

# Voluntary Vine

The newsletter of South Hams Community and Voluntary Services

**Parent Carers Voice Meeting Dates:**

- ♦ South Hams Locality 20/01/10 10am-12noon Dartmouth Children's Centre Milton Road Dartmouth TQ6 9HW
- ♦ JOINT EVENT Teignbridge, SH & West 28/01/10 10am-1pm  
(Light lunch provided places need to be booked))  
Endsleigh Garden Centre off A38 Ivybridge
- ♦ South Hams Locality 08/02/10 10am - 12noon Kingsbridge Children's Centre Belle Cross Kingsbridge.

**Equipment for Hire!**

South Hams CVS has a wide range of quality equipment to hire. This includes a Digital projector, Laptop computer, Display boards, Flipchart stands, Badgemaker, laminator and Heat binder. We have a colour photo copier available also. You are welcome to use our well stocked library with many useful and interesting reference books, local and national magazines and newsletters. Why not pop in and see what we may be able to offer your organisation.

**Working whatever the weather**

The heavy snow and freezing conditions have brought many parts of the UK to a standstill, prompting a flurry of questions about employer's obligations to those who are unable to travel to work. With more bad weather forecast, now is the time to let employees know where they stand.

**What it means for the employer**

You are not obliged to pay an employee if they cannot attend work due to adverse conditions, unless their contract of employment specifically states that they are entitled to salary under those circumstances. It is the employee's responsibility to travel to work, regardless of severity of weather conditions, unless you, as the employer, contractually provide transport for employees to and from work

In the event that bad weather prevents your employees from using their normal method of transport, you should first advise them to explore alternative means of safe transport. If your employees still cannot travel to work and can't work from home, you can advise them that:

- ♦ Any time off work in these circumstances will be unpaid
- ♦ They will be paid on a discretionary basis, but only in exceptional cases.
- ♦ They can make up the lost time.

The same principles will apply for any staff who are obliged to leave work early due to adverse weather conditions.

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Please send your articles for inclusion in the April- June 2010 Issue.

**Deadline: .12 March 2010**  
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 (VE)  
**Registered Charity no. 1124273**  
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**HAPPY 2010!**  
**South Hams CVS - 15 YEARS OF LOCAL FOCUS!**

In 2010 South Hams CVS will be 15 years old and to celebrate we will be undertaking a year long Local Focus project.

- January to March of this year will see us putting together resources and establishing community contacts and ideas for the project. With this in mind we are enclosing a short questionnaire and we would greatly appreciate your help, by filling it out and returning it to us.

- From April through to June South Hams CVS will be taking to the lanes and visiting communities in the area. We would like to meet our members and local organisations and hold an information exchange. We want to hear from you how we can better meet your needs and in doing so develop our CVS services - and you will have the chance to talk to key South Hams CVS staff and explore the complete package of support and information we can provide and help you with. We will also be able to talk with you about the Devon-wide projects which we are part of, which include the Volunteer Management Programme and the Community Contact project (funded by the BIG Lottery). Our grand finale will be a free celebration event open to all our members in the South Hams. This will be held on Weds, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2010 so make a note in your diaries now. It will be an ideal opportunity for communities, groups and individuals to meet in a relaxed and informal setting to exchange experiences, ideas and hopes.

If you would like us to visit your organisation or community or have any ideas about events we could hold, or join up with, then please let us know. We live in a vibrant and forward-thinking community. By taking part in our 15 years of Local Focus project we can all celebrate our community achievements and build for a bright and sustainable future.  
Finally, a very big thank you to everyone who has supported us over the last 15 years!

**South Hams Voluntary Sector forum**

**Thursday 21 January 2010**  
10-12.30(*networking from 9.30*)  
Townstal Community Hall  
Dartmouth  
Speakers to include:  
Roger Grainger- DCC  
Liz Davey -South Devon AONB

**Thursday 25 March 2010**  
10-12.30(*networking from 9.30*)  
Kingsbridge Methodist Church  
100 Fore Street  
A volunteer special! Find them, keep them

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

*The voice of voluntary & community groups in the South Hams*

**Organisation 'Healthchecks'**

Knowing the strengths and weaknesses of your organisation, for example in terms of good practice, working with volunteers or being fit for funding is helpful for your committee to consider and build on. If you would like a simple 'healthcheck' to look at any area of what you do, South Hams CVS can help. For further information, call 01803 862266 or email [cvs@southhamcvs.org.uk](mailto:cvs@southhamcvs.org.uk)

## Introducing Be Involved Devon worker Jessica Howarth



Hello! My name is Jessica Howarth. I am the newly appointed Development Worker, working for Be Involved Devon. My office is based at the South Hams CVS in Totnes, but I am working throughout South and West Devon. I am part of a team of people who work to enable people in Devon to have a say about mental health and wellbeing services. We organise and put people in touch with services providing consultations, meetings and events so people can voice their views about mental health services. We also encourage and support people with lived experiences of mental health issues to become involved in staff training and be part of interview panels that appoint mental health professionals. Be Involved Devon works with the belief that positive involvement can effect change within mental health services. Alongside this, involvement can also help people to build their self esteem, which we believe is central to recovery.

If you would like to be sent a copy of our most recent newsletter or find out how you can be involved, please contact me via email on [Jessica@beinvolveddevon.org.uk](mailto:Jessica@beinvolveddevon.org.uk) or phone 01803849234 / 07975637592

## Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) – Update

The Charity Commission previously reported that a summary of consultation responses and next steps to create a framework for the CIO would be published later in the year.

The joint response, from both the Charity Commission and the Office of the Third Sector, was published in September. As a result of the consultation, some important changes have been made, including: ensuring a robust, fixed, duty of care; removing the proposal that CIO trustees could take less responsibility for their organisation's activities than the trustees of a charitable company; replacing a number of minor criminal offences for administrative failings with the power for the Charity Commission to direct that they be put right.

The aim is for the CIO to become an option for charities starting from the second quarter of next year. Both new and existing charities will subsequently be able to consider becoming a CIO, although other existing forms of incorporation will also remain available.

Go to <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/registration/ciocons.asp>

## Help with setting up the smallest Charities



Some charity constitutions can be complex, lengthy and off-putting.

To tackle this, the Charity Commission teamed up with nine umbrella organisations to write a new constitution for small charities, now online. All share a commitment to help small charities run properly, be accessible and flourish.

The constitution is only 700 words long and covers the legal requirements for a small charity that does not intend to own land or employ people. It is designed for charities that expect to stay small, and with incomes under £5,000, which means they won't have to register with the Commission but must still comply with charity law.

The online Small Charities Constitution has links to guidance, advice and publications designed to help new trustees. Go to <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/registration/smallcharity.asp>

## Sector Survey



One element of the Devon Consortium's Total Support programme is a comprehensive mapping Programme of Devon's voluntary and community sector. After a competitive tendering process, a contract to manage this has been awarded to ekosgen. They are a specialist economic development & regeneration consultancy, based in Exeter.

The Community Council of Devon is leading this part of the work supported by a steering group with representatives of East Devon and Torridge CVS's and Voluntary Youth Services, Devon. The first part of the programme will be a short questionnaire.

The timetable from here on is to develop the Questionnaire during January and February, to pilot it in March, with April pencilled in for circulation to all parts of the sector.

To find out more contact Lesley Smith at CCD on **01392 382534**

## IDEAS INTO ACTION – THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR FILLS THE GAP.

What can you do if there are a lot of older people in your community and no one to visit them? This was a real problem for the health professionals in the Ivy-bridge area who have the task of helping people with complex medical conditions to remain independent in their homes.

The dilemma was put to South Hams CVS, who, at the suggestion of the town council, put an article about it in the council newsletter. Three people responded to the article and in May four people sat down together to see what they could do about it.

First they formed a committee, agreed a constitution; next they consulted with professionals and other organisations within the area, and decided what they wanted to do – to train and support volunteers to befriend people in their own homes. Then the funding applications - 40 letters to 40 different trusts. And the careful work of deciding on the policies and procedures to ensure that the work will run smoothly.

All this hard work was done by 4 dedicated volunteers. In October Ivybridge Caring received a grant of £6,800 from Awards for All, and was ready to start looking for volunteers. A month later it trained the first batch of 12 volunteers and is now taking on clients.

6 months to transform an idea into a working organisation. Well done Ivybridge Caring!



## LPSA projects

Following a successful project managed through the Volunteer Centres Devon called Count Me in, the Devon Consortium has been asked to assign funding which Devon County Council has received from Central Government.

It has been agreed by members of the Consortium and Devon County Council that this funding will be allocated to the following areas of work:-  
Volunteering Support Services; Voluntary and Community Sector Representation; Service User Engagement, Community Hubs and Development of the 3rd Sector.

Look out for further information in activities around these areas from April onwards. For more information go to:



## Transition Town Totnes Earns Substantial Government Support!

TTT are delighted to announce a fantastic Christmas present for both TTT and for Totnes. TTT was yesterday announced as one of 10 communities across England and Wales to be chosen as a 'Low Carbon Community', and awarded £500,000, specifically for a project called '**Transition Streets**'. The announcement was made at the TTT Christmas party.

**Transition Town Totnes** (TTT) is a community-led organisation which has inspired an international movement of communities exploring responses to climate change.

Transition Streets has 4 stages:

- ◆ Behaviour Change
- ◆ Energy Efficiency
- ◆ Renewable Energy
- ◆ Community Awareness

For more details contact:

Transition Town Totnes 01803 867358