

VANS In-Step Newsletter–Nov 2009–16th Edition

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

Have you been issued with a copy of VANS **Coffee Break Trustee**? If you have, please can you do us a favour and send us your feedback on how useful you have found the publication. Thanks!

VANS News and Events

In-Step Training

We have a few spaces left for our last training event before Xmas (details below)

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

This training is **accredited**. Participants will receive a CIEH Level 2 Award in Health & Safety in the Workplace

The event take place at the Badger Centre, Wadham Street, Weston-s-Mare. For further details and a booking form please call Justin Parsons on 01934 410192, or 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 Meetings

Monday 14th December – 2pm-4pm

Ron Richards, E-Safety Consultant with the SW Grid for Learning, will speak 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.

Friday 18th December – 2pm-4pm

Jessica Harper, Sustainability Coordinator for North Somerset Council will talk on 'Demystifying sustainability.' How can we work together to maximise our potential to act in North Somerset?

Find out what the council is currently doing in terms of climate change policy and what will we need to do in the future to adapt to climate change.

Both the above events take place at 2pm at the Badger Centre, Wadham Street, Weston-s-Mare. For further details 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.

Voluntary Sector Forum & Funders' Fair & VANS AGM

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

Voluntary Sector Forum- 9-30am

Our last Funders' Fair (11am-3pm) 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(12-15pm)

The location is the Campus, Locking Castle, Weston-s-Mare.

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.

December 2nd December – Preanes Green Resource Centre, 11 Feniton, Clovelly Road, Worle, Weston-s-Mare, BS22 6LN.

Local News and Events

West of England Consortium

West of England Consortium is a partnership of local infrastructure organisations from the three authority areas of Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.

Website: The consortium has recently launched its site which can be viewed at www.changeupwestofengland.org.uk

Managing in Tough Times Booklet: Produced earlier this year in partnership with Bristol Consortium, it covers key issues that may affect voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations during periods of financial insecurity. It offers a framework for identifying and assessing current risks and offers guidance on how an organisation can manage and adjust to change. In the unfortunate event that the decision is made to close, there is guidance on the necessary steps that are required depending on the legal structure of the organisation. You can download this from the website or for a printed copy then please contact Maxine Powell 0117 958 9338, maxinepowell@thecareforum.org.uk

Voluntary Value Conference is being held on the 3rd December at SCAT in Taunton between 9-30am and 2pm. Organised by

South West Forum, and funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Regional Development Agency.

Come and find out what the ESF can do for you in 2010! Hear from policy makers on changes to the ESF funding framework for 2010, and frontline delivery organisations who have made the most of ESF opportunities to date.

Further details at

http://www.southwestforum.org.uk/index.php?content=ev_fevent_details&event_id=1243 or contact admin@southwestforum.org.uk or 01392 823033.

Holly Hedge Animal Sanctuary are holding a fundraising event on Friday 4th December at the Pill & District Memorial Club, Keswick House, Lodway, Pill between 7-30pm and 11-30pm

With 70s and 80s sounds courtesy of “Gilt Edge” and guests, tickets (priced £10) are available from 01275 474719 or 01275 373703. All proceeds to the Sanctuary.

South West Foundation are holding an event aimed at women involved in the Voluntary and Community Sector who have an interest in looking at the following issues

- How are women able to influence decisions?
- How do women have a voice?

The event will start with a play, “Tea with Mrs Pankhurst” a play from the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, followed by an opportunity to reflect on what makes us feel better able to influence decisions in our communities. There will also be the opportunity to hear more about the new Women’s Cafe Social Networking site, an exciting new project that enables women to talk and work together.

This event takes place on Monday 7th December between 1-30pm and 4pm at Compton Dundon Village Hall and is free. For further and booking information jcrawley@southwestfoundation.org.uk or 01275 333666.

The Care Forum’s North Somerset Voluntary Sector Mental Health Network meet on the 10th December between 10am and Noon at the Badger Centre in Weston. Hilary Guy, Project

Manager, Mental Health, NHS Somerset will speak on the North Somerset Older People's Mental Health Strategy.

To book Contact Katharine Gonzales ☎ 0117 958 9345 or events@thecareforum.org.uk.

Goanna Films are community film makers. They can help you create a film about your groups or a specific project. You and your groups can help make the film and use it to demonstrate your work to funders and other interested parties. They will even help you find the funding for the film.

Contact Paul Collins on 07855 941 211 or goldmollarz@yahoo.co.uk.

Life Cycle provides free cycle parking under the Take a Stand scheme. Voluntary sector groups, schools, small businesses, churches and surgeries, in fact almost any type of organisation, are welcome to apply!

Organisations based in Bristol, **North Somerset** or in South Gloucestershire are eligible for up to four stands free of charge! You must install the stands on your own property (you can't dig up the pavement!) in a location agreed with Life Cycle UK. To apply please visit <http://www.lifecycleuk.org.uk/cycle-parking>.

Events Update from Preanes Green Resource Centre

Christmas Bazaar
Saturday 12th December
10 till 12

Preanes Green Open Meeting
Our quarterly meeting to keep local people updated on what's happening in the area with feedback from the Police, North Somerset Housing and local councillors.

This time our guest speaker will be Karen Philpot from Age Concern who will be giving advice on the Digital Switchover.
Tuesday 19th January 7.00 till 8.30pm

Junior Activity Club

A term time opportunity for 8 to 13 year olds to have some fun and get creative. Skilled and experienced workers from the Play Forum run this group with crafts, games and computer activities. There are also occasional outings.

The group will also be supporting the youth rep to the Preanes Green Residents' Association Management Committee. Every Wednesday evening during term time. 5.30 till 7.00pm.

Other News and Events

ladder4learning have produced a briefing paper on online/distance learning. Access it here <http://www.ladder4learning.org.uk/resources/learning>.

They can also help you find a variety of courses to suit your specific training needs.

ladder4learning Project, Unit 2, Challeymead Business Park,
Bradford Rd, Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 8BU

Telephone: 01225 792505 (10am – 3pm, Mon - Fri. Outside these hours, please leave a message).

E-mail: ladder4learning@learningcurve.org.uk

Website: www.ladder4learning.org.uk

Autumn 2009 Charity Commission News is available now. Just click here <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/tcc/newslist.asp>.

Faith in Good Governance is the title of a new guide produced by the Charity Commission aimed at faith-based charities. You can look at it here <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/tcc/faithgov.asp>.

Matching media professionals to charities

A new web site aims to match media professionals that are willing to help charities produce creative projects with appropriate

organisations. Services may either be provided for no charge or at preferential rates. www.frogspawncreatives.com.

Third Sector Survey - detailed results published

The detailed analysis of last year's National Survey of Third Sector Organisations (NSTSO), conducted by Ipsos MORI on behalf of the Office of the Third Sector, is now available on the NSTSO website. www.nstso.com/analysis.

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

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.

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

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