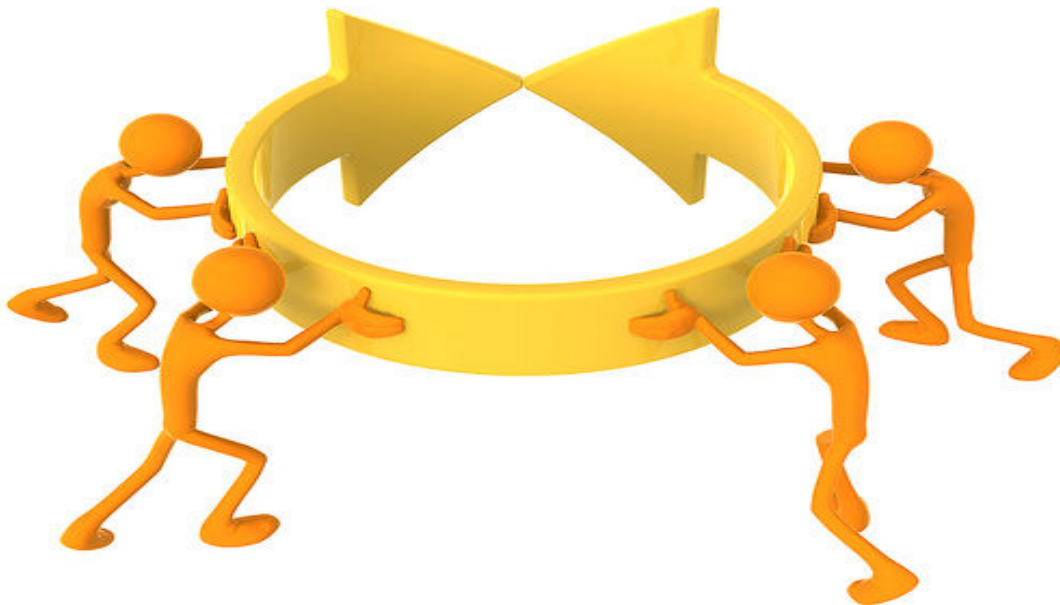

Annual Report & Accounts

5th April 2007 to 4th April 2008
5th April 2006 to 5th April 2007



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Action for Involvement (also known as AFI or A4I), is an independent voluntary group with the aims and objectives of a think tank. As Co-Chair and Secretary, we are proud to write A4I's first annual report and accounts.

A4I has gone from strength to strength since our late Chairman, Paul Lowen, developed his ideas in December 2005 following a successful event in September 2005 for the Power Inquiry chaired by Baroness Helena Kennedy & funded by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.

Advisors include Voluntary Action Sheffield, Sheffield Community Enterprise Development Unit (SCEDU) and Darryl Dawson of award-winning Connexions PR Consultancy. For formal purposes such as contact details and insurance, A4I uses my home address which we anticipate will change in the longer term.

Our constitution specifies that Management Committee members be elected at the AGM. Until the financial situation changes, we are all unpaid volunteers. At the time of writing this report, work for the roles of the Chair and Secretary are shared between Joe Pritchard and Wendy Stern.

In November 2007, we appointed Yogeshwar (Yogi) Shastri as Treasurer; he took over from Nikki Bond who stood down in October 2007 due to poor health. We advertised the post with Voluntary Action Sheffield, University of Sheffield Volunteering and Sheffield Forum and received 10 applications from University students seeking volunteering opportunities for work experience. As part of our application process we invited applicants to help at our October 2007 Event. Prency and Yogi attended our Event and we appointed Yogi as Treasurer based on more relevant UK-based experience. Yogi read his M.Sc Chemistry and is training for the CIMA accountancy qualification. Prency is reading her MA in International Finance at Sheffield Hallam University.

Colin Thorpe, A4I's Sound Engineer, manages our PA system and this service on a chargeable basis to other organisations. Wendy Stern and Dr Carole Harris write our publications.

We meet regularly to decide our activities and share the workload on an unpaid voluntary basis.



Financial Status

A4I was launched with a significant donation of £5000 by The Big Lottery's Awards for All Scheme to fund approved activities to achieve our objectives and a second donation of £50 from Voluntary Action Sheffield. Joe Pritchard funded our annual insurance premium for 2008/9 and Open Planning Meeting. We have no funds in surplus or that are subject to an investment policy.

Aims and Objectives

As can be seen from the constitution (see www.actionforinvolvement.org.uk) A4I's aims and objectives are to advance the education of our members, Event Participants and wider community through provision of services that encourage full participation in the activities of our communities thereby improving their conditions of life.

A4I aims to achieve these objectives by empowering friends to use our services in community activities, increase involvement and improve quality of life for everyone in our communities. Equal opportunities are fundamental and as a highly specialised area we defer to respected organisations in these fields.

1. Our specialist areas of activity focus on governance and sustainability in the following generic areas of Public/Private cross over:
 1. Public/Private Investment
 2. Environmental
 3. Technology
 4. Public Service Delivery locally and nationally
 - a. Housing
 - b. Education
 - c. Transport
 - d. Health & Welfare
 - e. Enforcement & Regulation



Governance

As we do not employ any staff, decisions are implemented by our Management Committee members and at this stage we are considering whether we need to introduce an induction policy for new appointees. We have reviewed major risks likely to affect us to ensure we have established appropriate systems and procedures to manage risks but at this stage we do not have any projects likely to be affected by any risks.

Strategic Planning and Other Activities

Strategies and activities to achieve A4Is objectives have been to:

1. build and maintain our website
2. deliver events
3. write event reports for our mailing list and publication on our website
4. get involved in major events affecting Sheffield

We achieved all of our goals during the period in question which was to:

1. Deliver our October 2007 event and report
2. Submit the Awards for All End of Award report to the agreed deadline
3. Support local activity with regard to Sheffield Flood Victims

We received several unexpected offers during 2006/7 including contributions to:

1. David Milliband's blogging activities for the Hansard Society's Report to the Department of Constitutional Affairs
2. University of Sheffield research on reaching out to so-called hard to reach

Key priorities for the forthcoming year

Aims, objectives and activities are to become a Community Empowerment engine for stakeholders with the wider community seeing the value of and taking ownership of their achievements.

1. increase friends and member numbers and participation
2. set up 3-4 Friends Meetings a year
3. deliver 2 events annually
4. promote planned income-generating services generate to become more financially independent



With approval of Friends and Members we will prioritise activities that ensure open and transparent governance with clear direction in order to:

1. Educate and support people to become active contributors
2. Delivering Seminars or Events with high quality speakers and reports regularly
3. Develop an A4I friends and members network offering uniquely valuable resources and services including Events, Reports, Networking Opportunities and Researchers.
4. Sustainable revenue creation to ensure AFI is able to carry out its aims and objectives without relying on grants or gift donations.

4. Achievements and performance

I am delighted to say that in reviewing A4Is performance against objectives we set for, ourselves that we have exceeded our expectations. In qualitative terms we undertook and delivered ground-breaking research on the involvement and participation of people with communications disorders and learning difficulties.

Our principal funder, Awards for All, approved our expenditure of £1100 on a PA system for us to deliver Events without incurring additional costs and as a means of income generation. Principal funding and expenditure in the year under review met key objectives enabling us to build on success locally, nationally and in the wider community.

A4Is future plans

Subject to ratification of A4Is plans, we intend to prioritise growth by increasing our reach to local people wanting to improve our local community. Activities planned to achieve our objectives include:

1. Developing Web 2.0 for online interactivity
2. Hiring out PA System to generate income
3. Introducing Giftaid for financial assistance from sponsors/investors/donors
4. Administrating a voluntary sector supported advertising scheme for an online organisation
5. Web design
6. Periodic Friends & Members Meetings

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