

## **VANS In-Step Newsletter–March 2009–8<sup>th</sup> Edition**

Welcome to the eighth 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.

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**

Thanks to all the delegates who have participated in our first group of training sessions: Management Committee Skills, Understanding Finance, Leadership & Team Building and Training Skills. The courses were not only well attended, but the commitment and passion shown by the participants was truly inspirational.

I would also like to thank the trainers, Georgie Bigg and Anne Tew for producing sessions that were so well-received and such fun to be a part of.

Our last session, Volunteer Management, takes in April, but further sessions will resume later in the year. Watch this space, or better

still, let me know what training needs you would like to see addressed in the autumn.

Call Justin Parsons on 01934 410196, 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.

## **Stop Press Training Event Working with Outcomes**

VANS, in association with the Care Forum and Capacity Builders, are holding a day's training on working with outcomes. For most benefit we suggest attendance by both a worker and a trustee of an organisation.

This one-day training course for voluntary and community groups will cover:

- Understanding outcomes and how they relate to aims, activities, outputs, indicators

- How to use outcomes in your own organisation

- Outcomes monitoring

For booking and further information contact Donna Cleeve at VANS on 01934 410192 or [info@vansmail.org.uk](mailto:info@vansmail.org.uk).

(This event has been funded by the ChangeUp programme and delivered through West of England ChangeUp Consortium member organisations)

## **In-Step Network Meeting**

### **IMPORTANT CHANGE OF DATE**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Guest Speaker, John Penrose, M.P. for Weston-s-Mare. 2.00-3-30pm – Venue The Badger Centre.

Spaces are limited and we are very keen to get an indication of numbers as soon as possible. Let me know if you are planning on attending.

## **In-Step Outreach Events**

Voluntary Action have hit 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.

April 21<sup>st</sup> – Banwell Children’s Centre

April 29<sup>th</sup> – Church House, Nailsea Town Council

**Voluntary Sector Forum** held its first meeting on 15th January and the full report is now available on the VANS website. It was an interesting day and several issues and priorities were identified.

The Forum is being established to provide a framework for communication between the voluntary and statutory sectors, and as a way of developing communication between voluntary and community groups.

The next meeting will be in May, and will include a 'Kit Yourself Out' session where a wide range of information will be available to help groups operate effectively. In addition to this there will be additional themed tables around Risk Management, Sustainability and I.T.

Then in November we are planning a Funders Fayre along the

lines of the very successful one we held a couple of years ago.

If your group would like to join the Forum, please contact [info@vansmail.org.uk](mailto:info@vansmail.org.uk).

## Local News and Events

**“Managing in Tough Times”** is the title of two workshops being delivered by Social Enterprise Works. They are deigned to help senior managers and board members of Third Sector organisations and development workers supporting Third Sector organisations.

Four dates available (April 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>). For further and booking information please visit <http://www.socialenterpriseworks.org/events-and-training/managing-in-tough-times-watch-out-for-training-dates>.

**The Make a Difference Campaign Roadshow** is one of a series of regional events organised by the NCVO. The event will offer the opportunity to meet others involved in campaigning, take place in workshops specific to the needs of the region. Our regional event takes place in Taunton on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May between 9am and 4-30pm. Further and booking information available here <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/campaigningeffectiveness/events/index.asp?id=11026>.

**Real help For Communities: Regional Roadshows.** The Office of the Third Sector are holding regional roadshows for small and medium sized frontline organisations. The aim is to provide a practical guide on how to access the support available from the £42.5 million action plan provided by government. The South West event takes place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May at the Ramada Hotel, Bristol between 9-30am and 4pm. [http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third\\_sector/news/news\\_stories/090330\\_roadshows.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/090330_roadshows.aspx).

**Barclays Bank's Local Charity Group** are looking for their annual challenge. Their volunteers will provide the labour and materials for a worthy local good cause. Those interested are invited to contact Jenny Trapnell, Business Manager on 01934 434016.

## National News and Events

**Maximising Potential Through ICT** is a free conference organised by the NCVO and Microsoft. There is a wide choice of workshops to pick from, including effective websites and delivering an e-campaign. This all day event is on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May and is in London. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/events/latest/?id=13164>.

**Leading Your Charity Through a Recession** is a special full day conference designed for trustees, Chief Executives, Finance Directors and senior colleagues. The agenda will cover managing finances, raising funds, seizing opportunities and leading change through the downturn.

It is an all day event and it is in London on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May <http://www.actionplanning.co.uk/events/leadingcharities.html>.

**Recession Support** is the name of a new website from ACEVO offering practical help and advice on surviving the recession. Check it out here <http://www.recessionsupport.org.uk/main>.

**Power to promote wellbeing of the area: Statutory Guidance for Local Councils** has been published by Communities & Local Government. You can download or order a copy here <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/powertopromote>.

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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