

The newsletter of South Hams Council for Voluntary Service

New Look Charity Register **Are you green or red?**

The Charity Commission has launched a new look register providing details of activities, trustees, and key financial information. The Charity Commission's new online register of charities features a colour-coded 'naming and shaming' tool which highlights charities that file their accounts late. The Charity Commission has tried to give assurances that there is no intention to publicly shame organisations, however, charities that file their accounts on time will have a green border around their entry on the register, while charities that file late will have a red border to highlight their non-compliance.

This new version of the Commission's online register features a much greater range of information, including the proportion of income charities spend on administration costs. Organisations need to be aware how their charity is shown on the Commission's website. Some funders check the state of a charity's health before they approve funding. Check yours at www.charitycommission.gov.uk

Seasons Greetings!

South Hams Voluntary Sector Forum

*The voice of voluntary
groups in the
South Hams*

The next meeting will be:

Tuesday 27 January

10am -12.30pm

Townstal Community Hall
Dartmouth

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

Welcome to Graham Macey Groups Development Officer.

Returning to Totnes just 2 years ago, I was delighted, in September of this year to be offered the post of Groups Development Officer at South Hams CVS.

I bring to the position my knowledge and 7 years experience as a Project Manager for a Community Arts organisation based in Hayle in Cornwall, where I gained first hand experience of the needs, pressures and pitfalls, as well as the rewards and joys of running a small community group. I also bring my experience as a volunteer with a number of community groups in Cornwall and Surrey.

I am also a musician and have taught and played various styles of music since my days as a student at Dartington College..... (talking of music – for those of you who like a good night out – come along to Matt Harvey's Wondermentalist Cabaret – once a month at the Royal Seven Stars! – I'm a member of the house band – 'Nomad Shuffle'..... and yes – this is an unapologetic plug!)

I believe that true community grows from the 'inside out'. Small voluntary and community groups, in particular, are started and run by people who care passionately about the community in which they live. In short, I believe that they embrace the 'spirit' of community.

South Hams CVS shares many characteristics with these groups that it seeks to support. It is small, dedicated, accessible and friendly and is able to be sensitive to individual needs while embracing the 'bigger picture'.

CVS seems now to be the most natural and effective way of giving expression to this commitment.

Having come to the end of a very enjoyable first month, I look forward to my future with South Hams CVS, to the challenges and rewards that it will bring, and to be working as part of such a supportive and dedicated team.

Salary scales and allowances NJC salary scales 2008/09

The local government services pay dispute has been referred to arbitration and given the time that has elapsed since the award was due, and the likelihood of further delays arising from the arbitration process, the two sides of the NJC have now decided that the Employers' final offer should be implemented, with effect from 1 April 2008. For links to pay scales and further updates see NAVCA :

<http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/scales>

This increase represents a 2.45% pay rise for staff, with an extra £100 for the lowest paid (SCP 4-6), backdated to April. The unions regard the decision to implement this increase as an interim measure, whilst arbitration is taking place. Local Government Employers regard this as the full implementation of their final offer and separate from the arbitration process. Therefore, there may or may not be further changes but this will not be clear until the end of the arbitration process.

Changes to Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) Checks

As from 2009, a new independent body, the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) will start a new system for carrying out checks on people who work with children and vulnerable adults.

Individuals will be assessed on a case by case basis as to whether they pose a risk of harming vulnerable groups. A list of people who are not allowed to work with these groups of people will also be maintained.

A one off fee of £64 for a CRB enhanced disclosure and for ISA's own checks will need to be paid by anyone intending to undertake paid employment with children or vulnerable adults. However volunteers will not need to pay the fee. Under this system it will also become illegal to employ someone to work with children or vulnerable adults who has not been checked by the ISA.

Complex Care Teams CVS Coordinator

In May this year, following a new NHS initiative the Primary Care Trust started to set up Complex Care Teams across the South Hams. There is now one based at Ivybridge and another at Kingsbridge and two are currently being set up based on the closer to home teams in Totnes and Dartmouth. In these teams representatives of different sectors in health and social care meet together every week to discuss and develop a truly coordinated approach to the care of patients with complex health and social needs. By doing this more people are being able to stay at home while still receiving the appropriate quality of care that they need for their condition.

On each complex care team there is a representative of the voluntary sector. Nick Cape was recruited in October to work for South Hams CVS to support these voluntary sector representatives. Nick writes: " I worked for twelve years overseas helping village communities to set up voluntary health schemes in Africa, Brazil and the Pacific. In these schemes volunteers do all the work even to the extent of giving medicines and delivering babies. On my return to Britain I thought that health care was the preserve of the professionals and that there was no role for volunteers. I started to work first in learning disabilities and then in mental health, where I have been working in South Devon for the last 8 years.

In these areas however I found to my surprise that there is here in Devon also a dynamic voluntary sector that fulfils an essential role, not in prescribing medicines, but in providing support, friendship and an independent voice to carers and service users.

Now that I have started working with the complex care teams I have found that here too there is a great need for voluntary sector involvement. Health professionals say that the greatest problem in the area is isolation which has both mental and physical consequences. They are crying out for the voluntary sector to provide befriending, transport and support in small things to their patients. If people in the community were able to do that it would both enable sick people to lead a more independent and fulfilled life in the community and to provide an early warning system as the health of patients starts to go downhill.

So, if you wish to volunteer or belong to an organisation in the South Hams that can provide this invaluable service to your community please contact me at nick @southhamscvs.org.uk We need you!!!

Hello and Good Bye

Last month we sadly said farewell to Jane Rolfe, she was a Trustee at the CVS for three years. She, her hard work and dedication will be greatly missed. Good luck to Jane for all she does in the future.

We said Hello to Vic Rosati. Vic makes a welcome return as a CVS Trustee, good to have you back on board.

LOCAL INFORMATION

Parent Carers Voice

For families of children with special needs. A friendly group of parents and carers who all have children with some form of special need. The groups meet for support, information, advice and chance to voice your opinions. Wednesday 3 December, New Childrens Centre, Belle Cross Road, Kingsbridge. 10am - 12noon. Tuesday 16 December Christmas coffee morning / social event. Newton Abbot, contact Helen for details on 01803 863761

Boundary Committee

The Council's full response to the Boundary Committee is available on SHDC website under the Boundary Review link. Cllr Stuart Hughes of East Devon has begun an online petition at <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/devonstatusquo/> if you would like to add your name to the petition go to the above link.

Transition Town Totnes

A series of 9 public workshops to engage the community in the development of an energy decent plan for Totnes & District 2009 - 2030 are scheduled to take place this November. If you wish to attend one of these free workshops contact in advance, Jacqi Hodgson. Tel: 05601538658 or email jacqihodgson@gmail.com

Christmas Opening Hours South Hams CVS

The office will close at 3pm on the 23 Dec and re-open at 9am on the 5th January 2009

We would like to thank all our members, supporters, funders and colleagues for all the hard work and effort put into the CVS over the past year. We look forward to an exciting and eventful New Year, working with new and old friends alike.

Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year

The Watermark Centre Ivybridge

We have the use of a very comfortable room in the Watermark Centre. It offers an ideal meeting space for 4-6 people. Cost for hire of the room is £2.50 per hour for SHCVS members. We also have annual/weekly charges. Our Groups Development Officer and Volunteer Centre Co-Ordinator will be at the Watermark on a monthly basis to assist with your enquiries. For all bookings and further information please contact Rachel at the SHCVS on 01803 862266 or email cvs@southhamscvs.org.uk We hope you can all make excellent use of this space.

Change4Life

A new government initiative aimed at helping families become more active, eat better and live longer.

The intention is that it will bring communities, teachers, charities, local health workers, the media, industry and government agencies to work together to form a coalition to help children achieve a healthier future. The initiative will be launched to the public in early 2009 so if you'd like to sign up to become a Change4Life partner register your interest on:

www.nhs.uk/Change4Life or call 0300 123 3434

Good News to Share?

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

Snippets (*local and national news*)

Funding
and
Training

To share your news with other groups across Devon or to sign up to receive our popular

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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 - Jill Davies

jill@southhamscvs.org.uk

Office Manager

Rachel Williams

cvs@southhamscvs.org.uk

Groups Development Officer

Graham Macey

graham@southhamscvs.org.uk

Support Services Officer

Kristine Taylor

kristine@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 March - May 09 issue.

Deadline: 04 February 2009

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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