



Come and meet Sally Yeoman, CEO of St Helens CVS (left) and Debbie Dalby CEO of Halton Voluntary Action (right) at two special surgery events. See below for details.



# Exploring the merger of our two strong and effective organisations

## From the two Boards of Trustees

Over the last few years Halton Voluntary Action and St Helens CVS have been working really well together to provide even better services and support to local community and voluntary groups and organisations.

We have realised that our shared activity has been so beneficial that we have come to a mutual decision to explore the merger of our two strong and effective organisations.

This will hopefully provide even more sustainable and evolving services to meet the needs of our local voluntary sector, especially during these uncertain times of economic challenge.

By merging we hope to maintain and even increase our local offer by using the skills and knowledge of our combined and complementary staff teams. This will enable us to make savings through sharing back office functions and management efficiencies.

We will not reduce our presence in either borough and will ensure that there will be a very visible base in both areas as well as strategic level representation and support provided through and with our senior staff members. We hope by doing this we will be able to increase the scope of our outreach work especially around training and capacity building activity.

We have now reached the stage of our discussions where we feel it timely to talk to our members and stakeholders about our plans and hear from you how you want us to go about this.

We need responses from you around some very important questions (see opposite).

## How to respond to the merger proposal

1. Come along to surgery events to be held in both Halton and St Helens on:

Wednesday 28th April 2010 at St Helens CVS, between 5pm - 7.30pm

Friday 30th April 2010 at Halton Voluntary Action, between 2 - 4pm

2. Email a response via our website survey (accessible via our websites) or call us and tell us your responses over the telephone.

3. Contact us and request a meeting with our two Chief Executive Officers who will also be organising meetings with our key stakeholders in the next few weeks.

The closing date for response to the merger proposal is 7th May 2010.



## Questions

1. What do we do well that you want us to continue?
2. What could we improve in our future service delivery that should be a focus in our merger plans?
3. What could we start doing if we had more staff resource and expertise?
4. What should we stop doing to improve our effectiveness and focus?
5. What concerns do you have about the merger that we need to take into consideration?

## Your views matter

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