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## **Southend Association of Voluntary Services Media Release**

### **Capacity Building in the Third Sector – *making the most of challenging times***

14<sup>th</sup> December 2010

**Effective date:** Immediate

**Contact:** Ingrid Harvey 01702 356038 [outreach@savs-southend.co.uk](mailto:outreach@savs-southend.co.uk)

**Southend Association of Voluntary Services (SAVS)** Third Sector Development Officer, Ingrid Harvey, is carrying out 'free organisational health checks' amongst voluntary and community groups in the Southend area. The aim is to identify training needs and signpost SAVS member groups to training and additional support, in order to help them 'survive and thrive' in a time of economic challenge. The Third Sector Development Officer is also responsible for liaison between the training providers to ensure the smooth running of the training courses being provided by the partnership. These training and development needs will be met by the training programme offered through the Advance Partnership with Southend Adult Community College and Voluntary Sector Training.

As an integral part of the health check process, the voluntary and community groups review their understanding and readiness for commissioning and procurement of services. Funders are moving away from the traditional approach of grant funding, and tendering and commissioning for provision of services to the community will increase. It is vital that community organisations make full use of the training available to prepare themselves for writing bids and submitting competitive tenders in the future.

Ingrid said:

*"We offer a wide choice of courses ranging from Business Planning and Essential Trustee training to Food Hygiene and Access Database courses. Ingrid added "changes in funding arrangements mean our members are moving into a more competitive environment and we are keen to support them in developing the skills they will need. The Health check process is the first step in identifying the needs."*

If you would like to arrange for your organisation to receive a free health check, or for more information please visit the SAVS website [www.savs-southend.org](http://www.savs-southend.org) or contact Ingrid Harvey, Third Sector Development Officer at SAVS on 01702 356038 or email [outreach@savs-southend.co.uk](mailto:outreach@savs-southend.co.uk).

#### **Background:**

Southend Association of Voluntary Services, or **SAVS** as we are more frequently known, is a council for voluntary service, (CVS) part of a national network of similar organisations. Our job is to advise and support local, not-for-profit groups. These groups provide all manner of services and include social clubs, groups advising people who care for a relative at home, advice and activities for people with disabilities or health

**Website:** <http://www.savs-southend.org/training>

