



VSOS: AN INTRODUCTION



- Support
- Outreach
- Sustainability

- **Enterprising** projects in rural communities that provide a service to local residents



WHAT HAS HAPPENED?



VSOS 1:

- Big Lottery Fund & BBC

VSOS 2:

- Research and Engagement
- Community-to-community learning
- UK wide network of sustainable community projects



LOCAL CONTACTS



Wide range of partners:

- England – ACRE & the ACRE Network
- Scotland – Rocket Science Scotland, Senscot & Forth Sector
- Northern Ireland – Rural Community Network Northern Ireland
- Wales – Wales Council for Voluntary Action
- Rose Regeneration & Rocket Science



HOW WILL IT ALL WORK?



- Projects (concept and established), organisations, enterprises can all apply for support
- A local partner will act as the first point of liaison
- A bespoke action plan; with costs etc including Mentor time will developed
- Action carried out



WHO COULD BE INVOLVED?



Any project providing a service locally:

- Luncheon clubs
- Health based activities
- Community facilities
- Transport schemes
- Community owned businesses



THE PLAN OF SUPPORT



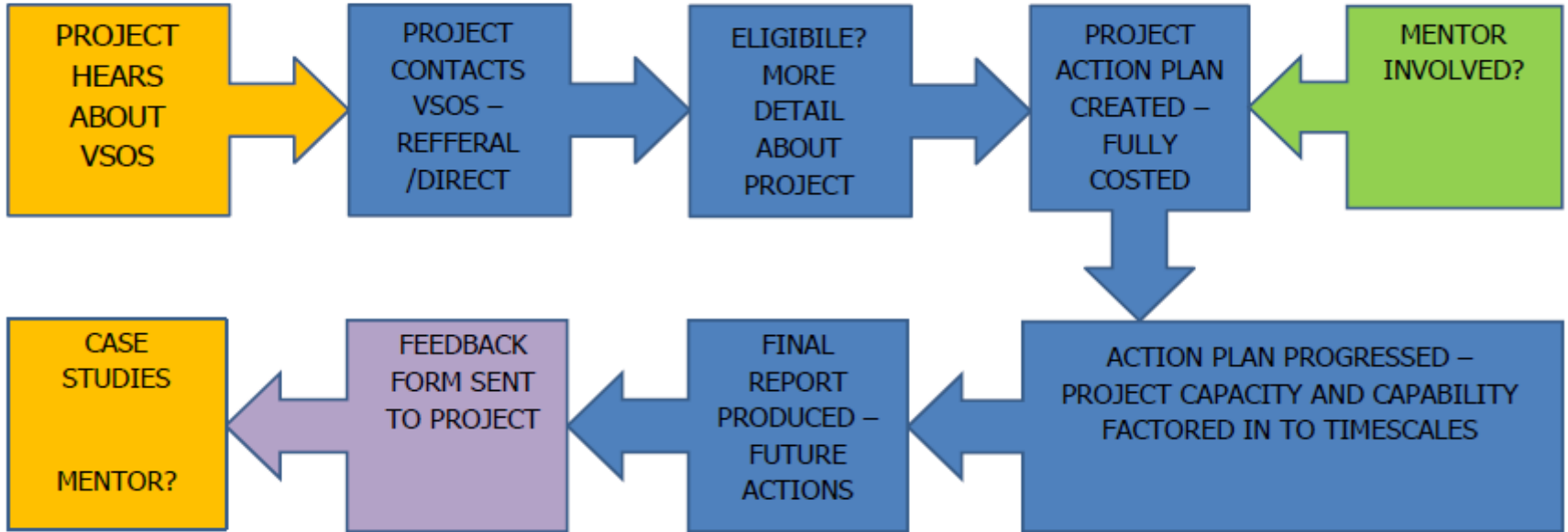
What could be included?

- Consultation support – Building an evidence base
- Business planning (VSOS Mobile App)
- Funding and investment advice
- Site visits to learn from others
- Promotion, marketing and communication
- Attending specific training relevant to your project

- Mentor support



HOW WILL IT ALL WORK?



VSOS MENTORS



- Volunteers with expertise, experience and knowledge **that can benefit other community projects**
- Part of the package of support available
- **VSOS training available**
- **Travel expenses paid**



VSOS MENTORS



- At the nub of the programme
- Drive knowledge transfer between communities
- Community-to-Community (C2C) learning
- Opportunity to Apply Knowledge Across UK
- Personal Development Network
- Part of the Village SOS legacy



MENTOR EXPERIENCE



- Community Enterprise
- Building Asset Transfer
- Pubs/Shops/Post Offices
- Libraries
- Other local former LA services
- Local Food
- Community Agriculture
- Community Energy
- Low Carbon
- Local Trading/Local Currencies
- Broadband/Mobile (IT)
- Tourism
- Green space
- Health
- Housing
- Credit Unions
- Managing volunteers
- Consultation and engagement

VSOS MOBILE APPLICATION



Home How it works In your area Good ideas Events

Business ideas Blog Sign up

Useful links

- Village SOS has a [YouTube](#) channel, where we'll be uploading films for you to access from throughout the campaign please click on the link and have a look.
- VOS Community Manager Chris Cowler wrote [this blog piece](#) for the Big Lottery Fund that is a useful starting point for VSOS and gives you an insight to the campaign.
- Village SOS has previously supported a range of projects across the UK. [These short films](#) as you take place a focus of the waste of initiatives.
- Between 2007 and 2012, the seven Rural Community Councils in the South West of England worked with community and local enterprise projects as part of an innovative funding programme. [These case files](#) showcase their examples of enterprising rural community action.

By signing up as a member to the Village SOS campaign, you will receive a free copy of this book, which is packed full of case studies and useful information about getting your enterprise project off the ground. For more, pick up and turning, we'll have a link to this page (could we please include and contact a leaflet at present).

The Big Lottery Fund online Community

Throughout the Village SOS campaign, you can be part of the conversation, join in debates and interact with others who are working on similar projects to you via the [Big Lottery Fund online Community](#). Sign up today and stick on the back and join in now.

Village SOS Mobile App

Village SOS has launched a mobile App which is available for download on [Apple](#) and [Android](#) devices. This tool will help users who are developing a project in their communities. The resource is packed full of case studies, tips, tips and useful tools to use when writing a business plan.

Please note: Once downloaded you will not need an internet connection to use the App.

What could we do?

How could we do it?

Things you need to know

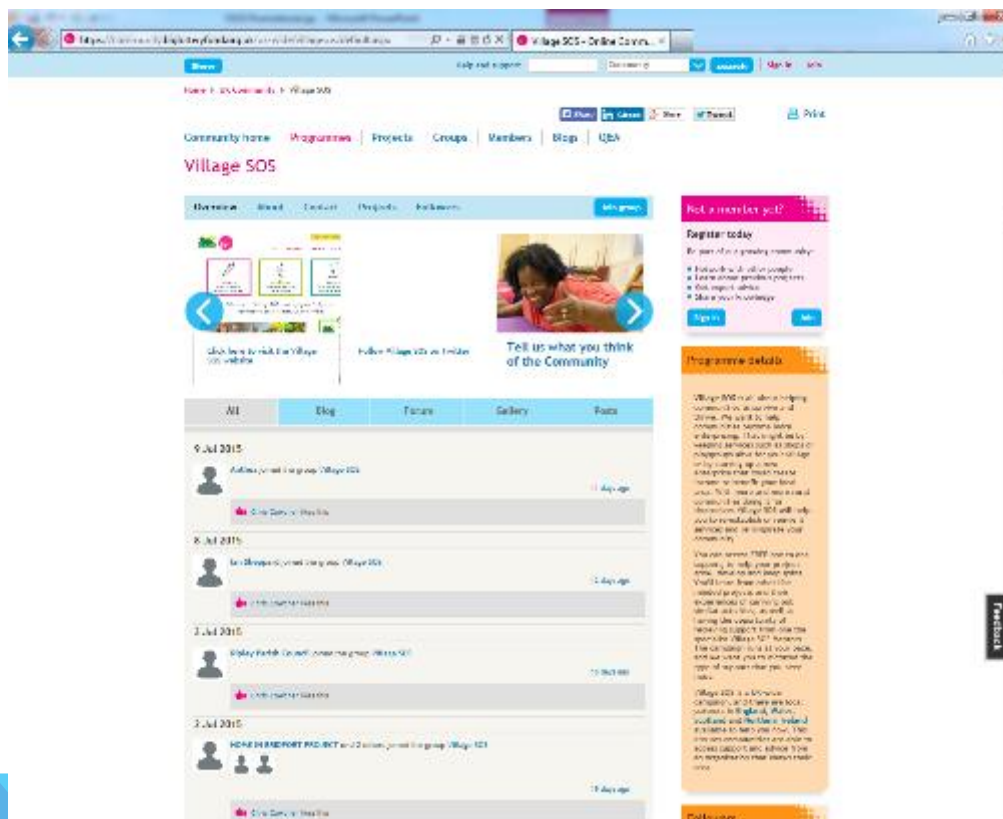
Resources to help

VSOS Community

About Village SOS



BIG LOTTERY ONLINE COMMUNITY



SIGN UP AS A MEMBER



- Blogs
- Social media (Twitter, Facebook, YouTube)
- Press releases/Stories
- Case studies
- Events/training
- Newsletters – electronic and printed





News

July 2015

News

HOW brilliant would it be to see your project in a short film? Well, as part of the Village SOS campaign this could soon become a reality. We are looking for groups to feature on our Village SOS YouTube channel - Could this be you?



At the heart of Village SOS are the projects who share their experiences, learn from each other and inspire others that ideas can come from them. You'll see on our first film on YouTube that the 'Heart of the Village' project in Godalming has been an inspiration at the beginning of this journey. We hope by watching their story you might be inspired to think about how you engage with your community and generate any project ideas you might have.

Chris Connelly
V SOS Community Manager

WHAT IS VILLAGE SOS?

Village SOS is a Big Lottery funded learning, network and engagement programme that will engage rural communities across the UK to start social enterprises. It is led by ACIE (Action with Communities in Rural England) supported by the Network of Rural Community Councils, the Council for Voluntary Action, Action Science, Senact and Forth Sector in Scotland, and the Rural Community Networks in Northern Ireland.

- Sign up to keep in touch!**
 - Receive a fortnightly email with news, events, funding sources and community project updates.
 - Receive our monthly newsletter.
 - We invited you to join the Big Lottery Fund's rural community.
 - Get a copy of the message that we create a successful community enterprise book, featuring stories from V SOS community projects.

Events and training...

Are you interested in learning about social events and training being run across the UK by a wide range of organisations in rural England?



KEEPING IN TOUCH



- **Twitter:** @VillageSOS (#VillageSOS / #VSOSMentor / #VSOSMember)
- **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/villagesos
- **Website:** www.villagesos.org.uk
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