

Voluntary Vine



Volume 13 - Issue 3
May/June 2007

The newsletter of South Hams Council for Voluntary Service

Representation & consultation

More ways for you to feed in and get involved

The Devon Association of CVS has a new website which will be launched in May. The new site will contain information about the CVS across Devon who work in partnership to enable a thriving and effective voluntary sector, and also to enable your local voice to be fed up to a county level.

You can get involved in getting your voice heard or become the voice for others easily already through the South Hams Voluntary Sector Forum, or by contacting South Hams CVS. Now in addition, you can go to the new DACVS website (www.dacvs.org.uk), go to the Representation section and enter your details to sign up for how you want to be involved and in which thematic Local Area Agreement (LAA) areas. Plans are underway for the development of thematic email bulletins to inform the local VCS about consultations and feedback for the main areas of the LAA strategic working groups (DACVS will be

managing the Healthy, Stronger and Safer Communities elements, Age Concern Devon are developing and managing the Older Peoples elements and the Childrens and Young Peoples element is already in existence being facilitated by Devon Voluntary Youth Services), and toolkits to help local district and county representatives are being developed too, to enable support and feedback mechanisms, and a learning and networking event in the autumn is being planned to support those who wish to be more involved in being a representative for the local VCS or who are already in that role.

This project has been funded by Capacity Builders and DCC; and has been led by South Hams CVS, under the Devon Consortium. Take a look!

Laura Whitehead
Chief Officer

Compact Update

Back in March, over 40 attendees came to a successful Compact learning event for the local South Hams Strategic Partnership members, including representatives from the police, Devon CC, PCT, business, parishes, and the district council.

The event was jointly devised and hosted by South Hams District Council and us to enable better understanding of what the Compact is, and how to work in the spirit of the Compact, but also to give a grounding and understanding of the local voluntary sector and look at innovative ways in which we can all support each other and work in partnership in the future.

For more information on the compact look at our website (www.southhamscvs.org.uk) or the DACVS website at www.dacvs.org.uk



Volunteers Week 1 - 7 June 2007

www.volunteersweek.org.uk

A time to celebrate!

Volunteers' Week is now in its 23rd year. This annual celebration is a chance for organisations large and small to recognise, reward and recruit volunteers.

During Volunteers' Week there is a burst of activity as events take place across the country to increase awareness of the UK's volunteers. It's a chance for you to publicly thank your volunteers and highlight their contribution to local groups and the wider community. It also gives the public a good opportunity to find out more about volunteering.

To get your event off the ground, the Volunteers' Week website has a range of resources to help you.

The site features lots of ideas for different ways to mark the week. The registered users' area offers tips and pointers and there's clear advice for those who have never recruited new volunteers before.

Registering your event online will inform the public about how Volunteers' Week is being celebrated in the South Hams and is a good way of letting potential volunteers know where they can pick up information on volunteering with your organisation.

There is even a free prize draw for organisations which register events. To be in with a chance of winning £75 worth of Marks & Spencer vouchers go to the site and enter your own celebration.

This year, the online shop includes some new merchandise such as thank you cards, bunting and wristbands to help you promote Volunteers' Week, as well as t-shirts, badges, balloons, bumper stickers and more.

When you've planned your Volunteers' Week event, don't forget to let us know about it here at South Hams CVS so we can help you publicise it in the local area.

This is a great opportunity to take advantage of some national publicity to say a big thank you to your volunteers, to promote their achievements, and to recruit some new ones.

New fund set up for charity staff

People working for charities, and their families, can be vulnerable to serious financial hardship in times of illness, disability, bereavement or disaster.

The new Charity Employees Benevolent Fund has been set up to provide assistance for workers in such circumstances.

To find out more visit www.cebf.org.uk or telephone 020 7415 7004

Olympics cash update

There has been some success for the campaign to protect National Lottery Funding from being siphoned off to plug the gap in funding for the 2012 London Olympics, which we featured in the last edition of Voluntary Vine.

Tessa Jowell, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, announced that although further £675 million will be diverted from the lottery, voluntary and community organisations would not be affected. The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) gave the news a cautious welcome, saying:

"We welcome the Culture Secretary's pledge that the voluntary and community sector will not be adversely affected and now need firm details outlining how the government will ensure that charities and community groups do not suffer."

New training programme

After the success of the recent joint workshops, South Hams CVS and Teignbridge CVS are running a further joint training programme from Summer 07 – Spring 08.

Workshops will include ICT, Volunteering, Supervision, First Aid, Risk Assessments, Health & Safety, Governance and more.

A detailed brochure and booking details will be sent to your organisation as soon as the dates and venues are confirmed.

The first event is the following:

How to complete funding application forms

We will help you to see through the intricacies of completing application forms in simple terms.

Tuesday 19 June 2007, 10am - 2pm.

Venue: Teignbridge CVS offices in Newton Abbot

For more details please call: 01626 203050

Archive films coming to you

In homage to the travelling picture shows of the past, the Independent Cinema Office is offering a touring film programme to community groups, film clubs, history societies and others.

The programme features archive gems, offering fascinating insights into Britain and Britons during the 20th century. A selection of material is currently touring nationwide and three different programmes will be available.

The booking fee for community groups is £20. For more information go to www.independentcinemaoffice.org.uk

South Hams CVS AGM 2007

The Annual General Meeting of South Hams CVS will take place on Wednesday 27 June, at Townstal Community Hall, Dartmouth, 1pm - 2pm. Lunch will be available from 12.30. All are welcome.

This year the AGM will follow the June meeting of the Voluntary Sector Forum which will take place from 9.30am. Representatives of local voluntary organisations are welcome to join us for this part of the day as well.

Finding Sanctuary in South Hams

Finding Sanctuary is a new initiative to protect the marine environments of South West England, including the South Hams.

The initiative will create a network of Marine Protected Areas in the area. MPAs are zones which are protected from detrimental human activities. This includes the entire ecosystem from the sea floor to the surface.

Natural biological processes can occur without disturbance, leading to increased diversity and productivity. Finding Sanctuary's MPAs will give marine species a chance to thrive and in turn benefit communities which depend on the sea.

For more information visit www.finding-sanctuary.org

Your views count!

We are currently carrying out the annual survey of our members. The survey is live online until 10 May. Your views are vital to helping us improve our services to you, so please go to:

www.southhamscvs.org.uk and follow the link from the homepage, or contact us to request a paper copy.

4th Dartmouth Art Weekend

This year's Dartmouth Art Weekend will be held on 23/24 June, in aid of Children's Hospice South West. For more information about attending or exhibiting work, email Sue Tweed at: sue@tweed50.freemove.co.uk

Patient-Citizen Exchange Online

The NHS Centre for Involvement is recruiting members from local voluntary and community groups working in health for its new online network, the Patient-Citizen Exchange (PCX).



For many people already involved in helping to shape health services, the PCX network will provide a space to discuss related issues. This could include members of local voluntary or community groups active in health, or PPI forums, among others.

Through the PCX network, representatives from these groups will act as a voice which feeds into the work of the NHS Centre for Involvement, and to cascade information and advice throughout their own organisations.

The PCX network was launched on 16 April 2007. The aim is for the PCX network to be a one-stop shop for up-to-date information and developments in Patient and Public Involvement.

Becoming a member

If you would like to take part, please register at:
www.nhscentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk/register/

Alternatively if you have any questions, you can contact an enquiries officer on 02476 150266.

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PCV Forum Development Worker
position vacant

Local groups are encouraged to become members of South Hams CVS. This supports our work and offers a range of benefits. Contact us to find out more about joining.

A large print copy of Voluntary Vine is available on request.

Please send your articles for inclusion in July/August issue.
Deadline: 10 June
We reserve the right to edit submissions.

Disclaimer South Hams CVS cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure details are correct, we cannot endorse events or items mentioned in this newsletter.

South Hams CVS is a member of the National Association for Voluntary & Community Action (NAVCA), the National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) and Volunteering England.
Registered Charity no. 1049762

South Hams Voluntary Sector Forum

The voice of voluntary groups in the South Hams

The next meeting will be:
Tuesday 15 May 2007
Follaton Hall
Totnes
9.30am -1.00pm

Come along to our friendly meetings to share your experience, meet others and catch up on the latest issues.