

Children's, Youth & Parenting Organisations' Network Newsletter: June 2008

Welcome

Welcome to the fifth edition of this newsletter!

If you lead or help run a voluntary /community organisation in North Somerset that works with children, young people or their families, then read on.....



News

- **Common Assessment Framework (CAF)**

As you are probably aware the Common Assessment Framework is now being used in Weston and the surrounding area. From September, it will be in place throughout North Somerset.

Everyone working in services for children and young people aims for them to achieve their potential in the five areas defined in the documents 'Every Child Matters' and 'Youth Matters'. The CAF, together with the lead professional and better information sharing procedures, has an important contribution to make in helping more children achieve these five outcomes.

Children who are at risk of poor outcomes may need additional services. The CAF is a way of identifying the need for additional services and which services in North Somerset may be able to help the child, young person or their carers.

Free training about CAF & 'lead professional' is currently being offered; please contact me if you would like to take part.

- **Youth Matters**

North Somerset's Children's Trust Board is set to publish its new youth strategy over the summer. Watch this space for further details....

- **Parents as Partners**

Barnardo's has asked us to publicise the following:

Barnardo's TLC is running a new training course designed to support Early Years Foundation Stage standards, providing practical ideas to engage parents in your setting. This one day course is for all those working with children and families, particularly in Early Years settings and community groups, who wish to support parental involvement in their child's learning and development.

Bristol – 9th July 08 Cost: £45 + VAT for the one day training course including lunch and refreshments. For more information or to book your place, call Liz Bennett on 0117 937 5500 Email: tlcinfosouthwest@barnardos.org.uk

Publicising your Group

There are various ways that you might not have considered of letting your local community know about the great work you are doing in your group:

- *If you need more volunteers, why not contact VANS?*

We provide a free service matching volunteers to local groups.

- *Have you met your local Extended Schools Co-ordinator?*

Based in schools, they are looking to extend the range of opportunities that children, young people & their families can access in their local community and would like to work with the voluntary groups to help provide this. If your group would like to discuss this further, please contact either me or your local co-ordinator directly. (Details on our website <http://www.vansweb.org.uk/representation/childrens-youth-and-parenting-organisations-network/>)

- *Are you part of 'The Directory for Children, Young People & Families in North Somerset'?*

This is a web-based service that publicises details about many groups working with children & young people. For more information about this free service, click this link:

<http://www.n-somersetcsd.org.uk/>

Finding Funding

Funding for groups is scarce and opportunities for funding come and go quickly. So keep an eye on the Funding News section on our website where we post news about finding opportunities as soon as we get it, and check the Funding category for recent posts. You may also be able to apply for funding from these trusts who are working in our area all the time:

Quartet Community Foundation's Express Fund provides grants of up to £1000 for small, local voluntary and community organisations in disadvantaged areas of North Somerset.

The South West Foundation small grants fund is available in North Somerset, providing grants of up to £1000 for organisations working with people most in need in the market and coastal towns and rural areas of the South West.

Awards for All makes grants of between £500 and £5000 to not-for-profit groups with a constitution or a set of rules and a bank or building society account for projects where the money will be spent within 12 months.

For more information contact
or visit our website

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The logo for Voluntary Action North Somerset features the words "Voluntary Action" in a stylized, orange, handwritten-style font. Below this, the words "North Somerset" are written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.