#### Supporting communities to become more enterprising - the Village SOS campaign

Chris Cowcher, Action with Communities in Rural England







## VILLAGE SOS SUPPORTS:



Projects which are:

- Enterprising community projects
- Focussed on service provision for local residents
- In areas of less than 10,000 in population
- An established project or a burgeoning concept
- Inclusive of those living locally





## VILLAGE SOS PROJECTS:



UK wide distribution:

- 340 projects in England
- 42 in Northern Ireland
- 39 in Wales
- 37 in Scotland





#### TYPES OF PROJECT:



Projects supported:

- Multi use community buildings
- Community run/owned businesses
- Transport schemes
- Sport and recreation facilities
- Health and wellbeing projects





# LINKS TO RURAL ECONOMY:



These small projects can offer:

- Childcare provision
- Connection to employment centres (transport)
- Local services/businesses
- Employment/Self employment opportunities
- Training for staff and volunteers





## VILLAGE SOS SUPPORT:



Projects supported have been able to access:

- 'Community to Community' learning
- Expert support from 43 organisations
- UK wide learning network via the Big Lottery online Community
- Specialist Mentors (246 UK wide)





# VILLAGE SOS MENTORS:



Training offered to all who volunteered as a VSOS Mentor:

- 171 mentors in England
- 29 in Wales
- 27 in Scotland
- 19 in Northern Ireland





## VILLAGE SOS SUPPORT:



Each project will progress a series of accelerator actions to build confidence, capacity and capability:

- Idea to plan
- Structured Plan of Support
- Small scale financial resources
- Professional advice, one to one from a local contact
- Knowledge and training opportunities
- Community to community learning





#### THE "CAMPAIGN" ELEMENT:



Contractual KPIs focussed on:

- Event attendance
- Online interactions
- Regular communication
- Development of a mobile app
- Recruitment of a UK-wide membership





#### WHAT NEXT:



Keep in touch to connect with others and hear the latest updates on the Village SOS campaign:

- Twitter: @VillageSOS
- Facebook: facebook.com/VillageSOS
- Website: www.villagesos.org.uk



