

## ASPIRE—The Outcomes

The ASPIRE Project is designed to add value to the major contribution that the Network of Volunteer Centres in Scotland makes to delivering on the Outcomes contained within the Scottish Executive Volunteering Strategy.

To build the capacity of Volunteer Centres for this purpose, the ASPIRE Outcomes are designed so that:

- Volunteer Centres have an increased capacity to deliver high quality services to the communities of Scotland throughout the Network
- Volunteer Centres are learning organisations that invest in their staff and volunteers to achieve common aims and objectives, and
- Volunteer Centres have seized the social enterprise opportunities to grow the Scottish Executive core funding.



# ASPIRE

Auditing Skills  
People Investment  
Realising Enterprise

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Auditing Skills  
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Capacity building for Volunteer Centres  
to meet the challenge of the  
Volunteering Strategy for Scotland

The ASPIRE Project has been developed and is delivered by the Volunteer Centre North Lanarkshire. The support of the Scottish Executive and ESF Objective 3 is gratefully acknowledged.

Volunteer Centre North Lanarkshire is the operating name for North Lanarkshire Volunteering Development Agency (NLVDA). It is a registered Scottish charity (no. SC011175) and a company limited by guarantee (no. 190682).



PROJECT PART-FINANCED  
BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

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SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Provided by the Volunteer Centre North Lanarkshire  
in partnership with Volunteer Development Scotland  
& the Volunteer Centre Network Scotland Committee

## ASPIRE—What is it?

ASPIRE is a strategic capacity building project to strengthen volunteering development action in Scotland.

It has been designed to enable volunteer centres to meet the challenges arising from the Scottish Executive Volunteering Strategy. ASPIRE is also provided to encourage and enable a social enterprise culture to grow within the Network of Volunteer Centres.

There are two phases to ASPIRE:

- Discovery (auditing skills, investigating roles, researching, and forward thinking)
- Delivery (providing training, investing in people, enabling entrepreneurship)

Phase 1 has been developed to stand alone with a clear set of outcomes that have sufficient value in themselves.

The ASPIRE Project (Phase 1) is supported by European Funds (ESF Objective 3) and the Voluntary Issues Unit of the Scottish Executive. The main delivery partner is the Volunteer Centre North Lanarkshire.

For reasons of comparison and exploring compatibility, a small number of other organisations (volunteer involving) are invited to benefit from ASPIRE.



ASPIRE—using the Network to network



ASPIRE—people are the Network's greatest resource

## How is ASPIRE provided?

ASPIRE Phase 1 has a focus on Discovery. It is a discovery that investigates the skills and competencies within the Volunteer Centres, a comparison of structures and conditions, as well as business development planning and technology needs. The project also re-energises the VC Standards.

The discovery is enhanced by 3 research programmes:

- A Sectoral Skills Foresight
- Social Economy Labour Market Analysis Tools
- Alternative Learning/Training Methods

Actions include telephone questionnaires, guided discussions with groups and individuals, the application of established tools for investigating learning and development issues, and the trialing of new approaches to networking and learning.

To minimise the time commitment for participants, full use is made of established Internet-based communication means, including the VC Intranet and the e-Bulletin. Direct contact involving travel is kept down by linking to Network schedules and bringing the facilitators to the organisations involved. Webcams are provided to all participating organisations, (as well as help with their use if required).

The Project Plan provides for dissemination of its results and a national conference to report on the project Outcomes.

## The ASPIRE Action Agenda (Phase 1)

Actions Include:

- Awareness Raising Activities
- Signing—up of Participants
- 'How Good is Our VC?' Framework Produced
- Initial Telephone Questionnaires
- First Round of Visits
- Network Profile/Benchmark Produced
- Competency Framework Produced
- Net Meetings
- Training Package Descriptors Developed
- Second Round of Visits
- Research Topics—3 Reports Produced
- Network Conference
- Evaluation & Planning for ASPIRE Phase 2



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