

## **VANS In-Step Newsletter–June 2009–11<sup>th</sup> Edition**

Welcome to the eleventh edition of the **In-Step Newsletter** brought to you by Voluntary Action North Somerset (VANS).

Are you or your group in need of any additional support or help? Maybe just feel a need to run something by a third party outside your own organisation? If you do feel in need, please feel free to pick up the phone or send us an email. VANS is here to support you.

### **VANS News and Events**

#### **In-Step Training**

Our next all-day facilitated training sessions will take place in the autumn, and we are always keen to hear your suggestions for potential subjects. Just let us know and if we can generate enough interest, we can run the session.

Call Justin Parsons on 01934 410196, or by email [justin.parsons@vansmail.org.uk](mailto:justin.parsons@vansmail.org.uk). Or write to us at VANS, The Badger Centre, 3-6 Wadham Street, Weston-s-Mare, BS23 1JY.

### **VANS News and Events**

**An Introduction to Social Media** is the title of a free of charge training session here at VANS taking place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 2pm. Places are limited to one person per group (voluntary and community sector only). For more information or to book a space call Justin Parsons on 01934 410192 or email [justin.parsons@vansmail.org.uk](mailto:justin.parsons@vansmail.org.uk).

**Voluntary Sector Forum** met at Puxton Park on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June with over 30 attendees. Fiona Massey, from the Government Office of the South West spoke on 'Creating an Environment for a Thriving Third Sector' and of the progress being made in North Somerset.

**John Penrose, MP for Weston-s-Mare** spoke on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June at the Badger Centre on the Conservative vision for the voluntary and community sector to a group of 25 people as part of VANS In-Step programme.

**Volunteers were recognised on Clevedon Pier** as part of Volunteers' Week, which celebrated its Silver Jubilee last week. Groups were invited to nominate their volunteer(s) of the year, who were awarded with certificates to mark their achievements. One lucky winner drawn from the hat received a family ticket for the Christmas pantomime at the Playhouse.

## **In-Step Outreach Events**

Voluntary Action have hit the road as part of a year long "tour" which will endeavour to take in most of North Somerset.

All events take place between 10am and 1pm and are "drop-in" style. Just show up and we will do our best to help you and your groups. So if you need volunteers (or want to volunteer), or if you need funding and development advice, come and see us.

Further events scheduled for later in the year include:

August 19<sup>th</sup> – Clevedon Community Association

September 14<sup>th</sup> – Pill Resource Centre

September 16<sup>th</sup> – Nailsea Town Hall

We will also be attending Community Cafes in June at the following locations:

June 19<sup>th</sup> – The Wesley Centre, High Street, Portishead

June 26<sup>th</sup> – The Old School Rooms, Station Road, Congresbury

These events also take place between 10am and 1pm and usually feature a range of exhibitors, both statutory and voluntary sector.

For more information on other dates and venues just click here

[Community Cafes](#)

## **Local News and Events**

**Weston in Bloom Festival** takes place on the Beach Lawns on the weekend of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of June. Visitors will have a chance to visit the Fair Share Trust Community Groups Tent, where a variety of different groups will be on hand to explain all about their work. VANS and Amnesty International are among those exhibiting.

**Free Compact Champions Workshop** visits Bristol on June 30<sup>th</sup>. It is a half-day event and you can access all of the relevant information here  
<http://www.thecompact.org.uk/form/119621/bookingform>.

**ladder4learning provides a regional workforce development resource** for the Community and Voluntary sectors and social enterprises across the south west of England and parts of the south east.

You can access a searchable database of learning opportunities, a calendar, a forum and a resource database. Well worth investigation, the site is managed by the Learning Curve.  
<http://www.ladder4learning.org.uk>.

**“Power to the People! Power to the Providers? How the voluntary sector can make the most of individual budgets.”**  
Wednesday 1 July 2009, 10am-1pm  
Vassall Centre, Gill Avenue, Bristol, BS16 2QQ.

The Care Forum’s Voluntary Sector Team is holding a special morning conference on individual budgets. The conference will bring together commissioners and providers from B&NES, Bristol and South Gloucestershire from both adults and children’s services.

Ralph Michell, Head of Policy at ACEVO, will be the keynote speaker, and workshops will look at the topics of Marketing and Positioning, and Quality and Risk. The conference is free of charge and open to all interested parties on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Katharine Gonzales on 0117 958 9340 or [events@thecareforum.org.uk](mailto:events@thecareforum.org.uk) to book.

## **The Trustee Conference – 2<sup>nd</sup> July, London**

The Trustee Conference 2009 will bring together leading legal, financial and fundraising figures within the charity sector to offer trustees and senior managers practical advice and innovative solutions to the challenges ahead.

To view the full programme and to book a place go to - <http://www.trusteenet.org.uk/events/annual-conference-charity-trustees-london>.

## **Communicating the role and impact of community**

**development**, CDX's regional event to bring together practitioners across all sectors to discuss current policy, explore recent CDX work on making the case for community development, and to hear about community development activities in the region.

The event is in Taunton on 7 July from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For further information and booking, please contact CDX, Denise Toone, [denise@cdx.org.uk](mailto:denise@cdx.org.uk). Tel: 0114 241 2760.

## **NHS North Somerset Best Practice Celebration**

Thursday 16 July 2009, Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1AJ

This event will feature an exhibition around best practice as well as optional interactive thematic workshops taking place across morning, afternoon and evening sessions. Aimed at the general public as well as service users, carers, clinicians and other stakeholders, it hopes to offer an opportunity to learn about and shape healthcare developments in North Somerset.

To book a place or an exhibition stand, contact Marilyn Edwards on [events@nsomerset-pct.nhs.uk](mailto:events@nsomerset-pct.nhs.uk) or telephone 01275 546757.

## **Are you involved in a local secular or church green group?**

If you are, the Diocesan Environment Group (DEG) would like to hear from you. It is putting together a resource to show where church people are involved in groups such as Transition communities (See <http://transitiontowns.org/Somerset/groups> ) or other local green groups. The resource will also provide a picture

of which churches have church environmental or “green” groups (either within an individual church or ecumenically).

Diocesan Social Justice and Environment Adviser David Maggs would be interested to hear your stories and something about what your group(s) have done. He adds ‘especially things that you have got excited about’. Send your information to him at [david.maggs@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:david.maggs@bathwells.anglican.org) or telephone him on 01749 685119.

## National News and Events

**Watchdog Urges Charity Chiefs to Face Reality.** The Chief Executive of the Charity Commission has launched an initiative, the Big Board Talk, in an effort to get all charities to ask themselves some serious questions. Trustees are invited to ask themselves 15 key questions in a bid to help them focus on core activities. <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/news/prbigb.asp>.

**Funding Central is being launched by the NCVO.** This is a new website with details on over 4,000 income opportunities, focusing on grants, contracts and loan finance. It will also feature a wide range of tools and resources to help you identify and manage the most appropriate income source for your organisation. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sfp/?id=2090>.

**Sharpen your Marketing Theory & Practice** is the title of the NCVO’s summer marketing conference. It takes place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July at the NCVO’s offices in London. The event features tips on attracting new supporters, copywriting and proofreading, new media and data management. Booking and further information at <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/events/latest/?id=13088>.

**Governing with Confidence: Leading the Way** is the title of the NCVO BWB On Board Trustee Conference 2009. The conference features information and advice from the Charity Commission, interactive workshops and essential legal updates as well as networking opportunities aplenty. It is London. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/events/latest/?id=13524>.

**Managing People: Solutions for the Voluntary Sector** is the Directory of Social Change's annual HR & Employment Law Conference. It takes place at the Royal Society of Medicine in London on the 7<sup>th</sup> October and features a wide range of workshops for anyone dealing with HR issues as well as legal updates and information about issues such as flexible working.  
<http://www.dsc.org.uk/Search/Conferences/@15418>.

**Statutory powers for Compact Commission:** Tom Levitt MP, the chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the Community and Voluntary Sector, has introduced a 10-minute rule Bill to Parliament calling for statutory powers for the Commission for the Compact. The introduction of the [Commission for the Compact Bill](#) to Parliament is reported here.

**Angela Evans Smith is the new Minister for the Third Sector.** The former Parliamentary Private Secretary to Gordon Brown has replaced Kevin Brennan in the recent government reshuffle.

**Empowering communities to influence local decision making - A systematic review of the evidence** is a new Communities & Local Government Department publication analysing community empowerment at home and internationally. 216 pages to tuck into. There is an executive summary of course.  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/localdecisionreview>.

**Extra £6.6 million to boost volunteering over the next two years.** The Office of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector has announced details on three new projects designed to promote volunteering. You can find out more here  
[http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third\\_sector/news/news\\_stories/090512\\_volunteering.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/090512_volunteering.aspx).

**The Impact of the Recession on Compact Implementation** is the title of a new publication by the Commission for the Compact. You can access a PDF copy of the report by clicking here  
<http://www.thecompact.org.uk/files/130263/FileName/Theimpactoft herecessiononCompactimplementation.pdf>.

**Need to contact your local MP, MEP, or Councillor?** This website will assist you to find the relevant person and steer you through the process of communicating your message effectively. Worth checking out <http://www.writetothem.com>.

This programme has been brought together by funding received from the ChangeUp programme and delivered through West of England ChangeUp Consortium member organisations. ChangeUp is a government initiative, managed by Capacitybuilders, to strengthen the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors by encouraging and enabling the delivery of effective infrastructure services.



For more details on any aspect of this project or the contents of this email, please contact:

Justin Parsons  
Voluntary Action North Somerset  
The Badger Centre  
3-6 Wadham Street  
Weston-s-Mare  
BS23 2RT

01934 410192 (main line)  
01934 410196 (direct)

[justin.parsons@vansmail.org.uk](mailto:justin.parsons@vansmail.org.uk)

[www.vansweb.org.uk](http://www.vansweb.org.uk)

You are receiving this email as a part of Voluntary Action's In-Step programme. If you do not wish to receive any further emails, then please reply to this email including the word "Unsubscribe" in the message header and we will remove you from the distribution list.