



# shropshire infrastructure partnership

strengthening the voluntary sector together

31<sup>st</sup> May 2011 (Issue 13)

## We are back

Bit of a bumper issue, apologies for that.... 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: NCVO, NFP TECHNO, Voluntary Sector Network Blog, CCT, NAVCA, Sandy Andirondack, Community Matters, Shropshire Council's Broadplaces, CCS, OCA and Lanyon Bowdler.



## Business Mentors

Mentoring is the single most effective method of developing an individual to achieve success in employment, self employment or life in general.

- Have you recently lost funding?
- Have you become more enterprising?
- Have you lost someone you were leaning on?
- Can you benefit from talking things over with a Mentor?

Our partner **Midwest Rural Enterprise CIC** is co-ordinating a network of 'Social Business Mentors' to work with the Voluntary and Community Sector in Shropshire. These are all people with a wide range of business skills who can act as your 'critical friend', someone to talk organisational issues over with.

For more information have a look at <http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/site/our-services/social-business-mentors/>

## Trustees

### Shropshire's Charity Trustee Network (CTN)

Are you a member of Shropshire's CTN? Coordinated by the **Community Council of Shropshire**, it is open to all charity trustees, management committee members of voluntary organisations and community groups and directors of non-profit-making companies. This group meets 3 times a year and the next meeting is on **8th June from 6pm – 8.30pm** at the offices of the Community Council of Shropshire. The session will be facilitated by Claire Moelwyn Williams from Whittingham Riddell Chartered Accountants and will focus on **financial controls for charities** and will help trustees and committee members to explore:

- What are a trustee's responsibilities in regard to a charity's financial position?
- What information should trustees expect to receive in relation to the charity's financial position in order to effectively monitor this?
- How to prepare a financial policy and procedures to provide a framework for effective financial controls

To book a place, please contact Lorraine Smart on 01743 237880 or [lorraine.smart@shropshire-rcc.org.uk](mailto:lorraine.smart@shropshire-rcc.org.uk).

New members are always welcome, membership is free and so are the meetings.

For more information on the network see <http://bit.ly/iWaqhZ>

## Trusteeship Survey

The purpose of this survey co-ordinated by the **Community Council of Shropshire** is to develop a better understanding of the nature of trusteeship in the county including:

- How and why people are involved in trusteeship roles
- The pressures and challenges currently faced by trustees and their boards
- The information, advice and training needs of trustees
- The shape and scope of induction for new trustees
- The methods used by charities to recruit new trustees

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](http://www.shropshire-rcc.org.uk/assets/userfiles/parishplans/questionnaires/state_of_trusteeship_in_shropshire.htm)

## Training Roundup - June

### ○ Taking the Chair

This session will explore the role of the Chair of a group. It is aimed at anyone who is considering becoming the Chair of their organisation, or who is new to the role and wants to find out exactly what their role is.

**Cost:** £15

**Where:** CCS Training Suite, Shrewsbury

**When:** Friday 10 June, from 9.30am to 12.30pm

### ○ Developing and monitoring outcomes to demonstrate your impact

A 2 day course, with a task to be completed between the 2 dates.

It is becoming increasingly important for organisations to be able to demonstrate how they are doing. The course aims to help your organisation to develop outcomes and set up ways of monitoring and evaluating how you are doing.

**Cost:** £45 for both days including lunch

**Where:** CCS Training Suite, Shrewsbury

**When:** Tuesday 14 June and Tuesday 12 July from 10.00am to 3.00pm

### ○ Successful Secretaries

The Secretary is often the lynchpin of the organisation, supporting the flow of information and keeping accurate records. This session will look at the key responsibilities of the secretary and good practice in maintaining communication and record keeping. The course is suitable for any committee secretary.

**Cost:** £15

**Where:** CCS Training Suite, Shrewsbury

**When:** Tuesday 21 June, from 9.30am to 12.30pm

### ○ Building local partnerships

This course aims to demonstrate how organisations and communities can work together and will look at practical steps and tools that can be used.

**Cost:** £30

**Where:** CCS Training Suite, Shrewsbury

**When:** 28 June, from 10.00 to 3.00pm

### ○ Introduction to employing staff

An introductory course aimed at new or small employers. It would be suitable for trustees and managers of organisations taking on their first employee or those seeking to ensure that their employment processes comply with the law. The course will be trained by Hatchers Solicitors.

**Cost:** £15

**Where:** CCS Board Room, Shrewsbury

**When:** Tuesday 28 June, from 9.30am to 12.30pm

For more information on all the above courses please contact Lorraine Smart on 01743 237880 or email [lorraine.smart@shropshire-rcc.org.uk](mailto:lorraine.smart@shropshire-rcc.org.uk)

### Demonstrating impact – what it's all about

By the end of the session the learner will understand: what impact is and how to measure it, the range of different methods there are and how to choose the most appropriate one for your organisation. more about measuring outcomes, more about measuring "distance travelled" and introduction to the Outcomes Star, the basics of social accounting and the basics of social return on investment

**Where:** Rockspring Centre, Sandford Road, Ludlow SY8 1SX

**When:** Thursday 9 June

For more information on this course please email [rosemarycollie@furniturescheme.co.uk](mailto:rosemarycollie@furniturescheme.co.uk) or [rosemarycollie@yahoo.com](mailto:rosemarycollie@yahoo.com)

### Shrewsbury Social Media Surgery



**When:** Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 5.30pm - 8pm

**Where:** HCS Computers' Log Inn Internet Café, 55 Castle Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY1 2EJ

(Also 5<sup>th</sup> September, 7<sup>th</sup> November, 9<sup>th</sup> January, 5<sup>th</sup> March and 14<sup>th</sup> May). For more info and to book

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

my  
learningpool





### My Learning Pool

My Learning Pool is the online training resource for community and voluntary groups, small charities, social enterprises and all those individuals involved in civil society. It gives those who offer their time to their community access to cost effective training to grow their knowledge and therefore the impact they make.

My Learning Pool contains a growing list of 25 modules on topics such as Health and Safety, HR, Financial Management and Marketing and more modules are being added to My Learning Pool all the time. For more info see [www.mylearningpool.com](http://www.mylearningpool.com)

### Network opportunities in North Shropshire

-  The Oswestry and District Forum will take place at Qube, Oswestry on the Friday 10th June 2011 between 10am-12pm.
-  The Northern Area Forum will take place at Edinburgh House, Wem Council on the Wednesday 15th June 2011 between 10am-12pm.



The forum agendas for each meeting will be circulated shortly. If you would like to attend please contact Kim Thompson-Lawrence on 01691 656882

### Cuts

#### Cuts website

A reminder to record their cuts on the <http://voluntarysectorcuts.org.uk/> website

## Funding

### Are you looking for funding?

**Oswestry Community Action (OCA)** will be holding a Grantfinder Funding Session in Oswestry on **Wednesday 29th June**. The session will be held at Qube, Oswald Rd, Oswestry SY11 1RB between **10am and 1pm**. They can help you find suitable funding for your project or organisation using Grantfinder the UK's leading computerised grants database. If you would like to take advantage of this free advice then please contact Kim Thompson-Lawrence on 01691 656882 or email [info@qube-oca.org.uk](mailto:info@qube-oca.org.uk) to book a slot. There are only a limited number of places so please book to avoid disappointment.

### Grassroots Grants

#### Just a few days left for community groups to grab a grant!

The closing date is fast approaching for the current round of **Grassroots Grants** funding and groups across Shropshire are being encouraged to apply for their share of this funding. Groups have until **3rd June** to apply for grants of between £250 and £5000 from the Grassroots Grants Fund, administered by the Community Council of Shropshire. Groups must be able to spend their grant before the end of September 2011 so this is ideal for groups looking to buy equipment, training or refurbishment work during the summer months. For more information on the fund and to download an application visit the Grassroots Grants website [www.grassrootsshropshire.org.uk](http://www.grassrootsshropshire.org.uk) or phone Jan on 01743 342171

### Protecting Playing Fields

Sport England has launched Protecting Playing Fields, a £10 million National Lottery fund to enhance local playing fields, or create new sports pitches. They will be investing £20,000 and £50,000 in

hundreds of projects that will create, improve and protect playing fields. Anyone interested in applying should visit [http://www.sportengland.org/funding/protecting\\_playing\\_fields.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/funding/protecting_playing_fields.aspx)

Confirmed dates for the first two rounds are:

Round 1 opens on the 25 May 2011 and closes on **6 July 2011**

Round 2 will open on 24 October 2011 and close on 12 December 2011



### Funding for Music Making Activities



Youth Music has announced its grant making programme is open for applications. Grants of between £5,000 and £30,000 are available to support projects that provide music-making activities for children and young people in support of Youth Music's goals. The next closing date for applications is the **27th June**.

For more information see

[http://www.youthmusic.org.uk/looking\\_for\\_music\\_funding/Getting-Started.html](http://www.youthmusic.org.uk/looking_for_music_funding/Getting-Started.html)

### JustTextGiving by Vodafone

The Vodafone Foundation has joined forces with JustGiving to kick start a new era of giving with the launch of JustTextGiving by Vodafone. Charities and individuals can raise money using text messages with a service that is free to set up and run. Furthermore, every penny donated goes to charity.

JustTextGiving by Vodafone enables charities to personalise their own unique 6-digit text code - called a VIC or Vodafone Individual Code - and receive donations of up to £10 by text message. There is no set up or running costs for the charity and no network charge for fundraisers. Registered charities can now set up their codes and individual fundraisers can do so from 20 June. Full details are available at [www.justtextgiving.co.uk](http://www.justtextgiving.co.uk)

## BT Launches MyDonate

UK charities may benefit from a much-needed cash injection following the launch of MyDonate - a new free online charitable fundraising service from BT. The service has been developed by BT after the company worked closely with a number of charities – including Cancer Research UK, Changing Faces, KidsOut, NSPCC and Women's Aid.



MyDonate guarantees that 100 per cent of all monies donated go direct to charities with the exception of credit/debit card charges. There are no set up fees either and BT will automatically collect Gift Aid on the charities behalf. See <http://www.btplc.com/mydonate/> for more information.

## Meet the ESF providers

The West Midlands European Network and local authorities in the West Midlands are organising a regional event aimed at providing third sector organisations the opportunities to discuss with ESF providers about their circumstances and explore ways of working together. The SFA (Skills Funding Agency) and JCP (Job Centre Plus) will ensure that providers are present (for JCP this includes Work Programme, Mandatory Work Activity and Disability Provision).

This free event is provisionally planned for 23 June at the Banqueting Suite, Birmingham Council House but will depend on interest. Please can you let Joe Bubb know on 01743 252516 by **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June** if you are interested in attending this event.

## Reports

### Red Tape Report

The Red Tape taskforce, led by our own Lord Hodgson, has published its report called Unshackling Good Neighbours. It contains a lot of interesting ideas. It supports the use of grants in a section on commissioning and calculating social value when judging tenders. Read the report here: <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/unshackling-good-neighbours.pdf>

### Why do people participate?

NCVO have published the latest in their series of almanacs on Participation: Trends, Facts and Figures. It takes a thorough look at reasons for engagement with charities, campaigning and political activity and maps current trends in giving both time and money.

See <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/news/civil-society/participation-trends-facts-figures> to download the guide.

### White paper on giving

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/giving-white-paper.pdf>

Also worth a look is

<http://ageukblog.org.uk/2011/05/23/plenty-to-give/>



Across the UK only a minority of people participate and only 20% of people aged over 75 participate in formal volunteering at least once a month. Many more older people have something to offer, and something to gain from being more active in the community. There needs to be more support for older people to get involved, as well as support for those who currently volunteer.

## Assets

### Much more than bricks and mortar

Tim Waldron, the vice-chairman of Third Sector Property and the chairman of YMCA England gives his thoughts on how to make sure your charity's property is an asset and not a liability.

#### **Do you need all your properties and are you running them efficiently?**

If it's decided what you have is strategically necessary and cost-effective, then delve into the detail. Are there break clauses or rent reviews coming up? If so, do they have strict notice periods that must be adhered to?

For many smaller organisations without portfolios to rationalise and eek out savings and efficiencies, there are still options to be considered. Do you need all the space you currently have?

Read his thoughts in the Voluntary Sector Network blog via <http://bit.ly/muvsG7>

### The Community Council of Shropshire can help...

Whether you need office space for your organisation, a venue for a seminar or a training session or want to hire equipment for an outside event their Training and Resource Centre offers a high quality tailored solution to suit your organisation's office, seminar and training room needs:

**Office Space:** If you're looking for flexible office space, they offer a furnished, high specification office for use exclusively by voluntary and community organisations.

**Training Suite and Room Hire:** The Training Suite is a modern flexible, fully-equipped, light-filled and air-conditioned space, capable of accommodating up to 40 delegates, with modular furniture so the room can be set out to suit your event and a range of presentation aids to hire

**Meeting room:** In addition to the training suite they have a meeting room suitable for up to 15 delegates and two interview rooms suitable for up to 4 delegates.

**Equipment Loan:** A range of equipment is available to loan by voluntary or community groups.

Please contact CCS' Events Manager on 01743 237871 if you would like more information or see [http://www.shropshire-rcc.org.uk/facilities\\_for\\_hire](http://www.shropshire-rcc.org.uk/facilities_for_hire)

### Meeting rooms and counselling rooms at the Roy Fletcher Centre

**The Roy Fletcher Centre** offers office space to a number of voluntary and community groups. It doesn't currently have any free office space but they do have a number of meeting rooms and counselling room for hire together with various media equipment—at last year's prices!! They also have an on-site coffee shop to cater from tea/coffee and cake to a buffet for your meetings. For more information see <http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/site/about/partners/the-roy-fletcher-centre/meeting-and-counselling-rooms/> or phone 01743 341300.

### Leaflets, programmes and newsletters

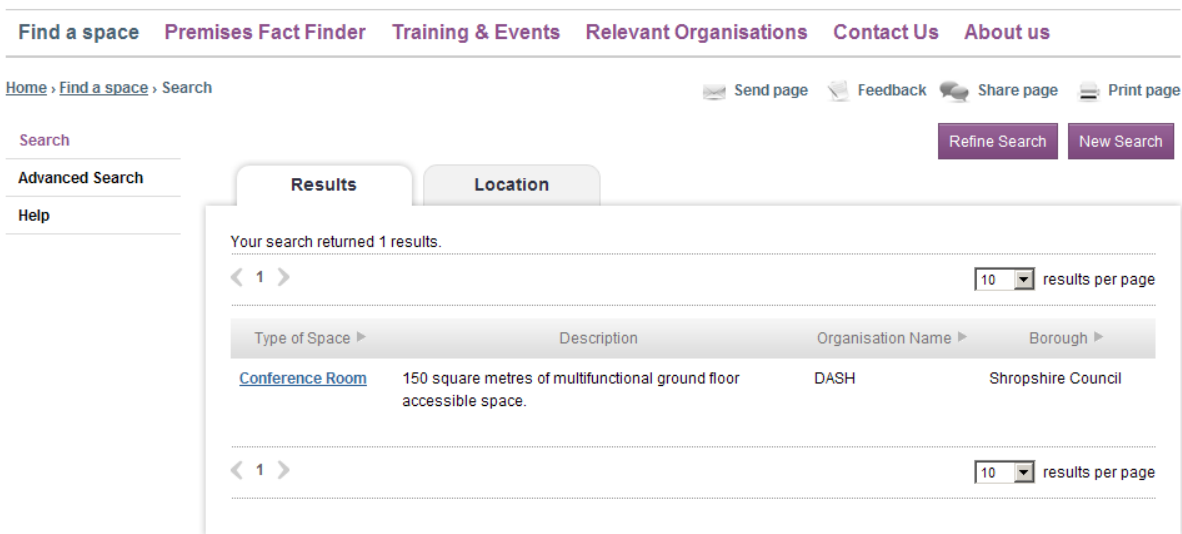
If you are an organisation that doesn't have in-house facilities to produce the above, or perhaps, not the time, then they can help you at **the Roy Fletcher Centre**. Using Publisher they produce various documents from forms to advertising and informational literature. They can design and produce the documents or work with your ideas. Please contact Jenny or Barbara on 01743 341300 for further information and costs.

## Are you advertising your community space effectively?

MyCommunitySpace is a specialist premises website for the community and voluntary sector, incorporating the following:

- Search/Advertise facility for those either seeking or wanting a community space
- Free information resource answering frequently asked questions to do with premises
- Useful links directory listing organisations that offer more information and advice on community and voluntary sector premises

MyCommunitySpace has been developed and produced by Community Matters and is a key project in a London-wide programme but covers the whole of the UK. The only premises found currently in Shropshire/Telford and Wrekin is a Conference Room at Dash (see below). Have a look at <http://mycommunityspace.org.uk/>



Find a space Premises Fact Finder Training & Events Relevant Organisations Contact Us About us

Home > Find a space > Search

Send page Feedback Share page Print page

Search Refine Search New Search

Advanced Search Help

Results Location

Your search returned 1 results.

< 1 > 10 results per page

Type of Space ▶	Description	Organisation Name ▶	Borough ▶
<a href="#">Conference Room</a>	150 square metres of multifunctional ground floor accessible space.	DASH	Shropshire Council

< 1 > 10 results per page

## Compact

### How Compact Advocacy can help your organisation

NCVO's Compact Advocacy programme exists to offer free support and advice to voluntary and community groups in their dealings with public bodies, including funding cuts and issues around consultation. If you have been affected by a decision that seems to be unfair we can:

- Identify breaches of the Compact and public law
- Identify key decision makers
- Represent your organisation through communications, including letters, emails, phone calls, meetings and press work
- Seek policy and practice change
- Identify best and worst practice and share lessons within the sector

Visit the NCVO website to find out more about Compact Advocacy and how they could help you: [www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/compactadvocacy](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/compactadvocacy) . 020 7520 3161 or email [evsAdvice@ncvo-vol.org.uk](mailto:evsAdvice@ncvo-vol.org.uk)

### Shropshire Compact Representatives Needed

Are you interested in the Shropshire Compact?

Would you be willing to act as a VCS Assembly representative on the Compact Implementation Group?

The Compact Implementation Group is seeking **two new VCS representatives** to join the group and help take Compact implementation forward in 2011. The group meets approximately 5-6 times a year, with meetings lasting up to 2 hours at a venue in Shrewsbury. Travel expenses can be paid for volunteers. If you are willing to get involved please contact Sarah Dodds (01743 252740 or email [sarah.dodds@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.dodds@shropshire.gov.uk)).

## Volunteering

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

## Event Volunteering – Call for Volunteers

The Volunteering Outreach Officers have been receiving several enquiries about finding volunteers for one-off events such as festivals, galas and markets. Groups are looking for volunteers to a variety of tasks such as setting up marquees or attending car parks. Similarly they have received enquiries from people wanting to 'test the water' with volunteering or who only have a little time to spare.

For example, organisers of the Church Stretton Summerfest are looking for volunteers help ensure the festival, to be held on **11th June**, runs smoothly. Tasks include moving tables and chairs, manning street barricades and litter picking.

If you are interested in volunteering for one-off events contact your local Volunteering Outreach Officer:

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?

Then please join us in Shrewsbury Quarry (by the Band Stand) for a



## Thank You Picnic!\*



**Saturday 4th June**  
12.30pm – 3pm



- Sabrina Brass Band will be playing for us from 1pm
- Thank You Certificates for volunteers, presented by the High Sheriff of Shropshire, Mr Richard Burbidge OBE, DL, BA
- Face painting and balloon modelling



\*Please bring your own picnic!

Please contact Steve Jones on 01743 237877 if you would like your volunteers to be presented with certificates.

## Guardian free advertising for volunteers

**guardianjobs**

Guardian Jobs are offering free advertising for organisations looking for volunteers on [guardianjobs.co.uk](http://guardianjobs.co.uk) as part of its commitment to voluntary sector recruitment. 207,000 Guardian Jobs users work in the Voluntary or Charity sector.

<http://jobs.guardian.co.uk/jobs/volunteering/>

## Benefits & volunteering myth busting

The biggest myth in volunteering is that you can only volunteer for a maximum of 16 hours a week before a benefits claim is affected.

Volunteering England has produced an article that busts many of the myths surrounding volunteering and benefits. Worth a look via

<http://www.volunteering.org.uk/WhatWeDo/Policy/Policy+blog/Volunteering+and+state+benefits+-+some+more+myths+busted>

## Vacancies

Landau Ltd is looking for Job coaches to work with young people who are at risk of not engaging in education, employment or training.

More info can be found at

<http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/site/home/vacancies-in-the-voluntarycommunity-sector-in-shropshire/>

## Campaigns

### Shropshire Disability Network SDN-Hardest Hit Campaign

SDN is seeking information about the Disabled and Carer community of Shropshire to see who are going to be the "Hardest Hit"

People with a disability or a long term health condition, their families and carers are being hit hard by cuts to benefits and services. The total cuts are estimated to be a £9 billion loss to family's incomes over the next four years, on top of cuts to many local care and support services.

SND is co-ordinating a county-wide campaign and would like your views via the 'Hardest Hit Survey' on the SDN website [www.shropshire-disability.net](http://www.shropshire-disability.net) or via email.

### Scope produce campaigning resources

Scope has created online resources for people wanting to start campaigning. The resources, produced for Scope and supporters of their work, also are useful for other voluntary organisations and community groups. Have a look at

<http://www.scope.org.uk/campaigns/start-your-campaign>

### Small Charities week

## SMALL CHARITY WEEK 2011

This initiative from the Foundation for Social Improvement will take place **20th – 24th June 2011**. It kicks off with I ♥ Small Charities Day aimed at giving the public the chance to learn more about and engage with the small charities working in their area.

Here's your chance to have your message broadcast into homes across the country via The Community Channel. All you need to do is submit a video about your charity to have it broadcast on free-to-air TV. For more information on submitting your video email [info@smallcharityweek.com](mailto:info@smallcharityweek.com). Or see <http://www.smallcharityweek.com/>

## Legal



E-News and Free Legal Updates

### Employment issues

The forthcoming compulsory requirement for employers to contribute to employees' pensions was the focus of a round of Employment Law and Pensions Seminars held at the end of March in Oswestry, Hereford, Shrewsbury and Shifnal. The seminars, held in association with Torquil Clark, and presented by Lanyon Bowdler's partner and head of employment law, John Merry, provided valuable guidance on the employment law aspects of pension changes, as well as providing advice on how employers should start preparing now for the implementation of the changes in 2012.

The next round of Employment Law seminars will be held in September 2011 as follows:

13 September 2011 - Lion Quays Hotel, Oswestry

15 September 2011 - Three Counties Hotel, Hereford

22 September 2011 - Park House Hotel, Shifnal

27 September 2011 - Lanyon Bowdler Offices, Shrewsbury

All events start at 9.00am for a 9.30am start, until approximately 12 noon. Refreshments and brunch will be provided. The cost is just £17.50 plus VAT.

To book a place contact [rachel.donaghey@lblaw.co.uk](mailto:rachel.donaghey@lblaw.co.uk)

## Governance resources

Sandy Andironack has some great resources regarding Governance on

<http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#governanceresources>

Guidance includes:

- revised governance code for voluntary and community organisations (in plain English)
- ICSA guidance on matters that must be dealt with by the board, rather than by individual board members (even officers) or staff
- governance codes for commercial businesses
- new Charity Commission website of resources for small charities
- seven linked briefings for charities working internationally
- updated CC25 Managing charity assets and resources: An overview for charities;
- the Commission's compliance toolkit on protecting charities from harm: part 2 on due diligence, monitoring, and verifying end use of funds, and part 3, on fraud and financial crime;
- 15 questions trustees needed to ask themselves two years ago during the economic downturn, and still need to ask themselves in the current political/economic environment.

## Localism

### 'Are we ready for localism' Conference

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 9.30am - 4pm

This conference is being jointly organised by the **Community Council of Shropshire** and the Association of Local Councils. Speakers include James Derounian, University of Gloucestershire, Maxine Betts, Community Council of Shropshire, David Brammer, DLA Piper UK LLP, Jake Berriman and Lois Dale from Shropshire Council.

There will also be workshops on:

- Getting ready to make the most of localism
- Participatory budgeting in practice
- Impact on Larger Local Councils
- Overview of Right to Buy, Right to Build, Right to Challenge

For more information and to book contact Lorraine Smart, [lorraine.smart@shropshire-ccc.org.uk](mailto:lorraine.smart@shropshire-ccc.org.uk) by Friday 24th June latest.

**Are we ready for Localism?**  
A one-day conference exploring aspects of the Localism Bill and the steps needed to create the conditions for localism to work in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin

Wednesday 29th June  
9:30am-4:00pm  
Shirehall, Abbey Foregate,  
Shrewsbury

£15 per delegate

COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF SHROPSHIRE  
ALC  
ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS IN SHROPSHIRE AND Telford & Wrekin  
Member of the National Association of Local Councils

### Localism and the environment

Green Alliance is exploring how the localism agenda is influencing the way that civil society groups interact with their local authority. It focuses on climate change and environmental action, but they would value your views on localism even if your organisation does not work on those issues in a short survey. This survey and other work will lead to a report on how civil society and local authorities are responding to the localism agenda. If you provide your contact information during the survey then you will receive information on the work when it is completed. Find the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CS73WKV>



## Working together differently - Ludlow workshop event

This event supports Shropshire Council's Placed Based Intervention project which concentrates on vulnerable neighbourhoods identified as having a number of common characteristics: high levels of welfare dependency, low average household income, high levels of worklessness plus a range of other issues that affect people's economic wellbeing, health and quality of life.

**Wednesday 15 June 2011, 9.15 am – 12.30 pm**  
at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, 1 Mill Street, Ludlow, SY8 1AZ

The overall aim of the project is to better understand the views of local people, the services currently delivered and how services could be redesigned in the future to ensure resources are used effectively and efficiently to improve outcomes for local people. For more information contact Fiona Boak: [Fiona.Boak@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Fiona.Boak@shropshire.gov.uk) 01743 255151 by Friday 10 June

## Social Enterprise

### Inspire Shropshire conference

Craven Arms Community Centre,  
**24<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

For more information email  
James Cooper via  
[james@furniturescheme.co.uk](mailto:james@furniturescheme.co.uk) or call  
01584 874922.



**inspire SHROPSHIRE**  
Harnessing success in Social Enterprise 2011

Craven Arms Community Centre, 24th June 2011

Don't miss the return of  
Shropshire's successful  
**Social Enterprise**  
Conference and Fair

A full day programme of workshops, advice  
surgeries, exhibitors, resources and fascinating  
speakers!

**Workshops**  
Legal Structures  
Intellectual Property  
Social Enterprise and  
the Public Sector  
Market Research

**Guest Speakers**  
Peter Couchman, The  
Plunkett Foundation  
Daniel Heery, Founder &  
Director of Alston Cybermoor  
Caroline Law Consulting,  
Marketing Expert

Trade stands  
available  
for local  
Enterprises!

For booking  
details contact  
James Cooper at  
[james@furniturescheme.co.uk](mailto:james@furniturescheme.co.uk)  
or call  
01584 874922

**Event Fees:**  
Conference delegates: £30 per delegate  
Trade stands: £10 per 2m x 2m space for  
local Social Enterprises

Delegate fee includes a buffet lunch and afternoon tea  
and cakes. Booking is essential as places are limited.

To attend the conference as a delegate or to book a  
trade stand for your enterprise please complete the  
booking form overleaf

Coordinated by:  
The Community Council of Shropshire,  
South Shropshire Furniture Scheme, Midwest Rural Enterprise and Subbuilders

This event has been made possible thanks to funding from:

Shropshire Council  
Inspiring  
it your future  
Advantage  
West Midlands  
LITTONY FUNDING

## Surplus Equipment

Several groups have mentioned to us that from time to time they have surplus furniture or other items which are no longer required and they would like them to be recycled amongst the voluntary/community sector. We will create a section on the website to advertise such items and will feature a selection in this newsletter.

If you have surplus items then please let me know.

Equally if you require anything then let me know and I would be happy to advertise it for you.

All such enquiries to [info@shropshirevcs.org.uk](mailto:info@shropshirevcs.org.uk) but please include your contact details so interested parties can get in touch with you direct.

## VCS Assembly

The Shropshire Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Assembly is your vehicle 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 completely free of charge. If your organisation would like to become a member please contact Sarah Dodds, VCS Assembly Coordinator email: [sarah.dodds@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.dodds@shropshire.gov.uk) or phone 01743 252740.

The Shropshire VCS Assembly is organising an important workshop:

**Friday 8 July 2011**  
**9:30am to 4pm**  
**Council Chamber, Shirehall**



This workshop has been organised to:

- Provide an opportunity for discussion of the issues affecting you.
- Report the recent progress made by the VCS Assembly Board and update the wider membership on the Assembly's work to meet the challenge set by Kim Ryley, Chief Executive of Shropshire Council at the VCS Annual Assembly in April.
- Provide details of the work being undertaken by the VCS Task Group and its 3 sub groups: Commissioning, Performance and Community Right to Buy and Challenge.
- Consider particular issues and developments in the field of health and social care.
- Endorse the Assembly's future direction and achieve consensus on priorities.

The day will include a mix of presentations and group discussions. An agenda will be circulated to attendees nearer the time. This is a free event. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Book early as available seats are limited. Contact [Ruth.Turner@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Ruth.Turner@shropshire.gov.uk) or phone 01743 252269

## Shropshire Partnership Standing Conference Public Service Reform – the future for Shropshire

The Coalition Government is about to publish its proposals for the wholesale reform of public services, creating a radical new context for all partners. Anticipated for publication in late May, the Public Service Reform White Paper will redefine roles, create new opportunities and challenge expectations across public, private and voluntary sectors.

This conference will give an update from a range of perspectives on what this means, particularly for voluntary and community organisations and social enterprises, building on the collaborative work between Shropshire's Voluntary Assembly and Shropshire Council.

It will give all attendees an opportunity to ask questions and gain a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities ahead.

**Tuesday 28th June 2011, 1.30pm till 4.00pm**

**Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury**

Chaired by: Robin Thompson, Chair of Shropshire Partnership

Contact [Ruth.Turner@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Ruth.Turner@shropshire.gov.uk) or phone 01743 252269

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).