



Voluntary Action
Vale Royal

News



Children & Young People

May/June 2008

Contents

Staying Safe

NSPCC is seeking opportunities to promote its Staying Safe Commitment Scheme through events, regional/local networks and newsletters. Over 50 organisations have registered on the scheme so far. Evaluations show organisations have found the scheme very beneficial in enabling them to refocus on keeping children safe, review and update policy and procedure, and enhance the confidence of staff and volunteers in responding to concerns.

<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/commitmentscheme> or commitment@nspcc.org.uk

Building Brighter Futures

Following publication by the Department for Children, Schools and Families of 'Building Brighter Futures: Next steps for the children's workforce',

(see <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/childrensplan>),

NCVYS has produced a briefing paper: <http://www.ncvys.org.uk/index.php?page=361>

Opportunity to Promote Local Self Help Groups

Churches Together Weaverham are having festive day at Weaverham's Lake House Field at the end of June.

Any self help groups who would like to have leaflets, posters etc on display are welcome to do so and should contact Jules Sanders at julesrulesok@uwclub.net

Vale Royal Voluntary Sector Forum

Next meeting 2nd June 2 p.m.

Winnington Park Recreation Club, Park Road, Winnington, Northwich

Challenging Times for the Voluntary and Community Sector in Cheshire West



- Updates on
- Local Government Review
- Third Sector Assembly
- New Compact for Cheshire West
- Funding News

The establishment of new unitary councils for Cheshire East and West provides a challenge for the local voluntary, community and faith organisations to 'get their act together' so that we can have a coherent voice. The three CVSs covering Chester, Vale Royal and Ellesmere Port and Neston have been meeting to discuss the impact that the new Local Authority arrangement will have on both us and the rest of the sector. We are being pro-active in discussing the implications with the main statutory agencies and have developed the concept of a Third Sector Assembly.

The Assembly would be the main VCFS representative body for the new local authority area and would be supported by the CVS either individually as they are now or in some form of collective arrangement e.g. a new West Cheshire and Chester CVS. The Assembly would have representatives from each of the three existing CVS networks as well as a number of VCFS service deliverers, which covered the whole area, e.g. Age Concern and Groundwork.

A conference was held on 16th April attended by statutory body representatives from each of the Local Councils, members of the Joint Implementation team for the new Unitary Authority, including its lead officer, the Chief Executive of Vale Royal, the Police, Fire Service and West Cheshire Primary Care Trust, together with Sector representatives from across the area. The conference was extremely positive and the message was clearly to move forward with the Assembly.

The steering group will therefore continue to work towards setting up the Assembly and Voluntary Action Vale Royal, which is a member of the committee, will keep you all up to date with developments through our newsletter and our network meetings. If we can make the Assembly truly a representative body then it will benefit all our organisations as well as the communities in which we live and operate.

At the Voluntary Sector Forum meeting on 2nd June we will be discussing how to take the Assembly idea forward.

VAVR News

■ Funding opportunities	2/3
■ Fair play for children	4
■ Help with accessibility	5
■ Consult	5
■ Quality and capacity in volunteer management	5
■ MACAW	6/7
■ Children & Young People	8
■ Opportunity to promote Local Self Help Groups	8



Funding Opportunities

Social Enterprise Investment Fund

The Department of Health Social Enterprise Investment Fund has opened for its second round. The fund is open to multi-agency partnerships, particularly voluntary and community groups wishing to use their expertise to provide services across health and social care. Closing date is 31 July. <http://digbig.com/4wwmq> or <http://www.dh.gov.uk>

Lloyds TSB Foundation

The foundation has just published its annual report and accounts for 2007, confirming its commitment to funding small and medium charities working to tackle disadvantage at a local and national level. <http://www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk>

Kellogg's Active Living Fund

The Kellogg's Active Living Fund gives small grants to fund projects and activities that directly lead to people taking part in sustained physical activity.

<http://www.kelloggs.co.uk/company/corporateresponsibility/activelivingfund>

Clore Duffield Performing Arts Awards

The Clore Performing Arts Awards fund arts education and initiatives aimed at young people (aged 0-18 years). The aim is to provide children and young people with opportunities to experience performing arts education at its best. Next deadline is 17 September.

<http://www.cloreduffield.org.uk>

Access to Nature

Access to Nature is a £25m grant scheme to encourage people from all backgrounds to understand, access and enjoy our natural environment. It is funded by the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme and Natural England. The scheme will focus on three broad themes: community awareness and active participation; education, learning and volunteering; welcoming, well-managed and wildlife-rich places.

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/accesstonature>

Preventing Violent Extremism: Community Leadership Fund

A fund intended to support work that will assist individuals, organisations and communities to take the lead on tackling violent extremist influences. The funding is focused on: capacity of organisations and communities; supporting Muslim young people and women; Muslim faith leaders; and local forums against extremism and Islamophobia.

Deadlines are 23 May and 30 September.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/communityleadershipfund>

Charity Times Awards 2008

Nominations for the Charity Times Awards 2008 are now open, until 6 June.

http://www.charitytimes.com/pages/charity_times_awards

Church and Community Fund

The CCF gives grants to community projects run by parish churches, deaneries, dioceses and other bodies connected to or working in partnership with the Church of England.

<http://www.churchandcommunityfund.org.uk>

What is the Better Neighbour Grant Scheme?

Through the Better Neighbour Grant Scheme, schools, community groups and charitable organisations can apply to their local B&Q store for funding to support a local community project.

The B&Q Better Neighbour Grants are available to help get a community project up and running. The scheme provides £50 to £500 (at retail cost) of B&Q materials, for example, pond liners, plants, peat-free compost for projects such as a pond/wildlife garden or paints labelled low or minimal VOC for redecoration projects.

To apply for a grant, applicants will need to contact the environmental champion, diversity champion or store manager at their local B&Q store, to discuss project details.

A letter, on headed paper, from the organisation is required. This should include details of the organisation and project, materials required, duration of the project and any involvement from the organisation and its aims and benefits. Photographs or plans of the project are optional.

Hilton in the Community Foundation

Focusing on young people, the foundation supports activities in education and health to relieve suffering and equip individuals.

<http://www.hilton-foundation.org.uk>

British Gas Energy Trust

The British Gas Energy Trust funds organisations to provide money and debt prevention advice and education, often with a particular emphasis on fuel poverty.

<http://www.britishgasenergytrust.org.uk>



Fair play for children

Proposals in the government consultation 'Fair Play: A consultation on the play strategy' to make public space more child-friendly include placing a stronger focus on spaces for play in the planning system and supporting local community ownership of space suitable for play.

Respond by 18th July.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1543>.



Help with accessibility

RNID Products, the charity's retail arm, has produced a guide on the help and equipment available to comply with disability law. The Sound Solutions catalogue, "helping you make your service accessible to deaf and hard of hearing people", gives basic advice alongside information on what RNID can provide. <http://www.rnid.org.uk/soundsolutions>.

Consult

Codes of conduct for trustees

Resources to help management committees develop codes of conduct for trustees that are appropriate for their organisations are being put together by Charity Trustee Networks. CTN believes that many existing codes of conduct are rarely used, so wants to ensure that these will be as helpful and practical as possible. See their web site on how to make suggestions:

<http://www.trusteenet.org.uk/news/addressing-tricky-and-sensitive-issues-board>.

Quality and capacity in volunteer management

Research launched at Volunteering England's National Convention calls on government to focus on the quality, not just the quantity, of volunteering opportunities. Based on a survey of 1,382 volunteer managers, 'Management Matters: a national survey of volunteer management capacity' found that although lack of resources was a major issue, over a quarter of managers of volunteers said they would not want more volunteers even if they were given additional funds.

VE news item at

<http://ma.gnolia.com/slurathiror>,
or download the report (pdf, 650KB)
from <http://ma.gnolia.com/vichutagil>.



MACAW is a project based in Sandbach, delivering IT services specifically for the voluntary sector. We operate a computer helpline, undertake site visits, advise on purchasing, and much more. The service is available to any voluntary organisation or charity in the Cheshire/Warrington area. This month they're looking at how you can stay safe online and avoid viruses, spyware and other undesirables! If you have any questions relating to this month's tutorial, please give them a ring on **0845 337 0577** and they'll be happy to talk through any questions you have.

Viruses: How to stay safe online

Some people manage to avoid viruses. Others are plagued by them and have to get their computer cleaned every few months!

How can you make sure you're the first type of person and not the second?

Well, first of all, let's demystify some of the jargon...

Virus: A malicious piece of code written to gain access to your PC. The virus attaches itself to files or programs.

Worm: A piece of code that adds itself to your computer and runs a program without you being aware of it.

Trojan: A program that appears to be legitimate and harmless, but in fact does something malicious to your system.

Malware: Any software intended to cause harm to a system.

Spyware: Software that hides on your system and collects information about you and your activity online.

The usual first line of defence against all the above threats is to install some good antivirus software. This software may or may not include an anti-spyware scanner too. You can buy a commercial product, but there are free antivirus programs out there as well. Here's a quick rundown of some antivirus programs that we often come across.

Norton Antivirus

Norton is very common as it comes pre-installed on many PCs. It has good scanning facilities, and is thorough.

However, it is a large program and significantly slows your computer down, so it's not suitable for use on old or less powerful machines. Also, Norton can cause problems with network traffic, meaning that filesharing within your office can stop working for no apparent reason... we recommend alternative solutions when possible.

AVG

AVG has always been a good product. It provides roughly the same level of protection as Norton and is just as simple to use.

You can try a free version of AVG before buying it. However, the most recent version has become slightly bloated and can sometimes slow machines down. AVG is nevertheless an efficient all-in-one solution.

MACAW - quality IT support for VCS organisations;
www.macaw.org.uk ,
0845 337 0577.

Safety Tips

Use a firewall.

A software firewall restricts network traffic and can stop a lot of low-level attacks. If you're using Windows, make sure Windows Firewall is turned on (unless you're using a different firewall already). If you have an office, you may be using a router with a built-in firewall – in which case, make sure it is turned on.

Use caution when online.

You should always remember...

- Never open email attachments unless you know they're legitimate. If in doubt, scan attachments with your antivirus program. Remember, even if it's someone you know, their computer could have a virus which has sent you an email.
- Never reply to spam emails.
- Avoid putting your email address on the internet, even on your own website. Use a contact form instead.
- Be very careful of bank scam emails. They're getting more common.
- Don't install programs from the internet unless they come from a trusted source. They could carry spyware or viruses with them.
- If your computer starts behaving oddly – in particular, opening web pages or popping up adverts – use your antivirus program to scan your system immediately.