

Press release

Embargoed until 3 October 2011

Sitra and ROCC join forces – bringing together a wealth of national and local expertise in housing, care and support

We are pleased to announce that ROCC, which represents the housing, care and support sector in the South East of England is to transfer its business to Sitra, the national umbrella body for the sector. ROCC's Southampton office will be kept open and their staff will join Sitra.

Members of ROCC will automatically become members of Sitra for the current term of their membership. As well as benefiting from Sitra's enhanced membership package (including discounts on Sitra services such as training, events and consultancy), ROCC members will have greater opportunity to make their voice heard at a national level.

The move will remove unnecessary duplication of work between the two organisations, allowing for greater positive impact and cost-effectiveness. ROCC will bring to Sitra skills and expertise in the health and social care field, alongside expertise in 'on the ground' representation – critical to the localism agenda. This will tie in with Sitra's expertise in housing, housing support and engagement with key Government agendas around personalisation, payment by results and engagement.

Vic Rayner, Sitra's CEO says:

I am absolutely delighted that ROCC have agreed to join up with Sitra. This is a critical time for everyone involved in the sector and providers, commissioners and service users across the country will benefit from our combined expertise. There has always been active partnership between the two organisations and this move brings together over 60 years of driving the quality, resources and direction of the housing, care and support of the most vulnerable.

Nicki Youern, ROCC chair says:

ROCC and Sitra have great strengths in serving the sector and I believe will be even stronger together – at both a local and national level. I am pleased that Sitra will be taking forward ROCC's quality training and expert staff and wish them every success.

Note to editors

1. ROCC members voted for the transfer at an Extraordinary General Meeting held on 25 August. ROCC staff will transfer their contracts of employment to Sitra under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE).
2. ROCC was established in 1975 and was an integral part of Hampshire Probation Service. In 1996 ROCC became an independent organisation and achieved charitable status. Since then, the objectives of the charity has been to improve the efficiency of the

administration of charities, in the county of Hampshire and neighbouring districts, in direct pursuit of their objects, in particular, by the provision of advice, management, support, training facilities and services to charitable organisations within that area of benefit.

3. Sitra is a membership organisation providing leadership, influencing policy through expertise, promoting best practice and providing consultancy, training, information and advice to:
 - Promote positive outcomes for clients, providers and funders
 - Drive the policy agenda
 - Encourage a healthy, diverse and sustainable sector
 - Support quality and professionalisation.

Sitra has additional offices outside of London in Bristol and Birmingham.

Membership of Sitra is open to all voluntary agencies, supported housing associations and statutory bodies, as well as and private consultants and trainers.

Find out more about us at www.sitra.org

Contacts for further information

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