

VANS In-Step Newsletter–Aug 2008–1st Edition

Welcome to the first 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 –*STOP PRESS SEE BELOW
- 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 be launched on Wednesday 1st October in the Weston Room at the Badger Centre, Wadham Street, Weston-s-Mare.

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, and will feature workshops and guest speakers. 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

Full Cost Recovery training is being offered by acevo and NAVCA. There are multiple dates but the most local to us is in Bristol and is on the 8th of October. This full day event costs £45 and you can find out more here http://www.acevo.org.uk/index.cfm/display_page/professional_development. Alternatively contact Hollie Montgomery on 020 7280 4933 or email hollie.montgomery@acevo.org.uk.

New Chief Executive for The Care Forum is announced. Rachel Robinson has been working for South Gloucestershire Council as both the Children's Fund Programme Manager and as part of the Integrated Working project. She starts work on Monday 22 September.

Green festival @ The Quarry takes place on Saturday 30th August. This is the Old Town Quarry in Weston-s-Mare and is a celebration of local foods and crafts with many environmental stalls, competitions (including a scarecrow challenge), an eco schools challenge, food and music. Telephone 01934 623000 for more details. Your hosts for the day, The Environmental Network of North Somerset (TENONS). Have a look at their website <http://www.tenons.org.uk>

Leonard Cheshire Disability “Discover I.T.” are having an open day on Tuesday 26th August between 10am and 3pm. The event takes place at 262 Milton Road, Weston-s-Mare. The centre has just been upgraded with 7 new computers and disability software thanks to a contribution from Barclays Bank and North Somerset Business Club. For further details, phone 01934 732358 or email keith.eccleston@lcdisability.org.

Train to Gain – New third sector employers’ guide

The Learning and Skills Council’s Train to Gain scheme is now open to employers in the third sector. The LSC have also produced a guide for employers in the sector who are interested in taking part.

Under the scheme, employees contact 'skills brokers', who will visit their organisations, at no cost, to provide impartial advice and help employers find training programmes that suit their staff. For more information go to <http://www.traintogain.gov.uk> or contact us here at Voluntary Action on 01934 410192.

Avon and Bristol Law Centre new All Strand Free Legal Advice Line Tel: 0117 916 7727 between 10.00am and 12.00 every TUESDAY starting on 22nd July. To find out more please use the link: <http://www.avonandbristolawcentre.org.uk/>

Free training in setting up a social enterprise is being offered by Business Link. Local venues are in Taunton (Sept 5th) and Bristol (Sept 9th). Places are limited so to book your place or for more details call 01752 500888 or email socialenterprise@businesslinksw.co.uk.

Black South West Network are recruiting for a Knowledge Manager and Policy Officer. A four year contract is offered and further details of this position can be obtained by phoning 0117 939 6648 or email karen@bswn.org.uk. Closing date is Friday August 29th.

“Powering up Communities” is Community Action’s autumn series of training events. There are 5 dedicated sessions on subjects such as governance, finance, project management, leadership and engagement. For further details phone 01275 393837 or email beverley@community-action.org.uk.

The Centre of Deaf Studies 30th Anniversary takes place on the 26th and 27th September with a conference and a community event. This is at the University of Bristol and further information including how to book can be found here <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/deaf/english/about/anniversary>.

“Building Healthy Relationships” was the title of an event held on the 9th July at SCAT in Taunton. The theme was how best to unlock the potential of social purpose organisations for better health and care in the South West. Conference organisers South West Forum have the day’s presentations available on their website. http://www.southwestforum.org.uk/index.php?content=nw_item&news_id=495.

Skills and Knowledge for Local Development (SKILD) offer training for development workers who are supporting voluntary and community groups. They have just announced details of their autumn learning programme and you can find all the details here <http://www.navca.org.uk/services/learningopps/skild>.

Working For A Charity's online course: Enrol now for the October 2008 course!

New starters in the voluntary sector can now enrol online for the 2008 NCVO Working For A Charity online course, which will give them an overview of working for a charity and a to boost their career.

The course, Effective Voluntary Sector Management, is aimed at people who have recently joined the voluntary sector or who are looking to make a career move into it.

Volunteers and trustees can also benefit from this course, which will run from October 2008 until June 2009. For more information and to enrol online, visit <http://www.wfac.org.uk/training/2-day-induction-course.html>.

Governance that works: Leadership that inspires

NCVO OnBoard Trustee Conference, 6 October 2008, London

The NCVO OnBoard Trustee Conference is the largest and most important annual event for board members, trustees, chief executives and those who support the development of boards.

A diverse team of speakers promise to provide an exciting, inspiring and thought-provoking day, as well as an opportunity to exchange ideas and network with other delegates facing similar challenges. For more information and to book a place please visit www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/trusteeconf08

The Directory of Social Change can usually be relied upon for a stimulating article. This one is about the “obsession with measuring things” in the voluntary sector. Worth a look. <http://www.dsc.org.uk/NewsandInformation/News/Proofisintheproduct>.

The Commission for the Compact are holding free regional seminars this autumn. The most local one for us takes place in Exeter on 23rd September. To book a free place

http://www.thecompact.org.uk/information/100024/101812/what_makes_a_successful_local_compact_seminar.

The Charity Commission's SORP 2005, the accounting standard for registered charities, has been published by the Commission including an update as of June 2008. Please visit here for more <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/investigations/sorp/sorp05docs.asp>.

The Capacity Builders six National Hubs are no more, but they have been replaced with nine National Support Service (NSS) workstreams. Here you can find resources to assist with the following areas of work:

- Campaigning
- Change
- Collaboration
- Communications
- Equality
- Governance
- Income
- Performance
- Volunteering

Find out in more detail here

<http://www.improvingsupport.org.uk/index.html>.



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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