



Grapevine

Issue 40

Spring 2009

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



Dear Colleagues,

Important Information
re: Single Funding Gateway

At the West Cluster Group we discussed the current confusion around the above and the impact it will have on the 0-19 Sector. It is ECVYS understand that **all** funding streams from Essex County Council **will** eventually go through this single gateway; therefore it is imperative that you 'register' with **BRAVO**.

BRAVO SOLUTIONS

In order to simplify the application for grants process, Essex County Council (ECC) has set up a Single Funding Gateway. This new system also allows the County to streamline the information gathering process. The new process involves the move to applying for grants and tenders for commissioned services, online through the Bravo Solutions website www.essex.gov.uk/grantfunding or www.essex.bravosolution.com

The change was instigated for several reasons:

As ECC has no central information sharing system, the result was a confused and frustrated voluntary & community sector (VCS), trying to piece together funding information from several departments. Monitoring and reviewing arrangements from ECC have not been

consistent, making it difficult for ECC to assess impact and ensure equitable funding. The VCS were seeking more clarity and transparency from ECC departments about available funding and the bidding process.

It is **very important** for voluntary organisations to register on the Bravo website, www.essex.bravosolution.com, in order to be sent information about ECC funding pots and tendering opportunities.

From now on the site will be the route to inform VCS of all possible funding opportunities within ECC and will be used to apply for and track applications. The site can be accessed through any computer including the local library.

If you would like any help registering with Bravo or completing bids to ECC through the site, there is an online 'help' facility or you can contact Maggie Shanks at CVSU on 013712 878 or by E-mail at margaretcvs@btconnect.com

Brenda

Date for your diary
ECVYS AGM
Thursday 4th June 2009

CLUSTER MEETINGS Spring 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 attend 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: 1st April 2009 - 1.00pm

Venue: CHARMS, 20 Grafton Place,
Montrose Road, CHELMSFORD, CM2 6TG

North East - Tendring & Colchester

Contact: Dan Kessler
01206 579080

dankessler@btconnect.com

Date/Time: 25th March 2009 - 9.00am

Venue: Weeley Village Hall,
Weeley, Colchester

South East - Castlepoint and Rochford
(Southend)

Contact: Alice Smith
07999 534398

asmith@chelmsford.anglican.org

Date/Time: tba

Venue: tba

West Essex - Uttlesford, Harlow and Epping

Contact: Margaret Shanks
01371 878400

margaretcvs@btconnect.com

Date/Time: 4th February 2009
10.00am

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

South West - Basildon and Brentwood
(Thurrock)

Contact: Jane Youdale
01245 445444

countymanagerer@essexpsla.com

Date/Time 31st March 2009 12.30pm

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

CONFERENCE – Thank You

Thank you to you all for attending the ECVYS and Children & Families Network Conference and getting there despite the flooding and traffic conditions. Also thank you for your patience as we tried to make up time with the workshops! If you have not yet received a copy of the Workforce Data Collection workshop and would like one please contact the ECVYS Office.



INFORMATION

JNC Pay Negotiations - Settlement

The Joint Negotiating Committee has agreed a settlement for youth and community workers. The Staff Side have accepted the Employers' revised final offer for 2008 which includes a pay and allowance increase of 2.75% and an agreement in principle to promoting the JNC in the voluntary sector and a proposal to set up an exploratory meeting between the Joint Secretaries and appropriate national voluntary organisations.

<http://www.ncvys.org.uk/index.php?page=281>

RESOURCES

Centre for Hire

PARC was set up by parents of disabled children with the aim of providing developmental play opportunities for children with additional needs and respite for their families. For 4 years we ran services from a second hand demountable but in January we moved in to a new purpose built building on Great Notley Country Park which has a wonderful outlook and many attractions of its own. Our new building has a main play area with small ball pool area, a sensory room, counselling room, sensory integration room and outside we have a fully adapted playground. We have a meeting room that seats around 15 people and we have an interactive whiteboard for training purposes.

Our centre is available for hire to other groups and all the money received from hire is re-invested in our respite services and developing resources and we are hoping that eventually we will have enough money to create a sensory garden. If anyone is interested in hiring all or part of the centre please contact us on 01376 528999. There are pictures of the new building on our web-site www.parc-essex.co.uk and we are happy to show people around and talk about how we can work in partnership with other organisations.

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.

VETTING AND BARRING

Vetting and barring scheme (VBS)
The Home Office has announced new measures as part of the BSS. These include a delay in the requirement for new entrants to roles working with vulnerable groups, and those switching jobs to a new provider within these sections, to register with the VBS and be assessed by the ISA. This will not now come into effect until July 2010.
<http://www.isa.gov.org/Default.aspx?page=385>

VOLUNTEERING IN ESSEX LIBRARIES

Last summer Essex Libraries were visited by over 40,000 children, all taking part in the annual phenomenon that is the Summer Reading Challenge! Children of all ages take part, reading books to collect stickers and joining in the fun activities to try and win a gold medal by the end of the school holidays.

It is a huge administrative challenge for library staff to run this successfully in all our 73 branches and mobile libraries, and the challenge would be even greater if we didn't have the support of our young volunteers.

Every year young people volunteer to work in a library as part of their work towards the community element of their Trident Gold Award. This has been a hugely successful partnership and the feedback from both the volunteers and the library staff has been excellent.

Just a few of the many positive comments from Trident Volunteers:

"I very much enjoyed my time with Team Read. I would recommend it to anyone who enjoys working with children and who loves to read. I learned new skills and had fun whilst working. Thank you for the opportunity!"

"Fantastic work, enjoyed it thoroughly, welcoming staff – very nice"

"I have really enjoyed my time working at Rayleigh. Staff were very helpful and friendly and made me feel like a member of staff. I have gained a lot of experience by talking to the public and being in a working environment."

And from the library managers about the volunteers:

"A welcome addition to our SRC – her help and support was greatly appreciated. Thank you!"

"A great help to us. Completed all tasks very well and was an asset to our team. Many thanks."

"He has overcome his natural shyness and has been a great help."

This year we are hoping to attract even more young volunteers to help make this summer's Reading Challenge, bigger and better than ever.

If you want to find out more about volunteering in Essex Libraries, please contact:

Jo.Murphy@essex.gov.uk, phone 01206 245900

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ECVYS Workforce Development Bursary

- Do you volunteer or work for a voluntary organisation in the Essex area?
- Do you work with or provide services to children and young people?
- Do you want to access training or attend events, but can't because of the costs involved?
- Would you like some help?

If the answer to these questions is **"YES"**, then please contact the ECVYS office for flyer and application form

WEBSITE



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>

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.

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Acknowledgement:

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