

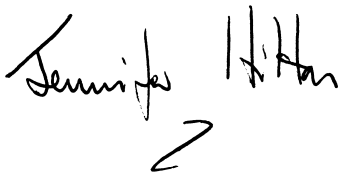
President's Introduction



I am pleased to open the Annual Review for the year 2002/2003 with the observation that SOVA is bringing its services to a greater number of people than ever before. The value of the involvement of the voluntary sector in Criminal Justice, and indeed with many groups of disadvantaged people, cannot be overestimated.

Where, as is the case for SOVA, this value is enhanced by the work of well-trained and highly dedicated volunteers, it is considerably greater and I remain humbled and impressed with the generosity shown by SOVA volunteers.

I wish SOVA even greater success in 2003/2004.



Baroness Hilton of Eggardon, QPM



Helen Edwards, Director of the Active Communities Unit at the Home Office in conversation with Baroness Hilton, SOVA's President and Mike Worthington, SOVA Trustee



**Strengthening communities
and reducing crime**



Chair's Report



This year has seen SOVA grow at a very fast rate. I would mention particularly the growth of our work with the Prison Service exemplified by the Prison Service Plus contract. We are pleased that this means that we can continue our successful work in helping offenders into work with a much larger constituency of participants. The relationship between employment and staying out of prison is well known and I will not repeat it here; nevertheless it is a central aim for SOVA, and will remain so.

Such growth, of course, creates additional work for the infrastructure of the organisation and I remain astonished at the way our central support staff and SOVA's managers continue to absorb the workload. This cannot continue indefinitely and I am glad to see government acknowledging the need for further capacity and resources in the voluntary sector. I would urge this to be seen as a need that should be rapidly addressed.

The future has the potential for SOVA to increase its services to a growing number of people. We are determined to realise that potential and to play our full part in reducing crime.

Finally, and as ever, a number of people to whom thanks are due: all SOVA's staff, all SOVA's volunteers, all SOVA's funders and purchasers and last, but certainly not least, my fellow Trustees who are so generous with their time and expertise.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Haines".

John Haines



Chief Executive's Report



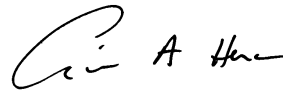
The year 2002/2003 has seen an unprecedented growth in the work of SOVA. This has allowed us to further our mission to bring our services to a greater number of those who need them and also to engage with a greater number of communities.

We believe that changes in criminal justice will give us the opportunity to extend these services even further and we will be working hard to do so. October 2003 will see the launch of our new three-year strategic plan, a plan that sets out in detail our plans to grow but also, and very significantly, our plans to continue to strive to improve our services to all our stakeholders. We believe that quantity is meaningless without quality, and quality is integral to all our plans.

Financially we have achieved a modest surplus on the year. We are however aware that our infrastructure needs additional investment to maintain quality and speed of response and we will be looking to our purchasers and funders to understand that we need this investment, in their interest as well as ours.

The coming year will have its challenges. These will include translating our strategic plans into reality; increasing our expertise in new areas; working closely with partners old and new; and striving always to keep the human touch in an ever larger organisation.

SOVA has always met challenges well; I have no doubt that we will continue to do so.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gill A Henson'.

Gill Henson

