



# shropshire infrastructure partnership

strengthening the voluntary sector together

10<sup>th</sup> March 2011 (Issue 10)

## Hello

Lots of info in this issue about events, courses, briefings, resources and funding, it's what you have come to expect. But don't forget that you can be part of this newsletter; send us your contributions and also your stories about your volunteers.

As always keep a look out for information on our website [www.ShropshireVCS.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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: Funding Central, VCS Assembly, Social Enterprise Coalition, Governance Pages (Arvac), Shropshire Community Recycling Network, Parent Partnership Service, NAVCA (LINX), Shropshire Council External Funding team, HUSK, Improving Support, CCS and NCVO.

**I go through all this stuff so you don't have to ☺**



## Knowledge and Nosh Breakfast Briefings

8.30 am - 10.30 am. Breakfast is included but booking is essential.



### Trustee Recruitment:

- Thu 24<sup>th</sup> March - Ellesmere
- Tue 29<sup>th</sup> March – Bridgnorth
- Thu 31<sup>st</sup> March – Market Drayton.
- Thu 31<sup>st</sup> March – Shrewsbury \*

**\*Pls note this one is a LUNCH 12am- 2pm**

For more information and to book see <http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/our-services/training/breakfast-briefings>

## Two Funding Fairs

Find out about funding available for your organisation and talk to an experienced funding advisor.

- Wednesday 23rd March 2011, 10am-1pm, Wem Town Hall, **Wem**  
The Heritage Lottery Fund and UnLtd: The Foundation for Social Entrepreneurs
- Wednesday 30th March 2011, 10am-1pm, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, **Ludlow**  
Lloyds TSB Foundation Trust and UnLtd: The Foundation for Social Entrepreneurs



For further details and to let us know that you would like to attend the event contact Lorna Crawford on 01743 360641 or email [lorna.crawford@shropshire-rcc.org.uk](mailto:lorna.crawford@shropshire-rcc.org.uk)

## Campaigning for change: Learning from the US

How do you know whether your campaign is making a difference? Being able to answer this question is crucial for both campaigns to develop effectively and for campaigners to communicate the impact of their campaigns to a wide range of audiences. Campaigning does not always easily lend itself to standard management approaches to strategy, planning and evaluation. Many of the models for organisational development represent a poor fit in reflecting the constantly changing environment in which campaigners work, the judgments they make about the activities which bring about change and how to assess when they have achieved their goals. Yet successful campaigning rests on developing appropriate strategies for change as much as on the successful delivery of a campaign. This downloadable resource can shed light <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/learningfromUS>



## Physical Disability Personal Budget Coordinator

Shropshire Council is seeking VCS Organisations interested in providing this service. They would co-ordinate the pooling of personal budgets for groups of people with physical disabilities and develop bespoke services to meet their needs.

The Council would like to invite bids from the Voluntary Sector to provide a co-ordinator role for a limited number of hours per week within a time limited period to assist with the setting up of pooled budgets and to develop an infrastructure of volunteer peer support for future initiatives. In order to explore this opportunity the Council has allocated a small amount of £3,000. Expressions of interest need to be in no later than **4pm on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2011**.

For more information see <http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/site/blog/south-area/physical-disability-personal-budget-coordinator/>

## Voice 11 the UK's biggest social enterprise event



**When:** 30th March 2011

**Where:** The O2 London

**What:** A vibrant, energising place where you can learn, get on-the-spot business advice, meet the journalists who are writing about social enterprise and politicians who are creating the framework for it, find out about new and existing funding opportunities, and see what's going on across this thriving, diverse movement. Including live debate, how to sessions and the chance to have a go at selling in the dragon's den complete with real, live investors!

**Who:** Matthew Taylor, RSA, Ali Parsa, Circle Health, Lucy Siegle, BBC's The One Show and Nick Hurd MP, Minister for Civil Society and more.

**Cost:** from £250 +VAT

For more details and full programme see <http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk/>

## Big Lunch

Want to hold a Big Lunch in your neighbourhood? This year over the UK on **the 5<sup>th</sup>** this will be taking place all **June**. There is a whole fabulous initiative with loads support on how to get this off your group involved, raise its



neighbourhood? This year over the UK on **the 5<sup>th</sup>** website dedicated to this of hints, tips and the ground. Why not get profile, share the love....

For more information see <http://www.thebiglunch.com/index.php>

**If you decide to take part, do let us know and we can help promote the event for you.**

## Parent Partnership Service Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin

They now produce a great newsletter specifically with relevant diary dates. If your group holds events and activities of interest to parents/carers of children with special educational needs, then please contact [alex@pps-shropshireandtelford.org.uk](mailto:alex@pps-shropshireandtelford.org.uk) to get them included in there. Have a look at <http://www.parentpartnership-shropshireandtelford.org.uk/7.html> for the latest bulletin.

## Shropshire Olympian Festival

This will take place in Shrewsbury **17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> June** and they are looking for all kinds of volunteers and participation, here is a quick list:

- Victorian walkabout characters and scenes for Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June
- Alice in Wonderland figures as part of the magical Illuminations on Saturday night 18<sup>th</sup> June
- Choirs and choral groups, to sing with hundreds of others on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June
- Participants in Shrewsbury Carnival's grand procession on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June

More information [www.shropshire1864.org.uk](http://www.shropshire1864.org.uk) or have a look at the full newsletter on <http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/site/blog/events/shropshire-olympian-festival-2/>

## DWP Work programme

Have you engaged or attempted to engage with the Work Programme? Then take part in a survey **before 25<sup>th</sup> March**. Inclusion and the Third Sector European Network (TSEN) are conducting a survey to find out the extent to which the local voluntary sector in England has been included in Department of Work and Pension's (DWP) Work Programme bids.

For more information see

<http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/lcp/news/dwpworkprogrammesurvey.htm>

## Community Organisers

Just in case you missed it, **Locality**, formed by the merger of bassac with the Development Trusts Association, has won a £15 million contract to deliver the government's community organisers initiative. The programme aims to train 5,000 organisers to help local people develop projects in disadvantaged communities across England.

For more information see <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/government-names-new-partner-deliver-community-organisers> or <http://www.locality.org.uk/>



## Support Organisations merger



The Small Charities Coalition (SCC) and Charity Trustee Networks (CTN) have announced that the two organisations are merging with immediate effect. SCC and CTN have always worked collaboratively but the decision to merge has been

taken so that the new body can offer greater benefits and a more coherent offering to existing and potential members. Cath Lee, current Chief Executive of SCC, will become Chief Executive of the merged charity. The names of both organisations will be maintained and plans are well underway to integrate and develop the services currently available to beneficiaries of both organisations. Cath Lee says: "The current climate means that we all have to look at how we can be most effective. With the Charity Commission cutting back on services and other umbrella providers losing funding in this area we anticipate that all charities and trustees – but particularly small charities – will have a greater need for support in the challenging months and years ahead." Read more on this at <http://www.smallcharities.org.uk> and <http://www.trusteenet.org.uk/>

## Charity Commission Support for Small Charities

The Charity Commission may have to reduce its support to small organisations in the future as a way of cutting costs, but for now you will find very useful information here:

- [Small Charities information portal](#)
- [Resources for Charities below the £5000 registration threshold](#)
- [Starting up a charity page - general points](#)

## Funding Roundup

### Northern Rock Foundation Announces 2011 Grant Schemes

**Enabling Independence and Choice:** with a particular focus on older people, people with mental health issues, people with learning disabilities and carers.

**Safety and Justice for Victims of Abuse:** with a particular focus on children and adult victims of domestic and sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.

**Changing Lives:** with a particular focus on young offenders and young people in the criminal justice system, people with drug and alcohol misuse issues and refugees and asylum seekers.

**Managing Money:** with a particular focus on assisting people with low incomes to effectively manage their finances and access financial services.

**Having a Home:** with a particular focus on homelessness and young people

For more information on the £8m fund see [http://www.nr-foundation.org.uk/search/search\\_LatestNews.asp?zoom\\_query=LatestNews](http://www.nr-foundation.org.uk/search/search_LatestNews.asp?zoom_query=LatestNews)

### The Department of Health's Health and Social Care Volunteering Fund (HSCVF)

The HSCVF provides a combination of grant funding and support to organisations, aimed at enhancing their capacity and ability in the health and social care field and is launching its second local grant scheme. The HSCVF differs from other many other grant funding schemes as it aims to help organisations grow and develop, not just provide a short term input of grant monies. Local voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations will be able to submit a maximum of one application. Applicants will be asked to apply under one of the following themes:

- Patient-led NHS
- Delivering Better Health Outcomes
- Improving Public Health
- Improving Health and Social Care



For more information see <http://www.volunteeringfund.com/>

### Make A Difference in your community with Live UnLtd



This March Live UnLtd is on the hunt to find young people who want to make a difference to their communities. Live UnLtd wants to help young people from across the UK put their ideas into action and are particularly interested in ideas that unlock unused or under-utilised spaces for young people to practice their cultural, creative or sporting passions.

Live UnLtd offer awards of up to £5,000 to develop the idea, and provides support from a dedicated Live UnLtd team member. The average award size is £1,500.

For more information on criteria and what the organisation can and cannot fund <http://www.liveunltd.com/>

### Parents for playgrounds

Play England has partnered with Robinsons Fruit Shoot to launch Parents for Playgrounds a National programme that will give five local play areas the chance of winning a renovation bursary of up to £15,000.

See <http://www.readyforten.com/parents-for-playgrounds> for more information. You have just **a week left (until 16 March)** to: Nominate a tired or abandoned UK playground, park or play space to win a renovation bursary of £15K.



## Big Lottery Fund – £20m Improving Futures

Every child deserves the best start in life, but we know that some grow up in difficult circumstances. Some families experience multiple and complex problems – for example, to do with poor health, unemployment, debt or housing problems – which can affect their children's wellbeing and life chances.

The Improving Futures programme aims to improve outcomes for children within these families.

This funding is for partnerships that can offer joined-up support and provision for families with multiple and complex problems at a local level. Interested parties need to be aware of the following:

- Partnerships must be led by voluntary sector organisations, but will need to be supported by or include local authorities in Wales and England, Community Planning Partnerships in Scotland, and Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland
- Because every family is different, partnerships will need to be able to draw on a broad range of expertise and services to meet their needs, including setting out to help those families considered 'hardest to reach'.
- There is limited funding to support up to 20 partnerships across the UK, and no more than one expression of interest should be made per local authority area.



Deadlines:

- **12 May 2011** – Deadline for expressions of interest.
- **30 September 2011** – Deadline for full application submission.

For further information please see

[http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog\\_improving\\_futures.htm?regioncode=-uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_improving_futures.htm?regioncode=-uk). With further questions please call 0845 367 0610 or email [general.enquiries@biglotteryfund.org.uk](mailto:general.enquiries@biglotteryfund.org.uk)

## Winning Contracts Workshop



If you work for an organisation faced with public procurement or having to tender to sell your services then this is for you. It covers:

- what public bodies buy
- the different ways in which public organisations buy goods and services
- the whole procurement or tender process

**9:30am - 4pm 15th March 2011**, at the Community Council of Shropshire, Shrewsbury

This is a practical workshop suitable for a whole range of organisations, from start-ups, to mature organisations who want to develop or improve their business. One place per organisation is available and to gain most benefit those coming should have a good overview of their organisation.

For more information and a booking form

<http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/site/blog/events/winning-contracts/>

## Getting Sales and Marketing right from the start

Social Enterprise West Midlands are running this course in Birmingham on the **18 March 2011**

Are you sure that you have the best marketing and sales strategy for your social enterprise or small business? Do you have the understanding to make it work in practice to reach your target markets and sales? Or are you moving into a new product area and want to refresh your knowledge of the main principles? For more information please contact Rupinder Kaur Drew, 024 7663 3911 ext.113. Cost for the course is £69.

Also see : <http://www.socialenterprisewm.org.uk/events/getting-sales-and-marketing-right-from-the-start/> for more information.



## Training: Digital Toolkit for community workers

**Where and When:** Revive CIC, Shrewsbury, **22 March 2011 10am – 4pm**

**Who:** Ben Proctor from the likeaword consultancy

**What:** A one-day training course exploring some online tools such as blogs, facebook and twitter. Participants will look at how to use them, how they have been deployed by communities and how to identify and mitigate risks around the technology. At the end of the course you will be confident to use digital tools and to support community groups to use the tools on their own,

**Cost:** £65

For more information and to book see

<http://digitaltoolkitmar11.eventbrite.com/>



## Training: Getting your charity, social enterprise or community group in the press

**Where and When:** Revive CIC, Shrewsbury, **29 March 2011 10.30am – 2.30pm**

**Who:** Ben Proctor from the likeaword consultancy

**What:** An engaging and participative workshop. You will leave this workshop with:

- A good understanding of what journalists believe to be newsworthy and what they don't.
- A good understanding of what makes a story interesting and gives it legs.
- The skills to prepare a punchy press release and how to get a good angle on stories from your group.
- Knowledge of how to raise your profile locally, regionally and even nationally.

**Cost:** £35 (includes light sandwich lunch and tea and coffee)

For more information and to book see <http://pressreleasefeb11-eorg.eventbrite.com/>

## Social Media Surgeries Programme

Where: **HCS Computers' Log Inn Internet Café, Shrewsbury**  
from 17:30 – 20:00 hrs.

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April '11

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June '11

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September '11

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November '11

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January '12

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March '12

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May '12

More info and to book

<http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/our-services/training/shropshiresocialmediasurgery/>



## Shropcamp reminder

**Tuesday 19th April 1-5 pm** Harper Adams University College, Newport

**How can online tools transform your services?**

Brought to you by Ben Proctor from the likeaword consultancy, UKITA and Harper Adams University College, this participative event will be looking at the use of technology and open data in delivering services by local authorities and their partners. Book via <http://shropcamp.eventbrite.com>



## Making a Difference with Data



Funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG), The **Making a Difference with Data website** aims to help people use information to influence how public services are delivered in local government, health and social care, housing, roads and transport, policing and criminal justice, and education.

The website will show how the information can be used by citizens to raise issues and campaign against service issues that affect local communities.

This new website aims to help people make best use of the data becoming available as part of the Government's transparency agenda. See <http://madwdata.org/>

## HUSK website



Have a look at the new Husk website, with 10 top tips for practically applying the Equality Act and fortnightly updates on equality issues its one to watch. <http://www.husk.uwclub.net/>



## Free Equality Workshop

There are still limited places available for the free workshop on the **23rd March 2011**, which will focus in a very practical way on the widening of the Single Equality Scheme, this session will also allow for some shared thinking, best practice discussions and problem sharing.

For more information on the workshop see <http://www.husk.uwclub.net/page25.html>.  
To book your place email [husk@uwclub.net](mailto:husk@uwclub.net)

## More Equality

The online community for the voluntary sector, [www.improvingsupport.co.uk](http://www.improvingsupport.co.uk), has a range of brand new resources to help charities and social enterprises manage equality issues and improve their performance in this area.

The site features a range of top-rated tools including an updated version of the Guide to Equality and Diversity in the Third Sector. The report, written by the community investment foundation Olmec, provides resources, case studies and examples of best practice. There are a range of events advertised to help you understand equality legislation, and work with individuals from diverse backgrounds.

## Voluntary Sector vacancies

Besides offering our volunteer brokerage service (<http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/site/volunteering/volunteering-outreach-services/>), don't forget we can help promote your paid vacancies too. See <http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/site/home/vacancies-in-the-voluntarycommunity-sector-in-shropshire/>. We are currently looking for a Youth Worker for SYA, **if that's you, apply before 11<sup>th</sup> March!!**



## Capacitybuilders and the Improving Support website



As you all maybe aware Capacitybuilders will close on the **31/03/2011**. The Improving Support website was developed by Capacitybuilders with resources from the numerous projects it has funded. The Cabinet Office is currently reviewing Government's support for civil society, including Government funded websites. Whilst the Office for Civil Society recognises that the Improving Support website is a valued resource, it has now decided that the site will not continue in its current form and the site itself is scheduled to be transferred into the National Archives post March 2011.

A Facebook fan page (<http://on.fb.me/eMkmoo>) has been set up to enable people across the sector to continue to upload and promote their news, resources and events in one online space. The page has a direct link (<http://scr.bi/holY4j>) to the resources held in the website.

**So post March 2011 use Facebook to access these excellent resources.**

## RDISS Training: Sustaining Disability Organisations – Developing a Plan for the Future



**When:** Friday April the 8<sup>th</sup> 10am- 3pm

**Where:** The Engine House Visitor and Education Centre, Highley

**Who:** RDISS (Regional Disability Infrastructure Support Service)

**What:** Find out what you need to do to be sustainable in the long term Key themes

- Finance
- Income streams
- Commissioning & procurement
- Partnership & clustering
- Impact measurement

Lunch will be provided as will up to £20 in travel expenses and there is a chance to explore the interesting railway heritage attraction

For more details please contact Sue 01691 774368 or e-mail Rachael [admin@disabledholidayinfo.org.uk](mailto:admin@disabledholidayinfo.org.uk)

## Voice Facilitators



Our partnership now has **9** development staff trained as **“Voice”** facilitators. **“Voice”** is a tool which helps community groups and networks to assess and improve the influence they have on agencies and partnerships. It looks at existing capacity to influence against how influential the group feels it is. It can be used to assess and monitor community influence, prompt discussion and debate within groups, help plan how to become more influential and can bring focus and direction to a group. – **Ask us about it-**

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](mailto:info@ShropshireVCS.org.uk).