

VANS In-Step Newsletter–Jan 2009–6th Edition

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

In-Step is a two year programme of activities designed to support the voluntary and community sector in North Somerset. It aims to provide groups with a forum to share ideas as well as take advantage of specific training opportunities. Please feel free to pass the information on to your colleagues or networks.

Are you looking to publicise your group, or perhaps a particular event? Maybe we can help put together a press release and get you some additional exposure. Let us know as we would be glad to help.

This month the newsletter focuses on the Notable Club. You can learn more about them later in the newsletter. If you would like to see your group featured, just let me know.

As well as this ebulletin, we also publish regular communication on three other subjects: funding, children and young people, and health and wellbeing. Please let us know if you would like to be added to any of these distribution lists.

VANS News and Events

In-Step Training

Training dates for your diary.

Friday February 27th - Understanding Financial Reporting

Monday March 9th – Leadership & Team Building

Monday March 30th – Train the Trainer

Thursday 23rd April – Volunteer Management

All events at The Badger Centre, Wadham Street, Weston-s-Mare between 9-30am and 4pm with a flat charge of £10 for members of the voluntary and community sector.

If you would like your group, or a part of its membership to take part in the training, or you would like just to have an introductory chat, then please contact Justin Parsons on 01934 410196, 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 Meetings

Thursday 12th March – Guest Speaker, Neighbourhood Inspector Steve Date, Avon and Somerset Constabulary.
2.00-4.00pm – The Badger Centre.

Friday 22nd May – Guest Speaker, John Penrose, M.P. for Weston-s-Mare. 2.00-3.30pm – Venue TBC.

There is no charge for coming to these meetings, but we **do like to have an idea of numbers as** this helps with choosing a venue and a room within it. If you would like to come to either of the above, or if you have a question (or suggestion for a future meeting theme) please get in touch.

Health & Wellbeing Forum

Like to know about what you're eating? What goes into the mass production of our food? How could that impact on health? Hear direct from the producer.

Local farmer Mike Amos will speak at the next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Forum. Wednesday 4th February between 10am and Noon at Clevedon Community Centre, Sunhill Park, 2 Princes Road, Clevedon.

Further information on 01934 410192 or email georgie.bigg@vansmail.org.uk.

Voluntary Sector Forum

The newly established Voluntary Sector Forum North Somerset held its first meeting on 15th January. This was a successful event which enabled groups to have their say about issues and priorities and which explored Councillors' thoughts on voluntary sector issues.

You can find more details about this event in a separate attachment to this ebulletin.

Other News and Events

The Notable Club are a local charity run for physically disabled adults up to the age of 60. The group aims to provide a range of activities for its membership to enjoy such as day trips, pub lunches and guest speakers. The group meet every Thursday between 11am and 2pm at Uphill Scout Hut, Windwhistle Lane, Weston. Those interested in finding out more are invited to contact the Club Secretary, Dina Parker on 01934 625994.

Stepping Stones Support Group to launch. Stepping Stones is a support group to help bereaved parents cope with the loss of a child. The first meetings will be held on February 8th, 15th and 22nd between 2pm and 4pm at Crossroads Carers Centre, 1 Graham road, Weston-s-Mare. For further information, please contact Mel Burton on 01934 429865, 07742 239043, or email melburton@live.com.

North Somerset Black and Minority Ethnic Forum have started a Drop-In Centre. This will take place every Tuesday at the Badger Centre.

Schedule as follows:

9-30am-11-30am- Information & advice coffee morning

Noon-2pm- BME over 50s meeting

2-30pm-4-30pm- Relax & meet families and friends

For more information please phone 01934 414455.

Charitable Incorporated Organisations – The latest news on progress here from Third Sector.

<http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/Channels/Governance/login/833319>.

Governance Pages provide a great service free of charge. They are looking for a little help by way of completing one of the World's shortest surveys. Give them a helping click.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=zO5DdS5ZzG8nZ0y1iBqxEG_3d_3d.

Charities Evaluation Service have announced details of their new opening training programme. Find out all you need about monitoring and evaluation here

<http://www.ces-vol.org.uk/index.cfm?pg=36>.

YouTube announce a not for profit channel for voluntary and community organisations to take advantage of their service. This is worth checking out. <http://uk.youtube.com/nonprofits>.

ICT Specialist looking for work in the third sector, or organisation looking for such a specialist? You can search or post listings on the ICT Hub. http://www.ictHub.org.uk/Jobs_Board.

New Government programmes to boost social mobility plan to utilise the voluntary and community sector. Long link.

<http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/News/DailyBulletin/873263/Sector-play-key-role-Governments-plans-boost-social-mobility/CDEFF25A79D0B872A202928FBFE6FE20/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>.

New guidance for consulting with third sector has been issued by the Cabinet Office. It is designed to help public servants open up consultation with third sector workers on the ground. Find out more here

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/081126_consultation.aspx.

The NCVO have called for £100m investment from government to aid voluntary and community organisations in the UK survive the economic downturn.

<http://www.cafonline.org/default.aspx?page=16962>.



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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