

VANS In-Step Newsletter–Sept 2008–2nd Edition

Welcome to the second 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.

We hope that you will find the content of interest. There is a way that you can help achieve this. If you are looking to promote any of your own activities, news or events, then let us know, and we will do our best to include them.

We are in the process of developing a training programme and putting dates in the diary. Courses suggested so far include:

- Management committee skills
- Financial reporting/management
- Diversity awareness
- Communication skills
- I.T. skills
- Marketing & publicity
- Team building
- Leadership
- Sustainability
- Volunteer management

Feedback is always appreciated, so if you feel that there is something you may appreciate seeing added to the list, or if you want to declare an interest in attending any of the options listed above, then please let us know.

In-Step will also provide one to one support for groups looking for extra help. If we can help, we will. Pick up the phone, email us, or write if you prefer. All of our contact information is at the foot of this newsletter.

VANS News and Events

Voluntary Sector Forum for North Somerset will now be launched on 7th November 2008 immediately following our AGM at the Campus (see below VANS AGM)

The aim of the Voluntary Sector Forum will be to develop and strengthen the voluntary and community sector by enabling it to address the issues which affect it, create a cohesive voice and work together to achieve effective outcomes.

The event is scheduled from 10am to Noon, will feature guest speakers, a free lunch and a chance to both contribute and network. For further information contact Julie Parsons on 01934 410194 or email julie.parsons@vansmail.org.uk.

VANS AGM will take place on Friday 7th November 2008. It will take place between 9am and 2pm at the Campus, Weston-s-Mare.

The event will feature talks from James Foster, Strategic Development Manager for North Somerset Council and Tony Cherry, Chair of Pro-Help. The day will also include workshops courtesy of Cllr. Roz Willis and Phil Humphries from North Somerset Council and Alex Layard from North Somerset.

For further information contact VANS on 01934 410192.

In-Step Training

Management Committee Skills is the title of our first facilitated training session and it takes place on Tuesday 11th November at the Badger Centre in Weston. The event is scheduled from 9-30am to 3-30pm and includes lunch.

Further and booking information contact justin.parsons@vansmail.org.uk or phone 01934 410196.

Children's, Youth & Parenting Organisation Network hold their next meeting on Wednesday 15th October between 10am and Noon in the Weston Room of the Badger Centre. Guest Speaker will be Fiona Phur from The Regional Youth Work Unit at Learning

South West. (Help may be available to cover travelling expenses to this venue, if appropriate).

For more details and to confirm your place please call Julie Parsons on 01934 410104 or email julie.parsons@vansmail.org.uk

Other News and Events

Communities in Control – The Empowerment White Paper has been published by the Government. It sets out a vision of community involvement in the democratic process. You can find out more by looking at the whole (157 pages) paper here <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/communitiesincontrol>, or if a more condensed version suits your palate then have a look at Urban Forum's policy briefing <http://www.urbanforum.org.uk/new/index.html>.

Voluntary Action in the 21st Century outlines the Conservatives vision for the Third Sector. You can download a copy of it here <http://www.conservatives.com> by searching for the document by title. Once again, if brevity appeals, then NAVCA have provided a handy briefing paper <http://www.navca.org.uk/news/conservatives.htm>.

CSV Make a Difference Day takes place on Saturday 25th October. It's a chance to make a difference in your community by organising a project with friends, family, your workplace or place of worship. Just look around and find something you'd like to change, and CSV will help you do it. <http://www.csv.org.uk/campaigns/make+a+difference+day>.

Understanding marketing

Learn the fundamentals of marketing your services to frontline organisations. From identifying and segmenting your market to understanding which communications platform will deliver the best return for your organisation. Equip yourself with the tools to get your marketing plan underway.
Afternoon sessions (2 – 5pm)

Cost: £50

23 October, Bristol

See www.mediatrust.org/training-events or email secondtiertraining@mediatrust.org or ring 020 7217 3780.

Advising voluntary and community sector groups on funding issues

A three-day training course for funding advisers, run by Charities Information Bureau South & West. It is accredited at either level 2 or 3 with the Open College Network. Level 3 is for people who already give funding advice to groups. Level 2 is for people who signpost groups on to others for funding advice, and who are looking for an overview of the role.

18 – 19 November and 9 December, Bristol

Cost: £300 (third sector); £600 (statutory sector); £750 (organisations that charge for funding advice).

For more information and bookings, contact Bridie Nelson on 01380 729279 or bridie@cibwilts.org.uk or see www.cibsouthandwest.org.uk/training.php

Grassroots Grants Scheme has £130 million of government money to give away to smaller community groups with income below £20,000. You can learn more about the criteria for qualification by visiting here. Go and get it!
http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/080904_grassroots.aspx.

Futurebuilders Roadshows are taking place across the country specifically for CVSs, infrastructure organisations and local authority funding advice workers. The closest ones to North Somerset are Exeter (8th Oct) and Bristol (9th Oct). More info <http://www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk/content/Events/Roadshow.aspx>.

Charitable Incorporated Organisations – A consultation has been launched on this, the new legal form for charities. This consultation is being undertaken by the Charity Commission and the Office of the Third Sector. You can access the information you need including supporting documents here http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/Consultations/current_consultations/cio.aspx.

The Workforce Hub have published revised National Occupational Standards for the management of volunteers. Read all about it.

<http://www.ukworkforcehub.org.uk/DisplayPage.asp?pageid=12457>.

Charity Trustee Networks (CTN) supports trustees by bringing them together and ensuring their voice is heard. Trusteenet is CTN's free online community providing opportunities for networking and access to information. CTN's newsletter offers advice, case studies and tips on how to fulfil the trustee role most effectively. Trusteenet plus provides additional benefits including individual indemnity insurance cover. <http://www.trusteenet.org.uk>.

The British Institute of Human Rights is holding five free regional events during October/November to give the third sector the opportunity to explore the relevance of human rights to their work. The most local to us is in Taunton on 21st October. Further and booking information here <http://digbig.com/4xkta>.

The National Minimum Wage has been increased. There is lots of analysis online. Here's what the TUC had to say courtesy of the BBC. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/7640187.stm>.

Black South West Network are offering a day of Diversity Awareness Training on the 5th November. This session is aimed to help develop personal knowledge and skills as a development worker and help you to tackle inequality and discrimination in your own organisation, agency and the groups that you work with.

It is to be held at Barton Hill Settlement in Bristol and the cost is £30/£40/£50 depending on membership status with the Black South West Network. To find out more please contact: sado@bswn.org.uk or BSWN, 5 Russell Town Avenue, Redfield, Bristol, BS5 9LT.

The Second Ebdon Court Consultation Day takes place on October 14th between 12 noon and 6pm. Open to everyone, this concerns the redevelopment of Ebdon Court and the creation of a

new Dementia Care Centre. Further details available here
<http://demnewsnorthsomerset.blogspot.com>.

Goblin Coombe Environment Centre have a whole season of activities for everyone to take part in. Too many to list here, but do check out their website where you can learn all about what they have to offer <http://www.goblincombe.com>. Alternatively you are sure of a friendly reception on 01934 833723. They are currently seeking volunteers to help with administration. Give them a call.

North Somerset Good Neighbour Awards for this year has been won by Nailsea and District Community Transport, with the second prize going to the Notable Club. Congratulations to both of these organisations.



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:

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

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