



Grapevine

Issue 37

Spring 2008

THE NEWS-SHEET OF THE ESSEX COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY YOUTH SERVICES



Happy New Year! 2008

promises to be a very busy and interesting time for ECVYS members and the wider voluntary sector.

But before we get down to the business part - I would like to share with you some really exciting news that I heard just before Christmas..... **Bonnie Hill of Girl Guiding - North East** has been appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Essex. Congratulations (belated!) Bonnie and what a wonderful ambassador for our sector..... Not surprisingly our 'spotlight' for this edition of Grapevine features Bonnie.

ECVYS is working closely with The Schools, Children and Families Directorate of Essex County Council to look at funding for the voluntary sector. Whilst we do not yet have the dates I can let you know that they are hoping to hold **area seminars** to inform us of the process in **March** - please watch out for the dates.

The inaugural meetings of the five cluster groups of the '**ECVYS and The Children & Families Network**' have now taken place and the County Board are busy planning the second **Annual Conference** which will take place on **Thursday 20th March 2008**. The Conference will include update on information for - Workforce Development, Integrated Working, the Network...and much much more.... Make sure you have this important date in your diary - (as a bonus Hylands House in March is a truly wonderful setting...) and don't forget both the network and the conference is open to any voluntary sector organisation that works with children, young people and families. Please spread to word! (Dates of next cluster meetings and contact details are at the end of this article)

Champion within Essex County Council for "Every Disabled Child Matters"

At a recent meeting of the '*Future Needs Forum - Children, Young People & Families*' - *Castle Point Association of Voluntary Services*, I met Cllr Neville Watson who is very keen to promote his campaign regarding the above; below is an extract from his letter to me:

To introduce my self I am an Independent Councillor for Castle Point Council. I got involved with the Every Disabled Child Matters run by the National Children's Bureau in London and as I represent special needs, I was taken by it and set about finding out if both Essex County Council and Castle Point Council had signed this important Charter.

I lobbied the Council, and Councillors and it was put on the agenda at the Conservative group meeting who hold the majority in our Council their response was fantastic for these children, a Motion is going before Council soon.

To me it was so important because it gave these Children the rights and justice they deserved in a modern society it will give them a stake in life, it will make Councillors aware of there welfare in future decision making.

The word is spreading fast these Children are an important part of our future Economy, that if this is done correctly they will be able to take part in a fast global modern way of decision making, for to long they have been left behind. After all - all Children must have a stake in life to be a part and not made to feel different to others.

I will continue to get as much support and keep driving this Campaign forward it is so far the most rewarding thing I have done as a Councillor - this is what I call Council ling.

*Thank you for your time.
Best Regards*

*Neville Watson
Canvey Island Independent Councillor
Castle Point Council*

As you can read, Cllr Watson is very passionate about his campaign and I would urge any of you that can support/promote or get involved to further this extremely

important area of our sector to contact him and also to lobby your local councils to sign up to this agenda.

Cllr.nwatson@castlepoint.gov.uk

You will find a copy of the charter on the following page - this is for you to use as you see fit, maybe print off and display on your notice board or take with you to raise awareness.....or maybe both.

Brenda

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD

At the recent Essex Safeguarding Seminar, participants requested contact information for their local safeguarding group.

Chair	Area
Lynne Hooper	North East LSG (covers Colchester and Tendring) lynne.hooper@essexcc.gov.uk
Christine Wade	Mid Essex LSG (covers Chelmsford, Braintree and Maldon) Chrsi.wade@essexcc.gov.uk
Not yet confirmed	South Essex LSG (covers Basildon, Brentwood, Castlepoint & Rochford)
Fiona Littlefield	West Essex LSG (covers Harlow, Epping & Uttlesford) Fiona.littlefield@essexcc.gov.uk

Voluntary sector representation within the groups varies, with representatives tending to be there for their own organisation - we would therefore suggest if you need to contact the group for whatever reason, be it information or to attend, it is probably best to contact the chair.

disabled
Every Child Matters

Local Authority Charter

By [] (insert date here before 31 December 2009)
we will ensure that in our authority...

- We know how many disabled children live in our area and that all agencies in our area are planning services on the basis of this knowledge.
- There is a key worker service in our authority providing support to families who are accessing more than one specialist service.
- Our parent partnership service is sufficiently resourced to provide advice, information and support to parents of disabled children and young people who have been excluded from school.
- Parents and carers in our area are getting accurate and timely information and advice on the full range of services available to them and their families.
- All staff have received both disability equality training and training to ensure that they have core competencies to work with disabled children; relevant staff have received specialist training and other staff know how to contact them for information.
- Disabled children are involved in drawing up our Disability Equality Scheme and also in monitoring its effectiveness in eliminating discrimination.
- Our Children and Young People's Plan explains how we will provide specialist services and also make all universal services including extended schools and children's centres accessible to disabled children.
- Our Local Area Agreement includes targets for the level of service to be delivered to families with a disabled child.
- Disabled children and families are involved in the planning, commissioning and monitoring of services in our area, including both specialist and universal services.

Signed

Lead Member for Children's Services (or equivalent)
NAME OF LOCAL AUTHORITY HERE

Supported by:

**Children & Young
People Now**

contact a family
for families with disabled children

**Council for
Disabled
Children**

MENCAP
Understanding learning disability

**special
educational
consortium**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ECVYS and the Children & Families Network

Annual Conference

will take place at

Hylands House, Chelmsford

on March 20th 2008

9.00am Registration

The Conference will include update on information for – Workforce Development, Integrated Working, the Network...and much much more....
Further information and booking form will follow.



CLUSTER MEETINGS

Mid Essex Contact: Jane Youdale 01245 445444 countymanagerer@essexpsla.com	19 th March 2008	1 Broomfield Place 189 Main Road Chelmsford CM1 7QE	10.00am start
North East Contact: Dan Kessler 01206 579080 dankessler@btconnect.com	6 th March 2008	St Michael's Church Mile End Row Colchester CO4 5DY	9.30 for 10.00 start
South East Contact: Alice Smith 07999 534398 asmith@chelmsford.anglican.org	14 th March 2008	St David's Church Rayleigh Road East wood Leigh on sea SS0 5PP	10.45 start
West Essex Contact: Margaret Shanks 01371 878400 margaretcvs@btconnect.com	25 th March 2008	Uttlesford Voluntary and Community Centre 46 High Street Great Dunmow CM6 1AN	4-6.00pm
South West Contact: Jane Youdale 01245 445444 countymanagerer@essexpsla.com	19 th March 2008	tba	pm tba

SPOTLIGHT ON

Bonnie Hill

Lives in Wivenhoe and has done for 35 years. Toad Hall was the Village Workhouse and Bonnie believes at times it still feels like it is!

Married to Peter for thirty five years with two sons Alex and Christian (22 and 21 years of age). Alex is a trainee Quantity Surveyor, working for a company in Colchester who sponsor him for his degree course. Christian is currently living in Dijon, France and attending Burgundy University as part of his International Business with French degree.

Peter works for a Business Software Company based in London but travels worldwide as part of his demanding job.

Bonnie is involved with – Girlguiding – County Commissioner Essex North East – 36 years as an Adult Leader. She has responsibility for 1100 Adults and 5,800 young people but has a brilliant County Team that assists her in all aspects of the Guiding programme and challenges both at home and internationally. She is currently planning for Girlguiding's Centenary year in 2010 which is the next mega event in her guiding life.

Justice of the Peace since 1992 and has been Deputy Chairman of the Essex North East Bench 2005-2006. Assists with the Training of Magistrates on a fairly regular basis and

sits on the Bench Training and Development Committee. Sits in Colchester and Harwich Magistrates Courts and also sits on Appeals at Chelmsford Crown Court.

Citizens Advice Bureau, Tendring. Bonnie is a Trustee of the Bureau. Having initially volunteered to do admin work one day a week when she tried to step down due to increased responsibilities with her new role as County Commissioner she moved to the Trustee Board and continues her involvement.

Colchester & Tendring Community Trust. Bonnie is a Trustee of this wonderful Charitable Trust who raises money to enable the Trust to distribute grants to little known and normally unsupported organisations within the Colchester and Tendring areas.

Colchester Mayor's Charity. Bonnie is a member of the team that continues year on year to support the Deputy and current Mayor of Colchester in raising funds which will be distributed to identified local organisations and charities. The wonderful bonus of this role is that it is documented that she is a "Useful Person" within the minutes of the meeting rather than a representative of the benefiting charities who attend the meetings. She is hoping to use this title on her tombstone!!

Inner Wheel Club of Colchester Trinity. Bonnie is a current member and was Millennium President 1999\2000. This is the only organisation that Bonnie belongs to that she does not have a role and can sit back let everyone else make the decisions. She just loves it.

Her husband Peter has been Mayor of Wivenhoe during his time as a Wivenhoe Town Councillor and is currently the longest serving member having served the community for over twenty years. Bonnie has therefore been Mayoress of her local town three times.

In order to make way for her role as County Commissioner Bonnie had to step down from leading the St. Mary's Fundraising Team in the Autumn of 2006. It was a difficult decision after carrying out the role for 10 years (having initially agreed to do it for only 12 months) but she knew she couldn't carry on. Over £50,000 had been raised for the Church during this time.



AWARDS

Diana Anti-Bullying Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the award that recognises the work of young people, up to 18 years old, who have made an outstanding contribution to tackling bullying in their schools or communities. Award holders receive a certificate, signed by the Prime Minister, to recognise their achievement. The school or nominating organisation also receives a certificate, marking their involvement in the scheme. Award holders are invited to attend events organised by the Diana Award team including the Young Ambassadors Programme.

Deadline dates are: 7 March 2008 and 20 June 2008. Nomination forms can be downloaded from www.diana-award.org.uk/antibullyingaward.php

BRIEFING

Children's Plan for Local Councils

The IDeA has published a briefing on the Government's Children's Plan, specifically focused on the implications for local councils.

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=7757149>

URGENT CHILD PROTECTION CONCERN

It has come to our attention that Dyke House Residential Centre, Bromsberrow Heath near Ledbury, Herefordshire is still attracting youth groups to the premises.

The owner of the centre, Victor Steynor, is a registered sex offender, convicted in July 2007. It is strongly recommended that member organisations read the attached press link before making a decision to use this centre.

<http://archive.herefordtimes.com/2007/7/26/87137.html>

For further information please contact NCVYS Safeguarding Officer Chris Brewster chris@ncvys.org.uk

CONSULTATION

Seeking views from third sector

The DCSF is also seeking the views of third sector organisations (TSOs) who work with young people on how the Youth Sector Development Fund (YSDF) Managing Body (to be appointed through open competition – see note above) could best provide comprehensive packages of funding and support to help TSOs build their capacity and to sustain and grow their provision. The YSDF is being set up to take forward the Government's commitments within 'Aiming high for young people' to invest in developing the capacity and sustainability of third sector organisations who have developed effective approaches to working with young people.

If you would like to take part in this exercise, please register your interest by sending an email to YSD.Fund@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk putting 'consultation' in the subject box and including the name of your organisation and relevant contact details in the email. Similarly, please contact Joanne Wheeler, Capacity and Quality Team, DCSF on 0114 259 1023 for further details.

A number of important developments in local government

will affect the voluntary and community sector. Many of these come out of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, which received Royal Assent on 30 October 2007. Communities and Local Government has now put the statutory guidance on this Act out for consultation until 12 February. The guidance discusses how Local Strategic Partnerships should function, including the negotiation of Local Area Agreements and how the third sector should be involved. To download the consultation document visit <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/statutoryguidance> NCVO's website <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/policy/index.asp?id=7116>

DO YOUR BIT

Oil on troubled waters - Less than a third of waste oil from DIY motorists is recycled – the rest ends up polluting rivers. Waste oil from one oil change is enough to cover a 4 acre lake. So instead of pouring it down the drain, find your nearest oil recycling bank at

<http://www.oilbankline.org.uk/>

FUNDING

Funding for short breaks

Education and Care Services Ministers Andrew Adonis and Ivan Lewis have announced the start of a three-year transformation in short break services for disabled children. Twenty-one local areas will launch the first wave of a £370 million investment for local authorities that will extend to all of England from 2009. In addition, the Department of Health is also funding Primary Care Trusts to improve services for disabled children.

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0007

Media fund

Young People's Minister Beverley Hughes has announced an extension of £9 million for the Youth Media Fund over the next three years for creative youth-led projects including film making, designing computer games, and online and print news. Discussions are underway with Mediabox, who are delivering the youth media fund on behalf of the DCSF through 2006-8, on how to invest the £2 million funding for 2008/09. The remaining £7million of the new funding will be subject to a competitive tendering exercise to identify a managing agent for the latter two years.

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=340926&NewsAreaID=2>

The Wakeham Trust

The Wakeham Trust provides grants to help people rebuild their communities. They are particularly interested in neighbourhood projects, community arts projects, projects involving community service by young people, or projects set up by those who are socially excluded.

They favour small projects - often, but not always, start-ups. Grants are typically in the range of £75 - £750

for more information and to apply online visit www.wakehamtrust.org

The Big Green Challenge

Applications for the £1m Big Green Challenge are open until the end of February 2008, when NESTA and a panel of experts will whittle entries down, first to the 100 strongest and then the 10 best ideas. Finalists will be given a year to put their ideas into practice, with financial support and advice from NESTA. The group with the most imaginative – and proven – approach at the end of the competition will win the lion's share of the £1m. Those eligible to enter include groups already formed, such as a local branch of the Scouts or a PTA, new groups made up of those with a common interest, or those led by a not-for-profit organisation.

How will it be judged? In the 2nd year of the Challenge, short-listed finalists will have to achieve a measurable reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, involve the whole group or community and prove that their ideas can be expanded or copied in a different area or setting. To find out more write to UnLtd, the Foundation for Social Entrepreneurs, which is working with NESTA to help run the Challenge at: UnLtd, 123 Whitecross Street, Islington, London EC1Y 8JJ, Tel: 0845 850 1122
Website:

www.biggreenchallenge.org.uk

Lottery E-Bulletins

Visit

<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/region-update-nw> and sign up for regular E-Bulletins.

Guidelines Change for Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

The Foundation is now taking a new approach to grant-making. It will be an open, less prescriptive way of working, through which they will listen to your ideas. They hope to fund a wider range of work than before. Alongside the new approach, they will run a small number of more focused funding strands. The new guidelines are now available, visit www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk

Community Based Heritage Projects

Your Heritage provide grants of between £5,000 and £50,000 to support community-focused heritage projects. To qualify for a grant, projects should conserve and enhance the UK's diverse heritage or encourage communities to identify, look after and celebrate their heritage or both.

Projects should also ensure that everyone can learn about, have access to, and enjoy their heritage. These can include caring for the natural landscape, conserving historic buildings, places and objects, involving people in exploring local cultures, traditions, languages and ways of life. Applications can be made at any time. For more information visit www.hlf.org.uk/English/HowToApply/OurGrantGivingProgrammes/YourHeritage/default.htm

Comic Relief

Comic Relief operate a number of grant schemes through its Red Nose Days funding programme.

The next application deadline for grants over £5,000 is 29 February 2008.

Grants are available through six programme areas -

- Young people
- Older People
- Mental Health
- Refugees & Asylum Seekers
- Domestic Violence
- Disadvantaged Communities

The grants programme is open to registered charities and constituted community and voluntary groups and grants are made for between one and three years.

Although there is no maximum grant size Comic Relief is likely to make grants between £15,000 and £40,000 per year.

For more information, visit www.comicrelief.com/apply-for-a-grant/uk

Young Roots

Young Roots offers grants of between £5,000 and £25,000. The scheme aims to involve 13-20 year olds (up to 25 for those with special needs) in finding out about their heritage, developing skills, building confidence and promoting community involvement.

Projects need to be related to the local and culturally varied heritage of the UK. Projects must also show how young people are managing and participating in the project. Projects should promote social inclusion and equal opportunities by involving a wide range of young people of different abilities and cultural backgrounds.

Applications may be made at any time. For more information visit the website

www.hlf.org.uk/English/HowToApply/OurGrantGivingProgrammes/YoungRoots

Please Note: The Young Roots programme is changing in 2008. You can apply using the current Young Roots application pack up to 30 June 2008. New Young Roots application materials and guidance will be available from 1 April 2008. You can apply using the new pack at any time from April 2008 onwards. We will start assessing applications under the new programme on 1 September 2008

VCashpoint

vcashpoint is giving away £1 million to 16-25 year olds in England who want to set up their own volunteering project in their community. If you've got a great idea read the vcashnotes and apply online (or on paper) for up to £2500 to help you turn your ideas into reality.

vcashpoint funds new projects that are led by young people and really make a difference to the community. Your project should create at least three new opportunities for young people to volunteer – so there's every opportunity to get your mates on board.

How about: running activities for children – transforming a community space – supporting victims of bullying – running workshops for young people – setting up a campaign – clearing up a beach – running music, art or sports events for disadvantaged people – organising a festival to bring different cultures or communities together... or something totally different. vcashpoint will fund new projects or ideas which aim to expand or develop projects which have been carried out once in the past, involving new young volunteers. vcashpoint must be the only source of funding for the project.

For more details visit

www.vinspired.com/vbuzz/campaigns/175/

The Big Give

The site gives UK-registered charities the chance to attract funding for projects requiring between £100,000 and £10m.

The Big Give lets major donors search for projects in their fields of interest by donation amount, geographical location, charitable sector and type of beneficiary.

For more information visit:

www.thebiggive.org.uk

The Co-operative Foundation

The Co-operative Foundation is an independent charitable trust set up in 2000 and solely funded by The Co-operative Group – United Region. The Society has donated nearly £10 million which has been invested to generate income to support the Foundation's grant making programme, The Community Support Programme.

The Co-operative Foundation is keen to support community and voluntary sector activity through grants to local groups and organisations across its trading area. It is particularly interested in locally led and run groups which can demonstrate evidence of co-operative values and principles: self-help, equality, democracy, concern for the community. Deadline 7th March 2008 For more information visit the website www.co-operative.co.uk/en/foundation/

Reminder

This is still available – Youth Opportunity Fund

The YOF is for young people aged between 13 & 19 or up to 25 with special needs and can be used to fund activities, trips, equipment and projects that young people want to do or take part in. YOF funding applications must be young person led and completed by the young people with support from a group leader, youth worker or teacher etc.

More info:

www.essex.gov.uk/youthopportunityfund

GRANTS

Strengthening the Voluntary Sector Programme 2008 (UK)

The Baring Foundation, which is an independent charitable foundation and distributes just over £3 million in grants each year has announced that it's "Strengthening the Voluntary Sector" grants programme is likely to re-open for applications in March 2008. The programme is open to

registered charities or constituted not-for-profit organisations, provides grants to help organisations to maintain or increase their independence from government by supporting work to strengthen core systems, skills, structures and strategies. In 2008 the programme will focus on strengthening the independence of advice and advocacy organisations. Previously funded projects have included amongst others developing the capacity of small charities through skills development; developing IT support systems within smaller charities and to develop partnership working across the sector, etc....

For full details see:

www.baringfoundation.org.uk

INFORMATION

Mental health needs

The Audit Commission has found that schools are increasingly happy with the support and services they receive from their council and its partners but, that more must be done to help vulnerable children and young people. However, as in 2006, the most negatively rated area concerned the ability of local services to meet children and young people's mental health needs.

<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/reports/PRESS-RELEASE.asp?CategoryID=PRESS-CENTRE&ProdID=CD57F3DE-B518-48f2-B03F-0E1024D0CA4D>

Ten Year Youth Strategy and Children's Plan

In response to the 'Aiming High for Young People', the Government's ten year strategy for positive activities published in July 2007, NCVYS has prepared a response based on several consultation events and meetings with members. The response has been submitted to Anne Weinstock, Head of the new Youth Task Force and is available in PDF format on the NCVYS site.

http://www.ncvys.org.uk/blogs.php?act=view_topic&id=41&PHPSESSID=981faf12198beb659b8c8fe0ce1b5491

Pay claim

The Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) has reached agreement on the 2007 pay claim for Youth and Community Workers. The overall percentage increase for pay and London and fringe allowances is 2.475%. Full details will be issued via a Joint Education Services Circular.

<http://www.lge.gov.uk/lge/core/page.do?pageId=85883>

Capacitybuilders' remaining partners

Following further analysis, Capacitybuilders have now announced the two remaining lead partners for the nine National Support Service workstreams: bassac will be the lead for 'Collaboration', which will focus on support for smaller, neighbourhood organisations and NCVO has been awarded 'Responding to Social Change'.

http://www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/detail/Capacitybuilders_announce_remaining_lead_partners_to_develop_final_two_national_support_service_workstreams_Collaboration_and_Responding_to_Social_Change/99/73.aspx

Passport Rules

The Identity and Passport Service has announced young people aged 16 or 17 will be able to apply for a passport without parental consent. The measure brings passports in line with modern legal practice for 16 and 17 year olds.

Parental consent will still be needed where a court order requires it or the young person has a mental disability. The measures came into force on 10 December.

For more details visit

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/passport-rules-teens>

Local Performance Framework

Following the Children's Plan, Communities and Local Government has published a document –

'Delivering improved outcomes for children, young people and their families: The crucial role of the new local performance framework' – to explain what the new indicators will mean for local government and the activities that will support them to take forward the agenda.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/youngpeople>

A similar resource focusing on the third sector has also been published – 'The third sector: The crucial role of the new local performance framework':

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/thirdsector>

Retention of Personnel Records

The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD), has revised its fact sheet 'Retention of personnel and other related records', which gives a checklist of statutory and recommended retention periods for various classes of personnel documents. Details on the website:

www.cipd.co.uk/subjects/hrpract/psnlreocrd/retrecords.htm

PAPER

'Think Family'

The Cabinet Office and the Department for Children, Schools and Families have published a joint paper – 'Think Family: Improving the life chances of families at risk' – with an holistic approach to local services to support disadvantaged families by providing services to adults that take into account whole families rather than individuals. The approach, published by the Social Exclusion Task Force within the Cabinet Office, also commits £16 million for a programme of local pilots to be led by DCSF.

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social_exclusion_task_force/news/2008/080110_families.aspx

VACANCY -CHILDREN'S CENTRES

Post: Support Worker **Location:** Braintree NE District

Do you have good office skills and experience of supporting children and families then this could be the job for you.

We are looking for someone that can work on their own initiative and also as part of a team. Every day will be varied and you will be required on occasion to travel the country lanes of North and East Braintree so access to a car or driver is vital.

Office bases for this post are divided between Halstead and Earls Colne Children's Centres, but to support the Community Development Officers you will from time to time, possibly at short notice need to travel to the rural areas of Hedingham, Ridgewell, Belchamp St Paul and Steeple Bumpstead for which expenses will be paid.

Every day will be different you could be setting up a 'messy play' session, helping arrange a training course, staffing an information point in a Children's Centre setting, typing a report as well as being the first point of contact for families coming into the Centres.

If you have a sense of humour and endless patience and would like a varied full time job (35hrs a week) plus 30 days leave a year and a starting salary of £15,153 with an attractive benefits package then please apply.

All posts are subject to CRB disclosure. 4Children is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from under-represented groups.

Closing date: Friday 15th February 2008

Interviews to take place week commencing 25th February 2008
For an application form and further information:

Call the 24-hour recruitment line on 020 7522 6946, email HR@4Children.org.uk or apply online at www.4Children.org.uk For an informal chat about the post please phone Carole Ware on 07876 654881

RESOURCES

ACEVO and the Development Trusts Association (DTA), commissioned by the Finance Hub, have produced four briefings on being more effective in winning and delivering contracts. All are free to download in PDF format from www.acevo.org.uk/index.cfm/display_page/Sucessful_Procurement2

REPORT

Asylum seeker children

According to a new report published by Barnardos, an estimated 100,000 vulnerable children are condemned to a childhood of poverty, uncertainty and fear after being caught up in a UK asylum backlog that may not be cleared until 2011. The report 'Like Any Other Child?' looks at the poor living conditions and often desperate situations of asylum seeker children, calling on the Home Office to make a series of necessary changes. http://www.barnardos.org.uk/news_and_events/media_centre/press_releases.htm?ref=33812

RESEARCH

Bullying research

Research from the Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre at the Institute of Psychiatry, at King's College, suggests that there are strong genetic influences on being a victim, a bully, and being a bully-victim. The research examined a nationally-representative cohort of 2,116 twins aged 9-10 years to understand the genetic and environmental influences on bullying. The paper 'Genetic and environmental influences on victims, bullies and bully-victims in childhood' is published in the Jan issue of the Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry. <http://www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/news/?id=177>

REMINDER

Audit Commission

Just to remind you of the link for the report from the audit commission. <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/reports/NATIONAL-REPORT.asp?CategoryID=&ProdID=418C38AF-0D97-49dd-95D6-EE7E7BA43773>

SIMON BANKS WRITES.....

"Colleagues:

As part of my project I'm tasked to produce articles for CVS and ECVYS newsletters. I'm attaching one such about the voluntary sector contribution to the LAA. Very soon I will also produce something specifically on the emerging LAA2. Also, sharp-eyed people may notice I've omitted Castle Point and Harlow from this mailing. That's because I have enough information specific to those two areas to customise the article for them, and will be doing so very shortly."

A copy of Simon's article is attached to this newsletter

TRAINING

Training for BME and faith organisations

Funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families through the National Children's Bureau, VCS Engage is offering a training programme designed to support the engagement of BME and faith organisations in the Every Child Matters (ECM) agenda. The free training, geared towards strategic managers working in VCS BME and faith organisations, and infrastructure support organisations, will run in each of the nine regions from 29 January until 19 February. <http://www.vcsengage.org.uk/default.aspx?page=307>

Introduction to Islam & the Muslim Culture Course including Mosque visit (from Sue Magrath Course co-ordinator, Askaa Ltd)

Following the great success of our courses over the past few years (over 8000 people have now attended in the UK & Ireland), we are pleased to announce our course schedule for 2008.

Attached is course information for your perusal along with a booking form should you wish to take up this great opportunity! It would also be very much appreciated if you could circulate this information amongst your staff and colleagues

About the course

The course is specifically designed for Non-Muslim public sector professionals who work with Muslims from diverse communities.

It incorporates a visit to a local mosque and aims to provide participants with:

- A better understanding of basic beliefs & practices
- Information regarding the background to Muslims in Britain &
- Public Sector Development issues for Muslim Communities.

Sessions run throughout Yorkshire, London, Scotland, Midlands, Wales and the South East plus a range of other areas have all been an outstanding success. **Application form attached**

SURVEY

Children's Fund survey results

According to the joint survey by the National Council of Voluntary Child Care Organisations (NCVCCO) and Children and Young People Now magazine, 65 per cent of local authority Children's Fund managers say projects are unlikely to continue beyond March, when local authorities will take control of the multi-million pound Children's Fund. Also, 38 per cent of voluntary sector Children's Fund projects expect to deliver redundancy notices to staff before March.

<http://www.youthworknow.co.uk/news/ByDiscipline/Social-are/776993/Childrens-Fund-projects-face-axe/>

YOUTH VOLUNTEERING

Youth volunteering charity v has launched a campaign encouraging young people to take up volunteering opportunities that match their hobbies. The campaign aims to show whatever a young persons interests, there is a volunteering opportunity to suit them.

Further details are available at <http://www.vinspired.com/>

WEBSITES

The **NCPCC** and **CORE-INFO** have produced a range of useful leaflets which can be downloaded at www.nspcc.org.uk/inform and also from the CORE-INFO website www.core-info.cf.ac.uk

Film Street

This website is for young people to explore films and film making. This interactive website also provides practical advice for parents, teachers and film makers who watch or make films with young people. It enables access to brand new teacher resources that are mapped to the primary framework for literacy. Film Street aims to encourage children's participation and engagement with film culture. www.filmstreet.co.uk

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