

VANS In-Step Newsletter–Aug 2009–13th Edition

Welcome to the thirteenth 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

Places for the below events are limited in number. They are strictly allocated on a first come first serve basis for members of the voluntary and community sector serving North Somerset. Maximum of two people per group. Book early to avoid disappointment. Places booked by fully refundable £10 deposit.

Business Planning – Thursday 1st October

Equality & Diversity – Thursday 22nd October

**First Steps to Monitoring & Evaluating Outcomes –
Wednesday 4th November**

All of the above events take place at the Badger Centre, Wadham Street, Weston-s-Mare. For further details and booking forms please call Justin Parsons on 01934 410192, or by email justin.parsons@vansmail.org.uk. Or write to us at VANS, The Badger Centre, 3-6 Wadham Street, Weston-s-Mare, BS23 1JY.

In-Step Network Meeting

On Friday 11th September we are joined by Mike Bell, the Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate for Weston-s-Mare.

Mike will be speaking on his party's vision for the voluntary and community sector.

There will also be an opportunity to get hold of a copy of two of our new publications: **The Coffee Break Trustee**, the VANS no-nonsense guide to committee work; and **Where to Go for Help With**, the guide that does exactly what it says on the cover.

All members of voluntary and community groups are welcome to attend, but we do need an idea of numbers so contact Justin at VANS to reserve a seat.

Voluntary Sector Forum & Funders' Fair

Monday 30th November. Please try and keep this date free as we would like as many of our voluntary and community sector colleagues as possible to join us.

At the Voluntary Sector Forum, Phil Suter of the Audit Commission will be on hand to reveal the results of the Comprehensive Area Assessment. He will be joined by Dave Ostry, Consultation Officer with North Somerset Council.

Our last Funders' Fair remains one of the most popular events that we have run. The current financial climate makes funding more critical than ever. A chance to meet with representatives from some of the major funding organisations, pick up top tips from our experienced funding team, and of course network and share best practice with sector colleagues.

More information to follow on timings and location. Watch this space or check the VANS website www.vansweb.org.uk.

In-Step Outreach Events

Voluntary Action are still on 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 drop-ins scheduled for later in the year include:

August 19th – Clevedon Community Association

September 14th – Pill Resource Centre

September 16th – Nailsea Town Council, Church House

Local News and Events

Job Vacancy with the Care Forum

Digital Outreach Programme Coordinator

37 hrs per week £25,946 - £28,271 pro rata (open to job share)

In partnership with Digital Outreach Ltd, The Care Forum are recruiting a Digital Outreach Programme Coordinator to deliver the message about the digital switchover to community and voluntary organisations that support vulnerable adults in the Bristol, South Gloucestershire and Bath and North East Somerset areas.

Contract term: 9 months – September 2009 – May 2010

Applicants should have extensive project management experience, possess high level communication skills and be able to work effectively independently.

We welcome applications from all sectors of the community. Our offices in Fishponds are free from barriers and fully accessible for disabled people.

Website www.thecareforum.org

email: admin@thecareforum.org.uk

tel: 0117 965 4444

Closing date: Friday 14 August 3pm

Interview date: Friday 21 August

Amnesty International's Weston-s-Mare group will host an evening with John Penrose MP. He will be speaking on "Human Rights and the Individual at Home & Abroad." This takes place at

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the salvation Army, Carlton Street, 7-30pm on Wednesday September 23rd. Those interested in attending are invited to first phone Robin on 01934 517425 or John on 01934 517850.

The Black and Minority Ethnic Forum for North Somerset have launched a busy schedule of events between now and the end of the year. The next ones are:

Tuesday 18th August @ 12-30. Presentation on Brazil by Cirlel Ioris.

Tuesday 22nd September @ 10-30. Presentation on Indonesia by Triliria Newbury.

All these events take place in the Weston Room at the Badger Centre, Wadham Street, Weston-s-Mare.

For further details on all of the above contact the Forum on 01934 414455 or email quentin.isaac@srec.org.uk.

Specialist Domestic Abuse Champions (SDAC) scheme is a new multi-agency initiative to reduce repeat domestic abuse. This is currently being rolled out across various agencies, and individuals with an interest in this issue are then nominating themselves to become SDACs.

Any agencies or individuals who are interested in the scheme please contact Emma Jones at eljones08@googlemail.com for more information. A launch of the SDACs specific for your agency can be provided.

Specialist domestic abuse champions (SDAC) will:

- Be provided with useful multi-agency contacts
- Receive free training on domestic abuse issues
- Receive a detailed information pack on domestic abuse that can be accessed by colleagues
- Be enabled to provide expert advice on domestic abuse issues to colleagues
- Promote domestic abuse services by displaying posters and distributing leaflets

New Guide to Domestic Abuse - support for those with no recourse to public funds

Standing Together, a local group, has produced a guide to help people trapped in an abusive relationship.

People who move to the UK may have a work visa which excludes recourse to public funds, even if they work and pay taxes here. This may mean people becoming trapped in their relationship as they are unable to claim housing benefit or many other sources of support in their own right.

The new guide for North Somerset agencies has been translated into Thai and Tagalog (spoken by many people in the Philippines).

FREE Copies are available from
Louise Branch, Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator 01934 426343.
louise.branch@n-somerset.gov.uk.

“Celebrating the Value of Housing Related Support in this Changing Environment” is the title of a conference to be held at the Winter Gardens on the 15th of September between 9-30am and 4pm. Hosted by the NS Independent Providers’ Forum and NSC Supporting People Team, it is intended for all those involved with housing support and care.

For further and booking information, including those interested in having a stand, call Amy Balcomb on the Supporting People team on 01275 888425 or amy.balcomb@n-somerset.gov.uk.

Preanes Green’s Got Talent is a talent competition being held at the Resource Centre, Feniton, Clovelly Road, Worle. The date is Tuesday 25th August and the event starts at 7pm.

Entrants must register at the Centre by the 11th August. The Centre is open between 10am and Noon each day.

Other summer children’s activities organised by the Centre appear below:

Tue 11th August, 2-4 TALL STORIES
Join our storytelling adventure!

Tue 18th August, 2-4 ARE WE THERE YET?
Free outing to Sidmouth Donkey Sanctuary

All these activities are FREE but children must be accompanied by an adult. Book now to make sure of your places – First come, first served!

More information on 01934 529733 or preanesgreen@tiscali.co.uk.

Breathe Easy Weston-s-Mare, the support group of the British Lung Foundation, are holding an open air special at Uphill Scout Hut. Local community groups interested in running a stall on the day are invited to contact Nick Pennycott on 01275 873322. The event takes place on August 22nd between 2pm and 4pm.

National News and Events

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning takes place on the 25th September. You can be a part of it and help the lives of those living with cancer by joining in.

Get your friends, family or colleagues together to share coffee and cake. And don't forget to donate. Because every cup counts.

Register now at macmillan.org.uk/coffee or call 0845 602 1246 quoting LA6.

Compact Refresh - A refreshed and revised national Compact is to be launched later this year during Compact Week (2nd-8th Oct).

Following last year's extensive discussion on the future of the Compact and agreement at the [Compact Annual Meeting](#) in December, work has now started to refresh the Compact.

A series of Refresh Panel meetings involving senior figures from across government and the third sector is taking place and this will help inform the process of refreshing the Compact. A 12-week public consultation will take place from July to early October 2009.

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More here <http://www.thecompact.org.uk/information/129473>.

NAVCA Survey of Local Area Agreements

The results of NAVCA's survey of its members about local area agreements (LAAs) show local third sector organisations are generally positive about LAAs but believe a lot more needs to be done if the sector is to be allowed to become fully engaged. However, a sizable minority believed their LAAs had not benefited the third sector. www.navca.org.uk/news/navcalaasurvey.htm.

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 7th 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>.

Capacitybuilders Campaigning Research Programme

Capacitybuilders is undertaking the first ever government action research programme to strengthen the ability of charities and other third sector organisations to campaign for change. The £750,000 scheme, funded by OTS, will identify and promote innovative ways for the third sector to act as a strong voice for the most disadvantaged people in society. <http://bit.ly/campaignresearch> or <http://capacitybuilders.org.uk>.

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:

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