

Community Health Action Partnership, (CHAP), Salford

Building on earlier work, CHAP's Evaluation Steering Group steadily worked through the social accounting and audit process. The intention is to demonstrate the organisation's social, economic and environmental impact, and thus to its added value beyond the direct delivery of services.



To ensure that all activities focus on the organisation's mission and objectives, and that social accounting is inbuilt into its processes, every committee's agenda exactly reflects the social accounting framework, so that they collect all relevant information for the social accounts.



"CHAP is a leading light amongst New Deal funded projects and partners, in their comprehensive quality systems ... and using the information gained to make continuous improvements to their services. CHAP has effectively integrated their systems to ensure monitoring and evaluation efficiencies, the like of which I have

not encountered elsewhere." Anne Lythgoe (Finance and Evaluation Manager, Charlestown & Lower Kersal New Deal for Communities)

The draft social accounts for 2007-2008 were rigorously analysed by an independent Social Audit Panel in July 2008. This was chaired by Graham Waterhouse from the Social Audit Network. He wrote that "the draft accounts were extremely comprehensive and readable ... The organisation was clearly an ambitious one in what it was trying to achieve and the way it had tried to demonstrate this ... for which it should be congratulated."

The Panel provided a Social Audit Statement for the final social accounts, which "*present a fair and balanced view of the performance and impact of [CHAP].*" It is the first organisation in Salford with audited social accounts, which are available separately from this Report. The Social Auditor stated that "*You can all be very proud of what you have achieved here, particularly as the standard that I applied was higher than would normally have been the case for first timers.*"

As the Community Health Action Partnership moved during 2007 from dependence on grants to income largely from contracts, the process to develop social accounting has helped in the development and design of the organisation as a social enterprise and its new business strategy. As originally

intended when CHAP decided to use social accounting in 2005, it should offer a basis to demonstrate the organisation's social, economic and environmental impact, and thus show the added value that an effective social enterprise can offer beyond the direct delivery of its services.

As a social enterprise in an increasingly competitive market, it is increasingly important to demonstrate the organisation's social, economic and environmental impact, and thus to its added value beyond the direct delivery of services. After considerable discussions, we are now engaging the interest of mainstream commissioners of services in incorporating "added value" into commissioning and procurement processes, so that they get greater value for money – while potentially helping to develop a more level playing field for social enterprises that can prove their worth.

'I am really proud of the developments we have made in social accounting. It is important that we show the difference we make in all ways, as well as the number of people we help. This has been a year of fantastic progress.'

Kevin Coakley, Director – Chair, Evaluation Steering Group.