

## **NORTHUMBERLAND ADVICE PARTNERSHIP**

### **MANIFESTO**

The Northumberland Advice Partnership has now been in existence in one shape or another for nearly seven years. It was relaunched two years ago after the Legal Services Commission withdrew its support for Community Legal Partnerships.

We all know that the Advice sector is facing a series of challenges in the coming months and years. As ever the common problem is continuity of funding and therefore continuity of service to the clients. There are a number of agencies that are ready to take on the work we do, there is a new Council in Northumberland, and an ever increasingly competitive market for the scarce resources.

We agreed that considering the threats we face and the turbulence of the sector it is even more imperative that we continue to meet and solidify our relationship.

We want to reiterate that the Northumberland Advice Partnership is a tool to help us achieve **common goals**. We have identified them as:-

- Influencing policy
- Ensuring better access
- Protecting services
- Having a single powerful voice
- Mutual support

To achieve this aim **we plan**:-

- To reaffirm our purpose and vision
- Celebrate our achievements
- Seek wider and more active membership
- Recruit an independent chair
- Form smaller action groups to work on specific tasks or perform a specific role

We agreed that we have a lot to celebrate from the partnership over the months:-

- The Newsletters
- The financial literacy seminar
- The Advice bus
- Family law project
- The employment referral process
- Age Concern advocacy
- Shelter partnership
- The Macmillan/CAB Benefits Service throughout Northumberland
- The support we have been able to give one another.

We also want to **increase the value of our meetings** by:-

- Inviting guest speakers on topical themes
- Generate the involvement of private practice through new referral protocols
- Form action groups to tackle specific pieces of work or research
- Continue to gather intelligence to continually publish outcomes of our work
- Recruit a chair with strong leadership skills who is independent and has knowledge of the advice sector.

Agreed at NAP meeting 02/05/08