



shropshire infrastructure partnership

strengthening the voluntary sector together

8th September 2011 (Issue 15)

Hello

Looking at the schedule of activities, events and training, the **4th quarter of this year certainly looks action packed** and some of these are highlighted below but 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 them to our **1200 followers** many of them local Shropshire folk!! (If you are on Twitter yourself, make sure you follow us @VolunteerShrops)

The Partnership is going from strength to strength at the moment and we **thank you for your ongoing support**. This newsletter now goes to over **700 email addresses**. As always 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: NCVO, CivilSociety.co.uk, ACRE, Charity Commission, BSSEC, SCC/CTN.



Transforming infrastructure support funding

Further to the update in issue 14, we are pleased to confirm that the Community Council of Shropshire (CCS) has received the backing from all Shropshire infrastructure support providers who registered an interest in being part of this bid to be the lead body and they will be coordinating the funding application and delivery process if successful.

CCS thus sent off the required initial expression of interest which has been acknowledged by the Big Lottery (who is the awarding body) and have now been invited to submit a full/detailed application by 31st October.

The expected outcomes of this funding are:

1. Frontline civil society organisations can access a wider range of high quality support, networking and volunteering brokerage opportunities and value them more highly
2. There is stronger local leadership for civil society organisations which contributes to better partnerships with local businesses and the local statutory sector
3. Infrastructure organisations, including volunteering infrastructure, are transformed so that they are more efficient, effective and are able to learn and grow with less dependence on state funding

This funding will be an opportunity to look in a fresh new light at how these important core services are delivered to YOU as Shropshire's Voluntary and Community sector and we will look to expand partnerships with any other organisations both in the voluntary but also private sector who may be able to offer further support.

We welcome your thoughts as the main stakeholders of this transformation on how you would like to see infrastructure support delivered and invite you to email info@shropshirevcs.org.uk or phone the Partnership Information and Services officer on 01743 342169.

Training Roundup – June

○ Introduction to employing staff

This is 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: Vol/Comm Org – £15 Stat/Ext Org – £40

Where: CCS Training Suite, Shrewsbury

When: 4th October 2011 9.30am – 12.30pm



○ Building local partnerships

It is increasingly important for organisations and communities to work together to demonstrate the need for their projects, and to show that there is support for their projects. This course aims to demonstrate how groups can start the process of working together and will look at some practical steps and tools that can be used.

Cost: Vol/Comm Org – £30 Stat/Ext Org – £80

Where: CCS Training Suite, Shrewsbury

When: 5th October 2011 10am – 3pm



○ Winning contracts

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

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

The day is led by Mick Taylor of Mutualadvantage who has extensive experience of social enterprises delivering public services and of working with public bodies. The workshop is suitable for a whole range of organisations, from start-ups, to mature organisations who want to develop or improve their business.

Cost: Vol/Comm Org – £30 Stat/ext Org – £80

Where: CCS Training Suite, Shrewsbury

When: October 2011 TBC 9.30am – 4.30pm



○ Developing your marketing plan

This is a practical course that will work through the stages of a marketing plan. There will be the chance for you to spend time on your own organisation's plans, so that by the end of the day you have the basis of a marketing plan that you can use within your own organisation. You will need to have an understanding of marketing to get the most from this course.

Cost: Vol/Comm Org – £30 Stat/ext Org – £80

Where: CCS Training Suite, Shrewsbury

When: 11th October 2011 10am – 3pm



To book a place on any of the above courses or for further information please contact Lorraine Smart at the Community Council of Shropshire on 01743 237 880 or lorraine.smart@shropshire-ccc.org.uk

○ Demonstrating impact – what it's all about

No prior knowledge is needed for this 1 day training course, it will also be useful to those who may know about some approaches to measuring their impact on others. By the end of the session the learner will understand, what impact and outcomes are and how to measure them and have an understanding of the basics of social accounting and social return on investment.



Cost: Vol/Comm Org – £60 Stat/Ext Org – £90

Where: Revive, Unit 4 , Knights Park, Battlefield Enterprise Park, Shrewsbury, SY1 3AB

When: 11th October 2011 10am – 4pm

To book a place on this course or for further information please contact Rosemary Collie at the Rockspring Centre on 01584 874922 or rosemary@furniturescheme.co.uk

○ Monitoring & Evaluation – developing outcomes to demonstrate your 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.

Cost: Vol/Comm Org – £45 Stat/ext Org – £120 for both days to include lunch

Where: CCS Training Suite, Shrewsbury

When: 18th October 2011 & 17th November 2011 10am – 3pm



○ Volunteer management

This course will provide participants with an introduction into good practice in volunteer management. The course will serve as a starting point for people who have an ongoing responsibility for supporting, supervising and coordinating the work of volunteers. We look at role descriptions, volunteer agreements and some of the areas of the law and how it affects volunteering.

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

Where: CCS Training Suite, Shrewsbury

When: 31st October 2011 9.45am – 12.30pm



To book a place on these two courses or for further information please contact Lorraine Smart at the Community Council of Shropshire on 01743 237 880 or lorraine.smart@shropshire-ccc.org.uk

Reports

Exploring Community Resilience

Fiery Spirits, in association with **Carnegie**, has produced a new publication which gathers a mix of experience and academic insight into how local communities are learning how to cope, and even thrive, through difficult times. It covers: What is Community Resilience? How do we build it? Why does it matter? At a time in increasing economic, social and environmental turbulence, a growing number of people are asking whether – and if so how – our communities and society at large can cope. Fortunately, there is already a good body of practical and theoretical know-how about weathering storms – and even thriving through them. This is resilience thinking and practice. Although resilience approaches are well established for helping individual adults and children recover from shocks, and new movements such as transition towns are contributing many insights, there is a gap when it comes to working with communities as a whole. This publication is a contribution to filling that gap. To view the publication, please visit the Issuu website <http://issuu.com> or drop an email to info@shropshirevcs.org.uk and we will forward you a copy.

Heads up

NCVO to merge with Third Sector European Network

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) announced plans to merge with the Third Sector European Network (TSEN). The merger, which took place on 1 September 2011, will integrate TSEN's work with NCVO's own EU and International Programme. TSEN provides information, support and training to help voluntary organisations access the European Social Fund and is a major source of expertise on European Union funding. Under the proposals, TSEN's two staff members will transfer across to NCVO, expanding the existing EU and International unit to enable a broader range of advice and support on European issues. More information on the NCVO website <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/news/civil-society/we-are-merging-third-sector-european-network> .

Motor insurers promise not to charge volunteer drivers a premium

Over 50 car insurance providers have confirmed that they will not charge extra for volunteer drivers. The confirmation was given in an Association of British Insurers survey of its members, as a result of a meeting called by the Big Society de-regulation taskforce in response to concerns raised by Volunteering England. An ABI spokesman said the commitment covers 54 insurance brands representing over 85 per cent of the motor insurance market. More information on the Civil Society magazine website <http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/governance/news/content/10286/>

Charity Commission: updated guidance for exempt/excepted charities

The Charity Commission has published new guidance on the regulation of exempt and excepted charities. The guidance sets out the latest position on excepted charities, which include scout and guide groups, armed forces charitable funds and charities connected with some Christian churches. It says the commission expects the review of the 2006 act, due to start this year, will consider the thresholds for excepted charities to register with the regulator. For more information, please visit the Charity Commission website http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/Start_up_a_charity/Do_I_need_to_register/Excepted_charities_index.aspx

Charity Commission: new tools to help charities file information online

The Charity Commission, the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, has developed new video tutorials to help charities file their Annual Returns and update their details online. Charities with an income over £10,000 must complete an Annual Return and all charities are required to keep their details up to date on the Register of Charities. Last year 86% of charities submitted their Annual Returns and updated their details online. From 2011 onwards all charities are being asked to submit the required information online. For more information, please visit the Charity Commission website http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/RSS/News/pr_ar11.aspx

Sixty five towns and cities in running to be local TV pioneers

Sixty five towns and cities are in the running to pioneer the UK's first local television services, Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt has announced. A map of the country has been published showing towns and cities (which includes Shrewsbury and Telford) in which new local TV services could be broadcast. With the first wave of licences due to be awarded next year, the eligible areas are being asked to make the case for why their town should be one of the first to bid to enjoy the service. For more information, please visit the Department for Culture, Media and Sport website

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/broadcasting/8377.aspx



Reminders

FREE Funding fair

Monday 26th September, 2011, 10am-1pm at Shropshire Council Area HQ, Westgate, Bridgnorth, WV16 5AA.



With presentations from The Community Foundation of Telford and Shropshire and The Midcounties Co-operative Community Fund
Come and find out about funding available for your organisation and talk to an experienced funding advisor. For further details and to let us know that you would like to attend the event contact Lorna Crawford on 01743 360641 or email lorna.crawford@shropshire-rcc.org.uk

****Please not this is not on the 19th as previously advertised****

Trusteeship Survey

If you haven't already 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

September Training places left

There are a few places left on the following courses:

○ **1 day Emergency First Aid at Work (formerly appointed person)**

Cost: Please contact Shropshire Youth Association

Where: Walker House, Radbrook, Shrewsbury

When: 18th September 2011 9.30am – 5pm

To book a place on this course contact Dee Ploszay on 01743 254 687 at Shropshire Youth Association.

○ **Engaging your Community**

This is now a one day course and looks at the most frequently asked questions: how to keep everyone interested and involved in a project, especially over a long time?

Cost: Vol/Comm Org – £30 Stat/ext Org – £80 to include lunch

Where: CCS Training Suite, Shrewsbury

When: 22nd September 2011 10am – 3.00pm

○ **User representatives on board**

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

Where: CCS Training Suite, Shrewsbury

When: 27th September 2011 6.00 pm – 8.30pm

○ **Making the case for funding**

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

Where: CCS Training Suite, Shrewsbury

When: 29th September 2011 10.00 am – 3.00pm



More details on the above courses in issue 14 of this newsletter or via <http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/site/our-services/training/training-programme/>

To book a place on any of these 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

Funding

County-wide Funding Event

Following on from our Funding your Future event last November (see <http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/site/funding-your-future-event-update/>) we will be holding another such event this year. The date has now been set for **6th December. Save that date!!!**

Enhancing Communities Programme

The Enhancing Communities Programme, SITA Trust's funding programme for community improvement projects, has announced that the next rounds of their Core fund and Fast Track Fund have opened. The Core fund, which offers grants of up to £60,000 are available to not for profit organisations whose community improvement project has an overall cost of no more than £250,000, is available for **applications until 28 November 2011**. The Fast Track fund, which provides grants of up to £20,000, available to not for profit organisations with a community improvement project that has an overall cost of no more than £40,000, is accepting applications until 21 October 2011. For more information, please visit the SITA trust website <http://www.sitatrust.org.uk/community-funding>

Allen Lane Foundation

The Allen Lane Foundation is a grant-making trust set up in 1966 by the late Sir Allen Lane, founder of Penguin Books, to support general charitable causes. The Allen Lane Foundation makes grants for up to three years, with a value of £500-£15,000 in total. Funding is focused on a number of specific beneficiary groups (Asylum-seekers and refugees, Gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgender people, Gypsies and Travellers, Migrant workers, Offenders and ex-offenders, Older people, People experiencing mental health problems and People experiencing violence or abuse). Grants are made across the UK. For more information, please visit the Allen Lane Foundation website <http://www.allenlane.org.uk>

Village SOS launched

A new campaign by the Big Lottery Fund has been launched to help communities restore village life by starting new business ventures. Village SOS is a national campaign which includes a £5m funding pot. Awards from £10,000 to £30,000 are available for the brightest ideas for new community enterprise that will make a lasting difference in rural communities. It is being delivered by the Plunkett Foundation in partnership with Co-operatives UK, Locality and ACRE. The initiative was launched to coincide with the start of the six-part BBC1 series Village SOS, which airs at 8pm on Wednesdays. As well as an advice line, the campaign includes a website <http://www.villagesos.org.uk> which includes a series of downloadable start-up guides. The website also includes a community network area, giving communities a space to share their ideas and inspire each other. There are three main entry requirements for the competition; applicants must be a community enterprise, the village must be in a rural area and have fewer than 3,000 people living in it and there can only be one entry per village. For more information, please visit the Village SOS website.



Homeless Transition Fund opens

A new £20m grants scheme has been opened up by **Homeless Link** for voluntary sector organisations working to tackle rough sleeping in England, with £8m being given out in the first funding round. The Homeless Transition Fund will award grants of up to £250,000 to protect and enhance essential services for single homeless people. Grants will also be awarded to support the introduction of No Second Night Out and other new ways to end rough sleeping. The independent Fund has been set up to help support the Government's rough sleeping strategy 'Vision to end rough sleeping: No Second Night Out nationwide'. Administered by Homeless Link, the umbrella body for homelessness charities, the Fund will award £20m over the next three years. **The closing date for applications to the first round of bidding is 30 September 2011**. For more information, please visit the Homelessness Transition Fund website <http://www.homeless.org.uk/fund> .

Resources

Community Activities Toolkit by Zurich Insurance

You'll find all the required health & safety, insurance and risk information for your community activities on this website. The interactive tool first takes you through a set of questions to determine the type of event you are organising and then creates you personalised "pack" with all the necessary legal, insurance and risk information. Fairly detailed but at least you know what you're getting is stuff you need to know about! To visit the website and see it in action, follow this link www.communitytoolkit.co.uk/aboutthiswebsite.htm

Localism

Living Localism and Delivering Enterprise – 13 October 2011

Action for Market Towns (AMT) has announced the theme for their 2011 national convention, which will be Living Localism and Delivering Enterprise, encompassing two flagship government policies and AMT campaigns that impact greatly on small towns across the country. The event will be held in **Ludlow**. For more information, please visit the AMT website <http://towns.org.uk> .

Communities ambitious for change – 1 & 2 November 2011

Locality is hosting this two day event in Manchester, which aims to give delegates an increased knowledge and understanding of the Community Organiser's project, neighbourhood planning and asset transfer, as well as developing delegate's skills in marketing, negotiation and investment readiness. For more information, please visit <http://locality.org.uk/>

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

Charity Market Event 16th September 2011



Last reminder if you have not booked a stall for your organisation at the Charity Market taking place **on Friday 16th September 2011** at **Bailey Head, Oswestry Market**, there is a limited number of stalls left.

Places will be issued on a first come first served basis, so if you would like to take up this opportunity to promote your services or raise funds for your organisations for free please book now by contacting Kim Thompson-Lawrence, North Shropshire Volunteer Outreach Officer, Oswestry Community Action, Qube, 01691 656882



Thank You for being a volunteer

On Monday 19th September 6.30pm we are holding a volunteer celebration event in the grounds of Attingham Park. The High Sheriff and Mayor of Shrewsbury will present volunteers with a **Thank You** certificate.



We will be holding a similar **Volunteer Celebration Event** on **Saturday 29th October** (Make A Difference Day) 2pm – 4pm at Ludlow Brewery There will be line dancing and a hog roast. if you would like your volunteers to attend contact Nickie Edwards on 01743 237872 or nickie.edwards@shropshire-rcc.org.uk



National Trust

Other training

Free online fundraising taster workshop

In partnership with GlobalGiving.co.uk the Small Charities Coalition/Charity Trustee Network are hosting a free 'online fundraising' taster workshop on **Tuesday 4 October 2011 18.00 – 20.30** at Directory of Social Change, London NW1 2DP. It will not only give you the opportunity to learn some of the fundamentals of online fundraising, but will also familiarise you with the GlobalGiving.co.uk fundraising platform which additionally offers a unique set of tools, training and support. Read more information via www.smallcharities.org.uk/global-giving-workshop or to book a place contact Jenni Tomlin on jtomlin@globalgiving.co.uk.



Free charity learning units from the Open University

The Open University has recently developed a new website, **CharityWise** which hosts ten specially tailored free learning units for charity managers and trustees such as "Managing to meet service users' needs" and "Building relationships with donors". The site also has some interesting trustee case studies and other links to other handy resources. Linking into the main portal, there are endless free training courses which are targeted at different levels and have varying time commitments attached. So have a



browse and find courses to boost your skills. www.open.ac.uk/blogs/CharityWise/

Social Enterprise



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.