

## VANS In-Step Newsletter–April 2009–9<sup>th</sup> Edition

Welcome to the ninth 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

Our next training sessions will take place in the autumn, but we are always keen to hear your suggestions for potential subjects. Just let us know and if we can generate enough interest, we can run the session.

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.

## **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 us 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 29<sup>th</sup> – Church House, Nailsea Town Council

May 13<sup>th</sup> – Worle Community Association, Lawrence Road

May 14<sup>th</sup> – Clevedon Community Association, Princes Road

May 18<sup>th</sup> – For All Healthy Living Centre, South Ward, Weston

**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

**Skills for Solutions** is the title of a conference for regional and community sector workforce development. It takes place on the 30<sup>th</sup> April at SCAT in Taunton from 9-30pm until 2pm. For more info contact South West Forum on 01392 823758 or [debra@southwestforum.org.uk](mailto:debra@southwestforum.org.uk).

**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).

**The Carlton Centre's summer class schedule** has been announced. There is a fantastic choice available, ranging from basic computer skills to wood recycling. For full details visit <http://www.carltoncentre.co.uk> or phone 01934 643323.

**Lifeskills – Learning for Living need volunteers.** Lifeskills is an interactive safety education centre, based at The CREATE Centre in Hotwells, Bristol.

As a registered charity they are always looking out for new volunteers to help run their children's sessions.

If you like working with children and have one or two days to spare each month, please contact them on 0117 9224511, or visit their website at [www.lifeskills-bristol.org.uk](http://www.lifeskills-bristol.org.uk).

**Vision North Somerset** are holding a Charity Golf Tournament on May 15<sup>th</sup> at Worlebury Golf Club. For further details contact Sue Potepa on 01934 419393 or [sue.potepa@wabp.org.uk](mailto:sue.potepa@wabp.org.uk).

**Community Sports Leader Award** training commences Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Campus, Weston-s-Mare. For further details on how you can get involved and obtain a nationally recognised level 2 qualification to lead people aged 16+ in sporting activity phone North Somerset Council's Community Involvement team on 01275 812057 or [sport@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:sport@n-somerset.gov.uk).

## National News and Events

**The Chancellor's Budget** contained details of support for the Third Sector. Find out the detail here [http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third\\_sector/news/news\\_stories/090422\\_budget.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/090422_budget.aspx).

**The Women's Resource Centre** support women's organisations to be more effective and sustainable. As well as providing training, resource and support, it also lobbies and campaigns on key issues for the sector. You can learn more about their work here <http://www.wrc.org.uk>.

**Charity Trustee Networks (CTN) and the Directory of Social Change (DSC)** are organising a conference for trustees and the people who work alongside them. As well as networking opportunities there are also a selection of practical workshops to choose from including ones related to insurance, trustee retention and communication. The all day event takes place May 14<sup>th</sup>. Further and booking information here <http://www.trusteenet.org.uk/events/practical-trusteeship-conference>.

**The LSC's Train to Gain** scheme can provide Leadership & Management funding for charities. It talks about businesses but charities are included. You can learn more here [http://www.traintogain.gov.uk/Helping\\_Your\\_Business/extrasupport/More+support+for+small+and+medium+sized+businesses.htm](http://www.traintogain.gov.uk/Helping_Your_Business/extrasupport/More+support+for+small+and+medium+sized+businesses.htm) or you can contact a specialist advisor direct on 0845 604 7047 or [traintogain@bldc.co.uk](mailto:traintogain@bldc.co.uk). Give it a try, there is up to £1000 potentially available.

**The ACEVO CEO Summit** takes place on June 11<sup>th</sup> 2009 in London. You can check out the agenda for the day here [https://www.acevo.org.uk/index.cfm/display\\_page/professional\\_development/filter\\_orderon/title/filter\\_direction/asc/control\\_contenttype/event\\_list/display\\_open/events\\_1428](https://www.acevo.org.uk/index.cfm/display_page/professional_development/filter_orderon/title/filter_direction/asc/control_contenttype/event_list/display_open/events_1428).

**The DSC's Charity Fair 2009** takes place in Westminster over two days, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June. There is a choice of over 100 different workshops and "masterclasses." There is a dedicated website full of information <http://www.charityfair.org.uk>.

## Spotlight on I.T.

Some of you may know Chris Read, our ICT specialist. Chris recently attended a regional conference and we thought we would share some of his findings with you.

The event was organised using a free web based service, [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com). You can set up an event and manage on-line promotion and registration for attendees. To find out more visit the site and click on How it Works.

Another free service is <http://doodle.com>. You can use this to set up a meeting and invite people to choose dates they are available. The site also offers an on-line poll that can be used for any form of collective decision.

Finally <http://www.slideshare.net> is a place to share slideshows, by uploading them and emailing the link to people or putting the link on a website. You can search, view and download other contributors' work here too.

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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