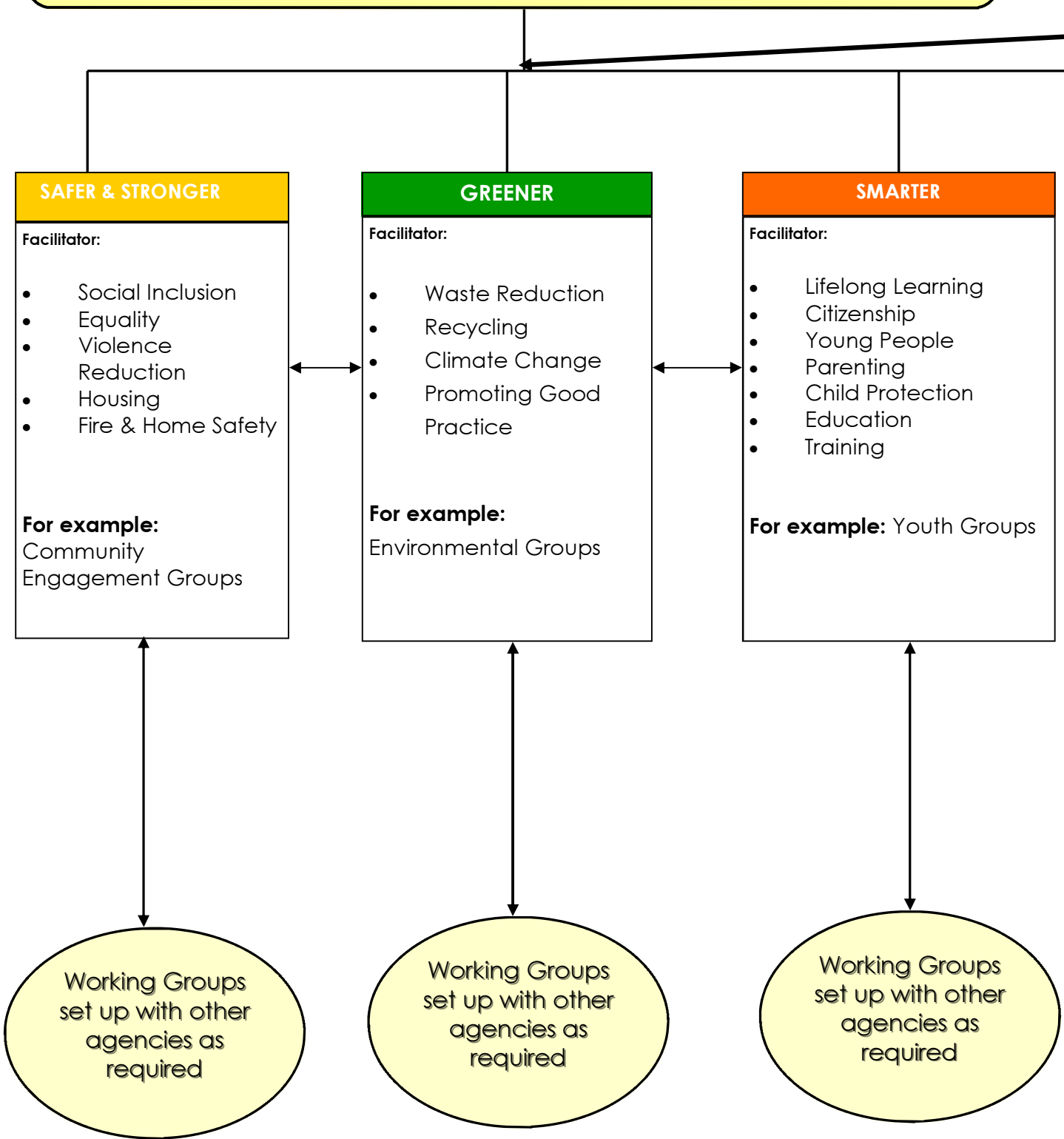
The Community Engagement group has direct responsibility for ensuring that all sectors of the community are represented and will raise awareness of the sector as a whole.

# Proposed Structure of VSPM

## Voluntary Sector Partnership Moray (VSPM) Board

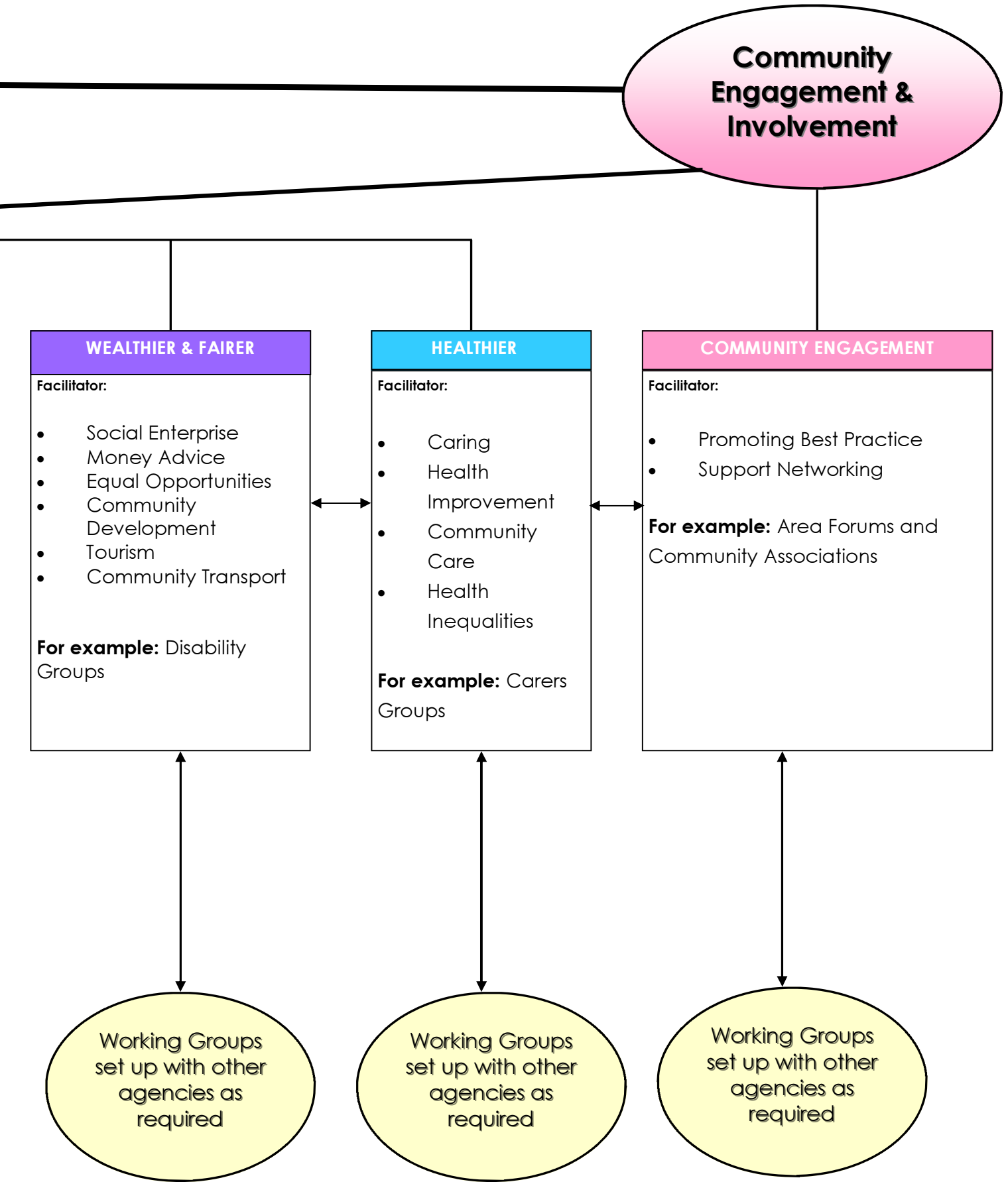
**Partners Agreed:** The Moray Forum; VCM; MVSO; Moray CAB; Moray Federation of Community Halls & Associations; Joint Community Council; the 5 Facilitators of the themed sub-groups, the Facilitator of Community Engagement and Involvement

**Partners Proposed:** Local Social Economy Partnership, Moray Social Enterprise Network



**Voluntary & Community Groups will decide which themed group most fits their objectives.**

# Proposed Structure of VSPM



**YOU decide where YOU best fit in. You can change your mind and you can join more than one themed group. We can also help you to decide.**



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**If you have any questions or you would like a larger print version of this booklet please contact Alison at MVSO.**