



# Company Capability Statement

## 2007

Our Mission

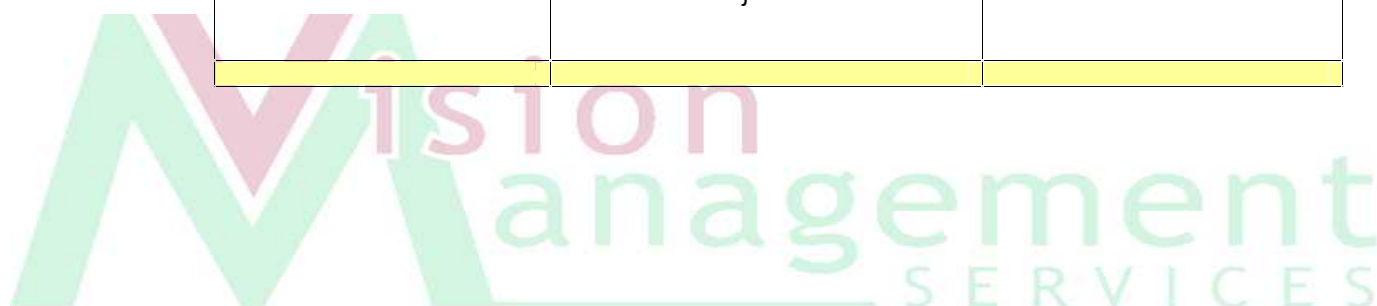
“Strategic Development,  
Implementation and Evaluation”



## Introduction

VMS is a professional services firm, specialising in management consultancy, with the capacity, experience and expertise to work comfortably within the public and private sectors. We aim to leave our clients better placed to achieve their objectives and to meet the demands placed upon them in an increasingly competitive environment. Among our current portfolio of services are:

Skills Portfolio	Description	Key Contact
Community And Economic Support, Research and Planning	Providing research, development and support services to assist agencies and communities address economic and community issues	Tommy Stewart <a href="mailto:tommy@vmsconsults.com">tommy@vmsconsults.com</a>
Good Relations Research and Planning	Strategic approaches to assist organisations address the challenges of diversity.	Tony Mc Gonigle <a href="mailto:tony@vmsconsults.com">tony@vmsconsults.com</a>
Safer Communities Research and Planning	Assisting agencies and communities to develop partnership based approaches that will lead to safer communities.	Tommy Stewart <a href="mailto:tommy@vmsconsults.com">tommy@vmsconsults.com</a>
Project Evaluation	Development of evaluation reports considering the impact of projects and programmes on preset objectives	Tony Mc Gonigle <a href="mailto:tony@vmsconsults.com">tony@vmsconsults.com</a>



Our work involves a range of assignments which can be broadly categorised as follows:

- ✚ Community Planning
- ✚ Economic Appraisals
- ✚ Strategic Planning & Development
- ✚ Community Audits
- ✚ Capacity Building
- ✚ Consultation with the Community
- ✚ Leadership and Governance
- ✚ Organisational Evaluation
- ✚ Project Evaluation
- ✚ Development of Community-Based Projects
- ✚ Managing Meetings
- ✚ Partnership Working
- ✚ Market Research

#### Our Partners in Business

VMS has worked in partnership with the following organisations to develop and run a range of programmes

- ✚ District Councils
- ✚ Local Strategic Partnerships
- ✚ NI Policing Board
- ✚ District Policing Partnerships
- ✚ Community Safety Partnerships
- ✚ Youth Service
- ✚ FE colleges / schools
- ✚ Social Research Centre
- ✚ CM Works
- ✚ Voluntary and Community Sector
- ✚ Church of Ireland

A sustained focus on, and expertise in, strategic planning and performance management forms a common core to these activities.

We also have a strategic alliance with London based M Consulting for the development and delivery of the Transformation Leadership Development Programme.



## Company Structure

VMS (Vision Management Services) is a private company established in 2002. It has offices located in Ballymena. The founding members of the company are Tommy Stewart (Senior Consultant), and Roberta Stewart (Managing Partner).

VMS employs 3 people fulltime staff and where appropriate, we also form strategic alliances with other companies and organisations to plan and execute multi-disciplinary projects. We work throughout Britain and Ireland and have undertaken assignments in United States, Malawi and Eastern Europe. The current full time team employed within VMS includes:

- ✚ Tommy Stewart, Senior Consultant, Partner
- ✚ Roberta Stewart, Managing Partner
- ✚ Tony Mc Gonigle, Consultant

In addition we employ professional secretarial and administrative services to assist in the management and delivery of projects

### Learning Networks

VMS, and/or its personnel are currently members of the following organisations:

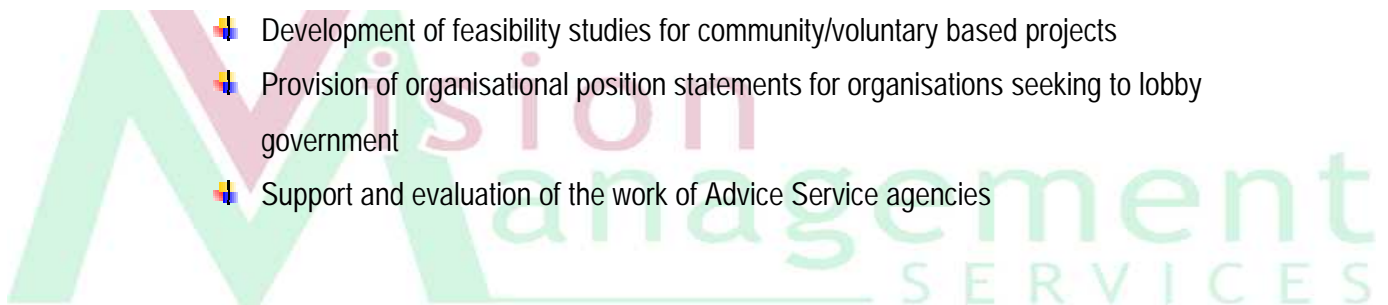
- ✚ Institute of Leadership and Management
- ✚ Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management
- ✚ Management and Leadership Network
- ✚ Federation of Small Businesses



## Typical Range of Assignments

VMS has undertaken a broad range of assignments. Some examples are listed below:

- ✚ Development of Community Support Audits and Plans for a range of District Councils;
- ✚ Development of Community or Good Relations Audits/ for a range of District Councils;
- ✚ Management and Delivery of one year Good Relations Outreach Programme
- ✚ Development of Community Relations audits and three year strategies for towns and villages;
- ✚ Management of Major Trans National Social Economy Enhancement Programme
- ✚ Development of PEACE II funding strategy support services for Intermediate Funding Bodies
- ✚ Development of ESF and Equal Opportunities Monitoring Database for local community groups to capture project data for LSP Peace II monitoring purposes
- ✚ Development of major review of diversity and organisational structure for Ireland wide denomination
- ✚ Chairing Local Government section of CRC Policy Conference on Good Relations
- ✚ Development and delivery of equality and Good Relations Staff Training for range of public and voluntary bodies including training documentation for Moyle District Council
- ✚ Facilitation of meetings and planning for District Policing Partnerships
- ✚ Research in relation to issues which impact upon the safety of communities
- ✚ Evaluation of the work of Intermediary Funding Bodies
- ✚ Evaluation of Educational based programmes
- ✚ Evaluation of Community Safety programmes
- ✚ Evaluation of Neighbourhood Renewal Programme
- ✚ Development of feasibility studies for community/voluntary based projects
- ✚ Provision of organisational position statements for organisations seeking to lobby government
- ✚ Support and evaluation of the work of Advice Service agencies



## Our Track Record

A summary of some of our achievements is presented below. This illustrates the diverse range and scope of our work and also indicates the breath of our knowledge and client base.

- ✚ Delivered to date 26 Strategic development initiatives for local Councils within Northern Ireland
- ✚ Delivered to date 24 Community Planning initiatives throughout Northern Ireland
- ✚ Worked with 23 of 26 District and City Councils on strategic planning and / or performance monitoring and evaluation.
- ✚ Visited and advised Association of Kosovo Municipalities on good practice methods and approaches to engage with local communities emerging from conflict.
- ✚ Conducted over 208 research projects for district Councils and Community groups
- ✚ Delivered over 20 capacity building events and initiatives throughout Northern Ireland unlocking a wide range of local potential to engage in community activity.
- ✚ Reviewed the progress of 7 District Policing Partnerships on behalf of Northern Ireland Policing Board.
- ✚ Facilitated an action plan and code of ethics for one of the first Flags and Emblems Forum in Northern Ireland
- ✚ Established the first Churches Social Network in Malawi whose brief it is to challenge attitudes to aids and works to promote inter-church collaboration to benefit the wellbeing and quality of life of local communities.
- ✚ Completed to date 30 project evaluations for a range of public and voluntary sector organisations.
- ✚ Completed 10 leadership and governance projects involving a range of clients including local authorities, district policing partnerships and the voluntary sector.



## Our Service Standards

We want our relationship with customers to be a partnership based on confidence and trust. Our commitment to you is that our consultants and other members of staff will be easy to contact, quick to respond, competent in their work and courteous to you and your staff.

Our value base is to provide an honest, efficient and an effective service. We are totally committed to delivering high quality work that meets your needs, within budget and on time. This, we know, guarantees customer satisfaction and future business.

Written proposals to clients, whether in response to formal Terms of Reference or based on a one-to-one client briefing, will specify the following:

- ✚ A named assignment team leader and details of the assignment team
- ✚ A project plan with details of the actions needed to complete the assignment and target dates set for key stages such as a draft report and final report
- ✚ Details of exactly what you can expect from us and just as importantly, details of what input we will require from you
- ✚ An unambiguous statement of outputs and outcomes to be expected from the assignment
- ✚ A clear indication of fees and expenses including when invoices will be issued
- ✚ Agreed timescale, including a start date and completion date.

In our approach to consultancy we work to the standards indicated below:

- ✚ We promise to treat clients with courtesy and respect
- ✚ From the outset we will ensure that clients understand how we intend to approach an assignment
- ✚ We will provide clients with a thorough briefing on the results or findings of any research and consultation undertaken within the assignment and present a draft report for consideration before any formal report is finally submitted
- ✚ All reports where appropriate will have a stand-alone summary contained within or attached to the final report.
- ✚ Our reports and business plans will be presented to clients both in full and in summary form
- ✚ We undertake to ensure that reports will be technically correct and accurate with emphasis on readability and presentation
- ✚ Where appropriate, sections will be summarised and graphics used to illustrate key processes, and findings.

In our work on capacity building/training we will:

- ✚ Use modern and up-to-date techniques and well presented materials in our training programmes
- ✚ Ensure that training materials are tailored for each individual assignment and they will be made relevant and appropriate to your particular needs
- ✚ Employ highly interactive training, which involves participants in discussion, and feedback, focuses on practical exercises and learning experiences and concludes with practical action plans that can be implemented by participants.

And, if you are not satisfied? We are committed to giving you a high level of service at all times. However, if you have a problem please let us know. We will act quickly and effectively to resolve any complaints and rectify the problem. We want to encourage feedback because we can only put things right if we know there is a problem.

Some of Our Clients

Antrim Citizens Advice Bureau  
Ards Borough Council  
Ballymena Borough Council  
Ballymena Strategic Partnership  
Ballymoney Borough Council  
Banbridge District Council  
Church of Ireland  
Coleraine Borough Council  
Coleraine Borough Flags Forum  
Coleraine Borough Strategic Partnership  
Coleraine Rural and Urban network  
Community Safety Unit  
Cookstown Borough Council  
Craigavon Borough Council  
Craigavon Local Strategy Partnership  
Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council  
Enterprise Ulster  
Larne Borough Council  
Larne Community Development Project  
Larne District Policing Partnership  
Lisburn City Council  
Moyle District Council  
Newry & Mourne District Council  
Newtownabbey Borough Council  
North Down Borough Council  
Northern Ireland Policing Board  
Omagh District Council  
Research Evaluation Services  
South Tyrone Borough Council  
West Bann Development Group

## Contact Details

VMS is located in Queen Street, Ballymena, County Antrim. Our contact details are listed below:



You can visit our website at:

*[www.vmsconsults.com](http://www.vmsconsults.com)*

