

VANS In-Step Newsletter–Feb 2009–7th Edition

Welcome to the seventh 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.

This month the newsletter focuses on the Cycles 4 Communities. You can learn more about them later in the newsletter. If you would like to see your group featured, just let me know.

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

Training dates for your diary.

Monday March 9th – Leadership & Team Building

Monday March 30th – Train the Trainer

Thursday 23rd April – Volunteer Management

All events at The Badger Centre, Wadham Street, Weston-s-Mare between 9-30am and 4pm with a flat charge of £10 for members of the voluntary and community sector.

If you would like your group, or a part of its membership to take part in the training, or you would like just to have an introductory chat, then please contact Justin Parsons on 01934 410196, or by email 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 Meetings

Thursday 12th March – Guest Speaker, Neighbourhood Inspector Steve Date, Avon and Somerset Constabulary.
2.00-4.00pm – The Badger Centre.

Friday 22nd May – Guest Speaker, John Penrose, M.P. for Weston-s-Mare. 2.00-3.30pm – Venue The Badger Centre.

There is no charge for coming to these meetings, but we **do like to have an idea of numbers as** this helps with choosing a venue and a room within it. If you would like to come to either of the above, or if you have a question (or suggestion for a future meeting theme) please get in touch.

In-Step Outreach Events

Voluntary Action are hitting the road next month 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.

March 23rd – Preanes Green Resource Centre, Clovelly Road, Worle.

March 30th - Pill Resource Centre, Baltic Place, Pill.

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, probably in Winscombe and will include a 'Kit Yourself Out' session where a wide range of information will be available to help groups operate effectively. 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.

Other News and Events

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.

Services are outlined below:

Start up Social Enterprises:

Initial Consultation

Follow up meetings

Legal aspects of Social Enterprise

Forming Steering Committees and Management/Governing Boards

Business Planning

Organisational development.

Existing Social Enterprises

Advice on improving current systems/activities

Growth and development

Training on various aspects of managing a social enterprise:
Governance, Financial Skills, fundraising, Marketing etc.

The Women's Project and CSDAT are hosting a powerful drama "Lady in Red" which explores the dynamics of domestic abuse The play is free and will be performed at the Winter Gardens on Thursday 5th March at 2pm and then again at 7pm. It lasts for 45 minutes and is followed by a discussion.

For further and booking information please contact Louise Branch on 01275 888355.

Board Chair Leadership Questionnaire – Here is a chance for Chairs to participate in a comparative survey which will seek to analyse the differences between the role of the Chair in UK and US not for profit organisations. Check it out here http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=t_2fpc6goAmlKL_2ba3Zs9aswA_3d_3d.

Payments to committee members? Find out all you need to know on this topic and many more by clicking here and visiting Governance Pages

<http://www.governancepages.org.uk/faq/faq1.html#payments>.

Charities Aid Foundation have sent up a Financial Crisis Helpline. It is confidential and offers the chance to speak to an experienced manager. The number to call is 0800 980 2000, or you can learn more by clicking here

<http://www.cafonline.org/default.aspx?page=16919>.

New Chief Officer Induction is a NAVCA driven initiative to welcome new lead officers to their role and explain the services

available to them and their organisation from NAVCA. The event takes place on the 22nd of April in Stratford-on-Avon. To book visit the NAVCA site <http://www.navca.org.uk/events/ncoi.htm>.

New Chief Officers Network

Those of you reading this ebulletin in the Greater Bristol area may be interested to learn that Voscur (equivalent organisation to VANS in Bristol) are setting up a Chief Officers' Network. Contact Rebekah Hacker at Voscur on 0117 909 9949.

Vision North Somerset is the new name for Woodspring Association for Blind People. They organise some terrific fundraising evenings and next month is no exception. Darts fans have the opportunity to play against World Champion Bob Anderson. The event takes place at the Manor public house, Worle on the evening of March 14th at 8pm. For further details contact Sue Potepa on 01934 419393 or email sue.potepa@wabp.org.uk.

Cycles 4 Communities are a not for profit organisation based in Weston's South Ward. Not only do they repair bicycles at low prices, they also have a large selection of renovated bikes for sale. Prices start as low as £20. Contact Dave Norton on 07817 351061.



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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