



shropshire infrastructure partnership

strengthening the voluntary sector together

1st November 2011 (Issue 16)

Hi there

In this issue details of our Funding Fair on 6th December at Shrewsbury Town's football ground, as well as a lot of Social Enterprise news. As always keep an eye on our website www.ShropshireVCS.org.uk. Have a look at the Events/News section too, more and more groups are sending us items and we will gladly promote things for you and tweet about. Please share this document with anyone who may find it useful. Signing up to receive your own copy 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: Charitytimes, NAVCA, ACRE, BSSEC.



Training Roundup – November

○ Shrewsbury Social Media Surgery



When: Monday 7th November 5.30pm - 8pm

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/>



○ Volunteers and the law – Breakfast briefing



This session offers 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.

Cost: FREE

Where: The Boathouse, Ellesmere

When: Mon 7th November 2011 8.30am – 10.30am

To book call Steve on 01743 237877. Please note that if you book but then do not attend that we will invoice a cancellation fee as we will have ordered breakfast for you.

○ Social media – Breakfast briefing

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...

Cost: FREE

Where: Darwin Room, Lord Hill, Shrewsbury

When: Thu 1st December 2011 8.30am – 10.30am

To book call Steve on 01743 237877. Please note that if you book but then do not attend that we will invoice a cancellation fee as we will have ordered breakfast for you.





Training courses

The following courses are being delivered by the Community Council of Shropshire:

○ **Effective committee working**

This course is aimed at those who want their committees to run efficiently and effectively. It will look at how meetings are organised, committee roles and to make sure that the business of the meeting is dealt with properly.

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

Where: Cosy Hall, Newport

When: Wed 9th November 2011 9.30am – 12.30pm

○ **Volunteer recruitment**

This course looks at how to bring new talent into your organisation and how to keep hold of the volunteers you have through good quality recruitment, support and training processes. The course is aimed at those with responsibility for coordinating volunteer recruitment within an organisation.

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

Where: CCS Training Suite, Shrewsbury

When: Wed 9th November 9.45am – 12.30pm

○ **Financial responsibilities for committees and trustee boards**

This course aims to demonstrate that finance is everyone's responsibility and will look at good practice in maintaining records and developing policies and procedures to manage your organisation's finances.

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

Where: CCS Training Suite, Shrewsbury

When: Thur 24th November 9.30am – 12.30pm

○ **Roles and responsibilities of charity trustees**

The aim of this course is to explain the role of the charity trustee within different types of organisation and focuses on both individual and collective responsibilities. This course is aimed at anyone new to their role or a refresher for those who have served for some time.

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

Where: Leebotwood Village Hall

When: Tue 29th November 9.30am – 12.30pm

To book a place on any of these training 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

Reports, Resources and Articles

Four steps to making the perfect pitch to a potential donor

Jane Loveday is a fundraising consultant. She specialises in major grant fundraising, project development and organisational strategy, with a particular interest in small and medium-sized organisations. Jane talks about preparation, picking the right person, practise and passion when making your pitch. See

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/voluntary-sector-network/2011/oct/17/four-steps-making-perfect-pitch?CMP>

Free guide for trustees on commissioning and tendering for public services



NAVCA and the Local Government Group have launched a new publication called **At Your Bidding**. It is a free guide for charity trustees on commissioning and tendering for public services. At a time of significant change within the public sector, the guide aims to:

- Provide some context about the commissioning of public services so that trustees can understand the potential implications and impact of commissioning at a strategic level on their charity.
- Outline the issues to consider and the decisions that trustees have to make regarding bidding for service contracts.
- Describe the steps that trustees need to take to make sure their organisation is 'tender and contract ready'.
- Draw attention to key areas for risk assessment and risk management.
- Signpost to other useful publications, resources and sources of information and advice.

This publication is not a detailed technical manual on 'how to tender'. The focus is squarely on the key issues that individuals need to be aware of in fulfilling their duties as charity trustees. You can find more details about At Your Bidding via

www.navca.org.uk/publications/atyourbidding

The State, Management and Use of Rural Community Buildings



ACRE has released the final two reports in a series of six which analyse data collected from **2,355 rural community buildings across England**. The complete set provides a valuable insight into the role of volunteers and the buildings that they manage; covering issues from their economic impact on rural communities to their multi-purpose use for social activity, arts and sports, education, health and retail services. The reports are a culmination of two years work in analysing and comparing the data with that collected in 1988 and 1998.

For more information see <http://www.acre.org.uk/news/2011-news/the-state-management-and-use-of-rcb.htm>

Heads up

Volunteer and intern placement schemes

If your charity wants to recruit talented individuals to support or help launch a specific project have a look at these two placement schemes.



Firstly, there's the **Ethical Internship Scheme** - a fantastic way to recruit an intern who is well equipped to take on challenging or high level tasks.

Organised by Student Hubs, the scheme matches 60 exceptional students with charities and social enterprises across the UK. The scheme provides these interns with training, networking and mentoring opportunities during the academic year before they complete a placement over the summer. If you think this scheme could suit your charity have a look at the information for employers see www.studenthubs.org/xwiki/bin/view/Ethical+Careers/For+employers

Then, for registered charities looking to recruit a volunteer next year, have a look at the **World of Difference UK** scheme. Organised by the Vodafone Foundation, this programme gives 500 skilled volunteers the opportunity to donate themselves to a UK charity of their choice and get paid for it. Placements are full-time for 2 months, or part-time for 4 months. If you would like your charity to be listed on the Charity Matchmaker go to www.worldofdifference.vodafone.co.uk/charity.html

Free management consultancy

An opportunity has arisen for VCOS to work with Business Undergraduates from BCU (Birmingham City University) on a management consultancy project.

- Do you have an idea for a piece of work that you would normally commission out to a Management Consultant?
- Would you like to have a cost FREE option?

Then this opportunity may be for you. A group of students from BCU are looking for Voluntary organisations to work with on a Management Consultancy Basis. Please note this is NOT a Placement but an opportunity for busy organisations to get some valuable support with no cost attached. This will involve the VCO identifying a piece of work that would be undertaken by the student (via a Service Level Agreement with no fee attached).

This is a great opportunity and should not be missed but numbers will be limited so act NOW!

Find the expression of interest form on <http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/site/blog/news/free-management-consultancy/>

Send your Expression of Interest to jackiemoore@castlevale.org.uk before Friday 4th November – this should include:

- A brief description of your organisation
- Contact details of the person leading on this project
- A brief outline of the work to be undertaken

Support will be offered to Voluntary Organisations in terms of Managing the process. If you would like further information about how you can take advantage of this opportunity or would like an informal discussion please contact Jackie Moore Project Manager, Community Action Shard End, 0121 748 2233, 07825 181 640 jackiemoore@castlevale.org.uk

Turn your supporters' Christmas spend into additional donations for your cause



This Christmas your supporters will each spend an average £200 on gifts. But only 5% of people intend to give more to charity this year. Yet, according to YouGov research, despite this small increase in donations, 59% of Brits say they'll spend more on Christmas presents this year.

The Give as you Live "All I want for Christmas" campaign can turn your supporters' Christmas spend into additional donations for your cause – at no cost to you, and at no cost to your supporters.

Thousands of brands, including John Lewis, Play.com and Dixons, have signed up to donate a percentage of every purchase your supporters make online to your cause. From gifts to decorations to stocking fillers, every purchase will raise, on average, 2.5% of the total cost for your cause. Your supporters can even create a wish list, which will ensure they get just what they want this Christmas, and your cause will still collect additional donations.

For more information, to sign up and to get your personalised campaign materials see <http://www.giveasyoulive.com/christmas>

Chair Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust

The Appointments Commission is **seeking an inspirational leader** with board skills gained in complex organisations. The NHS Trust Chair will play a key role in directing this organisation towards achieving Foundation Trust status, bringing greater freedoms and responsibilities. This is an exciting opportunity at the cutting edge of the Government's commitment to create a patient led NHS. The successful candidate will need to be able to demonstrate strategic vision and a portfolio of skills including governance, financial acumen, performance management, relationship-building and the ability to champion change.

The Appointments Commission is encouraging VCS leaders to apply for this role. See <http://www.appointments.org.uk> - reference WM0875 for more information.

Completed applications must be returned by **17th November at 12 noon**.

Please see <http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/site/home/vacancies-in-the-voluntarycommunity-sector-in-shropshire/> for other vacancies in Shropshire's voluntary sector and send your vacancies to info@shropshirevcs.org.uk

Reminders

Funding fair – Sustain & Survive

Date: Tuesday 6th December 2011

Time: 9.15am Registration

Venue: Shrewsbury Town Football Club, Greenhouse Meadow

Programme:

- Helga Edstrom from the Office for Civil Society will open the conference with an update on current and new funding programmes
- Fiona Sheil - Public Service Delivery Network Officer NCVO will follow looking at Public Sector Contracts: the future for VCS providers?
- There will be plenty of opportunity for questions before the workshop programme starts.



Workshops

- How to set up a charity trading arm - David Alcock – Anthony Collins Solicitors
- Public Sector Contracts: how to prepare for the future - Fiona Sheil - Public Service Delivery Network Officer NCVO
- Effective Sponsorship: Getting Results - Layla Moosavi - Directory of Social Change
- Don't Waste Your Funding - Nigel Kippax - KC Change Consultants
- Commissioning, procurement & contracts - John Dawson - Local Commissioning and Procurement Adviser NAVCA
- Thinking Differently About Fundraising - Noam Kostucki – Directory of Social Change
- Successful Bid Writing – Rebecca Erskine – Idox Information Solutions*

*** This workshop is in addition to the programme (sent to you with this newsletter) and will start at 1.45pm**

There will be an opportunity to have one to one advice off our funding and social enterprise advisors. The event is heavily subsidised by Big Lottery Fund but a small charge (£20 for Shropshire VCO's) is being made.

To book go to www.shropshirevcs.org.uk/funding

Funding

Please keep an eye on <http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/site/our-services/funding-advice/> for details of new grants or finance schemes including update nr 77 from Shropshire Partnership's External Funding team.

Community action against crime: Innovation fund

The Community action against crime: innovation fund will encourage effective partnerships to get everybody working together to tackle crime. It will be used to encourage voluntary and community groups to work with their community safety partnership to tackle local crime problems, including



through co-design and co-delivery of initiatives to cut crime. Applications from grassroots community activists who are not traditional recipients of government grants are encouraged. Community action against crime: Innovation fund is funded by the Home Office and delivered by the Community Development Foundation (CDF).

To find out more including eligibility and how to apply visit: www.cdf.org.uk/web/guest/crime-innovation-fund

Community Business Loan Fund (CBLF)

The Royal Bank of Scotland has launched a £5 million **Community Business Loan Fund** to help potential and existing social entrepreneurs who are unable to access finance through normal mainstream channels. See <http://www.rbs.co.uk/business/banking/g3/community-business-loan-fund.ashx#tabs=section1> for more information.

Trustees

Charity Commission publishes investment guidance for charities

New online guidance on Charities and Investment Matters has been published by the Charity Commission, which replaces their previous advice on investments and describes legal duties, as well as principles that apply to charity investments and the risks that trustees must address. It also offers a clear framework for decision making, but emphasises that it is up to trustees to decide on the most appropriate overall investment strategy for their charity. The guidance confirms that trustees invest ethically, sustainably, for a financial return or to achieve charitable aims or for a mix of all or any of these. However, it also emphasises that trustees must be clear about their motive in making an investment and be able to justify that they are using their charity's resources in its best interests. For more information, please visit the Charity Commission website http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/RSS/News/pr_cc14.aspx

Compact

Compact Week

This year's Compact Week is taking place between **Monday 7 and Friday 11 November** (5 days - could a week be more compact?).

Compact Week is an annual campaign held to promote the Compact, the longstanding agreement that sets out shared commitments and guidelines for partnership working between government and the voluntary sector.

The week engages voluntary organisations, government departments, local authorities and other public sector partners working with the Compact locally or nationally. Various events and activities take place across England throughout the week. This year's theme is 'local knowledge is local power'. Visit <http://www.compactvoice.org.uk/compactweek2011> to access resources and find out how to get involved.

Compact
Week 2011

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 and Alex Drury - 07407 731718



Volunteering Carol Services

Back by popular demand we will be running several celebratory Carol Services all from 7.00pm till 8.30pm with Coffee and Mince pies:

Wednesday 7th December 2011 - Shrewsbury Abbey

Thursday 8th December - Bridgnorth Baptist Church

Monday 12th December - St John's Church Ludlow

Tuesday 13th December St Oswald's Church Oswestry





Social Enterprise Social Enterprise Day

It's Social Enterprise day on **17th November 2011** and Shropshire Social enterprises are invited to celebrate this day by collaborating to do something very different! Led by the **Community Council of Shropshire** and funded through Growing Social Enterprise in West Midlands ERDF programme, the day will be promoting awareness of the amazing and diverse activities that social enterprises in Shropshire are doing.

A promotional DVD will be made with help from Appletree Theatre and Film Company who are themselves a Social Enterprise. Social enterprises will have the opportunity to hone their media skills, appearing on camera during the day as well as attending workshops in which they will learn about practical ways to maximise their unique selling point of being 'businesses which allow society to profit' when promoting themselves in all formats of media.



The end result will be a DVD which will be used on an ongoing promotional basis. Nicky Kent, Social Enterprise Business Outreach Coach from the Community Council says "we hope the DVD will emphasise that Shropshire is a diverse county which has a great mix of remote villages and big areas of regeneration from which a wide range of social enterprises have grown. I am keen to use Social Enterprise Day and the DVD to shine a light on them all."

The day will be facilitated by Nicky Kent, Jim Hawkins from Jim Hawkins Ltd and Michaela Hardwick from Beyond Brilliance CIC who together run **Venture**, a voluntary networking group for Social Enterprises in Shropshire.

Those already running or interested in social enterprises are welcome to **come along between 11.30am – 1.30pm** and watch the day unfold and you may even be invited to contribute! To continue the theme of this being all about Shropshire, the event will be held **at Hampton Hayes Farm, Worthen, Shrewsbury, home of the Dragonfly Project CIC.**



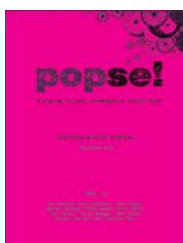
For more information or to find out more about networking with Venture, please **contact Nicky Kent on 01743 342178**

Global Entrepreneurship Week UK 2011

14 – 20 November 2011 is Global Entrepreneurship Week UK 2011 began life in the UK back in 2004 as Enterprise Week – is the world's largest campaign to promote entrepreneurship and is recognised by organisations all over the UK as the highlight of the entrepreneurship calendar. In 2010, 10 million people took part in the week, in 40,000 events held across 104 countries. The UK host of Global Entrepreneurship Week is Youth Business International (YBI), which already runs the campaign in ten other countries. YBI is a global network of independent non-profit initiatives helping young people to start and grow their own business and create employment. This year **17th November is Social Enterprise Day**, so why not get involved. See <http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/site/blog/south-area/global-entrepreneurship-week-uk-2011/> for more information.



POPse – Bursting Policy Bubbles



Back in May 2011 a bunch of "policy vagabonds, 3rd Sector tarts, social enterprise mercenaries" took over a disused Subway shop in Clerkenwell and the first pop-up social enterprise think-tank was born. It operated for a week of intensive discussions, debates, arguments, papers and tweets and then "went dark".

Well, the report from that period of intense activity has now been published and you can have a read by following <http://popse.files.wordpress.com/2011/09/popse.pdf>

Growing Business through Collaboration in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin



Open to all businesses/social enterprises and voluntary organisations who feel that they would like the opportunity to improve their project/service delivery capacity through collaboration with others

When: 29th November 2011 3pm- 6pm

Where: AFC Telford, Watling Street, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire, TF1 2TU

Why: This FREE business event is aimed at organisations who want to know more about the possibilities to expand their capability to deliver projects/ services by collaborating with others.

COGS is a procurement information HUB providing the private, public and voluntary sectors with a central point for sharing procurement best practice in the county. COGS, whilst developed by Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin Business Boards, is driven by its partners. Shropshire Chamber, HEFF, METNET, Alpha, Shropshire Council and Telford and Wrekin representatives currently drive COGS objectives through round table discussions Chaired by Ann Johnson of the FSB Shropshire.

This event is best suited to businesses who want to know more about the possibilities of expanding their capability in winning work by collaborating with others.

Whilst this is a free event, booking is essential and, due to limited space we can only offer a place for one person per company in the first instance For further details see

www.cogsatwork.co.uk

To book your place, please follow the link <http://cogs.eventbrite.com/?ref=estw>

Unlocking Enterprise Conference

The ninth **Unlocking Enterprise Conference** will be held in Worcestershire for all enterprising women (and others who would like to come) on **11th November from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM** at a new venue: Conference Centre, St. Peter's Church, Eden Close, St Peter's Drive, Worcester, WR5 3TZ Worcestershire

Workshops on:

- Using social media to generate custom
- Intellectual Property
- Monkey Marketing
- Business & Family Law
- Money Matters



Go along to be inspired, network for business and for peer support, have fun, learn, enjoy a wonderful day out working on your business. More information can be found via

<http://www.unlocking-enterprise.com/>

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.