



shropshire infrastructure partnership

strengthening the voluntary sector together

10th August 2011 (Issue 14)

Hello

Just a quick catch up, you may be in summer recess mode but there is still plenty going on and lots of training opportunities which you may find of interest. As always keep an eye on our website www.ShropshireVCS.org.uk and share this document with anyone who may find it useful. Signing up for yourself is simple, just email info@shropshirevcs.org.uk and we will include you in the next mail shot. Unfortunately we can only distribute this newsletter by email.

In this issue we have contributions from: NCVO, CivilSociety.co.uk, NPC's magazine, CES, Citizen Advice Shropshire, NAVCA, CTT, LINX, The Learning Exchange.



Transforming infrastructure support

As you may have read the Office for Civil Society (OCS) has made up to £30 million available in short-term funding, to **transform and rationalise** the support to front line civil society organisations provided by local infrastructure organisations.

Infrastructure support includes volunteer brokerage, training, IT support, funding advice, governance and social enterprise advice etc. which the partners of the Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership have been delivering in Shropshire for many years. You will be aware that we are currently doing this with support from the Big Lottery under a 3 year Basis programme.

The transforming infrastructure fund will be awarded by way of a very competitive process. As the main infrastructure support organisations for Shropshire, we have registered our interest to secure this new funding for our county with the Community Council of Shropshire acting as the lead partner. It will be an opportunity to look in a fresh new light at how we deliver these important core services to you as Shropshire's Voluntary and Community sector and we will look to expand partnerships with any other organisations that may be able to offer further support.

The application process calls for a coordinated initial expression of interest by 2nd September. If this is accepted then we will be invited to submit a full/detailed application by 31st October. Although this is still some time away, if you have any thoughts on how you would like to see infrastructure support delivered then please email info@shropshirevcs.org.uk.

Heads up

Make a Difference Day – 29 October 2011

This autumn our Volunteering Team will once more get involved in Make a Difference Day, the UK's biggest day of volunteering!

Last year more than 70,000 volunteers were involved in over 2,000 events, and this year's campaign will focus on activities that combat isolation by reaching out to people who might feel lonely or marginalised.

You will find more details in the next few weeks in this newsletter.



Funding Fair

Following on from our Funding your Future event last November (see <http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/site/funding-your-future-event-update/>) we will be holding another such event this Autumn at the end of November. We will be looking how new agendas have created exciting opportunities, inspiring innovation in income generation and increasing investment in the sector and how to pick your way through today's funding landscape. Watch this space for full programme, date and venue.

The above event will be held in Shrewsbury but we are also planning a couple of smaller funding events out in the county.

Reminders

Trusteeship Survey

If you haven't already please spare a few minutes and give your feedback on http://www.shropshire-rcc.org.uk/assets/userfiles/parishplans/questionnaires/state_of_trusteeship_in_shropshire.htm

VCS Performance Measures Survey

The VCS Assembly and Shropshire Council are working together to try and adopt a new approach to performance. The group working on this is keen to ensure that any new approach is based on feedback from the VCS and is consulted on widely before adoption.

We are aware that many of you are not VCSA members. However, a questionnaire has been developed and designed to cover a range of issues relating to performance. The results will be used to ensure that any new approach is based on comments and feedback from the sector. This is your chance to influence this.

The deadline for responses is **12 September 2011** and the survey can be found at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/vcsperformancemeasures>

Training Roundup – September/October

○ Skills for Treasurers

Being treasurer of an organisation is often one of the most daunting jobs. This course aims to outline the role of the treasurer and where an individual's responsibilities end and committee responsibilities begin.

Cost: Vol/Comm Org – £15 Stat/ext Org – £40

Where: CCS Training Suite, Shrewsbury

When: 8th September 2011 9.30am – 12.30pm



○ Business Planning for small groups

This is an introductory course in developing a business plan for your organisation. It will cover the basic steps and information needed to create a simple business plan, which can then be used to support your organisation's activities.

Cost: Vol/Comm Org – £15 Stat/ext Org – £40

Where: CCS Training Suite, Shrewsbury

When: 15th September 2011 10.00am—1.00pm



To book a place on either of these courses or for further information please contact Lorraine Smart at the Community Council of Shropshire on 01743 237 880 or lorraine.smart@shropshire-rcc.org.uk

○ **1 day Emergency First Aid at Work (formerly appointed person)**

This course is suitable for individuals or organisations formally appointed person who by law must hold a recognised first aid qualification. Participants should wear comfortable, loose clothing as they will be required to practice first aid techniques. Refreshments are available (coffee and tea) but you must provide your own packed lunch.

Cost: Please contact Shropshire Youth Association

Where: Walker House, Radbrook, Shrewsbury

When: 18th September 2011 9.30am – 5pm



To book a place on this course contact Dee Ploszay on 01743 254 687 at Shropshire Youth Association.

○ **Engaging your Community**

This 2-day course looks at one of the most frequently asked questions: how to keep everyone interested and involved in a project, especially over a long time

Cost: Vol/Comm Org – £45 Stat/ext Org – £120 for both days and to include lunch

Where: CCS Training Suite, Shrewsbury

When: 22nd September 2011 10am – 3.00pm and 3rd November 2011



○ **User representatives on board**

There is often a perceived conflict of interest between being a nominated representative from a user group and being a charity trustee – where should your loyalties lie? Often user representatives are confused about their role and on occasion don't regard themselves as trustees at all. This course will explore the difficulties that can be encountered and how to ensure that you represent both groups effectively

Cost: Vol/Comm Org – £15 Stat/ext Org – £40

Where: CCS Training Suite, Shrewsbury

When: 27th September 2011 6.00 pm – 8.30pm



○ **Making the case for funding**

Funding is increasingly difficult to find, and often your organisation will be competing with many other groups for limited resources. To stand out in a crowd your organisation needs to present a well planned application which clearly demonstrates the need for the project and the benefit it will have. This course aims to take you through the preparation you need to do to be ready to apply for funding.

Cost: Vol/Comm Org – £15 Stat/ext Org – £40

Where: CCS Training Suite, Shrewsbury

When: 29th September 2011 10.00 am – 3.00pm



To book a place on any of these courses or for further information please contact Lorraine Smart at the Community Council of Shropshire on 01743 237 880 or lorraine.smart@shropshire-ccc.org.uk

○ **Understanding and using an outcomes focus**

FREE – Two-day training course for voluntary and community organisations on **Tuesday 13 September and Tuesday 11 October** at Walker House, Shrewsbury



The programme, which is run by Charities Evaluation, aims to help voluntary and community organisations develop knowledge and skills in using an outcomes focus, and equip participants to introduce an outcomes focus within their own organisation.

To make the most of this opportunity participants will need to commit to attending both days of the course, fully engaging in a take-away task between the two training days (which involves holding a meeting in their own organisation), and taking further actions to introduce an appropriate outcomes focus within their organisation after the course. Participants will receive materials and support to help in these activities.

To book a place on this course please contact either Dee Ploszay from Shropshire Youth Association on 01743 254687 or dee.ploszay@shropshire.gov.uk or Pat Bell, from Pre-School Learning Alliance on 01743 254033 or pat.bell@pre-school.org.uk

Free PQASSO e-learning course

If you are new to PQASSO and would like to find out more before purchasing the PQASSO work pack or booking on to their 2-day training course, CES have developed a free, online training course. 'PQASSO: the essentials' covers the basic information you need to know about PQASSO, and you can complete it at your own pace. Further information can be found at www.ces-vol.org.uk/elearning.



Knowledge and Nosh - Breakfast Briefings

Running from 8:30am-10:30am, breakfast briefings have been designed with busy people in mind. The short, informal sessions enable you to learn about the latest issues affecting your work, without taking too much time out of your day. Breakfast briefings are currently **free** to attend and include a light breakfast.

- **Thursday 29th September 2011 Social Media** - Renee Wallace
Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Ludlow

So you have all heard about social media.... Some people get very excited about it. The rest of us just want to get on with campaigning, fundraising or service delivery. We want to tell stories about the people we work with, the communities we are in and the issues we are passionate about. We want to find and talk to people who can help us change, deliver services or make a difference.

This session explores the main social media tools available and how they can work for you in the voluntary sector doing just such things and more...

- **Wednesday 5th October 2011 Volunteers & the Law** – Steve Jones
The Talbot Hotel, Cleobury Mortimer.
- **Monday 7th November 2011 Volunteers and the Law** – Steve Jones
The Boathouse, Ellesmere

These sessions offer an overview of legal issues which will concern anyone who works with volunteers.

As government attention increasingly focuses on volunteering and growing numbers of people are being encouraged to volunteer, it is vital that voluntary and community organisations understand both the good practice and legal implications of volunteer involvement.

- **Wednesday 2nd November 2011 Trustee Recruitment** – Gill Porter
Darwin Room, Lord Hill, Shrewsbury

This session aims to help you identify what skills you need on your trustee board, and how to recruit not just new trustees, but the right trustee. The session will look at how you can market your trustee vacancies, and how to be clear about what being a trustee is all about.

To book a place on any of the above sessions, please contact Jan Dodd 01743 342 171 or jan.dodd@shropshire-rcc.org.uk

Funding

Choices

A fund for work around substance misuse with young people focused on preventing and reducing substance misuse and related offending amongst vulnerable groups of young people who are most likely to be at risk of, or already starting to become involved in substance misuse or related offending. The Home Office has made £4 million available in 2011-12 and is inviting applications from national voluntary sector organisations. The deadline for applications is **Thursday 18 August 2011**. Further information on Choices and how to apply is available at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/reducing-reoffending/iom/choices>

Community Action Against Crime: Innovation Fund

Also a heads up regarding this fund which is aimed specifically at voluntary and community groups and getting them involved in tackling crime and disorder. There is £5 million available this financial year and £5 million for the next financial year. Keep an eye on the press, our website and newsletter.

NatWest Community Force

NatWest CommunityForce is a new initiative NatWest working with local communities to support the people, projects and charities making a real difference where you live. By applying to CommunityForce hundreds of local charities and projects stand to win an award of £6,000 each, with the winners decided by public vote in the autumn. However, CommunityForce is about more than making a financial contribution. As well as providing a platform for projects to raise awareness of their work, NatWest will also be providing time and expertise and encouraging local people to volunteer their own time and talents to support the causes closest to their heart.



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There are three main ways to get involved:

Apply: If you are a charity or project you can apply now to be in with a chance of winning an award.

Vote: In September everyone will be able to vote for their favourite projects. The three projects with the most votes in each CommunityForce area will win the awards.

Volunteer: When voting begins in the autumn, you'll also be able to join NatWest staff in lending a hand to local projects looking for help

For more information see <http://communityforce.natwest.com/>

Software donations

Microsoft has expanded its software donations programme, widening the types of charities that can apply and allowing them to order more products. Three new types of organisation are now also eligible for the scheme, namely medical research organisations, private foundations and amateur sports and recreational organisations. Charities will also now be able to order discounted copies of ten different Microsoft software products in a two-year period, having previously been limited to six. They will be able to make these requests whenever required, whereas previously they were limited to one bulk order per year.

In the UK, charities can order Microsoft products such as Windows 7, Office 2010 and SharePoint 2010 through the Charity Technology Trust's CTXchange.

Find out more via <http://www.ctxchange.org/>. Worth a look

The summary can be found at <http://www.info4local.gov.uk/documents/publications/1958347>

Third Sector Research Centre maps foundations of a Big Society

Find out more at

<http://www.tsrc.ac.uk/NewsandEvents/MappingthefoundationsofaBigSociety/tabid/831/Default.aspx>

Social Enterprise

Announcing...Venture, Shropshire's Social Enterprise Networking Group

Come along to the launch event on Wednesday **7 September 2011 from 6-8pm** at Atcham Memorial Hall, Atcham, Shrewsbury (next to the Mytton and Mermaid Hotel and pub.)

A monthly networking event specifically for those people who want to do business in a way that gives back.

- Do you run a Shropshire Social Enterprise?
- Is your focus as much on the 'enterprise' part as it is on the social/community benefits you generate?



We'd love to see you at the launch event where we will have some great speakers and a free buffet and drinks. Facilitated by Jim Hawkins, BBC Radio Shropshire presenter. Jim is a social entrepreneur himself and a keen supporter of Shropshire Social Enterprises. Organisation and administration will be undertaken by Beyond Brilliance CIC.

Whilst the network will not be profit making, a small charge of £5 per meeting will normally be made to cover the cost of venue, refreshments and any speakers.

However, thanks to the generous help of the Community Council of Shropshire and their Growing Social Enterprise in West Midlands Project, funded by ERDF, this launch event is FREE! Any questions, please email hello@beyondbrilliance.co.uk

Booking is essential and do it soon to avoid disappointment just follow this link:

<http://ventureshropshiresept11.eventbrite.com>

Social Enterprise Coalition unveils new name

The Social Enterprise Coalition has changed its name to Social Enterprise UK, coinciding with the launch of 'Fightback Britain'

– a report on the largest analysis of the social enterprise sector in the UK



For more information see <http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk>

Localism

Next Steps in Localism conference Friday 9 December at the Hilton Metropole in Birmingham



Save the date for the first ever joint conference between ACEVO and NCVO to explore the challenges and resulting opportunities that the localism agenda has presented both on a national and more local level.

This event is for anyone wanting to gain a greater understanding to the opportunities and challenges surrounding localism as well as:

- Get the latest news on government policies and critical thinking on where its going
- Develop insight into how national and local organisations are responding to the policies, including what opportunities they see
- Network with senior staff from charities and government

If you would like to be added to the Next Steps in Localism mailing list please email sarah.porter@ncvo-vol.org.uk with Localism Conference in the subject line.

NAVCA's Annual Conference: Localism - coming to your area soon

Tuesday 22 November at the Hotel Russell, London

Localism is coming, but what does it mean for you and your communities? This is your opportunity to hear what key figures in central & local government as well as the voluntary sector think. It will also be a chance for you to share your ideas. If you are interested in supporting and strengthening local voluntary action, then this is the conference for you and your team. It will address:

- Localism and equality: can they work together?
- Right to buy: unlocking assets or bolting the door?
- Right to challenge: big society or big business?
- What does localism mean for local democracy?
- Public services: open for business?
- Community organisers: vital to the localism vision?
- Can localism tackle child poverty?
- What are the prospects for local philanthropy?



Cost: from £140 +VAT but discounts are available.

Volunteering



The **Shropshire Volunteering Team** (based at **OCA** and **CCS**) can help promote your volunteering opportunities. Please see <http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/site/volunteering/> for details of lots of useful resources and our volunteering outreach service.

Central Shropshire: Nickie Edwards, **Community Council of Shropshire** – 01743 237881
Southern Shropshire: Clive Leworthy, **Community Council of Shropshire** – 07791 260888
Northern Shropshire: Kim Thompson-Lawrence, **Oswestry Community Action** – 01691 656882

Would you like to say thank you to your volunteers?



National
Trust

We are holding a Thank You Celebration Event for volunteers on **Monday 19th September 6.30pm – 9pm** in a Marquee in the grounds of Attingham Park.

There will be a tour of the Mansion 6.30-7.30pm, then Cheese and Wine with entertainment provided by Shrewsbury School Senior String Ensemble in the Marquee.

The High Sheriff and Mayor of Shrewsbury will present volunteers with a Thank You certificate.

We expect the event to be hugely popular so we will be allocating tickets on a first come first served basis. Please contact Nickie Edwards, 01743 237872 or 07791 260879 or nickie.edwards@shropshire-rcc.org.uk (Please let Nickie know if you would like your volunteers to be presented with certificates)

We will also hold a Celebration Event on **Saturday 29th October (Make A Difference Day) 2pm – 4pm** at Ludlow Brewery - Line Dancing and Hog Roast if you have any volunteers who would like to attend that one instead!

Offer of surplus equipment

In an effort to find more space for filing, Citizens Advice Shropshire is offering a number of superfluous items (at no cost, but a donation would be appreciated) that might be of use to another charity or voluntary organisation.

If you are interested in any of the items below please let Marinke Fontein know before 30 August 2011 via admin@shropshirecab.cabnet.org.uk Note that there is no guarantee that anything is working or clean and that you will have to arrange a time for picking the item(s) up. All the information CAB have on the different items is below, unfortunately they don't have time to answer any questions about any specific item.

Phones

1x BT Shops 140 phone
1x BT Duet 450 phone
1x BT Converse 300 phone, guide, wall hanging kit, got lead for headset, battery damage?
1x Telcom 470 phone
3x Audioline AUB1MW phones
8x Panasonic KX T7420 phones, Digital super Hybrid system, with guide
1x Opticom B100 Touch tone, Slimline

Phone system

1x phone system Siemens Hipath 3350

Fax

1x Fax Sanyo SF x-210, includes answer phone, with guide, uses thermal paper

Printer

HP Deskjet 940C (inkjet)

Laptop

Pentium III, 500 MHz MMX, W/64 MF RAM, NO HARD DISK, NO POWER SUPPLY

Computer parts & cables

Several boxes of used computer parts of various ages, ideal for enthusiast.
A number of computer cables and phone cables.

Request for equipment

Citizens Advice Shropshire is also looking for some equipment. These parts will most likely be found within existing computers which are being disposed of – even if they appear to be broken. If you have any such machines please get in touch with finance@shropshirecab.cabnet.org.uk – so that they can investigate and find out if they may contain the bits needed.

1. Extra RAM – DDR1 of any speed, and of DIMM sizes of 256MB or above
2. Discrete graphics cards – AGP, ideally with passive cooling of any brand/capacity
3. Replacement CPUs – later generation socket 478 Pentium 4's to replace flagging Willamette/Northwood core P4s and Celerons i.e. anything with L2 cache of 512Kb or greater.

Many thanks, George Stroud, IT Officer, Citizens Advice Shropshire

If you have any surplus equipment or are looking for something in particular, please email info@shropshirevcs.org.uk with the details.

The Learning Exchange

Are you working to improve the educational achievements and health of children, young people and their families? You can share your good practice and ideas in a virtual community of colleagues doing similar work at the Learning Exchange. It is a networking site for anyone involved in developing and managing extra-curricular activities and programmes, as well as any other extended services and programmes that are helping to improve schools, raise aspirations and improve outcomes for children, young people, their families and communities



Find out more at http://www.learning-exchange.org.uk/learning-exchange/the_new_vcs_hub for free training, resources and a networking hub.

The **Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership** consists of: [The Community Council of Shropshire](#), [Marches Community Enterprise](#), [Oswestry Community Action](#), [Pre-school Learning Alliance Shropshire Sub-committee](#), [Shropshire Youth Association](#), [South Shropshire Furniture Scheme](#), [Midwest Rural Enterprise](#) and [The Roy Fletcher Centre](#)

Please feel free to pass this e-bulletin on to others. If you do not wish to receive further updates from us please email 'Unsubscribe' to info@ShropshireVCS.org.uk.