

Covering letter to prospective parliamentary candidates

Dear

Vital and Voluntary

An action agenda for strong and dynamic voluntary and community organisations

I am very pleased to attach **Vital and Voluntary** – an action agenda for strong and dynamic voluntary and community organisations in the South West.

The document lists thirteen actions which we want a new government and individual Members of Parliament to progress and support. Voluntary and community organisations are an essential part of the fabric of society in this region and provide critically important services and support for people and communities in need. There are about 70,000 voluntary groups in the South West and their work is vital especially at a time of economic uncertainty.

The actions we are calling for in **Vital and Voluntary** are realistic, responsible and achievable. We are not seeking substantial new investment from government or major legislative changes but we do want government to support and strengthen partnership working between the voluntary and public sectors and make it easier for small front-line groups to collaborate in providing services.

As someone standing for election to parliament, we hope you will seriously consider our proposals and feel able to support them now and if you are elected.

We will list all prospective parliamentary candidates who support **Vital and Voluntary** on our web site along with other organisations endorsing the action agenda. So please do let us know if you support the actions we are advocating – by contacting our Chief Executive, Stephen Woollett on 01392 823758 or via steve@southwestforum.org.uk

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you any aspect of **Vital and Voluntary** or our wider work as the regional voice for the voluntary and community sector. We are also happy to “signpost” you to our members in your constituency who will be able to give you a much more local perspective on the issues facing voluntary and community groups. So do feel free to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Hilary Watkins
Chair