

Voluntary News

Issue 100 February 2011



Shaping the future to SURVIVE and THRIVE in Civil Society
KCVS leading the way

New Year, New Start, New Dawn

In a time of austerity and cuts from national government that affect us all, it is important that we explore every opportunity to ensure that the much needed Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise organisations within Knowsley, survive and prosper in this new and emerging landscape.

Heralding this 'New Dawn' for our local community in 2011, Knowsley CVS is taking a positive and creative approach to the changes ahead and has arranged a key event on 2nd February to explore what opportunities are around and what is needed to exploit them.

During this event we will be highlighting the support which the sector can receive from Knowsley CVS and partners, together with a range of practical workshops based on common sense tools and essential survival skills to help the sector adapt and move forward in this fast changing environment.

The workshops will address relevant topics for future sustainability and include up to date information on funding opportunities delivered by the Big Lottery together with an update on the new Work Programme from a City Region perspective.

Our keynote speaker, Colin

McKeown, renowned film producer both nationally and internationally, will share his views on Civil Society and how he believes we can all take an active role in shaping our future to survive and thrive in these worrying times.

He will share his amazing journey from growing up as a local lad in Huyton, through to establishing Brookside and the network of Channel 4 with Phil Redmond, to where he is now, the owner of LA Productions,

which recently produced the series 'Moving on' for the BBC. He is also founder and chair of Liverpool Film Academy, a social enterprise and charity based in Merseyside, which he set up to engage, develop and promote local talent and make Merseyside the recognised capital of the UK film industry.

- A full report on the event will appear in the next issue of *Voluntary News*.

Volunteering Market Place for young people

Students at Knowsley Community College had a fantastic opportunity to find out about volunteering at two recent Market Place Volunteering Events at the Roby and Kirkby Campuses thanks to a collaborative partnership between the College and the Knowsley CVS vinvolved project.

Full story on page 6



100 issues

With this edition *Voluntary News* reaches a milestone in its history - the 100th issue of continuous bi-monthly publication since April 1994.

To mark this achievement we have taken a look back through the history and development of the publication - a history that also reflects the growth and development of Knowsley CVS since the amalgamation of 4 local CVS's to create a borough-wide infrastructure support service for the voluntary, community and faith sector.

100 issues starts on page 7



news

Knowsley CVS Voluntary News

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If you would like to receive a regular copy please contact Knowsley CVS.

Large print or audio versions of *Voluntary News* are available on request.

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Most sub-£250k charities have had 'financial difficulties'

More than half of charities with annual incomes of £250,000 or less have faced financial difficulties in the past two years, according to new research by the Charity Commission.

The regulator surveyed 2,515 small charities for its new report, *Strength in Numbers*. The report says 54% of respondents had "faced challenges in relation to maintaining their income

flow" in the past two years. The report also shows that 45% of the charities said they had collaborated with another charity in the same period. Of these, 73% said they had seen growing demand for their services before deciding to collaborate.

75% of those that had collaborated said they had "faced challenges in managing organisational

growth", and 54% said they had faced funding challenges. 82% said the collaboration had been a success.

The report shows that the most common form of collaboration was the informal sharing of information and ideas. Joint bidding for contracts was the most likely form of collaboration to run into difficulty, it says.

Want to help families, learn new skills and meet new people?



Why not become a Volunteer for Home-Start

Home-Start Knowsley recruits and trains volunteers to help families with young children by visiting them in their own homes offering support, friendship and practical help to families with at least one child under five.

Your help could make all the difference!

You don't need special skills; just parenting experience, common sense, a genuine interest in supporting families and a few spare hours a week. The next training course starts soon and runs one morning a week for 10 weeks.

If you would like more information about becoming a volunteer for Home-Start Knowsley call us on **0151 480 3910** or email info@homestartknowsley.org.uk



Home-Start Knowsley Ltd, 55 Rupert Road, Huyton, L36 9TB
Registration No 5197002 Reg Charity No: 1107933

Charity Commission defines investment for a social return

The Charity Commission has rewritten its investment guidance to clarify and extend how charities and charitable foundations may invest money for a social, rather than financial, return.

The new draft guidance document, *Charities and Investment Matters*, has been published and the Commission has opened a consultation on the draft guidance, which will close on 28th February.

The 76-page document says trustees must be able to show how the investment is in the best interests of the charity. It describes three permissible forms of social investment:

Ethical investment: "to achieve the best financial return consistent with ethical principles respecting the charity's aims."

Mission connected investment: "to achieve the best financial return which furthers a charity's aims"

Programme related investment: "to further the charity's aims. May also get a financial return" .

The Commission's previous investment guidance, which was last updated in 2003, says social investment is a

method of carrying out a charity's objects rather than a form of investment.

A statement from the Commission said: "The Commission has updated its guidance to reflect how policy and practice have moved on since the last revision to its guidance in 2003. The guidance makes clear that it is ultimately for trustees to decide the best

approach for their charity, but sets out their duties and responsibilities when making these decisions."

Dame Suzi Leather, Chair of the Commission, said: "In 2010, registered charities held nearly £78bn in investment assets, so this is an important consultation for many trustees.

"The Commission's guidance has always

allowed charities to use a mix of financial and social investment to achieve their aims, and we hope our consultation clarifies this even further by explaining what charities can actively do within the law."

To respond to the consultation, go to www.charitycommission.gov.uk/RSS/News/pr_investment_matters.aspx here.



Knowsley Small Grants for Community Health Initiatives

Community Groups are encouraged to apply for grants for up to a maximum of £1,000 for health related initiatives. These must fit one or more of the following priority areas: increasing physical activity, improving healthy eating, reducing alcohol misuse and the promotion of responsible drinking, reducing smoking and the promotion of smoke free environments and improving mental wellbeing.

Groups will also need to explain how their proposal involves participants in the planning of the proposed initiative and how it will improve their health. Applications which demonstrate clear elements of sustainability will be given priority.

Successful groups will be asked to provide a short evaluation report and also provide evidence of expenditure to show that the grant was used according to the Funding Agreement.

The next deadline for receipt of applications is 4th February 2011.

For an application pack or to discuss your proposal please contact Emma Thomas on 0151 443 4987 or Email: emma.thomas@knowsley.gov.uk.

Please note: Previous versions of the application form will not be accepted.

news

Briefly

Cabinet Office website

The Cabinet Office has a new website, with a Big Society section which includes the work of the Office for Civil Society.

ICT Champions factsheets

The ICT Champions website has some new factsheets to download:

- Ten ways to work better using ICT
- Top tips for an effective website
- Fundraising and the Internet



www.ictchampions.org.uk/

European Year of Volunteering

2011 is the European Year of Volunteering, an EU-wide drive to recognise volunteers' contributions and encourage more people to give their time.



<http://europa.eu/volunteering/>

Visit us on the web

www.knowsleycvs.org.uk

Concern grows in the sector over cheque abolition

Concern is growing in the voluntary sector that the Payments Council is not on track to make a decision in 2016 about whether cheques should be abolished by 2018.

Age UK says the Council has not yet produced any firm alternatives to cheques, and the Institute of Fundraising is worried that the banks "will want to go ahead regardless."

Their remarks follow publication by the Council of its 10 commitments to cheque users, including an assurance that the Council would continue to listen to charities and voluntary organisations to ensure it

understood their requirements.

Jane Vass, Programme Manager at Age UK and a member of the Payments Council Consumer User Forum, said that the commitments did not fill Age UK with confidence and things had "hotted up" with their publication.

She said the Council needed to come up with concrete ideas for replacing cheques if it was going to be able to work to the deadline of making a decision in 2016 about abolition in 2018.

"A timetable was set out for making a decision on this, but it takes a long time for new payment methods to be

adopted," she said.

"Our concern is that, if they are going to do this, then they have a very tight window now. They've got to come up with an idea, test it and see if it works in practice."

"There are no firm alternatives on the table. We need specific, firmed-out proposals."

Age UK is worried that the abolition of cheques would have an impact on many of its beneficiaries who rely on them for making payments. It is also concerned about a significant impact on donations - 71% of cash gifts are made to it by cheque, according to its recent submission to an inquiry by the Treasury Select Committee.

Louise Richards, Director of Policy and Campaigns at the Institute of Fundraising, who is a member of the Payments Council's Charity and Voluntary Sector Liaison Group said she is also concerned about the lack of progress.

She said she understood the Council would not go ahead without a viable alternative in place, but thought the banks wanted to save money.

A spokeswoman for the Payments Council said: "We think we're on track, but there's no denying we've set ourselves a challenge. If we don't meet our commitments by 2016, then we won't be confirming closure."

Every Business Commits

In his speech to the Business in the Community Leadership Summit in December the Prime Minister urged businesses to help the Big Society.

Under the banner 'Every Business Commits' he asked businesses to support their community by offering support to volunteering in the same way that business supports the Territorial Army. He said "I know there's no substitute for people who can make connections between local businesses and local organisations that need support".

Tell us your news!

Email: kcvcs@knowsleycvs.org

Fax: 0151-443 0251

Next issue deadline

Friday 4th March 2011

Report identifies ways to develop the sector's income

The Funding Commission was set up by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations in February 2009 to make proposals for funding the sector over the next 10 years.

Its 88-page report, *Funding the Future*, says "the nice decade" and the "years of plenty" are over and the country is going to see the biggest spending cuts and most radical changes to public services since the Second World War.

The outlook for the voluntary sector is therefore uncertain, it says: "But if the right steps are taken now, we believe it is possible to look forward to a time when civil society organisations will be stronger and more sustainable."

Its recommendations include:

- Creating a Restructuring Fund: £60m to fund the costs of legal advice, human resources, IT and communications support associated with restructuring. A quarter of the fund should be earmarked for rationalising national, regional and local infrastructure.

- Big society grants: £27m The government should fund a series of small grant programmes to benefit small, local civil society groups. This should be in addition to the Communities First fund already announced.

- Increasing Impact Fund: £15m The Big Lottery Fund and other funders should set up a stream worth £5m a

year for three years to help civil society groups measure their impact. Those groups would be expected to publish impact assessments and evaluations in their annual reports.

- Better Asking campaign: £10m

The NCVO should work with the Institute of Fundraising, the Fundraising Standards Board, Acevo, the Charity Trustee Network and the Charities Aid Foundation to secure funding for a Better Asking campaign. This would improve fundraising effectiveness and increase giving from £11.3bn in 2008/09 to £20bn in 2020.

- Financial capability: £2.8m

The Charity Finance Directors' Group should work with umbrella bodies the NCVO, Navca, Acevo, Skills - Third Sector, business schools and training providers to develop financial literacy programmes for voluntary sector chairs, treasurers, chief executives and finance directors.

- Trading up: £1.5m

Funders should be encouraged to provide high-risk venture capital to intermediary agencies such as UnLtd and Venturesome for investment in social enterprises.

- Mutual benefit with the commercial sector: £700,000

The NCVO, CAF and Business in the Community should convene a working

group including the CBI, the Institute of Directors, representatives of local chambers of commerce and Rotary Clubs. The group should encourage civil society organisations to seek support from those small businesses and companies that work in the social media and financial services.

- Investment of assets: £200,000

The Association of Charitable Foundations should secure the resources to carry out a survey of its members' attitudes to social investment and then develop guidance.

- Good grant-making: £200,000

All funders, including local authorities and parish councils, should consider light-touch, small grant programmes, targeted at local community groups.

- Commissioning for the future: no cost specified

All government funding should be directed at achieving better outcomes through greater use of social clauses and more pooling of funds. Service users should be involved in specifying user outcomes.

- Attracting new private capital: no cost specified

The government should underwrite social gilts, social impact bonds, social investment bonds and community share issues for voluntary sector groups providing young people's services, health and social care services and working to prevent reoffending.

Briefly

Big Funding Advisors

Big Lottery Fund has launched Big Funding Advisors, a website for funding advisers wanting information about the fund's programmes, training and events.

You can also link up with Big's regional teams and colleagues across the voluntary sector to share advice and experiences.

www.bigfundingadvisers.org.uk

The Co-operative Membership Community Fund

The Community Fund awards grants of up to £2,000 to local groups for community projects all year round. Community groups, self help groups, voluntary groups and community charities (or local branches of national charities) are all eligible to apply.

www.co-operative.coop/communityfund

Reaching Communities

Big Lottery Fund's Reaching Communities programme has a new pot of £75m now available for extending and refurbishing buildings for use by the community.

Community groups can apply for grants between £100,000 and £500,000 to improve or replace buildings where a wide range of community activities take place.

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_reaching_communities

I need a Hero!



Do you know any local heroes?

We're celebrating the achievements of all young volunteers in Knowsley and want you to get involved!

involved Knowsley are holding our free awards evening in March 2011 and would like to invite you and your young volunteers to attend.

This is a fantastic way to show your appreciation for all they do to support your organisation and shows just how much you value them.

The event will be entitled 'v Superheroes' and will be themed around volunteers being both super heroes and local heroes. It will be held at Huyton Suite, 7pm on Thursday 3 March and is your chance to say a big thank you to all your young volunteers and acknowledge the wonderful work they do. Building on the success of the last two vAwards, the evening will include entertainment, local musicians and dancers along with a delicious buffet – **and it's all free!**

Why not get in touch with the involved team today to reserve your places at the awards?

Come along and enjoy a delightful evening celebrating the young volunteers in Knowsley.

To book your places at the vAwards contact the Fiona on 0151 489 1222 or email f.villanova@knowsleycvs.org

Volunteer of the Year 2011 – The Ultimate Superhero!

Do you have a young volunteer who deserves a big thank you for **the work they've put in?**

Have they gone that extra mile whilst volunteering for you?

Why not nominate them for a Volunteer of the Year Award?

It's so simple to do - just answer 3 quick questions on the Volunteer of the Year nomination form (available from the involved team) and send it back us to by 4pm Friday 11th February 2011.

If you would like a form emailed to you please contact Fiona on f.villanova@knowsleycvs.org

Youth Action Team

The Youth Action Team is a group of young people from around the borough of Knowsley who are actively involved in the running of the vKnowsley project.

The Youth Action Team have had a busy 2010 helping the v team with community projects, the vAwards, fundraising and training – so a well earned Christmas night out took place in December to thank them for all their hard work over the past year.

Darkstar Laserquest was the choice of activity for this year's outing and the YAT enjoyed two action packed laser tag games before tucking into a delicious Christmas meal.

The evening gave us all the chance to relax and reflect on what the YAT and the involved team have achieved since the project

started in 2008 and further cemented the bond between the YAT members and staff. They have been a fantastic group of young people to work with who have shown dedication and commitment to the team and to the very essence of volunteering - thank you very much!



YAT Christmas night out

YAT activities 2011:

The YAT is busy working with the v team on the upcoming vAwards so will be focussing on this for the next few months. The members will all be there on the night to help make the event a great success. Two YAT members will be presenting at the awards whilst the others will be helping out with other important roles.

A one day accredited First Aid course has been arranged for them in February, training which they all felt would be beneficial to them in the future and also look great on their CV!

Volunteering Market Place Events

Students at Knowsley Community College had a fantastic opportunity to find out about volunteering at two recent Marketplace Volunteering Events at the Roby and Kirkby Campuses.

The involved team Knowsley and the local college worked together to put on the events in November 2010 to raise the profile of volunteering amongst

the student population and to help encourage young people to become more involved and active in their community.

After working closely with the college over the past few years, feedback from the students showed that there was a real interest in volunteering in a variety of roles. With this in mind, both the involved team and staff at KCC thought this

would be an ideal time to give local organisations the chance to meet with students to let them know what opportunities are available to get involved in.

Over 500 students and 22 local organisations attended the volunteering information events, giving students the chance to talk to the organisations about the volunteer roles they can offer.

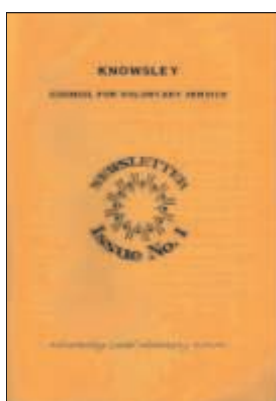
Students were able to ask questions and find out what volunteering is all about, with many realising that there is so much variety of voluntary work to get involved in. It was also a great way for local organisations to showcase the work that they do and network with other organisations, helping to build on closer partnership working in the future.

Knowsley CVS – supporting and promoting voluntary and community action

100 issues

Looking back through almost 100* issues of the Knowsley CVS newsletter it is possible to trace not only the ups and downs – and ups again – of KCVS as an organisation, but also the growth and development of the voluntary and community sector in Knowsley.

The newsletter first appeared in April 1994 as the mouthpiece of the newly established Knowsley Council for Voluntary Service, following the merger of three former CVS's in Huyton, Halewood and Prescot and Whiston.



The very first issue - no name and a simple A5 format

The 36 page publication - it had no title then - was photocopied in a small format (A5 size), with drawings and clip art used to illustrate the content. A different coloured paper was used for the outside cover and this colour was changed for each of the first nine issues. A feedback questionnaire inserted with the first issue asked readers to suggest a title for the new publication, with a prize (unspecified) being offered to the group providing the winning name.

Issue 1 contained a mix of notices from local groups and Knowsley MBC about their activities and events,

general information and advice about the then new Charities Act, the SORP accounting procedure and Data Protection as well as funding information – including a promotion for a computer programme operated by KCVS called Funderfinder – to help groups identify appropriate charitable trusts as potential funding sources.

By Issue 9 in October 1995 the dissolution of Kirkby CVS and its amalgamation with Knowsley CVS was being announced, giving the organisation (and its newsletter) borough-wide coverage. Plans were also announced to refurbish and develop the former Kirkby CVS offices at 149 Cherryfield Drive, Kirkby.



Issue 10 and the newsletter now has a name and is produced in the larger A4 format

Issue 10 (December 1995/January 1996) appeared in a new A4 format and was now called *Knowsley CVS Voluntary News*. The 'name our newsletter' competition in issue 1 must never have produced a winner as no reference is made to how the title '*Voluntary News*' was chosen.

The new format newsletter (which was professionally printed) consisted of 8 pages of news, funding information, advice and listed services available from FOUR Knowsley CVS offices in Huyton, Kirkby, Prescot and Halewood.

Another milestone was reached

with issue 13 (June/July 1996) when the first photographs appeared in *Voluntary News* – illustrating an article about the refurbishment of the Kirkby offices in Cherryfield Drive.

A year later issue 18 (June/July 1997) reported that Knowsley CVS had secured funding from the Department of National Heritage's "Make a Difference Campaign" to establish a Volunteer Bureau for the Borough. Also in this issue was the first sign of a fast growing trend – an advert for the Charity Commission announcing that its information and guidance leaflets were now available to download from the internet!

Issue 20 (October 1997) included an enclosure called *No Limits!* – issue 1 of the new Knowsley Volunteer Bureau's own newsletter. This issue also contained an invitation to the first Knowsley CVS "Keep in Touch Lunch" event – a quarterly networking opportunity for local groups to meet informally over lunch and for an invited organisation to make a short presentation about their work or service area.

Another technological milestone was announced in issue 27 (December 1998) – Knowsley CVS now had its own Email address making it easier and quicker to contact the growing number of other organisations with a similar facility.

Issue 30 (June 1999) carried the news that Knowsley CVS had been awarded a grant of £637,988 from the National Lottery Charities Board to develop and refurbish premises at Stephen Park in Lancashire (which Knowsley CVS had inherited from Halewood CVS following the merger) for use as a Training and Residential facility. For the next ten issues *Voluntary News* followed and reported on progress with the refurbishment of Stephen Park until Phase One works were completed in late 2000.



Issue 31 brought not only a new design, but an increase in the number of pages

A sign of the increasing success of *Voluntary News* was that from issue 31 (August 1999) onwards the number of pages increased, firstly to 12, then to 16 and by issue 39 (December 2000) had reached 20. Within a further year (August 2001) issue 43 was a staggering 24 pages, and this level was maintained for another three years. The steady increase in size reflected not only the additional number of articles being submitted by groups and organisations in Knowsley, who found the newsletter a useful way of publicising their work to the sector,

*unfortunately issues 7 and 8 are missing from the archive – if anyone has a copy please let us know!

Knowsley CVS – supporting and promoting voluntary and community action

feature

but also the amount of 'internal news' generated from an increasingly vibrant and active Knowsley CVS.

In [issue 39](#) (December 2000) *Voluntary News* announced that Knowsley CVS had been awarded a £300,000 grant from the National Lottery Charities Board to establish a Support and Development Unit – creating four new posts to provide front line support and capacity building services for the sector in Knowsley.

[Issue 41](#) contained news that Knowsley CVS had been awarded a grant from the Capital Modernisation Fund to create an IT Learning Centre in the former barn at Stephen Park. The Centre was to provide state of the art facilities for IT training and a facility for visiting groups to use when staying at Stephen Park. Following the IT theme this issue also saw the start of a new regular feature – 'Web Watch' - listing the rapidly expanding number of new web sites that contained information and services of interest to the sector.



Issue 47 - the first to appear in colour

Another development for *Voluntary News* came in [issue 47](#) (April 2002) with the introduction of full colour pictures (initially on the front cover only). This new facility was used to illustrate an article announcing that the Stephen Park Leisure and Training Centre had finally opened and had received its first residential visitors (members of the Knowsley under 19's Football Team).

By [issue 51](#) (December 2002) *Voluntary News* was able to report on the official opening of the Stephen Park Leisure and

Training Centre by Cherie Booth (Blair) with a full colour cover and centre spread containing pictures of the event. This issue also carried the first mention of a 'new voluntary sector building' being constructed in Huyton and indicated that Knowsley CVS and others would be moving from the old Lathom Road Community Centre into the new premises within a year.

The move was subsequently recorded in [issue 56](#) (October 2003), together with new contact details and location directions for all organisations which had moved across from Lathom Road with Knowsley CVS. The eventual demolition of the Lathom Road building was featured in [issue 58](#) (February 2004) as was the news that the successful Support and Development Unit had been expanded to six staff and its range of services extended to include additional IT support and volunteer development (following the end of funding for the stand-alone Volunteer Bureau).

A rewarding achievement for Knowsley CVS was reported in [issue 63](#) (December 2004) when it was announced that the Stephen Park Leisure and Training Centre had received a Civic Design and Conservation Award, recognising the quality of the refurbishment works which had been undertaken on the Stephen Park buildings.

100 issues



A supplement was added to *Voluntary News* with [issue 64](#) (February 2005) – *KCVS Bytes* – an IT specific newsletter produced by the Support and Development Unit containing IT news as well as hints and troubleshooting tips for computer users.



Issue 65 was re-designed to reflect the new Knowsley CVS corporate logo and colour scheme

April 2005 saw the launch of a new corporate logo for Knowsley CVS and [issue 65](#), published at the beginning of that month, was re-designed to reflect and promote the new image.

With [issue 67](#) (August 2005) readers got three newsletters in one – as well as *Voluntary News* and *KCVS Bytes*, the Community Empowerment Network newsletter, *Net News*, was incorporated as a 4 page full colour insert (it had

previously been a stand-alone publication with a limited circulation base).



[Issue 68](#) (October 2005) reported that Knowsley CVS was taking the lead on behalf of The Knowsley Partnership in a major project to map the sector and collect relevant data about organisations and activities taking place across the borough. This would eventually be stored in an online database, with public access to an Electronic Directory of local community and voluntary sector organisations to replace the annual paper publication which Knowsley CVS had been producing for over 10 years.

Knowsley CVS celebrated being awarded the prestigious Investors in People status in November 2005 and this was duly reported in [issue 69](#) (December 2005) – a tangible recognition of the growth and development of the organisation - and of its status within the borough - since the merger of local CVS's just over 11 years earlier.

Knowsley CVS – supporting and promoting voluntary and community action

100 ISSUES

The outcome of the mapping exercise started in October 2005 was announced in *issue 71* (April 2006) with the launch of a new web portal for the sector – Knowsley VCS Together. As well containing the new website for Knowsley CVS the portal also had a searchable Electronic Directory of local groups and organisations and the capacity for those groups to create and maintain their own mini web sites within the portal.

Further expansion took place during 2006 with the announcement in *issue 73* (August 2006) of a new 6 member support team for the Community Empowerment Network and the staging of the first Showcase Event in October (*issue 74*) to promote the work of voluntary and community organisations in the borough as well as recognising the achievements of local volunteers with the Volunteer of the Year Awards ceremony being held as part of the event.



Issue 75 (December 2006) marked another milestone in the history of *Voluntary News* with the launch of the first 'Click and Copy' online edition, available as a downloadable document from the

Knowsley VCS Together web portal. The online edition had the same content as the paper publication, but was available in full colour throughout, with live hyperlinks to web sites and Email addresses for further information about individual articles.



Issue 76 and another update in the design of *Voluntary News*

With *issue 78* (June 2007) as an economy measure and with the growth in subscribers preferring to access the online edition, production of the paper version of *Voluntary News* was taken back in house, but it was still possible to maintain 4 pages of colour illustrations. By the next issue, in a further economy measure, the number of pages had been reduced to just 16.

April 2008 saw some significant staff and trustee changes at Knowsley CVS and an Extra Edition of *Voluntary News* was published to explain the changes and the range of services still available following the ending of project funding. At the same time a new three year project – vinspired Knowsley – was launched to encourage young people to become actively involved in volunteering.

By *issue 84* (June 2008) although production of *Voluntary News* was being maintained it was now only available as the online edition. This arrangement continued for three issues when a limited number of printed copies were again produced in-house.

Issue 87 (December 2008) and things were looking up again! – With new funding it was possible once again to have *Voluntary News* professionally printed and a full mail-out circulation was re-introduced announcing that Knowsley CVS was looking forward to a new future and once again being able to provide a full range of support services for the sector.

Issue 89 (April 2009) brought the news that Knowsley CVS had been awarded a 3 year grant by the Big Lottery Fund to recruit 4 new staff to enable it to provide a comprehensive package of support services for the sector.

By *issue 92* (October 2009) the new staff team had been recruited and *Voluntary News* introduced them with a front page feature. Also that issue announced the introduction of a fortnightly E-Bulletin, designed to provide up to date information and news between each bi-monthly issue of *Voluntary News*.

Issue 96 (June 2010) reported the launch of the new Reception Area and Resource Lounge at the Knowsley CVS offices in Huyton. This issue also reported that Knowsley CVS had been awarded the MATRIX quality standard for its information, advice and guidance services.

Issue 98 (October 2010) contained the news that Knowsley CVS had received the NAVCA Quality Award in recognition of the fact that its range of support services is making a real difference to voluntary and community organisations in Knowsley, - another tangible recognition of the growth of Knowsley CVS as an organisation able to support and promote the local voluntary and community sector.



Issue 99 and another re-design to reflect the new corporate image for KCVS

Finally (for now!), *issue 99* (December 2010) saw the launch of a new corporate image for Knowsley CVS, heralding a new dawn for the organisation, its staff and partners. With the new image came a slight name change – Knowsley Community and Voluntary Services (but still known as KCVS) - to more accurately reflect the beneficiaries of the range of services we now have available. With this issue too, *Voluntary News* also underwent a facelift to reflect the new image of the organisation.

To receive your own free copy of *Voluntary News* you can subscribe at our website - www.knowsleycvcs.org.uk - or Email your details to kcvs@knowsleycvcs.org
Voluntary News is also available to download from the KCVS website.

What is the Knowsley Children's Trust?

The purpose of the Trust is to improve the wellbeing and life chances of all Knowsley children and young people.

Our Vision:

"Knowsley - a place where every family belongs, where all our children have a flying start and where all our young people set their sights high"

The Children & Families Plan

The Children and Families Plan will seek to embrace the knowledge and expertise within the voluntary, community and faith sector who clearly play an important role in the lives of children, young people and families here in Knowsley. As a partner in the Trust, proactive engagement and participation will ensure that the sector has an equal say in shaping services to meet local needs. The Plan will focus on the three priorities outlined below:

Our Three Priorities

1. To Reduce Child Poverty
2. Improve outcomes for vulnerable groups/groups with additional needs, targeting children with disabilities and children at risk
3. To ensure that Young people have the skills and opportunities to achieve in learning, life and work

Have Your Say!

Knowsley Children's Trust recognises that the views of local voluntary, community and faith organisations are essential in the production of the Children and Young People's Plan. If you have any comments on the three priorities outlined and/or any suggestions for improving outcomes please send them to the email/postal address below.

Email: David.Kinsella@Knowsley.gov.uk
 Postal address: DCFS Building, 1st Floor,
 Huyton Hey Road,
 Huyton L36 5YH



"Building a close relationship with the Trust will be vital for local voluntary, community & faith groups to increase their influence and involvement in improving local services."

Jackie Davies,
 Chief Executive KCVS

Trust Conference

In September 2010 the Trust held a conference that was attended by a variety of people ranging from elected members, officers from children's services agencies, voluntary and community groups, young people, parents and carers.

The insights and feedback gathered during the day helped develop the three priorities on the left. Further information about the Trust Conference can be found at www.knowsleyspace.co.uk



Attendees discussing future outcomes

Active at 60 Fund

Active at 60 is a £1 million government grant programme, offering funding to community groups to help people in their 60s keep active and make the most of their later lives.

People making the transition into retirement can lose their social network as they move out of employment and settle into a different routine, particularly those who have an illness or disability.

Local groups based in Knowsley with less than £50,000 annual income can apply for grants of between £250 and £3,000 for work up to 31st December 2011.

Essential criteria is that successful groups will

recruit at least one 'Active at 60 Community Agent', a volunteer aged over 60 whose role will be to encourage people to be more active and engaged



with their communities. The 'Community Agents' should be peers who can arrange events and projects for beneficiaries. Some examples may include:

- Organising get-togethers such as coffee mornings and dancing
- Setting up fitness or holistic therapy sessions/courses
- Walks, trips

- Research projects such as learning how to look into a family tree

The list is not exclusive and work depends entirely upon the needs of the local community and local activities.

All work should meet the overall aim which is to:

- Empower individuals and provide leadership roles for older people in their community
- Help improve quality of life and encourage networking and active roles in the community
- Reduce the risk of older people becoming socially isolated and lonely

An emphasis must also be placed on the sustainability of the Agents after the

funding has come to an end. They should be able to continue their work and networking in the future.

Successful grant recipients are encouraged (where possible) to use the Active at 60 Facebook page (www.facebook.com/activeat60) to share experiences.

The fund is a rolling programme, closing at the end of February 2011. We are able to accept applications at any point up to this date, though we would encourage applications to be submitted as soon as possible.

To apply, please visit www.cfmerseyside.org.uk or call the Grants team on **0151 966 4604**

Calculations of social return on investment are 'problematic'

Measuring charities' impact through the social return on investment method can be unreliable and has limited uses, according to a new report by the Third Sector Research Centre.

The SROI framework puts a financial value on work performed and results achieved, and calculates a ratio to show how effective a charity is.

In its report *The Ambitions and Challenges of SROI*, the centre says the tool is being used increasingly by organisations that are competing for contracts or

philanthropic funds, despite the fact that it has numerous problems.

"Although aiming for rigour, the method used leaves ample room for not only judgement that makes it possible to inflate the value created when there is no assurance system used, but also for misunderstandings regarding how to interpret and use the SROI ratios," the report says.

It can be particularly unreliable to use SROI to compare organisations, it adds.

"The SROI ratio, and the way by which it has been produced, is specific for each organisation and hence does not lend itself to cross-organisational comparison, particularly when the methods used, and judgements made, have not been identical," it says.

Dr Marlin Arvidson, one of the report's authors, said the method was likely to be increasingly used to measure the performance of voluntary organisations because it is supported by the public sector.

Briefly

War Memorials Trust

The War Memorials Trust provides support to projects that aim to repair and conserve war memorials in their existing form as well as reinstate memorials to their original design.

www.warmemorials.org.uk/

Your news could
be here!

Email:
kcvs@knowsleycvs.org

Fax:
0151- 443 0251

news

Survey shows more people think charities strive to be professional

The proportion of people who think charities work professionally has increased by more than a sixth over the past three years, according to a survey.

The poll by the consultancy nfpSynergy shows that the proportion of people who agree that "charities strive to achieve the highest professional standards at all times" rose from 47% in 2007 to 55% in 2010.

The consultancy regularly surveys a representative sample of 1,000 people aged

16 and over in Britain about their perceptions of charities for its Charity Awareness Monitor.

In the latest sample, the number of people who disagreed with the statement that charities strive to achieve the highest professional standards dropped to 12% from 15% in 2007.

The survey also found that some of the most cited reasons people gave for being put off donating to a particular charity were

fundraisers being too persistent (50%), fundraising methods being too obtrusive (49%) and bad publicity about the charity (41%).

Only 12% of respondents said that not being contacted or updated after making a donation would put them off giving to a particular charity.

Joe Saxton, co-founder of nfpSynergy, said: "The charity sector can be cheered by the fact that more supporters seem to think

charities always strive to achieve the highest professional standards.

"That said, this new data also suggests that charities need to make sure fundraising is as effective as possible while being as unobtrusive as possible – not always an easy circle to square."

Localism Bill allows community groups to challenge councils over public service delivery

Voluntary groups and social enterprises will be given the right to challenge councils to let them deliver public services under plans in the Localism Bill, which has been introduced in Parliament.

The Communities and Local Government Department has confirmed that the new legislation will contain a "community right to challenge" under which third sector groups will be allowed to express an interest in delivering any of a local authority's services.

The bill will say that councils must consider and respond to these challenges, which might mean opening a new

competitive bidding process for delivery of the service that has been challenged. The group that made the challenge would then have to bid alongside other groups to run the service.

The bill contains a "community right to buy", under which local groups will be given time to raise capital and bid to buy listed assets when they are put up for sale.

It will also include a "community right to build" that will let local community groups build new developments without needing planning permission, if they win the

support of 50% of local residents in a referendum.

The Localism Bill also includes provisions for funds from the Community Infrastructure Levy, which developers pay to councils when they build new projects in an area, to be passed to local neighbourhoods.

Visit us on
the web

www.knowsleycvcs.org.uk

- The Real Power for Communities campaign has been set up by NAVCA, Development Trusts Association, ACRE and others to ensure that the Localism Bill supports local voluntary action. The campaign seeks to strengthen these rights by lobbying MPs during the legislative process.

To show your support for the campaign, please register at www.rp4c.org.uk.

It will take just 30 seconds to register and your support will help make sure the Localism Bill brings the local voluntary and community sector important new powers.

Funds for volunteering announced in green paper on giving

The government has unveiled two new volunteering initiatives and said that a total of £80m will be allocated to the Community First programme.

The moves come in a green paper on giving, which sets out wide-ranging ideas, including the use of online and social media, for making giving and voluntary action in the UK "as easy and attractive as possible".

The discussion document says the government will set up a Volunteering Match Fund worth up to £10m a year that will match private donations to volunteering projects.

It will also set up an England-wide Volunteering Infrastructure programme, worth £42.5m over four

years, that will "provide brokerage as well as front-line support to volunteers and the organisations that manage them".

The green paper says the Community First programme will consist of £30m for grants to small organisations and £50m of match funding for local endowments over the next four years.

Community First "will seek to encourage the giving of time, money, goods, services and facilities for wider community benefit by matching these donations with money", the document says.

This programme is being seen as the successor to the previous government's Grassroots Grants, which totalled £130m in the years

2008 to 2011.

On financial incentives for giving, the green paper says: "We know that tax reliefs for charitable giving provide incentives for donors and support to charities more generally. We will review the relationship between financial incentives and giving."

Francis Maude, Minister for the Cabinet Office, said in a statement: "People giving time, money, assets, skills and knowledge all drive social action and help make life better for all. This green paper offers practical, common-sense ways we can boost charitable giving."

Five elements are identified in the green paper that it says will build social action by changing social norms:

Opportunities: the

government wants banks to say how giving can be facilitated at ATM machines. It also wants to hear more ideas about cost-free giving, such as the search engine *Everyclick*, and online and mobile giving methods.

Information: charities -

particularly smaller ones - are asked to improve their social impact reporting to help defuse public uncertainty about their effectiveness.

Visibility: the green paper appeals for ideas about better use of social media to encourage giving. It also suggests honouring acts of giving more broadly, including thank-you letters from ministers and a national day to celebrate donors.

Exchange: the document calls for a discussion about peer-to-peer financing to connect sponsors to those seeking funds, and about the best approaches to time banking.

Support: this section asks whether foundations should be obliged to make minimum annual payouts, and what the government can do more generally to foster an increase in giving of time and money.

Responses to the green paper should be sent to giving@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk by 9th March. A white paper with firm policy proposals is expected in spring.

Invite to feature on third sector website

A leading website promoting learning and skills opportunities in the third sector is seeking individuals to feature as inspirational case studies.

The award winning website - voluntaryskills.com - already hosts several case studies of individuals working in the North of England third sector, who talk about their current role and how training has helped them along the way. The aim of this information is to stimulate an interest amongst individuals to develop their skills or consider

a career in the third sector.

voluntaryskills.com needs to update these case studies so the relevance of their content is maintained. So don't be shy and have a quick look if you are unsure of what they are looking for - www.voluntaryskills.com/realpeople

Shaun Nichols of voluntaryskills.com says, "This is a terrific opportunity for someone to make a contribution to our website, as well as being free publicity for themselves and their organisation in 2011."

They would be delighted to see if you, or anyone you know, would be willing to share your work and learning experiences with others, inspiring more likeminded individuals to achieve their goals.

Interested parties should contact Jake on 0191 261 6009 or Email jake.saunders@voluntaryskills.com

funding news

HLF announces additional £45m investment

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has announced an overall budget of £250m for new grants next financial year (March 2011-12) – £45m more than the budget for the current year.

This news is the result of the recently confirmed increase in the share of Lottery funding available for heritage and continuing healthy National Lottery ticket sales.

HLF's Trustees have decided now to allocate £17m of this substantial additional resource to four programmes.

This will give a boost to communities and to important parts of the historic environment during these tough economic times.

Announcing the plans now will also give customers as much time as possible to develop their applications.

The following budgets have been agreed:

£11m for Townscape Heritage Initiative - for grants that help regenerate historic areas with particular social and economic need (£500,000 to £2m) - an increase of £1m on 2010-11 budget.

£23m for repair grants for places of worship scheme – funding for urgent, high-level repairs to listed places of worship (£10,000 to £250,000) - an increase of £4m in England on 2010-11 budget

£21m for 'Your Heritage' – our popular small grants programme (£3,000 to £50,000) which helps voluntary and community groups to conserve and enjoy

local heritage - an increase of £5m on 2010-11 budget

£17m for Landscape Partnerships - our innovative programme to conserve distinctive landscapes, led by local partnerships (£250,000 to £2million) - an increase of £7m on 2010-11 budget

A full business plan for 2011-12, detailing the remaining allocations within the £250m budget, will be agreed and announced in spring 2011.

Dame Jenny Abramsky, chair of the HLF, commented: "We hope this will be heartening news. £250m will make a real difference across the UK.

We think it's particularly important to be increasing our investment in smaller grants having long seen the heritage benefits of people getting involved at a local level.


"Whether it's a locally important historic building or church in desperate need of repair or a beautiful landscape that needs attention, we know that community involvement is the key to long-term success."

John Penrose MP, Minister for Heritage, added: "The founding vision of the National Lottery was that it should primarily benefit the arts, sport, heritage and the voluntary sector, but this got lost along the way.

"I'm pleased the recent share change has put this right and that organisations who will need support from the Heritage Lottery Fund will quickly feel the benefit. This increase in funding is fantastic news for all those organisations and charities who will secure grants, ensuring our wonderful heritage is protected for years to come."

In addition, HLF has made some changes to its procedures in response to the challenges facing potential and current applicants, including relaxing its match funding requirements for those who are finding it hard to raise funds elsewhere to just 10% of overall grant for grants over £1m and 5% for grants under £1m.

Abramsky added: "We wanted to set out some programme allocations for our 2011-12 budget early, so that applicants can plan. We are currently reviewing our position across a whole range of issues and we will make further decisions in spring 2011 once we have a better understanding of the impact of the Spending Review alongside heritage needs and priorities. We intend to remain as flexible as possible."



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

Friday, 4th March 2011

Email: kcvsv@knowsleycvs.org

Fax: 0151-443 0251

Promote your event here - FREE! Email: kcvs@knowsleycvs.org

what's on

**Merseyside IBS
Self Help Group**
Supporting people with
Irritable Bowel Syndrome

Meeting dates for 2011:-
February 16, March 16
(Speakers to be confirmed)

*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, Mossplits Lane,
Fazakerley, Liverpool L10 9LG
(entrance in Longmoor Lane, next to
Body Talk Ladies Gym)*



Advertise your event here ... FREE !

Email details to: kcvs@knowsleycvs.org

Liverpool and District Short Mat Indoor Bowls League

Weekly (ongoing) Indoor Bowls at
**Huyton Leisure Centre, Roby Road,
Huyton**

Wednesday evenings
7.00 - 9.30pm.

Players, teams, beginners – men or
women – light exercise.

All are welcome, old or young, for an
enjoyable evening.

480 7529

Prescot Historic Society

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

Tea will be served at 7.00pm



what's on

Promote your event here - FREE! Email: kcvs@knowsleycvs.org



Huyton-with-Roby Historical Society

Come and join us on the 2nd Friday of every month at 7.30pm from March to October.

Meetings are held at
**THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE,
ST JOHN'S ROAD,
HUYTON L36 0UX**



Diabetes UK St Helens and District Group

Wednesday 2nd February 2011- *What's New in Diabetes?*
Dr John Wilding, Professor of Medicine, University of Liverpool and University Hospital Aintree

Wednesday 2nd March 2011- *Diabetes Patient Education*
Professor Sarah O'Brien, Diabetes Nurse Consultant, St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS 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

Deadline for the April issue is Friday 4th March 2011



Liverpool JMU

guest speakers include:

 Shami Chakrabarti CBE Director, Liberty	 Gideon Ben-Tovim Chair, Liverpool NHS Primary Care Trust
 Stephen Bowen Director, British Institute of Human Rights	 Julia Hausermann MBE Founder, Rights and Humanity
 Rebecca Tinsley Chair, Waging Peace	 David Ruebain Chief Executive, Equality Challenge Unit
 Professor Michael Brown CBE DL Chief Executive and Vice-Chancellor, Liverpool John Moores University	 Sir Bert Massie CBE Conference Chair

conference hosts

Tuesday 22nd March 2011
Human Rights in the Age of Austerity: "Making Rights Real at Community Level"

Although the Human Rights agenda has featured far-reaching alliances, solidarity and transformative movements of global impact, the struggle still continues to ensure local human rights issues are not ignored in our communities and cities.

Does the age of austerity threaten human rights? How can human rights be made real on our streets, communities and towns in this present economic situation?

Expert national and local speakers will come together to discuss and debate these key issues.

Register now to take part in this conference which also includes rich interactive workshops and debates at www.ljmu.ac.uk/conferences/humanrightsnetwork

Venue: **St George's Hall, Liverpool**

Please click to find out more and register www.ljmu.ac.uk/conferences/humanrightsnetwork

Logos at the bottom: Liverpool Community Network, Merseyside Police, Liverpool NHS Primary Care Trust, UNISON, RACE JUSTICE, Liverpool City Council, and others.