

VANS In-Step Newsletter–Dec 2009–17th Edition

Seasons Greetings to everyone. Please note that the VANS office will be closed from 5pm on Wednesday 23rd December and will reopen on the 4th January.

Local News and Events

Your North Somerset returns once again in the New Year as a celebration of diversity in the district. As well as information from a wide variety of different agencies, there will also be global entertainment and the opportunity to sample cuisine from around the world.

The event takes place between noon and 4pm on Sunday 24th January at the Winter Gardens. Further information is available from equality@n-somerset.gov.uk or 01934 634 832.

VIA Group celebrate this New Year's Eve with a party at their café between 8pm and 1am. Hot food and music. More details here Tel: 01934 417060 Office Mobile: 07742 442 555

Website www.viagroup.org.uk.

The annual Good Neighbour Awards is a scheme for organisations and projects in the North Somerset area that actively contribute to their local community. A total of £1,100 prize money is up for grabs. Any North Somerset scheme which assists its local community is eligible to enter, just call 07801 649045 or visit www.missmillies.co.uk for details. Closing date is February 28th but don't wait until then, do it now!

The Comprehensive Area Assessment One Place website is now available. This is a new website that provides independent information on local issues in England. The site includes assessments of each area, of different local public services and a wide range of information on how these public services are performing.

<http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk/Pages/default.aspx>.

Westonworks is the One Stop Skills and Job Shop at St Andrews Parade in Weston super Mare. They give information and advice to help adults make choices about learning and work - training courses, volunteering opportunities, self-employment advice, work experience, employment and progression in employment.

westonworks
6a St Andrew's Parade
Weston super Mare
BS23 3SS

Telephone: 01934 426260
Email: advice@westonworks.org.uk

They are open 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday.

EY 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

South West Regional Event 10.00 to 4.00 on Thursday 25th February 2010 at the Winter Gardens, Weston Super Mare, North Somerset.

The event will seek to highlight the key themes of the European Year:

- Child poverty
- Working Age poverty and social exclusion
- Severe multiple deprivation and those who are most at risk of social exclusion
- Older people, poverty and social exclusion

The event is for:

- People from organisations currently engaged in anti poverty work
- People experiencing poverty
- Policy makers in national regional and local organisations
- Representatives of organisations not yet involved but with the potential to combat poverty

For further and booking information contact South West Forum 01392 823758 or www.southwestforum.org.uk.

Implementing Effective Governance and Leadership is the title of an ACEVO course being held in Bristol on the 28th January. Further details here <http://www.acevo.org.uk/Page.aspx?pid=1300>.

Rise, the voice for SW Social Enterprise are running a series of informal one to one advice clinics for social enterprises. Events are taking place across the region but the closest one to North Somerset is on the 10th March in Taunton. More details here http://www.rise-sw.co.uk/wrap.php?file=upcoming_events.htm.

Other News and Events

Web and ICT Accessibility

ICT accessibility is a way of considering best practice for a wide range of users of computers, websites and associated technology. Whether it is for your staff, volunteers or clients, ICT can be made to work in ways that improve the quality of your organisation's work and extend what it can achieve.

Accessibility is the use of assistive technologies and adjustments to hardware and software that make it easier for people with a range of abilities and disabilities to participate as staff, volunteers or clients. This is not a one-size-fits-all sort of problem. Different needs require different solutions and not all solutions work for every person. Ladder4learning have produced a briefing sheet on this area which can be found here <http://tinyurl.com/yc9jayu>.

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

New partnership provides support for Trustees

The Nationwide Foundation has formed a partnership with Charity Trustee Networks (CTN) to provide governance support to the Boards of major grant recipients of the Nationwide Foundation. CTN will provide support, peer networking opportunities, monthly e-newsletters

and online information resources. More information about the Nationwide Foundation can be found at www.nationwidefoundation.org.uk.

Health in the Noughties and beyond.....

The Noughties, as this decade has been called, has been a great one for Public Health. The setting up of NHS Stop Smoking Services and the ban on smoking in Public Places have already reduced the numbers of people who smoke and the numbers being admitted to hospital or dying with heart attacks.

In North Somerset over the decade more than 10,000 people have successfully quit smoking using the Stop Smoking Service which is provided in all GP practices and most pharmacies. However there are still around 33,000 people in the area whose health is at risk because of this addictive habit. Research tells us that over 70% of them (more than 23,000) want to quit. So if you are still smoking why not make a resolution to become a non-smoker in 2010.

There has never been a better time to stop smoking as there is loads of support out there. As well as the individual support provided by your GP or pharmacist there is a group starting at the For All Healthy Living centre on January 5th 6.30pm-7.45pm that will run for 6 weeks. The last group there had an 80% success rate. There is a drop in at Tesco's café in Weston on Wednesday evenings from 6.30-7.45pm and a new one starting at the Working Men's Club, Orchard Street, Weston-super-Mare, from 11am-1pm from the 16th January

For more information contact NHS North Somerset stop smoking service: 01275 546 744 sts@nsomerset-pct.nhs.uk

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

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