



Voluntary News

Issue 94

February 2010

New KCVS Customer Care Policy

Knowsley CVS has adopted a new Customer Care Policy and Customer Charter, setting out the standards of customer service you can expect from us and what we expect from our customers.

As a support organisation for voluntary, community and faith groups we provide a wide range of services in many different ways, to different people and it is important that everyone receives the same high quality of service.

The Customer Care Policy details KCVS's commitment to promoting access to our services and offering choice wherever possible in the services we provide and the way we deliver them.

In order for us to learn from our customers' experiences and improve our services we want to use feedback from the contact that we have to make changes which will further improve our service delivery.

We will do this by

- publicising our service standards
- carrying out annual customer surveys
- introducing internal monitoring to help all our services meet the standards
- supporting and training staff to provide better customer service
- monitoring any complaints to identify where we need to make improvements.

Pudsey visits Knowsley!



Children in Need's very own Pudsey Bear visited Knowsley recently to receive a cheque for £8,802.50 which was raised by Knowsley Borough Council staff, school pupils, service users and parents throughout Knowsley on Children in Need Day last November.

Pictured presenting the cheque to Pudsey at Court Hey Park, Huyton

are Alexandra, Adam, Ethan and Ellie, (pupils from Malvern Primary School accompanied by Ruth Mylett and Elizabeth Graham); Vicky, Mackenzie, Jack and Ellie and Head Teacher, Haydn Boyle (from Our Lady's Primary School Prescott); Head Teacher Anita Abdous with pupils Alex, Olivia and Edward (representing Halsnead

Primary School, Halewood); Councillor Norman Hogg representing New Hutte Neighbourhood Centre Halewood, Rob Baker from IT and Catherine Whitcomb representing South Huyton Children's Centre who, along with a number of other groups and individuals not pictured, raised this super total for Children in Need.

► *more on page 7*

◆ Full details of the Customer Care Policy and the Customer Charter can be found on our web site at www.knowsleycvs.org.uk
If you would like your own copy please Email: kcv@knowsleycvs.org or telephone 0151-489 1222



Please recycle
this newsletter
when you have
finished with it

local news

Knowsley CVS Voluntary News

Produced & published by:
Knowsley CVS,
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If you would like to receive a regular
copy please contact Knowsley CVS
Huyton office, or complete and
return the form on the back page.

Large print or audio versions of
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request.

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www.knowsleycvs.org.uk

Opening hours -
Monday-Thursday 9am-5pm
Friday 9am-4pm

Fire Support Network have lots of new and exciting opportunities!

BRIGHT SPARK

If you are 16 – 25 and not in
employment, education or
training you could be part
of our Bright
Spark Project.

This is a 4-week
programme that
not only

educates you about fuel
poverty, fire service
workings and community
projects – we also
concentrate on improving
your physical fitness and
self esteem.

We are currently recruiting
for our February course so
get in touch today.

COMMUNITY WELFARE

Our Community Welfare
Unit are looking for
volunteers who are
committed to making a
difference and helping
people live safely in their
home. This role varies and
you could find yourself
providing practical support
to the victims of fire one
week and helping at a huge
community health event the
next.

We will be holding our
recruitment events for this
role from Merseyside Fire
and Rescue Service
Headquarters so phone the
number below for more
details.

LEAFLETING

Merseyside Fire and Rescue
Service relies on our
volunteers to provide the
first part of their Home Fire
Safety Check Strategy. This
sees Fire Support Network
leafleting addresses across
Merseyside. This is a very
rewarding experience as the

areas targeted are the most
vulnerable and in need of
smoke alarms, there is a
high probability that you

could help
save a life.

If you feel
like being
part of a

dynamic team who are
committed to helping out
your local Fire Service – this
Volunteer Role could be the
one for you!

We provide all of our
volunteers with full training,

full uniform, out of pocket
expenses and support right
through your voluntary
position with us.

So do something different
this New Year – become a
Fire Support Network
Volunteer.

If you want to apply for any
of the above voluntary
positions or would like any
more information please
contact Sue Hannigan on
0151 296 4351 or email:

wendy-
baddeley@merseyfire.gov.uk



One of the key issues to be identified by LINK
members is the quality of communication between
service providers and Knowsley residents. Therefore,
the LINK has set up a work stream to assess the
communication and information provided to the public.

The group members will access local information
points (Walk-in Centres, Libraries, One-stop Shops)
and complete online searches, looking for information
on specific issues. The results are then e-mailed to the
LINK Support team, who will compile a report. This
method, e-mail conversations between the group
instead of formal meetings, has been set up to enable
people who work or cannot attend daytime meeting to
be involved with the activities. However, people
without e-mail access are also in the group.

If you would like to be involved, please contact
Communications Officer Paul Abbott on 0151 489
1222, or e-mail paul.abbott@knowsleycvs.org

This e-mail address is being protected from spam
bots, you need JavaScript enabled to view it

Three-quarters of trustees 'aware of public benefit'

Three-quarters of the 1,500 charity trustees surveyed by the Charity Commission for *Charities' awareness, understanding and attitudes towards the public benefit requirement*, have at least some awareness of the public benefit requirement.

However, only 6% said they had a "great deal" of knowledge, compared with 35% who had "not very much" and 24% who had "nothing at all".

Of those with some knowledge of the requirement, 60% said they were confident in their understanding and 98% were confident that their organisation could meet the requirement. However, only 5% got six out of six questions correct in a quiz about the requirement.

The requirement had prompted 48% of trustees with some knowledge of it to think about the benefits offered by their organisations, and had led 22% to re-examine their organisations' aims.

Thirty-seven per cent said complying with the requirement was a burden – although only 27% said their organisations had taken any action to comply with it.

Dame Suzi Leather, Chair of the Commission, said she was pleased to hear there was a "good level" of awareness of the requirement.

"However, there is clearly still work for the Commission to do in increasing that awareness

and deepening charities' understanding of public benefit," she said. "We will use the findings to inform and further develop our work in this area."

Other findings from the report

- 58% of respondents said the level of regulation of charities was about right; 24% said it was too much. Of the latter, only 15% said this was down to the Commission, compared with 50% who blamed other regulators such as Companies House.
- Attracting funding is the greatest current challenge for 45% of charities. Only 4% put complying with charity regulation top of the list.

Acevo: charities are adopting more businesslike ways in staff

Charities are getting more businesslike in the way they manage staff, according to research published by the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (Acevo).

One example of this was that in a poll of 376 of its members, carried out by financial adviser Foster Denovo, 78% of respondents had measured the number of days lost through sickness in the past year, a rise of four percentage points compared

with 2008. Two-thirds of small employers measure sick days, with all organisations of 1,000 or more employees doing so.

Stephen Bubb, Chief Executive of Acevo, said that small advances like this showed organisations were "becoming better at managing and understanding the financial costs of their staff".

In 2008, 63% of organisations had not considered the financial

impact of auto-enrolling staff into a pension scheme under changes to the Pensions Act in 2012. This figure fell to 47% in the latest poll.

Email your news to:

kcvs@knowsleycvs.org

BRIEFLY

OTS third sector regulation pages

These new pages should help people who run third sector organisations by: highlighting recent and ongoing changes and initiatives that are intended to make life easier for them; links to more detailed information.

<http://bit.ly/tsreg> or www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/thirdsector

Comprehensive Area Assessment reports on life in local areas

Oneplace, an interactive website providing information on the outcome of Comprehensive Area Assessments (CAA) in all top tier local authority areas, has been launched.

CAA is the new way of measuring the performance of councils and other local public bodies, such as the police and fire service, in every area. It focuses on partnerships and outcomes and as such the role of the third sector is extremely important.

<http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk>

NHS 2010 - 2015: from good to great

Secretary of State for Health Andy Burnham has launched a five-year plan to reshape the NHS to meet the challenge of delivering high quality health care in a tough financial environment.

<http://bit.ly/nhs2015> or www.dh.gov.uk

Local news

Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) up-date

Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment Workshops

Knowsley Safeguarding Adults and Children Boards recently delivered a series of workshops on Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment in partnership with KCVS across the VCF Sector in Knowsley.

A total of 32 organisations attended events in Kirkby, Halewood, Huyton and Prescot. It was an excellent opportunity to get up-to-date information on the Independent Safeguarding Authority, including the Vetting and Barring Scheme requirements that come in to place in November; as well as support available to the VCF Sector in Knowsley to meet safeguarding standards.

Many of those who attended have already taken the opportunity to access free training provided by the Safeguarding Boards, and to seek advice and guidance on specific concerns.

Cathy Comer, Safeguarding Adults Co-ordinator and Tracey Holyhead, KSCB Training and Development Co-ordinator would like to thank Melissa Gage from KCVS for organising the events and the support she provided at each workshop.

- You can contact the Safeguarding Boards via:
Knowsley Safeguarding Adults Board –
0151 443 4261
Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board –
0151 443 4311
or
www.knowsleysafeguardingchildren.co.uk

Implementation of the ISA Vetting and Barring Scheme is due to take place in November. All new entrants to the workforce, and those changing posts, undertaking regulated activity, including volunteers will be required to be registered with the scheme from November 2010.

An employer will be breaking the law if they employ someone in regulated activity, in either a paid or unpaid capacity, who is not registered with the scheme from this date onwards. The current workforce will have until 2015 to become registered.

Following a number of reports in the media during the latter months of 2009, the Chair of the ISA, Sir Roger Singleton, was asked to report to Government on the scope of the scheme.

His report *Drawing the Line: A Report on the Government's Vetting and Barring Scheme* was published in December 2009. The report makes ten recommendations, all of which have been accepted



by Ed Balls. Government guidance reflecting the recommendations is due to be published later this year.

The report emphasises that private arrangements made between parents, families and friends where there is no commercial consideration are exempt from registration with the scheme. For example, parents can make a regular commitment to transport a group of children to a weekly sporting activity as long as the arrangement has been agreed between the parents themselves.

The report also makes recommendations regarding the degree of contact with children which should trigger the requirement to register with the scheme.

The frequent contact test will be met if the work with children takes place once a week or more. Whilst the intensive contact test will be

met if the work takes place on 4 days in one month or more, or overnight.

In specified settings the frequency and intensive contact tests relate to work with the same group of children only. For example, a children's author or sports personality would not be required to register if they were going in to different schools to work with different groups of children on a weekly basis.

Drawing the Line and the government's response are available to view at: <http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-01122-2009&>

For up-to-date information on the Vetting and Barring Scheme go to:
www.isa-gov.org.uk

Safer Recruitment Checklist

When recruiting paid staff and volunteers you should bear in mind the following:

- Invite applications – this gives an opportunity to deter unsuitable applicants by clearly stating the organisation's commitment to safeguarding adults/children/vulnerable groups
- Interview applicants – this gives you the opportunity to reject unsuitable applicants
- Appoint and Induct staff – this gives you the opportunity to prevent unsuitable behaviour by setting clear boundaries and understanding of roles and responsibilities
- Ongoing Safer Culture – by encouraging staff, service users and their families to report any concerns about the behaviour of individuals working for the organisation, and encouraging everyone's safeguarding responsibility you will create prevent unsuitable behaviour and reject individuals who may pose a risk of harm to vulnerable groups.

As the statutory sector becomes more stringent in following safer recruitment processes, those who pose a risk of harm to vulnerable groups will move in to areas of the workforce which may appear to be less vigilant. By following Safer Recruitment Standards you will reduce the risk of this happening in your organisation.

NCVO launches volunteering campaign

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations, (NCVO) is leading a national campaign, called 'What Do You Believe In?' to encourage people to support causes they care about.


Liz Atkins, head of public policy at NCVO, said: "Volunteering is a great way to give to causes you believe in and make a real difference to people's lives. It's free, fun, rewarding and can dramatically improve your career prospects by

giving you new experiences or the chance to hone professional skills."

A total of 73% of adults in Britain volunteer in some way with 17.7million people volunteering formally at least once a year through specific groups or organisations. It is estimated Britain's volunteers contribute £22.7bn to the economy.

Volunteering includes all kinds of activities from helping out at a one-off

event through to regular a commitment manning telephone helplines, working in charity shops or helping run clubs such as Scouts and Guides.

 For more information
Visit:-
www.whatdoyoubelievein.org.uk



Are you interested in becoming a Volunteer and have a couple of hours a week to spare?

The Stroke Association strives for a world where there are fewer strokes and all those touched by stroke get the help they need.

Within your local community we run a weekly Communication Support Group for those touched by Stroke. As a Communication Support Volunteer you would provide assistance to people who have communication difficulties following a stroke in either a group, a one-to-one basis in their home or out in the community.

The group is held in The Old School House, Huyton and it provides members the opportunity to share experiences and take part in activities that can help with their long term recovery. It is an extremely friendly, relaxed environment and we would love you to get in touch if you would like to contribute some of your time.

For more information you can contact me on 0151 529 2210 / 07515 596 709, my name is Liz Roberts and I am the Communication Support Coordinator for Knowsley.

Tax rises 'could cost £100m

Tax rises announced in the pre-Budget report could cost the Third Sector at least £100m, the Charity Tax Group (CTG) has warned.

The umbrella body, which lobbies the Government for a better deal on tax for the third sector, said a 0.5 percentage point increase in national insurance, confirmed by Chancellor Alistair Darling, would cost the sector an estimated £50m.

The return to a 17.5% level of VAT is likely to cost the sector at least as much again, the group said. "This is money that has to be found from somewhere," said Helen Donoghue, Director of the CTG. "It's money that is going to be particularly difficult to find in the current environment."

BRIEFLY

Volunteers' Charter

The TUC and Volunteering England have signed a Volunteers' Charter to strengthen ties between paid staff and volunteers. TUC guidance on volunteering is available on its website at: www.tuc.org.uk/volunteering

Charity Reporting and Accounting: A chance to shape the future

The Charities SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice) is now seen as fundamental to sector accountability and is ideally placed to shape future reporting practices within the sector, according to an independent report commissioned by the Charity Commission and OSCAR. www.charity-commission.gov.uk/news/pr021.asp

New music licensing rules

Following a recent Government announcement, charities and other not-for-profit organisations will no longer be exempt from paying a licence for playing recorded music within their own premises from April this year. NCVO is campaigning against the change, and has produced a briefing on the new rules. <http://bit.ly/musicli> or www.ncvo-vol.org.uk

The Guide to Data Protection

Available from the Information Commissioner's Office. <http://bit.ly/guidedp> or www.ico.gov.uk

funding news

BRIEFLY

Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation

The Foundation provides grant funding of between £5,000 and £15,000 per year in support of projects that seek to: influence values and attitudes; promote equity and social justice; and develop radical alternatives to current economic and social structures.

The first 2010 deadline for applications is 12th March.

www.polden-puckham.org.uk

Visible Communities

The Lankelly Chase Foundation is funding Community Matters to provide bursaries for community organisations wishing to attain the Visible quality standard for community organisations.

www.visiblecommunities.org.uk (follow the 'Resources' link).

Howard League Community Programmes

The Howard League for Penal Reform has launched its 2010 Community Programmes Awards.

By finding outstanding community programmes that work with individuals who have committed crime, the awards aim to celebrate success and promote positive practice in the delivery of community sentences.

Closing date for nominations is 4th May.

<http://bit.ly/howardleaguecp> or www.howardleague.org

Big Lottery Fund announces new youth programme

The Big Lottery Fund has announced that it will spend at least £30m this year on projects that support young people.



The new funding will be given to charities and public sector bodies that assist young carers, young people leaving care and young offender institutions. At least 80% of the funding will be allocated to charities and community groups.

Peter Wanless, Chief Executive of the Big Lottery Fund, said the grants would last for up to five years and would be worth between £150,000 and £500,000 in total, although it was possible that larger grants would be made.

He said the £30m would be allocated this year, but it was not yet clear whether it would be made available before or after the General Election, which is due to be held by June.

Wanless said a panel of young people would help to decide which projects would receive funds under the scheme. Funding applications that young people had directly contributed to would be looked upon favourably, he said.



For more information

Visit: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Chancellor outlines next step for social investment bank

The Government will finalise a structure for a social investment wholesale bank by the next Budget and will commit up to £75m to the project from money reclaimed from dormant bank accounts, Chancellor Alistair Darling announced in the recent pre-Budget report.

A Reclaim Fund will be set up to hold assets from dormant bank accounts under the management of The Co-operative Financial Services (CFS), the Chancellor announced. The CFS will apply to the Financial Services Authority for the green light to establish the fund.

The Reclaim Fund will be set up to return dormant assets to their legitimate owners and transfer the remainder of the money to

good causes, most of the money will go to youth services, and £100m, or at least 25%, will go to financial inclusion services.

The Government promised the bank would act as a lender to support community development finance institutions and credit unions, that it would operate as a wholesaler rather than as a retail supplier of funds, and that it would be independent from government.

"This is a useful first step," said Stuart Etherington, Chief Executive of the NCVO. "We are pleased that the bank will be set up as a wholesaler and that it will be independent of government."

He said the Government's decision to use money from dormant bank accounts was

important, but that other ways of capitalising the bank also needed to be found.

Stephen Bubb, Chief Executive of Acevo, said the pre-Budget report marked an important step. "The bank will be key to more third sector organisations having the capacity to deliver services effectively," he said.

Tell us your news!

Email: kcvs@knowsleycvs.org

Fax: 0151-443 0251

Next issue deadline - Thursday 8th March 2010

Apply for a small grant and make a big difference

Children in Need launches a Small Grants programme

BBC Children in Need's experience shows that significant and valuable work can be achieved with a small grant (£10,000 or less p.a. for a maximum of three years) and that these are amongst the most imaginative and meaningful grants it makes. The programme is designed to encourage those who may never have considered applying to BBC Children in Need to send in an application.

A young participant at Zion Community Arts Centre has seen first hand the impact a small grant can make. "I am more active. I was just hanging around before - I don't know what I would have done without dancing. I just love it!"

David Ramsden, Chief Executive of BBC Children in Need agrees, 'the small grants programme is an especially important part of

our grant-making; it helps us to connect with organisations which are at the heart of local communities and ensures our grants reach as many projects as possible.'



Organisations can apply at any time

There are three remaining deadlines in the year, each with a 14 week turnaround: 15th April, 15th July and 15th October.

Further information and application forms are available online at www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/grants.

The Small Grants

programme is in addition to BBC Children in Need's Main Grants programme.

BBC Children in Need has redesigned its processes to make sure that applying for a small grant is as straightforward as possible. It offers support throughout the application process via its website, dedicated helpdesk and local staff who are keen to hear from projects before they apply.

The aim is to encourage both new and previous applicants, so that BBC Children in Need can make even more small grants across the UK.

 For more information

Please go to:-
www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/grants/apply_smallgrant.shtml or
 Email: pudsey@bbc.co.uk

BRIEFLY

DH Volunteering Fund

The Department of Health has announced its Volunteering Fund, which replaces the Opportunities for Volunteering



scheme.

The Fund will provide two distinct grant funding schemes:

- A local grant scheme aimed at supporting volunteering in health and social care.
- A national portfolio scheme - national organisations will be able to apply for more substantial awards to deliver more strategic or developmental volunteering programmes.

www.volunteeringfund.com

Sported

Sported is a one stop shop, providing funding and organisational development support to groups that use sport to improve the lives of young people in disadvantaged communities.

www.sported.org.uk

Grants for Bio energy

Community organisations that are considering investing in biomass-fuelled heating and/or combined heat and power projects can apply for grants from Round six of the Bio-energy Capital Grants scheme. Grants pay up to 40% of the cost difference between a biomass boiler and its fossil fuel alternative.

www.bioenergycapitalgrants.o

Pudsey Bear visits Knowsley!

Another picture of Pudsey Bear when he visited the National Wildflower Centre in Knowsley recently to collect a cheque for monies raised by local schools and Knowsley MBC staff for the BBC Children in Need Appeal.



local news

Knowsley Woodland Environmental Training

The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) have recently been awarded funds to run some environmental training in the Knowsley area for Knowsley residents.

The training will consist of woodland management tasks including tree felling with

hand tools, hedge planting etc.

The training is free to Knowsley residents and will give people who complete the courses a nationally recognised qualification in the related subject.

The courses are still to be arranged and dates and

times can be planned to suit the needs of participating groups.



For more information

Contact:-

Neil McMahon,
BTCV Merseyside Project
Manager,
BTCV, Pex Hill Visitor Centre,
Pex Hill Avenue, Cronton,
Widnes, WA8 5QW
Phone: 0151 423 4433
Mobile: 07740899716



HOME-START KNOWSLEY

55 Rupert Road, Huyton, L36 9TB

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Breastfeeding Support
Family Support
Administration Support
PR Support

Fundraising Support

TRUSTEES also needed

If you have at least 3 hours a week to spare and would like to gain new skills while helping local families, then become a valued Home-Start volunteer.

Home-Start Knowsley have a new Course of Preparation course starting on 4th February 2010 which will cover topics such as Safeguarding, attitudes and values, Enjoy & Achieve and much more. Volunteers are also able to access free training through the local college which we would encourage and support.

You will need to be caring, flexible with your time, able to travel throughout Knowsley and complete an enhanced CRB disclosure. We will provide full training and reimburse all out of pocket expenses.

Interested? Give the scheme and request an application pack by calling 0151 4803910 or emailing info@homestartknowsley.org.uk.

Applications packs are also available to download from our website www.homestartknowsley.org.uk



Our latest volunteers after completing their Course of Preparation in December 2009

V Oscars – and the winner is...?

Do you have any volunteers who deserve an award and a free night out?

Following last April's successful Casino Vol James Bond themed event, we will be holding our next annual youth (aged 16-25) volunteer awards evening at Huyton Suite on 3rd March. The event will be entitled "v Oscars", to be themed around and hosted in the same week as the 2010 Oscars, giving young people an opportunity to dress up, and make speeches, if they wish.

There will be awards both for volunteering and for costumes. Entertainment will include live local bands and dancers.



Since our last awards, we've signed up over 600 young volunteers, 30 new organisations, and over 1000 opportunities to volunteer locally. We'd like to celebrate these achievements and profile some of the opportunities young people have been involved with.

If you want your volunteers to attend and/or be nominated for awards, contact Cathy c.georgeson@knowsleycvcs.org or 0151 489 1222.



The v team are pleased to announce successful completion of REACH in December, the quality practice framework for youth action agencies from the national body Youth Action Network.

The framework concentrates on the key principles of Youth Action, with sections looking at:

- Mission and Aims
- Accessibility
- Induction and Progression
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Safety
- Diverse Action
- Support
- Youth Participation
- Reflection and Learning
- Recognition
- Community Benefit
- Networking and Partnership

Reach makes quality assessment accessible, fun and ensures that it is an integral part of planning for both workers and young people.

involved Knowsley is hosted by Knowsley CVS and funded by v, a national organisation to inspire a new generation of young volunteers (aged 16-25) in England and enable a lasting change in the quality, quantity and diversity of youth volunteering.

Please see www.youthactionnetwork.org.uk for more information on this quality framework, or www.vknowsley.org.uk for more information regarding the v project.

Alternatively please call Cathy on 0151 489 1222.

involvedknowsley

Volunteer Family Mentor

Having difficulty finding a job?
Need work experience and training?
Want to put something back into the community?

Why not become a Volunteer Family Mentor?

To find out how you can help families,
call the Opportunities for Families team on
0151 443 3277 or 0151 443 3207



Knowsley Council

Elaine Mullen, Child Poverty Project Manager, Child Poverty Team, Knowsley MBC, DCFS Building, Huyton, L36 5YH
0151 443 3277



local news

Knowsley Community Ladies Choir calls all women singers

Fresh from their recent performance at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, Knowsley Community Ladies Choir would be delighted to welcome new members.

There are no auditions for would-be members, as we think it better for enthusiastic singers simply to come along to rehearsals and have a go.

We meet each Wednesday evening, 7 - 9pm at the Training and Conference Centre, Knowsley Lane, Huyton.

If you would like to join us please contact our Musical Director, Alec Wallace, at alecwallace@tiscali.co.uk or you may telephone Mrs Wyn Partington on 0151-489 8690.



KCVS Database update

As part of our service commitment KCVS wants to ensure that we are able to contact the right person in your group or organisation with information, advice or news.

We currently have a database of local groups and organisations, but appreciate that from time to time contact details and other information can change or become out of date.

Over the next few weeks we will be contacting groups on our database to verify that the information we have (such as contact names, telephone numbers and email addresses) is still correct.

We would very much appreciate your assistance in this exercise so that we can continue to provide you with relevant information to help support your group or organisation.

Organisations benefit from training bursary

The VOLA Skills Pledge Plus project is well under way with 47 organisations at stage 4, of which 11 have accessed training through the £1,000 bursary.

The Skills Pledge is about making a public commitment to investing in the development of your workforce, and provides support to accessing courses and funding.

The Skills Pledge Plus project provides VCF

Sector organisations with an additional £1,000 bursary to spend on training that can't be funded elsewhere.

Liverpool Central CAB is one of the organisations to benefit from the £1,000 bursary and have accessed training in Welfare Rights, Winning Tenders, Managing Volunteers, First Aid and Financial Advice.

Nina Houghton said "VOLA have given us invaluable support in accessing resources to

help us improve the service we provide for our clients."

- If you would like to take advantage of this limited offer please contact the VOLA team on 0151 285 4053 or visit www.volamerseyside.org.uk for more information.

See page 15 for details of a local Skills Pledge Plus Information Event in February.



Charities will lag behind rest of UK economy in recovery

Charities will lag behind the rest of the UK economy in recovering from the recession, with the full impact of funding cuts yet to hit, according to a survey of charity leaders.

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations' (NCVO) quarterly Charity Forecast Survey shows 77% of respondents believe economic conditions within the voluntary sector will be negative for the next year.

This is a small reduction of just 11 percentage points on the survey's most pessimistic figure from February 2009, when 88% thought the sector economy would get worse.

By comparison, 62% of sector leaders believe the

wider economic conditions across the UK will be negative.

This is a 35 percentage point improvement on opinions from February, showing confidence in the wider economy is returning.

Stuart Etherington, Chief Executive of NCVO, said: "With donations already much reduced and the pressure on public spending, the voluntary sector is bracing itself for further, deeper cuts.

"Our economy may be starting to show signs of recovery but the voluntary sector is going to lag behind as these cuts take their toll.

"Fortunately, the vast majority of charities say

they will maintain or even expand services proving they are able to adapt to the recession and prepare for what lies ahead.

"Their determination and commitment to the people they serve should be applauded and I encourage everyone to support their favourite causes in any way they can."

Despite the recession, 93% of charity leaders say they are planning to maintain or increase services to ensure greater demand for provision is met.

Three quarters of respondents (74%) expect to collaborate more in the next year while two thirds (62%) expect to compete with other organisations more.

BRIEFLY

Mediabox

Mediabox offers disadvantaged 13 to 19 year olds the opportunity to develop and produce creative media projects using film, television, print, radio, games, interactive or online platforms.

A key aim of Mediabox is to improve the portrayal of young people in the media, and to enable young people to express their own opinions and gain new skills.

www.media-box.co.uk/funding

Click Clever Click Safe

The UK Council for Child Internet Safety has published the first UK Child Internet Safety Strategy.

<http://bit.ly/ukciss> or www.dcsf.gov.uk



Temporary Youth Volunteer Development Manager

£27,052 pa (pro rata)

Full-time contract (minimum six months from 6 April 2010)

To manage the delivery of the Knowsley CVS vInvolved project, supporting the development of youth volunteering in Knowsley.

To obtain an application form or for an informal chat, phone Cathy Georgeson on 0151 489 1222.

To apply, please return completed application form to linda.richings@knowsleycvcs.org. For more information on the project go to www.knowsleycvcs.org.uk or www.vknowsley.org.uk

Closing date: 12 February 2010

Knowsley CVS is an Equal Opportunities Employer who values diversity

BRIEFLY

Safeguarding children: scrutiny guide

A new publication from IDeA. Although designed mainly for councillors and council officers, it has background information about local safeguarding children's boards and local structures and systems.

www.navca.org.uk/teams/cyp/news/scrutinyguide

Transport and volunteering

A new research project is being undertaken that will look at the connections between volunteering and access to transport, and any other transport-related issue that your organisation faces when it comes to recruiting, managing and retaining volunteers.

SU-sanne.martikke@gmcvo.org.uk

Simplifying event licensing

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is consulting on three separate simplification proposals relating to the Licensing Act 2003:

- Licensing Statements;
- Interim Authority Notices; and
- Temporary Event Notices.

The consultation closes on 9th February.

<http://bit.ly/simpevlic> or

v reveals details of schools scheme

Youth volunteering charity v has announced details of a new scheme that it will run for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), designed to encourage schools to set up volunteering programmes for 14 to 16-year-olds.

The scheme will allow schools to make community work part of their curriculums.

In the schools that choose to implement the programme, it will be compulsory for students to take part in the community work, a spokesman for v said.

He said the scheme could involve pupils working for charities, but that students would also be able to set up their own community projects.

The charity has appointed more than 100 new staff as school advisers. They will audit schools' existing community schemes and offer suggestions for new volunteering projects. They will start work in April, with contracts lasting until the end of March 2011.

The spokesman said the scheme would be available to all state secondary schools in England. He said

the scheme had not yet been given a final title, although it has been called the Student Community Action Programme in job adverts.

The move follows the announcement by Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, in April last year that he wanted all teenagers to complete 50 hours of volunteering before the age of 19.

A DCSF spokesman said many details of the scheme had not yet been finalised, but were expected in the next few weeks.

Public spending cuts 'could amount to billions'

The charity sector could face cuts of billions of pounds because of reductions in public spending, a report from the Charity Finance Directors' Group has warned.

Public Funding Cuts in the Third Sector: Scale and Implications, says that even in the best-case scenario the sector's funding would be cut by hundreds of millions of pounds.

Voluntary sector organisations receive about £11bn a year from the public sector, according to the report.

The report says the main factors that will affect the size of the cuts will be whether NHS funding is maintained or increased, how cuts are split between

departments, whether the third sector remains a priority within government departments and how quickly growth returns to the UK economy.

It is not clear whether the Government will restrict cuts to low-priority areas or reduce all department budgets, it says.

"What is clear is that the third sector collectively is quite low on the list of political priorities, but that some of the areas charities work in are high priorities, such as substance abuse, family breakdown and employment services," the report says.

"Undoubtedly, a number of charities will see a reduction in the level of funds available.

"However, organisations working in areas of high government priority and within a protected budget may experience either an extension of existing funding levels or even an increase. Others will see new opportunities in the form of newly created funding streams."

The report says that in an average scenario the Office of the Third Sector, which provides much of the direct funding received by charities, could lose between £28m and £33m from its budget, but that the Conservatives have already pledged to cut OTS funding by closer to £100m.

Applications for 2010 CSJ Awards are now open

The annual Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) Awards recognise effective poverty fighting groups from across the UK.

Cash prizes of up to £10,000 are awarded to charities, small voluntary groups and other local projects that display innovation and effectiveness in addressing the causes of poverty, turning lives around and reversing social breakdown.

Now in its sixth year, the CSJ Awards have brought over 64 winning voluntary groups to the attention of the national media and policy makers and a total of £223,250 has been given out to date. Winners are announced at the Awards ceremony, which is attended

by politicians, celebrities and the media.

If you are a charity, small voluntary group, or other project tackling poverty or helping to turn lives around in your local area, then we want to hear from you. You do not need to have charitable status to apply.

Winning organisations will be focused, practical, entrepreneurial, driven by conviction, motivated by compassion, and working to address the causes and not just the symptoms of poverty.

Most importantly, the CSJ is looking for those who help people out of poverty and/or reverse social breakdown, regardless of the size or budget of the organisation.

There is no application form. Simply describe in 500 words or less how your organisation makes an exceptional contribution to tackling poverty and turning lives around.

Describe what you do and the services you offer, giving details of the things that make your approach innovative, unique or outstanding.

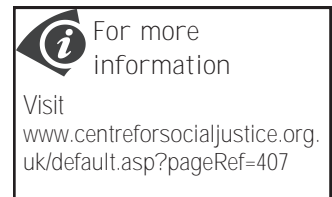
Please include:

- key statistics
- number of employees and volunteers
- annual turnover and sources of funding
- case study of a typical beneficiary of your organisation
- contact details and website

Send your application by post or by email **by Friday 22nd February 2010** to

CSJ Awards 2010
The Centre for Social Justice
9 Westminster Palace Gardens
Artillery Row
London
SW1P 1RL

Email address:
awards@centreforsocialjustice.org.uk



Cheques 'will not be phased out with no alternative in place'

A Government minister has assured third sector organisations that cheques will not be phased out unless there are adequate alternatives in place.

Sarah McCarthy-Fry, Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury, was responding to a written question from Jenny Willott, Liberal Democrat third sector spokeswoman, about the planned phasing out of cheques in 2018.

"The Government recognises that certain groups still value cheques as a significant method of payment," said McCarthy-Fry.

"The Government believes it is imperative that adequate alternatives be in place for all users of cheques, including small businesses, the elderly and the third sector, ahead of any potential closure of the cheque clearing system."

She said that the decision to phase out cheques had been taken by the Payments Council, an independent body that sets strategy for UK payments, and it had promised to carry out more analysis of the effects of closing the system.



The KCVS E-bulletin - delivered straight to your in box every two weeks

The E-bulletin contains the latest news and information for the voluntary, community and faith sector in Knowsley and provides you with links to useful websites for funding information, new projects, training, policy guidance, local events and more!

Everyone registered on our database with an email address receives the E-bulletin - if **you're not registered contact KCVS now and tell us your Email address so you don't miss out on this valuable new source of information!**

Email your details to:-
kcv@knowsleycv.org

funding news

Lloyds TSB Foundations reach agreement over funding

The Lloyds TSB Foundations have agreed new funding settlements with the Lloyds Banking Group.

The move will mean their funding will increase over the next four years but their entitlement to the group's profits will halve in the long term.

Under the existing arrangement, the Foundations are legally entitled to 1% of the group's annual profits. Under the new covenant, the Foundations will receive a fixed grant for the next four years, to cover the period when the group is expected to be unprofitable. After 2013 the Foundations will receive 0.5% of the group's profits.

Linda Kelly, Chief Executive of the Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales, said both the Foundations and the group had agreed that the covenants needed to be renegotiated after the group lost huge sums in the credit crunch, which would have translated into a huge drop in funding for the Foundations.

Kelly pointed out that the group was much bigger after the acquisition of HBOS last year, so halving the percentage of group profits would not translate into a halving of income. "The issue isn't the percentage: it is how much income we get," she said. "A lot of small and medium-sized charities rely on us and to have had no money for four years would have been terrible. We are trying to ensure we have as near guaranteed income as we can."

She said her Foundation would receive £25.2m in 2010, compared with £21.9m in 2009. Without the renegotiation it would have been £144,000.

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation commits £1m to Venturesome

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation has committed £1m of investment into Venturesome's funds.

Venturesome is a social investment fund initiative from the Charities Aid Foundation.

Of this investment, £500,000 has been allocated to Venturesome's Bridging Fund, £250,000 to Venturesome's Development Fund, and £250,000 to the Innovation Fund.

The Bridging Fund offers low risk working capital and cashflow loans to charities.

The Development Fund deals in higher financial risk situations, and aims to support charities to build their capacity to achieve increased social impact.

The Innovation Fund is an Research and Development fund which tests new financial instruments and innovative ways for funders to work.

John Kingston, Director of Venturesome, said: "This is a tremendous vote of confidence by a leading grant-making foundation in the Venturesome model and our mission to build a robust

social investment market."

Danyal Sattar, Finance Fund Manager at Esmée, said: "Esmée has supported Venturesome for many years, and we are pleased to provide this increased investment as Venturesome continues to pioneer new approaches in social finance."



For more information

Visit:-
www.cafonline.org/default.aspx?page=6903

Santander to raise cash for local charities

Banking group Santander has launched a scheme to donate £250,000 to local charities across the country.

The Spanish retail and commercial bank is asking its customers in the UK to vote for the local charities they think should receive funding to mark the rebranding of Abbey and Bradford & Bingley to Santander.

Each of the 1,000 branches will be allocated part of the

Community Chest Fund and asked to nominate three local causes, which will be voted for by customers visiting branches of the bank until 26th February.

Christianne Carrick, Community Relations Manager at Santander, said the initiative was "part of Santander's ongoing commitment to local communities".



The deadline for the next issue of *Voluntary News* is

Thursday 4th March 2010

Email: kcvs@knowsleycvs.org

Fax: 0151-443 0251

Prescot Historic Society

The Society's

Archives are open on Thursday afternoons between 2.00pm and 4.00pm at Prescot Museum.

We welcome visitors who want to know more about Prescot and its history.

Skills Pledge Plus



The Third Sector understands how supporting individuals can help them grow.

Like the soil needs watering to help the garden grow, staff and volunteers need training to help a business grow.

Skills Pledge Plus workshops will be taking place across Merseyside at the following venues:

- 2nd February—Deafness Resource Centre, St Helens
- 10th February—SING Plus, Seaforth
- 16th February—Kensington Life bank, Liverpool
- 18th February—The Lauries Centre, Birkenhead
- 24th February—KUC, Kirkby

VOLA can offer a £1,000 training bursary to Third Sector organisations, that sign the Skills Pledge to pay for learning and skills development of their staff and volunteers.

To find out more about making the Skills Pledge and unlocking £1,000 free training for your staff and volunteers please contact Helen Stephens 0151 285 4011 or email info@volamerseyside.org.uk



This project has been funded by the Learning and Skills Council North West as part of its 2007-2010 ESP Co-finance Plan. VOLA is managed by Skills CVS, a registered charity no. 101454.

**Diabetes UK**

St Helens and Knowsley Group

Wednesday 3rd February 2010*Getting the Best from your Diabetes Medication*

Steve Roberts, Community Pharmacist, Co-operative Pharmacy, St Helens

Wednesday 3rd March 2010*Avoiding Heart Attacks and Strokes in Diabetes*

Dr Kevin Hardy, Consultant Physician and Endocrinologist, St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals Trust

Meetings held in St Helens Town Hall
at 7.30 p.m.**ALL WELCOME - ADMISSION FREE**

For further details contact Cherry Bowmaker on

0151- 480 0821***The Charity for people with diabetes***

Registered charity number 215199

Merseyside IBS Self Help Group
Supporting people with
Irritable Bowel Syndrome

February 17th

Phil Rigby - Personalisation

March 17th

Hypnotherapy and IBS - Irene Rooney, Clinical Hypnotherapist

*We meet every 3rd Wednesday in each month
(except July, August and December)
between 2 and 4 pm*

*Our meetings take place in the Holy Name Parish
Church, Moss pits Lane, Fazakerley,
Liverpool L10 9LG
(entrance in Longmoor Lane, next to Body Talk
Ladies Gym)*

Prescot Historic Society**Thursday 25th February***A Walk Around Liverpool - 1797*

Mr Brazendale

Thursday 25th March*World War 1 - Prescot Associations*

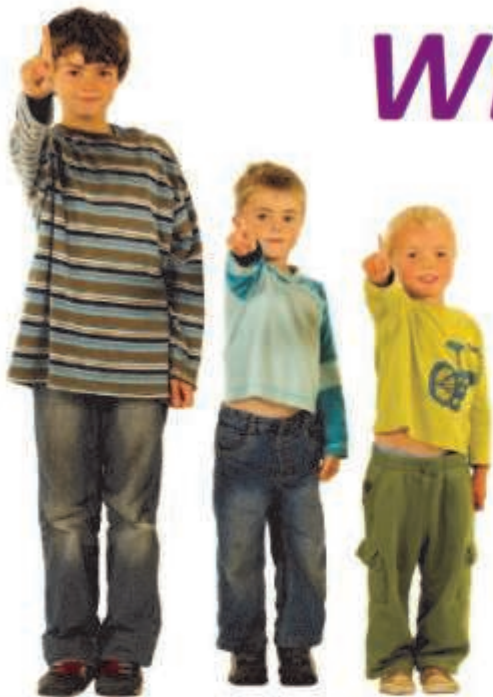
Mr S Nulty

Meetings are held on the Methodist Hall, Atherton Street, Prescot at 7.30pm

Tea will be served at 7.00pm**UNNAMED PLAYERS DRAMA GROUP**meet every Thursday at 7.30pm
atPrescot Methodist Church Hall,
Aspinall Street,
Prescot.

Newcomers welcome

For further information please telephone
0151-426 6180 orEmail: epennington18@googlemail.com



WE NEED YOU!

Home-Start Knowsley needs local people to support families in Knowsley with at least one child under the age of five. If you are a parent yourself, have parenting and/or child care experience and have at least 3 hours to spare a week—WE NEED YOU!

No experience necessary. Full training is provided and we will reimburse all out of pocket expenses.

We need volunteers for the following roles:

- *Home visiting support to families*
- *Administration support to scheme*
- *Public relations/media/IT support to scheme*
- *Accounts support to the scheme*



WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR TRUSTEES TO HELP MANAGE AND GOVERN THE SCHEME

If any of these roles look interesting; if you have some time to spare; if you want to learn new skills—PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHEME FOR AN APPLICATION FORM.



SUPPORT AND
FRIENDSHIP FOR
FAMILIES

Home
START

Support and friendship
for families

Home-Start Knowsley

55 Rupert Road

Huyton

Knowsley, L36 9TB

EM: info@homestartknowsley.org.uk

Web: www.homestartknowsley.org.uk

Tel: 0151 4803910

Fax: 0151 4899159