

The newsletter of South Hams Council for Voluntary Service

Have your say on council spending

It's that time of year again when South Hams District Council begins to review its spending priorities for the future.

Recent consultation activities have looked at the issues concerning local communities in terms of their needs and priorities.

Now SHDC want your help to allocate where the council can best spend its annual budget. These things are never easy and there is always a balance to be found between council tax levels and spending money on everything that everyone wants. There are some services the council must provide and others that are discretionary, but that we all value. There are also services that SHDC do not currently provide, but that residents want them to.

To help the council make some of these tough choices residents are being invited to share their views on council spending. Visit <http://www.southhams.gov.uk> during September and October and you will find an on-line questionnaire. By taking just a few minutes to consider where you think the council can best spend limited resources you can really help. There are some difficult decisions to make and this is your chance to have a say.

The results of this online survey will be considered by councillors when they set the annual budget in December.

National Outcomes programme 2007/8 - flyer enclosed !

NHS Foundation Trust Consultation

Devon Partnership NHS Trust is applying to become an NHS Foundation Trust and is embarking on a public consultation on their plans from 9 July until 29 September 2007. They are seeking the views of service users, carers, staff and the people & organisations that they work with on how they plan to run as an NHS Foundation Trust. For a copy of the consultation document and further details visit their website: <http://www.devonpartnership.nhs.uk>

You put your whole self in

Helping people through the changes they want to make and the changes happening around them

No Limits Training Group and the Zebra Collective are working together to facilitate a two-day workshop that will get to the heart of these important questions: How can we best tackle change in our own lives? *and* How can we best support a person who is dealing with change?

The workshop is designed for all people looking at change. It will be helpful to people who work alongside people who are dealing with change, often in very difficult circumstances. It will be useful, for example, for workers in social care, mental health, general health, and community work.

17 & 18 September 2007 9.30am - 4pm (arrivals from 9am)
Venue: X-Centre, Commercial Road, Exeter EX2 4AD
Cost: £110 (Lunch & refreshments provided)

For more info, a discussion, or a booking form, please contact:
Sam Roche, No Limits Training Group
<mailto:sam.roche@nolimits-training.co.uk> or 07946 799 618

or Michelle Virgo, The Zebra Collective
<mailto:michelle@zebra.coop> or (01752) 606415

VYS offer free membership for youth groups

Voluntary Youth Services are inviting youth groups who provide social or educational opportunities for young people aged 10 to 25 in the South Hams to become members. As a member your group will benefit from:

Access to upcoming Child Protection & Risk Assessment training
Networking opportunities e.g. Annual Conference
Practical help, advice, information & training
A monthly newsletter with up-to-date information on youth issues

VYS provide a voice for the voluntary youth sector in Devon by representing members at key strategic forums and youth work agencies. They are affiliated to the National Council of Voluntary Youth Services and provide a supportive environment to share practice and develop new partnerships. For more information visit their website: <http://www.vysdevon.org.uk>
or telephone Louise at VYS on 01392 250976

ICT - a new opportunity for support from your Regional Champion

A Regional Champion for ICT has been appointed specifically to support third sector organisations to develop their use, understanding and improvements of technology and communications systems. Julie Harris of COSMIC is leading this piece of work with the support of several of her colleagues. You will see more details about the work, its objectives and the people involved at:

http://www.cosmic.org.uk/about_cosmic/ict_champion

Julie is travelling around the South West currently meeting up with organisations and consortia who have worked on ChangeUp and Capacity Builders' plans to see how ICT is currently featured in those plans and what support is available across the region. There are opportunities for organisations directly to gain support.

If any organisation would like to take part in exchange visits with other organisations to see if improvements can be achieved, then don't hesitate to contact Julie. She is also on the look-out for any organisations which can demonstrate good practice in their use of ICT for case study material. Please let her know if you would like to propose your organisation or if you have worked with a group where ICT is used highly effectively.

Telephone Julie Harris on: 01404 813226 or email: <mailto:julie@cosmic.org.uk>

Parent Carers' Voice

As I sit in the office looking out at the rain, I can not believe it is summer or that I have been working for Parent Carers' Voice for over three months! Thank you to all who have made me feel so welcome.



Parent Carers' Voice is a group of parents or carers who share a common aim in improving the services their children receive. All have children with some form of special need although these needs vary. The group meets regularly to discuss issues relevant to their children such as health, education or social services. Anyone who is a parent or carer of a child with special needs is welcome to come along. The meetings are very friendly, the venues are easily accessible and we make sure there is tea, coffee and biscuits or a light lunch to hand. By coming along to one meeting you are not committing yourself to anything. Come to one meeting, then come again as little or as often as you choose. Above all it is the place where you will have the chance to voice your opinions and influence the way services for your children are planned and delivered. Dates, times and venues for future meetings:

Teignbridge	South Hams & West
6 Sept, 12.30 - 2.30, Ten Tors. Speaker: Ernie Lloyd, DCC - Exclusions	26 Sept, 12 - 2 Tavistock, Whitchurch Village Hall. Speaker: Ernie Lloyd, DCC - Exclusions
30 October, 10 - 12 St Andrews Church Hall, Ashburton Speaker: Liz Batchelor, Parent Partnership on Assertiveness	13 Nov, 11.30 – 1.30 Ivybridge Rugby Club Speakers: Sarah Mumford, Inclusion Services and Louise Smith, County Children's Service Direct Payments
27 Nov, 10 – 12, Dawlish Methodist Church Hall Speaker: Louise Smith, County Children's Service Direct Payments	

Helen Phillips PCV Development Worker for Teignbridge, South Hams and West Devon.

Devon Welfare Rights Unit Training Courses

As part of the Devon Strategic Partnership, Devon Welfare Rights Unit provides a programme of training courses on benefits and tax credits. Places on these courses are open to people working in statutory, not-for-profit sectors and the commercial sector whose clients are resident in the Devon County Council area. DWRU particularly welcome representatives of Devon's black and ethnic communities.

Full details of courses being run during 07-08 can be found on their website <http://www.dwru.org>. Or please ring Llinos Davies on 01392 274869

Extra £¾ Million Pounds in benefit income for families with children with special needs in Devon!

Any family in Devon who has a child with special needs is welcome to contact Devon Welfare Rights Unit to find out whether they are receiving all the benefits they are entitled to. Over half of the families who have so far been involved with the project have found that they may be missing out – on Disability Living Allowance, Carer's Allowance and other financial help.

Devon Welfare Rights Unit is part of Citizens Advice and can be contacted on 01392 274869.

The project runs until the end of March 2008.

Sept/Oct workshops

South Hams CVS & Teignbridge CVS Training Programme 07 - 08

Making the News

13 Sept 10am - 2pm
Follaton House, Totnes
£15 members/£20
non-members

Health & Safety

3 Oct 9.15am - 4pm
Follaton House, Totnes
£44 members/£50
non-members

How to book:

You'll need to fill in a booking form & return it to us with payment. For booking forms and further information please call your local CVS or book online at <http://www.southhamscvs.org.uk>

South Hams CVS
01803 862266
e: cvs@southhamscvs.org.uk
www.southhamscvs.org.uk

You Too Can Be A Volunteer Magnet!

19 Sept 10am - 2pm
Follaton House, Totnes
£15 members/£20
non-members

Committee Roles & Responsibilities

30 Oct 10am - 4pm
Teignbridge CVS,
Newton Abbot
£44 members/£50
non-members

Teignbridge CVS
01626 203050
e: admin@teigncvs.org.uk
www.teigncvs.org.uk

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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 Nov/Dec issue.

Deadline: 10 October. 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:

Thursday 20th September 2007
Yealmpton Community Centre
9.30am - 1.00pm

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