



shropshire infrastructure partnership

strengthening the voluntary sector together

13th January 2012 (Issue 18)

Hi there

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2012, don't let Friday 13th put you off having a look what we have on offer in this issue.

As always keep an eye on our website www.ShropshireVCS.org.uk, you will find vacancies, advice, guidance and other resources. Feel free to share this document with anyone who may find it useful. Signing up 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: Community Matters, Urban Forum, NCVO Funding Central and LINX.



Funding fair – Sustain & Survive

Our funding event which took place on the 6th December in Shrewsbury, built on last years event with another fantastic day of learning and networking with a number of high profile national speakers. We have now posted all the available presentations on our website and Lisa and Laura have written up a reminder from the various sessions which can be found via <http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/site/blog/south-area/sustain-and-survive-event-update/>



Helga Edstrom, West Midlands lead for the Office of Civil Society with Maxine Betts, chair of the Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership

Your Feedback needed please

If you have attended any of our recent training courses or the Funding Event, you may have seen the short (just 4 questions) questionnaire asking you to tell us about your future Support and Services needs. We have already had 130 responses so far but are keen to get your views. If you have not already filled one in then please go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JTZSDB6> and help shape the future of support available to Shropshire voluntary and community organisations.

In addition to this Shropshire Survey, the Big Lottery Fund and the Office for Civil Society have launched a survey which aims to get a snapshot of how the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector is currently using ONLINE resources, i.e the types of advice, information and networking tools they find most useful and what would help them in the future. This will help them build on evidence from the Supporting a Stronger Civil Society consultation (Oct 2010-Jan 2011) and obtain a more detailed picture of what is needed. The deadline for responses is Friday 20 January. The survey can be found via <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JZ3J7C2>

Training overview

Below an overview of our training courses scheduled during **January and February**. Costs shown are Shropshire VCS rate/ external, statutory sector rate
You can download our latest full training programme from <http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/site/blog/south-area/new-training-programme-out-now/> It gives further details on all these and other courses and explains how to book your place. Alternatively phone 01743 342169 and we can help you with your training needs.

Advanced heads up on the interactive **Media Training Scared of Being Interviewed** course which we are running again on 30th April 2012. It was oversubscribed last time so book early.

Successfully Recruiting and Retaining Volunteers

Tuesday 17 January 2012 - 1.00pm to 4.00pm
CCS Training Suite £25/£50
Delivered by CCS

Recruiting and Managing staff in pre-school settings

Thursday 19 January 2012 4.30pm to 7.00pm
Walker House, Radbrook, Shrewsbury SY3 9SR £15/£40
Delivered by PLA

Adapt to Survive

Wednesday 1 February 2012 10.00am to 3.30pm
CCS Training Suite £30/£80

Volunteer Management

Tuesday 2 February 2012 - 1.00pm to 4.00pm
CCS Training Suite £25/£50
Delivered by CCS

CIEH Level 2 Awards in food safety

Wednesday 8 February 2012 - 9.00am to 4.00pm
CCS Training Suite £30/£80

Understanding who takes responsibility for what in early years settings

Thursday 9 February 2012 - 4.30pm to 7.00pm
Walker House, Radbrook, Shrewsbury SY3 9SR £15/£40
Delivered by PLA

One day Emergency First Aid at Work (formally appointed person)

Friday 10 February 2012 Wem Town Hall SY4 5DG
Tuesday 21 February 2013 The Roy Fletcher Centre, 12-17 Cross Hill, Shrews SY1 1JE
£30/£80

Marketing Your Organisation

Wednesday 29 February 2012 - 9.30am to 12.30pm
CCS Training Suite £25/£50
Delivered by CCS

Shrewsbury Social Media Surgery



When: Monday 6th February 5.30pm – 7.30pm
Where: HCS Computers' Log Inn Internet Café,
55 Castle Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY1 2EJ
(Also 9th January, 5th March and 14th May). For more info and to book <http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/our-services/training/shropshiresocialmediasurgery/>



Monitoring & Evaluation – developing outcomes to demonstrate impact

Every organisation needs to be able to demonstrate the value of what they deliver and it is becoming increasingly important to be able to do this. So where do we start? This 2 day course aims to help you identify how you can monitor and evaluate what you do, and how you can review what your organisation does to ensure you are moving in the right direction. The course will also introduce you to all relevant terminology including, outputs, outcomes and impact.

It's a two day course: **Wednesday 29th February 2012 and Wednesday 7th March**, 10am-3pm. It will be held at the Community Council of Shropshire.

Cost: Voluntary and Community Organisations – £45 Statutory/external organisations – £120 for both days and to include lunch

To book a place on this course 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

Reports, Resources and Articles

Simplifying the language of Project Design, Monitoring & Evaluation

When applying for funding, putting the aims and design of your project across effectively is crucial. Funders want to see robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) methods. But if you are confused between outputs and outcomes, objectives and activities, bid writing can be a long fruitless task. The Oak Foundation (who are also grant makers see <http://www.oakfnd.org/>) have written a useful guide, see

http://www.oakfnd.org/sites/default/files/monitoring_and_evaluation.pdf . Don't forget our partnership staff are trained in Monitoring and Evaluation techniques and can assist you. We also run scheduled training courses on bid writing and M&E. Email info@shropshirevcs.org.uk for more information.

Legal

Small charities and the law

The Legal Services Consumer Panel's 'Study into the provision of legal services to small charities report' concludes that small charities often struggle with legal issues. The most common areas where charities require legal advice include property, legal structures, and general employment matters. The research reveals that around half had a limited or no understanding of their obligation, are not sure where to get advice from and considered that there is insufficient clear, summarised guidance available. Don't forget that you can get advice and training right here from us. Besides the training courses, breakfast briefings and other organised events we can give one to one advice. Also, why not join the **Charity Trustee Network**. See http://www.shropshire-rcc.org.uk/voluntary_sector_support/CTN or the next newsletter for more information or phone 01743 342169.

To look at the full report follow

http://www.legalservicesconsumerpanel.org.uk/publications/research_and_reports/documents/MVA_SmallCharities_ResearchReport.pdf

Useful legal website

There are quite a few changes afoot in 2012 in the area of Employment Law. A good way to keep up to date is to keep an eye on www.sandy-a.co.uk/legal.htm. **Sandy Adiondack** has been a freelance trainer and consultant in the voluntary sector since 1980, working primarily on governance issues with a wide range of charities, campaigns and community-based organisations. Her main specialisms are legal aspects of voluntary sector governance and management and helping boards become more effective.

Important changes to music licensing

As of January 2012, charities are no longer exempt from licence fees for playing music recordings. There is some good information about the changes as well as tips on how to keep music licensing fees down on the Community Matters website

<http://www.communitymatters.org.uk/content/350/Music-Licensing>

Heads up



Are you a member of the VCS Assembly?

The Shropshire Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Assembly is a group of VCS organisations that come together to voice shared issues, tackle common problems and pool energy, ideas and resources. Any VCS organisation can become a member and can choose to participate in the Assembly as much or as little as suits their organisation. Members are encouraged to raise issues that they consider may affect other voluntary and community sector groups and common issues benefit from the strength of the assembly 'voice' in trying to resolve them. Joining the Assembly is free of charge, contact Sarah Dodds, VCS Assembly Coordinator. Email: sarah.dodds@shropshire.gov.uk or phone 01743 252740. Further information can be found at www.2shrop.net/shropvcsassembly

Community Budgets announced

Four showcase areas have been announced to pioneer a public service revolution that is said to slash financial red tape and duplication so they respond to local need and save taxpayers' millions. This funding strategy known as 'Community Budgets' will let councils, boroughs or neighbourhoods team up with all public services in their patch to combine resources into a single locally coordinated 'pool and save' pot with greater local control of improved services for local people.

It is hoped that by removing Central Government mandates over how public money is spent locally and giving local professionals the power to combine budgets and coordinate local services using the best local intelligence, large swathes of red tape can be slashed and millions of pounds can be saved.

Shropshire is not one of the early adopters but read more on <http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/newsroom/2056449>

Charities can now join a Credit Union

From 8 January 2012, charities, community groups and social enterprises across England, Scotland and Wales can, for the first time, join a credit union and use the financial services it provides. The new credit union powers are the result of legal changes to Credit Union Act 1979. For further details see <http://www.abcul.coop/home>

£3.1 million from dormant bank accounts invested in Big Society projects



CabinetOffice

The **Big Society Investment Fund**, which has been set up to support innovative projects ahead of the launch of Big Society Capital, has agreed in principle to invest £3.1 million in four projects including: money to help the long-term unemployed set up their own businesses;

support for vulnerable young people to get into employment; a community energy project; and the creation of the first ever social stock exchange.

Read more including who will benefit on <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/31-million-dormant-bank-accounts-invested-big-society-projects>

The Charity Commission 2012 – 2015

The Charity Commission has produced its strategic plan for the period 2012 to 2015. It will focus on its regulatory duties and much less on giving support and guidance. Its website will still carry lots of useful resources but for help with governance related issues in Shropshire email info@shropshirevcs.org.uk. See

http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/Library/about_us/strategic_plan_2015.pdf for the Commission's strategic plan.

Positive for Youth strategy launched

The government has pulled together all its work around young people into a new strategy entitled **Positive for Youth**. It will be:



- Providing £320,000 to Business in the Community to build links between businesses and young people in their local areas.
- Giving young people the chance to 'youth proof' government policy. A new national scrutiny group and youth select committee will monitor and advise on government policy.
- Calling on all local authorities to give young people a voice in local decision-making. Local authorities should introduce programmes like youth mayors or youth inspectors to give youngsters a say. This could include: auditing local services such as youth clubs and leisure services to make them more youth-friendly.
- Establishing four new Youth Innovation Zones to develop new, creative approaches to youth services across the country. The first four areas, Devon, Hammersmith and Fulham, Haringey, and Knowsley will each get £40,000 to set up the zones.
- Publishing revised statutory guidance for consultation in the New Year on local authorities' duty to secure activities and services for young people.
- Providing capital investment to complete 63 myplace centres by April 2013, and developing a national approach to exploit their potential to be led by communities and businesses.
- Expanding National Citizen Service to offer 30,000 places to young people in 2012, 60,000 in 2013, and 90,000 in 2014.

More on <http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00201047/government-sets-out-strategy-to-be-positive-for-youth>

Charities Act 2011

The Charities Act 2011 has received Royal Assent and replaces most of three existing Acts: the Recreational Charities Act 1958, which gave charitable status to village halls; the Charities Act 1993, which contains all the rules on charity and the Charities Act 2006.



See <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/25/enacted> for more details.

Directory of Social Change Management Fair

Thursday 23rd February 2012
Central London

*Management***FAIR**



Thursday 23 February 2012 - Euston, London

A day of training designed specifically for managers, leaders, chief executives and directors. The day will be packed with practical advice and give you the opportunity to come together with others from across the sector. The day will focus on managing people, projects and resources; developing your management skills and communicating successful leadership. Workshop sessions are priced from £25 (when booking more than four).

There are four workshop streams with 17 sessions to choose from including:

- Managing Performance
- Building the Perfect Team
- Leadership Development
- Recognising and Managing Stress in Others

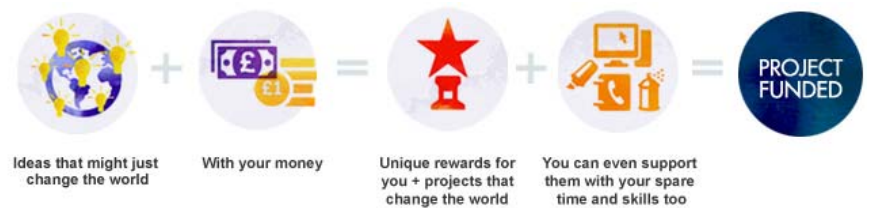
There are also three, two hour long masterclass sessions on Motivating your Staff, Advanced Communication and Manager as Coach. Also free advice surgeries - Between 10am and 4pm Russell Cooke Solicitors will be holding 20 minute slots to give advice on any employment issues. See <http://www.managementfair.org.uk/index.html> for more information and bookings.

Funding

Firstly, something a little different...

Crowdfunding

Defined by Wikipedia (sorry Wiki haters) as: "the collective cooperation, attention and trust by people who network and pool their money and other resources together, usually via the internet, to support efforts initiated by other people or organisations".



The most common form of crowdfunding is soliciting donations from the crowd in exchange for rewards. However, internet technology and the development of online social networks have created mechanisms that allow this sort of co-ordinated donation on a large scale and at far less cost. Have a look at <http://www.peoplefund.it/>. It brings together individuals with fresh ideas within fledgling community projects. Groups or individuals can create a profile for their project. Visitors to the website can then offer support to these projects.

Social Action Fund - Funding big ideas, inspiring social action

The Social Action Fund is a new grant fund of over £20 million managed by the Social Investment Business on behalf of the Office for Civil Society.

The Fund aims to inspire organisations to create new social action opportunities; encouraging people to give what they have, be it time, money, assets, knowledge or specific skills.

The second application window opened Monday 9 January 2012. All applications will have to be received by noon on Friday 3 February 2012.

Successful applications will address the following themes:

- Encourage people to come together in their locality to support each other.
- Focus on the different life stages of volunteering.

More information see <http://www.thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org/our-funds/social-action-fund/>

National Heritage Memorial and Heritage Lottery Fund

The National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF) offers grants and occasionally loans to help with the purchase, preservation and maintenance of land, buildings, works of art and other objects of outstanding importance to the national heritage.

In 1994, the NHMF and its Trustees were also given the major task of distributing the heritage share of Lottery money for good causes, which it now operates through the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The NHMF continues to act as the fund of last resort, being able to act very quickly in emergencies. In contrast, Heritage Lottery Fund offers opportunities for conserving our heritage with an even greater emphasis on improved access, learning and engagement. For more information see www.nhmf.org.uk and www.hlf.org.uk

Communities and low carbon

The Department of Energy and Climate Change is providing a new £10 million fund to finance community projects promoting energy efficiency, renewables and affordable energy. The programme is intended to help communities prepare for new opportunities arising from the Green Deal, Renewable Heat Incentive and Feed in Tariffs. Up to £50,000 is available for each successful community to be used to help assess the potential for energy efficiency and local renewable energy generation in their locality Read more on <http://www.greencommunitiescc.org.uk/DECCAbout.aspx>

But note deadline for applications 20th January 2012.

Volunteering

Launching new Buddy aided volunteering

The aim of the Volunteer Buddy Project is to recruit a buddy who will support another person to get involved in a wide range of volunteering activities. The Buddy is there to encourage and support the volunteer and help them to build their confidence and skills to become a volunteer and hopefully eventually to volunteer without additional support.

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, learn new skills and contribute to your local community. However, for someone who lacks confidence or work skills, experiences mental health issues or has learning difficulties or physical disabilities, the prospect of becoming a volunteer can be very daunting. Some people are prevented from volunteering because of the anxiety they feel at the prospect of starting something new. A Buddy would be required for a minimum 6 months and training will be given.

The 'Volunteer Buddy' scheme will be launched by the Shropshire Volunteering Team early 2012 when interested Buddies will be invited to come along to find out more about the scheme. For an informal chat about becoming a Buddy or how your organisation may have opportunities for 'Buddied' volunteers, please phone Steve Jones on 01743 237877

Need help finding volunteers?

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 and Alex Drury - 07407 731718

Social Enterprise

Shropshire's Social Enterprise's network meeting: Venture



Social Enterprise businesses in Shropshire won't want to miss this month's Venture meeting on **Wednesday 18th January from 6-8pm** at Atcham Memorial Hall in Shrewsbury. Guest speaker is Roy Broad of Network Marketing Limited, a Social Enterprise. Roy will share his substantial experience of how to promote your business effectively so that we can start our own marketing strategy and ensure that we are focusing in the right areas. For bookings see <http://ventureshropshirejan12.eventbrite.com>

Discretionary business rate relief for Shropshire Social Enterprises

When Jean Jarvis MBE set up Reviive CIC 18 months ago, she was shocked to discover that Shropshire Council didn't grant discretionary business rate relief to Social Enterprises. If social enterprises were to thrive in Shropshire, as the local authority advocated, this needed to be addressed. Jean is pleased to report that the Shropshire Council Cabinet have approved the following:

(a) That the amendments to Discretionary Reliefs as set out in report by the Group Manager for Customer Care and Involvement be approved, namely:
i. Award charity shops with the 20% top-up if they evidenced that 90% of their gross profit was invested in the local community.

ii. To award 100% discretionary relief to social enterprises that were:-

** Community Interest Companies that provided benefit to the local community providing that they: -*
o Were registered as a community interest company. Reference could be made to the Community Interest Company Register to confirm entitlement.

o Also the Company's Articles of Association or Memorandum should clearly state that any surplus of income over expenditure would be applied in a particular manner to ensure that no profit was actually made.

**Industrial and Provident Societies and Companies Limited by Guarantee that provided benefit to the local community providing that they: -*

o Were a not for profit company.

o Provided benefit for the local community.

o Not for profit companies were normally limited by guarantee (as opposed to shares).

o Reference should be made to Companies House website to establish this.

o Also the Company's Articles of Association or Memorandum should clearly state that any surplus of income over expenditure will be applied in a particular manner to ensure that no profit is actually made.

(b) That the Discretionary Relief Policy set out in Appendix A of the report by the Group Manager for Customer Care and Involvement be approved.

If anyone would like a full copy of the report or have any queries please contact Jean Jarvis MBE, CEO the Furniture Scheme and Director Reviive on 01584 874922 or via jean@furniturescheme.co.uk

Trustees

Sustainable Funding

NCVO says that sustainability is one of the biggest challenges faced by trustees and staff in voluntary and community sector organisations. They also identified a need for clear and accessible guidance aimed at trustees on their roles and responsibilities for financial sustainability. The result, 'Sustainable Funding: a guide for trustees' aims to provide trustees with the information they require to feel confident about developing a 'mixed economy of funding' for their charity which incorporates grants, contracts and donations but also income from trading goods and services. Read the report via http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sites/default/files/Sustainable_Funding_for_Trustees.pdf

Offer of surplus stationary

In an effort to find more storage space Citizens Advice Shropshire is offering some stationary (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 28 February 2012 via admin@shropshirecab.cabnet.org.uk

Note that you will have to arrange a time for picking the item(s) up.

- 2 boxes of new and used Twinlock, Crystalfile, Lateral '330' files, Standard capacity and 50mm, capacity codes: 70671 and 70673 (Designed for use within all leading brands of storage cupboards. In order to accommodate these files, the rails of the lateral chassis fitment should be set to a distance of 330mm apart.)
- an amount of Connect, A4 Suspension files, ref KF21004 (The width of these files is smaller than ordinary.)

Remember, if you have any surplus equipment or are looking for something specific let us know info@shropshirevcs.org.uk

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.