

What to expect from Regional ICT Champions

The purpose of the regional ICT champions is to increase the capacity, availability and quality of local infrastructure ICT support services that are relevant and meet local third sector needs.

They will work through consortia supporting you as local infrastructure organisations to see provision of a well co-ordinated and resourced network of ICT services that deliver relevant and affordable hands-on ICT support, training, advice and guidance services.

Working to champion the strategic importance of well planned ICT, this in turn will make it easier for groups to achieve their aims and to deliver quality services more effectively.

They have a direct responsibility towards LIOs across each region to:

- Impartially signpost and provide details of existing local providers of ICT infrastructure support and services in any part of the region.
- Communicate progress and news of appropriate ICT events, training and resources via email networks, website / blog and regular regional ICT network meetings.
- Encourage LIOs to strengthen their own ICT and the ICT support they offer to local groups.

Operating through local infrastructure consortia they have responsibility to work with LIOs to:

- Identify the need for, and deliver sub-regional ICT awareness raising workshops or sessions at other generic events
- Identify where technical training, ICT knowledge for general development workers, net:gain or other suitable training could be deployed.
- Keep an up to date overview of the ICT infrastructure activity taking place in all sub-regions.
- Share best practice from within the region and nationally in meeting gaps in ICT provision and areas of ICT weakness identified at local, sub-regional and regional level.
- Encourage LIOs to produce development strategies and action plans where gaps have been identified, including those from the ICT Hub funded pump priming projects.

They have a responsibility as champion working regionally:

- To be the contact point for the voluntary sector forum and Capacitybuilders regional manager when they are strategically planning ICT developments.
- To ensure there is an agreed regional ICT strategy in place which incorporates sub-regional consortium plans and that it is being used in planning long term ICT development and as an evidence base to draw in additional funding for ICT in the region.

They will not be able to:

- Deliver hands-on technical support or training to front line organisations - instead they will provide a signposting service to existing local providers of these services.
- Replace the ICT support function of local infrastructure organisations - however they will be able to advise on effective ICT funding, strategies and ways to establish new local providers of support services to the local third sector.

Each regional champion has their own website or blog with links to useful local resources within their region and news of events and the work they are doing.

Access to their pages is from www.navca.org.uk/services/ictsupport/