



Registered Charity No. 1038129

Annual Report and Accounts 1st January – 31st December 2013

Our Mission/Vision is to be the first point of call for voluntary and community organisations (VCOs) that want small-scale research projects facilitating. We have achieved this over the past twelve months by continuing to offer the same level of service to VCOs across the greater Merseyside area.

Interchange has proactively reached out into the community to promote the service and to ensure that groups know what is available to them. This work has been enhanced by ensuring that there is VCO representation on the committee sharing the knowledge of the needs of the sector with Interchange

Principal Office of the Charity

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Interchange is a registered charity based and in, and partnered with, the University of Liverpool, and specifically the Department of Sociology, Social Policy & Criminology. The purpose of this partnership is to facilitate a knowledge exchange through community-based learning; a reciprocal relation between student and community with the aim of being of benefit to both, and ultimately of benefit to the wider public. This is achieved by Interchange acting as a 'broker' between Voluntary Community Organisations (VCOs) who have research and/or work project needs, and students who wish to conduct a piece of applied social research or work project as part of their degrees. These project opportunities are embedded in the curriculum where they are supervised and assessed for academic credit.

Please visit us on

<http://www.facebook.com/InterchangeLiverpool>

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/interchange/>

https://twitter.com/Interchange_vco

Testimonies from host VCOs

"more than just a student, a valued researcher" Liverpool Homeless Football Club

"Interchange is a brilliant programme with great benefits for all involved. We would work with you again without hesitation". Rotunda

"Interchange is a unique project which provides a beneficial outcomes for students and organisations!". Sefton CVS

Chair's report (Louise Hardwick)

The end of 2013 and beginning of 2014 has seen highs and lows for Interchange. Sadly we have lost two very significant figures in the history of Interchange: Sharon Lockley, the first Interchange Coordinator left the charity some years ago to embark on new ventures but very sadly and prematurely died in November 2013. This was followed by Dr David Hall, who with his wife Eileen, founded Interchange in 1994. Dr Hall had retired but remained a friend to Interchange until his sudden and unexpected death on 4 March 2014.

In the shadow of these sad losses there have been some new and exciting developments this year. We have begun a pilot project of 4 Masters Students. For Jennifer New, one of these students, this has resulted in an ESRC funding award for a PhD on 'The experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) asylum-seekers and refugees living in Merseyside'. Jennifer will be working with Sahir House on this research.

The Higher Education Academy funded research led by Andrew Kirton was published on http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/assets/documents/events/SS_assets/TRM_12/Liverpool.pdf .

This report explored the use of applied social research skills developed by both students and VCOs through engaging with Interchange.

Building on the findings from this report we have had approved a new undergraduate module for students wishing to do research or work with a voluntary organisation through Interchange: 'Interchange Portfolio: work-based learning'. This will replace the existing applied social research and social policy modules.

The Interchange team were also nominated by the University for a 'Celebrating Success Award'.



From left to right are myself, Claudette Graham (Coordinator) and Dr David Whyte (academic supervisor) Andrew Kirton was also nominated but not present for the photo-shoot as he was lecturing in Singapore.

Along with Claudette, David and Andrew I would also like to thank: -

- The host VCOs who have provided support to the student learning
- The Management Committee: Secretary, Lindsey Metcalf; Treasurer, Darren Mooney; Angela Daley, Ben Carpenter, Mike Hogan, Laura Donovan, Howard Hunt & David Whyte
- The students who have produced well researched Client reports
- The University of Liverpool for their continued support
- The Community Accountants at Liverpool Council for Voluntary Service

Academic supervisors report (Louise Hardwick & David Whyte)

In the academic year 2013/14 Louise Hardwick and David Whyte taught on both the 'Applied Social Research' module and the 'Social Policy Project: Work-Based Learning' module. These community-based learning modules provide an alternative route to doing a conventional desk-top dissertation for social science students in the final year of their degree.

This year 21 students from the Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology took up the modules linked to Interchange. Students produced outstanding project reports for their VCOs in May 2014 and will graduate this July.

Applied Social Research - 2013/14

Students	VCOs
Katherine Burnet	Hype
Megan Clayton	Sahir House
Colette Foy	Asylum Link
Vitoria Mann	Ferries Family Group
Laura Maskill	Tuition4you
Alan McDonald	North CAB
Isobel Presley	Central CAB
Evie Wilcox	Amazing Lyfe
Rebecca Wilson	Liverpool Mencap

Social Policy Project: work-based learning - 2013/14

Students	VCOs
Christine Brookfield	Family Tree
Melissa Campbell	Amazing Lyfe
Rebecca Garnault	Forum Housing Association
Ben Hills	Sefton CVS
Peter Lovering	Ullet Rd Unitarian Church
Sean Gilmore	Amazing Lyfe
Lennard Neubaucer	ICL
Steven Roberts	LFC Youth Skills Programme
Annabel Seymour	Autistic Initiatives
Sarah Smyth	WHISK
Ella Wheelen	Sefton CVS

Secretary's report (Lindsey Metcalf)

There was a fantastic turnout at Interchange's AGM event in May 2013, held at the Neurosupport Centre in Liverpool. Guest speakers included Professor Mike Neary (University of Lincoln) on 'Students as Producers', Dr Andrew Kirton (University of Liverpool) reporting on research into voluntary sector-university collaborations and Tony Breen (Interchange student) who presented his research project with and for Liverpool Homeless Football Club.

Taken together, the presentations showed the challenges of running successful partnerships between voluntary sector practitioners and university students, as well as providing inspiration and encouragement. Both the Guest Speaker presentations and the comments from the audience demonstrated the positive impact that Interchange students and their voluntary sector hosts have been making in Merseyside.

Social Policy and the Voluntary Sector event

Interchange hosted an event as part of the Economic and Social Research Council's 'Festival of Social Science' in November 2013. This is the second time Interchange have run such an event, which brought together students, academics and representatives of the local voluntary sector for an evening at Blackburne House in Liverpool.

Dr Stuart Wilks-Heeg (University of Liverpool) spoke about government policy, human rights and welfare reform – highlighting some of the implications for voluntary organisations. Dr Lindsey Metcalf (Liverpool John Moores University and Interchange) reported on research that showed a blurring of the boundaries between charities and business. Damian Lyon (Interchange Graduate) shared the findings from his Interchange project that showed how social policies and local history are intertwined.

A key part of the event was the round table discussions where some 60 participants from a range of local voluntary groups plus students and academics shared their views. As well as reflecting on the presentations, the groups identified some of the challenges facing the voluntary sector in Merseyside and the impacts that government policy is having at local level.

Feedback forms from the event were extremely positive, and the Interchange committee hope to be able to host a similar event in 2014. We would like to thank ESRC for funding the event as well as University of Liverpool's School of Law and Social Justice for their support.

Committee Away Day

Interchange trustees held their third 'away day' in September 2013, building on previous work to plan Interchange's strategic priorities, maintain good governance and centre our focus on our charitable aims. A central theme of the day was strengthening and developing our already strong links with local VCOs in Merseyside, the local universities and our student researchers. The feedback from participants at our recent events and input and views from our local partners are invaluable for helping us to stay focused on the needs of local organisations facing challenging times and for maximising the impact that Interchange (as a very small charity) can make locally.

Interchange Co-ordinator's Report (Claudette Graham)



After a successful advertising campaign, several briefing sessions were held for VCOs that resulted working in partnership with several new VCOs and re-kindling links with former VCOs.

In total 25 VCOs submitted 32 available research projects. As with the last academic year, 21 undergraduate students signed up for the Interchange modules and selected the research projects of their choice.

The Co-ordinator continues to:-

- Ensure the smooth running of the Interchange office;
- Develop and maintain links with a wide range of VCOs throughout Merseyside and support them to develop their research needs/ideas into suitable student research projects.

Again 2013 was a busy year for the Interchange office. Having a small meeting room for regular 'drop in' sessions in the Law Clinic at the Eleanor Rathbone Building has proved to be most beneficial for students and VCOs.

Some of our students received awards at the graduation ceremony July 2013.



Left to right: Anthony Breen, Marilla Tolfree, Jenny Forsman-Lindeborg, and Sarah Jones.

Account Extract (Darren Mooney - Treasurer)

INTERCHANGE

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2013 £	Totals 2012 £
Receipts				
Bank Interest	6	-	6	2
Grants	1,080	-	1,080	-
Total receipts	1,086	-	1,086	2
Payments				
Away Day expenses	110	-	110	103
Membership subscriptions	25	-	25	-
Printing, Postage & Stationery	24	-	24	13
Refreshments	41	-	41	-
Sundry	26	-	26	15
Training costs	732	-	732	564
Travel costs	34	-	34	-
Total payments	992	-	992	695
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	94	-	94	(693)
Cash funds brought forward	4,273	1,732	6,005	6,698
Cash funds carried forward	4,367	1,732	6,099	6,005

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2013

	2013 £	2012 £
Cash funds:		
Balance at current account and cash	896	808
Balance at deposit account	5,203	5,197
Total cash funds	6,099	6,005
Liabilities:		
Accruals	100	50

Approved on _____

Trustee

Interchange Management Committee

Louise Hardwick - Chair

Louise began her working life as a social worker, having practiced in Liverpool in both the voluntary and statutory sector. From practice she moved to a social work lecturing post at John Moores University before transferring to the University of Liverpool. Both her practice and academic experience coalesces around an interest in the third sector, and policies directing the changing welfare mix and the impact of these on voluntary organisations, volunteers, paid workers and professionals, and - most importantly - the beneficiaries of this welfare provision.

Lindsey Metcalf – Secretary

Lindsey is a lecturer and researcher at Liverpool John Moores University. She is interested in social policy developments relating to welfare, social justice, health and social care - and the implications for voluntary organisations, volunteers and service users. Her PhD at the University of Liverpool focused on the experiences of local charity trustees and the implications of government policies to 'contract out' public service delivery to voluntary organisations. Lindsey was previously a senior manager in the public sector and a trustee of charities working with the LGBT community, young people and women experiencing domestic violence.

Darren Mooney - Treasurer

Darren joined Interchange as a trustee in 2011. He works at the University of Liverpool as the Diversity & Equality Officer. Previously he was an elected officer and Trustee of Liverpool Students' Union (2003/4-2004/5) holding positions as LGB Officer and Vice President (Equal Opportunities). He has volunteered variously as a course rep, student society president, member of the National Union of Students LGB National Committee and a member of the UNISON LGBT North West Committee. Darren is the current Treasurer for Interchange.

Ben Carpenter

After graduating from the University of Liverpool in 2006 with a Politics & Communications degree Ben Carpenter began a career in social housing. He has been volunteered with a range of VCO's across the city none more so than Liverpool Homeless Football Club. Ben has been involved in a successful Interchange project, working with a social science student to deliver a valuable piece of applied research (2012-3). He has recently taken a new post with another housing association working on community development.

Angela Daly

Angela is a qualified researcher and educator with a background in education and social development. She is a lecturer at Liverpool John Moores University. She previously ran her own research and evaluation consultancy specialising in participatory and inclusive approaches. As a volunteer with Interchange and Nugent Care she offers a perspective on the role of research in monitoring and managing change in the community and voluntary sector.

Laura Donovan

Laura is a graduate of the University of Liverpool and former Interchange student. She completed her undergraduate degree in Sociology within the University in 2010, with particular research interests in gender, health and wellbeing. She was awarded the Lundie Memorial Prize for her Interchange Project Dissertation, which involved working with a local women's health organisation to evaluate the impact of a change of management from the perspective of staff, volunteers and committee members. Laura then went on to complete a Masters in Research Methodology (Sociology and Social Policy), revisiting the same organisation for her dissertation research project to undertake a further evaluation with service users. Laura now works as a Graduate Social Researcher for an international company.

Mike Hogan

Mike is an independent systems psychodynamic consultant and trainer. He used to work in the NHS in development and commissioning posts for people with learning disabilities, for offender health services and finally as a mental health service commissioner. He also worked in Social Housing and in 3rd sector homelessness, care and offender provider agencies. He is committed to action research and values Interchange's ability to set up unique symbiotic opportunities for students and local VCOs.

Howard Hunt

Following five years as a teacher working in Huyton, Howard pursued a career in IT and Project Management specialising in logistics installations in the UK and Europe. Since retirement from his profession, Howard has concentrated on working with young people in Merseyside, particularly children in care. As chair of the board of trustees at Litherland Youth Centre, he has been involved in a number of Interchange projects at the centre, before joining the Interchange board in April 2012.

David Whyte

David is Reader in Sociology at the University of Liverpool where he teaches sociology and criminology, and conducts research on corporate and state power. He has been teaching on Interchange programmes for 5 years. David's research is conducted in close collaboration with a number of research partner organisations in the NGO and charity sectors. His previous and current research partners include Corporate Watch, the Centre for Corporate Accountability, the Institute of Employment Rights, Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers, the Hazards Campaign and Families Against Corporate Killers.

SOME OF OUR INTERCHANGE STUDENTS



Students from 2012-13



Students from 2013-14