

## VANS In-Step Newsletter–Sept 2009–15<sup>th</sup> Edition

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

### Trustees Urgently Required

We are receiving many requests at the moment for trustees. **NS Mencap** and **Worle Community Association** are both looking for Treasurers. **The Care Forum**, **Friend** and **Community Action** for trustees, and we at **VANS** continue to search for our next Chair.

All of these roles have much to offer and you can find additional info about each vacancy as an appendix to the ebulletin.

### VANS News and Events

#### In-Step Network Meetings

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2-4pm** – **David Bradley**, the Labour Parliamentary candidate for Weston-s-Mare will outline the Labour vision for the voluntary sector.

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2-4pm** – **Ron Richards** on Protecting Staff, Volunteers and Young People on line

The session is intended to provide information, awareness and guidance for voluntary organisations on some of the "on-line" risks that can affect staff, volunteers and young people. Consideration will be given as to how staff and volunteers should communicate with young people when using new technologies and communication systems such as social networking, email, mobile phones etc.

Both of the above at the Badger Centre.

#### 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.*

**Emergency Life Saving First Aid - Wednesday 28th October (10am-Noon)**

**First Steps to Monitoring & Evaluating Outcomes – Wednesday 4th November (9.30am-4pm)**

**Time Management – Taking Control of your Workload – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November (9.30am-3.30pm)**

**Health & Safety –Friday 4th December (9.30am-4.00pm)**

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](mailto:justin.parsons@vansmail.org.uk). Or write to us at VANS, The Badger Centre, 3-6 Wadham Street, Weston-s-Mare, BS23 1JY.

### **Health & Wellbeing Forum Next Meeting**

Wednesday 21st October 2009 -10 am - 12 noon  
will include talk on 'Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults' by Rachel Hubbard, Learning and Development Worker, North Somerset Council.

### **Who are vulnerable adults?**

A vulnerable adult is someone who is not able to care for or protect themselves for any reason. It might be because of age, mental or physical incapacity, sensory loss ,or learning disabilities. It might be someone who is usually able to manage but is unable to do so because of an accident or illness.

Rachel will talk about North Somerset Council's research and strategy, the relevance to voluntary and community groups and how North Somerset Council can help to develop resources and/or training to meet the needs of organisations to be informed about Safeguarding Adults. Rachel is happy to take questions to clarify how this may work for individual groups.

Please try and attend this invaluable opportunity to update yourself on the current policy for this important issue.

All are welcome - refreshments provided.  
Venue will be the Badger Centre, Wadham Street, Weston-s-Mare.

For further information please contact Georgie at [georgie.bigg@vansmail.org.uk](mailto:georgie.bigg@vansmail.org.uk) or telephone 01934 410192.

## **Voluntary Sector Forum & Funders' Fair & VANS AGM**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

And to make it a "triple header" we will also have our AGM: three for the price of one.

More information to follow on timings, but we can confirm the location to be the Campus, Locking Castle, Weston-s-Mare.

Watch this space or check the VANS website  
[www.vansweb.org.uk](http://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.

October 21<sup>st</sup> – Worle Community Association, Lawrence Rd.

## **Local News and Events**

**The Portishead Networking Group** meet next Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 1pm at Waverly Court, The Marina, Portishead. Come along to hear special presentations by the Portishead Air Cadets and then the Great Western Air Ambulance.

There will be a brief round table update by each of the organisations in attendance followed by another break and a chance to mix and mingle.

Please feel free to bring printed handouts and literature to distribute around the table or leave out for display.

For further info contact Email: [Bill.Shier@Portishead.org](mailto:Bill.Shier@Portishead.org)

Tel: 01275 817017

Mobile: 07802 615123

**Media Trust are running a free of charge speed matching event** in Bristol next week as part of the Festival of Learning.

The evening event will bring together charities and community organisations with media professionals in order to help develop communication and marketing capacity in the voluntary sector - and the focus will be one-to-one advice and support for your organisation.

It takes place at the Arnolfini Gallery on the 21<sup>st</sup> October, between 5-30pm and 8-30pm. For further and booking info call 020 7217 3771 or email [daniels@mediatrust.org](mailto:daniels@mediatrust.org).

**Communitybuilders Seminars** - Communitybuilders offers loans, grants and business support. There are three different elements to the fund which are meant to meet the needs of organisations at different stages in their journey to sustainability. We recognise that all organisations will be at different stages of development, and that some will need more support than others.

This series of regional one day seminars will provide you with more in-depth information about the Communitybuilders Fund and the investment options, which might be available to you; we will discuss the different support packages and eligibility criteria for each. In addition to this, one to one surgeries with Communitybuilders staff will take place in the afternoon, to discuss your community organisation's individual needs.

The seminars will run from 10 am until about 3 pm. The SW event takes place in Taunton on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009 - Hestercombe Gardens Conference Centre, Cheddon Fitzpaine, TA2 8LG. More info here

<http://www.regonline.co.uk/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=767891>.

### **Valuing Young Parents Group at Milton and Old Worle Children's Centre**

Starts at Milton and Old Worle Children's Centre, Mendip Ave, Worle from 4 November 2009.

Parents who are aged under 22 are welcome to attend. There will be a crèche run by Children's Centre Staff.

Any young parents you know will be very welcome to attend.

Any queries to Katryn Thornley 0117 9717428 or Jenny Tungate - 01934 42819.

**Go4Life two years on.....a North Somerset Partnership** event for those encouraging healthy and active lifestyles in North Somerset takes place on Monday 9 November 2009.

3:00 – 5.15pm: aimed at local government / private sector

5:15 – 6:00pm: buffet / refreshments and showcase of poster presentations

(aimed at local government / private sector and voluntary sector)

6:00 – 8:00pm: aimed at the voluntary sector

The Great Room, Cadbury House Hotel Health Club and Spa,  
Frost Hill, Congresbury,  
BS49 5AD

[www.cadburyhotelbristol.co.uk](http://www.cadburyhotelbristol.co.uk)

For further information please call Sport and Active Lifestyles on 01275 812 045. To reserve a place please return the booking form by Monday 2 November 2009.

### **Voscur and BDA Funders Fair 2009**

The Voscur and Black Development Agency Funders Fair 2009 will be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November at the Salvation Army Community Centre, Hassell Drive, Bristol BS2 0AN.

For further info contact Eva Pollard Funding Advice Worker  
Voscur CREATE Centre, Smeaton Road Bristol, BS1 6XN Tel:  
0117 909 9949 ext: 504 or [eva@voscur.org](mailto:eva@voscur.org).

**North Somerset Black and Minority Ethnic Forum** celebrates its 3rd anniversary and AGM on Saturday November 14th. This will be held at the Boulevard United Reformed Church between Noon and 4pm.

For further details contact the office on 01934 414455.

**More Signposting in your Community' and 'North Somerset Goes Global** is an event of interest to all faith groups in North Somerset. It takes place on 20th November 2009 between 9.15 and 16.00 at Claverham Village Hall, BS49 4NF.

Programme for morning - 'More Signposting in your Community' - information giving details of key agencies that will enable faith groups to signpost the people they serve to help and support, with details of agencies that can help them.

Afternoon - session on linking local action to global community action. This session will include short presentations, facilitated by Somerset Racial Equality Council(SREC), from local people about their varied cultures, practices and traditions.

The event will also launch a 'North Somerset Goes Global' visual mapping activity, whereby local Faith Groups, Schools and Colleges will be invited pre-event to send in information about activities/projects they are involved in globally, to include details of skills/support exchanged.

Contact: Zena Brown Tel: 01934 529303 Fax: 01934 521249  
Email: zena.brown@n-somerset.gov.uk

### **The Care Forum AGM and Annual Conference**

Wednesday 25 November, 2-4.30pm (tea/coffee from 1.30pm), The Vassall Centre. This year's AGM conference is on 'The Impact of the Environment on Health & Social Care'. Contact Katharine Gonzales to book on 0117 958 9345 or [events@thecareforum.org.uk](mailto:events@thecareforum.org.uk).

**Social Enterprise Works are offering two hours free support** to third sector organisations based in North Somerset. To find out more about this special offer <http://www.socialenterpriseworks.org>

[www.westonsupermarepeople.co.uk](http://www.westonsupermarepeople.co.uk) has been launched as a site for local people to discuss issues and contribute stories. You can also post stories and event news about you and your community groups. Take a look. It is free.

## **National News and Events**

**LawWorks are offering a new online service** which provides brief legal information in response to straightforward legal queries. It is designed to assist not-for-profit organisations and individuals who cannot afford to pay for solicitors privately.

Questions may ONLY be submitted by not for profit organisations and advice agencies providing advice to the general public. Register here <http://www.lawworksiea.org.uk/>.

The Health & Safety Executive have announced the first changes to the First Aid Regulations in 25 years. You can find a good summary of the changes and how they may affect you here <http://www.ladder4learning.org.uk/node/5312>.

## Trustee Opportunities

**Reach have launched Trusteeworks.** The site includes info on all aspects of trusteeship as well as a mechanism for recruiting trustees. This is worth checking out. <http://www.reachskills.org.uk/trusteeworks-for-organisations>.

**Friend (Weston-super-Mare) Ltd is looking for Trustees** who are committed to enabling and working with people of working age who are experiencing mental health problems in North Somerset.

We are particularly looking for individuals who can offer their expertise in service governance and/or financial management/business planning on a voluntary basis.

For an information pack ring Jo Gardner on 01934 622292 or email [admin@friendcmhrc.com](mailto:admin@friendcmhrc.com).

**Treasurer - North Somerset Mencap (NSM)** is a registered charity supporting children and adults with a learning disability and their families and carers within North Somerset. We employ one part time staff and have many volunteers supporting our play schemes and many other activities.

NSM Trustees are seeking to engage a Treasurer to maintain its accounts under the guidance of the Company Secretary. The roll would involve a monthly 2 hour meeting, paying bills and ensuring our finances are in good order. This voluntary roll would suit a person with an accounting, finance background or good numeracy skills.

How to apply:

By telephone: 01934 630526 or email: [fuser69@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:fuser69@tiscali.co.uk).

**The Care Forum is looking to strengthen its Board of Trustees**

and would welcome interest from The Care Forum membership, particularly those members with experience in business development, finance, marketing or commissioning.

The minimum commitment for a Trustee is to attend Executive Committee meetings (minimum of 6 per year) and the Annual General Meeting. However it is hoped that trustees will also contribute their expertise in developing strategic policy and practice, promoting the organisation and attending The Care Forum membership meetings wherever possible.

If you would like to know more about being a Trustee please e-mail your contact details to Shirley Stephen, Chair of Trustees at [events@thecareforum.org.uk](mailto:events@thecareforum.org.uk) by 31 October 2009.

**Worle Community Association** need a Treasurer to help them with the running of this busy day care centre and community meeting place and venue for dozens of local groups. If you feel you can help, then contact Joan Thompson on 01934 515681.

**Voluntary Action North Somerset is looking for a NEW CHAIR OF THE BOARD**

Starting in October 2009 you will take over from Trevor Jones who has successfully led this charity in building a strong reputation amongst the voluntary sector organisations it serves.

We are looking for someone with vision, commitment and experience who will take us on to the next level of performance and delivery. If you want to combine your expertise in governance and leadership with the important task of providing the very best support to the voluntary sector then we want to hear from you.

For an information pack go to: [www.vansweb.org.uk](http://www.vansweb.org.uk) or ring Donna Cleeve on 01934 410192

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

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BS23 2RT

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This work 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.

Voluntary Action North Somerset Limited  
www.vansweb.org.uk  
Company Limited by Guarantee No: 3466492 Registered Charity No: 1065916  
Affiliated to Volunteering England  
Member: National Association for Voluntary and Community Action

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