

# Evaluation and Impact Report 2017

## Highlights

- Training given to 122 VCSE staff or volunteers, and 30 trade union representatives
- Average knowledge/understanding per workshop raised by 55%

## Introduction

Although legally, Green Pepper came into existence in April 2016, it did not officially begin trading until September 2016. However, it was another six months later before any work was delivered due to a combination of development needs; and inactivity due to David's ill health.

However, in March 2017 Green Pepper started delivering services. This brief report evaluates the work of Green Pepper during 2017, and assesses its social impact.

## Services Delivered

During 2017 Green Pepper delivered a range of training events. Initially these were delivered on behalf of organisations who dealt with all the promotion, administration and room hire etc. However, towards the second half of 2017 training workshops were mostly delivered in partnership with different organisations, whereby Green Pepper hired the room and dealt with all ticketing; and the partner organisation was responsible for publicity.

Overall, 9 workshops were delivered on behalf of VCSE sector organisations, 4 on behalf of trade unions, and 6 in partnership with VCSE organisations. In total some 122 staff and/or volunteers from VCSE organisations, and 30 trade union representatives received training from Green Pepper during 2017.

In addition, Green Pepper delivered 3 meeting presentations, produced a regular newsletter for a VCSE organisation, contributed to a report for an associate organisation, undertook an organisational health check, provided coaching support to two individuals, and provided regular website, social media and proof reading support to another associate. Regular blog articles were also posted on the Green Pepper website. In addition, two blog articles were posted by Clore Social on their *Leaders Now* blog, and two in the Action Planning newsletter. A free e-book was also produced on "Avoiding Social Media Meltdowns". To date some 40 VCSE organisations have requested a copy of this e-book.

## Feedback from Partners and Service users

Feedback from other organisations and individuals has been excellent. Indeed, one particular workshop in Rugby has led to further work for other organisations, while a number of partners have asked for further events.

Comments from individuals included:

- Brilliant. I've learnt loads. Gave me a greater understanding
- Great, David is an effective presenter, materials were very good.
- Fab, concise, learnt so much.
- Brilliant. I'm going to take loads away.
- Great, I am now fired with enthusiasm for setting up a plan.
- Excellent. Learned a lot. Good level of content and of usefulness

For the accuracy of this report, it should be noted that when David began working again in March after his illness, the first workshops were not of the quality David would have liked. This was most likely due to a combination of factors (widely differing levels of participant experience, trying to cover too much, and post-operative fatigue). That said, the learning gained from this experience led to the development of the successful workshops that followed for the remainder of the year.

Indeed, as more partner organisations have been sought, the way has been made easier with the excellent references provided by those with whom a good relationship has already been established.

Finally, it should be noted that the success enjoyed by Green Pepper in the latter half of 2017 would not have been possible without the valuable support, advice and encouragement received from CASE, a Leicester based co-operative and social enterprise development agency.

## Social Impact

The positive comments from individuals, together with the excellent references provided by partner organisations, indicate that Green Pepper has made a useful contribution towards the professional development of staff and volunteers from a very wide range of VCSE organisations; and to trade union members.

However, to measure more accurately the difference that has been made, participants on workshops were asked to score out of ten their knowledge and understanding of the workshop topic before and after the event. From these, overall averages per workshop are as follows:

*Knowledge/understanding:*

Before the workshop 5.2

After the workshop 8.1

Put another way, the average level of knowledge and understanding of those attending was raised by more than 55% per workshop.

## Conclusion

Despite a slow, and at times less than confident start, the year proved to be successful. Green Pepper reached a good number of organisations and individuals, maintained its social objectives, and was able to see an impact in the services that it delivered.

## The Future

A number of workshops are already scheduled for 2018. In addition, the introduction of webinars is under consideration. Green Pepper also hopes to be involved with more individual coaching and organisational health checks.

In accordance with Green Pepper's values and mission, services will continue to be provided for organisations seeking social change.

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