



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2010/11

G:XL Latest Progress Latest New Resources Opportunities



Happy Birthday G:XL!

It's time to celebrate G:XL's 1st year as G:up releases a raft of new documents and resources to benefit the West Midlands CYP VCS (children and young people's voluntary and community sector).

Below is a round up of what's available or about to be released for each of the 5 G:XL work streams.

Quality Standards Audit Report

Now available on the G:up website!

<http://growingupinthewestmidlands.info/qualityaudit>

Produced by G:XL contract holders Midlands Youth and G:up, the report analyses G:XL's audit of the quality standards schemes used by West Midlands CYP VCS organisations, as well as exploring what makes an effective organisation.

Look out for G:up's report summary, highlighting audit findings and recommendations, or see the full report for excellent standalone tools such as:

- List and descriptions of quality standards available to VCS orgs (free and at a charge)
- Guide to how quality assurance benefits **you**.

Training Needs Audit Report and Regional Training Action Plan

Two vital G:XL resources now on G:up's website!

<http://growingupinthewestmidlands.info/trainingaudit>

<http://growingupinthewestmidlands.info/trainingactionplan>

Based on G:XL's audit of training needs amongst organisations in the West Midlands CYP VCS, the report offers insights into training areas considered the most important or most demanded and also explores what barriers organisations face to undertaking or delivering training.

The report identifies numerous recommendations for moving forward and also informs the training action plan for the sector, also produced by Midlands Youth and G:up.

The action plan is designed to support the coordination of training and workforce development regionally and sub-regionally, enabling the CYP VCS to address gaps in training needs and provision and to implement change.

What is G:XL?

G:XL is a three-year project within **G:up**, funded through the Big Lottery's BASIS two programme. Developed following 12 months of research and consultation and in partnership with over 40 organisations, it is designed to enhance infrastructure and capacity in the West Midlands children and young people's voluntary and community sector (CYP VCS).



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How to Save Your Organisation Money

<http://growingupinthewestmidlands.info/backofficeLC>

G:XL's Back Office Services Learning Cluster is a vibrant forum attracting members and guest speakers from across the region, meeting regularly to investigate ways that VCS organisations can save money through collaborative approaches, efficiency savings and shared learning.

G:XL contract holder Midlands Youth recently offered an exciting tender opportunity through G:XL, to find new ways to make efficiency savings, the results of which will be announced shortly.

Midlands Youth also developed an online survey in partnership with the learning cluster and G:up, to understand current uses of back office services by VCS organisations and how we can help your organisation and the sector to save money.

Fill in the survey via the following link:
www.surveymonkey.com/s/RVHCNTN

Find out more on the G:up website. To join the learning cluster, please contact William Clemmey:
william.clemmey@wayc.org.uk or 01926 450 156.



Get involved!

In order to ensure that G:XL truly represents and

benefits the West Midlands children and young people's voluntary and community sector we need your input!

There are many ways to take part and ensure your views are heard including commenting on our work, joining a G:XL learning cluster, participating in G:XL events, filling in G:XL surveys etc.!

Keep up to date with the latest developments and opportunities on the G:up website:
<http://growingupinthewestmidlands.info/gxl>



G:XL's Themes

Improve: Information
Increase: Collaboration
Improve: Quality
Increase: Voice and Influence



Voice and Influence

This G:XL work stream has a variety of aims and outcomes around both CYP participation and strategic engagement and representation of the CYP VCS.

Current work includes mapping benchmarks for CYP participation across the region, analysing existing models and practice and consulting with stakeholders, including CYP.

Equality and diversity are embedded in G:XL and this work stream has a specific focus on barriers to democratic and representative engagement and influence and on participation and representation of 'hard to reach' and under-represented groups.

Over the course of the project, we will identify the needs and views of CYP VCS organisations and of the CYP who use their services; encourage and support the engagement of representatives of CYP VCS organisations in influencing processes and policy-making, planning and funding, whilst encouraging and supporting children and young people's participation through structures and opportunities which enable them to influence the design and delivery of services and other issues.

If you're interested in contributing please visit the G:up website or contact Cath Errington on:
cath.errington@wayc.org.uk or 01926 453 077.

Contact G:up: E: gup@bayc.org T: 0121 460 5870

W: <http://growingupinthewestmidlands.info>



Acting on the needs, interests and aspirations of all children and young people in the West Midlands, and the voluntary and community organisations that work with them

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Information and Communications Work Stream

G:up Marketing and Communications Strategy

Download it now from the G:up website!

<http://growingupinthewestmidlands.info/marcomms>

A G:XL target, this strategy will guide G:up's marketing and comms activities and procedures for the current year across all its areas of work, ensuring effective communications and marketing to meet the needs of G:up, its members and stakeholders.



The document will also act as a model of good practice for G:up members and the wider West Midlands CYP VCS. G:up will additionally produce a 'how to' guide and offer training for organisations to develop comms strategies for their own organisations - a means of capturing your mission and objectives and helping you to deliver them, at a time when robust procedures are essential.

This is just one of the outcomes and actions of the strategy which also maps out the delivery of G:XL's Diversity and Outreach targets.

For more information about this, or anything in this section, please contact George Turvey at G:up on george.turvey@bayc.org or 0121 460 5870.

Information and Communications Learning Cluster

<http://growingupinthewestmidlands.info/infocommsLC>

The learning cluster brings together info and comms professionals from across the West Midlands VCS. It's an open forum designed to improve and get the best out of G:XL's information and communications work and to benefit its members and the sector more broadly by increasing and improving: learning, information sharing, networking, communications and inclusion.

Visit the link above to learn more, read the terms of reference of the group and see dates of upcoming meetings.

G:up's new Marcomms Strategy: an important tool and example for the sector



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Engaging with Diverse and 'Hard to Reach' Organisations

Guide available on the G:up website now!

<http://growingupinthewestmidlands.info/ISOGuide>

As part of the G:XL project, G:up has produced a guide for VCS Infrastructure Support Organisations (ISOs) about how to engage with diverse and 'hard to reach' organisations.

This includes a discussion about what 'hard to reach' actually means (who is included and why? Who defines it? Is it accurate? If so why?), various reasons why organisations might not be linked in with infrastructure support or appear 'hard to reach' and finally a practical guide of steps ISOs and any VCS organisation can take to increase their reach and the diversity of their affiliates.



Information and Communications Audit

Download the report from the G:up website!

<http://growingupinthewestmidlands.info/infocommsaudit>

Another requirement of G:XL, this audit of info and comms issues, barriers and solutions in the West Midlands VCS comprised a series of in-depth interviews with ISOs across the region.

This methodology was chosen in order to dissect the subtleties of these complex areas and enable minute examinations of the different experiences of organisations throughout our diverse sector and diverse region.

Participants were also carefully selected in order to represent this diversity so for example larger and

smaller ISOs were selected, ISOs dealing with rural and urban areas and regional and play ISOs.

As with the G:up Marketing and Communications Strategy, the audit report makes various recommendations for future work and will hopefully prove a very useful document for the wider West Midlands children and young people's VCS.



G:XL's Work Streams

- **Quality Standards**
- **Training and Workforce Development**
- **Voice and Influence (Strategic and CYP engagement, representation and influence)**
- **Improve Information and Communications**
- **Collaborative Purchasing and 'Back Office Functions'**

Get online to find out how you can get involved! <http://growingupinthewestmidlands.info/gxl>



New G:up Website Exclusive Going live Jan 2011 with several fabulous, new, sector tools!

Training and Events Calendar

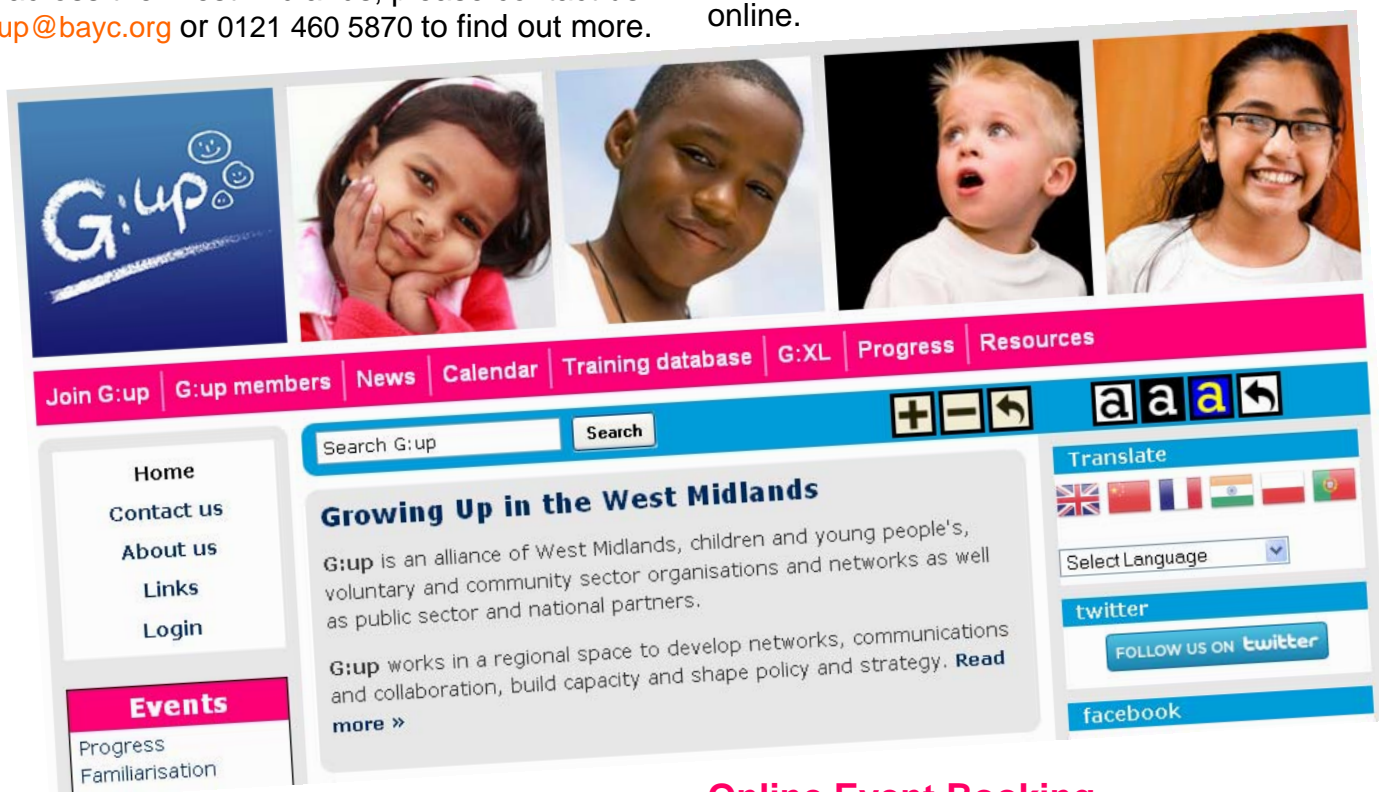
On the new G:up website you'll be able to view just training, just events or both together on our all-new calendar, making this a one stop shop for what's going on in the region. If you'd like to advertise your training courses for free to CYP VCS staff right across the West Midlands, please contact us on gup@bayc.org or 0121 460 5870 to find out more.

G:up members

The contacts and logos of all G:up members will appear on our new website, improving links across the sector and moving G:up's and partners' websites up the search engine rankings! If you're not already a G:up member, see the backpage or email gup@bayc.org to find out how to join for free.

G:XL, Progress and other resources

Keep up with developments and opportunities with G:XL and Progress in dedicated sections and find all G:XL and other G:up documents and resources online.



Signposting Database

This invaluable sector tool will enable CYP VCS organisations to search for service providers and address gaps in their infrastructure. As well as support links, the database will list regional training providers. If you offer training please contact us.

Improved Updates

G:up's email updates, one of our key services, highly valued by members have been improved. Summarising new info on our website including news, training and events, they reach our very wide network of members right across the region.

Online Event Booking

No more booking forms! Simply book your place online. G:up will also offer this service to members.

Website Training

Uploading information, including training or events, exclusive to G:up members, will be much simpler and offer more possibilities, but watch this space as G:up runs free website training in the new year.

Much More!

This is just a taster, the new site is easy to navigate, has several accessibility features, many more excellent tools and looks great!



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G:up Steering Group Vacancies!

G:up is looking for bright, savvy and connected practitioners to join its steering group. Recent changes in funding for our sector have meant we have lost a number of committed steering group members. New recruits will be appointed on an interim basis until June 2011, when they will have the opportunity to be formally elected at our AGM.

Especially in the current landscape, we cannot promise this role will be easy, but if you believe you can offer and explore solutions (not just the challenges), operate in a real spirit of partnership and collaboration and bring expertise to help G:up achieve its vision and objectives effectively then you're just the person we need.

What's the commitment?

The G:up steering group meets 5 times a year at our offices in bayc, Birmingham. Meetings last approx. 2 hours, although some preparation time may be required. In addition to this, steering group members may be asked to represent G:up or attend additional meetings and events.

G:up will hold a special induction event for anyone interested in joining the steering group on: Thursday, 13 January 2011.

G:up steering group meeting dates for 2011 are:

Monday, 24 January 2011, 11:00 – 13:00

Thursday, 14 April 2011, 11:00 – 13:00

Thursday, 7 July 2011, 11:00 – 13:00

Thursday, 29 September 2011, 11:00 – 13:00

Thursday, 15 December 2011, 11:00 – 13:00

For more info please email gup@bayc.org. You can also call Gail Lucas on 0121 460 5870 or visit: <http://growingupinthewestmidlands.info/about>



In Brief—G:up National Successes

NCVO Recognises G:up Practice

The Value of Infrastructure Programme (VIP) at NCVO (National Council for Voluntary Organisations) works to support all kinds of infrastructure organisations to assess, improve and communicate their impact. Having analysed many models of infrastructure support nationwide, VIP based its map describing the functions of infrastructure, which will guide the programme, on G:up's **Engage, Influence and Develop** model. This is a real accolade for G:up's practice and has exposed our work to new national audiences. Read more at: www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/vip

G:up, NCVYS Collaboration Report

The publication of G:up's Collaboration Report in partnership with NCVYS could not be more timely, as organisations strive for increased collaboration to overcome funding cuts and threats to their work. The report is a case study of G:up's experience, but contains much valuable advice on working collaboratively, developing partnerships and contracting and commissioning. Contact G:up for further info or download the report via: <http://growingupinthewestmidlands.info/collaborate>



Contact G:up: E: gup@bayc.org T: 0121 460 5870

W: <http://growingupinthewestmidlands.info>

Progress your workforce

Accredited training for the voluntary and community sector young people's workforce

Progress Takes Off in West Midlands

As West Midlands Regional Delivery Agent for Progress, the national, third sector-owned and led, accredited training programme, G:up has already held briefing sessions for the sector, is about to host its first familiarisation training and new familiarisation dates for December are already fully booked! January dates will be announced ASAP!

Progress, gives training providers offering training to staff from the children and young people's voluntary and community sector (CYP VCS), the chance to claim a £100 subsidy per learner for each accredited training course they run until March 2011, that matches the units and priorities of Progress.

Progress will build the capacity of the voluntary and community sector by offering 25,000 accredited training opportunities for volunteers and paid staff and is delivered by a partnership led by the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS) under contract from the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC).



Demand for Progress in the West Midlands has consistently outstripped all other English regions.

To deliver Progress training you must be registered with a Progress-approved awarding organisation (ABC, Active IQ, Asdan, BDi, Cache, C&G, Edexcel, EDI, FAQ, HABC, NCFE, NOCN, OCN, OCR, SHARED or Sports Leaders UK) and be PTTLS (Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector) or equivalent qualified or be willing to complete a PTTLS qualification. Contact G:up to find out more.

In another Progress success in the West Midlands, NCVYS has just announced that 5 regional training providers have been successful in their applications for Progress bursaries, to gain accreditation. The bursary recipients are: WAYC (Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs), WCVYS (Worcestershire Council for Voluntary Youth Services), Concept Connect, Fluid Space Arts and bayc.



If you would like to take part in Progress in the West Midlands please visit the G:up website: <http://growingupinthewestmidlands.info/progress> or contact G:up on progress@bayc.org or 0121 460 5870, to find out how you qualify.

Join G:up! - It's absolutely **FREE**

G:up is an alliance of organisations and networks working in or with the West Midlands children and young people's voluntary and community sector (CYP VCS)

Our members include:

- VCS organisations: our membership is open to VCS organisations and partnerships
- Infrastructure support organisations (ISOs) that support the West Midlands VCS e.g. by providing information, advice, training or helping with networking, partnerships, advocacy and campaigning
- Public sector and national partners that work with or are interested in G:up's work and agendas

All G:up members:

- **Receive automatic email updates from our website** containing sector news, events and training, posted on our website and via online sector news feeds
- **Receive a login for our website**
- **Can post events, news stories and comments on our website**
- **Have priority booking for G:up events and training**



As a G:up member you will be:

- Better informed about what's happening in your sector
- More connected with organisations that can support and enhance how you deliver your services
- Part of a wider alliance that advocates on behalf of CYP and the VCS
- Able to access exclusive support, information and opportunities
- Able to promote your work, events or information to and via a wider network
- Able to participate in discussions about your sector, your needs and concerns
- Positioned to directly influence local, regional and national policy that affects the CYP sector in the West Midlands

Find out more about G:up, our vision and work on the G:up website:

<http://growingupinthewestmidlands/about>

To join G:up or for further information, please email gup@bayc.org or phone **0121 460 5870**. We look forward to hearing from you!