

What next? The future direction of SOVA



Statutory organisations, government departments, voluntary organisations and the private sector continue to support SOVA because of its expertise in volunteer mentoring and its proven track record in delivering quality services. As SOVA grows and develops, it has managed to keep a balance between securing large regional and national contracts such as Prison Service Plus (employment, training, education and mentoring) and smaller local contracts such as the Rhyl Mentoring and Drop-In Centre, both of which came on stream this year.

The majority of SOVA's new and existing projects are with the Prison Service, Probation Areas, Youth Offending Teams, Connexions, Job Centre Plus, Learning Skills Councils and Social Services. These schemes are funded directly from these agencies or via the European Social Fund, Single Regeneration Budget, Government Departments or charitable Trusts.

In 2002/2003 SOVA delivered various training and consultancy services to local Youth Offending Teams and Connexions Partnerships, as well as to larger

agencies such as the National Probation Service. This last contract was to act as consultants on the mentoring aspects of the new Intensive Control and Change Programme which is being piloted as a realistic alternative to custody for young adult offenders.

During the year SOVA also produced a statement and strategy aimed at consolidating its work and giving clear guidance to the future direction of SOVA in terms of its client group, type of services and geographical remit:

SOVA DIRECTION STATEMENT

**SOVA will deliver projects and services in the UK and transnationally which meet its mission of:
'Strengthening Communities and Reducing Crime'**

SOVA projects will benefit individuals experiencing disadvantage and will involve trained volunteers from local communities.

SOVA will assist in empowering communities to influence policy and practice in promoting social inclusion and community justice.

SOVA is committed to mentoring as a method of providing additional value to prison-based services, to the resettlement and support to offenders and to disadvantaged young people. During the forthcoming year SOVA would like to work closely with its voluntary and statutory partners and funders such as the Home Office Active Community Unit and with its volunteers and service users in order to evidence the impact of volunteer mentors in supporting individuals in the achievement of their potential, in promoting diversity and in reducing crime.

STRATEGIC AIMS

October 2003 – March 2005

A. SOVA aims to involve local communities in promoting social inclusion and reducing crime

B. SOVA aims to develop and realise the full potential of staff, volunteers and participants

C. SOVA aims to develop effective partnerships that enable it to realise its mission

D. SOVA aims to set and demonstrate high standards in all activities

E. SOVA aims to maintain and develop the organisation as a forward thinking business enterprise

