

Voluntary Vine



Volume 16 - Issue 3
June - August 2008

The newsletter of South Hams Council for Voluntary Service

Devon Involvement Network (LINKs)

From April 2008 Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) have replaced existing Patient and Public Involvement Forums. LINKs are being established in order to strengthen and extend the influence local people have on health and social care services and enable them to have a strong voice in how services are planned and run. Anyone can become involved with the LINK from health and care service users, voluntary organisations and community groups to individual members of the public. The Local Involvement Network for Devon will be supported by East Devon VSA on behalf of DACVS, an independent 'host organisation', commissioned by Devon County Council.

About the Devon LINK

The LINK will be a network of local people, organisations and groups that want to make health and social care services better. Its membership can include any person or any group.

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Diary Date -

Annual General Meeting of South Hams CVS

*Evening of Monday 30th June at Follaton Hall in Totnes.
Invites to members and partners will be sent in due course.*

Don't forget to visit us on the web -
For all the latest news from South Hams CVS,
full details of all our training, links to other
organisations and much more, visit:
www.southhamscvs.org.uk

South Hams Voluntary Sector Forum

*The voice of voluntary
groups in the
South Hams*

The next meeting will be:

**Monday 14th July,
10am - 12.30pm at
Chapel Place, Ivybridge**

Guest speakers include:
Representative to talk about
the Devon Local Involvement
Network (LINKs).

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

A fond farewell -

Laura Whitehead, Chief Officer here at South Hams CVS is leaving after over 10 years with us at the beginning of July.



"I joined South Hams CVS in it's early days as Information Officer and took over as Chief Officer three and a half years ago.

In my time here, I've seen an amazing change in how our sector works with partners and other sectors. We now have strong, healthy and productive working relationships; working better and together to meet the needs of our local communities.

The diversity of our 500+ groups and organisations here in the South Hams, along with their enthusiasm to help and support their local communities in innovative ways, never ceases to amaze me.

In the ten years being here helping to support local voluntary and community action, it's been humbling that many of the people who I originally met on my first days are still there working hard for their local cause, and of course there are newer faces too which bring energy with new projects and support locally.

It has been a pleasure working with you all over the years and I hope that our thriving local voluntary and community sector (or now referred to by Government as the "third sector!") continues to flourish and grow with the support of South Hams CVS helping and supporting you with your good work."

Laura Whitehead, Chief Officer

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What will the LINK do and what are its powers?

The job of a LINK is to:

- Give everyone the chance to say what they think about their local health and social care services - what's working well and what's not
- Give people the chance to check how services are planned and run
- Feedback what people have said about services so that things can change for the better

The LINK will have a range of powers so that they can say how local services should improve. It will be able to:

- Make reports and recommendations and get a reply within a set amount of time
- Ask for information and get a reply within a set amount of time
- Go into some types of services to see what they do
- Tell elected politicians on an Overview and Scrutiny Committee what they have found and get a response

Have your say

If you feel passionately about local health and social care services or have an experience you want to share (good or bad) so that services can better meet the needs of the people that use them, register your interest as below. By registering your interest you can be kept informed from the start; but even if you are not interested right now you can feed into the LINK at any point in the future by making contact at that time.

How to register your interest

Whether you wish to be directly involved, or just kept up to date with progress, you should register your interest in the Devon Local Involvement Network (LINK).

You can do this:-

By emailing: link@edvsa.org.uk

By writing to:

Devon LINK

Newholme Volunteer Centre

Northcote Lane

Honiton EX14 1NH

or you can join us at our next Voluntary Sector Forum on July 14th to hear more!

Need advice? Concerned? Worried?

Contact **PALS** (Patient Advice & Liaison Service) for help with health care issues. Many problems, upsets or concerns can be dealt with locally and quickly by identifying the problem and trying to resolve it. We can help patients, their families, carers or NHS Staff when: - you have concerns, questions or suggestions about your local NHS services including pharmacies, opticians, dentists, GPs, hospitals etc - you need advice, support and or information - you need someone to listen to that provides a confidential service.

Your local contact is Dilys Slater on 01626 357035 or dilys.slater@nhs.net

Come on Board!



Staff and Trustees at a recent SHCVS Development Away Day

At the heart of CVS is a team of ordinary people, involved with VCOs working in the South Hams, providing leadership and taking key decisions. These people are the voluntary trustees. We are looking for **new trustees** to join the board, to help lead the organisation through an exciting period of change, as it addresses new opportunities and challenges. Ideal volunteers would have knowledge and understanding of the issues affecting the voluntary sector or a willingness to learn. Full induction and expenses for attending meetings will be provided.

For further details about becoming a Trustee with South Hams CVS, contact the South Hams CVS office on 01803 862266 or email us at cvs@southhamscvs.org.uk

Useful local links -

Putting our rural communities first

Find out more about the Boundary Committee reviews and concept for the South Devon and Dartmoor Unitary Concept at - www.southhams.gov.uk

Compact Easy to Use Guides

A variety of 10 'things you need to know about the Compact' handy informative guides available for both voluntary and statutory organisations are available for download from the Devon Consortium website at - www.devonconsortium.net/projects-and-representation/devon-compact-hub/

New website for Village Halls

A new website for Devon Village Halls and Community Buildings can be seen at - www.devonvillagehalls.co.uk

Learning Workshops

South Hams CVS

Training Programme 2008

Telling your story - an introduction to communications and media

Date: 11th June 10am - 2pm
Location: South Brent
Cost: £15 members / £20 non-members

After the AGM - Trustee and committee roles

Date: 16th July 10am - 2pm
Location: Totnes
Cost: £15 members / £20 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, see our website and book online at

www.southhamscvs.org.uk

South Hams CVS

t: 01803 862266 e: cvs@southhamscvs.org.uk

Good News to Share?

South Hams CVS provides 3 free email bulletin services for local organisations:

Snippets (*local and national news*)

Funding
Training

To share your news to other groups across Devon or to sign up to receive our popular bulletins, contact: info@southhamscvs.org.uk

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South Hams CVS, The Cottage,
Follaton House, Plymouth Rd,
Totnes, TQ9 5NE
Tel: 01803 862266
E-mail: cvs@southhamscvs.org.uk
Web: www.southhamscvs.org.uk

Chief Officer - Laura Whitehead
laura@southhamscvs.org.uk

Office Manager
Vacant
cvs@southhamscvs.org.uk

Groups Development Officer
Jill Davies
jill@southhamscvs.org.uk

Support Services Officer
Kristine Taylor
kristine@southhamscvs.org.uk
info@southhamscvs.org.uk

Volunteer Centre Co-ordinator
Howard Owens
volunteering@southhamscvs.org.uk

PCV Forum Development Worker
Helen Phillips
helen@parentcarersvoice.org

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 Sept - Nov 08 issue. Deadline: 11th August 2008. 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.

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