



**Registered Charity No. 1038129**  
[www.liv.ac.uk/ssp/interchange](http://www.liv.ac.uk/ssp/interchange)

## **Annual Report and Accounts**

**2006-2007**



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**November 2007**

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# Interchange

*Learning through Service*  
*A member of the International Science Shop Network*  
*([www.livingknowledge.org](http://www.livingknowledge.org))*

## Foreword

It gives me special pleasure to introduce you to the Annual Report of 2006-7 for Interchange. Despite the threat of financial difficulties part way through this year, Interchange has again demonstrated its unique value and role in equipping students with work related skills whilst at the same time fulfilling its ideals of offering, free of charge, transferable knowledge to community based voluntary organisations.

Indeed its work seems to go from strength to strength as more students see what it is that they can learn from applying their skills in a real world context, alongside all the other immeasurable value added experiences that they gain from working in an environment that demands that they think about how they conduct themselves. It is hoped that the voluntary groups who work with the students also continue to find that they too gain added value from this relationship.

I hope that you find this Annual Report good reading and that it prompts you, whether a student or a voluntary group, to participate with what is a relatively unique knowledge transfer relationship. It is with great pleasure that I extend my congratulations to Interchange on another successful year in taking the university into the community.

***Sandra Walklate***  
***Eleanor Rathbone Chair of Sociology and Head of the School of Sociology and Social Policy***  
***University of Liverpool***

# Interchange

## FACTFILE

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## **Interchange – An Overview**

### **Aims:**

Interchange is an unincorporated association that was registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1994. Our constitution and objects were revised on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2003 to include student volunteering within the curriculum and now read as follows: -

1. The advancement of education by: -
  - a. bringing together charitable groups in the area of Merseyside and neighbouring Districts and students in Higher Education in the same areas for the purposes of conducting research projects and collating organising and disseminating the results of such research for public benefit
  - b. enabling such students to pursue projects, research and experimental work considered to be for public benefit
  - c. enabling students to undertake volunteering opportunities as part of the curriculum
2. To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community in Merseyside and neighbouring Districts by providing charitable groups operating within the area of benefit with advice, training, volunteering and scientific or technical information and by any other assistance appropriate to the use of scientific or technical information so as to enable such organisations to carry out their Charitable work more effectively and efficiently for the benefit of the Community.

### **Core Service**

Interchange provides a research and volunteering exchange between community and university to promote applied research for the benefit of the community and for student education and learning.

The ethos of Interchange is partnership; its aim is to act as a 'broker' to partner community and voluntary groups who have a need for research or student volunteers with students who can conduct the research or volunteer as part of their academic studies.

Interchange partners with community and voluntary groups throughout Merseyside and surrounding areas, and operates with the University of Liverpool, Liverpool John Moores University and Liverpool Hope University.

Interchange is also a member of the International Network of Science Shops (the European term for Interchange type activity). We are currently a partner in the European Union project TRAMS which provides training and mentoring for new science shops.

## **Management**

Interchange held its Annual General Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2006. The meeting appointed 8 trustees in accordance with the Interchange constitution all with the responsibility of ensuring the effective organisation and management of Interchange's work. Details of these appointments are in the 'Factfile'. New trustees were given an induction pack relating to the work of Interchange and offered training on responsibilities of Charity Trustees.

Management of the charity was carried out via bi-monthly committee meetings and other meetings as were necessary for special activities. Procedures were followed as outlined in the constitution and records kept regarding the proceedings of the meetings and decisions made by the trustees.

The office of Interchange is based in the School of Sociology & Social Policy at The University of Liverpool, and receives much in-kind support from the University in order to run the interchange office. The Co-ordinator of Interchange has been in post since February 2003 on a 0.8 post (4 days per week). For the past two years the post has been maintained from internal university funds from the Reach- Out Growth Fund from the Higher Education Innovation Fund, and the post has been line managed by Dr. David Hall, a Senior Lecturer in the Department and Chair of Interchange.

## **Achievements for this Financial Year**

- The main activity continues to be the facilitation of student projects in applied social research with the voluntary and community sector on Merseyside, as detailed below. This year has seen a large number of students from Sociology & Social Policy conducting Interchange projects as their final year dissertations
- The successful pilot conducted in the Health Department at Liverpool Hope University continued for a second year
- Interchange again presented a community forum at Blackburne House, Liverpool to showcase the newly completed projects and help voluntary and community sector organisations think how research could benefit their organisations
- Interchange has run an evening 'taster' session on community based research, which was followed by a four week (one evening per week) course as part of a programme of assisting voluntary and community sector organisations to develop their research skills.

- The Interchange website, linked to The School of Sociology & Social Policy continues to be updated on a regular basis, this is an on-going task and work on its development will continue
- Interchange published its second Community Research newsletter, which has been widely disseminated to community groups throughout Merseyside

## **Chair's Report**

This will be my last report from the Chair of Interchange, following my retirement from full-time work in the School of Sociology and Social Policy. I look forward to the AGM appointing a successor to lead Interchange onwards into a new era.

I have obvious regrets about leaving the post of Chair, which I have held since Interchange began in 1994, and indeed earlier still in its prior incarnation as the Merseyside Community Research Exchange, but I believe it is now time to move on and to hand over to those engaged in the day to day support of students engaged in community based learning and research with the community groups and organisations of Merseyside and region.

I want to pay particular tribute to those who have sustained the work of Interchange over the last year, especially to Sharon Lockley for her tireless work as Co-ordinator, much of which is hidden behind the scenes and never gets recorded. She has given much quiet and friendly support to students as well as working with such a variety of community groups in preparation for research projects, and pro-actively liaising with potential funding bodies for Interchange as well as writing proposals.

I must also mention Louise Hardwick, who has taken over the academic responsibility for the modules in community based learning that promote student volunteering and applied social research through Interchange. Having worked with Louise over the last year, I am confident that the projects are in safe hands and that Interchange will continue to forge its reputation for high quality research and student learning.

I would like to thank also Irene Hall for her commitment to Interchange. Though she has stepped down from the Management Committee, she has been instrumental in planning and running the seminars in community based research and evaluation for community groups, with excellent success. This fulfils our objectives for the transfer of skills to the community to build up their capacity.

I also thank the other members of the Interchange Management Committee for their support and hard work over the past year.

***David Hall***  
***Chair***



## **All Change! Co-ordinator's Report**

2006-2007 has been a year of change for Interchange, with the founders of the charity David and Irene Hall both taking early retirement from academic teaching, although thankfully David did continue this year to assist in the transitional period.

David and Irene were both instrumental in setting up Interchange as a registered charity and in its 15 years of operation. They were also involved in developing the European links with the Science Shop movement and have been key participants in several European funded projects set up to develop the Science Shop Network across Europe and to its new member states.

The E.U. projects have included: ISSNET (International Science Shop Network), interacts (Improving Interaction between NGO's, Universities, and Science Shops: Experiences and Expectations, and TRAMS (Training and Mentoring of New Science Shops). On behalf of the Interchange Management Committee I would like to thank them both for their hard work and commitment to the development and success of the Interchange Charity. On a personally level as Co-ordinator, I would also like to thank them for the many years we have worked together, although we have had some difficult times financially, we also had much fun along the way – so I would like to offer a big THANK YOU.

Interchange welcomed Louise Hardwick as a new member of the Trustee Board and academic supervisor who has been working alongside David Hall, with the view of taking over his modules and the Chair's role when he fully retires.

Overall I feel 2006-2007 was a very successful year, and as we approach a very transitional period in the life of Interchange, the following year will be a very important one, in terms of its future growth and development.

***Sharon Lockley***  
***Interchange Co-ordinator***

## **Secretary's Report**

The role of the secretary is not one I have taken to easily. I have to take notes at the Committee meetings and then type them up as the minutes to be presented at the next committee meeting. If you have seen my writing you will understand why I have problems! Taking the minutes though is a responsible job as this is the official record of the decisions and actions that the committee have agreed on. The records have to be accurate and contain the right information without being too overbearing and long winded.

It is also the responsibility of the secretary to keep a record of the attendance of trustees at the meetings and to log the number of committee meetings that take place, ensuring that the minimum requirements of the constitution are adhered to. Trustees are expected to give their apologies if they are unable to attend the meetings the committee then agrees to accept the apologies or not. The committee can refer to the constitution if they feel that a trustee has not fulfilled their obligations and ask them to stand down. I can report that all trustees have attended on a regular basis or have offered their apologies in accordance with the constitution. The Interchange Constitution states that a minimum of 4 committee meetings should be held each year. The committees have adhered to this stipulation.

**Gwen Lightfoot**

## **Academic Supervisor Reports**

### **The University of Liverpool**

The academic year 2006/07 has presented a number of exciting challenges. I shadowed David Hall with the view to take over the co-ordination of the Schools community-based learning modules. This includes the Voluntary Service Learning module at level 1, Understanding Non-Profit Organisations at level 2 and the Applied Social Research module at level 3. We presently have 13 students undertaking an ASR project for an Interchange organisation.

Added to this I am developing another level 3 module called the Social Policy Project: work-based learning, which will run next year providing an alternative to both a dissertation and the ASR. This, like the ASR is in partnership with Interchange and involves students doing a work project for an Interchange agency.

I have been fortunate in having the best possible induction and mentoring having worked along-side David and I hope the partnership between Interchange and School will flourish as well as continue to build on the community-based pedagogic practice and literature that has been developed by David and Irene Hall.

**Louise Hardwick**

### **Liverpool Hope University**

Liverpool Hope University have had another successful year working with Interchange on a community-based project in Netherton. Two final year students worked with the Feelgood Factory and the community of Netherton in order to gain an understanding of: how people perceive their health; what role the Feelgood Factory had in relation to their health; and what the barriers were to people accessing the Feelgood Factory.

Approximately 80 members of the community took part, ranging from 18 to 81. The study found that most of the respondents were either retired or unemployed and the majority of participants perceived themselves to be 'moderately healthy' with the older applicants perceiving themselves to be 'very healthy'. In line with previous research, individual's health beliefs varied according to their gender, age, locus of control and socio-economic status. The main barriers to participation included: living outside the area; and having limited knowledge of the facilities available.

Both of the students who took part in this study achieved excellent grades for their work, and we are looking forward to continuing this rewarding relationship by providing two more students with the exciting opportunity of working with Interchange in the forthcoming academic year.

**Margaret Coffey**

## Activities During Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007

### Student Placements (2005/06 academic year)

This financial year has proved to be a busy year for Interchange. We have continued to offer an excellent research exchange service, working on a one-to-one basis with third sector organisations (TSOs) across Merseyside. Details of the student placements facilitated are listed below: -

### University of Liverpool 'Applied Social Research'

We had another excellent set of student research projects delivered with the voluntary, community and faith sector on greater Merseyside. Interchange worked in-depth with over twenty TSO's of which fifteen benefited from having a student researcher placed with them.

Student Name(s)	TSO supported	Placement Details
Jennifer Bishop, Zenia Hughes	St Vincent's School for Blind and Partially Sighted Children West Derby, Liverpool <a href="http://www.stvin.com">www.stvin.com</a>	<i>This report offers an evaluation of St Vincent's School from the point of view of LEA representatives, and uses the Every Child Matters agenda to produce a checklist questionnaire for self-evaluation that can be used by the School to measure its performance against LEA criteria.</i>
Alison Brown	Liverpool Reads Liverpool <a href="http://www.liverpoolreads.com">www.liverpoolreads.com</a>	<i>This report examines the Liverpool Reads project, to promote reading with young people across the city. It provides a detailed description and an evaluation against objectives agreed with the organisation. Two examples of impact are studied, and a number of useful recommendations are made.</i>
Kim Donnison	Footsteps Warrington & St Helens <a href="http://www.footstepsforfamilies.org/findus.php">www.footstepsforfamilies.org/findus.php</a>	<i>This report looks at the needs of grandparents looking after their grandchildren, as a result of their children's drug abuse. It uses interviews with social service agencies and with grandparents in this situation to collect important and useful information, and to make recommendations for action which are in line with the limited amount of national research on this issue.</i>
Dawn Fallows	Liverpool Youth Offending Team Liverpool	<i>This report is an evaluation of young offenders and the referral order process, made for the Liverpool YOT which has given access to the young offenders and their induction and reparation sessions. Questionnaires were also sent to parents/guardians, and over 30hrs of reparation has been observed. Evidence is provided that reparation works to some degree to give offenders a new perspective on their</i>

		<i>offences.</i>
Patrick Foster	Rampworx Netherton, Liverpool <a href="http://www.rampworx.com">www.rampworx.com</a>	<i>Rampworx caters for skateboarding, inline skating and BMX. This report is a survey of users' views of the facilities provided by the skate park and possible improvements to the service.</i>
Sarah Johnson	Sefton Millennium Volunteers Waterloo, Merseyside <a href="http://www.seftonmv.org.uk/millenniumvolunteers.html">www.seftonmv.org.uk/millenniumvolunteers.html</a>	<i>Sefton Millennium Volunteers is part of a nationwide scheme for people aged 16-25. This report examines their views and interests, and the services they receive from the coordinating organisation, using questionnaires, focus groups and semi-structured interviews. Volunteering opportunities are regarded very positively, though some improvements are suggested.</i>
Gemma Kelsall, Annemieke van der Pauw	Tweenie Tots 2 Litherland, Merseyside	<i>The research is into parents' views of the Tweenie Tots 2 playgroup, and the potential for expanding its services in an area of Sefton Borough experiencing social deprivation. This has involved questionnaires to parents, telephone interviews, and the involvement of the children themselves through Draw and Write technique.</i>
Tom Mathews	Southport Rugby Union Football Club Hillside, Southport <a href="http://www.southportufc.com">www.southportufc.com</a>	<i>This report is to provide information for the rugby club, as it seeks to develop its links with schools and the community. There is information from interviews with key informants and questionnaires to players and families/supporters, which assesses their views on the club's facilities.</i>
Antonia McGrail	Salvation Army Centre Bootle, Merseyside	<i>This report uses observation through volunteering, interviews and case studies to ascertain the views of service users about the services provided by the Salvation Army centre, and the potential for training programmes, especially in cookery and computers.</i>
Chris Parry	Wirral Women and Children's Aid Wirral, Merseyside	<i>This report is an evaluation of the youth club run by Wirral Women and Children's Aid. The methods evolved as the research progressed, with the young people providing feedback on the youth club, and mothers giving the context in which the youth club is important. Observation and interviews with staff members provide additional information, and the report summarises the value of the club and offers suggestions for its expansion and funding.</i>
Emma Walmsley	Merseyside Family Support Association	<i>This report is an evaluation of the services of the Merseyside Family Support Association, from the point of view of service users and</i>

	Waterloo, Merseyside	<i>professionals. Working in the area of child protection, MFSA offers independent support, advice and advocacy to parents and children, and the report demonstrates how this is useful both to parents and to professionals.</i>
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One further project was established with Voice for Change, a domestic violence organisation, but regrettably could not be completed because of lengthy illness sustained by the student after the Christmas period.

### **Liverpool Hope University, School of Health Sciences**

While most of the projects were with the School of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Liverpool, we again had projects with the School of Health Sciences at Liverpool Hope University, where Margaret Coffey is the project supervisor.

<b>Student Name(s)</b>	<b>TSO supported</b>	<b>Placement Details</b>
Nicola Ellis; Jane Dillon	Netherton Feelgood Factory	<i>The purpose of this study was to gain an understanding of: how people perceive their health; what role the Feelgood Factory had in relation to their health; and what the barriers were to people accessing the Feelgood Factory.</i>

### **Developing Volunteering Placements through ‘Voluntary Service Learning’ and ‘Sociology at Work’ Modules**

During 2006-2007, both of these modules were again a popular option with students. Nearly 20 first year students signed up for the ‘Voluntary Service Learning’ module whereby students undertake a voluntary activity for a local organisation and then complete reflective learning logs to analyse their learning. In addition, 6 second year students completed the ‘Sociology at Work module’, undertaking activities for local organisations and then reflecting on the application of theory into practice. Nearly all the placements with community organisations for these modules were sourced through the Community Bridge team based in the Careers and Employability Service with whom Interchange has enjoyed a positive working relationship for several years. The Community Bridge team also provided inductions for all the students prior to the start of the volunteering activity, in addition to ongoing placement support.

**Trish Lunt**

### **Community-Based Learning Placements (University of Liverpool)**

The majority of these placements were organised through Sarah Jones Community Bridge, Careers & Employability Service based in the Centre for Lifelong Learning and were focused on two modules, Voluntary Service Learning: SOCI111 and Sociology at work: SOCI212. Placement details for both are below: -

### **Voluntary Service Learning: SOCI111 Placements**

#### **Outcomes from the Placements**

##### **Students**

We are delighted to report that Chris Parry won the departmental prize for the best final year dissertation or research project with her research for Wirral Women and Children's Aid, following on from Barbara McNamara's success in the same prize last year with Helplink Wirral.

##### **Voluntary Sector**

It is the role of the Co-ordinator to follow up monitoring and evaluation of the student placements. Generally Interchange receives extremely positive feedback from organisations, a few quotes from this year's TSO's include:

"The research was very well presented – and will be used to help in future fund raising applications" Carol Babstock, Salvation Army.

"[The student] was very thorough and made us think about the way we work with young people in a different way" Bea Colley, Liverpool Reads.

"Interchange and Liverpool University provided us with an opportunity to produce an excellent survey in evidencing the need for our service. As our group is a registered charity ...we would not have been able to afford to pay for this excellent professional service" Maureen Walker-Miller, Tweenie Tots 2 Playgroup.

##### **Community Research Skills Training**

This year Interchange was fortunate enough to receive funding from the John Moores Foundation to develop a Community Research Training package, this was initially piloted as a taster session on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 06 marketed and ran by Sharon Lockley and Irene Hall. The workshop was extremely successful and was attended by 12 participants from a variety of organisations from across Merseyside.

The research taster session was followed by four week, twilight Research Training sessions which ran on four consecutive Thursdays throughout March 07. The training course was attended by 10 participants from a variety of TSOs across Merseyside.

The research training sessions were successful and it is envisaged that funding should be sought to continue to develop the training in future years.

**Organisations Supported:**

- Birkenhead District Council
- Trans Atlantic Promotions
- Crosby Formby & District CAB
- CDS Housing
- Age Concern
- Wavertree/Edge Hill (two participants attended)
- Women's enterprising Breakthrough
- Advocacy in Wirral (two participants attended)

**Supported Employment Project**

This project was concluded during this financial year, but all activity took place in the previous financial year. It was a partnership project between Interchange, Community Bridge and Liverpool City Council. The aim of the project was to provide the Supported Employment Project with fully trained, CRB checked student volunteers to support people with disabilities back into the workplace.



## Community Forum



The third Community Forum proved as popular as the first, with over eighty representatives from TSOs across Merseyside in attendance. This community forum followed a slightly different format in that students and community groups were presented with certificates in recognition of the work they had achieved.

## Newsletter

The second Community Newsletter was published April 06, and continued with the same format as the first newsletter, the newsletter featured articles from: Women's Enterprising Breakthrough, Sefton O.P.E.R.A, Liverpool Mental Health Awareness project, and Central Youth Club as well as giving up to date information of the community Forum, research ideas and contact details. The Community Newsletter can be obtained from Sharon Lockley, email; [slockley@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:slockley@liverpool.ac.uk), Tel; 0151 794 2984

## Website

The Interchange Website is now well embedded into The University's preferred format and can be accessed easily from the School of Sociology and Social Policy web pages, [www.liv.ac.uk/ssp/interchange](http://www.liv.ac.uk/ssp/interchange) the web site holds information on student projects, news and information on the Science Shop Network, and previous annual reports in pdf format. It continues to be updated by the Interchange Co-ordinator.

### **International Activity and the TRAMS Initiative**

As part of the TRAMS (training and mentoring of new Science Shops) project, Interchange was mentoring the new Science Shop from Riga in Latvia. The Co-ordinator visited Interchange on 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> of May 06 and was fortunate enough to attend our Third Community Forum which took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 06. A return visit to Riga was planned for the following year.

### **International Workshop**

One of the highlights this year was the successful International TRAMS Advanced Training Workshop, which was organised by Interchange and held in the Crowne Plaza, Liverpool 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> October 06. The delegate list included existing and new members of the Science Shop movement. Represented countries include: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, France, Greece, Latvia, Netherlands, Romania, Spain and Turkey



## Case Studies

### A Student Perspective

During my final year at the University of Liverpool I was given the choice of writing a literature-based dissertation or to undertake an applied research project. For me, there was no competition. An applied research project would allow me to use the skills I had learned during my degree and translate them into a real life situation.

My preference was to work on a project involving families and children and I contacted Sharon Lockley, the Interchange representative as soon as I could to inform her of this.



After what seemed like a short time, Sharon contacted me with the specification of a project she was setting-up with the Wirral Women and Children's Aid. Perfect! I was so excited! I was asked to evaluate the youth club attached to the Wirral Women and Children's Aid and to identify areas for improvement and the viability of a possible expansion.

At that point, questions began to form in my head "When? How? Who with? How long?" I had no idea where to start! My first contact with the organisation was on in August. I was made to feel very welcome and once the first meeting was over, any nervousness I may have felt beforehand subsided.

With the help and support of Sharon Lockley and my research supervisors, Dr David Hall and Louise Hardwick I took a journey through the lives of three mothers who were brave enough to tell me of their terrifying experiences of domestic abuse. I was privileged to be welcomed by the young people who, having experienced domestic violence themselves mutually supported each other in a non-judgmental way which society would do well to emulate.

It was because of their co-operation and that of the awesome people (many of whom are volunteers) who give their time and expertise freely in order to help so many families in distress that allowed me to complete a successful piece of research.

Until this research project, I had not felt able to use my knowledge to make a difference. I was unsure whether I was even capable of using that knowledge in reality, but this project taught me how. The people I have had the privilege to meet have made an impression on me which will last a lifetime.

**Chris Parry**

## **Case Studies**

### **A Third Sector Perspective**

The research projects undertaken by your students via Interchange have made Voluntary Service at Aintree more professional. We have both supported and nurtured your students and in exchange they have served us well with their research projects since 1999.

One of the main benefits of having undertaken research is that there is little research in the Voluntary Sector of Health & Social care at our level. We have been able to disseminate the findings and indeed numerous copies of the research to other trusts as a good practice tool.

I feel sure that the findings we have received has been donated because the scheme is recognised as being both award winning and research based. The time saved by using students has been of immense benefit and on one or two occasions when we have been unhappy with the findings we have used the research as a tool for improvement. In short, we feel that using your students is a quality issue.

**Terry Owen MBE**  
**Departmental Head Volunteers**  
**University Hospital Aintree**

## **The Future of Interchange**

Interchange is committed to exploring future development of our work in relation to identified external trends, opportunities or threats in the coming financial year. In response to planning activity, we have adopted the following Strategic Objectives that showcase our future focus: -

### ***Increasing Student Placement Capacity from Liverpool University 'Sociology Dept.':***

To build our TSO support service in the Greater Merseyside, we must build our capability to secure student and tutor resources from our core partner, the University of Liverpool 'School of Sociology & Social Policy'. Effective marketing and promotion of our work to students is essential to open up this resource to the Third Sector. Equally, however, Interchange must recruit academic tutor support to supervise students out in the field. The level of tutor resources is currently the main limitation for increasing our numbers of student placements. Identification of further linkages within the rest of the school's courses is also a priority.

### ***Increasing Student Placement Capacity from John Moores and Liverpool Hope Universities 'Sociology Depts.':***

There is great potential for engagement with the sociology in the other two Higher Education Institutions within Liverpool. Interchange successfully facilitated a student placement through Liverpool Hope University and recruited a representative from the institution as a trustee. We will build on these successes to open up further resources from this institution. Links with John Moores University need to be re-established though great potential exists in the establishment of a work-based learning requirement for all courses within this institution. Interest in these institutions will focus on Sociology for the time being until links are more established.

### ***Increasing Links with Other Liverpool University Depts.:***

The Interchange Model has the potential for being replicated into other academic subjects and courses beyond social research. A mapping of potential linkages with courses delivered by other Depts. within the University of Liverpool will be our initial focus under this objective. We will explore wider interests in community engagement work and work-based learning commitments by Depts. to offer a solution in meeting these aspirations. Early signs of potential linkages with the Business School, for example, already exist, with possible support to TSOs being discussed on management and HR issues.

### ***Increasing Community Research Training Delivery to VCF sector organisations:***

Interchange piloted Community Research training during this financial year as an approach to adding value to our student placement service to TSOs. Interchange proposes to develop this intervention further in

the coming financial year to become part of our core package of services offered to TSOs around community and social research work. We are exploring further funding options and also a model of accredited learning to ensure viable outcomes for the TSO representatives themselves, in addition to academic learning outcomes for students.

***Development of Wider Partnerships:***

In addition to academic partnership development, Interchange must build strong working relationships with key structures within the third sector and public sector generally. For example, recent developments have included the establishment of the Greater Merseyside ChangeUp Consortium, a network of the third sector-based support services that offer infrastructure support to frontline third sector organisations. In addition, VOLA (Voluntary Organisations Learning Association) has recently been established as a partnership of third sector learning providers and is forging links with the Greater Merseyside Learning & Skills Council to build firmer relationships with the Third Sector on commissioning of learning activity in the sector. Interchange must keep in touch with these and other developments so as to utilise them in support of our wider work. Our strong International links must also be maintained through the Science Shop movement, etc.

***Securing Sustainability for Interchange Service:***

Interchange currently manages a relatively small budget, which supports our ongoing core service. However, we work in close partnership with the University of Liverpool who employ our Interchange Co-ordinator. This post has been funded for the past two years through the Reach Out Growth Fund and Interchange has identified the need to explore contingency/succession opportunities for this post beyond current HEIF funding, should it not be continued. Interchange will work with the University to explore options of mainstreaming of the post by the University, alongside securing of funding from other sources to support sustainability of this key resource that is central to our charity's ongoing work.

***Building Capacity of Interchange:***

In order to support the achievement of the above objectives, Interchange must consider our own capacity building needs to strengthen our ability to develop as a support service to the Third Sector and as a key partner to academic institutions. Organisational review activity and business planning work are cornerstones that will help us focus our efforts on this issue, which we plan to deliver in the coming financial year. Organisational policies, procedures and systems, as well as development of staff capacity to deliver the service are key issues that our organisation will potentially need to strengthen if we wish to continually build on the successes we are achieving at present.

## **Interchange Acknowledgements and Thanks**

The Interchange committee would like to thank: -

### **Financial Support**

- John Moores Foundation (*Community Research Training*)
- Liverpool City Council (*Supported Employment Project*)
- Liverpool World Centre (*General Donation*)
- FootSteps (*General Donation*)
- The University of Liverpool, Rob Head, Business Manager, Research & Business Services (Co-ordinator Salary, Reach Out Growth Fund – not shown in the accounts, as salary costs come through university)

### **'In-Kind' Support**

- Liverpool Hope University, Margaret Coffee, Department of Health & Sociology
- University of Liverpool, Sandra Walklate, Head of School, David Hall, Louise Hardwick, School of Sociology and Social Policy, Chris McLinden, Nick Palmer, Research & Business Services
- Sefton Council for Voluntary Service (*Promotion/TSO links*)

### **Research (Student Placements)**

- Sharon Lockley, Interchange Co-ordinator, School of Sociology & Social Policy

### **Volunteer (Student Placements)**

- Sarah Jones Community Bridge, Careers & Employability Service based in the Centre for Lifelong Learning

# Financial Report

INTERCHANGE  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
31 MARCH 2007

Bank Account

National Westminster Bank

Liverpool University

Oxford Street