



Grapevine

Issue 42

Autumn 2009

THE NEWS-SHEET OF THE ESSEX COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY YOUTH SERVICES AND THE 0-19 Forum



Hi everyone and welcome to the autumn addition of Grapevine!

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and have managed to have a break and enjoy some sunshine to recharge your batteries for the hectic term that follows.

As I write this on a beautiful sunny autumn day, the leaves are just turning to their glorious russet colours; but have not yet become the wonderful crunchy, crispy leaves that children (and some adults) still love – Winter is on its way..... I am reminded of the changes and exciting times and challenges that the children and young people's voluntary sector in Essex are/will be involved in the coming months. October will see confirmation of the restructure within Essex County Council and the way forward from the current Children and Young People's Strategic Partnerships (**CYPSP's**) to the new **Children's Trust** arrangement. ECVYS has been working closely with Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, Director for Commissioning SCF; to ensure that the voluntary sector continues to be fully engaged with the new structure and it was to this end that we circulated her request for voluntary sector representatives to sit on the sub

groups of the Children's Trust Implementation Groups. Thank you to everyone who has expressed an interest to become an ECVYS representative. We hope to be able to inform you of the names and contact details of the representatives in the near future.

The termly ECVYS Cluster meetings are taking place and the details of your local meeting follow this intro (please note some dates are imminent!) These are the groups that will feed into the new Children's Trust and become the 'Voluntary Sector Forum' please insure that you either attend or have access to information from these groups.

Our Conference on **Thursday 28th January – Hylands House**, will continue the theme of Children's Trust and our key note speaker will be Wendi Ogle-Welbourn; so please remember to put this date in your diary, it promises to be as always a very informative conference.

There has been a lot of coverage and confusion in the press recently regarding the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) - Vetting and Barring Scheme:

- [Ed Balls announces review of vetting and barring scheme \(15th September 2009\)](#)

- *ISA head Roger Singleton to probe whether government has got balance right between protection and rights of volunteers*

The Government is introducing the scheme as part of the response to the Richard Inquiry following the Soham murders (Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman in 2002).

To try to simplify/clarify who needs to register the following has been produced:

Examples

- *A visitor to a school, making the speech at the annual prize day – not covered. But a parent volunteer regularly helping children to read – covered.*
- *Helping to run a stall at the annual church fete – no. But the church choirmaster, working with children – yes.*
- *Making a private arrangement with a friend to take their kids to a football club – no. But the football club laying on transport – yes.*
- *Parent helping out on a one-off basis at scouts – no. But a parent going away with the kids on scout camp – yes.*
- *A football kic about in the park with your and your friend's children – no. But a football coach, coaching children engaged by a club – yes.*
- *Arranging a sleepover with your child's friends – no. But parents hosting children from abroad e.g. for language schools – yes.*
- *Attending a school play to see your child perform – no. But a parent volunteering to help teach the children to dance, act or sing – yes.*
Babysitting for a friend or a relative – no. But an Ofsted registered childminder or the staff at a nursery – yes.
- *Providing first aid to children as an ancillary part of your job – no. But a doctor or a school nurse – yes.*

The basic point is that where an organisation is laying on the activity,

parents have a right to expect that the staff or volunteers that the organisation is using have been vetted.

The scheme does not apply to family and personal arrangements.

Further information is available on the ECVYS website; we will of course keep you informed as and when we receive more information.

Workforce development is continuing to gain momentum

- ECVYS is piloting an 'induction portfolio' which is based on a model developed by Peterborough Council – once we have the results/evaluation this resource will be available to anyone working within the 0 – 19 Children and Young People's workforce.
- ECC are rolling out their new programme of Common Assessment Framework (CAF) training and have added an additional package on Assessment, please look out for information; the dates will also be posted on the ECVYS website and included within the Clusters meetings.
- ECC Integrated Youth Service (IYS) are organizing training on behalf of FPM/CWDC - Delivering "Aiming High and the 2020 Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy". If you are interested to know more please contact bridget.craigen@essex.gov.uk the dates are: 19 & 20 Oct; 16 & 17 Nov; 14 & 15 Dec.

Best wishes
Brenda

ECVYS AND THE Children & Families Network CONFERENCE 28th January 2010 now booking!

CLUSTER MEETINGS

Autumn Term Cluster Meetings

Listed below are the dates for the next ECVYS and the Children & Families Network Cluster meetings in your area. For those of you who have not yet attended a Cluster Meeting these groups aim to connect those working with Children, Young People and Families and to be a place of support, information sharing and dissemination of news from a local and county level. They also provide the opportunity to meet colleagues from different organisations.

Mid Essex - Braintree, Maldon and Chelmsford

Contact: Jane Youdale
01245 445444

countymanager@essexpsla.com

Date/Time: 14th October 2009
10.00am

Venue: tbc – possibly County Hall

North East - Tendring & Colchester

Contact: Dan Kessler
01206 579080

dankessler@btconnect.com

Date/Time: 20th October 2009 -
10.00am

Venue: The Junction
78 Maldon Road
Colchester
CO3 3AL

West Essex – Uttlesford, Harlow and Epping

Contact: Margaret Turner
01371 874273

clusters.network@ecvys.org.uk

Date/Time: 6th October 2009 10.00am

Venue Committee Room, UVCC, 46
High Street, Great Dunmow, CM6 1AN

South Essex -- Basildon and Brentwood (Thurrock) Castlepoint and Rochford (Southend)

Contact: Jane Youdale
01245 445444

countymanager@essexpsla.com

Date/Time 5th October 2009 9.30am

Venue Tea Rooms, Salvation Army,
Hadleigh Farm, Castle Lane, SS7 2AS

FUNDING

Essex Funding Prospectus

The revised/updated version of the Essex Funding Prospectus 2009/10, a guide for voluntary and community sector organisations, is now available at www.essex.gov.uk/grantfunding

Press release from Essex County Council - Voluntary groups in Essex benefit from £7.8 million funding

Almost one hundred groups, mostly local organisations from the voluntary sector, are set to benefit from £7.8m of funding from Essex County Council through the Essex Children's Trust.

The organisations all provide support services that will make a difference to the lives of children and young people in Essex. They include services such as children's counselling, respite care for children with special needs and sporting activities for children with disabilities.

139 groups submitted more than 450 bids for funding and 124 contracts were awarded. A group of 24 young people from a variety of different backgrounds and places in Essex were included on the panel to determine which of the projects should receive the funding.

The two and a half year funding period starts on 1 October 2009 and replaces a system of annual agreements. All the organisations are required to report back on how their activities have made an impact on the lives of young people in Essex.

Deputy Leader of Essex County Council, Councillor Peter Martin said: "We are committed to the delivery of local services for local people drawing on the expertise of the voluntary sector. Moving to longer term commissioning arrangements demonstrates our commitment to the voluntary sector. It also gives organisations greater stability to develop their services with us for the benefit of young people throughout Essex."



INFORMATION

Lib Dem plan to protect children

Annette Brooke MP, the Lib Dem Shadow Children's Spokesperson, has launched plans to make children safer and ease the burden on social workers. Proposals, that will be debated at the Party's Annual Conference, include scrapping ContactPoint, encouraging child protection professionals to gain experience working with social workers and enforcing the publication of an anonymised version of Serious Case Reviews.

http://www.libdems.org.uk/news_detail.aspx?title=Annette_Brooke_launches_policy_paper_to_protect_children&pPK=ad47860c-abd7-40a6-a4ba-10cc98a8d4b6

Saving Public Money

The Institute of Directors, in conjunction with The Tax Payers' Alliance, has published a report recommending that Government should save money by scrapping Sure Start, ContactPoint and Building Schools for the Future. The report also calls on Government to abandon plans to extend the school leaving age to 18 and scrap the Educational Maintenance Allowance.

EMA)http://www.iod.com/is-bin/INTERSHOP.enfinity/eCS/Store/en-/GBP/BrowseCatalog-Start;sid=KRGzFEk9_RIOzgOXJ2i5quH9u2HAsph7Urw=?ChannelID=2&MenuID=15&CategoryName=PubEconomy

Youth Advice Workforce

Youth Access has published a report calling for reform within the youth advice workforce. The report states that many existing qualifications are either not relevant to working with young people or are focussed on careers information, advice and guidance. The report urges for action directed not only at dedicated youth advice workers, but the wider youth workforce

<http://www.youthaccess.org.uk/news/advice-workers.cfm>

Invitation to order free 'Happy Birthday Children's Rights' Cards to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

Young people who are members of the Integrated Youth Service (IYS) Reference Group wanted to do something to help increase young people's understanding and knowledge of children's rights because they feel this will benefit everyone in the community. They have been successful in obtaining funding from the Youth Opportunity Fund to run fun art workshop sessions for other children and young people to design a set of 12 'Happy Birthday Children's Rights' cards for children and young people across Essex to send to friends, family and other people they know and raise awareness of children's rights and the UNCRC. The art workshops have already taken place and the card designs created. The group aim to distribute one hundred thousand cards to children and young people and have already sent letters inviting schools and school councils to order the sets of cards.

If your service area/organisation would like to order sets of the cards to give to children and young people, please complete the attached order form. The cards will be available for distribution immediately following the October half-term. The completed order form can be sent by email to:-

involvement@essex.gov.uk or by fax: 01206 574775

The UNCRC is the most widely ratified international human rights treaty and applies equally to all children in the world, aged 0 to 17 years of age. The young people feel that promoting awareness of children's human rights can help to support understanding of the importance of having respect and responsibility for each other and improving community cohesion.

RESOURCES

Toolkit for advice and guidance to vulnerable young people

As part of its Link Up, Link In campaign, HM Government has launched an online toolkit designed to help public sector workers offer advice and guidance to vulnerable young people, such as young care leavers. The toolkit recognises the need for joined-up working between the public and voluntary and community sector, and features practical case studies of projects that provide advice and guidance to young people.

<http://www.hmg.gov.uk/linkuplinkin.aspx>

New extended schools guide

This publication, produced with the support of 4Children as part of the VCS Engage programme, is aimed at third sector organisations that want to find out more about the extended schools agenda and how to work with schools and local authorities to deliver extended schools services.

Almost half of all schools are already offering a wide range of extra-curricular activities but, with the government's target being for all schools to offer extended services by 2010, there has never been a better time to consolidate and expand the role of third sector organisations. This publication provides an overview of the extended schools agenda; uses case studies to illustrate how some third sector organisations are already participating in the extended schools programme; and offers advice and guidance for those organisations wishing to take the first steps.

Download the '[Extended schools guide](#)' [pdf 899kb]

TRAINING

KWANGO e-learning Package from Essex County Council: Free training opportunities for voluntary sector organisations working in Essex.

Integrated Working: a general overview of the Every Child Matters agenda and how all the Integrated Processes need to work together.

CAF: a general overview of the rationale behind the completion of a Common Assessment with case studies

Information Sharing: a very good knowledge of general Information Sharing legislation and guidance on Consent.

login and register using the following URL:

http://www.ecclms.co.uk/ecclms01_10.asp?

Please Note: To use the Kwango Courses the PC must have the following software installed: Flask Player 7.

ESCB Safeguarding

Please follow the link to a new e-learning package on safeguarding children. This package has been purchased by the Local Authority and is available to use by all partner agencies. There is no cost to using the programme and no requirement to submit an application form. Access to the package is by using the link as follows:-

www.ecclms.co.uk/goecclms.asp

VETTING & BARRING

Vetting and barring scheme

The Department for Children's, Schools and Families has released an audio file of Children's Minister Baroness Delyth Morgan talking about the vetting and barring scheme. The speech includes comment on how Government is working with the voluntary and community sector and what impact the scheme will have on volunteers.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/news/content.cfm?landing=delyth_morgan_answers_questions_on_the_vetting_and_barring_scheme&type=1

Vetting and barring scheme review

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, Rt Hon Ed Balls MP, has announced a review of the vetting and barring scheme will take place following concern that people will have to register unnecessarily. Sir Roger Singleton, Chair of the Independent Safeguarding Authority, will lead the review and produce a report by the beginning of December. The review will not affect the 12 October 2009 date for the extension of the range of activities and workplaces from which individuals may be barred. <http://www.cypnow.co.uk/bulletins/Daily-Bulletin/news/938579/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>

WEBSITE



Bravo Link

The BRAVO link is as follows:

<http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECWebsite/dis/gui.jsp?channelOid=122457&guideOid=123919>

www.essex.bravosolution.co.uk

or use the following path on the Essex County Council website:

on the left hand side of the homepage click on "Business" then click on "Supplying Essex County Council"

You will need to register your organisation to receive and/or make funding applications. There is a helpline service detailed within the BRAVO pages.

This is the link to the CYPSP Website. **Please visit this regularly to keep up to date with the most recent information.**

<http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/microsites/CYPSP/FundingOpportunities200809.htm>

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Acknowledgement:

Information in this issue from various sources including NCVYS, NYA, Cover, CVYS & CVS Newsletters