



shropshire infrastructure partnership

strengthening the voluntary sector together

29th November 2011 (Issue 17)

Hi there

Have you booked your place onto our **Funding Event on 6th December**, only a few days to go!! You will find more information below but don't miss your chance to get expert support from some very knowledgeable speakers!

As always keep an eye on our website www.ShropshireVCS.org.uk and 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: SCRL, NAVCA, VCSA, NPC, SCC/CTN, BSSEC.



Funding fair – Sustain & Survive

**Free to voluntary and community groups
with an annual income of <£30K**

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 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 (just £20 per delegate from Shropshire VCO's with an income >£30K) is being made.

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

Reports, Resources and Articles

Social Networking – Fact sheets from ACAS

Smart phones, internet, tweeting, blogging - we have accepted all of these innovations, and many more, as part of our working lives, helping us to work more flexibly, stay in touch for longer and respond to each other more quickly.

But is it all good news? Some estimates report that misuse of the internet and social media by workers costs Britain's economy billions of pounds every year and add that many employers are already grappling with issues like time theft, defamation, cyber bullying, freedom of speech and the invasion of privacy.

So how should employers respond to the challenges posed by social networking tools at work? New research from the Institute for Employment Studies, commissioned by Acas, advises employers to:

- draw up a policy on social networking
- treat 'electronic behaviour' in the same way you would treat 'non-electronic behaviour'
- react reasonably to issues around social networking by asking 'what is the likely impact on the organisation?'

There are fact-sheets on:

- [Managing performance](#)
- [Recruitment](#)
- [Discipline and grievances](#)
- [Bullying](#)
- [Defamation, data protection and privacy](#)

There is also a useful guide on [How to develop a policy](#) For more information see <http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=33756>

Making a difference in local communities

Coutts & Co have just published a new report, **Inspiring local philanthropy**, in collaboration with New Philanthropy Capital and the Community Foundation Network.

It's a practical guide for individuals who want to support their local communities. It highlights various ways that donors can get involved, from volunteering to funding local charities to collaborating with other funders. It also shows how donors can deepen their understanding of needs within their local area, giving snapshots of five UK regions, including key statistics and an assessment of funding gaps. For more information see

http://www.philanthropycapital.org/publications/improving_the_sector/improving_philanthropy/local_giving.aspx?dm_i=59B,MDD2,3PCRS2,1T8IH,1 (Apologies for the ridiculously long link)

Localism

Community Rights Made Real

Urban Forum and NAVCA are running a **FREE event in the West Midlands**, working with a series of local partners, to prepare for the practicalities, opportunities and challenges of the rights within the Localism Bill. Supporting inclusion and equality in how the new rights are taken up; focusing in particular on the needs of communities who currently lack power. The event in our area is scheduled for: **28th March 2012, Birmingham**

Full details of all the events, and links to the booking facility, can be found at: <http://www.urbanforum.org.uk/our-events/community-rights-made-real>.



My Community Starter



Zurich has launched a [free online resource](#) for people who want to get involved in organising small, straightforward community activities. It provides guidance on some legal, health and safety, insurance and planning issues, there is also a useful tool that creates a free Community Toolkit Pack

More information via

Heads up

Below two initiatives recently sent to all VCS Assembly members but we thought it useful to reproduce it here to widen distribution as it is of interest to our whole sector but beware of the tight deadline for your comments.

Flourishing Shropshire Communities Delivering Localism in Shropshire

The introduction of the Localism Bill and Public Sector reform have generated new challenges for the Voluntary and Community Sector, Town and Parish Councils and Shropshire Council's Elected Members. New ways of delivering services and allocating funding mean that greater power is being placed in the hands of local people and community leaders.

This greater level of responsibility brings with it new pressures on our time and resources, often working as volunteers. However these pressures may be relieved by developing closer working relationships at a community level, facilitating more effective sharing of skills, knowledge, information and resources.

Joint work between the Voluntary and Community Sector Assembly, Shropshire Council's Elected Members and the Association of Local Councils has recently been initiated and we would like to invite you to join us in developing this further.

We would like to invite you to consider whether you are interested in piloting joint working arrangements between the Voluntary and Community Sector, Town and Parish Councils and Shropshire Council's Elected Members in your community.

It is suggested that a small number of communities within Shropshire could be chosen to explore this in more detail and trial new approaches. The number of pilots will depend on the interest shown and the ability to match volunteers within a community.

Would you like to develop new partnership arrangements in your community? Are there particular issues you feel a joint approach would help resolve? Are there particular services you would like to develop but cannot progress alone? What benefits can you foresee or do you have concerns?

Please comment and/or express your interest in taking part in a pilot project by contacting Sarah Dodds, VCS Assembly Coordinator, c/o Shropshire Council Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury Shropshire SY2 6PH Tel: 01743 252269 Email: shropshirevcsassembly.gov.uk using the contact details above by **Friday 2 December**.

Yours sincerely Sonia Roberts Chair Shropshire VCS Assembly, Cllr Gwilym Butler Portfolio Holder Flourishing Shropshire Communities and Rosemary Abbiss Association of Local Councils

Warm Homes Healthy People Fund.

The Department of Health has just launched a new funding opportunity - Warm Homes Healthy People Fund. Local Authorities are eligible to apply for the fund and are encouraged to work in partnership with the Voluntary and Community Sector.

Government have set incredibly short timescales the deadline is 5pm Thursday 8th December so if you are interested in getting involved in the bid submission, I would suggest you use the contact details below ASAP and **before the 2nd December if possible**.

More information via <http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/11/warm-homes-healthy-people-fund/> or please contact Helena Griffith, Health and Social Care Integration Development Officer Care and Wellbeing Shropshire Council. 01743 254212, Helena.Griffith@shropshire.gov.uk

Blue Dot donor incentive scheme

Blue Dot is a new website which links into Facebook and gives out 'blue dots' to users for activities such as donating, supporting or sharing information about a charity on Facebook. The donor can exchange the blue dots they accumulate for music, events or offers promoted as well as building up an active CV. Donations can be made through the Blue Dot website which is fully integrated with Just Giving. There is no cost to charities, all you need to do is promote the site and ask supporters to link in when they are engaging with you. Have a look at the website www.bluedotworld.com for all the information and tweet [@sccoalition](https://twitter.com/sccoalition) what you think about it.



Believing food poverty and reducing food waste

A new Social Enterprise is looking for community groups in Bridgnorth, Telford, Shrewsbury and Oswestry or surrounding villages (hostels for the homeless, schools, frail elderly lunch clubs, and community groups that provide food but not food banks) to join a food poverty project. The groups would receive regular donations of a variety of food items that can be used to reduce food bills but continue to provide good food and healthy eating.

If you are interested to find out more please contact Bob Candlin, Community Investment Manager, Mercian Housing Association, 07866-032092, 0121-3227404

Get your project featured on the BBC's 'Things to Do'

The BBC are looking for not-for-profit organisations to partner with running projects, which have an element of potential public engagement and are related to their current campaigns from nature to cultural initiatives. These campaigns link to the TV programmes such as Hands on History, Springwatch and Countryfile so you could be in with a chance of getting nationwide coverage. For more information see www.bbc.co.uk/thingstodo/activitymaker



Ask the Architect - Free Design Surgery

Thinking about a building project and don't know where to start? Have you started a project and need some help on the following stages? Why not Ask the Architect?

Shropshire architect Matthew Franklin will be providing regular free architecture clinics from the Shrewsbury offices of solicitors Lanyon Bowdler, the next clinic will take place on **Friday 2 December 2011**. The clinics are aimed at anyone who has an architectural question of any sort no matter how big or small, including questions on design, construction, property or a career in architecture. This is an ideal opportunity to explore the viability of those projects that so far have only made it to paper or to discuss those renovation ideas.

Bookings for appointments (available from 12:30pm) can be made directly with Lanyon Bowdler's marketing team on 01952 224048 or sarah.jones@lblaw.co.uk and more details of Ask The Architect can be found at <http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/site/blog/south-area/volunteering-with-a-difference-free-architect-design-surgeries/>



The VCS Hub

Does your group offer extra-curricular activities for KS1, KS2 or KS3 pupils; or SEN pupils up to age 16? Register on the VCS Hub and let schools find you. Free until September 2012 (includes Learning Exchange membership). Free extra-curricular training included. This new service has been set up to support any VCS group, large or small, to develop their partnerships with schools

by ContinYou who are grant-funded by the Department for Education. More information via www.learning-exchange.org.uk

NatWest CommunityForce makes Scrappies a winner

Church Stretton based recycling project 'Scrappies' has been awarded £6K under this scheme which we highlighted in a previous issue of this newsletter. Scrappies collects waste and surplus items and materials from local businesses. This is then sorted and sold to their members who use it for a range of projects. They also run workshops, mainly for children, using items that have been donated. They raise awareness of how, with imagination, items typically regarded as waste can be re-used and how this can protect the environment as well as saving money.

Funding

Free grant-giving trusts database websites

If you need to identify potential funders there are a number of free resources available to help you in your search. For instance **Grantmakers**, an interactive database of worldwide grant-makers. The database currently includes over 6000 entries of grant-makers, either nationally or internationally. To make use of this tool please see www.grantmakersonline.com

Funding Central, powered by NCVO allows you to search for UK funds for free. For more information and to get searching see www.fundingcentral.org.uk

Advice Services Fund

The £16.8million Advice Services Fund is for not-for-profit advice providers in England and will provide grants of £40,000 to £70,000 to be spent on service delivery. It is managed by BIG Fund on behalf of the Cabinet Office and opens for applications on 28 November 2011 and closes on 22 December.

Applicants must:

- Provide advice in at least one of the following priority areas: debt, welfare benefits, employment and housing; and
- Be able to evidence public funding cuts of at least 10% for the specified advice service areas from central and local government sources in 2011/12.

More information via

http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_advice_services_fund?regioncode=-uk

Market town revitalisation

Shropshire Council's new Market Towns Revitalisation Programme has a total of £3.5m available to help regenerate the county's market towns as well as rural communities (but not Shrewsbury).

Three different funds are available:

- Larger market towns fund which will support projects in Bridgnorth, Church Stretton, Ludlow, Market Drayton, Oswestry and Whitchurch
- Market towns capital initiative fund which will support projects in Shifnal, Wem, Albrighton, Broseley, Ellesmere, Highley, Cleobury Mortimer, Craven Arms, Much Wenlock, Bishop's Castle, and Pontesbury and Minsterley
- Rural challenge capital fund which will support projects in other areas of Shropshire.

For more information see

<http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/economicdevelopment.nsf/open/3A2E2D68D7D4DE898025778C0047172B>

Social Enterprise

The Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Programme

- Have you been operating for at least a year?
- Are you a Social Enterprise employing staff (at least one)?
- If you grew would you create additional employment?
- Do you operate commercially and are you seeking to achieve your social purpose primarily through trading?

As long as you do not have extensive recent management education (e.g MBA) this could be for you! Designed with Saïd Business School and the University of Oxford and delivered in partnership with Aston Business School, this Goldman Sachs programme is supporting the leaders of small businesses and commercial social enterprises in the Midlands to build the skills, strategies and networks they need to fulfill their businesses' growth potential. The programme is provided on a fully funded basis to successful applicants

The programme is for the leaders of established small businesses and commercial social enterprises who want to grow. Participants join a group of 25 to 30 selected small business leaders from across the Midlands to form a trusted and diverse network that provides peer-to-peer support, challenge and guidance. Participants benefit from a series of practically-focused learning modules between March and July 2012 which focus specifically on the range of challenges faced by growing small businesses and designed to generate immediate impact in participants' businesses. They also gain access to multiple sources of high quality advice and guidance, all designed to help the business and the business leader to grow. **Applications to participate close on 12th December 2011.**

Full information see www.aston.ac.uk/10ksb

Social Enterprise West Midlands (SEWM) is working with the Goldman Sachs *10,000 Small Businesses* programme and are organising a **Knowledge and Networking Event on Friday 9th December** from 9.30am – 12.00.

This event will give you:

- Professor Mark Hart about what the *10,000 Small Businesses* programme can offer to your social enterprise
- Kevin Davies CEO, The Vine Trust Group about how being part of the programme will complement The Vine Trust's development plans for the future
- Doncaster Refurnish video case study and hear how being part of the programme has returned real value to their business
- Round table discussions on the real opportunities and challenges that aspiring social enterprises encounter
- Q&A response from *10,000 Small Businesses* programme
- Networking with other leading social entrepreneurs

For more information about this event email: info@socialenterprisewm.org.uk or call 0845 450 7515.

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.