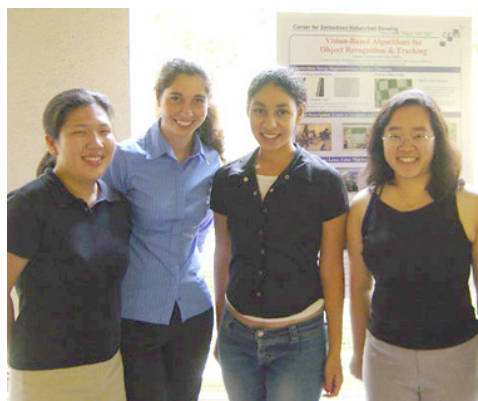


All Saints Women's Resource Centre Organisational Development

BACKGROUND

All Saints is a neighbourhood which sits in Wolverhampton's New Deal for Communities Programme area. It continues to be an area which experiences multiple disadvantage and has the added complexity of being ethnically diverse, and, as a result of the availability of relatively cheap housing, is an area which is attracting new migrant communities. The Centre has been a resource for local women and children for many years, providing informal learning, childcare, advice and support, and opportunities for women to develop their skills to enable them to play a more influential role in their community. Wolverhampton, like many other cities, is facing difficult choices as financial support is reduced and organisations find themselves under pressure to 'add value' to local authority strategic priorities.



M·E·L Research was commissioned to undertake consultancy support with the Centre, to work closely with the Centre to review services, delivery and partnership arrangements.

METHODOLOGY

The consultancy support required real flexibility and a creative approach in order to develop trust and secure the support of staff, Board members, volunteers, service users, and partner organisations. During the course of a three month period, the methodology included desk research, documentary analysis, comparative analysis, funding applications, drafting marketing materials, facilitation of workshops, and 'relationship brokering'. Organisational performance was reviewed to identify any ways the Centre could better target resources to be able to respond to the demands of funders whilst continuing with its core service of working with and for disadvantaged women.

OUTCOMES

The approach used has proved invaluable in helping the Women's Resource Centre explore how it might re-configure its services and how to work more collaboratively with statutory agencies, third sector organisations and social enterprises. The Centre has secured a new source of funding, and expanded its Management Board. Staff, volunteers and Board members have gained a better insight into what service priorities should be.

M·E·L's Empowering Communities Consultancy and Service Development team made an effective contribution to organisation design, service delivery and improvement through creative and high quality piece consultancy support.

For further information about our work with third sector organisations, please contact Jayne Francis @ jayne.francis@m-e-l.co.uk or call 0121 604 4664