



# 'To Infinity and Beyond!': The Future of Technology in the Non- Profit Sector

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# ICT Hub for voluntary and community organisations

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**The Benefits of ICT to the  
voluntary and community  
sector:**

**Technology enables us to  
do things better or do  
better things**

- 80% think ICT is important

However:

- Only 54% carry out rigorous backups
- Only 50% have networked computers
- Only 20% of funders will fund the total cost of ownership of ICT

- Lack of strategic understanding
- Need for relevant and affordable advice
- Need for local hands on support
- Funding
- Lack of relevant and affordable products and services

**The voluntary and community sector is an under developed market place:**

**The ICT Hub's business is to develop this market place**

## Treasury's 2002 Cross Cutting Review

Report recommended support and assistance available to voluntary and community organisations should be strengthened

Home Office published ChangeUp

ChangeUp set out how the sector would be strengthened to 2014

- ChangeUp was developed in partnership with the sector
- Investment of \$160m to 2006
- In June 2005 the Home Secretary announced the creation of the Capacitybuilders agency
- Capacitybuilders agency will manage ChangeUp
- Backed by a further \$140m to 2008

- 6 national hubs of expertise  
(ICT, Performance, Governance, Workforce, Finance, Volunteering)
- Investment managed by consortia who developed business plans
- 65% funding sub-national consortia - 35% national consortia
- ICT Hub \$9m from October 2006 to March 2007

# The ICT Hub

- Partnership of 5 national voluntary and community organisations  
(NCVO, NACVS, IT4Communities, AbilityNet and LASA)
- Advisory Group of 30 organisations
- 14 staff and 3 outsourced contracts
- 36% of work is commissioned
- 64% of work is undertaken by partners

## *The ICT Hub focuses on:*

- raising awareness of the strategic benefits of ICT
- improving the ICT funding and procurement environment
- building appropriate models of ICT support at a local level
- Providing services and products which make sense to do so nationally for economies of scale reasons only

ICT Hub products and services are for organisations with a turnover of less than \$2m

very small organisations < \$20,000

small organisations > \$20,000 < \$200,000

medium organisations > \$200,000 < \$2m

**Where are we up to**

- We were given the go ahead in October 2005
- External evaluator appointed November 2005
- Branding completed January 2006
- All staff recruited/ seconded by January 2006
- Developing and delivering products and services to March 2007
- Knowledgebase and Directory to be launched in Summer 2006

- Website of good practice resources
- Directory of suppliers, consultants, trainers and circuit riders
- Conferences
- Award schemes
- Bursaries for 1<sup>st</sup> tier and 2<sup>nd</sup> tier orgs to share learning
- More volunteering opportunities
- Free accessibility courses and CDs
- Free Good ICT management Guide
- Free How to cost and fund ICT booklet
- Directory of sources of funding for ICT

- Demand for ICT Hub resources outstripping supply
- Early external evaluation indicates the ICT Hub is kick starting the way the sector engages with ICT
- Repeat baseline research to determine future strategies post March 2007
- Finalise business plan and agree funding post March 2007

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[www.icthub.org.uk](http://www.icthub.org.uk)

- ICT Hub business plan available on the site
- Email [ictresources@ncvo-vol.org.uk](mailto:ictresources@ncvo-vol.org.uk) to receive the ICT Hub newsletter