

VANS In-Step Newsletter–Nov 2008–4th Edition

Welcome to the fourth 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

Voluntary Action North Somerset are currently looking to recruit a new Chief Executive. You can find full details including an application pack here www.vansweb.org.uk/2008/11/a-new-chief-exec-for-vans.

VANS would like to thank all those who attended their AGM and made the day such a success. The day's presentations and workshops are now available online. Access them here www.vansweb.org.uk/2008/11/annual-general-meeting-7-november-2008.

Voluntary Sector Forum for North Somerset was launched on 7th November 2008 immediately following our AGM at the Campus. Thanks to all attendees.

The aim of the Voluntary Sector Forum is 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 next meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 15th and will take place at Clevedon Community Association, Princes Road, Clevedon. It will be an all-day event, featuring workshops and lunch will be provided. Further information on 01934 410192 or email georgie.bigg@vansmail.org.uk.

In-Step Training

We are planning training to take place in the New Year. Potential topics include an all day session on Financial reporting and mini-sessions around Managing I.T. and the Data Protection Act. Please let us know if you are interested in attending. justin.parsons@vansmail.org.uk or phone 01934 410196.

Other News and Events

North Somerset Local Involvement Network (LINK) hold their next public meeting on Wednesday 3rd December between 3pm and 5pm at Partnership House, Worle Parkway. For further information contact Melanie Hatcliff on 01934 876806 or contact@nsomersetlink.co.uk.

North Somerset Enterprise Agency have secured funding from the Quartet Community Foundation through the Fair Share Trust for a dedicated Social Enterprise Advisor for the South and Central Wards of Weston-s-Mare. Abdullah Ali-Ahmadi has extensive experience in this field and can be contacted on 01934 418118, or via the website's handy contact form www.northsomersetenterpriseagency.co.uk.

Charities Evaluation Service have unveiled their 2009 National Performance Programme Training. These modules are designed for organisations who provide support to voluntary and community groups. Events take place all over the UK throughout the course of 2009. More details here www.performancemanagement.org.uk.

Skills and Knowledge for Local Development (SKILD) have announce their spring programme of learning for development workers. www.navca.org.uk/services/learningopps/skild/training.

Community Sector Coalition are looking for good examples of grassroots leadership from community organisations to contribute to their Leadership and Governance programme. They are looking for stories of local leadership, experience of leadership development as well as people who would be interested in joining a focus group. Don't be shy. Have a look and find out more here www.communitysectorcoalition.org.uk/projects/leadership-and-governance-programme.html.

Charity Trustee Networks have launched new guidance codes for trustees. These can be downloaded free of charge from the CTN website www.trusteenet.org.uk/resources/2099.

Government departments to make three year funding the norm is the message delivered jointly by the Cabinet Office, the Office of the Third Sector and the Treasury recently. Let's hope that this is a philosophy all funders are happy to embrace, More information can be found here www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/080903_funding.aspx.

South West Foundation are holding a free event *Gender on the Agenda*. It takes place on December 9th between 10am and 4pm at Creech St Michael Village Hall, near Taunton. They are keen to get as many women as possible to the event. To book, please visit www.the-foundation.org.uk/TRAINING.htm or call 01275 333666.

Amnesty International's Weston-s-Mare group are hosting a talk on "The Police Use of Firearms." This will take place on Wednesday 10th December at 7-30pm in Victoria Methodist Church Hall. All are welcome. For further information on this event, or to find out more about this local group, phone Robin on 01934 517425. To find out more about Amnesty and their work please visit www.amnesty.org.uk.



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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