

VANS In-Step Newsletter–Oct 2008–3rd Edition

Welcome to the third 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.

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 a talk from James Foster, Strategic Development Manager for North Somerset Council. 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.

Other News and Events

Recipes for Community Representation – What Ingredients Do You Need is an event organised by NAVCA and Urban Forum to help voluntary and community groups increase the effectiveness of community representation in their area.

It takes place on November 4th at the Albemarle Centre in Taunton. Email events@navca.org.uk or contact Laura James on 0114 278 36636.

Face to Face and Side by Side – a Framework for Partnership in our Multi-Faith Society is the title of an event held on the 10th November at Taunton Rugby Club. It takes place between 11am and 3pm and is open to all interested parties. Please contact Alistair Beattie on 0117 304 2298 or info@faithnetsouthwest.org.uk for what promises to be an interesting event.

Somerset Racial Equality Council hold their AGM at 7pm on the 12th November at Huish Episcopi School in Langport. For further and booking info, call Jenny on 01458 274200

The Care Forum also have their AGM & Annual Conference on the 12th November. It takes place between 2pm and 4-30pm at the Vassall Centre, Bristol. Contact Katharine Gonzales on 0117 958 9340 or email events@thecareforum.org.uk.

North Somerset Local Involvement Network (LINK) hold their first public meeting on Wednesday 12th November between 10am and Noon at the Badger Centre, Weston-s-Mare. For further information contact Melanie Hatcliff on 01934 876806 or contact@nsomerset.co.uk.

The NCVO Fundraising Conference 2008 is being held on Wednesday 19th November between 10am and 4pm at the NCVO office in London. Further and booking information here <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/events/latest?id=10580>.

Winscombe & Sandford Transition are holding an Energy & Waste Reduction Event on Saturday 22nd November at Winscombe Community Centre. Feel free to drop in any time between 10am and 4pm and have an opportunity to learn plenty of energy saving ideas for both home and business. To learn more about the Transition town movement in general, visit <http://www.transitiontowns.org>, and in Winscombe and Sandford specifically, contact lbo@transitionwinscombe.org.

North Somerset Black and Minority Ethnic Forum hold their 2nd Anniversary Celebration and AGM on Saturday 22nd November between Noon and 4pm at the Boulevard United reformed Church Hall, Weston-s-Mare. Further information can be sought from Quentin Isaac on 01934 414455 or quentin.isaac@srec.org.uk. The event features a wide range of cultural activities and displays as well as food!

South West Forum host their Annual Conference at the Connaught Hotel, Bournemouth on the 25th and 26th of November. To find out more, contact marilyne@southwestforum.org.uk or phone 01392 823758.

North Somerset Partnership have published the event report of their Annual Event. For further information, or a copy of the report, please contact Lorraine Bush on 01934 634888, or email lorraine.bush@n-somerset.gov.uk.

Compact Voice has launched a nationwide survey to explore the views of the sector on the future of the Compact. This is a unique opportunity to shape the future of the Compact and ensure that it is

as relevant and powerful as possible. Compact Voice urge everyone in the voluntary and community sector to respond.

For further information, you can download the information pack, *Framing the Debate* at www.compactvoice.org.uk. Please complete the [questionnaire](#) before 10 November 2008.

How Your Council Works – A Handy Guide for Community Groups is the title of a new publication available through Urban Forum. It is available for purchase, or free to download at www.urbanforum.org.uk/pubs. Two further publications are also available, The Handy Guide to Planning, and The LSP Guide. Worth having a look at.

Social Enterprise Day takes place on the 20th November. To find out more about this and about social enterprise in general visit www.rise-sw.co.uk.

Pill Resource Centre have now joined Weston-super-Mare Credit Union. Their services are available at the Centre every Tuesday between 9am and 10-30am. For more information contact Pauline on 01275 375670 or pillresource@yahoo.co.uk.

Charities Evaluation Services have produced a stimulating new report on monitoring and evaluation in the Third Sector. It suggests a need for a closer match between the accountability requirements demanded by funders and the developmental needs of the organisations providing the monitoring. You can see the report here <http://www.ces-vol.org.uk/index.cfm?pg=424>.



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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