



Grapevine

ISSUE 35

SUMMER 2007

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

Hi everyone and welcome to the spring/summer term edition of Grapevine.

As I write this the sun is streaming through the office window and it is a beautiful warm spring day. Let us hope this is a good sign for the summer to come.....

ECVYS is very busy at the moment putting finishing touches to our 'New **Young People's award** which will be presented at our **AGM on the 22nd May**. Look forward to seeing you all there and also to welcome some new faces.

On the **24th May** we are holding our first '**ECVYS 0 - 19 Voluntary Sector Network Conference**'. It will look at the way forward for our 0 - 19 network and also with information gained from you, inform our 0 - 19 workforce development strategy for the next three years.

We are also pleased to inform you that as EYPDAS's new training officer is now in post we have rescheduled the deferred '**ECVYS/EYPDAS Basic Drug**

and Alcohol Awareness Training for Voluntary Sector Trainers' to begin in September. (Please see below for details)

ECVYS & EYPDAS (Essex Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service) have come together to provide 'Basic Drug & Alcohol Awareness Training for Voluntary Sector Trainers'.

The aim is to have a nucleus of trainers within Essex, Southend and Thurrock who will be able to deliver/cascade this training throughout the voluntary sector. **This is the first of ECVYS's 'Transferable Training' initiative.**

The course will be delivered over three half-days on Saturdays and Trainers will need to commit to all three sessions.

**Saturday 15th September 2007
9.30 am to 1.00 pm
Saturday 29th September 2007
9.30 am to 1.00 pm
Saturday 24th November 2007
9.30 am to 1.00 pm**

Looking through one of the information bulletins I was very interested and pleased to read the following; **Young People as candidates** Young People from the age of 18 will for the first time be able to stand as candidates in the May local elections in England and Welsh Assembly. Young people are standing for election in Manchester, Stratford upon Avon, Waveney, Poole, Barrow, Southampton, Oldham, Lancaster, West Oxfordshire, Runnymede, Flyde, **Harlow**, and Bournemouth. Well done Harlow! Just think Essex could have one of the first Young People elected.

As I am sure most of you are aware from the 1st October last year our thirteen PCT's became five..... quite a few people still do not know the new areas so here they are below:

North East	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tendring ▪ Colchester
West Essex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Uttlesford ▪ Harlow ▪ Epping
Mid Essex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Braintree/Halstead ▪ Witham/Maldon ▪ Chelmsford
South East Essex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Castle Point ▪ Rochford ▪ Southend
South West Essex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basildon/Billericay ▪ Wickford/Brentwood ▪ Thurrock

We have also decided for your information to reproduce below a copy of the **Essex Commitment to Children, Young People, families and Communities**.

Hope you find it useful

Brenda

ESSEX COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Across Essex, children and young people, and their families and communities, will be able to actively take part in the design, development, delivery, governance and evaluation of services provided by organisations signed up to this commitment.

Children and young people, and their families and communities, have said the most important things to consider when involving them are:

- To be treated with **respect**; **listen** to what is said and value individuals;
- To provide **support** to help everyone take part in opportunities;
- To provide clear **information** about opportunities and the benefits for everyone involved;
- To make sure everyone has **access** to a range of opportunities appropriate to individual needs;
- To receive **feedback** so everyone is clear about what has happened as a result of individual/group input;
- **Work together** to provide the widest range and the best possible opportunities.

This commitment has been developed using a collection of work carried out with children, young people, their families and communities by a range of local organisations. This work specifically looked at what people expect from the services they use.

SPOTLIGHT ON ORGANISATIONS

MILLENNIUM VOLUNTEERS

My name is Toni Peers and I'd just like to introduce myself to you as the new Millennium Volunteer Project Coordinator for Colchester. Millennium Volunteers has now evolved into v, the new charity that aims to get as many young people (aged 16 - 25 years) into volunteering as possible. v will offer young people the opportunity of setting their own targets for the v certificate, as an MV coordinator I will also be able to offer other forms of accreditation, which is great for personal development and for college applications etc. Another bonus is that once a young person has signed up I can pay their travelling expenses to any volunteering projects they may be involved with. I will try to match young people to projects that they've expressed an interest in, set up one off opportunities, as well as awarding those young people who may already be volunteering - that is doing anything in their free time that benefits their community. I have a number of exciting projects lined up covering a number of different fields such as music, arts and gardening, which I would love to tell your young people about. I am generally in the office (based at Colchester Community Voluntary Services) on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays - 9 - 4.30pm please feel free to give me a call, or pop into the office if you have any queries about MV. Toni Peers

Colchester Millennium Volunteers Project
Coordinator Colchester Community
Voluntary Services Winsley's House High
Street Colchester CO1 1UG Tel: 01206
505327 Email: v@ccvs.org

YOUNG CARERS

This poem was sent to Brenda from Daniel North. It is a very moving poem and helps to highlight the needs of young carers.

Another day after school

Its just another day after school
Many things to do before homework
Clean the dishes, Hoover up
Empty the washing machine that is full.
Time to put on dinner
Change the dressing on Dads arm
There never seems enough time
As the meal lays under the beeping
smoke alarm.
Now Dad has a carer
I have reclaimed my youth
Being able to play tag or fly a kite
Or kick a football up on a roof.
Its another day after school
That my homework actually gets done
But I can also be there for my Dad
As a caring and loving son.
©Daniel North

FUNDING

THE GROCERS' CHARITY

The Grocers' Charity supports a range of projects across the UK, with a recent focus being placed on work with young people and people with disabilities. The Charity is also interested in medicine (not hospices), the arts, heritage,

religious causes (not for church fabric projects) and older people. The Trustees meet four times a year to consider applications and applications must be submitted at least a couple of months ahead of each meeting. The Charity can support both capital and revenue projects and grants range from between £1000 and £5000. For more information and application form, contact Anne Blanchard, Charity Administrator, The Grocers' Charity, Grocer's Hall, Princes Street, London EC2R 8AD.

Tel: 020 7606 3113

Email: anne@grocershall.co.uk

LOCATE A GRANTMAKER

GuideStar UK has introduced a search option that aims to help fundraisers locate grantmakers offering grants in their chosen area of activity. To find grantmakers you need to use the advanced search option to enter a relevant keyword and then tick the box marked 'grantmaker', this will bring up a list of relevant organisations. You can then refine your search further by using the cluster options on the left-hand side of the results.

www.guidestar.org.uk

ITS YOUR COMMUNITY AWARD SCHEME

The Conservation Foundation and O2 have launched a new award scheme - "It's Your Community" - to help provide funding for projects designed to improve local environments throughout Great Britain. Awards of up to £1000 are available to local groups and individuals for the hire of tools or equipment, and to purchase plants, paint, signs, materials etc. All types of

environmental projects such as: turning derelict land into an amenity park or wildlife area, tree planting, creating a wildlife pond, renovating neglected river and canal footpaths, providing water butts and recycling facilities in village halls - are welcome to apply, from anywhere in the country.

Everyone receiving an "It's Your Community" award will be invited to send 'before and after' pictures to The Conservation Foundation to show how their award has made a difference and qualify for a further "Well Done Award" to ensure the project's sustainability. Who can apply: Local amenity groups; Parish and village councils; Schools; Youth Clubs; Heritage groups; Environmental and conservation groups; Individuals - who can show that their project will benefit the local environment.

Application forms are available in O2 shops or by visiting The Conservation Foundation website on

www.conservationfoundation.co.uk/ActLocalAwards.php. For any problems

contact: Libby Symon: 0207 591 3111.

The Conservation Foundation, 1

Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR.

LLOYDS TSB FOUNDATION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charities across the UK are set to benefit from a £37 million cash boost. The Lloyds TSB Foundations, the grant-making arm of the high street bank, has received 1% of the Lloyds TSB Group's pre-tax profits in lieu of shareholder dividend, to distribute to local charities throughout the UK. Funds will be split between the four Foundations with England and Wales receiving £26.8m,

Scotland receiving £7.2m, Northern Ireland receiving £2m and the Channel Islands receiving £1.1m. The Foundation's Community programme has been relaunched as the Community Open programme to reflect the Foundation's core mission of supporting local charities that help disadvantaged people to play a fuller role in the community of their choice.

At a local and regional level the Foundation is now focusing on supporting under funded charities with an income of £1million or less for core and project funding of one to three years.

For more information and to download the new guidelines visit www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk/ or telephone 0870 411 1223

THE BRITISH RECORD INDUSTRY TRUST

The BRIT Trust was established in 1989 and is entirely funded by the music industry. Its mission is to give young people a chance to express their musical creativity regardless of race, class, sex or ability. Since its inception, over £8.8million has been donated by the BRIT Trust to various charities. Every single penny of profit from the BRIT Awards goes to the BRIT Trust. To date over £5.5million has been raised by the BRIT Awards alone.

If you require any further information to clarify whether you are eligible for funding email info@brittrust.co.uk

THE CLOTHWORKERS' FOUNDATION

The Clothworkers' Foundation funds one-off grants for capital costs for

charities with an annual income of under £10m to improve quality of life, particularly for people and communities facing disadvantage. It operates a Main Grants Programme and a separate Small Grants programme for grants up to £10,000 open to charities with a turnover of under £250,000. Priorities for both programmes include: Encouragement of Young People; Social Inclusion; Elderly; Disability; Visual Impairment. Decisions can take up to six months to make for the Main Grants Programme but only six weeks for the Small Grants programme. Applications can be made at any time.

For more information visit www.clothworkers.co.uk

VCASHPOINT

Vcashpoint is a new volunteering youth fund with £1million to distribute over 4 rounds. A kit called 'Outside the Box' is being distributed to help inspire fresh ideas for local projects. Young people, youth workers and facilitators can get information about the youth fund and the application process at www.wearev.com/vcashpoint/index.php

INFORMATION

COMMUNITY RE>PAINT

Community Re>Paint is a network of paint reuse schemes across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It collects leftover reusable paint from householders, and redistributes it to those who need paint but cannot afford it. Find out where your nearest scheme and drop-off point is by visiting www.communityrepaint.org.uk/

MINIMUM AGE

The Government have announced that the minimum age for purchasing tobacco is to rise from 16 to 18 years from the 1st October 2007. This follows a comprehensive consultation carried out during the summer.

SCAM

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) are warning of a 'phishing' email scam asking charities to provide banking details so that a tax repayment can be issued. HMRC Charities will never contact your charity or Community Amateur Sports Club by email for this type of information.

www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/scam.htm

REGISTER OF PUBLIC SPACES LICENSED FOR EVENTS

On 15th January 2007 the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) published a Register of Local Authority Licensed Public Spaces in England and Wales. The register lists those local authorities that have licensed their public spaces to enable a range of events to take place throughout the year. It details spaces licensed, the activities licensed, the days and times licensed and contact details for further information and permission to use the land. The idea is to make it easier to stage live performances and events in public spaces, particularly to help traveling performers locate venues. While event organisers won't need to apply for a new premises license or give a temporary event

notice themselves, they will still need to get the permission of the relevant local authority. Please note that not all local authorities have provided information yet. Visit

www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/Alcohol_entertainment/licensed_public_spaces2.htm

MAKING WEBSITES TALK

Browsaloud reads web pages aloud for people who find it difficult to read online. Reading large amounts of text on screen can be difficult for those with literacy and visual impairments.

Browesaloud works by installing software on to your PC. It is free to website users with the cost of the software being covered by the website owner. By subscribing to Browesaloud for your website, you will greatly increase the number of people who can access the content on your site.

For more information visit

www.browsealoud.com

BANKING WITH A CONSCIENCE

The Co-operative Bank's Community Directplus gives charities, community groups, voluntary organisations and social enterprises an ethical way to bank with no charges. You'll benefit from no charges, plus interest on credit balances of £2,000 or more. Plus, have the opportunity to apply for funding from their Customer Donation Fund. Switching is easy.

Go to:

www.cooperativebank.co.uk/communitydirectplus to download a brochure and application pack today.

RECOGNISING INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The 2007 Beacon Prize, for individuals who have made a significant charitable contribution, is open for nominations. There are six categories of Leadership, Community Builder, Creative Giving, New Initiatives, Family Philanthropy and Young Philanthropist plus additional regional prizes for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Closing date is 1st May. For information visit www.beaconfellowship.org.uk

DID YOU KNOW?

Greener Driving - Air conditioning increases emissions and decreases fuel economy by as much as a mile for every half gallon. Turn your AC off as soon as the temperature is comfortable or better still, use your air vents.

POSTAGE PRICE INCREASES

From 2nd April, Royal Mail price changes come into effect.

- First class letter becomes 34p for stamp and 32p for Meter.
- Second class letter becomes 24p for stamp and 22p for Meter

Full details are available by visiting www.royalmail.com/portal/rm/content1?catId=400147&mediaId=41500683

CO-OPERATIVE YOUNG FILM MAKERS FESTIVAL

The closing date is 30th June 2007 Co-operative Young Film Makers, is inviting anyone under 21 to submit films for screening at this year's festival. Around 100 films are selected for

screening, from about 400 entries each year, and played to packed audiences of film buffs. The festival is not competitive - all entries are judged to be of equal merit - but each film maker whose film is screened receives a screening certificate at the festival. If you are under 21 and have a story to tell or a message to get across, CO-operative Young Film makers are looking for all kinds of imaginative films and videos - documentaries, animations, pop videos, comedies, dramas or even commercials and title sequences. The only requirement is that they must be no longer than 6 minutes. To find out more about the festival, and about how to apply to have your film screened visit www.3bears.co.uk/festival/index.html

CHELMSFORD DIAL-A-RIDE

Self drive minibus hire for Community Groups

Minibuses up to 14 passenger seats available. Wheelchair accessible. Fully inclusive rates, comprehensively insured, breakdown cover and fuel

90p/mile

Driver training available.

For an information pack telephone: 01245 280732

COMMEMORATIVE MAGAZINE TO MARK BICENTENARY OF THE ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE ACT

The Government has published a commemorative magazine to mark the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade which can be viewed at www.direct.gov.uk/slavetrademagazine

The magazine aims to inform members of the public about the slave trade, those who fought for its abolition and the subsequent emancipation process as well as work taking place to tackle discrimination in Great Britain and forms of slavery still present in the world today. Copies are currently being distributed to museums, libraries and local community organisations. Copies may be ordered free of charge by phoning 0870 122 6236 and quoting product code 06REU04476.

VOLUNTEERS' WEEK

Volunteers' Week (1-7 June) is the UK's annual celebration of the work volunteers do. During the Week events are held across the country to recognize, reward and recruit volunteers. Volunteers' Week plays a huge part in raising the profile of the UK's 22 million volunteers and encourages others to get involved. Visit www.volunteersweek.org.uk/ for a range of tools and resources to help you celebrate Volunteers' Week and the contribution that your volunteers have made.

REVISING THE ESSEX COMPACT STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION MEETING

MORNING OF 25TH MAY 2007,
CHAPTER HOUSE, CHELMSFORD
For more information or to book a place contact Simon Banks on
Email: simon.banks@essexcc.gov.uk or
Tel: 01245 430478

BRIEFING

WESTMINSTER BRIEFING

A one day conference entitled "Transforming Public Services Through Third Sector Partnerships: Removing the Barriers" which will be hosted by the House Magazine on Wednesday 27th June 2007 in Westminster.

In recognition of the increasingly important role of charities, voluntary organisations, social enterprises and other third sector organisations in the delivery of public services, the Prime Minister announced the creation of a new Office of the Third Sector (OTS) in May 2006. A year on from its creation. The House Magazine will host its inaugural Third Sector Conference this summer. This special conference, bringing together practitioners, voluntary organisations, local authorities, civil servants and other key stakeholders, will provide a timely insight into the Government's vision for transforming public services through a new era of partnership with the Third Sector. Delegates will consider how improvements in commissioning, procurement, accountability and, through learning more of what the third sector has to offer, can create a more flexible and practical environment, which allows the skills and expertise of local authorities, central government and the third sector to be better experienced by the service user - be it in employment services; correctional services; children's services, education and training; health and social care services and other local public services. Tel: 0044(20) 7096 2920.

Email:

mark.sundhu@westminster-briefing.com

Website: www.westminster-briefing.com

OLYMPICS

The Government has announced that the £425m being diverted from the Big Lottery Fund to subsidise the growing Olympics bill will not be at the expenses of funding for voluntary and community groups. Tessa Jowell, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, announced that although the costs of the Olympics has increased significantly, no funds for local voluntary and community organisations groups will be taken from the Big Lottery Fund. The funds transferred to the Olympics Fund will come from that share of the Big Lottery Fund's budget which was intended for statutory projects. Before the crisis began, the expectation has been that about £1.1bn would be awarded in grants to the voluntary and community sector in the period 2009 to 2012. As a result of the nationwide campaign that figure holds good. Thousands of local groups wrote to Gordon Brown, Tessa Jowell and MPs telling them why Big Lottery Fund grants are vital to disadvantaged communities all over England and how local people would suffer if these grants were lost.

PARALYMPIC GAMES ACTION PLAN EVENT

FRIDAY 11TH MAY 2007

If you have a disability or work in an organisation for disabled people, go and help plan to secure a legacy from the big event.

To be held on Friday 11th May 2007 at the Brentwood Centre, Doddinghurst Road, Brentwood.

There will be plenty going on including disability sports demonstrations, have-a-go sports sessions, workshops and information stalls. Refreshments are provided.

For more information and to register go to

www.essex.gov.uk/ParalympicGamesActionPlanEvent

CRB

The Criminal Records Bureau has achieved self funding status for the first time and has frozen fees at last year's levels. The CRB also reaffirmed its commitment to free of charge checks on volunteers. Approximately 20% of all CRB checks are issued to volunteers. The CRB is aware however, that some customers are confused over the current definition of a 'volunteer'. The CRB is looking to see if the current definition and/or associated guidance need to be clarified to ensure that free of charge checks are only requested for genuine volunteers. For information on any aspect of the CRB visit the CRB website www.crb.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=4577

CRB CONSULTATION - REMINDER

The Charity Commission has launched a consultation to review their policy on charities with vulnerable beneficiaries carrying out Criminal Records Bureau checks on their trustees. The consultation also covers particular issues relating to trustees of organisations seeking charitable status. The consultation will close on 11th May. Visit www.charitycommission.gov.uk/enhancingcharities/crbindex.asp for more information.

TRAINING

CAF PRACTITIONER TRAINING

EXTRA DATE - 24th May 2007 at Mayflower High School, Billericay

Practitioner events have been planned for those where working directly with children and or young people on a regular basis is an integral part of their role. These events are aimed at voluntary and statutory provision practitioners such as social workers, school nurses, youth workers, Connexions p.a.'s, YOT's workers, education welfare officers, educational psychologists, counsellors, community and play workers. All of the participants in these training sessions will be completing CAFS in the course of their daily duties, and may well also have a lead practitioner role.

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